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Sgt. Don L. Maes, U.S. Marine Corps, took this photo of the crippled USS *Cole* (DDG 67) as she was being towed from the port of Aden, in Yemen, by USNS *Catawba*, an ocean-going tug. The *Cole* was attacked by terrorists on October 12, 2000, during a scheduled refueling stop in Aden.

Eleven months before the events of September 11, the USS *Cole*, an American guided missile destroyer, was on its way to Bahrain. It planned to make a port visit where the headquarters of America's Fifth Fleet is located.

Needing fuel on 12 October 2000, the *Arleigh-Burke* class destroyer made a scheduled refueling stop at the Port of Aden in Yemen. As it "was mooring to a harbor refueling island," a "small boat exploded alongside" the ship, causing a 40-by-40-foot hole amidship on the port side.

The *Cole*'s crew immediately responded with significant damage control. Among other things, they wrapped and plugged the hull at the point where a propeller shaft had penetrated the destroyer's hull. U.S. Marines were sent in to set up special checkpoints around the Port of Aden.

Seventeen sailors died and 39 were injured. Navy divers found some of the missing men in the destroyer's flooded compartments.

The U.S. Navy's pictures of the *USS Cole* - in its injured state and as it was transported back to America aboard the Norwegian heavy transport *Blue Marlin* - are on-line:

- A patrol boat, with sailors and marines on board, provided security before the *Cole* was towed to sea and hoisted on board the *Blue Marlin*;
- The two ships crossed the Atlantic (you need an MPG player for this video link) and, in December of 2000, returned to America. They arrived at Pier 4 of the Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi where the *Cole* was slated for repairs.

Early on it was clear the explosion had been a terrorist attack. Within a year, the finger of responsibility pointed directly at Osama Bin Laden whose Yemeni family had migrated to Saudi Arabia many years before.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PRIOR-ATTACKS-USS-COLE-America-Attacked-9-11)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PRIOR-ATTACKS-USS-COLE-America-Attacked-9-11)

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Terrorist Attack - USS Cole

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Terrorist-Attack-USS-Cole>



Port of Aden - Scene of Attack, USS Cole

Image online, courtesy the Ministry of Commerce, China website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Port-of-Aden-Scene-of-Attack-USS-Cole>



USS Cole - View of Damage

U.S. Navy photo.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-View-of-Damage>



USS Cole - 40x40 Foot Hole

U.S. Navy photograph.

PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-40x40-Foot-Hole>



USS Cole - Hull Damage Control

U.S. Navy Photo.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-Hull-Damage-Control>



U.S. Marines - Checkpoints, Port of Aden

Image online, courtesy U.S. Navy.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/U.S.-Marines-Checkpoints-Port-of-Aden>



USS Cole - Navy Divers Search for Crewmen

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Navy.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-Navy-Divers-Search-for-Crewmen>



USS Cole - Flooded Compartments

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Navy.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-Flooded-Compartments>



USS Cole - Patrolling the Harbor

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Navy.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-Patrolling-the-Harbor>



USS Cole - Damaged Ship, Under Tow

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Department of Defense.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-Damaged-Ship-Under-Tow>



USS Cole - Aboard the Blue Marlin

U.S. Navy photo.

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USS Cole - Damaged Ship, In Port for Repairs

U.S. Navy Photo.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Cole-Damaged-Ship-In-Port-for-Repairs>



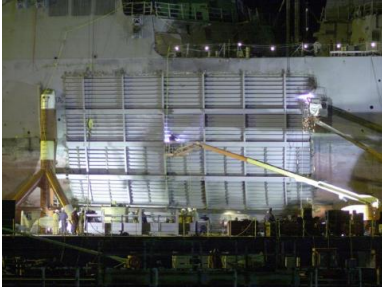
USS Cole - Back in America

U.S. Navy Photo.

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View this asset at:

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USS Cole - Pascagoula Shipyard Repairs

U.S. Navy photo.

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