PRIOR ATTACKS - USS COLE



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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 <u>USS Cole</u>, 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 <u>Arleigh-Burke</u> class destroyer made a scheduled refueling stop at the <u>Port of Aden</u> in Yemen. As it "was mooring to a harbor refueling island," a "small boat exploded <u>alongside</u>" the ship, causing a 40-by-40-foot <u>hole</u> amidship on the port side.

The *Cole*'s crew immediately responded with significant damage control. Among other things, they <u>wrapped</u> 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 <u>checkpoints</u> around the Port of Aden.

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

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

Early on it was clear the explosion had been a terrorist attack. Within a year, the finger of <u>responsibility</u> 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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PRIOR-ATTACKS-USS-COLE-America-Attacked-9-11

Media Stream



Terrorist Attack - USS Cole

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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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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USS Cole - 40x40 Foot Hole

U.S. Navy photograph.

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USS Cole - Hull Damage Control

U.S. Navy Photo.

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U.S. Marines - Checkpoints, Port of Aden

Image online, courtesy U.S. Navy.

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USS Cole - Navy Divers Search for Crewmen

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Navy.

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USS Cole - Flooded Compartments

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Navy.

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USS Cole - Patrolling the Harbor

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Navy.

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USS Cole - Damaged Ship, Under Tow

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

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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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<u>USS Cole - Back in America</u> U.S. Navy Photo.

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USS Cole - Pascagoula Shipyard Repairs

U.S. Navy photo.

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