



# NAMDC

## Navy Air and Missile Defense Command

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### **Remembering the Cole**

Oct. 12 marked 10 years since terrorists attacked the guided-missile destroyer USS Cole (DDG 67) as she refueled in Aden, Yemen. The assault left 17 Sailors dead, more than three dozen injured and a 40-foot gash in her hull.

The events of that day sent shock waves throughout the Navy and the nation. It also changed forever the way the Navy prepares for and defends against terrorist threats.

The White House Commission on Remembrance, in coordination with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, conducted a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 12 to recognize the sacrifice, courage and service of those Sailors who perished a decade earlier defending their nation. In attendance were family members, who ranged from grandfathers and parents to surviving children, some of whom had driven up from Norfolk after attending a memorial service held earlier that day.

The commission invited Rear Adm. Stewart O'Bryan, Commander for Navy Air and Missile Defense Command (NAMDC) at Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, to provide a tribute on behalf of the U.S. Navy. The pre-commissioning Commanding Officer of USS Cole, he was especially moved at the occasion, knowing that he had shared the same passageways and passion for the sea as those Sailors who had given their lives in support of their mission.

"I wanted all in attendance to know that the Navy and the nation will never forget the sacrifice of the family members and the Sailors who died defending their country, the Navy and our way of life," says O'Bryan.

He said in retrospect the Sailors honored that day were some of the first heroes of the war on terror.