



DESTROYER SQUADRON TWO: COMBAT CHRONOLGY (1919 – 2011)



‘SECOND TO NONE’



(The destroyer *Morris* (DD-417) underway in the Pacific Ocean on 6 December 1943, supporting invasion operations in the Gilbert Islands. *Morris* acted as the flagship for Destroyer Squadron Two for most of the War. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph NH 107277)

INTRODUCTION

Destroyer Squadron Two (DesRon 2) was formed as part of the Atlantic Fleet in May 1919, making it the longest serving destroyer squadron in the U.S. naval service. ‘Second to None’ the many ships and sailors of DesRon 2 have participated in almost every major U.S. Navy combat operation since WWII. Although this chronology is primarily focused on detailing DesRon 2’s major combat related events it also highlights several other significant ‘real world’ operations that the squadron’s ships have been involved in. The events identified in this chronology represent a mixture of operations performed either by the squadron as a whole or individual ships attached to it. Notwithstanding, this chronology does not necessarily represent an exhaustive accounting of all actions performed by every individual ship that has been attached to the squadron during its long period of active service and may further be limited by instances of classified information.

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CHRONOLOGY OVERVIEW

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THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1939-1945

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THE COLD WAR

1947-1991

- **The Vietnam War, 1955-1975:** May - October 1968
- **The Fedayeen Hijacking:** September-October 1970
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- **Haiti:** September 1994 – March 1995
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- **The Mediterranean - Sixth Fleet Operations:** 2000-2001
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- ***Enterprise* Strike Group Deployment:** 2006
- **Operation *Odyssey Dawn*:** 2011





The Search for Amelia Earhart (July 1937)

In May 1937, the American aviatrix Amelia M. Earhart and her navigator Fredrick J. Noonan took off from Oakland, Calif., in a twin-engine Lockheed Model 10-E Electra airliner, commencing their second attempt to circumnavigate the globe by plane. On 2 July 1937, their plane went missing somewhere in the vicinity of the Nukumanu Islands. Tasked with locating the lost aviators, the U.S. Navy (USN) formed a search group consisting of the aircraft carrier *Lexington* (CV-16) and the destroyers *Lamson* (DD-367), *Drayton* (DD-366) and *Cushing* (DD-376). Capt. Jonathan “Dad” S. Dowell Jr., the Commander of Destroyer Squadron Two (ComDesRon 2), on board *Lexington*, assumed command of the search effort. Beginning in the vicinity of Howland Island, the search group battled heavy squalls for six days as *Lexington*’s scout planes flew 143,242 miles and DesRon 2 destroyers combed over 151,556 square miles of ocean. With “No sign nor any evidence of the Earhart plane,” on 21 July 1937, Capt. Dowell called off the search and the group shaped a course for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. The Earhart search marked DesRon 2’s first major real-world operation.





The Martinique Patrol (July 1940 - March 1941)

In the fall of 1939, for the second time in a generation, Europe erupted into a state global war. As the fighting progressed into the summer of 1940, the British Expeditionary Force was expelled from the continent at Dunkirk, and France capitulated to the German war machine. The Vichy French government, established in the wake of these events, caused great consternation in both Britain and the United States. Of particular concern was the possibility that French naval assets would be seized by the Germans. In the Caribbean Sea, the United Kingdom and the United States eyed with particular suspicion the French aircraft carrier *Béarn* and several other French warships at Martinique, French Overseas Territory. In July 1940, ComDesRon 2 initiated a USN patrol off Martinique to monitor, and if necessary, potentially assist the British Royal Navy in scuttling any French warships that might sortie to join German forces in Europe. DesRon 2 warships continued to participate in these Caribbean Neutrality Patrol operations through the spring of 1941.



The North Atlantic Neutrality Patrol (April - November 1941)

Although still not at war in early 1941, the United States continued to escalate its support for the British war effort, particularly in the Atlantic where German U-boats were wreaking havoc on Britain's maritime supply lines. Accordingly, in April 1941, DesRon 2 joined the Neutrality Patrol in the North Atlantic to defend Allied convoys. In October, the squadron assisted in escorting the British troop convoy CT.5 (later changed to U.S. convoy WS-12) and defended it from a suspected U-boat. Convoy WS-12, which provided critical reinforcements and supplies to British forces in the Middle East and North Africa, marked the first British troop movement to be directly supported by U.S. naval forces prior to a formal declaration of war.



Early Pacific Raids (February - March 1942)

Following the cataclysmic events at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, the United States moved quickly to bolster its naval forces in the Pacific Ocean. Meanwhile, the Empire of Japan executed a rapid series of attacks throughout East Asia and the Pacific Islands. One of the more ominous of these incursions included a buildup of Japanese forces in the Marshall Islands, which threatened the British Commonwealth of Australia. Although the United States had still not marshaled all its strength in the Pacific, what assets were available quickly mobilized to attempt to blunt the Japanese advance. In January 1942, DesRon 2 got underway with Task Force (TF) 17, centered around *Yorktown* (CV-5), to support carrier strikes against Japanese forces in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands; as well as at Rabaul, Wake, Marcus, Lae and Salamaua Islands.





The Battle of the Coral Sea (4-8 May 1942)

In May 1942, U.S. and Japanese carrier forces collided in the waters of the Coral Sea. During the ensuing battle DesRon 2 warships defended TF 17, centered on *Yorktown* and *Lexington* (CV-2). On 7 May, Japanese dive bombers swarmed *Sims* (DD-409) and although her crew defended her valiantly, she suffered direct hits by three 500-pound bombs, two of which exploded in her engine room causing her to buckle amidships and sink shortly thereafter. Only 13 of her nearly 240 officers and crew survived. *Sims* was DesRon 2's first wartime casualty.



The Battle of Midway (4-6 June 1942)

In early June 1942, DesRon 2 fought with U.S. carrier forces at the pivotal Battle of Midway. On 4 June, *Hammann* (DD-412) was screening *Yorktown* when the carrier was struck by two aerial torpedoes. During salvage operations on 6 June, Imperial Japanese submarine I-168 fired four torpedoes at *Yorktown*, two of which struck the dying carrier and a third hit *Hammann* amidships sinking the 'tin can' with 84 members of her crew.



The Guadalcanal Campaign (7 August 1942 - 9 February 1943)

In August 1942, DesRon 2 accompanied TF 17 to Guadalcanal to support invasion and reinforcement operations. On 15 September, IJN submarine *I-15* attacked TF 17 and 18 while they were en route to Guadalcanal—sinking *Wasp* (CV-7) and damaging *North Carolina* (BB-55) and *O'Brien* (DD-415). After receiving some emergency repairs, *O'Brien* attempted to voyage back to the United States, however, on 19 October, she sank as a result of ongoing flooding, making her the squadron's third wartime casualty.



The Buin-Faisi-Tonolai Raid (5 October 1942)

In October 1942, DesRon 2 got underway with TF 17 (*Hornet* (CV-8) Group) to intercept Japanese reinforcements gathering in the Buin-Faisi-Tonolai area. During the early morning hours of 5 October 1942, DesRon 2 provided critical screening support as *Hornet* and a force of cruisers executed a successful surprise attack against the Japanese fleet at Buin Faisi.





Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands (25-27 October 1942)

On the morning of 26 October 1942, DesRon 2, operating with TFs 17 and 16, encountered three Japanese task forces advancing on Guadalcanal. During the ensuing naval battle DesRon 2 warships established interlocking fields of fire to defend *Hornet* from a swarm of Japanese planes, however despite all efforts the carrier was hit by two torpedoes, at least one bomb and three kamikazes. Squadron destroyers then helped rescue hundreds of *Hornet*'s crewmembers. Destroyer's *Mustin* (DD-413) and *Anderson* (DD-411) put nearly 500 rounds of 5-inch fire into the dying carrier but she remained afloat; only to be finished off later by the Japanese destroyers *Akigumo* and *Makigumo*. Although U.S. forces suffered heavily during the battle, they also inflicted significant damage on the Japanese, damaging two enemy carriers, one battleship and four cruisers.



The Naval Battle of Guadalcanal (12-15 November 1942)

On 11 November 1942, DesRon 2 got underway as part of TF 16 (*Enterprise* (CV-6) Group, Rear Adm. Thomas C. Kincaid in command) bound for Guadalcanal. The following day the great Naval Battle of Guadalcanal began when a pivotal cruiser action took place between Japanese and U.S. surface forces. On 13 November, DesRon 2 warships kept watch over *Enterprise* as the carrier's planes sank the Japanese battleship *Hiyei*, and then the following day devastated a Japanese transport group bound for Guadalcanal. The last act of the battle played out on the night of 14-15 November, during which, one of the great battleship encounters of the war took place.



The Aleutian Islands Campaign (3 June 1942 - 15 August 1943)

In the summer of 1942, DesRon 2 forward deployed to the North Pacific to partake in the ongoing struggle to reclaim the Aleutian Islands. Steaming as part of Task Group (TG) 16.4, DesRon 2 participated in bombing and invasion operations during the Battle of Attu, which raged from 11-30 May 1943. In August, DesRon 2 provided patrol, screening and bombardment support for the conquest of Kiska.





The Gilbert Islands Campaign (November 1943)

Marking the commencement of the United States' drive across the central Pacific, DesRon 2 warships got underway with TF 52 on 10 November 1943, to support the Allied invasion of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands. During these operations DesRon 2 warships screened the escort carriers *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56), *Coral Sea* (CVE-43), and *Corregidor* (CVE-58). While executing strikes in the Gilbert Islands on 24 November, *Liscome Bay* was torpedoed by I-175 and DesRon 2 destroyers helped pull hundreds of the floundering carrier's sailors from the water.



The Marshall Islands Campaign (January - February 1944)

On 13 January 1944, DesRon 2 stood out from the West Coast of the United States with TF 53, the Northern Attack Force for the invasion of the Marshall Islands—assigned specifically to the conquest of Roi and Namur Islands, Kwajalein Atoll. After arriving off Wotje Atoll, Marshalls, on 29 January, DesRon 2 accompanied a force of cruisers to conduct a pre-invasion bombardment of Wotje. Despite several of the squadron's 'tin cans' exchanging fire with shore batteries during the bombardment only one suffered any serious damage. A Japanese shell penetrated *Anderson's* combat information center, killing Lt. Cmdr. John G. Tennent, her commanding officer, and several other officers and enlisted men. Following the attack on Wotje, DesRon 2 continued to support screening, fire support, bombardment, and invasion operations in the Marshall Islands until the end of February.



The Raid on the Palau Islands (31 March – 4 April 1944)

On 15 March 1944, DesRon 2 got underway as part of TG 58.7, to support air strikes against Palau, Yap and Woleai, Palau Islands. The raid on the Palaus lasted from 31 March to 4 April, during which, DesRon 2 screened *Sangamon* (CVE-26) and *Suwannee* (CVE-27).



The Western New Guinea Campaign (22 April 1944 – 15 August 1945)

Assigned to the Seventh Fleet, DesRon 2 stood out from Guadalcanal on 16 April 1944, steaming in company with TF 78 to join the main attack force bound for Hollandia, NG. On 20 April, DesRon 2 warships supported landings at Aitape, and then later, at Tanahmerah Bay on the 22nd. In the succeeding days the squadron's destroyers screened escort carriers that provided the bulk of the air cover for a majority of the Hollandia sector. As operations in Western New Guinea progressed DesRon 2 destroyers played a key role in screening supply convoys and in



several instances provided fire support for landing operations. Squadron destroyers supported TF 77 during the invasion of Wakde Island, Indonesia, on 18 May, and then on 27 May, screened amphibious landings at Biak, Schouten Islands. On 11 June, DesRon 2 warships participated in a TF 77 shore bombardment of Japanese installations in the Wakde-Sami area and then from 29 June to 2 July, they screened transports and provided fire support during the assault and capture of Noemfoor Island, Geelvink Bay, Northwest New Guinea. Capping off their contribution to the conquest of Western New Guinea, DesRon 2 ships provided screening and fire support during the landings at Cape Sansapor on 31 July, and then accompanied invasion forces at Morotai Island from 11 to 25 September.



The Liberation of the Philippines (20 October 1944 – 2 September 1945)

In the fall of 1944, U.S. forces began preparations for the invasion of Leyte, Philippines. In advance of the main attack, DesRon 2 veteran *Hughes* (DD-410) served as the flagship for Rear Adm. Arthur D. Struble's task force, charged with capturing the two small islets of Dinagat and Homonhon on 17 and 18 October 1944. As the main invasion of Leyte got underway on 20 October, *Hughes* served as the flagship for the Panaon Island attack group. The following day ComDesRon 2 and the rest of the squadron arrived in the area escorting the first resupply and reinforcement echelons into Leyte Gulf. While escorting convoys in the area during the following month, DesRon 2 ships came under heavy air attack which was marked by a significant increase in *kamikaze* (suicide) attacks. On 1 November, while covering landing craft at Cabalian Bay, Philippines, a Japanese Nakajima Ki-43 Type 1 fighter dove into the port side of the *Anderson*. Although she survived the attack, *Anderson* had to return to San Francisco for repairs. *Hughes* served as the flagship for a landing at Ormoc Bay, Leyte, on 7 December, during which she had to take on survivors from *Mahan* (DD-364), after the destroyer was sunk by a *kamikaze*. On 10 December, while on picket duty in the Surigao Strait, *Hughes* was also hit by a *kamikaze*. The destroyer managed to stay afloat but was forced to return to the West Coast for battle damage repairs. On 9 January 1945, DesRon 2, less *Hughes* and *Anderson*, provided screening and fire support during the landings at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines. The squadron continued to protect convoys and ward off air attacks into February.



The Battle of Okinawa (1 Apr 1945 – 22 June 1945)

Re-assigned to the Fifth Fleet in March 1945, DesRon 2 got underway with TF 51 (the Northern Attack Force) bound for Okinawa, Ryūkyū Islands. As the U.S. Fleet bore down on Okinawa beginning on 1 April, DesRon 2 performed critical escort and screening support for invasion forces. On 6 April, while patrolling station A-11, DesRon 2 flagship, *Morris* (DD-417) was attacked by a Nakajima B5N carrier attack plane. Despite firing 100 rounds of 5-inch into the plane it crashed into the destroyer's starboard side and caused several explosions and fierce fires. Notwithstanding a tremendous amount of damage, *Morris* remained above water and managed to



voyage back to the West Coast for battle damage repairs. DesRon 2 leadership temporarily reported to the amphibious force flagship *Biscayne* (AGC-13) and then, later, the attack transport *Natrona* (APA-214) before returning to *Morris* in July. On 9 April, *Sterett* (DD-407) was also struck by a *kamikaze* while performing picket duty northeast of Okinawa. *Sterett* survived the attack but had to return to the West Coast for extensive repairs. The battle for Okinawa lasted for 98-days (ending on 2 July 1945) and featured some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific Theater.



The Kurile Islands (June – July 1945)

Steaming north from Okinawa in June 1945, DesRon 2's remaining destroyers conducted a sweep of the Kurile Islands from 21-27 June, but failed to locate any Japanese shipping. During a second sweep from 13-23 July, they bombarded Japanese canneries located on Paramushiru Island. In August, DesRon 2 sortied for a final sweep of the area and shelled a Japanese military base on Matsuwa Island on 11 August.



The Occupation of Japan (August – October 1945)

In late August 1945, following the initial capitulation of Japan to Allied forces, DesRon 2 got underway with the Northern Occupation Force and steamed to Japan. They arrived off Ōminato Bay on 7 September, and shortly thereafter *Hughes* and *Anderson* acted as close escorts for *Panamint* (AGC-13) during preliminary negotiations with Japanese Emissaries. DesRon 2 supported occupation forces for another two months and then on 30 October, the squadron's remaining destroyers stood out from Ōminato Bay, and commenced their voyage home.

WAR RECORD

The combined record of DesRon 2 warships during the Second World War includes 145 battle stars, some of which were earned while attached to other units. Squadron ships suffered 450 men killed in action and 175 wounded.





The Korean War, 1950-1953 (October 1950 – May 1951)

In October 1950, DesRon 2's DesDiv 22 deployed to the Far East to augment Pacific Fleet destroyers fighting in the Korean War. Upon their arrival in Korean waters, DesDiv 22 warships commenced operations as part of Joint Task Force (JTF) 7. In addition to providing anti-submarine screening for fast carrier TF 77 they also conducted shore bombardment, search and rescue, anti-submarine Hunter/Killer operations, picket duty and air-control missions. Shortly after DesDiv 22's arrival in October 1950, JTF 7 forces supported landings at Wonsan and Riwon—commencing a counteroffensive that led United Nations forces into North Korean territory. By mid-October the U.N. offensive had triggered a major Chinese intervention and U.N. forces were subsequently pushed back to the 38th parallel by a tsunami of troops from the People's Liberation Army. During this time DesDiv 22 ships patrolled Wonsan Harbor, shelled targets at Songjin [now Kimchaek] and Hungnam; and in December, assisted in the evacuation of U.N. troops at Hungnam.



Korea: The Second Deployment (June – October 1952)

In the summer of 1952, DesRon 2's DesDiv 21, less *Charles P. Cecil* (DD-835), deployed to Korea for operations with JTF 7. With ground forces at a stalemate along the 38th parallel, U.N. forces capitalized on their continued Control of the Air by executing combined U.S. Air Force and Navy air strikes against targets in North Korea. From 23-27 June 1952, DesDiv 21 destroyers supported TF 77 carrier aircraft as they executed a spate of air attacks against numerous North Korean hydroelectric power facilities located along the Yalu River. During this time DesDiv 21 ships participated in blockade and bombardment operations along the east coast of Korea and then, steaming between Chongjin and Songjin, squadron ships conducted interdiction firing as well as anti-mine, anti-junk and anti-fishing patrols. On 6 August, DesDiv 21 destroyer *John R. Pierce* (DD-753) took three hits while exchanging fire with North Korean shore batteries at Songjin. The destroyer then proceeded to Sasebo, Japan, for repairs, but rejoined the fight in October. On 16 September, *Barton* (DD-722) struck a floating mine, which tore a 15 by 25-foot hole in her starboard side, flooded the forward fireroom and killed five of her crewmembers. Skillful and expeditious repair work kept the warship afloat and on 20 September she pulled into Sasebo for repairs.



The Suez Crisis (July – November 1956)

On 26 July 1956, Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal which, up to that time, had been under the direct control of the United Kingdom and France. In October, Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai



and in November, the U.K. and France (going against U.S. advice) launched a special operations mission to re-take the Canal. In response, U.S. military forces were mobilized to evacuate thousands of U.S. nationals, and later, to deter any possible intervention by the Soviet Union. Early on in the crisis DesRon 2 warships deployed with U.S. carrier forces to support security operations in the area.



Jordan (August – September 1957)

In the summer of 1957, Jordan's pro-Western government came under threat by Communist forces in Syria and Egypt. In response, DesRon 2 warships deployed with U.S. carriers forces to patrol the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea.



The 1958 Lebanon Crisis (February 1958 – January 1959)

Following Operation *Blue Bat*, a U.S. led military intervention meant to bolster the friendly government in Lebanon, U.S. ground forces withdrew from Lebanon in October 1958. However, in the wake of continued Soviet influence via the United Arab Republic, DesRon 2 warships deployed with U.S. carrier forces in order to maintain Lebanese security against communist influences.



The Dominican Republic (May 1961)

On 30 May 1961, Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo, the dictator of the Dominican Republic was assassinated and the country's government was eventually taken over by the military junta. DesRon 2 warships, already operating in the Caribbean at the time, immediately deployed with U.S. carrier forces to the Dominican Republic and conducted three weeks of task group operations as a show of force.



The Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962)

As the Cuban Missile Crisis unfolded during the autumn of 1962, DesRon 2, got underway from Norfolk, Va., and steamed to the Caribbean to support Atlantic Fleet quarantine operations around Cuba. During this time squadron destroyers performed a variety of tasks including quarantine patrol, carrier support, Anti-Submarine Warfare support, and escort duty for Guantanamo Bay evacuations. While performing quarantine duties *John R. Pierce* (DD-753) aided by *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.* (DD-850) boarded and inspected the Lebanese-flagged freighter *Marucla*, which had been contracted by the Soviet Union to carry cargo to Cuba.





The Space Race: NASA Support (1962 – 1965)

Between February and April 1962, multiple DesRon 2 warships supported the Gemini/Apollo test program, as well as the Mercury-Atlas 6 space mission. In May 1965, the squadron also participated in the Project Gemini GT-4 Recovery mission.



Operation Springboard (1963 – 1966)

From 1963 to 1966, DesRon 2 ships were heavily involved in carrying out Operation *Springboard* training as part of Anti-Submarine Warfare Forces, Atlantic Fleet.



The Mediterranean: Sixth Fleet Operations (1967)

In January 1967, six of DesRon 2's nine ships deployed to the Mediterranean, where ComDesRon 2 served as part of the Gold Group for TF 60. While in transit in January, *Steinaker* (DD-863) surfaced a Soviet Foxtrot-class submarine. As the deployment continued the squadron engaged in training with multiple foreign navies and led the second annual Spanish-American bilateral exercise.



The Vietnam War, 1955-1975 (May - October 1968)

On 26 March 1968, DesRon 2 warships: *Blandy* (DD-943) (flagship), *Rich* (DD-820), *Borie* (DD-704) and *Steinaker* (DD-863) got underway from Norfolk, Va., for a deployment to the Western Pacific. Arriving off Vietnam on 13 May, the squadron then assumed command of all Allied naval gunfire support operations south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). During their deployment in the area DesRon 2 warships play a key role in supporting the U.S. Army I, II and III Corps Tactical Zones, as well as providing fire support for the Third Marine Division operating at the DMZ against the People's Liberation Armed Forces or Việt Cộng. In July, DesRon 2 assumed on scene command of Operation *Sea Dragon*, a patrol meant to stop and deter the flow of North Vietnamese waterborne logistics traffic bound for South Vietnam. In all, DesRon 2 tallied over 350 enemy casualties, an estimated 2,300 military structures damaged or destroyed, and over sixty major caliber enemy weapons silenced.





The Fedayeen Hijacking (September-October 1970)

In May 1970, DesRon 2 warships deployed to the Mediterranean and commenced operations with TF 60. On 6 September, tensions between Jordan and Palestine ignited after members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijacked four civilian airliners—a move which also endangered American citizens in Jordan. Squadron warships forward deployed with the attack aircraft carrier *Independence* (CVA-62) (TG 60.2) to support contingency air operations in the region.



The Mediterranean: Bystander Operations (1972)

In 1972, while operating out of the flagship *Harry E. Yarnell* (DLG-17), DesRon 2 intercepted, tracked, and gathered intelligence on Soviet warships operating in the Western Mediterranean as part of Bystander Operations.



Libya (March 1977)

On 2 March 1977, the General People’s Congress of Libya adopted the “Declaration of the Establishment of the People's Authority,” under the leadership of strongman Colonel Muammer al-Qadhafi. This restructuring of the Libyan government stoked fears of possible civil strife in the country and resulted in widespread international concern. DesRon 2 ships already deployed in the Mediterranean at the time were then hastily forward deployed with the *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) Battle Group. Arriving off the coast of northern Libya on 4 March, the guided missile destroyer *Farragut* (DDG-37), a DesRon 2 veteran, controlled aircraft flying reconnaissance missions in the area.



The Iranian Revolution (December 1978 – April 1979)

Civil unrest occurring in Iran in late 1978 prompted a buildup of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf. In December 1978, DesRon 2 warships deployed with carrier forces to the region and began conducting surveillance operations as massive demonstrations forced Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to flee the country in January 1979. DesRon 2 ships remained in the area ready to support any potential evacuations for several months. On 4 November, a mob of Iranian revolutionaries seized 66 American citizens, one naval aviator and 14 marines at the U.S.



Embassy and Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehrān, Iran. One of the primary demands of revolutionaries was that the deposed Sha Mohammad R. Pahlavi be returned to Iran—at the time he was embarked on *Farragut*. Following the seizure of the embassy, DesRon 2 warships joined company with the Middle East Force and operated primarily on the picket patrol line in the central Persian Gulf, querying ships and assisting with air operations for the next month.



The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (1979-1989)

In November 1981, DesRon 2 ships deployed with U.S. carrier forces to the Indian Ocean to establish a naval presence in the region following the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan.



Lebanon: Beirut (August 1982 – April 1983)

In the wake of the ongoing civil war in Lebanon, on 24 August 1982, a joint U.S.-French-Italian peacekeeping force deployed to Beirut, Lebanon. After landing, the Multinational Force in the area received direct support from U.S. naval and air forces. In December, DesRon 2 warships operating in the Mediterranean forward deployed with TG 60.2, the *America* (CV-66) Battle Group, and conducted ‘Freedom of Navigation’ operations off the Libyan coast. In addition to supporting these operations, DesRon 2 ships also performed duties as the Naval Gunfire Support and Positive Identification Radar Advisory Zone ships for TF 61, operating near Beirut.



The Middle East: ‘A Line of Death’ (March – April 1986)

In March 1986, Libyan strongman Qadhafi began openly advocating terrorist attacks against ‘westerners’ announcing that a “line of death,” will stretch across the Gulf of Sidra. On 24 March, DesRon 2 warships already deployed in the Mediterranean got underway with Battle Force Zulu (TF 60). In the course of Operation *Attain Document III*, several U.S. warships crossed Qadhafi’s line triggering a feeble Libyan air and surface to air missile attack; and United States’ naval and air forces responded with a series of missile counterattacks. In April, U.S. forces launched Operation *El Dorado Canyon* executing strikes against several Libyan military targets. DesRon 2 ships remained in theater supporting these operations until September 1986.





The Caribbean Sea: 1987 Interdiction Operations (January – March 1987)

From January to March 1987, DesRon 2 ships participated in joint U.S. Navy and Coast Guard counter-narcotics operations, which helped curtail the influx of drugs into the United States via the Gulf of Mexico.



Hurricane Hugo (1989)

In September 1989, ComDesRon 2 was conducting squadron training in the Puerto Rican Operating area when Hurricane Hugo struck the Caribbean devastating Cape Verde, the Lesser Antilles (particularly Guadeloupe, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands), Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. ComDesRon 2 became the on-scene commander for relief efforts and the squadron was later awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal (February 1991) for its expeditious and dutiful response during the catastrophe.



The Gulf War (August 1990 – February 1991)

With the onset of hostilities between Iraq and Kuwait in 1990, and the subsequent U.S. led, United Nations military intervention that followed several DesRon 2 warships deployed with U.S. navy task forces to support combat Operations *Desert Shield* and *Desert Storm*.



Caribbean and Pacific: Interdiction Operations (1991)

During the spring and summer of 1991, DesRon 2 warships deployed to the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific to participate in numerous U.S. Navy and Coast Guard law enforcement interdiction operations. Several DesRon 2 ships participated in high profile drug seizures during this time. The squadron frigate *Bowen* (FF-1079) took part in what was then considered to be the largest drug seizure in the history of joint U.S. Navy/Coast Guard operations.





Haiti (September 1994 – March 1995)

In 1991, the military regime in Haiti overthrew the country's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 940, passed on 31 July 1994, U.S. military forces, initiated Operation *Support Democracy* and later Operation *Uphold Democracy* in order to remove the Haitian military regime and ensure a legitimate transfer of power back to the country's democratically elected leader. DesRon 2 warships joined Caribbean Task Force 120 and carried out numerous patrols and ship queries in support of both operations.



Serbia (1995)

In March 1995, DesRon 2 warships deployed to the Mediterranean with the *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) Battle Group. Once in theater DesRon 2's *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51) was assigned as the Adriatic "Redcrown," charged with surveillance and identification of all air and surface traffic in the Republic of Yugoslavia. During Operation *Sharp Guard* the group boarded merchant vessels in support of a United Nations embargo. In August and September, following a Serbian attack in Sarajevo, the battlegroup led Operation *Deliberate Force*—launching missile and air strikes against Bosnian Serb communication facilities, air defense missile, and radar sites.



The Kosovo Crisis (March 1998 – June 1999)

As the crisis in Kosovo unraveled further between 1998 and 1999, ComDesRon 2 deployed to the Mediterranean Sea with the *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN-69) Battle Group and was assigned the role of Sea Combat Commander (SCC). During the summer of 1998, the battle group enforced North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Council Resolutions. Early on in these operations, the DesRon 2 guided missile destroyer *Mitscher* (DDG-57) provided singular surface and air support for the amphibious transport dock *Austin* (LPD-4) when the ship landed a detachment of U.S. Marines to reinforce the U.S. Embassy in Albania. As the conflict in Kosovo intensified, DesRon 2 warships stood off the coast with the rest of the battle group and provided direct support for Operations *Deliberate Forge* and *Flexible Anvil*.





Operation *Desert Fox* (16-19 December 1998)

In December 1998, DesRon 2 guided missile frigate *Carr* (FFG-52) partook in Operation *Desert Fox*, a major U.S. Navy and Air Force bombing campaign against Iraq. The strike severely degraded Saddam Hussein's ability to produce, store and/or employ weapons of mass destruction. U.S. warships partaking in the strike launched numerous *Tomahawk* cruise missiles at Iraqi military targets.



The Mediterranean: Sixth Fleet Operations (2000-2001)

On 28 November 2000, ComDesRon 2 embarked on Porter (DDG-78) and deployed with the *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75) Battle Group to the Mediterranean. In addition to supporting Sixth Fleet operations, DesRon 2 ships cruised the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq and conducting exercises with allied naval partners.



Iraq War (20 March 2003 – 15 December 2011)

In January 2003, DesRon 2 surge-deployed with the *Theodore Roosevelt* in support of Operation *Iraqi Freedom*. During this period, ComDesRon 2 served as the SCC for the *Theodore Roosevelt* Carrier Strike Group operating in the Eastern Mediterranean as part of TF 60. As the SCC, ComDesRon 2 supported numerous mission areas, including surface warfare, force defense, LAMPS element coordinator and Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) commander. Strike group ships and aircraft also conducted numerous tactical air and TLAM strikes in Iraq during combat operations. As MIO commander, ComDesRon 2 also planned and executed a number of critical boardings of suspect vessels.



Enterprise Strike Group Deployment (2006)

In 2006, ComDesRon 2 deployed as the SCC for the *Enterprise* (CVN-65) Strike Group and performed a myriad of tasks across the Second, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Fleets. This included participation in Surface, Strike, and Anti-Submarine/Undersea Warfare, including Maritime Security, Show-of-Force, Mine Countermeasure, Anti-Piracy, MIO/VBSS, and TLAM Operations.





Operation *Odyssey Dawn* (March 2011)

On 19 March 2011, DesRon 2 guided-missile destroyers *Stout* (DDG-55) and *Barry* (DDG-52), accompanied by several U.S. submarines, executed a *Tomahawk* missile strike against military targets in Libya as part of Operation *Odyssey Dawn*.



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