DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AE 09576-1513

Rec'd 3/4/98
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5757
10 Feb 98

From: Commanding Officer, USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Photo of Ship
(4) Photo of Commanding Officer
(5) Commanding Officer's Biography
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(7) Year in Review Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), Command History for USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59) is forwarded.

J. A. Kunert
J. A. KUNERT

Copy to:
COMDESRON TWO

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION:

The mission of the FFG-7 Class ship is to provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against subsurface, air, and surface threats, as well as air warfare (AW), surface warfare (SUW), and undersea warfare (USW) self-defense. FFG-7 class ships can also contribute to Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) operations and defense.

The addition of the SQQ-89 system to Flight Four FFG-7 class ships, like KAUFFMAN, gives the ship a state of the art advantage to be used against the undersea threat. The twelve MK92 Mod 6 fire control system FFG-7's also have a significant air warfare upgrade that extends their useful combat life well into the 21st century.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Immediate Superior in Command:
Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO (JAN 94 - PRESENT)

Aircraft Assigned:	SCALPER 435 (HSL 42)	(DEC 96 - JAN 97)
	CUTLASS 473 (HSL 46)	(NOV 97)
Commanding Officer:	CDR John A. Kunert, USN	(SEP 96 - PRESENT)
Permanent Home Port:	Norfolk, VA (MAR 94 -PRESENT)	
Executive Officer:	LCDR Brian D. Neuenfeldt, USN (APR 96 - SEP 97)	
	LCDR Joseph A. Murach, USNR (SEP 97- PRESENT)	
Combat Systems Officer:	LTJG Reid Matthews, USN (DEC 96 - MAR 97)	
	LT Steven Hartsel, USN (MAR 97 - PRESENT)	
Operations Officer:	LT Kenneth Hale, USNR (APR 96 - FEB 97)	
	CWO2 Allan Britz, (FEB 97 - APR 97)	
	LT Timothy Schorr, USN (APR 97 - PRESENT)	
Chief Engineer:	LT Kevin Hunt, USN (OCT 95 - JAN 97)	
	LT Nick Gerace, USN (JAN 97 - PRESENT)	
Support Officer:	LT Ronald Diaz, SC, USN (AUG 95 - PRESENT)	
Navigator:	CWO2 Allan Britz (JUL 94 - SEP 97)	
	LTJG Duane Lawrence (SEP 97 - PRESENT)	

Combat Information Center Officer:	ENS Anthony Morelli (JAN 97 - PRESENT)
Communications Officer:	LT Sean Ryan (MAY 97 - PRESENT)
First Lieutenant:	ENS Eric Christian (SEP 97 - PRESENT)
Main Propulsion Assistant:	CWO2 Daniel Dusek (MAR 96 - PRESENT)
Auxillaries Officer:	LT Peter Brewster (JUN 96 - PRESENT)
Damage Control Assistant:	LTJG David Levy (AUG 95 - JUL 97) ENS David Faught (JUL 97 - PRESENT)
Electronic Maintenance Officer:	LTJG Randall Boughton (FEB 96 - PRESENT)
Ordnance Officer:	LTJG Duane Lawrence (MAR 96 - MAR 97) LTJG James Sievert (MAR 97 - PRESENT)
Undersea Warfare Officer:	LTJG Louis Shearer (AUG 96 - PRESENT)
Disbursing Officer:	LTJG Mark Crittenden (JUN 96 - PRESENT)

USS KAUFFMAN Command History 1997

01-02 Jan:	Underway, Central Caribbean for Counter-Drug Operations, Operation Carib Shield
02-05 Jan:	Port Visit to Cartegena, Columbia. Delivered books, clothes, and hygienic materials to underprivileged children for Project Handclasp. KAUFFMAN sailors spent day painting orphanage in poverty stricken section of Cartegena.
05-10 Jan:	Underway, Central Caribbean for Counter-Drug Operations.
10-11 Jan:	Brief stop for fuel, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
11-17 Jan:	Underway, Central Caribbean for Counter-Drug Operations.
17-18 Jan:	Brief stop for fuel, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
18-20 Jan:	Transit to Mayport, FL.
20-21 Jan:	Inport Mayport, FL for debark of HSL-42. Embarked 40 family members for tiger cruise enroute to Norfolk.
21-23 Jan:	Transit to Norfolk, VA.
23 Jan:	Returned to port, Norfolk, VA.
23 Jan-24 Feb:	Inport, Norfolk, VA.
19-20 Feb:	Command Inspection with COMDESRON 2.
24-26 Feb:	Underway, Vacapes Oparea.
26 Feb:	Weapons off-load at Yorktown, VA.
27 Feb:	Family Day Cruise. Embarked 90 guests including students from two local elementary schools.
28 Feb-4Mar:	Inport, Norfolk, VA.
4 Mar-24 Jun:	DSRA, Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Company (NORSHIPCO).
17 Jun:	Light Off Assessment.

24-27 Jun: Post-DSRA Sea Trials.

27 Jun-21 Jul: Inport, Norfolk, VA.

7-11 Jul: CART II.

14-18 Jul: Aviation Assist Visit.

21-25 Jul: Underway with USS STUMP to conduct operational tests on R17 software and RAIDS.

25-28 Jul: Inport, Norfolk, VA.

28 Jul- 1 Aug: SUBLANT POMCERT services in Vacapes Oparea.

1-4 Aug: Inport, Norfolk VA.

4-8 Aug: Embarked ETG for TSTA I in Vacapes Oparea.

8 Aug-2 Sep: Inport, Norfolk VA.

11-15 Aug: Successfully completed Aviation Certification. Conducted LMA Assist Visit.

11-29 Aug: FMAV.

18-29 Aug: Embarked CSTG for TSTA I.

30 Aug- 1 Sep: Visit Ship. Hosted over 700 visitors during holiday weekend.

2-5 Sep: Embarked CSTG for TSTA II in Vacapes Oparea.

5-17 Sep: Inport, Norfolk VA.

8-9 Sep: Successfully completed Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification.

17 Sep: LCDR Joseph Murach, USNR, relieved LCDR Brian Neuenfeldt, USN, as Executive Officer.

17-19 Sep: Transit to Mayport, FL.

Enclosure (2)

22 Sep- 3 Oct: Embarked FTG for TSTA I in Jacksonville Operating Area. Conducted exercises for training in seamanship and damage control including: underway replenishment, precision anchorage, and a tow/be towed, and moor to a buoy exercise.

3-6 Oct: Transit to Norfolk, VA.

6-21 Oct: Inport, Norfolk, VA.

7-10 Oct: Completed NSFS Team Trainer.

21-24 Oct: Embarked ETG for TSTA II in Vacapes Oparea.

24 Oct-4 Nov: Inport, Norfolk, VA.

4 Nov: Successfully conducted ECERT. Embarked HSL 46 Det 7.

5-7 Nov: Conducted week one work-ups enroute to NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, PR.

8-10 Nov: Port Visit, Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, PR.

10-13 Nov: Participated in PCO OPS 4-97 with USS BRISCOE, USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY, USS NEWPORT NEWS, and USS SAN JUAN in Southern Puerto Rican Operating Area.

14-20 Nov: Underway for INDEX 98-1 with BRISCOE and ROBERT G. BRADLEY. M-1 was achieved in all primary mission areas through completion of Anti-Surface and Anti-Air gunnery exercises, flight operations, NSFS exercise, VBSS scenarios, and a pair of successful Anti-Air missile exercises.

20-23 Nov: Embarked ATG for FEP/TSTA III enroute Norfolk.

24 Nov: Participated in VANDALEX. Returned to port, Norfolk, VA. Debarked HSL 46 Det 7 and ATG Team.

24 Nov-31 Dec:Inport, Norfolk, VA.

5 Dec: Awarded trophy as Surface Warfare Training Week (SWTW) Champion.

8-10 Dec: Completed LMA with a score of 95.5 out of a possible 100.

Enclosure (2)

10-19 Dec:	CSRR Phase I and TARGET.
11 Dec:	Received notification from RSG Career Counselor that KAUFFMAN had earned the RSG Silver Anchor Award for retention missing the Golden Anchor by 0.5%.
15-31 Dec:	Commenced Christmas and New Years Holiday Leave.

Enclosure (2)

1997 YEAR IN REVIEW
USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59)

USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59) rang in the New Year underway in the Caribbean for Counter-Narcotic Operations, Operation Carib Shield. On the morning of 2 January 97, KAUFFMAN arrived in Cartegena, Columbia for a three-day port visit. In addition to enjoying some well deserved liberty, several members of the crew took time out to paint a local orphanage. The Sailors spent eight hours in a poverty stricken area of Cartegena, painting and doing light carpentry work while brightening the spirits of underprivileged children. The crew delivered numerous boxes of books, toys, clothing, and hygienic supplies provided by Project Handclasp.

After enjoying the port visit, KAUFFMAN was underway to resume duties under the operational control of the Joint Interagency Task Force, East (JIATF-East). After a brief stop for fuel in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, KAUFFMAN was enroute Mayport, FL for Helicopter Detachment off-load and to embark 25 family members who joined the crew for the transit to Norfolk.

The next month inport was spent preparing for the upcoming Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA). On 24 February, the ship welcomed family members and students from two local elementary schools as KAUFFMAN transited to the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown for a weapons off-load. On 4 March, KAUFFMAN sailed up the Elizabeth River to Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Company (Norshipco) to

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commence the DSRA. From March until mid-June, KAUFFMAN, in addition to hull-cleaning and preservation, received a series of Combat Systems upgrades which greatly enhanced the ship's warfighting capabilities. The changes included an upgraded Air Search radar, improvements to the ship's Fire Control and Electronic Warfare systems, and the first shipboard installation of a Composite Sonar Dome. Additionally, KAUFFMAN participated in a Self-Help project to completely renovate one of the crew berthing compartments. While much of the funding for the project came from a Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT) initiative, the technical expertise and manpower came entirely from KAUFFMAN.

After successfully completing the Light Off Assessment, KAUFFMAN was underway from Norshipco on 24 June for Sea Trials in the Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA) and on 27 June, made her much anticipated return to Norfolk Naval Base. The next two weeks were spent inport preparing for the upcoming Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II) and Aviation Assist Visit. The week of 7 July, KAUFFMAN conducted CART II and was assessed as ready to commence pre-deployment training. After spending the following week with the Aviation Assist Team, KAUFFMAN spent a week underway in the VCOA with USS STUMP (DD 978) for a series of operational tests on R17 and RAIDS integration, one of the combat systems upgrades received during the DSRA. After spending the weekend inport, KAUFFMAN was underway again, this time in support of the Pre-Overseas Movement Certification (POMCERT) for USS NARWHAL (SSN-671) and USS HAMPTON (SSN 767). After

another weekend inport, KAUFFMAN was underway the week of 4 August to begin her Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA I) with Engineering Training Group (ETG). The ship was evaluated in its ability to safely run the engineering plant and to act appropriately in the event of a casualty.

KAUFFMAN returned to port on 8 August for three busy weeks. While successfully completing the Aviation Certification inspection, KAUFFMAN conducted a Logistics and Management Assessment Assist (LMAA) Visit, and the first week of a three week Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV). Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG) embarked KAUFFMAN on 18 August for two weeks of training in support of TSTA I. Training was directed at refining the ship's ability to perform basic warfare functions.

Designated a participant for Visit Ship on Labor Day Weekend, KAUFFMAN gave tours to over 700 visitors in three days. After the three day weekend, KAUFFMAN was underway for four days with CSTG for TSTA II, to complete final preparations for the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ). Having returned to port, KAUFFMAN successfully conducted her CMTQ on 8-9 September, certifying her ability to safely and successfully employ the HARPOON missile.

On 17 September, LCDR Joseph Murach, USNR, relieved LCDR Brian Neuenfeldt, USN, as Executive Officer prior to the ship getting underway for TSTA I with Fleet Training Group (FTG) in the Jacksonville Operating Area. After enjoying a weekend of liberty in Mayport, FL, KAUFFMAN was underway to conduct various

seamanship evolutions including: underway replenishment, precision anchorage, and helicopter operations. After spending a second weekend in Mayport, KAUFFMAN began the last week of FTG's visit with a tow/be towed exercise with USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG-49) and moor to a buoy exercise. The week consisted of more seamanship evolutions, general quarters drills, training in Chemical, Biological, and Radiological defense, and a nighttime underway replenishment. After spending the night of 2 October in Mayport, KAUFFMAN was underway enroute to Norfolk and returned to port the morning of 6 October.

The next two weeks inport were filled with preparations for the upcoming ETG visit and Independent Deployers Exercise (INDEX 98-1) held in the Puerto Rican Operating Area (PROA). The week of 7 October, KAUFFMAN also completed a Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Team Trainer. The ship embarked ETG the week of 20 October underway in the VCOA and completed TSTA II as final preparation for the Engineering Certification. KAUFFMAN was underway from Norfolk 4 November, successfully completed its Engineering Certification, and headed south for the PROA.

The weekend of 8-10 November was spent inport Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico (NSRR). Underway in the Southern Puerto Rican Operating Area (SPROA) the following Monday, KAUFFMAN commenced Prospective Commanding Officer Operations (PCO-OPS 4-97) with three days of mini-wars involving USS BRISCOE (DD-977), USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG-49), USS HAMPTON (SSN-767), and USS NARWHAL (SSN-671). After another night inport NSRR, KAUFFMAN was

underway with BRISCOE and ROBERT G. BRADLEY to conduct exercises for INDEX. In addition to flight operations with HSL 46 DET 7, KAUFFMAN also completed numerous anti-surface and anti-air gunnery exercises, NSFS exercises, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure evolutions, and a pair of successful anti-air missile engagements. KAUFFMAN then embarked members of Norfolk's Aloat Training Group (ATG) to conduct the Final Evaluation Period enroute Norfolk.

After returning to port 24 November, and enjoying the Thanksgiving Holiday, KAUFFMAN spent the week of 1 Dec preparing for LMA and participating in Surface Warfare Training Week (SWTW). SWTW is a week of competitions varying from sporting events, to rating knowledge, to a chili cookoff and is designed to promote camaraderie within the surface community. KAUFFMAN was awarded overall champion for the week long event. The week of 8 December consisted of the final assessment and hurdle of 1997, the LMA. KAUFFMAN received 95.5 out of a possible 100 points to end the year on a good note. KAUFFMAN spent the next two weeks conducting a Combat Systems Readiness Review and TARGET visit. After the crew enjoyed the annual Christmas Party on 11 December, they welcomed a well-deserved leave and standown period for the holidays.

Enclosure (7)