



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Review
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From: Commanding Officer, USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374-5060

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1998**

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), enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded.


G. J. KAROL III

Copy to:
COMDESRON 26

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.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Immediate Superior in Command:

Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO (JAN 94 – SEP 98)
Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-SIX (OCT 98 – PRESENT)

Aircraft Assigned: CUTLASS 473 (HSL 46) (MAR 98 – SEP 98)

Commanding Officer: CDR John A. Kunert, USN (SEP 96 – MAR 98)
CDR George J. Karol III, USN (MAR 98 – PRESENT)

Permanent Home Port: Norfolk, VA (MAR 94 -PRESENT)

Executive Officer: LCDR Joseph A. Murach, USNR (SEP 97- DEC 98)
LCDR Brent P. Jenkins, USN (DEC 98 – PRESENT)

Combat Systems Officer: LT [REDACTED] USN (MAR 97 – NOV 98)
LT [REDACTED] USN (NOV 98 – PRESENT)

Operations Officer: LT [REDACTED] USN (APR 97 – NOV 98)
LT [REDACTED] USN (NOV 98 – PRESENT)

Chief Engineer: LT [REDACTED] USN (JAN 97 – JUN 98)
LT [REDACTED] USN (JUL 98 – SEP 98)
CWO2 [REDACTED] USN (SEP 98 – NOV 98)
LT [REDACTED] USN (NOV 98 – PRESENT)

Support Officer: LT [REDACTED] SC, USN (AUG 95 – FEB 98)
LT [REDACTED] SC, USN (FEB 98 – PRESENT)

Navigator: LTJG [REDACTED] (SEP 97 – APR 98)
LTJG [REDACTED] (APR 98 – PRESENT)

Enclosure (1)

Combat Information Center
Officer: LTJG [REDACTED] (JAN 97 - PRESENT)

Communications Officer: LT [REDACTED] (MAY 97 - PRESENT)

First Lieutenant: ENS [REDACTED] (SEP 97 - AUG 98)
BMC (SW) [REDACTED] (AUG 98-PRESENT)

Main Propulsion Assistant: CWO2 [REDACTED] (MAR 96 - DEC 98)
CWO2 [REDACTED] (DEC 98 - PRESENT)

Auxillaries Officer: LT [REDACTED] (JUN 96 - JAN 98)
LT [REDACTED] (JAN 98 - JUN 98)
LTJG [REDACTED] (JUL 98 - PRESENT)

Damage Control Assistant: LTJG [REDACTED] (JUL 97 - NOV 98)
LTJG [REDACTED] (DEC 98 - PRESENT)

Electronic Maintenance
Officer: LTJG [REDACTED] (FEB 96 - PRESENT)

Ordnance Officer: LTJG [REDACTED] (MAR 97 - MAR 98)
LTJG [REDACTED] (MAR 98 - PRESENT)

Undersea Warfare Officer: LTJG [REDACTED] (AUG 96 - AUG 98)
ENS [REDACTED] (AUG 98 - PRESENT)

Disbursing Officer: LTJG [REDACTED] (JUN 96 - NOV 98)
ENS [REDACTED] (NOV 98 - PRESENT)

Enclosure (1)

USS KAUFFMAN 1998 CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan-08 Feb: Inport Norfolk, VA.

31 Jan-01 Feb: Visit Ship. Hosted over 400 visitors.

09-10 Feb: Weapons on-load at Yorktown, VA.

11 Feb-13 Mar: Inport Norfolk, VA.

11 Feb- 02 Mar: Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Period.

06 Mar: Change of Command. CDR George J. Karol III, USN, relieved CDR John A. Kunert, USN, as Commanding Officer.

13 Mar: Deployed with USS BRISCOE (DD-977). Embarked HSL 46 DET 7.

25 Mar: Chopped to COMSIXTHFLT.

26 Mar-31 Mar: Inport Civitavecchia, Italy.

05 Apr: Received tasking to remain in C6F AOR indefinitely. Detached by BRISCOE who proceeds through Suez Canal.

07-13 Apr: Inport Naples, Italy.

16-20 Apr: Inport Barcelona, Spain.

23-25 Apr: Inport Tunis, Tunisia.

26-28 Apr: Exercise NADOR 98-2. Bilateral exercise with Tunisian Navy and Air Force.

28-29 Apr: HMS ILLUSTRIOUS PASSEX. KAUFFMAN as non-cooperative target for ILLUSTRIOUS AV-8B Sea Eagle war-at-sea strike.

01-05 May: Inport Cartagena, Spain.

06-19 May: Exercise DESTINED GLORY 98. NATO-Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM) Amphibious Exercise.

20-25 May: Inport Rota, Spain.

28-31 May: Inport Mahon, Spain.

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04-07 June: Inport Dubrovnik, Croatia.

09 June: Relieved USS SIMPSON (FFG-59) as U.S. asset in Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM).

12-17 June: Inport Constanta, Romania.

19-26 June: Exercise COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98. NATO and Partnership-for-Peace maritime initiative.

19-24 June: Inport Constanta, Romania.

27-30 June: Inport Varna, Bulgaria.

8-11 Jul: Inport Bari, Italy.

14-16 Jul: Inport Palermo, Italy.

15 Jul: Relieved by USS DEYO (DD-989) as U.S. SNFM asset.

17-23 Jul: Inport Corfu, Greece.

27-31 Jul: Inport Calpe, Spain.

30 Jul-01 Aug: Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA). CDS-2 (ISIC) shipwide assessment.

03-07 Aug: Inport Villefranche, France.

12-17 Aug: Inport Antalya, Turkey.

21-24 Aug: Inport Catania, Italy.

28 Aug-1 Sep: Inport Rota, Spain.

02 Sep: Chopped to COMSECONDFLT. RDVU w/USS BRISCOE.

11 Sep: Returned to homeport, Norfolk, VA. Debarked HSL 46 Det 7.

01 Oct: ISIC shift from CDS-2 to CDS-26.

07-09 Oct: Post-Deployment off-load, Yorktown, VA.

12 Oct-31 Dec: Planned Restricted Availability (PRAV) 1Q99, Norfolk, VA.

Enclosure (2)

12 Oct-31 Dec: Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV), Norfolk, VA.

19-23 Oct: Pre-Light Off Training (PLOT) I w/Engineering Training Group (ETG).

02-06 Nov: PLOT II w/ETG.

16-20 Nov: PLOT III w/ETG.

01-03 Dec: Light Off Assessment (LOA) by CDS-26.

08-09 Dec: Weapons on-load at Yorktown, VA.

09-11 Dec: Sea Trials in VACAPES OPAREA. Tiger Cruise.

11-31 Dec: Inport Norfolk, VA.

18-31 Dec: Christmas and New Year's Holiday Leave.

**1998 YEAR IN REVIEW
USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59)**

USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59) spent the first few months completing final preparations for her upcoming deployment. After completing a weapons on load in February, she entered Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) period where the crew was afforded some much deserved leave prior to setting sail for six months. On 6 March, a change of command was held, during which CDR George J. Karol III, relieved CDR John A. Kunert as Commanding Officer. It was during this same ceremony that Commodore Samuel J. Locklear, Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO, announced that KAUFFMAN was selected as the Squadron's 1997 Battle Efficiency ("Battle E") Winner.

Finally, on 13 March, KAUFFMAN got underway from Norfolk Naval Base in company with USS BRISCOE (DD 977) and USS MERRIMACK (AO 179) enroute to the Persian Gulf as part of the Middle East Force (MEF) and embarked HSL 46 DET 7. The deployment got off to a fast start by conducting mutual training with two MK Vs from Special Boat Squadron TWO (SPECBOATRON 2) in preparation for possible operations with Special Forces in the coming months. After completing the transit across the Atlantic, MERRIMACK was detached and KAUFFMAN

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and BRISCOE proceeded to scheduled port visits in Civitavecchia, Italy and Palma, Spain, respectively. After having enjoyed some liberty, then rendezvousing in the central MED, KAUFFMAN and BRISCOE proceeded in company to the Suez Canal. Within 12 hours of transiting the Canal, KAUFFMAN received orders to remain in the SIXTH Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). Although much of the training the ship had focused on during the Inter-Deployment Cycle was geared to the Arabian Gulf, the crew's professionalism eased the shift in focus. KAUFFMAN proceeded to port visits in Naples, Italy and Barcelona, Spain, and prepared for her new mission as a member of SIXTH Fleet.

Within the Mediterranean area of operations, KAUFFMAN's first assignment was as Officer Conducting the Exercise (OCE) for Exercise NADOR 98-2, a bilateral exercise with the Tunisian Naval and Air Forces. While in port Tunis, Tunisia, numerous demonstrations, such as use of Search and Rescue (SAR) gear, firefighting, and classroom lectures were held, with KAUFFMAN sailors providing their Tunisian counterparts insight into SAR, helicopter operations, damage control, electronic warfare,

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and engineering plant operations. This instruction was followed by two days of underway exercises with the Tunisian Navy, including gunnery, helicopter, SAR, and detect-to-engage exercises, culminating in a War-at-Sea exercise.

Immediately following NADOR 98-2, KAUFFMAN volunteered to act as a (non-cooperative) target for a pair of AV-8B Sea Eagles conducting a War-at-Sea strike from HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (in company w/USS CARON (DD-970)). Using the opportunity to practice real-world tactics, KAUFFMAN utilized deceptive lighting, Emission Control (EMCON) and Passive Counter Measures to close ILLUSTRIOUS and her escorts to within visual (and weapons) range before being detected.

After attending the Final Planning Conference (FPC) in Cartagena, Spain, KAUFFMAN participated in the Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM) amphibious exercise, DESTINED GLORY 98. Exercising all aspects of KAUFFMAN's multi-mission capability, KAUFFMAN performed duties as Area Air Defense Coordinator (AADC) and naval surface fire support (NSFS) ship, performing two NSFS box patrols; cruise missile strike platform; and force protection ship, escorting

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opposed minesweepers through the Strait of Gibraltar at night with full EMCON, and CUTLASS 473 conducting choke point Search and Surveillance at the entrance to the Straits. The exercise concluded with a "hot washup" in Rota, Spain.

During the first week of June, KAUFFMAN was afforded the opportunity to conduct a port visit to Dubrovnik, Croatia. As only the second U.S. ship to ever visit Dubrovnik, KAUFFMAN's visit attracted local and national press coverage. In an effort to promote relations with counterparts from the Croatian Navy, KAUFFMAN sailors demonstrated their expertise in all aspects of ship operations, including engineering, weapons employment, and damage control. The port visit was highlighted by a visit to KAUFFMAN by Ambassador Montgomery, U.S. Ambassador to Croatia and a sunset flight-deck reception attended by numerous dignitaries.

On 9 June, KAUFFMAN relieved USS SIMPSON (FFG 56) as the U.S. representative in SNFM, that included units from the U.K., Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Spain, and the Netherlands. For six weeks, KAUFFMAN participated in numerous high visibility, multi-national exercises, and social gatherings with other SNFM units. From nighttime

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underway replenishments, coordinated anchorages, advanced division tactics, and force receptions, KAUFFMAN participated in all aspects of SNFM operations with professionalism and zeal. In 1998, SNFM operations also included the planning and execution of Exercise COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98 (COOP-98), a NATO and Partnership-for-Peace maritime initiative with units from Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. During COOP-98, air defense was stressed as KAUFFMAN acted as Air Warfare Commander during synthetic detect-to-engage exercises. Immense training opportunities were capitalized upon during three War-at-Sea exercises against Romanian MIG-23s and MIG-29s. KAUFFMAN also excelled in Surface Warfare, conducting several gunnery exercises, electronic warfare exercises, and cruise missile exercises. KAUFFMAN steadfastly represented the nation and the U.S. Navy as new nations were integrated into NATO operations for the first time. KAUFFMAN was relieved as the U.S. SNFM asset on 15 July by USS DEYO (DD 989). Following pierside, Palermo, Sicily turnover with DEYO, KAUFFMAN proceeded to a highly relaxing port visit in Corfu, Greece.

After Corfu, KAUFFMAN became the first U.S. ship in 18 years to visit the beautiful port of Calpe, Spain. During this port visit, KAUFFMAN

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embarked COMDESRON-2 and staff for a Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA). A comprehensive ship-wide assessment, the highly successful visit included evaluation of all training teams, numerous administrative programs, and review of all damage control and combat-related bills and doctrines. The deployment was concluded with visits to Villefranche, France; Antalya, Turkey; Catania, Sicily which included a visit by Vice Admiral Henry Giffin, III, Commander Naval Surface Force, Atlantic Fleet; and Rota, Spain before meeting up with BRISCOE and USNS LARAMIE (TAO 203) for the return transit. KAUFFMAN debarked HSL 46 Det 7 and returned to homeport on 11 Sep.

After enjoying some well-deserved leave with family and friends, the crew returned with emphasis shifted from forward presence to maintenance. After completing an offload in Yorktown, KAUFFMAN entered a nine week Planned Restricted Availability (PRAV). While numerous maintenance actions were completed, of note was the installation of a prototype glass and paper shredder/pulper, installation of a wireless internal communication system, extensive repairs to three of four ship's service diesel generators, (SSDGs) overhaul of the helicopter recovery systems (RAST) and

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installation of the Flexible Universal Stowage System (FUSS), which enables KAUFFMAN to carry Hellfire, Penguin, and all varieties of torpedoes.

Validation of engineering department's training and readiness began during PRAV with three successful Engineering Training Group (ETG) visits in support of Pre-Light Off Training (PLOT) I, II, and III, culminating in December with a successful Light-Off Assessment (LOA) by CDS-26.

KAUFFMAN spent 7-11 Dec returning to Yorktown to onload weapons, and spending two days in the Virginia Cape Operating Area for training and Post-PRAV sea-trials. On 10 December 98, LCDR Brent Jenkins, USN, relieved LCDR Joe Murach, USNR, as Executive Officer. The year concluded as the crew entered a leave and upkeep period in celebration of the Holidays.

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