



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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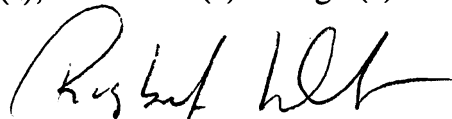
From: Commanding Officer, USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (COMMAND HISTORIES)

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.


R. SAEZ ORTIZ

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 also contribute to Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) operations and defense.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Immediate Superior
in Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-SIX
(OCT 98 - PRESENT)

Aircraft Assigned: VENOM 501, 503 (HSL-48, Detachment 3)

Commanding Officer: CDR George J. Karol III, USN (MAR 98 - AUG 99)
CDR Rigoberto Sáez-Ortiz, USN (AUG 99 - PRESENT)

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

Executive Officer: CDR Brent P. Jenkins, USN (DEC 98 - PRESENT)

Operations Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN (NOV 98 - PRESENT)

Chief Engineer: LCDR [REDACTED], USN (NOV 98 - PRESENT)

Combat Systems Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN (NOV 98 - PRESENT)

Supply Officer: LCDR (Sel) [REDACTED], SC, USN (FEB 98 -
PRESENT)

Navigator: LT [REDACTED], USNR (APR 98 - JUN 99)
LT [REDACTED], USN (JUN 99 - PRESENT)

Combat Information Center
Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR (JAN 97 - FEB 99)
ENS [REDACTED], USNR (FEB 99 - PRESENT)

Communications Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN (MAY 97 - MAR 99)
RMC (SW/AW) [REDACTED], USN (MAR 99 - JUN 99)
ENS [REDACTED], USNR (JUN 99 - PRESENT)

First Lieutenant: BMC (SW) [REDACTED], USN (AUG 98-FEB 99)
ENS [REDACTED], USNR (FEB 99 - SEP 99)
BMC (SW) [REDACTED], USN (SEP 99 - PRESENT)

Main Propulsion Assistant: CWO2 [REDACTED], USN (DEC 98 - PRESENT)

Auxiliaries Officer: LT [REDACTED], USNR (JUL 98 - JUN 99)
LTJG [REDACTED], USN (JUN 99 - PRESENT)

Damage Control Assistant: LT [REDACTED], USN (DEC 98 - APR 99)
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR (APR 99 - PRESENT)

Training Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN (DEC 98 - JUL 99)
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR (JUL 99 - PRESENT)

Electronic Maintenance Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN (FEB 96 - APR 99)
ENS [REDACTED], USN (APR 99 - PRESENT)

Ordnance Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN (MAR 98 - JUL 99)
LT (Sel) [REDACTED], USN (JUN 99 - SEP 99)
ENS [REDACTED], USNR (SEP 99 - PRESENT)

Undersea Warfare Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR (AUG 98 - PRESENT)

Disbursing Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], SC, USNR (NOV 98 - PRESENT)

Assistant Navigator: LT (Sel) [REDACTED], USN (SEP 99 - PRESENT)

Electrical Officer: ENS [REDACTED], USNR (DEC 99 - PRESENT)

Prospective Undersea Warfare Officer: ENS [REDACTED], USNR (DEC 99 - PRESENT)

USS KAUFFMAN 1999 CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan-10 Jan: Inport Norfolk, VA (Holiday Leave)
11 Jan-17 Jan: Inport Norfolk, VA
18 Jan-22 Jan: CART II (Inport Norfolk, VA)
23 Jan-7 Feb: Inport Norfolk, VA (25-29 Jan AVCERT)
8 Feb-12 Mar: TSTA I
8 Feb-12 Feb: TSTA I (Inport Norfolk, VA)
13 Feb-16 Feb: Inport Norfolk, VA
17 Feb-19 Feb: TSTA I (Inport Norfolk, VA)
20 Feb-21 Feb: Inport Norfolk, VA
22 Feb: TSTA I (VACAPES)
23 Feb: Inport Norfolk, VA
24 Feb-26 Feb: TSTA I (VACAPES)
27 Feb-28 Feb: Inport Norfolk, VA
1 Mar-5 Mar: Deck Landing Qualifications with HC-6 and HC-8
6 Mar-7 Mar: Inport Norfolk, VA
8 Mar-12 Mar: TSTA I (Inport Norfolk, VA)
13 Mar-14 Mar: Inport Norfolk, VA
15 Mar-26 Mar: TSTA II
15 Mar-16 Mar: TSTA II (Inport Norfolk, VA)
17 Mar- 19 Mar: TSTA II and EQUAL(VACAPES)
20 Mar-21 Mar: Inport Norfolk, VA
22 Mar-26 Mar: TSTA II (Inport Norfolk, VA)

27 Mar-06 Apr:	Inport Norfolk, VA
06-23 Apr:	Group Sail with Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six. Conducted Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification, Burial-at-Sea, and Final Evaluation Period.
15-19 Apr:	Port Visit: St. Thomas, USVI
23 Apr - 7 Jun:	Inport Norfolk, VA
8 Jun - 1 Jul:	CORTRAMID
2 Jul - 1 Aug:	Inport Norfolk, Va
2 - 6 Aug:	IKEBATGRU Group Sail
10 - 13 Aug:	Port Visit Nauticus
14 Aug - 14 Sep:	Inport Norfolk, Va
27 Aug:	Change of Command
15 - 18 Sep:	Sortie for Hurricane Dennis
19 - 26 Sep	Inport Norfolk, Va
27 Sep - 7 Oct:	Underway COMPTUEX
8 Oct - 12 Oct:	Inport Antigua
12 - 29 Oct:	Underway COMPTUEX
30 Oct - 2 Dec	Inport Norfolk, Va
3 Dec - 15 Dec	Underway JTFEX
16 - 31 Dec	Inport, Norfolk, Va

**1999 YEAR IN REVIEW
USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59)**

USS KAUFFMAN (FFG-59) started the New Year with some well - deserved holiday leave. The first few weeks also encompassed final close-out of the post-deployment restricted availability, which started in October, 1998. The Inter-Deployment Training Cycle for KAUFFMAN's upcoming deployment with USS Eisenhower Battle Group started with Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II from 18-22 January 1999. In support of this, KAUFFMAN welcomed assessors from Afloat Training Group (ATG), Fleet Training Group (FTG), Engineering Training Group (ETG), and Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG). CART II assessed KAUFFMAN's ability to train operationally effective watchteams. The assessment was based on evaluation of KAUFFMAN's training teams, drills, exercises and evolutions. Major events included a Main Space Fire Drill and Integrated Training Team scenarios. This would prepare KAUFFMAN for the major inspections ahead: Engineering Qualification (E-QUAL), Final Evaluation Period (FEP), and Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ).

From 25-29 January, KAUFFMAN conducted its Aviation Certification (AVCERT) for her flight deck. The purpose of KAUFFMAN's AVCERT was to certify the operation of numerous systems that allow

KAUFFMAN to safely launch and land helicopters. Upon KAUFFMAN's completion of the certification, she was again authorized to land and maintain a helicopter detachment onboard, for use in all warfare areas, logistics, passenger transfers and mail delivery. During that same week, KAUFFMAN also successfully completed a Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI), Personnel Administration Training Group (PATG) visit and an Occupational Safety Inspection.

KAUFFMAN began Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) I in February, working with ATG, CSTG, and ETG to train and prepare KAUFFMAN for its upcoming responsibilities overseas. KAUFFMAN was underway for the final two weeks in February to prepare for the upcoming Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) and FEP, with Combat Systems Training Team drills for the CIC watchteams, as well as Integrated Training Team drills involving the entire ship's company. From 8-12 February, KAUFFMAN welcomed a Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) assist team to identify areas of improvement for KAUFFMAN's upcoming LMA. KAUFFMAN also continued its preparations for CMTQ with a visit from CSTG during that same week.

KAUFFMAN was underway from 15-19 March to complete final preparations for E-QUAL and CMTQ. While being graded in engineering

for training purposes by Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six, KAUFFMAN was deemed to be qualified due to the crew's outstanding performance. This effectively freed two weeks to concentrate on CMTQ and eliminated the requirement for another underway training week.

From 6-23 April, KAUFFMAN got underway for a Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six Group Sail in the Puerto Rican Operating Area with USS MAHAN, USS LABOON, USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS, and USS BARRY. KAUFFMAN was pleased to welcome RADM Foley, Commander, Eisenhower Battle Group, to ride for the 6th of April. KAUFFMAN conducted CMTQ on 7 April, with resounding success, rating "best harpoon shooter in the squadron" as well as a comment from the assessment team that it was "the quickest qualification in recent memory." This Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification was unique to previous versions of the qualification in that it was underway (vice inport), and included live P-3 aircraft and Opposing Forces. Previous qualifications had been inport and had simulated contacts. KAUFFMAN then transitioned to the Opposing Force for the other units of the Squadron. KAUFFMAN conducted a Refuel at Sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL on the 10th of June, brushing up its skills on one of the more dangerous evolutions involving surface ships. The crew had a brief overnight visit to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto

Rico for the purpose of unloading an exercise torpedo. From 14-15 April, KAUFFMAN conducted three gunnery exercises involving moving targets using both 76MM and the Close-In Weapons System (CIWS). These included targeting the "Killer Tomato" surface target, as well as an airborne drone dragged by a Learjet. She also fired two exercise torpedoes against a submerged target drone. From 15-18 April, KAUFFMAN enjoyed a liberty port visit to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. The crew enjoyed a great four days, soaking in the sun, beaches, and nightlife that the island had to offer. During her transit back to Norfolk, KAUFFMAN completed the basic phase of the IDTC with Final Evaluation Period (FEP), a series of drills designed to test the ship's ability to combat multiple casualties at once. The crew once again performed outstandingly. The FEP period concluded early due to KAUFFMAN's superb performance. KAUFFMAN also conducted two Burial-At-Sea ceremonies during the trip back to Norfolk. KAUFFMAN returned to Norfolk on 23 April.

From 23 April-08 June, KAUFFMAN enjoyed an extended inport period in Norfolk. During this time, KAUFFMAN completed an extremely successful Logistics Management Assessment, achieving nearly perfect scores in each area of assessment. She also completed a lengthy equipment overhaul to both Radio and the Maintenance/Supply System. These

alterations were in preparation for the upcoming deployment with the EISENHOWER Battle Group, allowing KAUFFMAN to have connectivity with the other ships that had already received similar systems. Installed systems included Naval Technical Command Support System, Navy Order Wire, Automated Data Network Server, and Joint Maritime Control Information System.

Starting on 08 June and continuing each week of June, ending on July 1, KAUFFMAN got underway to support the DESRON 26 Career Orientation and Training of Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) Group Sail. Specific to NROTC midshipmen, it allows them to see each warfare community of the Navy first hand for one week. Each week in June, KAUFFMAN got underway from Tuesday through Thursday in order to show these future officers the exciting world of surface warfare. Evolutions included 76MM, CIWS, and Small Arms (.25 CAL, .50 CAL, and M-14) Pre-Action Calibration Fires, four Underway Replenishments with USNS KANAWHA and USNS BIG HORN, and a War at Sea exercise with USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTY – a Los Angeles-class attack submarine – pitting KAUFFMAN, LABOON and MAHAN against ROBERTS and BARRY. During the second week of training, KAUFFMAN conducted two Burial-At-Sea ceremonies. At the end of each week, each ship held a social

to allow the midshipmen to meet with officers from each of the DESRON TWENTY-SIX ships. One of these socials included a Surface Warfare Officer Join-Up hosted by the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, at Nauticus, the National Maritime Center in downtown Norfolk. KAUFFMAN hosted the final social (01 July 1999), which was held at the Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet picnic compound.

The officers and crew celebrated Fourth of July weekend each in his own way— many held cookouts and Independence Day parties, while others took the opportunity to visit their loved ones over the three day weekend. It was to the crew's credit that these festivities remained incident-free; a good thing not only for them but also for the leadership which could thus focus its energies on issues other than liberty incidents.

Later that month there was another cause for celebration, namely the frocking ceremony for new Third Class Petty Officers. The Captain addressed the frockees on the ship's foc'sle both to congratulate them and to remind them of their added responsibilities as leaders.

The Logistics Management Assessment results for KAUFFMAN came in during July—with a great deal of praise tacked on to them from VADM Giffin, Commander, Naval Surface Forces U.S. Atlantic Fleet. This

was more than just a feather in the cap for the Supply Department; but also an index of the ship's capacity to prepare for deployment.

The long-awaited command picnic arrived on the 29th and proved to be a rousing success. In addition to the food and softball games, many took the opportunity to dunk their favorite victim in the dunking booth.

On the 2nd of August it was time to get underway for the IKEBATGRU Group Sail. The focus for the Group Sail was to take the first steps in preparing for deployment, but first the crew had been chartered with the more solemn task of five Burials at Sea. The weather made this somewhat difficult but with perseverance they were carried out with proper ceremony.

Next, KAUFFMAN moved on to ASW training, flight operations, BECCs, and an underway replenishment on the 5th —all the basic “bread and butter” exercises for the surface Navy. Additionally the ship's weaponiers broke new ground in executing a 76mm PAC Fire of 80 rounds at the gun's maximum rate of fire. This is rarely done and was essentially pushing the edge of the envelope for the Oto-Melara gun mount; this PAC Fire proved that the gun can perform to the utmost range of its specifications if need be.

Upon returning from the Group Sail the ship spent a few days in port before pulling back out for a visit to the Nauticus Maritime Center. At Nauticus KAUFFMAN became the most popular attraction as visitors lined up on the pier to take tours of her spaces and compartments, as well as meet her crew.

The return to Norfolk Main Base was a Family Day Cruise, as the wives and children of KAUFFMAN sailors embarked to see the ship in action. Assorted training and lectures were held for their benefit, but without doubt the most exciting event for the ship riders were the CIWS and 76mm PAC Fires, followed by a chance for the guests to try out one of the .50 cal mounts. For CDR Karol this was a somewhat bittersweet trip, for while his family and father got to see his ship at its best, it also marked his final voyage as Commanding Officer of KAUFFMAN.

CDR Karol's relief, CDR Rigoberto Sáez Ortiz, arrived on the 23rd to begin the turnover process. In addition to learning technical details and issues of the ship he also got a chance to get acquainted with his new wardroom in the form of a Hail and Farewell on the 25th.

Meanwhile the officers and crew of the ship were making preparations to carry out the Change of Command ceremony—which occurred the 27th.

With an “I relieve you, sir,” CDR Sáez assumed the reins as KAUFFMAN’s guiding force and highest authority.

He was soon to get an opportunity to test his new vessel against the elements; as the formation of Hurricane Dennis was soon followed by it making a beeline for Norfolk. After a short period of analysis the fleet sortied on the 15th, and so KAUFFMAN found herself riding some choppy seas. While seasickness struck a number of sailors, a positive attitude prevailed—greatly boosted, of course, when KAUFFMAN came in on the 18th.

The ship’s return to Norfolk gave her a brief period of rest, and the crew the chance to prepare for COMPTUEX—an intensive month long training period to cover every aspect of carrier battlegroup operations. It started off on 27 September, and soon kicked into high gear with ASWPT, which KAUFFMAN carried out impeccably. ASWPT not only tested the effectiveness of her USW suite, but afforded both CIC and bridge watch teams the chance to hone their skills against subs. The air det had the opportunity to get into the game as well as the helo became a key asset for both KAUFFMAN and her partners.

On the 5th the ship headed to the AFWTF range to execute perhaps the most exciting event of COMPTUEX—the Surface-to-Air Missile Exercise.

Along with the other “shooters” of the battlegroup, KAUFFMAN pitted its fire control system and telemetry version SM-1’s against aerial drones.

There was more than a little tension in the air as the targets approached; the concern was not so much whether or not the MK 92 system would work or whether the operators could carry out their duties, but that the test version SM-1’s would fail to work as advertised. But everything fell into place as all three achieved a kill zone on the drones.

The 7th held two major challenges for KAUFFMAN: a RAS with USNS Kanawha and a MIO exercise on a simulated merchant ship (a.k.a. USS ANZIO). Both were carried out superbly both by the “point men” on the refueling details and VBSS teams as well as by the CIC and bridge shiphandling teams.

The 8th of October began the ship’s port visit to Antigua for some well-earned R & R. Sea and Anchor was set in the morning and by noon KAUFFMAN was nestled snugly alongside the pier at Rat Island’s Deep Water Harbor. Even collapsed back into 4-section duty the ship was able to field a formidable liberty party, as the crew explored the 365 beaches, sampled the cuisine, and tried out the snorkeling, golf, and jet skiing. There were numerous MWR tours of the island as well to acquaint the sailors with Antigua’s history, geography, and culture.

Leaving Antigua on the 12th KAUFFMAN returned to business; namely more tracking of BattleGroup ships and aircraft. On 22 October a special challenge for her shiphandling and operations teams arose while she was acting plane guard: an F-14 crashed while being launched from the USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69). KAUFFMAN immediately positioned herself to assist and monitor the situation. While the pilots themselves were safely rescued by the carrier's SAR helo, KAUFFMAN's RHIB boat retrieved some of the wreckage for use in the crash investigation.

COMPTUEX ended on a strong note, with the surface warships of the battlegroup participating in a SINKEX live-fire exercise—a real life demonstration of the power and precision of KAUFFMAN's 76 mm Oto Melara.

After returning the 29th, the officers and crew began maintenance and administrative preparations for the Joint Task Force exercise and deployment. These continued well into November, with Thanksgiving break providing a rest prior to getting underway on 3 December for JTFEX. The ship also celebrated Native American heritage with a presentation to educate the crew on Native Americans' roles in both the Navy and in society.

The Joint Task Force Exercise tested the skills and training acquired during COMPTUEX. The three main facets of it for KAUFFMAN were

Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), Undersea Warfare, and Surface Warfare. With other units of the battlegroup playing the role of “bad guys”, KAUFFMAN intercepted and boarded sanctions violators, tracked hostile Third World submarines, and went head-to-head against aggressor surface targets. The fast-paced exercise allowed various ship’s teams to practice their skills at shiphandling, search and seizure, and executing patrols. There was also time to conduct two underway replenishments, as well as a simulated replenishment at night.

Upon returning on 15 December the agenda became focused on completing pre-deployment tasks prior to stand-down. With stand-down divided into two periods the ship collapsed into three duty sections; while half the ship enjoyed Christmas leave the other half took care of the ship. Once the 29th came around those on leave returned to swap roles and allow the other half to take leave for New Year’s.