



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KLAKRING (FFG 42) ✓

FLEET POST OFFICE

MIAMI 34091-1497

5720

Ser FFG42/ 072

10 MAR 1986

From: Commanding Officer, USS KLAKRING (FFG-42)


To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5720.1C

Encl: (1) Command History on USS KLAKRING (FFG-42) for 1985

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
J. M. COON

Copy to:  
COMDESRON SIX

## COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS KLAKRING (FFG-42) FOR 1985

01 JANUARY 1985, found USS KLAKRING in homeport, Charleston, South Carolina, completing a well deserved Christmas leave period and preparing for Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, CUBA.

14 JANUARY, KLAKRING departed Charleston for Guantanamo Bay, CUBA, to commence five weeks of Refresher Training. As always REFTRA was a very busy time for the SPECIAL K, however, the time in GITMO was well spent. KLAKRING successfully passed the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination and all the required training exercises and departed three days earlier than scheduled.

21 FEBRUARY, KLAKRING commenced operating with HSL 42 Det 3 for the first time. With the addition of Det 3 and their LAMPS MK III HELO, KLAKRING is now a complete weapons system in all respects.

04 MARCH, KLAKRING started the first FFG Class Maintenance Plan Intermediate Maintenance Availability to be conducted in the Charleston area. The Maintenance period was a landmark availability not only because of being the first conducted in Charleston, but also because it was the first to complete 100% of the required maintenance actions. All concerned including KLAKRING received many excellent commendations for the conduct of this availability.

22 April, found KLAKRING underway for her first major Fleet exercise, COMTUEX 2-85.

On 30 April, KLAKRING anchored off the town of FREDERICKSTED, ST. CROIX USVI, and commenced a well deserved three day port visit after the rigors of COMTUEX 2-85 departing to rejoin COMTUEX 2-85 on 02 MAY.

KLAKRING returned to Charleston from COMTUEX 2-85 on 8 MAY. While participating in COMTUEX 2-85, KLAKRING conducted every type of exercise required of an FFG including successfully firing two missiles, gunnery, live torpedo firings, underway replenishment, and many hours of LAMPS MK III HELO operations.

On 14 MAY, COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON SIX, KLAKRING'S parent administrative squadron, conducted a Command Inspection in KLAKRING. In almost every area KLAKRING'S administrative programs were judged to be excellent.

On 28 MAY, a shakedown cruise was conducted to test every phase of SPECIAL K'S warfare capabilities in preparation for her forthcoming MIDDLE EAST FORCE deployment with HSL 42 Det 3 embarked. Commanding Officer, USS KLAKRING was designated as the OTC for the MEF 3-85 transit group which consisted of USS KLAKRING (FFG-42) and USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD 974).

07 JUNE, KLAKRING joined up with USS COMTE DE GRASSE enroute to PONTA DELGADO, AZORES.

13 JUNE, KLAKRING and COMTE DE GRASSE arrived at PONTA DELGADO, AZORES, for a brief stop for fuel and provisions. This is the first port stop for the SPECIAL K crew on the MIDDLE EAST CRUISE and even though no liberty is granted all are excited to be seeing the world after the lengthy PRECOMMISSIONING and POST SHAKEDOWN operations of the past.

On 16 JUNE, KLAKRING officially became a SIXTH FLEET unit and stopped at ROTA, SPAIN, briefly for fuel and supplies. While in ROTA, several crew members took advantage of the Navy Exchange facilities to stock up or to purchase forgotten items.

18 JUNE found KLAKRING in PALMA DE MALLORCA for her first official overseas visit of the deployment. Several crewmen took advantage of the opportunity to tour the island, bask on the beaches, and partake of the night life. When KLAKRING departed PALMA 21 JUNE for the SUEZ CANAL, every SPECIAL K sailor knew why PALMA has an excellent reputation as a liberty port.

25 JUNE, KLAKRING arrived at the northern entrance to the SUEZ CANAL ZONE in the late afternoon. After boarding a pilot, the canal transit was started in the early morning hours of 26 JUNE. For most of the crewmen this was their first look at the MIDDLE EAST with the remnants of past conflicts still visible from the banks of the canal. KLAKRING departed the southern end of the canal into the RED SEA late 26 JUNE and started a southerly transit of the RED SEA to the port of DJIBOUTI. On 26 JUNE, KLAKRING became a unit of the MIDDLE EAST FORCES.

Starting with 27 and 28 JUNE, KLAKRING switched from, observing a weekend on Saturday and Sunday to observing weekends on Thursday and Friday. This was done to better match the daily routine to the Moslem work week. In observance of the occasion, a fantail cookout and sports day was held.

30 JUNE, KLAKRING arrived in DJIBOUTI for a brief stop for fuel and provisions.

01 JULY, KLAKRING rendezvoused with USS CHARLES F ADAMS to conduct an exchange of information and equipment prior to joining the units of the MIDDLE EAST FORCE in the PERSIAN GULF. Commanding Officer, USS KLAKRING was designated CTU 109.1.2, responsible for the scheduling of all multi-ship training in the PERSIAN GULF.

04 JULY, KLAKRING celebrated INDEPENDENCE DAY by transiting the Straits of HORMUZ and entering the PERSIAN GULF. In addition, the crew relaxed by conducting several sporting events including volleyball and basketball, all topped off with a flight deck picnic.

07 JULY, rendezvoused with USS LASALLE in the vicinity of ABU DHABI, UAE, to escort LASALLE to BAHRAIN.

09 JULY, anchored at SITRAH, BAHRAIN, to conduct a brief stop for fuel and load provisions. The Commanding Officer conducted a call on COMIDEASTFOR, RADM ADDAMS.

14 JULY, moored at AL JUBAYL, SAUDI ARABIA, to conduct KLAKRING'S first port visit inside the PERSIAN GULF. The expatriate community took the SPECIAL K crew in, providing them with sporting events and opening their homes for the crew's use. KLAKRING departed ALJUBAYL, SA, 17 JULY to continue her PERSIAN GULF patrol.

22 JULY, KLAKRING moored at MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN, to commence an upkeep period. While in BAHRAIN the SPECIAL K band went ashore and entertained the crew and those stationed at the Administrative Support Unit, BAHRAIN, on two successive nights. All had an outstanding time and found the stop in BAHRAIN relaxing and enjoyable. KLAKRING departed BAHRAIN 31 JULY to continue the PERSIAN GULF patrol.

06 AUGUST, KLAKRING rendezvoused with USS LASALLE to conduct escort operations in support of the LASALLE.

11 AUGUST, anchored in the vicinity of DOHA to take on fuel. Returned to the PERSIAN GULF patrol at the completion.

16 AUGUST, COMUSNAVCENT, COMMODORE JESBERG, was flown aboard by Special K'S helo det for a tour of KLAKRING, familiarization of the LAMPS MK III, and lunch. COMMODORE JESBERG departed after speaking to the members of the wardroom.

20 AUGUST, KLAKRING anchored at SITRAH, BAHRAIN, for an overnight stop. While at anchor, fuel and provisions were loaded. In addition, 20 AUGUST was the second birthday of SPECIAL K. After completing the reprovisioning, a shipwide birthday party was held which offered something for everyone; from card games, athletic events, darts, bingo, movies, and a flight deck picnic. For the planning and execution of this birthday party, KLAKRING was awarded an NMPC Recreation Award at NMPC'S annual meeting in NOVEMBER.

On 21 AUGUST, KLAKRING departed BAHRAIN enroute to KARACHI, PAKISTAN, transiting the Straits of Hormuz 22 AUGUST.

24 AUGUST, arrived in KARACHI, PAKISTAN, to commence a three day port visit. While in PAKISTAN, the crew found much to spend their money on, including wood products, furs, Persian rugs, and brass. KLAKRING departed KARACHI on 28 AUGUST to rejoin the units of the MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

After transiting the Straits of Hormuz on 31 AUGUST, KLAKRING moored at the DUBAI DRYDOCK, DUBAI, UAE, on 03 SEPTEMBER to start an upkeep period. The work conducted by the Dubai Drydock was excellent and the liberty in Dubai was the best since PALMA. Most of the crew had outstanding times ashore enjoying the sporting events, night life and excellent beaches. A ship's band was again the hit of the party. SPECIAL K departed DUBAI on 10 SEPTEMBER.

13 SEPTEMBER, KLAKRING anchored at SITRAH, BAHRAIN, to conduct a two day Combat Systems Groom. After the groom was completed, KLAKRING departed SITRAH 14 SEPTEMBER to rejoin the PERSIAN GULF patrol.

20 SEPTEMBER, KLAKRING departed the PERSIAN GULF to conduct exercises with units of the INDIAN OCEAN BATTLE GROUP. While in company, SPECIAL K received valuable training in carrier operations, anti-air warfare, underway replenishment and anti-submarine warfare. KLAKRING returned to the PERSIAN GULF 24 SEPTEMBER. While enroute to the PERSIAN GULF, KLAKRING conducted multi-ship operations with the French Ship ANQUETIL. ANQUETIL and KLAKRING exchanged crewmen and gifts and both ships found the exercises very rewarding.

28 SEPTEMBER, anchored at SITRAH, BAHRAIN, for a brief stop for fuel and provisions.

09 OCTOBER, anchored at MINA JABAYL ALI, for a brief stop for fuel.

20 OCTOBER, anchored overnight at SITRAH, BAHRAIN, for fuel and stores.

26 OCTOBER, anchored at SITRAH, BAHRAIN for a brief stop for fuel and stores. After topping off on fuel and stores, SPECIAL K was underway for ASH SHUAIBAH, KUWAIT, as the flag ship for COMIDEASTFOR. KLAKRING was the first UNITED STATES WARSHIP to visit KUWAIT in over six years. Arriving in KUWAIT on 27 OCTOBER, the Commanding Officer accompanied RADM ADDAMS, on official calls on several KUWAIT officials. While in KUWAIT, an official lunch was given at the AMERICAN EMBASSY for several of the officers and local dignitaries. SPECIAL K hosted a reception on the flight deck that evening for over 100 officials of the KUWAIT government and members of many of the embassies. After hosting a luncheon in the wardroom for a select group, KLAKRING departed KUWAIT the afternoon of 28 OCTOBER to rejoin the MIDDLE EAST FORCES in patrolling the PERSIAN GULF. SPECIAL K received outstanding praise for her actions and appearance from COMIDEASTFOR and the AMERICAN AMBASSADOR for the conduct of this important and highly visible visit.

30 OCTOBER, KLAKRING moored at MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN, to commence a five day upkeep period. Many crewmen took advantage of this last port visit in the PERSIAN GULF to stock up on Christmas and homecoming presents. On Halloween, ASU, BAHRAIN, hosted a dinner dance and Halloween party. The SPECIAL K band was in attendance and was the hit of the party. KLAKRING departed BAHRAIN 04 NOVEMBER.

06 NOVEMBER, KLAKRING rendezvoused with USS GALLERY in the PERSIAN GULF to conduct a turnover of information and equipment in preparation for KLAKRING'S departure from the gulf and transit homeward.

07 NOVEMBER, departed the PERSIAN GULF enroute for DJIBOUTI.

09 NOVEMBER, rendezvoused with USS COMTE DE GRASSE to form the transit group for the return to CONUS. Commanding Officer, USS KLAKRING is designated OTC for the transit group.

11 NOVEMBER, the transit group arrived at DJIBOUTI, for a brief stop for fuel and stores. While in DJIBOUTI, the AMERICAN CONSULATE hosted members of both COMTE DE GRASSE and KLAKRING crews for lunch. The transit group departed in the afternoon and commenced a northward transit of the RED SEA.

15 NOVEMBER, KLAKRING shifted back to the standard work week. KLAKRING arrived at the southern entrance to the SUEZ CANAL in the late afternoon and anchored. Early in the morning on 16 NOVEMBER, KLAKRING weighed anchor and commenced a northerly transit of the SUEZ CANAL, arriving at PORT SAID late in the evening on 16 NOVEMBER. Departing the SUEZ CANAL zone, KLAKRING set a course for MALAGA, SPAIN.

20 NOVEMBER, SPECIAL K moored at MALAGA, SPAIN. While the weather was cool, limiting the opportunities to partake of the beaches, the crew greatly enjoyed the night life and shopping. KLAKRING departed MALAGA in the afternoon of 23 NOVEMBER for ROTA, SPAIN.

24 NOVEMBER, KLAKRING arrived in ROTA, SPAIN, for a brief stop for fuel and stores. The crew made good use of the Navy Exchange and Uniform shops while in port.

Both KLAKRING and COMTE DE GRASSE departed in the afternoon enroute for PONTA DELGADA, AZORES. KLAKRING became a unit of the SECOND FLEET.

28 NOVEMBER, KLAKRING arrived at PONTA DELGADA, AZORES, for fuel and provisions. After refueling and departing the Azores enroute for homeport, SPECIAL K paused to give thanks on the first Thanksgiving many of the crewmembers had ever spent away from home. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings was served.

04 DECEMBER, HSL 42 Det 3 flew their helo (ODIE) off for the last time this deployment. They amassed the best maintenance record of any deployed LAMPS MK III DET to date and, even though they operated their aircraft in the harshest of environments, were commended for "bringing the aircraft home in like new condition".

06 DECEMBER, KLAKRING returned to Charleston, SC, after departing for the PERSIAN GULF 181 days ago. SPECIAL K completed a maiden deployment to one of the most volatile and hostile environments in which Navy ships operate, bringing praise from every operational commander for her smartness of actions and expertise.

12 DECEMBER, Commander James M. COON, USN assumed command of USS KLAKRING (FFG-42) from Commander L. O. WAHLIG, USN.

14 DECEMBER, KLAKRING commenced a well deserved holiday leave and stand down period.