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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KLAKRING (FFG 42)

FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KLAKRING (FFG 42)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS KLAKRING COMMAND NARRATIVE

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. J. Van Buskirk".

D. J. VAN BUSKIRK

COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS KLAKRING (FFG 42) FOR 1989

I. Command Composition and Organization:

USS KLAKRING, CDR Dennis J. Van Buskirk commanding, the thirty-second Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate built for U. S. Navy service, and the first of its class homeported in Charleston, performs an extensive repertoire of missions. KLAKRING has served as escort to tankers in the Persian Gulf, provided multi-mission support to Carrier battle groups in the Mediterranean, engaged in drug interdiction in the Caribbean, and served with distinction as the U. S. representative to NATO's Naval On-Call Force Mediterranean (NAVOCFORMED). Her varied complement of weapons and sensors, and the embarked Lamps Mk III helicopter, give her the widest mission applicability of any ship her size. The mission of the FFG 7 is to provide anti-air warfare (AAW), anti-surface warfare (ASUW), and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) self-defense and to effectively provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups (URGs), amphibious groups, and other military shipping against subsurface, air, and surface threats.

KLAKRING is attached to Commander Destroyer Squadron Six, Charleston's active destroyer squadron of Perry class frigates and Spruance class destroyers, one of two squadrons belonging to Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Two.

II. Chronology:

1 January finds USS KLAKRING in homeport, Charleston, South Carolina enjoying the holiday standdown period.

3 January underway for Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

4 January arrive Mayport for on-load of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron, Light, Detachment One personnel and support equipment.

6 January depart Mayport for Puerto Rican Operations Area. Conduct Landing Qualifications enroute.

9 January brief stop for fuel and exercise torpedo on-load in Roosevelt Roads, PR. Underway for St. Croix, USVI. Moor Frederiksted, St. Croix.

12 January depart St. Croix for Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Brief stop for fuel in Roosevelt Roads.

17 January arrive Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale.

21 January underway for homeport Charleston. Encounter extreme sea conditions enroute.

22 January arrive Charleston, transiting Cooper River at night in 40-45 knots of wind and heavy seas. Completed without pilot assistance.

25 January prospective Pakistani commanding officer of USS JULIUS FURER visits.

27 January award Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer designation to LT Lee Howland. Onload cryptologic van.

28 January land HSL 46 SH-60 in port.

30 January commence four day Limited Engineering Mobile Training Team visit.

8 February underway for Fleetex 2-89 (Basic).

24 February return to homeport.

27 February begin record setting inport Intermediate Maintenance Availability. Largest work package ever completed by SIMA Charleston for an FFG in a twenty-one day IMAV.

10 March award Surface Warfare Officer Designation to ENS Bill Davis.

14 March commence duties as host ship for FRG Rheinland Pfalz, visiting Charleston with the ships of the Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

17 March St. Patrick's Day picnic held for the crew of the Rheinland Pfalz at Charleston Naval Station facilities.

20 March end of IMAV.

23 March underway for Naval Education and Training Center Newport, Rhode Island to serve as Engineering School Ship. Embark two Citadel NROTC Midshipmen for trip.

26 March arrive Newport. Praised by COMSWOSCOLCOM for unassisted landing and overall material condition and cleanliness of the ship.

31 March underway for Charleston with Guests of the Navy embarked.

3 April arrive Charleston. Commence Gas Turbine Engineering Mobile Training Team visit. Engineering Readiness Assessment.

10 April conduct deployment brief at Sterett Hall for all KLAKRING dependents.

13 April underway for Fleetex 3-89 (Advanced).

15 April conduct fueling at sea from USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

20 April conduct fueling at sea from USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

24 April conduct fueling at sea from USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

26 April conduct fueling at sea from USS NASSAU (LHA 4).

27 April embark Commander Destroyer Squadron 36 and Staff.

28 April arrive Charleston.

1 May COMDESRON 36 shifts pennant ashore.

28 May change operational control from COMNAVSURFLANT to COMSECONDFLT.

31 May underway for MED 3-89 deployment. Ships in transit group: USS AINSWORTH (FF 1090), USS AYLWIN (FF 1081), USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST 1197), USS BUTTE (AE 27), USS CORAL SEA (CV 43), USS JOHN KING (DDG 3), USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59), USS MISSISSIPPI (CGN 40), USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178), USS NASSAU (LHA 4), USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56), USS SHENANDOAH (AD 44), USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12), and USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51).

1 June refuel at sea from USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178).

5 June refuel at sea from USS BUTTE, conduct vertrep transfer of exercise torpedo from USS SHENANDOAH.

9 June refuel at sea from USS CORAL SEA (CV 43).

11 June, 0300Z, during transit of Straits of Gibraltar, pass USS NASSAU and launch helicopter in 45 knot winds.

12 June separate from main body with USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56); conduct replenishment at sea alongside USNS RIGEL. Change operational control from COMSECONDFLT to COMSIXTHFLT.

14 June conduct "blue water" turnover for Mediterranean operations with USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2).

15 June refuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

17 June refuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

18 June transit Dardanelles and Bosphorus, enter the Black Sea.

19 June moor Constanta, Romania with USS SAN JACINTO. Begin enjoyment of Romanian coast. Attend dinner onboard SAN JACINTO sponsored by United States Ambassador.

20 June Commanding Officer flown to Bucharest with CO SAN JACINTO for meetings with Romanian Defense leaders and U. S. Ambassador.

21 June KLAKRING representative take historic tours of Romanian warships.

22 June depart Constanta.

23 June transit Bosphorus and anchor at Istanbul, Turkey.

27 June depart Istanbul, transit Sea of Marmara and Dardanelles into the Aegean Sea.

29 June refuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

30 June arrive Haifa, Israel for port visit and intermediate maintenance availability with Haifa Shipyard, Ltd.

10 July depart Haifa with SAN JACINTO and Israeli Naval Ships Haifa and Maoz for exercise Noble Dina 3.

13 July conclude Noble Dina; anchor Haifa.

14 July depart Haifa, refuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

15 July award designation as Surface Warfare Officer to LTjg Jeff Whitaker.

18 July underway replenishment alongside JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

19 July moor in Alexandria, Egypt.

24 July depart Alexandria. Commence Exercise Demon Jazz.

27 July conduct underway replenishment with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

28 July moor Haifa, Israel.

31 July depart Haifa with Rear Admiral Macke, Commander Carrier Group Two, embarked. Begin period of contingency operations off coast of Lebanon.

1 August COMCARGRU 2 departs.

2 August replenishment at sea from USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

7 August replenishment at sea from USS MONONGAHELA

10 August replenishment at sea from USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

14 August replenishment at sea from USNS JOHN LENTHALL; receive fuel and 30 pallets of stores.

15 August initiate "floating IMAV" with USS SHENANDOAH; idea endorsed by SHENANDOAH and Carrier Battle Group Commander. Subsequently used for all other CVBG ships involved in contingency operations.

18 August replenishment at sea from USS MONONGAHELA

19 August begin four day visit by Engineering Mobile Assessment Team.

24 August send KLAKRING Engineering Assist Team (EAST) to USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51) to aid in preparations for inspections.

27 August fuel at sea alongside USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

28 August KLAKRING visited by VADM Williams, Commander Sixth Fleet.

1 September conclusion of contingency operations; fuel at sea alongside USS MONONGAHELA.

4 September arrive Marseille, France with USS MISSISSIPPI (CGN 40) and USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59).

13 September depart Marseille with MISSISSIPPI and KAUFFMAN. Conduct logistic replenishment with USNS SATURN. Fuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

18 September fuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

20 September anchor Augusta Bay, Sicily. Attend planning conference onboard USS IOWA (BB 61). Depart Augusta Bay. Begin Exercise Display Determination.

22 September LCDR Steve Singleton relieves CDR Jim Winter as Executive Officer. Fuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

25 September fuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

28 September fuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

1 October fuel at sea from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

7 October underway replenishment alongside USS MONONGAHELA.

09 October moor Ancona, Italy with ITS Euro, HMS Coventry, SPS Descubierta, FRG Schleswig-Holstein, HS Elli, and TUG Kilic Ali Pasa.

12 October ceremonies for Thirty-Ninth Activation of Naval On-Call Force Mediterranean (Exercise Deterrent Force 2-89). CINCUSNAVEUR, ADM Howe attends.

14 October depart Ancona with NAVOCFORMED ships.

16 October refuel alongside USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS. Complete underway replenishment of 30,000 gallons of fuel in 17 minutes from approach to breakaway.

19 October anchor Augusta Bay, Sicily for port visit in Augusta with NAVOCFORMED.

22 October depart Augusta Bay with NATO units.

23 October unrep with RFA Olmeda.

27 October moor Alicante, Spain. Turn over US participation in NAVOCFORMED to USS BOWEN (FF 1079).

30 October depart Alicante. Change operational control from COMSIXTHFLT to COMSECONDFLT. Replenish from USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS. Enroute homeport Charleston, SC.

6 November award Surface Warfare Officer Designation to LT [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED].

7 November fuel at sea alongside USS CALOOSAHATCHIE (AO 98).

10 November return to Charleston Naval Station after conclusion of MED 3-89 Deployment. Change operational control to COMNAVSURFLANT. Commence

post-deployment stand down. Unassisted mooring on arrival marked a record six-month deployment during which no tugs or pilot assistance were used throughout all the port visits.

16 November begin two day Navy-wide safety stand-down.

20 November KLA KRING sends dozens of volunteers to clean up debris from hurricane Hugo on James Island.

22 November begin post-deployment IMAV.

20 December KLA KRING sends donation and volunteers to Crossroads Runaway Shelter in Charleston to perform repairs to Hugo damage.

21 December KLA KRING holds childrens' Christmas party onboard. Garner "Most Original" award in COMCRUDESGRU TWO Holiday lighting competition.

25 December we enjoy a delightful Christmas at home.

31 December USS KLA KRING ends 1989 in homeport, Charleston, South Carolina.

COMMAND NARRATIVE FOR USS KLA KRING 1989

USS KLA KRING began 1989 with a shift in deployments from the Middle East Force to the Mediterranean because of force reductions in the Persian Gulf. The first two months were spent in preparation for the deployment by conducting Basic Fleet Exercises and LAMPS MK III workups. During the months of February and March, the ship also conducted an extensive pre-deployment IMAV and acted as host ship for the German representative to STANAVFORLANT, FRG RHEINLAND-PFALZ. April found the ship underway in the final phases of pre-deployment preparations by participating in FLEETEX 3-89.

On 31 May USS KLA KRING deployed as part of MED 3-89. The transit was relatively uneventful. Turnover was conducted with USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2) on 14 June. KLA KRING then proceeded to a highly diplomatic and historical port visit in Constanta, Romania with USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56). All hands enjoyed the various tours of Romanian sights. Following this visit, the ship anchored at Istanbul, Turkey for a 4 day port visit. The crew again enjoyed sight-seeing and souvenir hunting.

On 30 June the ship arrived at Haifa, Israel. During that time, the ship conducted maintenance and repairs with assistance from the Haifa Shipyard. This visit was followed up with a joint US-Israeli naval exercise, Noble Dina.

On 19 July, KLA KRING visited Alexandria, Egypt. All officers and crew took advantage of this opportunity to visit Cairo and the

many historical sights there. The Commanding Officer and Executive Officer also had the opportunity to go horseback riding around the pyramids at Giza.

At the end of July, the ship returned for another port visit to Haifa. Shortly after departing Haifa, the transit to Palma was interrupted when LCOL Higgins was assassinated. RADM Macke, COMCARGRU TWO was embarked upon departure from Haifa when the situation, leading the East Med contingency operations developed. KLAKRING delivered RADM MACKE to USS CORAL SEA, at anchorage in Alexandria and then joined the battle group in transit to the Northeastern Mediterranean. The entire month of August was spent off the coast of Beirut. KLAKRING initiated and successfully completed an afloat IMAV. This concept allowed units to remain on station and get required depot level maintenance completed.

On 4 September, the KLAKRING, MISSISSIPPI, and KAUFFMAN arrived for a port visit in Marseille, France. During the visit, the Supply Officer, LT [REDACTED], was married at City Hall. The event was very festive and received excellent local press interest. On 13 September, the ships departed for the transit to Augusta Bay for the beginning of Display Determination, a multi-national NATO exercise. During that time LCDR Steve Singleton relieved CDR Jim Winter as Executive Officer. CDR Winter's follow-on assignment was Chief Staff Officer of CDS 36. In the middle of Display Determin-

ation, KLAKRING received word that hurricane HUGO had hit their homeport of Charleston, S.C. Through the hard work of the Wive's Support Group and the ship's Ombudsman, [REDACTED], the crew was made to rest easier by receiving class Easy messages and tapes from home. Fortunately, no dependents were injured and damage was not significant to homes.

On completion of Display Determination, KLAKRING proceeded to Ancona, Italy for the 39th activation of Naval On Call Forces, Mediterranean (NAVOCFORMED). This was the largest activation of the NATO task force in the history of NATO, and was composed of USS KLAKRING (US), ITS EURO (Italy), HMS COVENTRY and RAS OMEDA (Britain), FRG Schleswig-Holstein (West Germany), HS Elli (Greece), TGC KILIC ALI PASA (Turkey), and SPS Descubierta (Spain). The activation ceremony took place at the foot of the pier and was composed of NAVOCFORMED staff, ship's Commanding Officers, and honor platoons. In addition to the formal ceremonies, a large number of receptions and informal parties took place. KLAKRING's contribution was a Force breakfast at 2300 after the activation receptions and featured such delicacies as grits and Texas style chili. On 14 October, the ships departed for Augusta Bay, Sicily. It was a very intensive transit with fast-paced, precision maneuvers being conducted around the clock. On the 19th the ships began another round of briefings and receptions, this time hosted

by the Turkish and British ships and the Naval activity of Augusta Bay. The highlight of this visit was the Trafalgar Night Dinner hosted by the HMS COVENTRY and attended by the Captain and Executive Officer. On 22 October, NAVOCFORMED left Augusta Bay and the KLAKRING served as the passage commander for the second phase of the transit. This responsibility allowed each ship in the group an opportunity to schedule drills of their choice and to act as OCE. On arrival Alicante, Spain, the KLAKRING met up with their reliefs, USS BOWEN (FF 1079). After saying last good-byes to NAVOCFORMED shipmates, KLAKRING left the port on the morning of 30 October. It was a very emotional departure with all the ships in the harbor manning the rail and sounding their whistles to bid us farewell as the crew gave three cheers to their new friends.

During the transit back to Charleston, the ship wasted no time in maximizing opportunities to finish up a comprehensive Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist program. By completion of the cruise, 36 crewmembers were ESWS qualified. Three officers also received their Surface Warfare Qualifications; LTJG [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], and LT [REDACTED].

After a two week leave and upkeep period, KLAKRING started her post deployment IMAV. At the end of the maintenance period it was discovered that both power turbines required replacement and this was completed by 18 December.

During the holidays, KLAKRING performed two community service activities. A number of crewmembers volunteered to work for three days on James Island on low income homes which had been severely damaged by hurricane HUGO. There was also a fund raising drive and volunteer work provided to a local runaway shelter.

The week prior to Christmas found the KLAKRING families in a holiday spirit. Under pressure to continue a winning Christmas lighting tradition, the Officers and crew put their best creative efforts to work, including decorating the CIWS as a snowman. A childrens Christmas party was also held. Clowns provided entertainment and Santa Claus distributed presents.

After a long and successful year of operations, the KLAKRING crew enjoyed ending 1989 and bringing in the new year with their families.