



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KLA KRING (FFG 42)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AE 09576-1497

*Rec'd 3/1/97*  
5750  
Ser FFG 42/029  
1 Mar 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS KLA KRING (FFG 42)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS KLA KRING (FFG 42) FOR 1996  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E CH-1  
Encl: (1) Command History for USS KLA KRING (FFG 42) for  
1996

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*D. C. Beam*  
D. C. BEAM

## COMMAND HISTORY OF USS KLAKRING (FFG 42) FOR 1996

### I. Command Composition and Organization

USS KLAKRING, CDR David C. Beam, USN, commanding, the thirty-second Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate built for U. S. Navy service, performs a wide range of missions. Homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, KLAKRING is under the direct command of DESTROYER SQUADRON TWENTY. Her varied complement of weapons and sensors, combined with the capabilities of her embarked LAMPS MK III helicopters from HSL 42 of Mayport, Florida, yield the widest mission capability of any ship her size. The mission of the FFG-7 class is to provide air warfare (AW), surface warfare (SUW), and undersea warfare (USW) self defense as well as provide effective local area protection to underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against subsurface, surface, and air threats.

KLAKRING's employment during 1996 was dominated by four major events: Tailored Ship Training Availabilities (TSTA), Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), Combined Joint Tactical Fleet Exercise (CJTFFEX), and a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea with the ENTERPRISE Battle Group.

## II. CHRONOLOGY

01-07 Jan: Holiday Leave and Upkeep  
08 Jan: With Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG) onboard KLA KRING gets underway for the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) as part of a Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA II).

11 Jan: Duties include Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USS ENTERPRISE, Undersea Warfare (USW) delousing exercise, simulated choke point transit, and Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's).

12 Jan: KLA KRING anchors in G4 anchorage then weighs anchor and proceeds to pier 11 NAVSTA Norfolk. CSTG conducts outbrief of TSTA II.

15 Jan: KLA KRING observes Martin Luther King Holiday.

16-19 Jan: Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) Phase I

16-18 Jan: Key officers attend Warfare Commanders Conference while Operations personnel conduct Link 11 Long Look and ENTERPRISE Battlegroup (ENTBATGRU) Link 11 testing.

18 Jan: Advancement Exam held onboard for E-7 candidates.

19-29 Jan: Upkeep  
19 Jan: Warfare Commanders Conference continues.  
20 Jan: USS ESTOCIN (FFG 15) moors alongside. The wardroom holds a Hail and Farewell for the outgoing Chief Engineer (CHENG), LT Wade Wilkenson and his relief LT William Allen.

22 Jan: Conducted Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO) training and CSRR outbrief.

24 Jan: KLA KRING visited by a Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) unit. Ship conducts a Safety Survey and a Rules of Engagement (ROE) seminar.

25 Jan: KLA KRING hosts the Commanding Officer of HSL 42.

27 Jan: HSL 42 DET 2 embarks on KLA KRING.

29 Jan-2 Feb: TSTA III

29 Jan: KLA KRING begins TSTA III and week one work-ups.

30 Jan: KLA KRING gets underway and proceeds to G3 anchorage. Ship then weighs anchor and heads for VACAPES.

31 Jan: As part of TSTA III, KLA KRING sets Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) Level 4 and streams the Tactical Towed Array Sonar (TACTAS) and NIXIE torpedo countermeasures.

01 Feb: KLA KRING begins observance of black history month.

02 Feb: KLA KRING anchors at G2 anchorage then gets underway and proceeds to Pier 24 berth 1 outboard USS KIDD (DDG 993). TSTA III team conducts their outbrief.

07 Feb: The Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) team arrives and conducts an inbrief.

08 Feb: With the CMTQ team aboard, KLA KRING conducts simulated cruise missile firing.

09-12 Feb: KLA KRING is inport Norfolk, VA.

13-16 Feb: Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) assist visit

14 Feb: Communication Assessment Team (CAT) is aboard KLA KRING for an assist visit. Commanding Officer conducts a personnel inspection and awards ceremony.

15 Feb: Ammo onload conducted while pierside at NAVSTA Norfolk.

19 Feb: Presidents Day Holiday observed on KLA KRING.

20 Feb-20 Mar: KLA KRING is underway for Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX). A month long exercise, COMPTUEX is designed to train the crew to fight in support of the Combined Warfare Commander (CWC) concept. To this end, the ship exercises many of it's warfighting skills by participating in many USW exercises, Replenishments at Sea (RAS), a tow and be towed exercise and Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO).

20 Feb: HSL 42 DET 2 embarks.  
 21 Feb: Rendezvous with USS MITSCHER (DDG 57).  
 27 Feb: RAS with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6).  
 01 Mar: Tow and be Towed exercise with USS  
 LABOON (DDG 58).  
 04 Mar: Take down ship exercise with USS ROBERT  
 G. BRADLEY (FFG 49).  
 06 Mar: MIO with USS LABOON (DDG 58) and conducted an  
 unexploded ordnance drill onboard KLAKRING.  
 07 Mar: RAS with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6) and an  
 E-5 advancement exam for prospective  
 Second Class Petty Officers.  
 09-13 Mar: KLAKRING crew takes liberty in St. Croix,  
 United States Virgin Islands (USVI).  
 16 Mar: UNREP with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6).  
 17 Mar: Begin transit to Norfolk. Steel beach  
 picnic is held on the flight deck.  
 18 Mar: During transit to Norfolk the ship  
 conducts a mainspace fire drill and a  
 Close In Weapon System (CIWS) pacfire.  
 19 Mar: The transit to Norfolk continues while  
 ship conducts 76MM pacfire and Division  
 Tactics (DIVTACS).  
 20 Mar: KLAKRING returns to Norfolk, pier 24  
 berth 2. HSL 42 DET 2 debarks for  
 Mayport, Florida.  
 21 Mar: Remaining members of the helo det off  
 load equipment for shipment to Mayport.  
 23-24 Mar: KLAKRING is weekend Visit Ship for  
 Naval Station (NAVSTA) Norfolk.  
 25 Mar-6 Apr: CSRR Phase II  
 25-26 Mar: Pre-deployment Assist Visit  
 27 Mar: GMT conducted on sexual harassment.  
 02-06 Apr: Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV)  
 07 Apr: Easter Holiday  
 08-11 Apr: Logistics Management Assessment (LMA)  
 08-12 Apr: Surface Warfare Training Week  
 15-19 Apr: During this week the ship conducted an  
 IMAV and the Physical Readiness Test (PRT).  
 22 Apr: Personnel Afloat Training Group (PATG) assist  
 visit. The shift to summer white uniform

coincides with a reception for the wardroom onboard the HMS HECLA (A 133).

24 Apr: General Military Training (GMT) on plastic waste at sea.

25 Apr: The duty section conducts tours for NJROTC students.

26 Apr-21 May: During this time KLAKRING participated in the Combined Joint Tactical Fleet Exercise. A month long exercise, CJTFEX is designed to train the Enterprise Battle Group to operate as a cohesive unit.

26 Apr: Underway for CJTFEX 96 with a navigation check ride on the transit out of Norfolk.

27 Apr: HSL 42 DET 2 embarks.

11 May: RAS with RFA OLN (A 123).

13 May: RAS with RFA OLN (A 123) and battle group Photo Exercise.

13-14 May: Opposed transit USW exercise.

14 May: Air Defense Exercise

17-19 May: KLAKRING crew enjoys a port visit to Charleston Naval Weapons Station, South Carolina.

20 May: Male family members (Tigers) embark for Tiger cruise on transit to Norfolk.

21 May: Moor Naval Station (NAVSTA) Norfolk

22 May: Pierside Weapons Onload

23 May: Underway for Family Day Cruise in Chesapeake Bay.

24-26 May: Upkeep

27 May-27 June: KLAKRING enters a Preoverseas Movement period (POM). During this time the ship is in port while half of the ship is on leave and the other half mans the three duty sections.

27 May: First leave period begins.

11 June: First leave period ends and the Commanding Officer takes advantage of having the entire crew present to conduct an Awards/Frocking Ceremony. Second leave period begins at the end of the day.

24 June: Embark Lieutenant Vanley Soares, Brazilian Navy and Sub Lieutenant Chris Myers and Ensign William Grove of the South African Navy.

28 June: KLA KRING gets underway for Mediterranean Deployment 96-2. Rendezvous with Enterprise Battle Group ships in vicinity of Chesapeake Light to begin the transit of the Atlantic Ocean (TRANSLANT). HSL 42 DET 2 embarks.

28 June-9 Jul: TRANSLANT

08 Jul: Enterprise Battlegroup (ENTBATGRU) Photo Exercise (PHOTOEX)

11 Jul: KLA KRING makes first port visit of the deployment to Gibraltar, U.K.

12 Jul: Turnover with USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG-58) inport Gibraltar followed by late day underway for Adriatic Sea.

13 July-9 Sep: For this period KLA KRING is under Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM) Operational Control (OPCON).

13-17 Jul: KLA KRING transits to the Adriatic Sea.

15 Jul: Transit Strait of Messina.

18-20 Jul: On station Adriatic Sea.

19 Jul: RAS with USNS SATURN (TAFS 10).

21 Jul: Enter port of Trieste, Italy.

21-25 Jul: Port Visit Trieste, Italy.

26-29 Jul: On station Adriatic Sea.

30 July-4 Aug: Port Visit Venice, Italy.

05-06 Aug: Transit to Taormina, Sicily.

07-13 Aug: Port Visit Taormina, Sicily.

14-16 Aug: Underway for Adriatic, Sea.

17-20 Aug: Port Visit Ravenna, Italy.

21-24 Aug: Underway Adriatic Sea.

22 Aug: RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201).

25-28 Aug: Port Visit Ancona, Italy.

26 Aug: The Commanding Officer conducts a Zone Inspection.

29-31 Aug: Underway Adriatic Sea.

30 Aug: Proud Warrior 431 departs for Farnborough Air Show.

01-05 Sep: In port of Ancona, Italy for second visit. Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award inspection team comes aboard.

06-08 Sep: Adriatic Sea

09-29 Sep: KLA KRING comes under Commander Task Force (CTF) 60 Operational Control (OPCON).

09-12 Sep: KLA KRING participates in a multinational antisubmarine warfare exercise known as INVITEX. Along with other ENTERPRISE Battle Group (ENTBATGRU) units and air and surface forces from the Italian Navy, KLA KRING joined up in the southern Adriatic for training with a focus on joint U.S./Italian Navy interoperability.

10 Sep: Proud Warrior 431 returns from the Farnborough air show.

11 Sep: KLA KRING receives the honor of a visit by Commander ENTERPRISE Battle Group (COMENTBATGRU), Rear Admiral Mayer.

13 Sep: RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201).

14-17 Sep: Inport Tunis Tunisia.

16-17 Sep: Crew members conduct a community relations project at St. Filomena Catholic Church in La Goulette, Tunisia.

16 Sep: Visit by American Ambassador to Tunisia, The Honorable Mary Ann Casey, and Defense attaches from Saudi Arabia, the Peoples Republic of China, Greece, France, Russia, and Egypt.

18 Sep: Underway from Tunis for exercise NADOR 96-3. The ship meets up with Tunisian ships PML LA GALITE (PCFG 501) and PML (PCFG 503) CARTHAGE.

19 Sep: Selected crewmembers crossdeck to Tunisian Navy ships. Depart NADOR 96-3 the same day after recovering personnel.

20 Sep: Enroute to Palma Spain.

21 Sep: Inport Palma, Spain for Dynamic Mix 96 Pre-sail conference.

22 Sep-6 Oct: Dynamic Mix 96



25 Sep: KLA KRING observes "Hump Night," or mid-deployment, with a special dinner on the mess decks.

26 Sep: KLA KRING is host to Vice Admiral (VADM) Bridgstocke, Royal Navy (RN).

07-10 Oct: In port Antalya, Turkey.

11 Oct: Depart Antalya for Dubrovnik, Croatia. RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201).

15-17 Oct: Port visit Dubrovnik, Croatia. As the first official visit by a USN ship since the civil war, this is an historic event for both the city of Dubrovnik and the country of Croatia as well as the KLA KRING. Captain Danks, Commander Destroyer Squadron Two Zero 20 (CDS 20), is embarked for the duration of the event.

16 Oct: Crewmembers support a community relations project at Antum Masle school in Orasac, Croatia. During the day the ship is open to the public. In the afternoon, the ship hosts a visit by American Ambassador to Croatia, The Honorable Peter Galbraith, and Croatian Minister of Defense Gojko Susak.

17 Oct: The Community Relations Project Continues at the Antum Masle school in Orasac.

18-22 Oct: KLA KRING in transit from Dubrovnik, Croatia to Haifa, Israel.

19 Oct: RAS with USNS SATURN (TAFS 10).

23-27 Oct: Port visit to Haifa, Israel.

28-30 Oct: Underway in the Mediterranean Sea.

30 Oct: RAS with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196).

31 Oct-7 Nov: Port Visit to Corfu, Greece.

08-10 Nov: Enroute to La Maddalena, Italy.

09 Nov: RAS with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196) followed by a transit of the Strait of Messina.

11-14 Nov: KLA KRING begins a four day IMAV with USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33) on the island of La Maddalena, Italy.

15-18 Nov: Enroute to Mykonos, Greece.

16 Nov: Transit Strait of Messina followed by a RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201) for fuel and USNS SATURN (TAFS 10) for stores.

19-22 Nov: Inport Mykonos, Greece.

21 Nov: Physical Readiness Test (PRT)

23 Nov: The ship gets underway from Mykonos bound for Souda Bay. RAS with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196).

24 Nov: Inport Souda Bay for United States Navy-Federal German Navy-Italian Navy (USN-FGN-ITN) Missile Exercise (MISSLEX) final coordination meeting.

25 Nov: Underway from Souda Bay for MISSILEX.

26 Nov: RAS with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196).

27 Nov: KLAKRING fires SM-1 missiles at drone targets.

28 Nov: Thanksgiving observed on KLAKRING.

29 Nov-2 Dec: Port visit Souda Bay.

03 Dec: Underway from Souda Bay. Customs inspection conducted by crew members.

04-08 Dec: Underway for rendezvous with Theodore Roosevelt Battlegroup (TRBATGRU).

04 Dec: RAS with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196).

07 Dec: Vertical Replenishment with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6) and RAS with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196) for fuel.

08 Dec: ENTBATGRU turns over with TRBATGRU while KLAKRING turns over with USS CARR (FFG-52).

09-20 Dec: TRANSLANT

10 Dec: RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201).

14 Dec: RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201).

16 Dec: RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201). Safety standdown conducted on KLAKRING.

17 Dec: KLAKRING arrives in Bermuda to pick up Tigers.

18 Dec: Embark Tigers for return to Norfolk. Get underway from Bermuda on final leg of the TRANSLANT.

19 Dec: Tigers feast and Ice Cream Social held onboard.

20 Dec: KLAKRING returns to homeport and moors at Pier 7 Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

21-31 Dec: Holiday leave and upkeep

### III. USS KLA KRING COMMAND NARRATIVE FOR 1996

The early part of the year found the crew of KLA KRING enjoying holiday stand down in her homeport of Norfolk, Virginia. The pace rapidly picked up when the Combat Systems Training Group embarked and KLA KRING got underway for Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) Phase II from 8-12 January. Over the next several days, the crew successfully conducted an underway replenishment (RAS) with the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65). Additionally, KLA KRING conducted an undersea warfare delousing exercise, a simulated choke point transit, deck landing qualifications (DLQs), and a precision anchorage. KLA KRING underwent a Phase I Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) from 16-19 January; ensuring 100 percent mission readiness of her combat systems suite for Mediterranean Deployment 96-2.

Operations Department personnel conducted Link 11 Long Look and ENTERPRISE Battle Group Link 11 testing. Also on the 16th, several officers attended the Warfare Commanders Conference in Norfolk, VA. As part of the TSTA process, KLA KRING conducted

Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO) training. The CSRR team out briefed on the 22nd, lauding KLAKRING's superb material condition and her crew's maintenance abilities. Just ten days after completion of TSTA II, KLAKRING commenced TSTA III. During the successful completion of these exercises, KLAKRING conducted a fully integrated General Quarters Drill. The drill included setting Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) Level 4 for chemical, biological, and radiological attack training, streamed the towed acoustic array (TACTAS) and underwater torpedo countermeasures (NIXIE), and conducted another precision anchorage. The ship concluded TSTA III on 02 February and returned to Norfolk.

February continued to be an extremely busy month for KLAKRING. On 07 February, the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) team embarked to observe a simulated cruise missile firing. The Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) assist visit commenced on 13 February, while on the following day, the Communications Assessment Team (CAT) started their assessment of KLAKRING's communications suite performance. On 15 February, KLAKRING successfully conducted an ammunition onload at Naval

Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA in preparation for deployment. Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) commenced the next week. The objective of this exercise was to train the crew on how to maximize KLAKRING's effectiveness in a Composite Warfare Command environment. HSL 42 Detachment 2, a pair of LAMPS MK III SH-60B Helicopters and 6 pilots from Mayport, Florida made its anticipated arrival during these exercises. COMPTUEX included undersea warfare (USW) exercises with the USS MITSCHER (DDG 57), a RAS with the USS SUPPLY (AOE 6), a tow and be towed exercise, and more MIO training with USS LABOON (DDG 58). The event concluded with a take down ship exercise with USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49). KLAKRING's impressive performance during COMPTUEX demonstrated her outstanding overall mission readiness.

After completing the rigorous COMPTUEX, KLAKRING enjoyed liberty in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands from 09-13 March. During KLAKRING's transit back to Norfolk, KLAKRING continued exercises to ensure maximum combat readiness. KLAKRING's training teams conducted a General Quarters and a Main Space Fire Drill, Close In Weapon System (CIWS)/76MM gun pre-action calibration firing exercises, and DIVTACs. Upon her arrival back

in Norfolk, KLA KRING began her final preparations for deployment. While KLA KRING conducted necessary maintenance, she performed admirably as Naval Station Norfolk's weekend visit ship. HSL 42 Detachment 2 disembarked and returned to Mayport. Phase II of CSRR, TARGET, and a pre-deployment assist visit commenced on 25 March. KLA KRING completed all of these with flying colors.

In conjunction with KLA KRING's intermediate maintenance availabilities, she also completed an LMA from 8-11 April, scoring GOOD in all areas. The week of 08-12 April was designated as Surface Warfare Training Week (SWTW). A quarterly event for all ships on the waterfront, SWTW uses an Olympic style format where the skills of all personnel in the squadron are put to the ultimate test - war games. The goal of SWTW is to inspire esprit-de-corps, nurture professionalism, and have fun at the same time. On 25 April, the duty section gave tours to a group of Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadets (NJROTC). Underway again on 26 April, KLA KRING participated in the Combined Joint Tactical Fleet Exercise (CJTFFEX). The next day, KLA KRING welcomed back HSL 42 Detachment 2 and declared herself ready for CJTFFEX. This month long exercise trained the individual units of

the ENTERPRISE Battle Group to operate as a team, expanding on lessons learned from COMPTUEX. KLAKRING honed her skills in Over-the-Horizon Targeting (OTH-T), Undersea Warfare (USW), Air Warfare (AW), Anti-Surface Warfare (SUW), Amphibious Operations, Flight Operations, General Quarters, Underway Replenishments, and Casualty Control Procedures with U.S. and British forces.

Significant events during CJTFEX were replenishments at sea (RAS) with RFA OLN (A 123) on 11 and 13 May. DIVTACs concluded in a photo exercise on 13 May, opposed transit exercises on 13 and 14 May, and an air defense exercise on 14 May. Throughout this aggressive war at sea exercise, there were no successful enemy engagements of KLAKRING or the assigned High Value Unit. From 17-19 May, the crew of KLAKRING enjoyed a port visit to her old homeport at Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina. On the return transit to Norfolk, KLAKRING conducted a Tiger Cruise, providing an opportunity for the friends and family members of the KLAKRING crew to experience life at sea. KLAKRING arrived pierside, Norfolk VA on 21 May. The following day, KLAKRING completed her necessary load out for deployment. On 23 May, KLAKRING embarked crew family members for a Family Cruise

around Chesapeake Bay. KLAKRING spent the rest of May completing her preparations for deployment.

June consisted primarily of a Pre-overseas Movement (POM), lasting until 27 June. During this time, KLAKRING conducted a leave and stand down period prior to her deployment on 28 June. As part of an international military exchange program, Lieutenant Vanley Soares of the Brazilian Navy and Sub Lieutenant Chris Myers and Ensign William Grove of the South African Navy joined KLAKRING on 27 June. On 28 June, the ship got underway for Mediterranean Deployment 96-2 and rendezvoused with other units of the ENTERPRISE Battle Group. The battle group commenced its transatlantic trip, arriving in the Straits of Gibraltar on 11 July.

KLAKRING's first port visit of the deployment was Gibraltar, United Kingdom on 11 July. While inport, KLAKRING turned over responsibilities with the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG 58). On 13 July, KLAKRING departed for the Adriatic Sea and became a vital part of Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM). During this period, the SNFM Commander assigned KLAKRING to duties as the



Implementation Force unit in the Adriatic, conducting surveillance and intercept operations as the maritime component of Operation Decisive Endeavor. KLAKRING arrived on station in the Adriatic Sea on 18 July. Before commencement of multinational exercises, KLAKRING busied herself with various port visits, RASs, and necessary on station time. From 21-25 July, the ship enjoyed liberty in Trieste, Italy, followed by 4 days on station in the Adriatic Sea, and then a visit to Venice, Italy from 30 July to 04 August.

During August, KLAKRING visited Taormina, Sicily from 07-13, conducted a RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201) on 22 August, and visited Ancona, Italy from 25-28 August. In the interim, the ship was on station in the Adriatic and had the privilege of sending one of her SH-60B helicopters, Proud Warrior 431, to the world famous Farnborough Air Show in Farnborough, United Kingdom on 30 August.

September was a remarkably busy month for KLAKRING. After getting underway from a port visit to Ancona on 06 September, she detached from SNFM and joined Commander Task Force 60 (CTF 60)

through 29 September. From 09-12 September KLAKRING participated in a multi-national exercise called INVITEX. INVITEX was composed of other ENTERPRISE Battle Group units and air and surface units from the Italian Navy. Through various exercises, all units were able to maintain overall readiness and improve their interoperability expertise with the Italian Navy. After INVITEX, KLAKRING welcomed home Proud Warrior 431 from the air show and entertained Rear Admiral Mayer, Commander, ENTERPRISE Battle Group, for lunch. On 13 September, KLAKRING conducted a good will RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201). Continuing its tour around the Mediterranean Sea, KLAKRING visited Tunis, Tunisia from 14-17 September. Several crew members took part in a community relations project at the St. Filomena Catholic Church in La Goulette, Tunisia. During this one visit to the Dark Continent, KLAKRING received the American Ambassador to Tunisia, the Honorable Mary Ann Casey, and defense attaches from Saudi Arabia, China, Greece, France, Russia, and Egypt. KLAKRING departed Tunis on 18-19 September, to participate in NADOR 96-3, a multi-functional exercise comprised of the Tunisian ships PML LA GALITE (PCFG 501) and PML CARTHAGE (PCFG 503). To further its knowledge of the Tunisian Navy, KLAKRING sailors cross decked to

the Tunisian ships. The sailors had rave reviews of their Tunisian experience. After completing NADOR 96-3, KLAKRING visited Palma, Spain in the western Mediterranean for a pre-sail conference on the next big exercise, DYNAMIC MIX 96. The largest North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) naval exercise of the year, DYNAMIC MIX 96 consisted of over 40 U.S., British, French, Spanish, Dutch, German, Turkish, and Greek participants. During the week long training phase, KLAKRING conducted air defense, undersea warfare, and surface warfare coordination and surveillance operations around the clock. Once the hostilities began, KLAKRING also assumed responsibilities as air warfare commander. In this role, KLAKRING aggressively pursued and successfully engaged opposing forces on multiple occasions. This exercise lasted from 22 September to 06 Oct. On 26 September, Vice Admiral Bridgstocke, Royal Navy, visited KLAKRING for lunch.

From 07-10 October KLAKRING visited Antalya, Turkey, conducted a RAS with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201) on 11 October, and then made its historic visit to Dubrovnik, Croatia. KLAKRING's visit to Dubrovnik was the first official visit by a U.S. Navy ship since the end of the Bosnian conflict. Commodore Danks,

Commander Destroyer Squadron 20, embarked KLA KRING during this unique visit. On 16 and 17 October, crew members engaged in a community relations project at Antum Masle School in Orasac. During the day, KLA KRING gave tours to visitors and received the U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, The Honorable Peter Galbraith, and the Croatian Minister of Defense, The Honorable Gojko Susak. KLA KRING then proceeded to Haifa, Israel. While in transit, she conducted a RAS with USNS SATURN (TAFS 10). KLA KRING spent 5 days in Haifa, before proceeding to Corfu.

KLA KRING left Corfu on 08 November and proceeded to La Madalena, Italy for an Intermediate Maintenance Availability with USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33). In three days KLA KRING completed over 150 jobs, ensuring KLA KRING would maintain its high state of readiness for the rest of the deployment. After receiving assistance from the SIMON LAKE, KLA KRING visited Mykonos, Greece. During the transit, KLA KRING replenished stores with an UNREP with the USNS SATURN (TAFS 10). KLA KRING departed Mykonos 23 November for Souda Bay, Greece. KLA KRING conducted a RAS with USNS KANAHWA (TAO 196) and arrived in Souda Bay on 24 November to finalize plans for the upcoming U.S./Federal German/Italian Navy

MISSILEX on 25-27 November. The highlight of the exercise was on 27 November when KLAKRING fired SM-1 missiles at a drone target as part of the exercise. KLAKRING returned to Souda Bay on 29 November.

December was filled with events as KLAKRING prepared to turnover her Mediterranean duties with USS CARR (FFG 52) and the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group on 08 December. KLAKRING conducted UNREPs with USNS KANAWHA (TAO 196) on 07 December, and a vertical replenishment with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6) on 07 December, USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201) on 10, 14, and 16 December. KLAKRING then commenced a transatlantic voyage on 09 December, stopping briefly in Bermuda on 18 December to embark Tigers for the final leg of the return trip. On 20 December, KLAKRING returned from a very productive and highly successful deployment. She moored at Naval Station Norfolk, Pier 7, and immediately commenced a holiday leave and stand down period to finish out the year.