

## COMMAND HISTORY OF USS KLA KRING (FFG 42) 1997

Revised

4/21/98

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### I. Command Composition and Organization:

USS KLA KRING, commanded by CDR Robert A. Bogdanowicz, is the thirty-second Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate built for U.S. Navy service. Her varied complement of weapons and sensors, the embarked LAMPS III helicopters, and the Tactical Towed Array Sonar System gives her the widest mission applicability of any ship her size. The mission of the FFG-7 class is to provide anti-air warfare (AAW), anti-surface warfare (ASUW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW), and to effectively provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups (URGs), amphibious groups, and other military shipping against subsurface, surface, and air threats.

KLA KRING's employment during 1997 was dominated by four major events: Change of Command Ceremony, SSN PCO Operations, midshipman and ship training during the summer, and the Restricted Availability (RAV) in the fall. KLA KRING was also very busy with onboard and school house training, Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE), and an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV). The overall focus of training, inspections, and maintenance periods, were in preparation for deployment scheduled in the fall of 1998.

## II. Chronology

January 01-31	Inport, Norfolk, VA for leave and upkeep
February 01-19	Inport Norfolk, VA for upkeep
February 15	DC1 (SW) [REDACTED] and MS3 (SW) [REDACTED] are designated KLAKRING's Senior and Junior Sailors of the Year, respectively. MS3 (SW) [REDACTED] was later designated Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty Junior Sailor of the Year.
<u>February 19-21</u>	Underway in the VACAPES OPAREA to conduct Deck Landing Qualifications
February 22-23	Inport Norfolk, VA for upkeep
<u>February 24-25</u>	Underway enroute Newport, RI
February 25-28	Inport Newport, RI in support of Surface Warfare Officer School Command
March 01-03	Inport Newport, RI in support of Surface Warfare Officer School Command
<u>March 03-05</u>	Underway conducting Pre-Overseas Movement Certification with the USS SAN JUAN (SSN-751)
March 06-31	Inport Norfolk, VA conducting upkeep
March 28	Commander David C. Beam is relieved by Commander Robert A. Bogdanowicz as Commander Officer.
March 31	Intermediate Maintenance Availability, (IMAV) Pier 21, Norfolk, VA
April 01-15	IMAV, Pier 21, Norfolk, VA
April 12-14	Visit ship for Norfolk, VA drawing over 550 people for guided informational tours
April 14-15	Surface Warfare Training Week inport Norfolk, VA
<u>April 16-17</u>	Underway enroute Portland, ME
April 18-21	Port visit in Portland, ME. Visit ship, drawing over 900 people for guided informational tours

<u>April 22-23</u>	Enroute New York City, NY
April 23-28	Port visit New York City, NY in the support of the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant's Tomb. Visit ship, drawing over 1000 people for guided informational tours
<u>April 28-30</u>	Enroute Norfolk, VA
<u>April 29</u>	DLQ's (Deck Landing Qualifications) with HSL-94 from Willow Grove, PA
<u>April 30</u>	Detect to Engage exercise
May 01-07	Upkeep period in Norfolk, VA
<u>May 08-11</u>	Underway conducting SSN PCO Operations in the Puerto Rican OPAREA
<u>May 12</u>	Inport Roosevelt Roads to refuel and onload exercise torpedoes
<u>May 13-16</u>	Underway north of St. Croix conducting undersea warfare exercises
May 16-19	Port visit St. Croix in the U. S. Virgin Islands
<u>May 19-27</u>	Underway for TACDEVEX 97-21 with units of the Federal German Navy and U.S. Navy units.
<u>May 27</u>	Enroute Norfolk, VA
May 28-31	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
June 01-08	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
June 03-06	Host ship to FGN KARLSHRUE
June 04	COMDESRON TWENTY, Captain Danks is onboard to recognize RM3 (SW) [REDACTED] for his selection as Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty Junior Sailor of the Quarter.
<u>June 09-12</u>	Underway conducting midshipman training in Virginia Capes Operation Area (VCOA)
June 13-15	Upkeep Norfolk, VA

<u>June 16-17</u>	Underway conducting midshipman training in VCOA
June 18-22	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
<u>June 23-24</u>	Underway conducting midshipman training in VCOA
June 25	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
<u>June 26-27</u>	Underway conducting midshipman training in VCOA
July 28-29	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
July 01-19	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
<u>July 20-25</u>	Underway, USW support services, NBOA
July 25-30	Inport Newport, RI, for training and Surface Warfare Officer School Command support
<u>July 30</u>	Enroute Rockland, ME
July 31- August 4	Port visit Rockland, ME in support of the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Maine Lobster festival. Visit ship- drawing over 900 visitors for guided tours
<u>August 05-06</u>	Enroute Winter Harbor, ME, USW support services, NBOA
August 7-11	Port visit Winter Harbor, ME in support of the Winter Harbor Lobster Festival. Visit ship- drawing over 700 visitors for guided tours
August 10	The Honorable Mr. John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy tours ship
<u>August 11-13</u>	Enroute Norfolk, VA
August 13-20	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
<u>August 21-29</u>	Underway for GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group Joint Task Force Exercise, VCOA
August 29-30	Inport Nauticus, Norfolk, VA. Visit ship- drawing over 800 visitors for guided tours
<u>September 02</u>	Enroute Norfolk, VA

September 03-07	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
September 8-10	Inport Yorktown, VA for ammunition offload
<u>September 10</u>	Dependents cruise from Yorktown, VA to Norfolk, VA
September 10-30	Upkeep Norfolk, VA, preparing for Restricted Availability (RAV)
September 22-26	Pre Light-Off Training (PLOT) I
September 29	RAV- early work begins
October 01-14	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
October 6-10	PLOT II
October 10	Captain's Call- moving to DESRON EIGHTEEN 01 February, 1998
October 15-31	RAV Norfolk, VA
October 15	HM1 ██████████ recognized as DESRON TWENTY Senior Sailor of the Quarter
November 01-30	RAV- Norfolk, VA
November 10-14	PLOT III
December 01-19	RAV- Norfolk, VA
December 19- January 09	Holiday standown, leave and upkeep Norfolk, VA
December 31- January 09	KLAKRING spends New Year's Eve in Norfolk, VA

# **COMMAND HISTORY**

## **USS KLAKRING (FFG 42)**

**1997**

### **III. USS KLAKRING COMMAND NARRATIVE FOR 1997**

USS KLAKRING has concluded another impressive year highlighted by numerous superlative operational and diplomatic achievements. Hot on the heels of a highly successful 1996 Mediterranean deployment, KLAKRING's activities during the year demonstrated professionalism in numerous demanding training support evolutions and several successful high profile port calls. KLAKRING's post deployment Selected Restricted Availability was changed to a Restricted Availability and delayed six months by Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in recognition of KLAKRING's superb material condition. KLAKRING continued her admirable tradition of professionalism and unit pride, conducting tours of the ship for more than 7,000 guests, including the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Mr. John. Dalton. KLAKRING sailors were Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty's Junior Sailor of the Year of 1997, and the Senior Sailor of the Quarter for the third quarter of 1997. As 1997 closed, KLAKRING completed its Restricted Availability and began a three-week holiday leave and upkeep period.

KLAKRING started the New Year inport Norfolk, VA where crewmembers enjoyed a well-deserved stand down after a very successful Mediterranean deployment with the USS ENTERPRISE Battle Group. KLAKRING had a busy year ahead of herself and the crew came back from holiday stand-down looking ahead with the same enthusiasm that led to KLAKRING's selection as the Battle "E" winner for 1996.

In early February, KLAKRING got underway in the Virginia Capes, conducting watchstation and Condition I training, providing day and night Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ) services for the 160th Special Operations Airborne Reconnaissance. Later that month, MS3 (SW) [REDACTED] was selected as Sailor of The Year, for Destroyer Squadron Twenty.

After a brief upkeep period in Norfolk, VA, KLAKRING was underway again for duty as the Training Ship for the Surface Warfare Officer School, Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island. While in Newport, RI, KLAKRING gave tours to Prospective Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, Department Heads, and Division Officers as well as officer candidates en route to their first at sea assignments. KLAKRING received countless accolades from the visiting students as well as the Commander, Surface Warfare Officer School. Prior to returning to Norfolk, VA, KLAKRING spent three days in the Narragansett Bay Operating Area conducting watchstation, Condition I, and CSTT training, including around the clock USW exercises in support of Pre-Overseas Movement work ups for USS SAN JUAN (SNN 751).

On March 28, Commander David C. Beam was relieved by Commander Robert A. Bogdanowicz as Commanding Officer. A traditional ceremony attended by friends,



family members, and military was held onboard. Commander Bogdanowicz stressed his desire to continue the proud tradition and uphold the successful reputation that KLAKRING characterized.

In April, KLAKRING's main focus was on maintenance and upkeep in preparation for multiple opportunities to show the ship during scheduled port visits. The ship completed an Intermediate Availability (IMAV) in Norfolk, VA. KLAKRING hosted more than 550 visitors for guided tours as the Norfolk Naval Base Visit Ship for the weekend of 12 and 13 April. The tours were an opportunity to show off the ship's numerous accomplishments and educate the public on the mission of the ship and the jobs found on board a Naval Warship. After a successful weekend giving tours, KLAKRING crew members took advantage of the opportunity to participate in Surface Warfare Training Week with other ships on the waterfront. The competitions included Damage Control Drills, Boatswains Mate Olympics, Rules of the Road test, TAO exams, and Link and Signaling Exercises.

Immediately following the end of the IMAV in mid-April, KLAKRING was once again underway for the Narragansett Bay Operations Area and the New England coast, conducting numerous casualty control and emergency evolution drills while en route to Portland, Maine. The ship also conducted Under-sea Warfare training with the Towed Array and SLQ-25A. While anchored at Portland, ME, KLAKRING's crew impressed more than 900 visitors touring the ship, including members of the local Chamber of Commerce. Crew members took advantage of the outdoor activities while others enjoyed time at the Old Port, located in downtown Portland. The Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Department Heads, and the Command Master Chief were

hosted by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. After Portland, KLAKRING proceeded to New York City, NY, mooring at the USS INTREPID Museum complex in midtown Manhattan. During the visit, KLAKRING hosted thousands of visitors. The highlight of the visit was the crew's participation in a parade commemorating the 100th anniversary of President Ulysses S. Grant's Tomb. Once again, the comments and congratulations from guests, museum staff, and city officials were glowing. On transit to home port, KLAKRING conducted DLQs in support of HSL-94, a reserve detachment from Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, along with engineering training, main space fire drills, USW and Towed Array team training, and a detect-to-engage exercise.

KLAKRING was again underway in May, heading south to the warmer climates of the Caribbean. After a brief stop in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, KLAKRING participated in Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) Operations 97-2 in support of Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. During the operation, KLAKRING embarked DESRON TWENTY Chaplain and two Argentinean Naval Officers. KLAKRING was commended by Commander, Western Hemisphere Group, and Commander, Surface Warfare Development Group, Little Creek for her outstanding performance during the exercises. Exercises included extensive passive and active tracking exercises, choke point operations, Towed Array and SLQ-25A operations, and the successful firing of exercise torpedoes on the Puerto Rican Operating Areas instrumented range. The ship transited to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands for a port visit. The weather was perfect as everyone enjoyed liberty, golfing, swimming, snorkeling, and sightseeing. The St. Croix Navy League hosted a reception for

KLAKRING's wardroom and CPO mess while the USO hosted a barbecue for ship's company..

KLAKRING returned to the Puerto Rican Operating Areas for TACDEVEX 97-21 with units of the Federal German Navy and USS CLARK (FFG 11), USS TICONDEROGA (GG 47), USS OBANNON (DD 983), and USS AUGUSTA (SNN 710). KLAKRING was lauded for her enthusiastic participation and watchstander ability. The extremely challenging exercise marked the first time since World War II that German submarines had deployed to the Caribbean and the first joint German-United States USW exercise in that area.

During the month of June, KLAKRING was dedicated to the important task of training midshipmen as a participant in CORTRAMID evolutions. During five short underway periods, KLAKRING's officers and crew expertly demonstrated every aspect of FFG surface warfare operations at sea, including combat systems, seamanship, and engineering readiness, to more than 100 young future naval officers. Ships involved in the training were USS CLARK (FFG 11), USS BRISCOE (DD 977), and USS SIMPSON (FFG 56).

Following a twenty day upkeep period, KLAKRING completed four days of SSN Pre-Overseas Movement Certification on their way to Newport, RI at the end of July. With a less demanding schedule of visits from Surface Warfare Officer School students, KLAKRING took advantage of the excellent training facilities, qualifying the majority of the crew in shipboard damage control and shipboard firefighting, as well as the 9mm pistol. Surface Warfare Officer School instructors afforded KLAKRING two days of on board training in passive plotting and tracking for her Condition IIAS watchteams. From

Newport, KLA KRING proceeded to Rockland, ME for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Lobster festival. During this high profile, four day visit, KLA KRING spearheaded several community relations projects and the crew hosted more than 900 visitors for tours of the ship. After a resounding diplomatic success in Rockland, KLA KRING headed north after two more days of operations in support of SSN Pre-Overseas Movement Certification to Winter Harbor, ME. KLA KRING hosted more than 700 visitors during that four-day stay, including the Honorable Mr. John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy. KLA KRING returned home to Norfolk, VA in mid-August.

At the end of August, KLA KRING was underway again, as an integral member of the opposing force during GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group pre-deployment joint fleet exercises. KLA KRING's versatility, tactical acumen, and realistic portrayal of an Opposing Force Unit and Commercial Sanctions Violator were specifically commended by the Commander, George Washington Battle Group. KLA KRING returned to Nauticus in downtown Norfolk to act as the weekend visit ship and play host to more than 800 visitors. KLA KRING also played host to 50 dependents as part of a family day cruise. Family members had the chance to witness the firing of the 76mm gun and take part in man-overboard drills. While in Nauticus, over 1000 people toured KLA KRING.

In preparation for a Restricted Availability (RAV) beginning 15 October, KLA KRING headed up to Yorktown 8 September for an ammunition offload. KLA KRING took advantage of the return trip by having another family day cruise, which included twelve members of Rear Admiral Klakring's family. Despite the complexity of a full ammunition offload, the evolution was completed safely and on schedule. With all ordnance off the ship, KLA KRING could begin early work on RAV projects that would

prepare KLA KRING for the busy work-up cycle in the spring. The RAV continued until Christmas Stand-down scheduled to begin on 19 December. Maintenance on Ship Service Diesel Generators, refurbishing of the Engineering/Supply Berthing, and overhaul of the Stir Antenna were just a few of the many projects that were completed during the period.

The fall was a monumental time for KLA KRING. KLA KRING was informed that the ship would not be decommissioned nor sent to the Reserve Force until after the year 2001. KLA KRING's schedule changed as well. Instead of conducting Counter Drug Operations in August of 1998, the crew would be going to the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf in November of 1998. KLA KRING was also informed that she would become part of Destroyer Squadron Eighteen and the ENTERPRISE Battle Group in February, 1998, and converting to a smart ship format.

Designation as a smart ship afforded KLA KRING the freedom to redesign the operational and administrative organization of the ship, including the creation of a training department. The Training Department is responsible for the indoctrination of new sailors and qualifying them on Basic Damage Control Qualifications and maintenance procedures. Watchbill structures had to be reworked, with the goal being to reduce the personnel on all watches, which would become known as core watch stations. This would free people to work on maintenance and other matters. In case of an emergency or to increase levels of readiness, a flex team would man up, reacting to specific situations on as needed basis. Flex teams include but are not limited to Surface Warfare, Under Sea Warfare, Air Warfare, Search and Rescue, and Damage Control.

KLAKRING finished 1997 looking forward to the many changes that will come with moving to DESRON EIGHTEEN.

Throughout her diverse 1997 schedule, KLAKRING remained fully mission capable. Casualties were few, repair efforts extraordinary, and equipment down time kept to an absolute minimum. KLAKRING met every commitment, operational and diplomatic, on time, fully prepared, and fully mission capable. KLAKRING achieved a level of mission readiness and systems operability that she holds up as the standard for the entire fleet. KLAKRING begins 1998 faced with the challenge of training for a full deployment, continuing her reputation as one of the best ships on the waterfront and looks to continue this strong tradition of excellence through 1998 and into the future.