

**USS KLA KRING (FFG 42)
Command History
2001**

January

January started with KLA KRING changing homeports from the frigid waters of the Chesapeake to the sunny shores of Florida. After offloading weapons at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown on the 8th, KLA KRING sailed for her new home at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. The remainder of the month was spent getting the crew and their families settled into their new homes. Also, the groundwork was laid for an extensive maintenance period starting in March.

February

The month of February was used to further prepare for the March maintenance period and to train. KLA KRING conducted an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) with SIMA Mayport, the first of many coordinated efforts between the ship and SIMA. KLA KRING also commenced an aggressive training program, sending teams and individuals to various courses and schools at Afloat Training Group and the Fleet Training Center located in Mayport. At the end of this month, KLA KRING received notification that she had earned three battle efficiency awards during 2000: Engineering Survivability (5th), Command and Control (3rd) and Logistics Management (1st).

March

March began with KLA KRING winning her third consecutive Green "H" award for medical readiness and excellence. The Pierside Restricted Availability (PRAV) began in earnest on 05 March, with contractors from Earl Industries, Inc. swarming the ship to perform a slough of major and minor maintenance. The most demanding jobs were the replacement of the ship's 400 HZ static frequency converters and a complete overhaul of the ship's chill water piping system. Earl workers worked 20 hours a day, quickly filling the passageways and doors with hoses, cables and pipes. In mid-March, the crew moved off the ship onto a berthing barge that was tied up along side. Routine shipboard functions were transferred to the barge which provided comfortable living and working conditions for the crew. Training continued and several of KLA KRING's sailors got underway with other ships to keep their professional skills sharp. The initiative, dubbed "Sailors to Sea", was to continue throughout the entire maintenance period.

April

KLA KRING continued her maintenance period through April, receiving much-needed repairs, upgrades and installations. On the 19th and 20th, KLA KRING's sailors participated in the "Surface Warfare Days" sponsored by COMDESRON 14, earning third place overall.

May

May was a flurry of industrial activity as repairs and modifications continued in full force. Work was starting to wind down, and the crew started reclaiming their spaces from Earl Industries.

KLAKRING's highly regarded Color Guard participated in the memorial service for USS STARK (FFG 31), honoring our comrades who lost their lives in a missile attack on that day in 1987. On the 31st, RDML Edward Hunter, Commander Naval Surface Group Two, visited KLAKRING to talk with the crew and to get a first hand look at all the improvements the ship was getting during her availability.

June

June began with the retirement ceremony for ITC [REDACTED] Chief [REDACTED] retired after 22 years of service in a moving ceremony held at the CPO club on base. The maintenance period finally wrapped up on the 15th, extending KLAKRING's service life by 10 years. On the 8th, the officers hosted the first annual KLAKRING Midway Night. This formal dining out gave KLAKRING's wardroom and guests an opportunity to celebrate the largest victory in US Naval history. On the 11th, the crew reclaimed the entire ship and moved back aboard, casting off the berthing barge, returning it to SUPSHIP. On the 13th, the ship underwent the Engineering Light Off Assessment (LOA) under the direction of COMDESRON 14. Despite having regained control of the main engineering spaces only days prior, the engineering team demonstrating its readiness and ability to safely run the engineering plant. Sea trials were conducted successfully on the 19th, sailing away from the Mayport shores for the first time in 5 months. KLAKRING did not rest for long. The following Monday, KLAKRING set sail for Gloucester, MA to participate in the annual St. Peter's Fiesta. Arriving on the 28th, the crew enjoyed the hospitality of Gloucester for a second year in a row. The ship remained in Gloucester through the end of the month, enjoying the festivities of the small fishing town in Massachusetts.

July

The ship left Gloucester on the 2nd Jul and headed for Newport RI. Arriving one day later, the ship began a 10-day training availability with Surface Warfare Officers School Command and Naval Education and Training Center. The crew used the time to train in engineering, combat systems, legal, damage control and other critical areas and gained valuable knowledge and training. On the 5th, the ship got underway with 40 students from SWOSDOC for "School Ship". The students were treated to various shipboard evolutions, including man overboard drills, live gunnery exercises and shiphandling drills. Underway on the 13th, KLAKRING headed back home to Mayport. On the transit into port, COMDESRON 14 embarked for a Navigation Checkride, giving the ship high marks for its preparation and execution of the sea detail. Once all lines were over, KLAKRING conducted the first two of a series of evaluations, Aviation Certification (AVCERT) and Aviation Readiness Qualification (ARQ). Both evaluations were completed successfully, starting the Inter Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) off on the right foot.

August

The ship started August with two major IDTC events, the Command Assessment and Readiness for Training Phase Two (CART II), and the Initial Assessment (IA) for engineering. The ship completed both events, and proceeded to her next IDTC event, the first of two Groupsails. On the 20th KLAKRING got underway to proceed to NWS Yorktown to receive her deployment ammunition loadout. After signing all the documents on the 24th, KLAKRING got back underway to rendezvous with USS GEORGE WASHINGTON. KLAKRING was assigned escort duties of the large carrier

while she executed training ship responsibilities for several Oceana Naval Air Station squadrons. KLAKRING also performed an underway replenishment with USNS BIG HORN on the 26th. Upon detaching, KLAKRING headed back to Mayport to prepare for the remainder of the IDTC.

September

In September, attention turned to another IMAV with SIMA Mayport, a Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) and the Supply Management Assessment. KLAKRING's Combat Team performed near perfect through a strenuous CMTQ, receiving high praise from the Afloat Training Group. The SMA was a complete success, with the S-3 Division receiving extremely high marks, validating it through the inspection, and earning a nomination for the NEXCOM Service Excellence award. The ship finished off the month with a short underway, honing the skills of the crew for the final phases of the IDTC.

October

KLAKRING sailed on the 2nd to begin her Underway Demonstration (UD) for the Propulsion Examining Board (CNSL N43). After a successful completion of UD, KLAKRING returned to Mayport for a C5RA, a two-week Combat Systems groom. Toward the end of October, KLAKRING sailed for her second Groupsail. This time she traveled to Puerto Rico with Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX. HSL 44 detachment 5 joined KLAKRING for the first time, building the foundation for the upcoming deployment. The first week of the Groupsail revolved around workups for the Helicopter and ship. The following two weeks were filled with numerous training opportunities, including firings of the 76 MM gun, PHALANX, chaff and several exercise torpedoes. The Groupsail culminated with a missile exercise in which KLAKRING fired 3 SM-1 missiles, destroying the target. Additional training included shiphandling, search and rescue exercises and engineering/damage control evolutions.

November

On the way home from Groupsail, KLAKRING was awarded the honor of ceremoniously conducting 7 burials at sea. Training on Damage Control, Combat Systems, Engineering and Seamanship. DC quarters and Combat Systems training was held daily to familiarize the teams and make sure that they were ready for the upcoming Final Evaluation Period and deployment. Later in the month, KLAKRING used the Afloat Training Group's 20B5 Combat Ship Simulator which provided the CIC Team with realistic combat situations without having to leave the pier. The month ended on an exceptional note with KLAKRING's Supply division successfully completing the annual Supply Management Inspection, earning "Best Ship Store of the Class" for the entire Atlantic Fleet.

December

December 14th marked KLAKRING's Christmas party on a St. John's River riverboat. The whole crew had fun with the chance to relax a little during the holidays. KLAKRING's MWR committee gave away a TV, CD players, a DVD player, and several coupons to a free night at hotels and numerous other prizes. It was back to work the following week as KLAKRING faced the last step in the Inter-deployment training cycle, the Final Evaluation Period. The crew performed well and confirmed for

the chain of command that ship and crew were ready for deployment early in 2002. After a brief overnight stop in Mayport, the ship again got underway to conduct additional training in support of the upcoming Counterdrug phase of deployment. On the 20th, KLAKRING returned home for some much-needed rest and holiday standdown.