

# COMMAND HISTORY 2003

## Command Composition and Organization

USS KLAKRING (FFG 42), 21109, mission is to be ready to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea. Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN is Klakring's ISIC, and COMNAVSURFLANT is the Type Commander. KLAKRING is commanded by CDR Aaron C. Jacobs and is homeported in Mayport, FL.

## JANUARY

In January, 2003 Klakring left the confines of Atlantic Dry Dock and returned to its homeport of Naval Station Mayport. There Klakring continued to receive maintenance during an IMAV.

## FEBRUARY

President Bush visits Naval Station Mayport. He took the time to publicly address sailors and shake a few hands before having lunch on the USS Phillipine Sea. The entire Klakring Wardroom was in attendance for this historic event.

## MARCH

The USS Klakring held a ceremony on Tuesday, 18 March 2003, to commemorate the awards the ship received for its accomplishments during the 2002 competitive cycle. Klakring received four Command Excellence awards and one Fleet award. The awards included: Maritime Warfare Excellence, Engineering/Survivability Excellence, Supply Management Excellence, Command and Control Excellence and the Force Commander Annual Wellness Unit Award.

## APRIL

During the month of April, Klakring traveled to Yorktown, Virginia for an ammunition onload. While in Virginia, Klakring traveled to Norfolk for a two-week training availability. Saving the Navy countless travel funds. Klakring also completed her Aviation Certification (AVCERT) and SAR swimmers Ensign [REDACTED] and TM2 (SWCC) [REDACTED] set new Mayport Basin records for fastest swim time and most points accrued during a pre-deployment certification.

## MAY

In May Klakring successfully completed Initial Assessment (IA), CART II and Underway Demonstration (UD), three key assessments necessary prior to deployment. Klakring was also honored with the opportunity to provide a ship tour to approximately 175 members of the USS Allen M. Sumner Reunion Association. The tour went off without hitch and all of the guests were very grateful for the opportunity to visit Klakring. The Reunion Association even went so far as to post a "thank you" and a picture of the Klakring on their website.

## JUNE

In June Klakring conducted the first ever, live fire exercise utilizing ATG's new remote controlled Small Weapons Attack Trainer (S.W.A.T.) jet-ski and radio controlled aircraft. The radio-controlled units are a part of a new exercise package that ATG has put together to help ships conduct realistic surface engagement and Force Protection training.

## JULY

Klakring participated in Enterprise Strike Group COMPTUEX MITT I and II scenerios. During the scenerio Klakring successfully snuck into the middle of the Strike Group and simulated a successful attack on the high value unit. 15 Jul – 04 AUG Participated in DESRON 14 Group Sail. During Goup Sail Klakring became M-1 qualified in most mission areas.

## AUGUST

The USS Klakring celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> commissioning anniversary on August 20, 2003. On that same day Klakring also successfully completed her Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). The successful completion of FEP marked the end of Klakring's basic phase of training.

## SEPTEMBER

In September Klakring successfully completed C5RA a rigorous Combat Systems inspection that prepared Klakring for its upcoming Inspection and Survey (INSURV).

## OCTOBER

Klakring makes port visit in Brunswick, GA. It was the first U.S. Naval ship to make a port visit to Brunswick in 11-years. There Klakring hosted a reception for the National President and Golden Isle Chapter of the Navy League. Sailors took the opportunity to provide ships tours to over 900 guests during the two-day port visit. Klakring also got underway and participated in the Jacksonville Sea and Sky Spectacular. For her part in the show, Klakring conducted mock Naval Gun-Fire Support for a simulated amphibious assault of Jacksonville beach.

## NOVEMBER

The month began with Klakring getting underway with DESRON 14 embarked for successful completion of INSURV. Klakring also participated in submarine PCO ops in the AUTEK range. Klakring's role was to act as Oposition Forces for the exercises against submarine forces. This exercise assisted in the training of numerous prospective submarine Commanding Officers.

## DECEMBER

During December Klakring got underway for the George Washington Strike Group COMTUEX. During the exercise Klakring played the role of Oposition Forces. These exercises aided the George Washington Aircraft Carrier in achieving her qualifications for deployment. The month ended with a holiday standown and work began to prepare Klakring for a change of command and a fast approaching deployment.