



USS KING (DDG-41)

FPO, NEW YORK, NY 09576

DDG41/JJF/j1

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KING (DDG-41)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Naval
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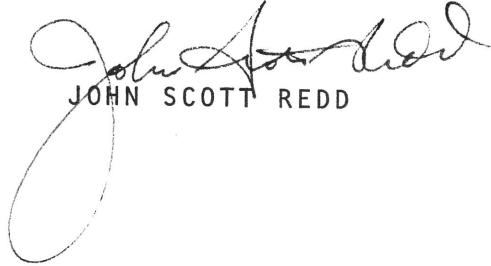
Subj: Command History (1981); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Narrative History for 1981
(2) Chronology of Events for 1981
(3) Change of Command Pamphlet

1981

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are forwarded.


JOHN SCOTT REDD

CHRONOLGY OF EVENTS

1-4 Jan	Holiday - post UNITAS XXI leave/upkeep Norva
5-18 Jan	IPT Norva
19 Jan-1 Feb	IMAV - USS PiEDMONT (AD-17)
2-18 Feb	IPT Norva
19 Feb-8 Mar	U/W READEX 1-81
2-5 Mar	PVST Roosevelt Roads, PR
9-11 Mar	PVST Port Everglades, FL
12-14 Mar	Transit Norva
15-22 Mar	IPT Norva
23-29 Mar	IMAV SIMA Norfolk
30 Mar-1 Apr	U/W Pre-Overhaul Test and Inspection
2-26 Apr	IPT Norva
27 Apr-1 May	U/W VCOA
2 May-1 Jun	IMAV SIMA Norfolk
2 Jun	U/W VCOA
3-5 Jun	Load out - Yorktown, VA
6-11 Jun	IPT Norva
12 Jun-1 Jul	U/W COMPTUEX 3-81
22-24 Jun	PVST Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
2-5 Jul	IPT Norva
6-7 Jul	U/W VCOA
8-29 Jul	IPT Norva
30 Jul	U/W Dependents Cruise
31 Jul-11 Aug	IPT Norva
7 Aug	Change of Command
12-22 Aug	U/W Transit Rota, SP
22-26 Aug	U/W Transit Souda Bay, Creete
27-28 Aug	U/W Transit Black Sea
28-31 Aug	Black Sea Ops
1-3 Sep	PVST Istanbul, Turkey
4-14 Sep	U/W Encounterex/Carrier Ops USS NIMITZ
9 Sep	MISSILEX
14-21 Sep	PVST Naples, IT
22 Sep-4 Oct	U/W Display Determination
29 Sep-4 Oct	Anchor Doganbey, Turkey
5-10 Oct	Contingency Ops Egypt
10-14 Oct	Transit Barcelona, SP
14-23 Oct	IMAV - USS PUGET SOUND - Barcelona, SP
24 Oct-3 Nov	U/W CRISEX 81
4-9 Nov	PVST Cartagena, SP - Film Festival
10-12 Nov	Transit Toulon, FR
13-21 Nov	IMAV USS PUGET SOUND - Toulon, FR
22 Nov-5 Dec	U/W EverReady Ops
6-9 Dec	Transit Rota, SP
10 Dec	IPT Rota, SP
11-21 Dec	Transit Norva
22 Dec-1 Jan	Holiday - post deployment leave/upkeep

NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR 1981

1981 was an extremely busy and productive year for the KING of the FLEET and her crew. After just returning from UNITAS XXI in late December of 1980 and completing what seemed to be a short leave and upkeep period, preparations began for the upcoming Mediterranean deployment and the regular overhaul which would begin in April of 1982. Although being considerably different, both jobs were critical and both would require many hours of hard work. With three IMAVs, two successful missile firing exercises and a change of command all being completed before the August 12th departure date, KING was fully prepared and eager to take on all the challenges of a SIXTH Fleet deployment. The preparations for the regular overhaul required identifying, documenting and planning the work required for a successful overhaul.

READEX 1-81 and COMPTUEX 3-81 saw KING and her crew tested in intense multi-threat Carrier Battle Group Operations. All hands involved gained valuable experience in AAW, ASUW and ASW under the CWC concept, while simultaneously supporting an embarked squadron commander. The weapons department and combat system teams had ample opportunity to demonstrate their abilities during live weapons firing exercises, as 9 surface to air missiles, 3 ASROC and 2 torpedoes were fired, along with numerous gunnery exercises. This demanding schedule enabled the many new crew members rapidly to become an integral part of every phase of KING's fighting team.

Having completed all pre-deployment preparations and a change of command only days before departure, KING set out for the Mediterranean with Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY embarked. The first two weeks would set the tempo for the remainder of the cruise, as there would be more at sea operations in the next four and one half months than most ships would see in a six month deployment. Following a demanding transit, which was full of training exercises designed to further prepare the task force for operations in the Mediterranean, and a brief eight hour stop in Rota, Spain for turn over with the USS William V. Pratt, KING continued on to the Black Sea.

After transiting the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits, and immediately upon entering the Black Sea, a Soviet guided missile frigate began surveillance operations. This ship remained within visual range throughout and was often augmented by Soviet Aircraft. Upon leaving the Black Sea and again transiting the Bosphorus Straits, KING made her first port call in Istanbul, Turkey, a city with a homogeneous mixture of Eastern and Western cultures.

After departing Istanbul and returning to the Mediterranean, KING joined the USS NIMITZ Carrier Battle Group. Along with the normal fast pace, high tempo operations that accompany aircraft carriers, a successful missile firing exercise was also conducted. KING of the FLEET's performance during this exercise resulted in the ship being singled out for superb performance by both Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY and Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group EIGHT.

KING's accomplishments at this point were considerable but there was still much to do. There would be two major international exercises; Display Determination in which KING played a crucial role in controlling both Turkish and Greek aircraft, and CRISEX; an exercise that saw the first joint participation in an exercise by Spain in recent years. Numerous inport periods were cut short or cancelled as immediate response to real world situations were necessary; contingency operations in response to Egypt's Anwar Sadat's assassination and the final operation of MED 5-81, the coordinated ASUW operation Ever Ready.

During both the Egyptian Contingency Operation and Operation Ever Ready, KING was only five minutes flight time from Libya, a country which only three months earlier had attacked American aircraft, losing two of its own aircraft in the confrontation. This was even more notable when coupled with the fact that at times during these operations, KING was the only major AAW capable ship in the area. Also, during Operation Ever Ready KING served as flagship for the on-scene commander, displaying innovativeness in the role of targeter and broadcaster of information of targeting quality to cruise missile shooters.

Although over seventy-five percent of the deployment was spent at sea, there was much to be said for KING of the FLEET's performance ashore. There were two successful IMAVs with USS Puget Sound, of which one was unexpectedly cut short due to operational requirements. This required hard work and coordination between the crew and USS Puget Sound's repair department personnel to make repairs to all necessary equipment and be ready to meet the short notice steaming commitment. Another visit, to Cartagena, Spain in support the annual film festival, was also extremely successful. During this "high visibility" affair, KING hosted a reception for local dignitaries, members of the film festival committee, and visiting Naval personnel that brought praise from both Commander Sixth Fleet and the Commander in Chief of U. S. Naval Forces in Europe.

Upon completion of Ever Ready operations in the Eastern Mediterranean, the long transit home began. There was a two day stop in Rota, Spain for turnover, followed by the final ten day leg to Norfolk. The performance of KING and her crew did not go unnoticed, as KING received the first-ever TOP HAND Award from COMSIXTHFLT in recognition of sustained all-round performance as a ship in Battle Force Sixth Fleet during the period 22 August - 11 December. Finally on December 21 KING was in her homeport for a well deserved leave and upkeep period.

KING was commanded by Commander H. WARD CLARK Jr., until 7 August 1981, when he was relieved by Commander JOHN SCOTT REDD.