



## USS KING (DDG-41)

FPO, NEW YORK, NY 09576

To the Crew, Family and Friends of KING OF THE FLEET,

Cruises come and cruises go - some are (mercifully) soon forgotten, others linger on as a pleasant memory. KING'S 1981 deployment to SIXTH Fleet was one of the latter, an experience long to be treasured as an example of superb accomplishment.

KING cruised the SIXTH Fleet during an exciting and tense period. Arriving the day after U.S. F-14's downed two Libyan fighters, we spent several weeks only a few minutes flight time from Libyan airfields. We also visited the Soviet backyard, transiting the Black Sea close to the Crimea. KING was one of the first ships on station following the tragic assassination of a great statesman, Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Finally, we blazed tactical trails as the KINGPIN in operation EVER READY.

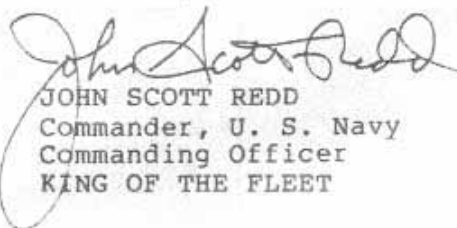
In addition to these operations KING participated in a full schedule of NATO and U. S. exercises. The result was an operational tempo unsurpassed in Task Force SIXTY - seventy-five percent underway.

It is one thing to participate, but it is an entirely more difficult challenge to excel. Yet excel KING did, setting the standard of excellence in every operation and exercise. The proof came during the final days of the homeward transit when KING received the first ever "TOP HAND" Award from Commander, SIXTH Fleet as the outstanding deployer. The citation is reproduced herein and I commend it to your reading.

Reviewing the events of the deployment, I am repeatedly struck by the observation that KING'S crew thrives on challenge and adversity. To paraphrase a saying: "The difficult we do immediately - the impossible may take a few hours." Time and again I saw the men of KING reach down into their mental and physical reserves and execute perfectly a difficult evolution\* Significantly, KING'S success were a team effort of the best kind, with all hands contributing.

This cruisebook would not be complete without an expression of grateful appreciation to those of you who kept the home fires burning. Your support was crucial to our successes and your country owes you a great debt for your very special service. We thank you for your letters and prayers.

God bless,

  
JOHN SCOTT REDD  
Commander, U. S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
KING OF THE FLEET