

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON TWENTY  
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
F.P.O. NEW YORK 08501

19 December 1981

Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY takes pleasure in presenting to Commanding Officer, USS KING (DDG-41) on behalf of the Commander, U.S. SIXTH Fleet the MED 5-81 Outstanding-Deployer Award for performance as set forth in the following CITATION:

"In recognition of your sustained all-round performance as a ship in Battle Force Sixth Fleet during the period 22 August - 11 December, I take great pride in presenting you with the first Top Hand Award. Your exceptional performance fully merits your being the first recipient. In every aspect of shipboard operations, KING demonstrated excellence. Your record as an ambassador was exemplified by the very positive impact "King of the Fleet" made at the Cartagena Film Festival. Your seamanship was exemplary as evidenced by your ability to take a propulsionless sister ship under tow and thereby save the day. As permanent flagship for COMDESRON TWENTY and alternate for COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT your support was unmatched. Your performance in two major international exercises - Display Determination and CRISEX - was solid as were your day-to-day accomplishments throughout the period. You never missed a commitment - the hallmark of a combatant. It is fitting that you should save the best for last, that being the job you did as the hub of the recently completed coordinated ASUW Operation, Ever Ready. As flagship for the on-scene commander, your innovativeness in the role of targeter and broadcaster of information of targeting quality to cruise missile shooters was extraordinary and will be of great benefit to the Navy as we continue to refine over-the-horizon targeting procedures. Well done."

For Commander, U.S. SIXTH Fleet,

  
D. F. CHANDLER