



USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59)

Guided Missile Frigate

Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

www.kauffman.navy.mil



USS Kauffman (FFG 59) is an OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class Guided Missile Frigate. She was commissioned in Bath, Maine, 28 February 1987. Kauffman was the first of the Navy's fleet of frigates to undergo modernization to better provide sea service in today's ever-changing Navy. Among the most important modifications are an upgrade to the ship's Phalanx Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) and the retrofitting of Kauffman's four diesel-generators with new, upgraded engines.

Topside, the CIWS Block 1B modification adds a forward-looking infrared radar (FLIR) camera to the weapon system, allowing it to track smaller targets with more accuracy at night. The FLIR camera can be used in conjunction with new interactive controls to manually target small boats and aircraft, boosting the ship's self-defense measures. Though its primary mission is still anti-missile, the CIWS now packs a potent surface engagement capability. The rest of the Navy's frigates are scheduled to receive their CIWS modification in the next few years.

Alterations to Kauffman's weapons systems include the addition of the MK 53 NULCA Decoy Launching System.

Down in Kauffman's engineering plant, four Caterpillar 3512B diesels have replaced the previous Detroit Diesel models. These new diesel-generators will provide the ship with more efficient and reliable power. Troubleshooting the diesels will be greatly improved since computer-aided diagnostics have been added; Enginemen can now isolate specific components and problem areas through the use of a laptop computer, reducing engine downtime and costly technical assistance.

The two freshly installed 6,500 gallons-per-day RO units are more efficient than the two 4000 gallons-per-day flash type distillers they replaced. Each unit requires significantly less maintenance than the previous units; their reliable operation actually eliminates a watchstation.

The arrival of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) firefighting unit is another major upgrade for Kauffman. The SCBA – the standard for civilian firefighters nationwide – offers shipboard firefighters a continuous supply of fresh, pure air. SCBA canisters are refillable and designed for repeated use so they are safer for the Sailors using them and for the environment because there's no disposable waste.

The breakthrough modernizations occurring onboard USS Kauffman were mentioned in the August 11th, 2003 issue of Navy Times. The Kauffman deployed with the Kearsarge ESG distinguishing herself by seizing more than 4000lbs of hashish during a single MIO op on the motor vessel Al Naveed. Kauffman returned on May 27th from an extraordinarily successful 6 month deployment to the Mediterranean and the Western Coast of Africa to include the Gulf of Guinea. Kauffman expects to continue her tradition of excellence during her next scheduled deployment. This time she will be touring South America on a UNITAS.

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 453 feet
Beam (Maximum)- 45 feet
Speed: 30+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- 22 feet
Displacement- 4,100 tons full load
Complement- 13 Officers/287 Enlisted

SENSORS

AN/SPS-55 Surface Radar
AN/SPS-49 Air Radar
AN/SQS-56
AN/SQR-19 TACTAS (Towed Array)

WEAPONS

OTO Melara MK75 76mm/62 caliber machine gun
2 MK32 Triple-Tube (324mm) launchers for Mark 46 Torpedoes
Vulcan Phalanx block 1 B CIWS
4 .50-caliber machine guns
Mk 92 mod 6 fire control radar

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 General Electric LM2500
30 Gas Turbines, 41,000 Shaft Horsepower
Controllable-pitch propeller
Electrical:
Services:

AIRCRAFT

2 SH-60B LAMPS III Helicopters