



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-05D2)

Subj: Command History; submission of (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

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Encl: (1) Command History for USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) for
calendar year 1979

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


J. H. MAULDIN

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COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1979

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CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

From 1 JAN USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

16 JAN Underway from Norfolk, VA, for Mediterranean deployment with COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT and COMCARAIRWING SEVEN embarked

16-27 JAN En route to the Mediterranean Sea

27 JAN INCHOP Sixth Fleet. CTF 60 embarked aboard IKE. IKE designated CTU 60.1.9

27-29 JAN In port Rota, Spain

30 JAN Underway from Rota for the western Mediterranean

31 JAN - 4 FEB ASW Week Exercises

9-11 FEB In port Naples, Italy

10 FEB USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Change of Command. Captain J. H. Mauldin relieved Captain (now Rear Admiral) W. E. Ramsey

12-18 FEB Operations in the Ionian Sea

19-23 FEB In port Naples, Italy

24-26 FEB Operations in Central and Eastern Mediterranean

26 FEB - 4 MAR "National Week XXVI/Sardinia 1-79" Combined Task Force Exercise

7-11 MAR In port Venice, Italy

14-17 MAR Operations off Souda Bay, Crete

20 MAR - 1 APR Mid Cruise Standdown Naples, Italy

2-9 APR Operations in Western Basin and Eastern Mediterranean

10-15 APR In port Athens, Greece

17-20 APR In port Livorno, Italy

22-28 APR MULTIPLEX 1-79 Exercise in Ionian Sea

29 APR - 3 MAY Operations in Eastern Mediterranean

4-13 MAY In port Haifa, Israel

10 MAY Day-at-Sea Air Power Demonstration, Haifa, Israel

14-16 MAY	Refresher Operations Eastern Mediterranean
17-24 MAY	Operation DAWN PATROL 79
28 MAY - 3 JUN	In port Lisbon, Portugal
4-14 JUN	Operations Western Mediterranean
14 JUN	SECNAV Visit
15-28 JUN	In port Naples, Italy
22 JUN	CTF 60 Change of Command aboard IKE
2 JUL	In port Rota, Spain
6 JUL	Bluewater Turnover USS INDEPENDENCE. COMCARGRU FOUR embarked aboard IKE. IKE designated CTU 20.7.1
7-13 JUL	En route Norfolk, Virginia
13 JUL	Arrival Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia
13 JUL - 13 AUG	Post-deployment Standdown, Pier 12
1 AUG - 30 OCT	Restricted Availability (RAV) Pier 12
6-16 NOV	Sea trials/Carrier Quals in Virginia Capes Oparea
16-26 NOV	In port Pier 12
26 NOV - 7 DEC	Fleet/Training Command Carrier Quals in Virginia Capes Oparea
8-31 DEC	Moor Pier 12. Holiday Leave period

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

BASIC DATA

I. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

- (1) Captain William E. Ramsey, USN, from 10 October 1975 through 10 February 1979
- (2) Captain James H. Mauldin, USN, from 10 February 1979 to present

b. Executive Officer: Captain Eugene D. Conner, USN, from 27 October 1978 to present

II. Mission of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69). The mission of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is to provide sea-based tactical air power for defense of America's right to freedom of the seas as well as the protection of United States Sovereignty. As part of this mission, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER is capable of projecting sea-based air power including anti-submarine warfare.

III. Background

a. Named after the 34th President and General of the Army, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is the third nuclear powered aircraft carrier ever built. The keel of the ship was laid on 15 August 1970 and was authenticated by the late President's grandson, D. David Eisenhower II. Five years later, on 11 October 1975, the late Mamie Doud Eisenhower, widow of the President and ship's sponsor, christened the ship during launching ceremonies in Newport News, VA.

b. On 18 October 1977, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER was placed in commission in ceremonies at Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

c. On 16 January 1979, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER was underway from Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA, enroute to the Mediterranean for her first overseas deployment, returning to Pier 12 on 13 July 1979.

RESUME OF USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR
1979

1979 was a milestone year in the early operational life of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) for it recorded her first overseas deployment; a six-month Mediterranean trip that began 16 January from her Norfolk, Virginia homeport.

IKE departed Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, with nine squadrons of Carrier Air Wing SEVEN (CVW-7) embarked, for the 3,659-mile transit to Rota, Spain to relieve USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). During the 27-29 January in-port period in Rota, Commander Battle Force Sixth Fleet/Commander Carrier Group TWO (Rear Admiral Robert F. Schoultz, USN) embarked aboard and IKE was designated CTU 60.1.9. In the early morning hours of 30 January, IKE passed through the straits of Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean for the first time. Eleven days of flight operations in the western Mediterranean followed before IKE dropped anchor off Naples, Italy on 9 February to begin her first Mediterranean port visit. The following day, Captain J. H. Mauldin relieved IKE's first skipper, Captain (now Rear Admiral) W. E. Ramsey, as Commanding Officer in ceremonies held on board.

IKE was underway again on 12 February for seven days of flight operations in the Ionian Sea before returning to Naples on 19 February for a five-day port call. The following week (26 February to 4 March) IKE participated in "National-Week XXVI/Sardinia 1-79", a six-day combined task force exercise off the coast of Sardinia involving over 50 Navy ships and 300 aircraft from various NATO countries designed to test the strength of amphibious landing forces in the Mediterranean. IKE then dropped anchor off Venice, Italy on 6 March for a six-day port visit followed by exercises in the central Mediterranean before returning to Naples 20 March to begin a 13-day mid-deployment standdown.

IKE was underway again for eight days of flight operations in the Western Basin and Eastern Mediterranean before pulling into Athens, Greece on 10 April for five days, becoming the first U.S. Navy carrier to visit there in over five years. A four-day port call to Livorno, Italy followed before commencing a six-day dual battle group training exercise -- known as MULTIPLEX -- on 22 April, the first multi-dimensional warfare training exercise of its kind ever conducted.

On 4 May, IKE arrived in Haifa, Israel, for a ten-day port visit which included embarking close to 900 Israeli guests for a "day-at-sea" on 10 May. Among the many distinguished visitors present for the six-hour cruise, which included a coordinated air training exercise by CVW-7, were: Israeli President Yitzhak Navon, Prime Minister Menachim Begin, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, and numerous members of the Israeli Knesset.

Three days after getting underway from Haifa on 14 May, IKE, accompanied by five escort ships, joined 80 other ships from six NATO countries in the final two phases of a three-phase maritime support exercise known as "Operation Dawn Patrol" which concluded 24 May. Four days

later, IKE anchored off Lisbon, Portugal, for a seven-day port call.

On 4 June, IKE reentered the Mediterranean Sea for a week of flight operations before participating in the two-day Spanish air defense exercise, "Poopdeck 2-79", on 12 and 13 June. On 13-14 June, IKE hosted the Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. W. Graham Claytor, Jr., who flew aboard to meet IKE's staff and crew and observe flight operations.

IKE again anchored off Naples 15 June for 14 days and on 22 June hosted its second change of command ceremony of the deployment as Rear Admiral James R. Sanderson relieved Rear Admiral Robert F. Schoultz as Commander Battle Force Sixth Fleet/Commander Carrier Group Two.

IKE was underway again from Naples on 29 June and, following a two-day stopover in Rota, was relieved by USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) off the Azores on 6 July. During this time (3-6 July), the Engineering and Reactor Departments underwent their Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) and passed with an overall "above average" score. The six-day Atlantic crossing followed, with CVW-7 flying off 12 July and IKE arriving back at Pier 12, Norfolk, Friday 13 July.

With regard to Mediterranean flight operations, IKE conducted 79 days of air operations between 27 January and 6 July 1979. The embarked air wing flew a total of 19,674 hours and accounted for 8,580 arrested landings and 852 helicopter landings.

IKE commenced her Restricted Availability (RAV) period alongside Pier 12 on 1 August and extending through 30 October. On 6 November IKE was underway for a ten-day at-sea period in the Virginia Capes operating area for both fleet carrier qualifications and damage control training. Following a ten-day in port period, IKE returned to the Virginia Capes Oparea on 26 November for both fleet and training command carrier qualifications before returning to Pier 12 on 8 December to begin the Christmas holiday leave period. During this at-sea period, on 30 November, IKE was notified that the ship had outpaced all other Atlantic Fleet carriers to capture the COMNAVAILANT Battle Efficiency "E" for 1979. In addition to the overall "E" award, six out of a possible ten departmental "E"'s were also awarded to IKE; namely: Operations, Air, Engineering, Weapons, Medical, and Damage Control.