



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)**  
**FPO NEW YORK 09532**

1980

[REDACTED]

CVN69:114:lsr  
5750  
Ser C 015

**DECLASSIFIED**

23 APR 1981

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**From:** Commanding Officer, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
**To:** Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05)  
**Subj:** Command History; submission of (OPNAV Report 5750.1)  
**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B  
**Encl:** (1) Command History for USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
for calendar year 1980.

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

  
J. H. MAULDIN

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CONFIDENTIAL  
COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1980

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CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

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

4 JAN Underway from Norfolk, VA for Refresher Training with COMCARAIRWING  
SEVEN Embarked

4-7 JAN En route Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

7-15 JAN Refresher Training in Caribbean Operating Area

15-18 JAN COMCARGRU FOUR onload, en route JAX OPAREA

18-24 JAN Type Training in JAX OPAREA

24-25 JAN COMCARAIR WING SEVEN and COMCARGRU FOUR offload

26-29 JAN Fleet/Training Command Quals in JAX and Virginia Capes  
OPAREAs

8-20 FEB Moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

20-23 FEB En route Puerto Rico OPAREA

23 FEB-1 MAR Type Training Two in Puerto Rico OPAREA

2-5 MAR Inport St Thomas, Virgin Islands

5-18 MAR Type Training Three/ORE in Puerto Rico OPAREA

18-21 MAR En route Norfolk, VA

21 MAR-15 APR Moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

15 APR Underway from Norfolk, VA for Indian Ocean Deployment with  
COMCARGRU FOUR and COMCARAIRWING SEVEN embarked

29 APR OUTCHOP Atlantic Fleet/INCHOP Pacific Fleet

7 MAY RDVU/TURNOVER with USS NIMITZ (CVN 68)

8 MAY-21 JUN Operations in Northern Arabian Sea

21-23 JUN GONZO 3-80 exercise in Northern Arabian Sea

24 JUN-7 JUL Operations in Northern Arabian Sea

8-9 JUL GONZO 4-80/MULTIPLEX 1-80 exercise in Northern Arabian  
Sea

11-17 JUL Depart MODLOC/en route Singapore

17-22 JUL Inport Singapore

22-30 JUL En route to MODLOC in Northern Arabian Sea

27 JUL KERMITEX Exercise

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30 JUL-2 SEP Operations in Northern Arabian Sea  
2-6 SEP Depart MODLOC/en route Diego Garcia B. I. O. T. OPAREA  
6-9 SEP Weapons Week in Diego Garcia B. I. O. T. OPAREA  
9-14 SEP En route to MODLOC in Northern Arabian Sea  
14-17 SEP GONZO 5-80 exercise in Northern Arabian Sea  
14 NOV-1 DEC Operations in Northern Arabian Sea  
1-22 DEC Depart MODLOC/en route Norfolk, VA  
8 DEC Open Ocean Turnover with USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)  
9 DEC OUTCHOP Pacific Fleet/INCHOP Atlantic Fleet  
22 DEC Arrive Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA  
22-31 DEC Post Deployment Stand down, Pier 12

# USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

## Basic Data

### I. Command Organization

#### a. Commanding Officer

(1) Captain James H. Mauldin. USN, 10 February 1979 - Present.

#### b. Executive Officer

(1) Captain E. D. Conner. USN, 15 September 1978 - 8 October 1980.

(2) Captain G. D. O'Brien Jr.. USN, 8 October - Present.

### II. Mission of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

a. 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 sea as well as the protection of United States Sovereignty. As part of this mission, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is capable of projecting tactical air power both over the sea and inland, as well as providing tactical air defense and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

### III. Background

a. Named after the 34TH President of the United States and General of the Army, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is the third nuclear powered aircraft carrier ever built. Originally named EISENHOWER on 21 February 1970, the ship was renamed DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER on 25 May 1970.

b. The keel of the ship (Hull 599, as designated by Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company) 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 Mrs. Mamie Doud Eisenhower, widow of the former President and ship's sponsor, christened the ship during launching ceremonies at the Newport News Shipyard.

c. On 18 October 1977, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) was placed into commission in ceremonies at Pier 12, U. S. Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

## RESUME OF USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1980

The 1980 year began with USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) undergoing routine underway training exercises in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and other parts of the Caribbean until April. In April, IKE was sent to the Indian Ocean to relieve USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) in light of tensions in the Persian Gulf area; including Iran's holding of 52 American hostages since 4 November 1979 and the USSR's continued presence in Afghanistan.

IKE departed Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk on 15 April 1980 with Carrier Group FOUR commanded by Rear Admiral Byron R. Fuller and the squadrons of Carrier Air Wing SEVEN (CVW-7) embarked for the 12,000 nautical mile transit around Cape Horn, South Africa to the Indian Ocean and then on to GONZO Station, located off the coast of Oman. The turnover with NIMITZ on 7 May 1980 was uneventful but was the beginning of IKE's history-making record of 254 days at-sea with only one liberty visit, which occurred from 17 -22 July in Singapore.

Many awards were acquired and records of a statistical nature were set by the Navy's largest nuclear powered carrier, her crew, her squadrons, and her embarked staff. During the longest deployment for a Navy ship since World War II, daily flight operations led to thousands of accident-free flight hours. This accomplishment was a major reason for IKE winning the highly touted Flatley Award for Safety for the second year in a row. IKE also placed second in the annual Edward F. Ney award competition for excellence in food service operations for carriers. Overall, FY 80 was a very good year for IKE as far as awards were concerned. The ship as a whole won the Battle "E" for the second year in a row. Additionally, the following departments on board IKE also won awards: AIR, AIMD, Engineering (for damage control), Medical, Communications and Operations for excellence in their respective fields. All but AIMD and Communications were repeats from last year. The Navy Expeditionary Medal was also awarded to IKE. Word about this came as IKE and her Battle Group steamed home from the Indian Ocean deployment.

The crew's morale continued to be a high priority item during the Indian Ocean deployment. An almost weekly "CO's Day" was established which allowed the men of IKE to take time off to relax on the flight deck to acquire a tan, participate in the ship's first "Flight Deck Olympics" competition, and enjoy several picnics. Also of interest were the six cans of beer per person that was authorized by the Secretary of the Navy for having been at-sea for such a long period. The beer was dispensed in increments of sixty days. Boxing smokers were held frequently in the hanger bay, and several USO shows were sponsored on board during the long eight-month deployment, the most notable of which occurred on 18 August when Miss America (Cheryl Prewitt of Mississippi) and her entourage performed for the men of IKE.

On 11 July 1980, IKE made her way from GONZO Station towards Singapore for the first and last port visit during the I.O. Deployment. IKE arrived in the "Lion City" on 17 July for a five day visit so IKE's 5,500 man crew could enjoy a well-deserved rest. By 30 July, IKE was back on station and ready to begin operations once again.

On 3 October 1980, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General David C. Jones, USAF, arrived on board to give a speech to both praise IKE and thank her crew, embarked squadrons, and embarked staff for the "dedication to duty and professionalism" exhibited throughout the deployment. Other events that took place during the deployment worth mentioning were the two "Crossing the Line" ceremonies. The first one was held in early May when over 5,000 pollywogs were mercifully cleansed of their dreaded condition. Due to the renewed presence of pollywogs, the ceremony was performed again on 18 December 1980 during the transit back to CONUS.

On 8 December 1980, IKE had a blue water turnover with her relief, USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) and then departed Pacific Fleet waters on 9 December 1980. On 19 December 1980, a visit by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Hayward, was the beginning of a long homecoming celebration which culminated as IKE pulled alongside Pier 12 on 22 December for a long-awaited return and which saw the Secretary of the Navy and Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet arrive on board the same morning to welcome IKE and her Battle Group home. Over 12,000 dependents and friends of IKE crewmembers waited anxiously in the cold winter wind as the brows were set in place and the men began filing off the ship for holiday celebrations.