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1989



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HELICOPTER COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON FOUR (HC-4)  
FPO NEW YORK 09523

DECLASSIFIED

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650  
Ser 10/061  
21 Feb 90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURE (3).

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09bH), Washington Naval Yard,  
Washington DC. 30274-0571

Subj: CY 1989 COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Biography of CDR John Walter Mullarky  
(2) Biography of CDR David J. Smania  
(3) HC-4 CY-89 Battle Efficiency and CNO Safety Awards  
Submission (C)

1. Per reference (a), the HELSUPPRON FOUR Command History, with  
enclosures (1) through (3) is submitted for review.

*D. J. Smania*  
D. J. Smania

R 412 689 534

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)  
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: 28 Apr 2000

*Passed  
ODS*

~~28 Feb~~

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## COMMAND HISTORY

### I. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission: To provide day/night logistic support to SIXTH Fleet units and U.S. Forces Europe.

b. Organization and Structure: CNO, CINCLANT, COMNAVAIRLANT (OPS/ADMIN), COMFAIRMED (OPS), COMHELTACWING ONE (ADMIN).

c. Commanding Officers:

1 January 1989 - 13 June 1989 CDR J.W. Mullarky,

13 June 1989 - 31 December 1989 CDR D.J. Smania

d. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, Sicily, Italy

e. Assets: Seven (7) Sikorsky CH-53E Helicopters, Buno's: 161532, 161536, 161537, 161538, 161539, 161540, 161988

### II. Chronology

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
05-12 Jan	Detachment (Det) to Tel Aviv, Israel to support CVN-71
09 Jan	MEDEVAC twenty patients from NAS Sigonella to Naples, Italy
09-13 Jan	Det to Rota, Spain to support CVN-71
13 Jan	MEDEVAC twenty-two patients from NAS Sigonella to Naples, Italy
20-30 Jan	Det to Rota, Spain to support LSD-41 and LPH-7
23-30 Jan	Det to Palma, Spain to support CVN-71
30 Jan	MEDEVAC one patient from CVN-71 to Palma Spain
08-18 Feb	Det to Hyeres, France to support CVN-71
23-28 Feb	Det to Alexandria, Egypt to support CVN-71
24 Feb	Supported Exercise Wintex-Cimex 89, Araxos, Greece
28 Feb-01 Mar	Det to Souda Bay, Greece to support CVN-71
01-03 Mar	Det to Antalya, Turkey to support CVN-71
03-11 Mar	Det to Antalya, Turkey to support CVN-71

15-19 Mar	Det to Naples, Italy to support LPH-7
18-26 Mar	Det to Rota, Spain to support CVN-71
23 Mar	MEDEVAC twelve patients from CVN-71 to Rota, Spain
02-17 Apr	Det to Hyeres, France to support CVN-71
20 Apr-01 May	Supported Exercise Dragon Hammer 89, Capo Teulada, Sardinia
27 Apr-03 May	Det to Antalya, Turkey to support CVN-71
03-19 May	Det to Tel Aviv, Israel to support CVN-71
07 May	MEDEVAC one patient from CVN-71 to Ben Gurion, Israel
11-12 May	Flew 58 members of Soviet/Italian/American INF Treaty Inspection Team from NAS Sigonella to Comiso Air Base, Italy
16-18 May	Supported Exercise Juniper Falconry 89, Tel Aviv, Israel
23-30 May	Det to Alicante, Spain to support CV-66
23 May-04 Jun	Det to Palma, Spain to support CVN-71
26 May	MEDEVAC one patient from LPH-7 to Naples, Italy
30-31 May	Det to Rota, Spain to support CV-66
01 Jun	Received CNAL Citation for 6 years Class "A" Mishap free flying
01-10 Jun	Supported Exercise Sardinia 89, Caligari, Sardinia
02 Jun	MEDEVAC one patient from CVN-71 to Palma, Spain
02-09 Jun	Det to Palma, Spain to support CVN-71
08 Jun	MEDEVAC one patient from LPH-7 to Decimonannu,
12-16 Jun	Supported Exercise National Week 89, West Med
13 Jun 23 Jun	CDR D.J. Smania relieves CDR J.W. Mullarky as Commanding Officer, HELSUPPRON FOUR
14-20 Jun	Det to Rota, Spain to support CVN-71
15 Jun	Received aircraft buno 161988
20-27 Jun	Det to Palma, Spain to support CV-43
18-22 Jun	Det to Izmar, Turkey to support CV-66
27 Jun	MEDEVAC one patient from Lampedusa, Italy to NAS Sigonella
09-17 Jul	Det to Hyeres, France to support CV-43
10-14 Jul	COMNAVAIRLANT NATOPS Evaluation
20 Jul	Medevac one patient from AO-178 to NAS Sigonella
28 Jul-02 Aug	Det to Alexandria, Egypt to support CV-43
01-31 Aug	Det to Akrotiri, Cyprus to support CV-43 and LHA-4

06 Aug-01	Sep	Supported East Med Contingency Operation 89, Akrotiri, Cyprus
27 Aug-01	Sep	Det to Antalya, Turkey to support CV-43
04-09	Sep	Det to Hyeres, France to support CV-66
10	Sep	MEDEVAC one patient from Lampedusa, Italy to NAS Sigonella
21	Sep	MEDEVAC one patient from LHA-4 to NAS Sigonella
21-22	Sep	Flew 55 members of Soviet/Italian/American INF Treaty Inspection Team from NAS Sigonella to Comiso Air Base, Italy
22	Sep-04	Oct Det to Balikeshir, Turkey to support CV-66, LHA-4, and BB-61
22	Sep-04	Oct Supported Exercise Display Determination 89, Balikeshir, Turkey
28	Sep	MEDEVAC one patient from NAS Sigonella to Naples, Italy
29	Sep-06	Oct Det to Antalya, Turkey to support CV-66
29	Sep-06	Oct Supported Exercise Display Determination 89, Antalya, Turkey
18-23	Oct	Det to Palma, Spain to support CV-66
29-31	Oct	Det to Palma, Spain to support CV-43
30	Oct	MEDEVAC one patient from CV-66 to Palma, Spain
31	Oct-13	Nov Det to Rota, Spain to support CV-66, LPH-2, and LSD-37
01	Nov	MEDEVAC one patient from CV-66 to Rota, Spain
12	Nov	MEDEVAC one patient from LSD-37 to Rota, Spain
12	Nov	MEDEVAC one patient from CV-59 to Rota, Spain
12	Nov	MEDEVAC one patient from LPH-2 to Rota, Spain
12-20	Nov	Det to Hyeres, France to support CV-59
29	Nov-03	Dec Det to Malta with HMX-1 for Presidential Support
08-14	Dec	Det to Palma, Spain to support CV-59

### III. Narrative

Calendar Year 1989 was a year for pragmatic leadership and innovative utilization of assets at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR. From reductions in personnel to cut backs in operating funds, every command decision was predicated on organizational streamlining, while maintaining record levels of effectiveness and readiness.

Operationally, the HC-4 Black Stallions continued to be the most effective logistics squadron in the Navy. Supporting Sixth Fleet units in the Mediterranean, HC-4 deployed 34 detachments moving more cargo, mail, and passengers in less flight time, than ever before. Over 2,330 tons of cargo, 1,000,000 pounds of mail and 10,800 passengers were transported in the CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopters in 2586 mishap free flight hours. In addition, HC-4 flew 21 MEDEVAC missions, two INF Treaty Inspection missions and over 800 hours of pilot and aircrew training.

The single major impactor on readiness in 1989 was the lack of readily available aircraft parts. The long supply lines to CONUS and the limited availability of high priority items such as AFCS computers and main rotor blades affected the daily maintenance efforts. While the replenishment pipeline scrambled for new procurements, HC-4 planned and executed an aggressive maintenance program. Skilled liaison with the host air station, functional wing, and type commander ensured all alternatives were exhausted in providing "in theater" aircraft repair. Developing an ability to forecast problem areas, combined with advanced logistical planning by HC-4's experienced maintenance professionals, significantly reduced maintenance repair time and there by returned logistics aircraft to an employable status.

HC-4 maintained a mission capable rate of over 77 percent throughout 1989, while operating the Navy's most complex helicopter. The administrative and maintenance programs were praised by the CNAL inspection as "the top CH-53E squadron programs anywhere".

Morale and quality of life issues for HC-4 personnel remained a high priority during the year. Legislated reductions in manpower and the full integration of women into the Heavy Helicopter Combat Support environment mandated new and perceptive management. The superb team effort supported morale and retention to the proportions warranting the 1989 COMFAIRMED Silver Anchor Award.

Overall, 1989 saw the HC-4 Black Stallions emerge as the CH-53E squadron that exemplifies excellence in operations, maintenance, and retention to all others in the Navy/Marine Corps Team. Our mission and the complexities of maintaining the CH-53 challenged the capabilities, skill, and perseverance of not only the leadership, but also the sailors on the "wrenches".

To preclude duplication of reporting, enclosure (3) has been provided as supporting documentation to the narrative. It includes explanation of the logistics support provided by HC-4 to

the Sixth Fleet Operations. Additionally it contains the pertinent data on operations, maintenance, and retention as well as lessons learned.