



1991 ✓

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

1650  
Code 10

**23 MAR 1992**

**From:** Commanding Officer, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR  
**To:** Director of Naval History (OP 09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC 20374-0571

**Subj:** 1991 COMMAND HISTORY

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

**Encl:** (1) Command Composition, Organization, and Significant Events  
(2) Biography of CDR Richard Tenga  
(3) Biography of CDR Mark H. Dye  
(4) HC-4 CY-91 Battle Efficiency and CNO Safety Awards Submission  
(5) FY91 CINCUSNAVEUR Golden Anchor Award  
(6) Navy Unit Commendation: Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm  
(7) Navy Unit Commendation: Operation Sharp Edge  
(8) Letters of Commendation: Operations Sharp Edge/Desert Shield/Desert Storm/Provide Comfort  
(9) Commanding Officer's Command Goals and Policies  
(10) Navy Expeditionary Medal: Operation Sharp Edge  
(11) Past Command Articles and Memorabilia  
(12) Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Award of Maintenance Chief Petty Officer of the Year for 1991 for AECS(AW) Ronald L. Bugg  
(13) Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing ONE (CHTW-1) 1991 Senior Sea Sailor of the Year Award for AE1(AW) Charles J. Bergstol

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (13) are submitted.

  
R. TENGA

*Logged*

## 1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission: To provide day/night helicopter logistic support to U.S. Sixth Fleet and U.S. Naval forces in Europe and the Mediterranean.

b. Organization and Structure: CINCUSNAVEUR, COMFAIRMED, CINCLANFLT, COMNAVAIRLANT, CONHELWINGSLANT, COMHELTACWING ONE.

### c. Commanding Officers

- (1) 1 January 1991 - 21 June 1991: CDR Arne J. Nelson
- (2) 21 June 1991 - 31 December 1991: CDR Richard Tenga

d. Permanent Duty Station: NAS Sigonella, Sicily, Italy.

e. Aircraft Assigned: Seven Sikorsky CH-53E Helicopters, BUNO's:

- (1) 161532
- (2) 161536
- (3) 161537
- (4) 161538
- (5) 161539
- (6) 161540
- (7) 161988

## 2. Chronology

DATE	EVENT
1 Jan	MEDEVAC 2 patients from USS Saratoga (CV 60) to Antalya, Turkey
1 - 5 Jan	Det to Antalya, Turkey to support USS Saratoga (CV 60), (2 ACFT).
3 Jan	MEDEVAC 2 patients from USS Saratoga (CV 60) to Antalya, Turkey.
1 - 9 Jan	Det to Freetown, Sierra Leone, Operation Sharp Edge, (2 ACFT).
1 Jan - 19 Jan	Det to Hurghada, Egypt to support USS America (CV 66), USS Kennedy (CV 67), USS Saratoga (CV 60), USS Roosevelt (CVN 71), in Red Sea, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, (6 ACFT).
4 Feb	MEDEVAC 1 patient from USS Inchon (LPH 12) to NAS Sigonella.

7 Feb	Transport 50 Soviet, Italian, and U.S. INF Treaty Inspectors to and from Comiso, Sicily.
20 Feb	MEDEVAC one patient from USS Guadalcanal (LPH 7) to NAS Sigonella.
10 Mar	MEDEVAC one patient from USS Saratoga (CV 60) to Hurghada, Egypt.
16 - 21 Mar	Det to Rota, Spain to support USS Kennedy (CV 67), (2 ACFT).
6 Apr - 19 Jul	Det to Incirlik, Turkey to support USS Roosevelt (CVN 71), USS Austin (LPD 4), USS Guadalcanal (LPH 7), USS Forrestal (CV 59) for Operation Provide Comfort, (6 ACFT).
8 Apr	Transported Secretary of State James Baker on fact finding tour in Southern Turkey and Northern Iraq.
22 Apr	MEDEVAC 5 patients from Kurdish outpost to Diyarbakir and Silopi, Turkey.
8 May	MEDEVAC 13 patients to and from Naples, Italy to NAS Sigonella.
16 May	Transport 66 Soviet, Italian, and U.S. INF Treaty Inspectors to and from Comiso, Sicily.
1 - 21 Jun	Det to Rhodes, Greece to support USS Roosevelt (CVN 71).
7 Jun	MEDEVAC 2 patients from Rhodes, Greece to USS Roosevelt (CV 71).
12 - 15 Jun	Det to Souda Bay, Greece to support USS Roosevelt (CV 71), (1 ACFT).
21 Jun	CDR Richard Tenga relieves CDR Arne J. Nelson as Commanding Officer, HELSUPPRON FOUR.
1 - 6 Jul	Det to Rhodes, Greece to support USS Forrestal (CV 59), (2 ACFT).
6 Jul	MEDEVAC 6 patients from USS Ponce (LPD 15) to NAS Sigonella.
15 - 21 Jul	Det to Souda Bay, Greece to provide support for President Bush, (3 ACFT).
19 Jul	SAR for A-6 crew near Souda Bay, Greece.

22 Jul - 2 Aug	Det to Rhodes, Greece to support USS Forrestal (CV 59), (2 ACFT).
26 - 31 Aug	Det to Alexandria, Egypt to support USS Forestal (CV 59), (2 ACFT).
6 Sept - 3 Oct	Det to Palma, Spain to support USS Forrestal (CV 59), (2 ACFT).
26 Sept	Externalled 16,000 lb. targeting van from an island off Sicily to Pachino Target Range.
26 Sep - 31 Oct	Det to Antalya, Turkey, Izmir, Turkey and Souda Bay, Greece to support USS Forrestal (CV 59) and USS Wasp (LHD 1) in Display Determination, (2 ACFT).
6 Oct	Medevac three patients for USS Inchon (LPH 12) to NAS Sigonella.
9 Oct	MEDEVAC one patient from USS Wasp (LHD 1) to Cigli, Turkey.
28 Oct	SAR for Greek sailboat, near Souda Bay, Greece.
3 - 6 Nov	Det to Hyeres, France to support USS Forrestal (CV 59), (1 ACFT).
4 - 9 Nov	Det to Rome, Italy to support President Bush for NATO Summit, (2 ACFT).
19 - 23 Nov	Det to Palma, Spain to support USS Forrestal (CV 59), (2 ACFT).
2 Dec	Escorted two H-46's on weapons movement.
3 - 19 Dec	Det to Rota and Palma, Spain to support USS Inchon (LPH 12), USS Forrestal (CV 59) and USS America (CV 66) CV turnover, (2 ACFT).
14 Dec	MEDEVAC one patient from USS America (CV 66) to Rota, Spain.

### 3. Narrative

Calendar year 1991 saw HC-4 involved in the most demanding operational period since Vietnam, exceeding all previous years' statistics through combat proven sustained performance. January 1991 saw the Black Stallions completing seven months of support in Africa during Operation Sharp Edge while simultaneously supporting Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia. The squadron then shifted to supporting Operation Desert Storm, HC-4 found itself taking on the largest humanitarian relief effort in history, Operation Provide Comfort. HC-4 pushed its people and aircraft to their absolute limit, exceeding every operational requirement. We stressed command excellence in every facet of squadron operations and were able to exceed CNO's goals in every category - aircraft maintenance, operations, safety and retention.

Operationally, the Black Stallions of HC-4 continued to be the most effective logistics squadron in the Navy. January began with the drawdown and closeout of Operation Sharp Edge from Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa, where HC-4 conducted unprecedented Secretary of State tasking in support of civilian refugee evacuation operations from the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Simultaneously, with a third detachment deployed to Turkey supporting the USS Saratoga CVBG, HC-4 again demonstrated unparalleled operational readiness and tactical flexibility by rapidly self-lifting its Desert Shield detachment in Saudi Arabia to a remote airhead in Hurghada, Egypt to improve operational efficiency in preparation for Desert Storm. During Desert Storm, HC-4 provided 24 hour daily combat logistics to three CV Battle Groups, a Surface Action Group and two Combat Logistics Force ships while working in a primitive and arduous desert environment.

In the first quarter of FY 91 alone, HC-4 flew an unprecedented 1,023 hours, transported 5,200 passengers, and moved 3.8 million pounds of mail and cargo. All told, for 1991, HC-4 flew an incredible 3013.3 flight hours, transported 12,839 passengers and lifted more than 8 million pounds of mail and cargo. In addition, 2 INF Treaty Inspection missions, 2 Presidential Support missions, and one Humanitarian mission, whole deploying 288 calendar days.

With the swift conclusion of Desert Storm, HC-4 found itself aiding the humanitarian efforts, spawned by the unexpected Iraqi Civil War, by providing life saving supplies directly to the Kurdish refugees fleeing into the rugged mountains of Northern Iraq. Throughout the four months of Operation Provide Comfort, HC-4 Served as the primary source of air transportation for high priority medical assistance teams, numerous visiting U.S. and foreign dignitaries, the media and special NATO units of the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force.

While maintaining an intense operational tempo in 1991, HC-4 sustained a mission completion rate of 98%, an aircraft capable rate of 70.4%, and an aircraft utilization rate of 40.3 flight hours/month. The administrative and maintenance teams have been praised as the "best in COMFAIRMED" and were heralded as the "standard for all the fleet to follow" during the COMFAIRMED immediate Superior in Command Inspection (ISIC).

Morale and quality of life issues remained a high priority during the year for HC-4 personnel. The increase in detachment requirements and the rise in workload saw members spending many weeks apart from their families. This coupled with the imminent danger to detachment personnel in Sharp Edge, Desert Shield/Storm and Provide Comfort, threatened the morale of squadron members and their families. HC-4 responded to the concerns of its members by sponsoring numerous command functions and Commanding Officer Calls to gather the Black Stallion family together. These efforts worked to greatly increase morale and retention to levels resulting in HC-4 winning the 1991 CINCUSNAVEUR Golden Anchor Award.

Overall, 1991 saw HC-4 personnel and aircraft playing critical roles in the success of American Foreign Policy. No other Navy or Marine Corps unit endured the rare challenges of providing combat logistics support while operating in the tropical African jungles, arid Egyptian Deserts, and rugged Asian mountainlands. As the initial Naval Aviation presence in Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Northern Iraq, the Black Stallions overcame all hardships with aggressive training, insightful planning, creative long range communications, ever present safety vigilance, and extraordinary flexibility to meet short-fuzed mission requirements.

Enclosure (4) has been provided as supporting documentation to this narrative. It includes explanation of the logistics support provided by HC-4 to Sixth Fleet Operations. Additionally, it contains the pertinent data on operations, maintenance, retention, and lessons learned.



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

Encl (4)

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650

Ser 00/150

20 DEC 1991

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR  
To: Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing ONE  
Subj: SUBMISSION OF CY 91 BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD AND CNO ANNUAL AVIATION SAFETY AWARDS

Ref: (a) COMHFLTACWING ONE 051920ZNOV91  
(b) COMNAVAIRLANTINST 1650.3C

Encl: (1) Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four Battle "E" Input

1. Per references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is forwarded.
2. In 1990, HC-4 was selected as the most "Battle Efficient" east coast HC squadron; in 1991 HC-4 exceeded all previous "Battle Efficiency" statistics and did it through combat proven sustained performance during the most demanding operational period since Vietnam. We prepared for war, we went to war and won, then when others returned home to celebrate, HC-4 took on the largest humanitarian relief effort in history - "Operation Provide Comfort." We put our people and aircraft to their absolute limit, exceeding every ROC and POE requirement, and we did it flawlessly. We stressed command excellence in every facet of operating a squadron and were able to exceed CNO's goals in every category - aircraft maintenance, operations, safety and retention.
3. January 1991 began with the drawdown and close out of Operation Sharp Edge from Freetown, Africa where HC-4 conducted seven months of unprecedented SEC STATE tasking in support of civilian refugee evacuation operations from the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Simultaneously, with a third detachment deployed to Turkey supporting the USS SARATOGA CVBG, HC-4 again demonstrated unparalleled operational readiness and tactical flexibility by rapidly self-lifting its Desert Shield detachment in Saudi Arabia to a remote airhead in Hurgada, Egypt to improve operational efficiency in preparation for Desert Storm. Within 48 hours, tents housing maintenance control, workshops, berthing and sanitary facilities were erected and the first CV overhead was made.
4. When Desert Shield ragged into Storm on 16 January, HC-4 was providing 24 hour daily combat logistics to three CVBGs, a SAC and two CLF ships while working in a primitive and arduous desert environment. Even with the benefit of relocating 350 NM closer to the Red Sea battle groups, HC-4 flew an unprecedented 1,023 hours, transported 5,200 passengers and moved 3.8 million pounds of mail and cargo in first quarter CY 91, second quarter was equally impressive.
5. With the war's swift conclusion and the humanitarian urgency spawned by the unexpected Iraqi civil war, HC-4 was seen on virtually every television and newspaper worldwide, when literally thrust into the mission of providing mammoth amounts of life saving supplies directly to the desperate Kurdish refugees fleeing into the rugged mountains of Northern Iraq. In the earliest days of the crisis, HC-4 responded within 24 hours to the personal request of

Subj: SUBMISSION OF CY 91 BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD AND CNO ANNUAL AVIATION  
SAFETY AWARDS

Secretary of State Baker by flying him on a challenging fact finding mission into Northern Iraq to survey the situation. His mission evolved into the foreign policy commitment known as Operation Provide Comfort. The single most demanding mission flown was the flawlessly planned and executed evacuation of 30 pregnant women from zones 350 NM deep into Northern Iraq. Although faced with the challenges of aerial refueling in turbulent marginal VFR weather and precise low level navigation, a total of 65 refugees were rescued, including two comatose patients, 13 children and 6 newborns. Throughout the four month operation, HC-4 served as the primary source of air transportation for high priority medical assistance teams, numerous visiting U.S. and foreign dignitaries, the media and special NATO units of the multinational peacekeeping force.

6. Shifting from 14 months of continuous high tempo operations, HC-4 achieved C-1 TRED status in all categories before resuming normal Mediterranean operations in August. In addition, flight hour utilization and TRED currency was fine tuned for maximum efficiency to comply with an increasingly reduced flight hour budget of the new fiscal year.

7. In summary, the Black Stallions of HC-4 broke every operational and maintenance record in squadron history and aced every inspection (MCI, PMAFAT, NATOPS, SAFETY-HAZMAT), took care of our people - improved retention, and most importantly, did it without injuries. No other Navy or Marine Corps unit endured the rare challenges of providing combat logistic support while operating in tropical African jungles, arid deserts, and rugged mountainlands with such success. HC-4's ability to achieve this pinnacle of the H-53 community was even more remarkable considering personnel shortfalls, arduous non-stop detachments, primitive field facilities, 6,000 mile parts resupply pipeline, nonexistent on-site I-level repair capability and hazardous deployment environments. As the initial Naval Aviation presence in Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Northern Iraq, the Black Stallions overcame all hardships with aggressive training, insightful planning, creative long range communications, ever present safety vigilance, and with extraordinary flexibility to meet short-fused mission requirements. HC-4's unbreakable team spirit and outstanding production effort provided swift, innovative solutions to every problem to ensure 98 percent mission accomplishment during a calendar year of unprecedented national activity. In a year that will be remembered for years to come as the most turbulent in "H" ever awarded, commemorating a year of historic conflict and operational transition, HC-4 is most deserving to repeat as the 1991 COMNAVAIRLANT/COMHELTAACWING ONE Battle Efficiency Award Winner.

  
R. TENGA

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**HELICOPTER COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON FOUR**

**1. ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMBAT READINESS.**

**A. FLIGHT HOURS:**

- (1) TOTAL HOURS: 3,013.3
- (2) TOTAL DAY HOURS/PERCENT OF TOTAL: 2,851.0/94.6%
- (3) TOTAL NIGHT HOURS/PERCENT OF TOTAL: 162.3/5.4%
- (4) DEPLOYED/EMBARKED HRS/PERCENT OF TOTAL:  
2,097.7/5.1/69.8%
- (5) DEPLOYED/EMBARKED DAY HRS/PERCENT OF TOTAL EMBARKED  
HRS: 2,030.7/2.2/96.9%
- (6) DEPLOYED/EMBARKED NIGHT HRS/PERCENT OF TOTAL  
EMBARKED HRS: 67.0/2.9/3.1%
- (7) UTILIZATION RATE PER MONTH/AVERAGE FOR YEAR:  
CY 91 AVG: 40.3 (CMO GOAL: 42.0 HC-4 ROC/POE)  
FOR BREAKDOWN BY MONTH SEE PARAGRAPH 2.C.

**B. MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- (1) NUMBER OF PAX/TONS OF INTERNAL CARGO/POUNDS OF MAIL:  
PAX - 12,839; CARGO - 3,313.7; MAIL - 1,451,100
- (2) TONS OF VERTREP CARGO: 156.85
- (3) SAR MISSIONS: 2
  - (A) 19 JUL 91, SAR FOR A-6 CREW NEAR SOUDA BAY, GR.
  - (B) 28 OCT 91, SAR FOR GREEK SAILBOAT, NEAR SOUDA BAY, GR.
- (4) MEDEVAC MISSIONS/PATIENTS: 12/36
  - (A) 01 JAN 91, MEDEVAC 2 PATIENTS FROM USS SARATOGA TO ANTALYA, TU.
  - (B) 03 JAN 91, MEDEVAC 2 PATIENTS FROM USS SARATOGA TO ANTALYA, TU.
  - (C) 04 FEB 91, MEDEVAC 1 PATIENT FROM USS INCHON TO NAS SIGONELLA.
  - (D) 20 FEB 91, MEDEVAC 1 PATIENT FROM USS GUADALCANAL TO NAS SIGONELLA.

Encl (1)

- (E) 10 MAR 91, MEDEVAC 1 PATIENT FROM USS SARATOGA TO HURGHADA EG.
- (F) 22 APR 91, MEDEVAC 3 PATIENTS FROM ZONE 4, 2 PATIENTS TO DIYARBAKIR, ONE TO SILOPI
- (G) 08 MAY 91, MEDEVAC 13 PATIENTS 4 TO AND 9 FROM NAPLES TO NAS SIGONELLA.
- (H) 07 JUN 91, MEDEVAC 2 PATIENTS FROM RHODES TO USS ROOSEVELT.
- (I) 06 JUL 91, MEDEVAC 6 PATIENTS FROM USS PONCE TO NAS SIGONELLA.
- (J) 06 OCT 91, MEDEVAC 3 PATIENTS FROM USS INCHON TO NAS SIGONELLA.
- (K) 09 OCT 91, MEDEVAC 1 PATIENT FROM USS WASP TO CIGLI TU.
- (L) 14 DEC 91, MEDEVAC 1 PATIENT FROM USS AMERICA TO ROTA, SP
- (5) INF MISSIONS: 2
  - (A) 7 FEB 91, TRANSPORT 50 SOVIET, ITALIAN, AND U.S. INSPECTORS TO AND FROM COMISO.
  - (B) 16 MAY 91, TRANSPORT 66 SOVIET, ITALIAN, AND U.S. INSPECTORS TO AND FROM COMISO.
- (6) HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS:
  - (A) OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT - 06 APR-19 JUL, CARRIED 4018 PAX INCLUDING 65 NEO'S, 114,800 LBS OF MAIL, AND 1,012,300 LBS OF CARGO INTO THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN TURKEY AND NORTHERN IRAQ.
- (7) SIGNIFICANT VERTREPS:
  - (A) 26 SEP - EXTERNALED 16,000 LB TARGETING VAN FROM AN ISLAND OFF SICILY TO PACHINO
- (8) EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:
  - (A) 19 JUL PROVIDED AIR SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BUSH IN SOUDA BAY, GREECE.
  - (B) 08 APR ESCORTED SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER ON FACT FINDING TOUR IN SOUTHERN TURKEY.
  - (C) 06-08 NOV PROVIDED AIR SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BUSH IN ROME, ITALY.

**(9) SPECEAL WEAPONS MOVEMENTS:**

**(A) 02 DEC ESCORTED TWO H-46'S ON WEAPONS MOVEMENT.**

**C. DECK LANDINGS:**

**(1) TOTAL DECK LANDINGS: 939**

**(2) DAY DECK LANDINGS/PERCENT OF TOTAL: 856/91%**

**(3) NIGHT DECK LANDINGS/PERCENT OF TOTAL: 83/9%**

**(4) DAY LANDINGS ASHORE: 4,058**

**(5) NIGHT LANDING ASHORE: 686**

**D. OPTAR MANAGEMENT BY QUARTER AND CALENDAR YEAR:**

**(1) FLIGHT HOURS GRANTED/FLIGHT HOURS USED/PERCENT UTILIZATION:**

**(A) FIRST QTR CY 91: 1202/1022.7/85.1%**

**(B) SECOND QTR CY 91: 1251/1006.2/80.4%**

**(C) THIRD QTR CY 91: 630/477.0/75.5%**

**(D) FOURTH QTR CY 91: 600/507.4/84.6%**

**(E) CY 91 TOTALS: 3,683/3,013.3/81.8%**

**NOTE: FLIGHT HOUR UTILIZATION NOT MET DUE TO THE ACTUAL COST PER HOUR (CPH) EXCEEDING THE GRANT CPH BY 15%.**

**(2) DOLLARS GRANTED/DOLLARS SPENT/PERCENT UTILIZATION:**

**(A) FIRST QTR CY 91: 683,100.00/683,099.58/100.0%**

**(B) SECOND QTR CY 91: 714,700.00/714,483.84/100.0%**

**(C) THIRD QTR CY 91: 359,500.00/359,086.81/99.9%**

**(D) FOURTH QTR CY 91: 229,100.00/229,000.00/100.0%**

**(E) CY 91 TOTALS: 1,986,400.00/1,985,770.23/100.0%**

**E. FLIGHT CREW READINESS:**

**(1) AVERAGE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS/AIRCREW ON BOARD: 6/26/22**

**(2) AVERAGE NUMBER OF FLIGHT CREW PERSONNEL ON BOARD BY CREW POSITION:**

- (A) HAC: 16
- (B) H2P: 8
- (C) PQM: 2
- (D) CREW CHIEF: 10
- (E) SECOND CREWMAN: 4
- (F) AIRCREW TRAINEE: 8
- (3) NUMBER OF FLIGHT CREW DESIGNATIONS GRANTED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR:
- (A) HAC: 8
- (B) H2P: 8
- (C) CREW CHIEF: 9 (6 INITIAL)
- (D) SECOND CREWMEN: 8
- (4) PLANE CAPTAINS TRAINED: 21
- (5) ORDNANCE EXPENDED/PERCENT OF ALLOWANCE:
- (A) L554, MK 25 SAR MARKERS: 46/100%
- L580, MK 58 SAR MARKERS: 18/100%
- NW 20, CHAFF: 250/100%
- LW 60, MK 46 FLARES: 200/100%
- A400, .38 CAL: 1000/100%
- AO71, 5.56MM: 100/100%
- (B) 21 PERSONNEL QUALIFIED USING .38 CAL PISTOL
- 17 PERSONNEL QUALIFIED FOR ORDNANCE STORAGE AND INSTALLATION.
- 4 PERSONNEL QUALIFIED USING M16-A1 RIFLE.

**F. DEPLOYMENTS/DETACHMENTS:**

(1)	LOCATION	DATES	NUMBER OF CH-53E'S	PURPOSE
(A)	ANTALYA, TURKEY	01-05 JAN	TWO	USS SARATOGA IN PORT VISIT
(B)	FREETOWN, SERRA LEON.	01-09 JAN	TWO	OPERATION SHARP EDGE
(C)	HURGHADA, EGYPT	01 JAN- 19 APR	SIX	USS AMERICA, KENNEDY SARATOGA, ROOSEVELT, RED SEA OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM

(D)	ROTA, SPAIN	16-21 MAR	TWO	USS KENNEDY, SARATOGA IN PORT VISIT
(E)	INCIRLIK, TURKEY	06 APR- 19 JUL	SIX	USS ROOSEVELT, AUSTAN GUADALCANAL, FORESTAL OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT
(F)	RHODES, GREECE	01-21 JUN	TWO	USS ROOSEVELT IN PORT VISIT
(G)	SOUDA BAY, GREECE	12-15 JUN	ONE	USS ROOSEVELT IN PORT VISIT
(H)	RHODES, GREECE	01-06 JUL	TWO	USS FORESTAL IN PORT VISIT
(I)	SOUDA BAY, GREECE	15-21 JUL	THREE	PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
(J)	RHODES, GREECE	22 JUL- 02 AUG	TWO	USS FORESTAL IN PORT VISIT
(K)	ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT	26-31 AUG	TWO	USS FORESTAL IN PORT VISIT
(L)	PALMA, SPAIN	06 SEP- 03 OCT	TWO	USS FORESTAL IN PORT VISIT
(M)	ANTALYA, TU. 26 SEP- IZMAR, TU. 31 OCT SOUDA BAY, GR.		TWO	USS FORESTAL, WASP IN PORT VISITS AND DISPLAY DETERMINATION
(N)	HYERES, FRANCE	03-06 NOV	ONE	USS FORESTAL IN PORT VISIT
(O)	ROME, ITALY	04-09 NOV	TWO	PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
(P)	PALMA, SPAIN	19-23 NOV	TWO	USS FORESTAL IN PORT VISIT
(Q)	ROTA, SPAIN PALMA, SPAIN	03-19 DEC	TWO	USS INCHON, FORESTAL, AMERICA CV TURNOVER AND IN PORT VISIT

(2) EXERCISES:

(A) DISPLAY DETERMINATION, 01-16 OCT.

(3) DAYS EMBARKED/DETACHED:

(A) CALENDAR DAYS DEPLOYED: 288

(B) DETACHMENT DAYS DEPLOYED: 372

(C) DETACHMENT DAYS EMBARKED: 10

2. ACHIEVEMENTS IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS READINESS, MATERIAL READINESS:

HC-4 MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVE AIRCRAFT MAINTAINABILITY THROUGHOUT THE FLEET WITH PROACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN NAMDRP, MILCAP AND RAMEC PROGRAMS. NAMDRP REPORTING INCREASED BY 100% AND INCLUDED 31 TPDRS, 17 HMRS, 15 EIS, AND 5 QDRS. MILCAP SUGGESTIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR FIVE DIFFERENT PROPOSALS. ONE SUGGESTION HAS BEEN INCORPORATED LOCALLY AND ALLOWS FOR I-LEVEL REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF POTENTIOMETERS ON THE TRIPLE TORQUE INDICATING SYSTEM. THIS COST EFFECTIVE ACTION ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR MANUFACTURER REPAIR, PROVIDES RAPID TURNAROUND, AND REDUCES BACKLOGS ON A SCARCE SUPPLY ITEM. A HC-4 PROPOSED RAMEC FOR MOVING ENGINE TOPPING AND TUNING CABLES TO THE GROUND IDLE ADJUSTMENT PORT IS PENDING COMNAVAIRSYS COM APPROVAL. THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY HMX-1 AND ALLOWS GROUND IDLE ADJUSTMENTS FROM WITHIN THE CABIN WHILE THE MAIN ROTOR HEAD IS ON LINE - A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO SAFETY AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE MAN HOURS. AS THE TEST SQUADRON FOR H-53 ACTIVATES, HC-4 CONTINUES EVALUATING AND VALIDATING THE USE OF SNAP IN BEARINGS FOR PITCH CHANGE RODS ON THE MAIN ROTOR HEAD. THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT OF HC-4 REMAINS THE INNOVATION LEADER IN THE CH53E COMMUNITY.

A. PERCENT MISSION CAPABLE (MC): (CNO GOAL 70% MC/60% FMC)

	MC	FMC
JAN	77.2%	71.4%
FEB	55.8%	55.7%
MAR	75.2%	75.2%
APR	86.2%	86.1%
MAY	54.7%	51.3%
JUN	66.0%	57.2%
JUL	72.1%	65.0%
AUG	65.1%	50.5%
SEP	60.6%	52.3%
OCT	79.9%	76.4%
NOV	72.1%	48.3%
DEC	79.4%	75.0%

CY 91 AVG: 70.4%/63.7%

B. PERCENT NON-MISSION CAPABLE MAINTENANCE (NMCM):

JAN	10.5%
FEB	15.5%
MAR	5.5%
APR	4.3%
MAY	11.9%
JUN	17.9%
JUL	14.6%

CY 91 AVG: 13.5%

AUG	20.1%
SEP	22.6%
OCT	12.8%
NOV	13.8%
DEC	12.1%

**C. AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION RATE: (CNO GOAL 42.0 HRS/MO)**

JAN	54.9
FEB	43.0
MAR	48.2
APR	55.1
MAY	48.6
JUN	41.0
JUL	29.8
AUG	31.5
SEP	27.6
OCT	30.2
NOV	35.5
DEC	38.3

**CY 91 AVG: 40.3**

**D. A-799 PERCENTAGE:**

JAN	2.1%
FEB	2.8%
MAR	1.7%
APR	2.8%
MAY	4.1%
JUN	2.3%
JUL	2.2%
AUG	1.5%
SEP	1.4%
OCT	1.8%
NOV	2.0%
DEC	1.8%

**CY 91 AVG: 2.2%**

**E. FOD RATE:**

JAN	0
FEB	0
MAR	0
APR	0
MAY	0
JUN	0
JUL	0
AUG	1
SEP	0
OCT	0
NOV	1
DEC	0

**CY 91 AVG: 0.2**

**F. AVERAGE CANNIBALIZATION RATE: (PARTS/100 FH)**

JAN	4.9
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FEB	11.0
MAR	3.2
APR	6.7
MAY	13.8
JUN	11.3
JUL	16.0
AUG	2.5
SEP	12.9
OCT	2.8
NOV	2.2
DEC	1.3

CY 91 AVG: 7.4

**G. SPECIAL INTEREST AIRCRAFT:**

JAN	0
FEB	0
MAR	0
APR	0
MAY	0
JUN	0
JUL	0
AUG	0
SEP	0
OCT	0
NOV	0
DEC	0

CY 91 AVG: 0

**3. ACHIEVEMENTS IN AVIATION SAFETY:**

A. ALPHA F/FR/AG MISHAPS: NONE

B. BRAVO F/FR/AG MISHAPS: 1 CLASS B FRM, 26 JAN 91 - UNCOMMANDED JETTISON OF T56 ENGINE DURING DUAL POINT EXTERNAL LIFT. 1 CLASS B FM, 23 APR 91- ACFT EXPERIENCED HARD LANDING IN MOUNTAIN LZ.

C. TOTAL NUMBER OF AVIATION RELATED FATALITIES: NONE

D. NUMBER OF AVIATION HAZARD REPORTS SUBMITTED: 8-TOTAL; 2-SEVERE, 6-ROUTINE. ADDITIONAL SAFETY REPORTS SUBMITTED: HMR - 18; QDR - 5; TPDR - 26; EMR - 2; REQUEST EI - 18.

E. RATIO OF TOTAL NUMBER OF LOST WORK DAYS DUE TO ACCIDENTAL INJURIES REPORTABLE UNDER OPNAVINST 5102.1 DIVIDED BY AVERAGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS/ENLISTED PERSONNEL ON BOARD: 8/184 = .04

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF NATOPS CHANGES SUBMITTED: 32 (23 APPROVED AT ANNUAL NATOPS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING NWP CHANGES. HIGHEST NUMBER OF CHANGES APPROVED AT CONFERENCE)



- G. SPECIAL AWARDS: COMNAVIAIRLANT EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE ALPHA MISHAP FREE YEAR CERTIFICATE.
- H. CHARLIE F/FR/AG MISHAPS: NONE
- I. FOD RATE: 0.2
- J. TOTAL NUMBER OF TFOAS: 4
- K. SAFETY RELATED ARTICLES SUBMITTED/SAFETY RELATED ARTICLES PUBLISHED: 5/5
- L. CNAL PROS OF THE WEEK SELECTED: 8 SUBMITTED, 2 SELECTED
- M. TOTAL NUMBER OF SQUADRON WIDE SAFETY STANDOWNS HELD: 4  
4 JAN, 24 APR, 21 AUG, 13 NOV. THREE ADDITIONAL SAFETY STANDOWNS CONDUCTED AT SQUADRON DET SITES IN HURGHADA EGYPT DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM IN FEB, AND AT INCIRLIK, TU DURING OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT IN MARCH AND JUNE. ADDITIONALLY, UTILIZED NAVSAFCEN PERSONNEL TO PRESENT A MAINTENANCE MALPRACTICE PRESENTATION ON 31 JUL 91 AT SQUADRON.
- N. SAFETY PROGRAM NARRATIVE: HC-4 HAS A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PROGRAM THAT IS BASED ON ALL HANDS PARTICIPATION AND OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION. KEY ELEMENTS INCLUDE:
- (1) ENLISTED SAFETY COMMITTEE (ESC): CHAIRED BY THE COMMAND SAFETY PETTY OFFICER, THE ESC CONSISTS OF WORK CENTER SAFETY PETTY OFFICERS FROM EACH DIVISION. THE ESC MEETS MONTHLY TO IDENTIFY, DISCUSS, AND RECOMMEND CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR SAFETY RELATED TOPICS.
  - (2) AVIATION SAFETY COUNCIL (ASC): CHAIRED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE ASC IS COMPRISED OF CO, DEPARTMENT HEADS, AVIATION SAFETY OFFICER, SQUADRON FLIGHT OFFICER, AND SQUADRON FLIGHT SURGEON. THE ASC MEETS MONTHLY TO FORMULATE PROGRAM GOALS/POLICY AND ADDRESS ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO SQUADRON SAFETY.
  - (3) QA AUDIT TEAM - HEADED BY A SENIOR SQUADRON QAR, THE QA AUDIT TEAM IS TASKED WITH ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDIZED MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES AT DETACHMENT SITES. A COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT OF ALL EXTENDED DETACHMENTS MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS ARE CONDUCTED ON A 60 DAY CYCLE.
  - (4) DETACHMENT CORROSION TEAM - SPECIALIZED MAINTENANCE TEAM TASKED WITH ENSURING DEPLOYED SQUADRON AIRCRAFT RECEIVE PROPER INSPECTIONS AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR CORROSION ON 90 DAY CYCLE.

- (5) **TRAINING: A HIGH LEVEL OF SAFETY AWARENESS IS MAINTAINED THROUGH REGULARLY SCHEDULED SAFETY TRAINING. SPECIFIC ITEMS INCLUDE:**
- (A) **WEEKLY PILOT/AIRCREW NATOPS TRAINING AND MISHAP/HAZREP DEBRIEFED AT SQUADRON AOM'S.**
  - (B) **WEEKLY GENERAL SAFETY TRAINING INCORPORATED ON MONTHLY MAINTENANCE PLAN. TOPICS INCLUDE FIRST AID/CPR, SHOP SAFETY, FOD PREVENTION, FIRE SAFETY, DRIVING SAFETY, FLIGHT LINE HAZARDS, RECREATION SAFETY, TOOL CONTROL, AND HAZMAT HANDLING.**
  - (C) **MONTHLY ALL HANDS SAFETY TRAINING CONDUCTED THROUGH GMT PROGRAM.**
  - (D) **QUARTERLY SAFETY STAND DOWNS. ADDITIONAL DET SAFETY STAND DOWNS ARE CONDUCTED ON DETS OF 30 DAYS OR LONGER.**
  - (E) **ANNUAL NAVOSH TRAINING CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HEARING AND SIGHT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS, PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR PROGRAM, BACK INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL PROGRAM. FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING CONDUCTED THROUGH OUT YEAR HAS RESULTED IN 28 PERSONNEL QUALIFIED IN RED CROSS CPR.**
  - (F) **FUNCTIONAL CHECK PILOT TRAINING - CONDUCTED SPECIAL ONE WEEK TRAINING SESSION WITH SIKORSKY HEAD TEST PILOT JACK CARSON CONSISTING OF GROUND LECTURES AND IN FLIGHT PROCEDURES FOR ALL CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PCP PILOTS.**
- (6) **COMMUNICATION: OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE ESSENTIAL FOR AN EFFECTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM AND ARE MAINTAINED BY THE FOLLOWING:**
- (A) **OPEN DOOR POLICY OF CO, XO, AND SAFETY OFFICER.**
  - (B) **CO SUGGESTION BOX. DIRECT INPUT TO CO WHILE MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY OF SENDER.**
  - (C) **STALLION SAFETY SUGGESTION BOX - AWARDS GIVEN FOR BEST MONTHLY AND ANNUAL SAFETY SUGGESTIONS.**
  - (D) **POD, SAFETY BOARD, REQUIRED READING BOARDS.**
  - (E) **SAFETY SURVEYS/SAFETY QUESTIONNAIRES. CONDUCTED TWO SAFETY SURVEYS UTILIZING NAVSAFCEN 3750 P SERIES CHECK LIST DURING CY 91. ONE IN HOUSE DURING JULY, SECOND CONDUCTED BY VP-10 SAFETY OFFICER IN NOV.**

- (F) MONTHLY SAFETY SUMMARY REPORTS. A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT IAW COMNAVAIRLANTINST 5100.31 SUBMITTED TO COMFAIRMED KEEPS THE UPPER CHAIN OF COMMAND INFORMED OF CURRENT SAFETY TRENDS/STATUS.
- (G) WEEKLY AOM/QUARTERS.
- (7) HAZARD IDENTIFICATION/REPORTING: TIMELY, ACCURATE REPORTING OF GROUND OR AVIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS PER CURRENT DIRECTIVES ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY A SQUADRON SAFETY LOG DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND RECORD INCIDENTS THAT DO NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS OF FORMAL REPORTS.
- (8) SAFETY INSPECTIONS:
  - (A) OUTSTANDING RESULTS ON ANNUAL NAVOSH INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY NAS SIGONELLA SAFETY PERSONNEL.
  - (B) SQUADRON'S HAZMAT PROGRAM SELECTED BY CO NAS SIGONELLA TO REPRESENT BASE IMPROMPTU SITE INSPECTION BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEADED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.
  - (C) ANNUAL SAFETY SURVEY INSPECTION PROVIDES COMMANDING OFFICER WITH OBJECTIVE VIEW OF OVERALL SAFETY PROGRAM.
  - (D) DAILY WALK THROUGH INSPECTIONS BY GROUND SAFETY OFFICER AND COMMAND SAFETY PETTY OFFICER ENSURES A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT IS BEING MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT SQUADRON.

**4. ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMMAND INSPECTIONS:**

- A. GRADE FOR ISIC COMMAND INSPECTION: NONE CONDUCTED
- B. NTPI/DNSI: N/A
- C. SQUADRON CORROSION INSPECTIONS: RECEIVED OVERALL GRADE OF SATISFACTORY DURING COMFAIRMED AIRCRAFT MATERIAL CONDITION/SPECIAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS AUDIT. SUBJECTIVE GRADES OF EXCELLENT RECEIVED ON NDI AND TIRE AND WHEEL PROGRAMS.
- D. COMNAVAIRLANT PIT/PAT INSPECTION: 21-25 OCT. THE HC-4 MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL AND WELL ESTABLISHED, WITH KEY PLAYERS IN PLACE, MAKING THE ENTIRE MAINTENANCE EFFORT A SMOOTH PROCESS. MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING, WITH KHAKI SUPPORT EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT.
- E. NATOPS EVALUATION: 02-06 DEC. RECEIVED OBJECTIVE GRADE OF SATISFACTORY AND A SUBJECTIVE GRADE OF OUTSTANDING

FROM COMNAVAIRLANT NATOPS EVALUATOR. NATOPS ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WERE DESCRIBED AS EXCEPTIONAL. THE PILOT AND AIRCREW PROFICIENCY WAS DESCRIBED AS "THE BEST IN THE COMMUNITY."

5. ACHIEVEMENTS IN PERSONNEL READINESS:

A. RETENTION:

	ELIGIBLE	NOT ELIGIBLE	NUMBER REENLISTED	GROSS/NET%	CY 91 NAVY AVG
FIRST TERM	24	1	14	56/58	41.4/60.8
SECOND TERM	4	0	4	100/100	58.1/65.9
CAREER	9	0	9	100/100	71.4/94.3

B. ADVANCEMENT:

(1) CYCLE (131 MAR)

	E-4	E-5	E-6
ELIGIBLE TIS/TIR	35	21	24
NO. TAKING EXAM	35	21	24
NO. NOT RECOMMENDED	0	0	0
NO. SELECTED	16	3	1
NO. PNA	19	17	23

(2) CYCLE (132 SEP)

	E-4	E-5	E-6
ELIGIBLE TIS/TIR	33	25	21
NO. TAKING EXAM	29	25	20
NO. NOT RECOMMENDED	0	0	0
NO. SELECTED	3	5	2
NO. PNA	26	20	18

C. ONE YEAR OR GREATER PRD EXTENSION REQUESTS: 30

D. HUMAN RESOURCES: QUARTERLY CAPTAIN'S CALLS ARE HELD FOR SQUADRON ENLISTED PERSONNEL. THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND OMBUDSMAN ARE ACTIVE IN KEEPING DEPENDENTS INFORMED. ALL LEVELS OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND MAKE CONTINUAL REAPPRAISALS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES AFFECTING THE SQUADRON.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS TO TACTICAL DEVELOPMENTS SUBMITTED:

A. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED:

- (1) CH-53E WEATHER RADAR. (PENDING)
- (2) BROOKS PERKINS PALLET LOADING SYSTEM. (PENDING)
- (3) ISRAELI QUICK RIG TROOP SEATS. TOR APPROVED.
- (4) ARC-182 VHF/UHF/FM RADIO INSTALLATION.

(5) ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF BLOCK UPGRADES.

**B. OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IMPLEMENTED:**

- (1) TRIWALLED CARGO WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE CV DECK TIME, RESULTING IN A 50% TURNAROUND TIME, CONTRIBUTING DIRECTLY TO SORTIE RESPOT AND LAUNCH EFFICIENCY.
- (2) USED COMBAT LOGISTICS FORCE (CLF) SHIPS, WHENEVER AVAILABLE, AS AN INTERIM DELIVERY PLATFORM FOR CV CARGO. TACTIC PROVED AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS BY REDUCING THE IMPACT OF THE MASSIVE DECK FOOTPRINT OF THE CH-53E HELICOPTER ON CV OPERATIONS AND ALLOWING THE CV TO REMAIN ON STATION LONGER.
- (3) SPEARHEADED THE USE OF THE COMFAIRMED/ASCOMED FORWARD LOGISTIC SUPPORT SITE (FLSS) OIC. PROVIDED SINGLE SOURCE SCHEDULING AUTHORITY TO PRIORITIZE CARGO AND SELECT PREFERRED MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAXIMIZE COMBAT LOGISTICS EFFECTIVENESS.
- (4) DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF CH-53E HELICOPTERS PER CV OVERHEAD. MAXIMIZED CARGO DELIVERED, WHILE REDUCING REQUIRED OVERHEADS TO ONE PER DAY, THEREBY MAXIMIZING CARRIER BATTLE EFFECTIVENESS.

**7. CONTRIBUTIONS TO WEAPONS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT:**

A. HIGHLIGHTED UNDER PARA. 2

**8. ADDITIONAL SQUADRON REMARKS:**

**A. SQUADRON AWARDS/COMMENDATIONS:**

1. 1990 COMNAVAIRLANT BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD: AWARDED MAR 91, FOR RECORD SETTING COMBAT SUPPORT AND UNSURPASSED LOGISTICS SUPPORT FROM THE AFRICAN WEST COAST TO THE RED SEA.
2. NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION: FOR OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD/STORM, AND PROVIDE COMFORT. (SUBMITTED AND FORWARDED).
3. NAVY/MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL: FOR OPERATION SHARP EDGE. (SUBMITTED AND FORWARDED).
4. HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL: FOR OPERATION SHARP EDGE. (SUBMITTED AND FORWARDED).
5. JOINT EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL: FOR OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT. (SUBMITTED AND FORWARDED).

6. USDAO TELAVIV IS 040657Z JAN 91, CARRIER SUPPORT: WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK COGNIZANT PERSONNEL AND EXPRESS OUR HIGH REGARD OF THE LAST AIRHEAD OPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE EVENTS RELATING TO POST FERRY TRAGEDY. HC-4 DET PERSONNEL FLEW MOST PROFESSIONALLY ACCORDING TO OUR IDF COUNTERPARTS. WELL DONE AND THANK YOU.
7. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 101230Z JAN 91, SHARP EDGE WELL DONE: SINCE 28 MAY, WHEN SHARP EDGE BROKE OUT, THE BLACK STALLIONS HAVE PERFORMED MULTIPLE TASKS IN A CONSISTENTLY OUTSTANDING MANNER. THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR THE MOST PROFESSIONAL AND OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL EVOLUTIONS IN THE NON WARTIME HISTORY OF THE US NAVY. YOUR INNOVATION, HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND SUPERB MAINTENANCE, COUPLED WITH COURAGEOUS BUT SAFE FLYING, RESULTED IN THE EVACUATION OF 2500 ENDANGERED PEOPLE. TO EACH OF YOU, TO YOUR LEADERSHIP, AND TO YOU COURAGEOUS AIRCREWS I SAY WELL DONE, GOD SPEED AND GOOD LUCK IN DESERT SHIELD. RADM CRESSY SENDS.
8. CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK 130931Z JAN 91, BRAVO ZULU: AS YOU CONCLUDE SHARP EDGE OPERATIONS, I WANT TO COMMEND EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FINE TEAMS FOR THE SUPERB PERFORMANCE AND EXCEPTIONAL READINESS. YOU HAVE BEEN A VITAL LIFELINE LINK BETWEEN MONROVIA, FREETOWN AND A NUMBER OF OTHER LOCATIONS. YOU RESPONDED SUPERBLY TO A MULTITUDE OF CHALLENGING REQUIREMENTS AND YOU DID IT EFFICIENTLY AND SAFELY. YOUR INGENUITY IN DEALING WITH A UNIQUE SITUATION, YOUR PERSEVERANCE UNDER ARDUOUS LIVING CONDITIONS, AND YOUR PROFESSIONALISM THROUGHOUT WERE EXCEPTIONAL, WELL DONE. ADM HOWE SENDS.
9. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 150954Z JAN 91, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR THE MAGNIFICENT EFFORTS MADE BY ALL IN MOVING THE HOLIDAY MAIL IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS 1990. MED MAIL VOLUME WAS UP 58% OVER LAST YEAR DO IN LARGE TO OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. THE TEAM MOVED 2,578,000 POUNDS OF MAIL TO SHIPMATES FROM WESTERN AFRICA TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EVENTUALLY "CLEARED THE BEACH" IN THE MED/RED SEAS OF ALL FLEET-BOUND MAIL BY CHRISTMAS EVE.
10. AMEMBASSY FREETOWN SL 160855Z JAN 91, RECOGNITION OF NAVY SUPPORT: THE SUCCESS OF THE EVACUATION AND RESUPPLY OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MONROVIA HINGED UPON THE PROFESSIONALLY ORCHESTRATED OPERATION OF YOUR FORCES HERE IN FREETOWN. THE REAL HEART OF THE OPERATION WAS THE OUTSTANDING MEN AND WOMEN OF HC-4. NO JOB WAS TOO HARD AS THEY WERE CALLED ON AGAIN AND

AGAIN TO MOVE CARGO, MAIL, AND PASSENGERS FOR US NAVY AND MARINE CORPS UNITS AS WELL AS AMERICAN EMBASSIES HERE AND IN MONROVIA. FLYING INTO ACTIVE FIGHTING IN THE CIVIL WAR THERE TO DELIVER SUPPLIES AND EXTRACT EVACUEES DEMONSTRATES HEROES AND DEDICATION TO DUTY NOT NORMALLY WITNESSED BY ANY EMBASSY STAFFS. I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT THEIR PROFESSIONAL APPROACH WHETHER IN THE AIR, DURING MAINTENANCE, OR ON LIBERTY. THIS UNIT MUST BE ONE OF THE NAVY'S BEST.

11. COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA 161300Z JAN 91, AMERICAN EMBASSY MONROVIA, LIBERIA. THE PERFORMANCE OF HC-4 DET 1 IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EMBASSY MONROVIA, LIBERIA WAS EXEMPLARY AND DESERVING OF THE HIGHEST PRAISE. DESPITE OPERATING FROM AUSTERE FACILITIES IN AN OPPRESSIVE TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM NEAREST LOGISTIC SUPPORT, AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY WAS SUPERB. THE FACT THAT CREWS SAFELY FLEW 583 HRS, TRANSPORTED 5117 PASSENGERS, INCLUDING OVER 1900 NEO EVACUEES, IS EXCEPTIONAL. WELL DONE VADM READY.
12. USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE 041701Z FEB 91, SHARP EDGE. THE BLACK STALLIONS OF HC-4 PERFORMED IN ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID FASHION FOR OVER SIX MONTHS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SHARP EDGE. UNDER EXTREMELY AUSTERE CONDITIONS AT THE FAR END OF A LONG LOGISTICAL PIPELINE. YOU MET THE DEMANDING REQUIREMENTS OF PROVIDING PRIMARY SUPPORT TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY MONROVIA, AND ON-SCENE US FORCES, WHILE CONCURRENTLY TRANSPORTING LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF EVACUEES INTO FREETOWN. THANKS FOR ANOTHER SPLENDID JOB GENERAL JOHN T. GALVIN, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, US EUROPEAN COMMAND.
13. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 061200Z MAR 91, WELL DONE. HISTORY WILL SHOW THAT OUR DECISIVE EFFICIENT VICTORY IN THE GULF WAR WAS IN LARGE PART THE RESULT OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE LOGISTICS BUILDUP AND SUPPORT IN THE HISTORY OF WARFARE. YOUR STALWART EFFORTS AND INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION TO CRITICAL DETAILS ENSURED A SWIFT VICTORY AND SAVED PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN LIVES. YOUR PERSONAL EFFORTS MADE A DIFFERENCE. IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS MISSION YOU ENDURED FAMILY SEPARATION, QUALITY OF LIFE HARDSHIP, AND LIVING STRESS FILLED HOURS. YOUR REWARD IS VICTORY I KNOW THAT I CAN COUNT ON HC-4 TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE AND SUPPORT TO THE FLEET. WELL DONE, KEEP CHARGING RADM CRESSY SENDS.
14. COMSIXTHFLT 112033Z MAR 91, TO HC-4 SUPPORT TO USS BELKNAP/HC-2. THE ASSISTANCE YOU HAVE PROVIDED COMSIXTHFLT, USS BELKNAP, AND HC-2 DET ONE DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS HAS BEEN SUPERB. YOU ENHANCED SIXTH

FLEET FLEXIBILITY AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE EXPEDITIOUS/EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF NUMEROUS DV'S AND KEY PERSONNEL, CARGO, AND THE ALL-IMPORTANT MAIL. YOUR CONTRIBUTION ENHANCED THE READINESS AND MORALE OF BOTH THE SIXTH FLEET STAFF AND USS BELKNAP. BZ TO YOU AND YOUR MOTIVATED PERSONNEL, VADM W. A. OWENS C6F.

15. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 140800Z MAR 91, BATTLE "E." HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE "E." YOU TRULY DESERVE IT. THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN HC-4 DURING OPERATIONS SHARP EDGE, DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM WERE HEROIC AND SUCCESSFUL. MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. RADM CRESSY SENDS.
16. COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT 141946Z MAR 91, BZ UPON USS AMERICAS DEPARTURE. YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS IN PROVIDING LOGISTICS SUPPORT VIA VOD/HEAVYLIFT PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN SUSTAINING AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF AIRWING AND COMBATANT READINESS DURING HOSTILITIES WITH IRAQ. BLACK STALLIONS AIRLINES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING MORE THAN 8,00 PASSENGERS AND ONE AND A HALF MILLION POUNDS OF ESSENTIAL CARGO TO SARATOGA ALONE. YOU HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL, TIMELY AND FLEXIBLE SUPPORT MADE THE DIFFERENCE WHEN IT COUNTED THE MOST DURING COMBAT. WELL DONE FOR A WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCE. RADM NICK GEE SENDS.
17. CONCRUDESGRU TWO 052240Z APR 91, AMERICA BG DEPARTURE BZ: AS THE AMERICA BATTLE GROUP DEPARTS THE CENTCOM THEATER OF OPERATIONS. I WANT TO COMMEND ALL OF YOU FOR THE OUTSTANDING LOGISTICS SUPPORT YOU PROVIDED OUR BATTLE GROUP. THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR PERSONNEL HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY. YOU SET A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THAT WILL BE TOUGH TO EVER BEAT. YOU EFFORTS KEPT US AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STATE OF COMBAT READINESS. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. RADM D. J. KATZ SENDS.
18. CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK 091842Z MAY 91. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS DURING THE LAST 18 MONTHS, HELSUPPRON FOUR HAS MET THE CHALLENGE OF ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL CH-53E DETACHMENTS AT AUSTERE SITES IN REMOTE, PREVIOUSLY UNUSED AREAS. THESE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN IN ADDITION TO THEIR ROUTINE SUPPORT OF THE SIXTH FLEET. HC-4'S SUPPORT TO THE FLEET, TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND, NOW, TO THE KURDISH PEOPLE HAS BEEN TRULY SUPERB. I AM PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AN EXCEPTIONAL TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS



19. CNO WASHINGTON DC 251126 JUN 91, NAVOP SYNOPSIS. AS RECENT WORLD EVENTS HAVE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED, US AND ALLIED LEADERS CONTINUE TO RELY HEAVILY ON MARITIME FORCES TO RESPOND IN TIME OF CRISIS. WHILE OUR ATTENTION WAS RIVETED ON IRAQ AND KUWAIT, NAVAL FORCES WERE ASSIGNED TO UNDERTAKE HAZARDOUS RESCUE OPERATIONS IN LIBERIA AND LARGE SCALE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN TURKEY AND NORTHERN IRAQ. THE PERFORMANCE BY OUR PEOPLE IN EACH ENDEAVOR HAS BEEN, AND CONTINUES TO BE, STELLAR. OPERATIONS SHARP EDGE, DESERT SHIELD/STORM AND PROVIDE COMFORT HAVE BEEN "TOTAL FORCE" EFFORTS. NONE OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION THAT ARE HALLMARKS OF EVERY SAILOR IN TODAY'S NAVY. I AM VERY PROUD OF WHAT YOUR ARE DOING. KEEP UP THE FINE WORK. RELEASED BY ADM F. B. KELSO II.
20. CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK 181620Z JUL 91, WELL DONE. HELSUPPRON FOUR HAS PROVIDED IMPRESSIVE SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR THE KURDISH REFUGEES IN NORTHERN IRAQ AND SOUTHERN TURKEY OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS. FREQUENTLY YOUR FLIGHTS MADE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. I AM PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AN EXCEPTIONAL GROUP AS THE BLACK STALLIONS OF HC-4 WELL DONE. ADM HOWE SENDS.
21. CTF PROVIDE COMFORT 191401Z JUL 91, BRAVO ZULU. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE SUPERB PERFORMANCE OF HC-4 DET ONE. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OPERATIONS SUCCESS WERE NUMEROUS AND ESSENTIAL TO OUR MISSION. THEY WERE THE FIRST HELICOPTER SUPPORT TO ARRIVE ON THE SCENE IN THE CRITICAL EARLY DAYS OF THE KURDISH FLIGHT TO THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN TURKEY AND NORTHERN IRAQ. FLYING UNDER THE MOST SEVERE CONDITIONS, THEIR EXPERTISE AND HEROISM PROVIDED LIFE SAVING MEDICAL EVACUATION AND LIFE SUSTAINING MEDICINES, FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER. YOUR DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN DEMONSTRATED TO ALL THAT THE BLACK STALLIONS OF HC-4 STOOD READY TO TACKLE ANY ASSIGNMENT WITH UNCOMMON ENTHUSIASM, UNCOMPROMISING TENACITY AND UNPARALLELED PROFESSIONALISM. BRAVO ZULU. LTGEN SHALIKASHVILI SENDS.
22. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 241545Z JUL 91, WELL DONE. ADM HOWE'S MESSAGE PRAISING YOUR EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOLLOWED BY THE COMMANDER TASK FORCE PROVIDE COMFORT, LTGEN SHALIKASHVILI'S LAUDATORY COMMENTS ARE INDICATIVE OF THE SUPER HUMAN

PERFORMANCE OF YOUR SQUADRON OVER THE LAST FOURTEEN MONTHS. YOU ARE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE SQUADRON I HAVE EVER HAD THE PLEASURE TO COMMAND. I WISH TO TELL YOU HOW PROUD I AM TO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH A SUPERB SQUADRON.

23. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 071200Z AUG 91, FAREWELL MESSAGE. YOUR PERFORMANCE IN SUPPORT OF COMBAT OPERATIONS RELATED TO DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATION RELATED TO OPERATION SHARP EDGE OFF LIBERIA HAS BEEN SUPERB. YOUR PROFESSIONALISM DURING THE LONG MONTHS OF LOGISTICS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR DESERT STORM WAS INSPIRATIONAL. RADM CRESSY SENDS.
24. SEC STATE LETTER DATED 8 AUG 91. I WANT TO EXTEND MY DEEP GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE COMPLETION OF OPERATION SHARP EDGE. THE DEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES TO LIBERIAN WATERS TO PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ASSIST IN THEIR EVACUATION FROM LIBERIA WAS CARRIED OUT WITH DISPATCH AND EFFICIENCY. THANKS TO THE OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL INVOLVED, THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS AND OTHER NATIONALS FOUND REFUGE FROM THE TUMULTUOUS HOSTILITIES OF THE LIBERIAN CIVIL WAR. SHARP EDGE SAVED MANY LIVES AND DEMONSTRATED AN IMPRESSIVE CAPABILITY TO REACH OUT AND WORK COLLECTIVELY TO PROTECT AND RESCUE ENDANGERED CITIZENS. AMERICAN NATIONAL INTERESTS WERE WELL SERVED BY THE JOINT TASK FORCE. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE SHARP EDGE'S ACHIEVEMENT AND HAS THEREFORE PREPARED THE ATTACHED TRIBUTES OF APPRECIATION. SIGNED JAMES A. BAKER, III SECRETARY OF STATE.
25. CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK 151020Z AUG 91, OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND HAVE CONTINUED THE HIGH LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE THEY DEMONSTRATED DURING OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD/STORM. USNAVEUR UNITS MADE THE TRANSITION FROM A WARTIME OPERATION TO ONE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RAPIDLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. THE SUCCESS OF YOUR EFFORTS MADE THIS OPERATION UNSURPASSED IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANITARIAN ENDEAVORS. THE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS DEMONSTRATED THE FLEXABILITY AND DIVERSE TALENTS AND ABILITIES POSSESSED BY TODAY'S ARMED FORCES. THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES OF EACH MEMBER OF THE USNAVEUR TEAM HAVE EARNED THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF EVERYONE. YOU HAVE ALSO EARNED MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE. ADM HOWE SENDS.
26. CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK 030536Z DEC 91, BRAVO ZULU. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE EXPEDITIOUS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, SAFE COMPLETION OF TODAY'S WEAPONS

TRANSFER. YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF THIS DEMANDING EVOLUTION, REQUIRING ABSOLUTE PERFECTION AT EVERY STEP, WAS MOST IMPRESSIVE. ADM HOWE SENDS.

27. COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT 041045Z DEC 91, BRAVO ZULU. THE INDEPTH PLANNING AND FLAWLESS EXECUTION OF EACH FACET OF THE SPECIAL WEAPONS LOGISTIC MOVEMENT SPEAK HIGHLY OF THE SUPERB PROFESSIONALISM AND TEAMWORK BY EVERY PARTICIPANT. THIS SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION WAS SUCCESSFULLY AND SAFELY COMPLETED BECAUSE OF THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF GROUND CREWS, FLIGHT CREWS, AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL ENSURING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE WAS IN PLACE AND THE PLAN EXECUTED ACCORDINGLY. RADM OLIVER SENDS.

**B. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:**

(1) LEGION OF MERIT:	1
(2) AIR MEDALS:	4
(3) NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL:	9
(4) NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL:	26
(5) GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL:	15
(6) LETTERS OF COMMENDATION:	117
(7) LETTERS OF ACHIEVEMENT/APPRECIATION:	82
(8) STEPHEN DECATUR AWARD (NAVY LEAGUE):	1
(9) NHA MAINTENANCE PETTY OFFICER OF THE YEAR:	1

**C. ADDITIONAL SQUADRON REMARKS: SEE COVER LETTER.**