



1981

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

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From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron FOURTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations, Naval Aviation History Office (OP-05D2)

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(b) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) 1981 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

C. F. Harrison
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By direction

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1981 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 was assigned under Helicopter Sea Control Wing ONE (HSCW-1) with a primary mission to neutralize enemy mines. The squadron is capable of rapid deployment and can operate from either aviation capable vessels or shore bases. During 1981 the squadron was under the command of Commander F. T. Massey, USN.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1981

January

3 Squadron completed 1 week of MCM training conducted in Persian Gulf embarked USS CORONADO.

4 Transit to Indian Ocean for continued AMCM training.

5 Conducted mechanical sweep training for 6 days.

14 Inport Bahrain, Persian Gulf.

23 Relieved on-scene by HM-16.

24 Departed Bahrain.

25 Arrived Norfolk, Virginia.

February

28 Squadron Officers conducted Formal Dining-In.

March

9 Deployed aboard USS NASHVILLE for MCM work-up exercise.

20 Returned to Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, from work up exercise.

30 HM-14 ADMAT Inspection by CHSCW-1.

31 ADMAT Inspection completed.

April

23 HM-14 presented the CNO Safety Award for 1980.

24 Deployed aboard USS NASHVILLE for MCM Task Group 1-81 cruise to Northern Europe/Med. Established HM-14 Detachment 2 in Norfolk.

26 Inport Charleston, South Carolina.

27 Underway/In-transit to Europe.

May

- 8 Inport Ponta Delgada, Azores due to bad weather.
- 11 Underway enroute to Zeebrugge, Belgium.
- 12 Celebrated squadron third birthday. Three years accident-free flying.
- 21 Inport Zeebrugge, Belgium.
- 25 Underway for AMCM operations.
- 26 AMCM Demonstration.
- 28 Inport Zeebrugge, Belgium.

June

- 1 Underway for transit to Firth of Forth, Scotland.
- 4 Commenced Exercise Roebuck-81 (NATO AMCM/SMCM Joint exercise; Firth of Forth, Scotland).
- 10 Completed Exercise Roebuck-81.
- 11 Inport Leith, Scotland.
- 13 HM-14 Detachment II sent two (2) RH-53D's to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for VOD support.
- 16 Underway for transit to Portsmouth, England.
- 20 Inport Portsmouth, England.
- 23 Underway for transit to Rota, Spain

June

- 26 Inport Naval Station, Rota, Spain.
- 30 Exercise CORMORAN-81 (Spanish Bilateral AMCM/SMCM Exercise) and HM-14/USS NASHVILLE Mine Warfare Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI). HM-14 Detachment II returned to Norfolk.

July

- 3 Underway to Souda Bay, Crete.
- 8 HM-14 Detachment II transported Assistant Secretary of Defense and official entourage from Pentagon to Fort Eustis, Virginia and return.

10 Exercise Damsel Fair-81 (Greek Multi-National AMCM/SMCM Exercise; Souda Bay, Crete).

18 Completed Damsel Fair-81.

19 Transit to Athens, Greece.

21 Inport Athens.

25 Underway for Special Operation under COMSIXTHFLT.

31 Inport Athens, Greece.

August

2 Underway for transit to Izmir, Turkey.

4 Commenced Exercise Deft Fighter-81.

6 Completed Exercise Deft Fighter-81.

7 Inport Izmir, Turkey.

10 Underway in transit to Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

18 Inport Palma.

21 Underway for AMCM Demonstration.

August

22 Inport Palma.

23 HM-14 Detachment II participated in Airshow at Westfield, MA.

28 Underway and in transit to Lisbon, Portugal.

September

2 Inport Lisbon, Portugal.

5 Underway for Exercise Ocean Safari.

12 HM-14 Detachment II participated in Airshow in Stoneybrook, New York.

19 Transit to Norfolk, Virginia.

26 HM-14 Detachment II participated in Airshows at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland and NAS Oceana, Virginia.

October

- 10 Inport Norfolk, Virginia
- 20 CHSCW-1 conducted Corrosion Inspection.
- 25 Participated in Airshow at Lake Charles, Louisiana.

November

- 5 MCM Department formed at HM-14.
- 12 Logistics Mission, USS AMERICA (CV-66).
- 14 Participated in Airshow at VMI, Lexington, Virginia.
- 18 Squadron NATOP's evaluation conducted.
- 25 Off-loaded USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69).

December

- 9 Participated in 11 plane "Stallion Flight" with HM-12 and HM-16 by providing 4 RH-53D's.
- 11 Logistics Mission, USS AMERICA (CV-66).
- 16 Provided airborne back-up for logistics.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

January

HM-14 had received JCS tasking in 1980 to establish an Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) capability in the Straits of Hormuz/Persian Gulf area. In January 1981 the squadron departed Bahrain for Norfolk, VA a nine month deployment.

February

The squadron began to prepare for an upcoming deployment to Europe. Many squadron members were able to take leave after returning from the nine month deployment to the Indian Ocean.

March

The squadron deployed aboard USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) for an AMCM work-up cruise to refamiliarize themselves with LPD operations. Upon the squadron's return an Administrative Material Inspection was conducted by COMHELSEACONWING ONE.

April

The squadron continued to prepare for the upcoming deployment. The preparation included various briefings for squadron members and dependents. From 20 to 23 April the squadron conducted the load-out of all equipment aboard USS NASHVILLE. HM-14 left Norfolk on 24 April for a planned six month deployment. HM-14 Detachment TWO was established to remain in Norfolk. The NASHVILLE arrived in Charleston two days later to rendezvous with other units of the MCM task group.

May

During the crossing of the Atlantic, squadron flight ops consisted of practice AMCM flights and deck landing qualifications. Bad weather in the Eastern Atlantic forced the task group to make an unscheduled stop in Ponta Delgada, Azores. The task group got underway a few days later for Zeebrugge, Belgium. An AMCM demonstration was held off the Belgian coast for members of the Belgian Military and the press.

June

The MCM Task Group departed Zeebrugge for Firth of Forth, Scotland. HM-14 participated in Exercise Roebuck-81. The exercise was a joint airborne and surface MCM exercise with units from United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, and Germany. Upon completion of the exercise the MCM Task Group had a 3 day inport period in Edinburgh/Leith, Scotland. The task group then sailed to Rota, Spain, via Portsmouth, England, to participate in Exercise CORMORAN-81 along with units from Spain. HM-14 Detachment TWO sent two aircraft to Naval Air Station, Roosevelt Roads on the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) for VOD support.

July

The task group departed Rota for Souda Bay, Crete to participate in exercise Damsel Fair 1981. The squadron operated with Greek surface elements to sweep practice minefields around the island. Upon completion of Damsel Fair, the task group transited to Athens, Greece. The NASHVILLE and HM-14 were called upon in Athens to participate in a special operation with Sixth Fleet units. After completion of this mission, HM-14 and USS NASHVILLE returned to Athens, Greece.

August

In early August HM-14 participated in exercise Deft Fighter 81 in Izmir, Turkey. During this exercise the squadron participated with Turkish surface units. After participating in Deft Fighter, an exercise debrief was held inport at Izmir. The task group then sailed to Palma de Mallorca, Spain. While in Palma the squadron conducted an AMCM demonstration. Back in CONUS, HM-14 Detachment TWO provided a helicopter to drop the U. S. Army parachute team at an airshow at Westfield, Mass.

September

The squadron left Palma in late August embarked on the USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13). They arrived in Lisbon, Portugal to participate in the last exercise for the MCM Task Group. During this exercise, Ocean Safari, the squadron swept the harbor and approaches to Lisbon, Portugal. After the exercise the Group began the transit back across the Atlantic. HM-14 Detachment TWO began preparations to rejoin HM-14. They also participated in more airshows, dropping the Navy Parachute Team at Stoneybrook, New York and also at Patuxent River, Maryland. A total self-help rehabilitation of the squadron's hangar was completed by HM-14 Detachment Two.

October

On 10 October the squadron returned from its deployment. Of the past 18 months, HM-14 had been deployed for 15 months. The squadron was subsequently awarded two Meritorious Unit Commendations for the two deployments. HM-14 prepared its aircraft for a Post-Deployment Corrosion Inspection. During the last week of October, an aircraft was sent to Lake Charles, Louisiana to participate in an airshow.

November

In view of HM-14's primary mission of AMCM, it was decided that the MCM division, one of the largest in the maintenance department, should become a separate department. On 5 November the MCM Department was officially formed. During November the squadron continued to conduct general training flights while remaining available to perform utility missions as directed by higher authority. The squadron was called upon to provide logistics support for ships off the Virginia coast.

December

December was the first month since September 1979 that HM-14, HM-12, and HM-16 were together in Norfolk. On December 9th, eleven aircraft from all three HM squadrons flew an impressive formation flight over Norfolk and Naval Air Station Oceana. The squadron responded to requests for local logistics missions while continuing to conduct general training flights.