



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501-5700

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

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1984 COMMAND HISTORY

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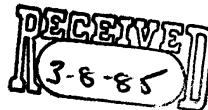
Encl: (1) 1984 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

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

  
E. L. DUCKWORTH

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## 1984 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 is assigned to Helicopter Tactical Wing ONE at NAS Norfolk, Va. The squadron is capable of rapid deployment and can operate from either aviation capable vessels or shore bases to carry out its primary mission of airborne mine countermeasures (AMCM). During 1984 the squadron was commanded by CDR Chester F. HARRISON.

### JANUARY

- 26-28 Hosted French Naval Officers visit.
- 30 Annual squadron NATOPS evaluation.

### FEBRUARY

- 5-14 Raydist advance party erected Raydist precision navigation system in vicinity of Morehead City, North Carolina.
- 13 HM-14 embarked on USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) at Naval Base Norfolk, Va.
- 14-17 HM-14 conducted minesweeping operations for port breakout from Morehead City, North Carolina in conjunction with exercise "United Effort 84".
- 18 HM-14 disembarked from USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) at Morehead City and returned to NAS Norfolk, Virginia.

### MARCH

- 1 HM-14 assumed 72 hour contingency alert. Stood ready to deploy worldwide for minesweeping/minehunting operations.
- 6 Assist team visit from the Organizational Effectiveness Center (OEC) Norfolk, Virginia.

### APRIL

- 1-2 Demonstrated MK-104 minesweeping capability for FLEMINEWARTRACEN's MIW tactical planning course in Charleston, South Carolina.
- 10-30 Provided support for MIUW radar at Fort Story and NAS Norfolk, Va. during exercise "Ocean Venture 1984".
- 16-26 Conducted minesweeping operations from Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Va. during exercise "Ocean Venture 1984".

### MAY

- 2 Conducted flight ops for offload of USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67).
- 3 Conducted flight ops in support of SAT/BAF ops on USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69).

4-18 Provided one aircraft for electromagnetic interference testing at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland.

23-24 Conducted flight ops in support of Quickstrike evaluation in Norfolk, VA.

#### JUNE

6 Conducted flight ops in support of mine readiness certification inspection (MRCI) of USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12).

9 Demonstrated MK-104 mine sweeping capability for FLEMINEWARTRACEN's MIW tactical planning course in Charleston, South Carolina.

11-15 Conducted flight ops in support of MRCI and AMCM exercise with USS RALEIGH (LPD-10).

22 Squadron received AN/AQS-14 mine hunting sonar. Pilot, aircrew and maintenance personnel commenced training on the AN/AQS-14 system.

#### JULY

11 Conducted flight ops in support of MRCI on USS GUAM (LPH-9).

25 Conducted flight ops in support of MRCI on USS SAIPAN (LHA-2).

#### AUGUST

3 Squadron received JCS notice of tasking for rapid deployment to the Gulf of Suez in conjunction with operation "Intense Look."

6 Main body of squadron and four RH-53D's airlifted to Naval Station Rota, Spain by eight USAF C-5 cargo planes. Squadron embarked USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12) for minehunting operations in the Gulf of Suez. HM-14 Det One established NAS Norfolk.

9-10 HM-14 loads aboard USS SHREVEPORT in less than 24 hours; underway 10 August.

12 Four officers and fifteen enlisted from HM-14 airlifted from USS SHREVEPORT to augment HM-14 Det One. HM-14 Det One with three RH-53D helicopters airlifted by three USAF C-5 cargo planes from NAS Norfolk, VA to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for mine-sweeping operations of Saudi Arabian Red Sea ports. CDR E. L. DUCKWORTH designated Officer-in-Charge.

15-16 USS SHREVEPORT transited Suez Canal.

16 HM-14 Det One commenced shore based minespotting of the port of Jeddah, Saudia Arabia.

17 HM-14 commenced minehunting in the Gulf of Suez utilizing AQS-14 sonar. This minehunting continued for 22 consecutive days.

19 HM-14 Det One embarked USS LA SALLE (AGF-3) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

20 USS LA SALLE (AGF-3) underway.

- 23-25 HM-14 Det One conducted shipboard minesweeping operations at the port of Yanbu, Saudi Arabia.
- 27-28 HM-14 Det One mineswept in the Bab el Mandeb Strait as a precursor to the USS AMERICA (CV-66) Battle Group Transit.
- 29 HM-14 Det One conducted lead through of USS AMERICA (CV-66) Battle Group in the Strait of Bab el Mandeb.

#### SEPTEMBER

- 16 HM-14 main body completed minehunting task in the Gulf of Suez.
- 18 USS SHREVEPORT transited Suez Canal.
- 20 USS SHREVEPORT with HM-14 embarked diverted to MODLOC off of Beirut, Lebanon.
- 22 HM-14 conducted flight operations to support logistics, medevac, and embassy personnel evacuation as result of terrorist bombing of U. S. Embassy Annex in Beirut, Lebanon.
- 24-27 Twenty man working party assisted investigation of embassy bomb site.
- 30 HM-14 Det One completed minesweeping tasks and disembarked from USS LA SALLE at Jeddah, Saudia Arabia.

#### OCTOBER

- 1-2 HM-14 Det One airlifted from Jeddah, Saudia Arabia to NAS Norfolk, Virginia.
- 5 USS SHREVEPORT and embarked HM-14 main body enroute to Rota, Spain.
- 15-17 HM-14 airlift from Rota, Spain to NAS Norfolk, Va.
- 15-18 Four officers attend EASTPAC planning conference in San Diego, California.

#### NOVEMBER

- 14 Demonstrated MK-104 minesweeping capability for FLEMINEWARTRACEN's MIW tactical planning course in Charleston, South Carolina.
- 19-21 Conducted flight ops in support of MRCI on USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13).

#### DECEMBER

- 6 Held all hands squadron Christmas Party.

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

### JANUARY

The squadron pilots and aircrew concentrated on training and preparation for the annual squadron NATOPS evaluation. Preparations continued for exercise "United Effort 1985".

### FEBRUARY

The major part of the month the squadron was busy preparing and executing plans for exercise "United Effort 1984". This included setting up a Raydist precision navigation network in the vicinity of Morehead City, North Carolina, flying calibration flights on the net and onloading support equipment aboard USS AUSTIN (LPD-4). Following the exercise, the squadron was offloaded at Morehead City. Equipment and personnel returned to Norfolk by trucks and buses respectively.

Final preparations were made for assuming the 72 hour contingency alert.

### MARCH

Planning and preparation for exercise "Ocean Venture 1984" commenced early in the month.

### APRIL

Final preparations were made for exercise "Ocean Venture 1984". During this exercise the squadron commanding officer was designated the Mine Countermeasures Commander of airborne, surface and diving assets for operations in the Norfolk, Va. area. This was the first such designation in the history of the squadron.

### MAY

The squadron's efforts were concentrated on several short taskings throughout the month.

### JUNE

The squadron supported the first two mine readiness certification inspections (MRCI's) of the year. The new AN/AQS-14 minehunting sonar was delivered to the squadron; the first fleet squadron to receive this equipment. Training of pilots, aircrew and maintenance personnel commenced immediately.

### JULY

Training continued with the AN/AQS-14 system.

Two MRCIs were conducted and preparations began for exercise "CANUS-MARCOT 1984" deployment.

## AUGUST

The squadron was notified to activate the contingency plan and begin preparation for rapid deployment. Prior to departure, the squadron was split to form HM-14 and HM-14 Det One. Shortly after HM-14 deployed, Det One was notified to begin preparations for rapid deployment. Airborne mine countermeasures operations commenced in the Gulf of Suez and Red Sea.

## SEPTEMBER

Airborne mine countermeasures operations continued for HM-14 and Det One in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea respectively. Following completion of tasking, USS SHREVEPORT with HM-14 embarked was diverted to MODLOC off of Beirut, Lebanon. This was in response to the terrorist bombing of the U. S. Embassy Annex in Beirut.

## OCTOBER

Following completion of tasking in the Red Sea and the eastern Mediterranean Sea, HM-14 and Det One rejoined at NAS Norfolk, Va. A brief post deployment standdown followed. Initial planning conference for EASTPAC 1985 was attended by four officers from the squadron.

## NOVEMBER

The efforts this month primarily concentrated on training of pilots, aircrew, maintenance personnel and supporting one MRCI.

## DECEMBER

Squadron operations and commitments continued to be light. The squadron commenced planning and preparations for the Change of Command in January 1985.