



1992

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)  
UNIT 60180  
FPO AE 09507-5700

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**From:** Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14  
**To:** Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch, Washington, D.C.  
**Subj:** SUBMISSION OF 1992 COMMAND HISTORY  
**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E  
**Encl:** (1) 1992 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)  
(2) Narrative summary

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) and (2) are submitted.

*L. F. Morris*  
L. F. Morris

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## 1992 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 began the year assigned to Helicopter Tactical Wing One at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA. In April the squadron changed operational command from CHTW-1 to Commander Mine Group Two under Navy initiatives to reorganize the Mine Warfare forces. The "Vanguard" is capable of rapid deployment and can operate from aviation capable ships or shore bases to carry out its primary mission of Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM). CDR R. B. Jones and CDR L. F. Morris were the Commanding Officers for the year of 1992. HM-14 is based at NAS Norfolk, Virginia.

### January

9-15: Deployed 3 aircraft to Jacksonville, FL for SAT/BAF exercise.

9-17: Squadron rapidly deploys to Atlantic City, NJ for "Operation Toxic Look". HM-14 Det utilizes AQS-14 minehunting system to search for arsenic barrels lost at sea off the coast of New Jersey.

28: HM-14 receives praises from CMS inspectors for an excellent CMS program.

### February

3: Mine Warfare Readiness Condition Inspection assist visit commences.

7: MRCI assist visit complete.

14: HM-14 conducts "Dining Out" at Waterside Marriot. Guest speaker is Jim Kincaid, Anchorman for Channel 13 News, a local ABC affiliate.

### March

2-7: Squadron has Immediate Superior In Command inspection.

27-30: MRCI

### April

19-: HM-14 leaves for exercise "Ocean Venture '92", joint exercise involving Mine Warfare operations from MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

### May

-14: HM-14 returns from exercise "Ocean Venture '92".



## June

- 14: HM-14 is awarded CNO Safety Award at quarters by VADM A.A. Less COMNAVAIRLANT and RADM J. Walker COMHELWINGSLANT.
- 4-7: HM-14 sends aircraft to London Ontario for airshow.

## July

- 7: CDR L. F. Morris USN relieves CDR R.B. Jones USN as HM-14 Commanding Officer.
- 11: HM-14 performs flyover for HM-18 memorial.
- 13-17: HM-14 received NATOPS inspection. Received grade of SAT.
- 14: Sent aircraft to Bemidji-Belstrami, MN for static display.
- 17: HM-14 participates in flyover for COMHELWINGSLANT Change-of Command.

## August

- 3: Standards of Behavior Standdown.
- 13: Search and Rescue Evaluation. Received grade of SAT.
- 20-22: Static display, NAS Oceana Air Show.

## September

- 17-20: Static display, Halifax Nova Scotia.
- 28-: CHTW-1 Semi-Annual Corrosion Inspection Begins.

## October

- 4: Debriefed on CHTW-1 Semi-Annual Corrosion Inspection. HM-14 receives a grade of SAT on inspection.
- 8-11: Static Display in Peekskill, NY for Columbus Day Parade.
- 13-14: HM-14 participates in Operation "Quickstrike", Norfolk, VA.
- 16-: Deployed 3 MH-53E to Ft. Lauderdale for annual AN/ALQ-141 training.
- 20: Static display and MK-105 flight demonstration for Chief of Naval Operations, Indian Navy.
- 20-23: Sent one aircraft to NAS Whiting Field, FL for NHA fly-in.

ENCL (1)



**November**

- 7: Squadron returns from Ft. Lauderdale AN/ALQ-141 training.
- 19: Static display and briefing for Mr. Frank Colucci of Defense Helicopter Magazine.
- 22: Static display and briefing for RADM Williams, new PEO for Mine Warfare.

**December**

- 11: Squadron holds children's Christmas party.
- 17: Squadron all hands Christmas party.



## Narrative of Events

### January

HM-14 deployed 3 aircraft to NAS Mayport, Florida to provide SAT/BAF support for special weapons movements. This detachment completed 45.1 hours with 100% mission completion rate.

HM-14 rapidly deploys to Atlantic City, NJ to assist U.S. Coast Guard in search for arsenic containers lost at sea. The containers were lost when the ship transporting them ran into a severe storm off the coast of New Jersey. Using the AQS-14 minehunting system HM-14 swept over 305.1 linear miles searching for the missing containers. On the third day of "Operation Toxic Look" HM-14 discovered the missing containers. By locating the missing containers an ecological disaster was averted.

### February

Capt Saccio arrives at HM-14 to assist in preparations for the Mine Warfare Readiness Condition Inspection (MRCI). HM-14 commences in-depth preparations for MRCI.

HM-14 holds first "Dining Out" since returning from "Operation Desert Shield/Storm". Guest speaker was Channel 13 Anchorman Jim Kincaid. A truly formal and elegant occasion that was highlighted with the "Vanguard" pride and professionalism.

### March

Command completes two very in-depth inspections. The first was the Immediate Superior In Command inspection in which HM-14 distinguishes itself as the premier squadron in the wing. The second inspection at the end of the month was the Mine Warfare Readiness Inspection in which HM-14 becomes the only squadron to receive a grade of satisfactory without a re-inspection.

### April

HM-14 departs to MCAS Cherry Point for exercise "Ocean Venture '92", the largest exercise on the east coast. The exercise will see the integrated use of all mine countermeasure activities. All squadron personnel were berthed in tents and subsisted under field conditions.

### May

The command returns from "Ocean Venture '92" finishing a month long detachment in harsh field conditions. The command used six helicopters equipped with six AN/AQS-14's from MCAS Cherry Point and four MK-105's sleds from Morehead City, NC. The living conditions were at best nominal simulating a remote site that could



be set up in any environment. Under these conditions the squadron swept and hunted 1047.4 linear NM completing 93% of the assigned missions, a remarkable accomplishment. This exercise proved to be one of the most challenging and most successful in squadron history.

## June

HM-14 receives the CNO Safety award at quarters from VADM A.A. Less COMNAVAIRLANT and RADM J. Walker COMHELWINGSLANT. HM-14 flew over 3,100 flight hours without a class Alpha or Bravo mishap, extending a fourteen year career of mishap free flight.

HM-14 sent one aircraft to London Ontario for the Molsen Canadian International airshow. This was the first time that an HM-14 aircraft had participated in this airshow with the MH-53E.

## July

In a ceremony held at LP-3 NAS Norfolk, CDR L. F. Morris relieved CDR R. B. Jones as the Commanding Officer of HELMINERON 14.

In a show of deep respect and sympathy for the HM-18 crew lost over Lynnhaven inlet HM-14 flew a four plane missing man formation during commemorative services held on NAS Norfolk.

An HM-14 MH-53E participated in the first airshow in forty years at Bemiji-Belstrami County Airport in Minnesota. HM-14's aircraft was one of four military aircraft to participate.

## August

HM-14 was one of numerous local squadrons to participate in the Naval Air Station Oceana air show.

## September

For the first time an HM-14 MH-53E participated in the Canadian Air Field Shearwater air show.

The end of the month began with the CHTW-1 semi-annual corrosion inspection.

## October

The squadron completed an in-depth CHTW-1 semi-annual corrosion inspection receiving a grade of satisfactory.

HM-14 deployed four MH-53Es to Fort Lauderdale, FL. to obtain initial qualifications as well as requalifications for aircrews in the AN/ALQ-141.



ENCL (2)

The **Vanguard** was chosen to provide a static display and flight demonstration for the Chief of Naval Operations Indian Navy. The Indian CNO was given a thorough brief by the Commanding Officer on the benefits and utility of Airborne Mine Countermeasures. In a unique presentation the Indian CNO was given the opportunity to watch a MK-105 demonstration from the launch and recovery site.

HM-14 was asked to participate in "Operation Quickstrike", an exercise providing an experimental assistance for the testing of underwater magnetic and acoustic mine sensors for the U.S. CAPTOR encapsulated torpedo. Two MH-53E helicopters provided the support enabling all scheduled MK-105 missions to be successfully completed.

HM-14 provided the only static display for the Peekskill, NY Columbus Day parade and festival. The festivities were highlighted with a formal dinner. The Mayor presented a City Medal to the Commanding Officer of HM-14.

#### **November**

The editor of the Defense Helicopter Magazine, Frank Colucci, was given a brief and static display at the HM-14 hangar. The new PEO of Mine Warfare was also given a static display.

#### **December**

The year was wrapped up with the squadron Christmas party and the Children's Christmas Party, where Santa arrived via his own unique mode of flight.

