

1993 ✓

1993 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 is based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia. The Squadron reports operationally to Commander, Mine Group TWO (COMCMGRU 2) and administratively to Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELTACWINGLANT). HM-14 combines all the capabilities and responsibilities associated with an Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) squadron to include; mission systems and equipment, navigation networks, and the computer hardware and software required for conducting a total minesweeping operation. HM-14 provides rapid response AMCM capabilities worldwide. The squadron is manned to operate and maintain eight Sikorsky MH-53E aircraft, numerous minesweeping devices and related equipment, and provides expertise required for planning, executing and evaluating the effectiveness of a complete minesweeping operation. CDR L. F. Morris was relieved by CDR D. N. Hartwell as the Commanding Officer on 10 September 1993. CDR K. D. Garbow assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1993

January

- 06-23 - Command deployed 5 aircraft to Corpus Christi, TX.
- 16 - Squadron received message that they had been awarded the CNAL Golden Anchor Award for FY92.
- 19 - Corpus Christi Mustang club held barbecue for HM-14.
- 30 - HM community "Tow Ball" was held.

February

- 03 - Awarded CHTW-1 CY92 FOD Prevention Award.
- 10-12 - HM-14 Loaded supplies and equipment onboard USS INCHON for "Unified Spirit '93" and "Blue Harrier" exercises.
- 16-19 - HM-14 embarked aboard USS INCHON for "Blue Harrier" workups.

March

- 08-12 - HM-14 embarked aboard USS INCHON for exercise "Unified Spirit '93".
- 21 - Squadron departed Norfolk on board USS INCHON for exercise "Blue Harrier".

April

- 08-15 - USS INCHON and HM-14 pulled into Zeebrugge, Belgium for port call. COMNAVBALTAP APPROACHES was briefed on upcoming Mine Warfare exercise "Blue Harrier".
- 17-19 - USS INCHON and HM-14 pulled into Aarhus, Denmark.
- 20 - Exercise "Blue Harrier" commenced.
- 22 - HM-14 located two World War II mines.
- 27 - Exercise "Blue Harrier" concluded.
- 28 - USS INCHON and HM-14 pulled into Aarhus, Denmark.

May

- 11 - HM-14 conducted an 8 aircraft fly-off, departing USS INCHON for NAS Norfolk.
- 12 - USS INCHON returned to Norfolk.
- 27 - Squadron hosted Special Education class for Betty F. Williams Elementary School.

June

- 25 - HM-14 "Toxic Look" Detachment was awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Award.
- 31 - Flight hour funding reduced by 75% for fourth quarter '93.

July

- 30 - PMO 210 toured squadron and provided lecture on AMCM.

August

- 03 - HM-14 held standdown for annual all hands training.
- 11 - Annual squadron summer picnic and awards ceremony. Squadron softball team became Western Division champs and Norfolk Naval Base Runner-Up in Championship.
- 26 - Squadron Change of Command dinner held.
- 30 - Preparation for Hurricane Emily began.

September

- 10 - CDR D. N. Hartwell USN relieved CDR L. F. Morris USN as HM-14 Commanding Officer.
- 24 - Squadron received third consecutive Safety Award presented by VADM Less, COMNAVAIRLANT.

October

- 01 - Squadron received normal flight hour funding for first quarter FY93.
- 02 - Squadron sent one aircraft to NAS Jacksonville for airshow and parachute drop.
- 06 - Flew CAPT Rausa, USN retired, editor of the "Wings of Gold."
- 07 - Provided French photo journalist with brief and static displays of HM-14 AMCM equipment and aircraft.
- 08 - Squadron safety standdown held.
- 20-24 - Sent one aircraft to NHA Fleet Fly-in held at NAS Whiting Field, FL.
- 28 - Commanding Officer delivered AMCM Maritime Helicopter brief in London, England.

November

- 04 - HM-14 flag football team swept Norfolk Naval Base Championship and advanced to regional playoffs.
- 05 - Squadron sent one aircraft to NAS Glenview, IL.
- 10 - HM-14 flag football team captured Tidewater "Runner-up" title.
- 11 - Command sent one aircraft to NAS Pensacola, FL airshow.
- 29 - Two squadron aircraft departed to Panama City, FL for AN/37U CDMS (Controlled Depth Moored Sweep) technical evaluation.

December

- 02 - Squadron sent one aircraft to Charleston, SC for Mine Warfare Command static display.
- 06 - First female aviator reported aboard HM-14.
- 11 - AN/37U CDMS Engineering Evaluation Detachment returned from Panama City, FL. Squadron held annual Children's Christmas Party.
- 13-18 - HM-14 members broke down an MH-53E for C-5 Load School Training.
- 16 - Squadron held annual Christmas party.
- 18 - HM-14 C-5 Load School members loaded a squadron MH-53E on board an Air Force C-5 Galaxy.
- 20 - "Santa" visited Lindenwood Elementary School, HM-14's adopt-a-school.
- 27 - Flag football team traveled to New Orleans to participate in the USF&G Sugar Bowl National Invitational Flag Football Tournament.
- 28 - HM-14 notified that they are CINCLANTFLT Golden Anchor Award recipient for FY93.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

January

HM-14 sent five Sikorsky MH-53E aircraft to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX for the first COMMINWARCOM exercise conducted from Naval Station Ingleside, TX. The exercise was a joint effort integrating the use of Surface Mine Countermeasure (SMCM) ships and HM-14 Airborne Mine Countermeasure (AMCM) assets.

The Helicopter Mine Countermeasures (HM) community held their first community "Tow" Ball since returning from "Operation Desert Shield/Storm." Guest speaker was Virginia State Congressman, Owen Pickett. The elegant formal exemplified the pride and professionalism of the HM community.

February

The Command commenced preparations for exercises "Unified Spirit" and "Blue Harrier." The readiness began with loading of minesweeping devices, maintenance equipment, and other various related equipment on board the USS INCHON (LPH-12). The squadron concluded the month embarked aboard the USS INCHON for work-ups.

March

The Command boarded the USS INCHON for exercise "Unified Spirit." "Unified Spirit" integrated all assets of mine countermeasures to include Surface Mine Countermeasures (SMCM) ships and Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) aircraft. The exercise took place in the Atlantic, just off the coast of Norfolk, VA. The USS INCHON and HM-14 returned to Norfolk Naval Base upon completion of "Unified Spirit."

HM-14 then departed Norfolk Naval Base on board the USS INCHON enroute to the North Atlantic for exercise "Blue Harrier."

April

USS INCHON and HM-14 arrived in Zeebrugge, Belgium and continued on to Aarhus, Denmark. Exercise "Blue Harrier" commenced in the Baltic Approaches. HM-14 worked closely with NATO minesweepers conducting extensive exploratory minehunting, mechanical minesweeping as well as precursor, exploratory and clearance operations.

HM-14 swept over 1,460 linear miles and flew over 320 hours during the week long exercise. The squadron was commended on its expertise after discovering two United Kingdom mines laid during the Second World War, proving the effectiveness of HM-14 Airborne Mine Countermeasures. USS INCHON and HM-14 returned to

April cont'd

Aarhus, Denmark upon completion of exercise "Blue Harrier". The exercise crowned the first successful deployment of eight MH-53E aircraft on board an amphibious assault ship.

May

HM-14's eight MH-53E's conducted a fly-off, departing the USS INCHON off the Virginia coast enroute to Naval Air Station Norfolk, VA. The USS INCHON and the remainder of HM-14 arrived in Norfolk the following day completing exercise "Blue Harrier" and their deployment to the North Atlantic.

June

The "Toxic Look" detachment of January 1992 was awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation for discovering numerous arsenic trioxide barrels that had fallen off the Motor Vessel Santa Clara 1.

Fourth Quarter FY93 flight hour funding was dramatically reduced to one quarter of the normal amount from previous quarters. All but two squadron aircraft were placed in preservation, only a small selected number of pilots maintained minimum monthly quals.

July

PMO 210 toured HM-14 and presented the squadron with a brief lecture regarding the history and the future of AMCM.

August

The squadron held their annual summer picnic following a brief awards ceremony. The day-long event afforded squadron members and their families the opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch and participate in athletic activities.

The Command softball team won the Western Division with a season record of 15 wins and 2 losses. The team went on to become Norfolk Naval Base Runner-ups in the Naval Base Championship.

HM-14 secured squadron aircraft and equipment in preparation for hurricane "Emily." The predicted effects from the storm were fortunately never encountered in Norfolk, VA.

September

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

September cont'd

For the third year in a row, the squadron received the CNO Naval Aviation Safety Award. The award was presented by Vice Admiral A. A. Less, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

October

CAPT Rosario Rausa, USN (Ret.), toured the squadron, performed numerous interviews and flew with the squadron on an AMCM training flight. Mr. Rausa is the editor of the renowned "Wings of Gold" magazine. His article titled "The Vanguard - HM-14" was featured in the winter 1993 issue of the "Wings of Gold."

The squadron's flight hour funding was returned to more normal levels, allowing two MH-53E displays at two separate events. The first event took place at NAS Jacksonville, FL where the crew took part in a seventeen person parachute drop/airshow. The second event was the Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Fleet Fly-In at NAS Whiting Field, FL. Student Naval Aviators were invited to attend community briefs, aircraft static displays, and to participate in squadron aircraft familiarization flights.

November

Two squadron aircraft traveled on cross-countries during the month of November. One aircraft departed to NAS Glenview, IL and one to NAS Pensacola, FL to participate as airshow static displays. The Pensacola airshow concluded the 1993 CY airshow season.

The HM-14 flag football team completed regular season play with an undefeated record and captured the Norfolk Naval Base Championship. The team also earned the "runner-up" title in the Tidewater Tournament.

A two aircraft detachment departed for Coastal Systems Station in Panama City, FL. The detachment was required to evaluate AN/37U Controlled Depth Moored Sweep (CDMS) equipment.

December

December marked a first in HM-14 and AMCM history as the first female aviator checked aboard the squadron. History also recorded itself for the "Vanguard" flag football team. As a participant in the USF&G Sugar Bowl National Invitational Flag Football Tournament the team captured the James L. "Jet" Smith Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

One HM-14 MH-53E departed for Charleston, SC to represent AMCM at the Mine Warfare Command. Students attending the Mine Warfare Command received a presentation and tours of the MH-53E helicopter and its associated AMCM gear.

December cont'd

The two aircraft Panama City, FL detachment returned with successful results from the AN/37U CDMS engineering evaluation. Prior to the det returning, other squadron members disassembled one of the six aircraft still remaining in Norfolk and completed C-5 Load-out training. The training began with a week long class taught by U.S. Air Force personnel and ended with the squadron loading and unloading an MH-53E onto a USAF C-5 Galaxy.

The year wrapped up with an all hands Christmas Party attended by nearly 500 personnel, and the annual Children's Christmas Party, where Santa arrived and surprised the children in preparation for the upcoming holiday season.