



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

AUTOVON: 584-4545
COMM: 804-444-4545
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser 00/ 066
9 MAR 01

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures
Squadron FOURTEEN
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch,
Washington, D.C.
Subj: SUBMISSION OF 2000 COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G
Encl: (1) 2000 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
(2) HM-14 Change of Command Program from 3 March 2001
(3) 2000 Battle Efficiency/CNO Safety Award Submission

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.


K. D. SCOTT

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14, UIC 53827) is based at Naval Air Station Oceana Detachment Norfolk, Virginia, and maintains a permanent Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM)/ Vertical Onboard Delivery (VOD) Detachment (Det 1) in Bahrain. The Squadron reports operationally to Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (MCMRON 2) and administratively to Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELTACWINGLANT). Detachment 1 reports operationally to U.S. 5th Fleet as well. HM-14 is the largest combat deployable aviation squadron in the Atlantic Fleet. Uniquely, it is fully integrated with both active and reserve sailors. HM-14's primary mission is to provide a rapid response AMCM capability worldwide. The squadron is manned to maintain and operate ten Sikorsky MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters, numerous minesweeping and minehunting devices and related equipment, and has the expertise required to independently plan, execute and evaluate the effectiveness of a complete airborne mine countermeasures operation from ship or shore. CDR Harry L. Myers relieved CDR Barry F. Dagnall as Commanding Officer on 26 February 2000. CDR Kevin D. Scott assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2000

January

1-31 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet

February

1-29 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet

26 Change of Command

27-28 MK-105 DynCorp VULCANEX, Norfolk, VA

March

1-31 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet

1-10 MK-105 DynCorp VULCANEX, Norfolk, VA

17-21 GW CVBG COMPTUEX VOD Support, Key West, FL

May

1-31 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet
6-16 Joint Task Force Exercise 2000-2, New River, NC

June

1-30 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet

July

1-31 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet
6-23 MIREM 13/Mercury/GOMEX 00-2, Corpus Christi, TX

August

1-31 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet

September

1-30 Fleet-wide grounding of the MH-53E pending installation of swashplate Bearing Monitor System

October

1-31 Fleet-wide grounding of the MH-53E pending installation of swashplate Bearing Monitor System

November

1-30 Fleet-wide grounding of the MH-53E pending installation of swashplate Bearing Monitor System
Awarded CINCLANTFLT Retention Excellence Award

December

1-31 Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of 5th Fleet

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

January

Detachment 1, Al Manamah, Bahrain: (01 January – 31 December 2000)

HM-14 Detachment One is a permanent, forward deployed four aircraft detachment in support of Fifth Fleet's Area of Operation. This detachment is responsible for contingency Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) and logistical support to afloat assets in the Arabian Gulf. This detachment added a robust AMCM capability to the region, completing NAVCENT's Mine Warfare Initiative that included the MCM triad of Surface, EOD and Airborne assets. During this period the detachment transported over 2,600 passengers, over 650 thousand pounds of mail and 2.5 million pounds of cargo in direct support of CVBG's and ARG's participating in Southern Watch. Additionally the detachment participated in 2 major MCM exercises.

February

At the Change of Command ceremony on the 26th, CDR Harry L. Myers, USNR, relieved CDR Barry F. Dagnall, USN, as Commanding Officer. CDR Kevin D. Scott assumed the duties as Executive Officer. In addition to Det 1, the squadron conducted routine training and operational flights.

March

MK-105 DynCorp VULCANEX (27 FEB 00 – 10 MAR 00). In this in-house exercise based in Norfolk, HM-14 provided a realistic shore based operational environment from which the concept of outsourced maintenance support for the MK-105 "Sled" was tested. DynCorp provided the MK-105 maintenance support, and the squadron flew 18 successful operational sorties with 100 percent equipment availability rate, proving the concept had merit for shore detachments.

USS George Washington Battle Group COMPTUEX VOD Support (17-21 March 00). Faced with emergent tasking from COMNAVAIRLANT, this detachment executed a flawless self-lift from NAS Norfolk to NAS Key West, FL to support the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVBG. Executing over 40 sorties totaling 44.0 flight hours and 38 shipboard landings, they moved 34 passengers, 600 pounds of mail and over 285,000 pounds of cargo in three days, establishing a new benchmark of excellence with its complement of 87 aircrew and maintenance personnel and 3 MH-53E aircraft.

April

Arabian Gauntlet 2000 (29 March-10 April 00). Arabian Gauntlet 2000 was the first major Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Allied Forces exercise within Fifth Fleet that included AMCM. This unique exercise provided the GCC with exposure to Airborne Mine Countermeasures in a realistic Arabian Gulf crisis situation, as well as invaluable real world data. Two AMCM AN/AQS-14A mine hunting missions were conducted daily while concurrently providing uninterrupted VOD support to the fleet. During this period 15 sorties were conducted which included 57.2 flight hours, 36.3 tow hours and 442.8 linear miles swept.

Coordinated Exercise Late Sail (29 March-10 April 00). Late Sail was an exercise specifically designed for the United States Mine Warfare Forces in the Arabian Gulf AOR. The objective of this exercise was to provide a continued opportunity for US MCM forces to gain experience in coordinating efforts and resources to re-acquire and recover exercise mines accounted for, but not previously found in former exercises. During this exercise 4 sorties were flown accounting for 15.0 flight hours, including 7.0 tow hours and 70.0 linear miles swept.

May

Joint Task Force Exercise 2000-2 (06-16 May 00). Three MH-53E's were detached to MCAS New River, North Carolina and operated in support of JTFEX 00-2 for the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVBG. A complement of 100 maintenance and aircrew personnel maintained exceptional aircraft availability, supporting aircrew tactical proficiency on the AN/AQS-14A mine hunting systems. . The exercise was conducted south of Morehead Inlet, North Carolina, and the detachment logged 124.2 flight hours, including 78.7 tow hours and swept over 932 linear miles. During this detachment HM-14 reached yet another milestone, with just 28 sorties flown, a 98% clearance level was achieved in the Fire Support and Amphibious Operating Areas.

June

In addition to Det 1, the squadron conducted routine training and operational flights.

July

Mercury/GOMEX 2000-2 (06-23 July 00). HM-14 deployed a three aircraft detachment to NAS Corpus Christi, TX for MIREM 13-Mercury/GOMEX 00-2. The exercise consisted of two separate phases; the first was MIREM 13 and VIP flights with the second being Mercury/GOMEX 00-2. MIREM 13 was a series of scripted tests conducted in specific mine fields laid by Surface Warfare Development Group (SWDG). The purpose of this test was to validate the AN/AQS-14A TACMEMO in addition to testing the sonar's vulnerability against specific bottom, acoustic mines. After the MIREM scripted events, the detachment flew VIPs from Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Thailand on MK-104 orientation flights. The final portion of the detachment was Mercury (Cooperative Exercise with ASEAN nations) and a traditional Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX). GOMEX was a free play exercise centered on a Joint Logistics Over The Shore (JLOTS) scenario with the possibility of an unopposed amphibious

landing. During this detachment 44 sorties and 205 flight hours were flown, logging 94.1 AMCM tow hours and covering over 809.8 linear miles.

August

In addition to Det 1, the squadron conducted routine training and operational flights.

September

Fleet-wide grounding of the MH-53E (September to November 2000). Following HM-15's tragic Class "A" flight mishap caused by a swashplate bearing seizure over the Gulf of Mexico in August, the MH-53E was restricted from flying during the subsequent investigation and phased airframe modification. The Engineering Investigation revealed manufacturing and quality assurance flaws in certain batches of swashplate bearings that contributed to their thermal breakdown and failure. NAVAIR determined that once an aircraft had the combination of a more recent series of bearings and the Bearing Monitor System (BMS), a previously developed system that measures and provides warnings for abnormal rotor head vibration and bearing temperature, that aircraft was again allowed to fly. Due to demand for bearings and BMS exceeding supply, a phased airframe modification was implemented, with deployed and operational units receiving the first modifications. Detachment 1 was one of the first units to receive the airframes change, and was back in business by Oct 18.

October

Detachment 1 resumed AMCM and VOD flights in the Arabian Gulf.

November

Awarded CINCLANTFLT Retention Excellence Award.

December

In addition to Det 1, the squadron conducted routine training and operational flights.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650
Ser 00/004
10 Jan 01

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures
Squadron FOURTEEN
To: Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic
Fleet
Subj: 2000 BATTLE EFFICIENCY/CNO SAFETY AWARD SUBMISSION
Ref: (a) COMHELTACWINGLANT 281550ZNOV00
Encl: (1) Executive Summary
(2) Achievements

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted in consideration for the Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet 2000 Battle Efficiency Award and CNO Safety Award.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. L. MYERS".

H. L. MYERS

Executive Summary

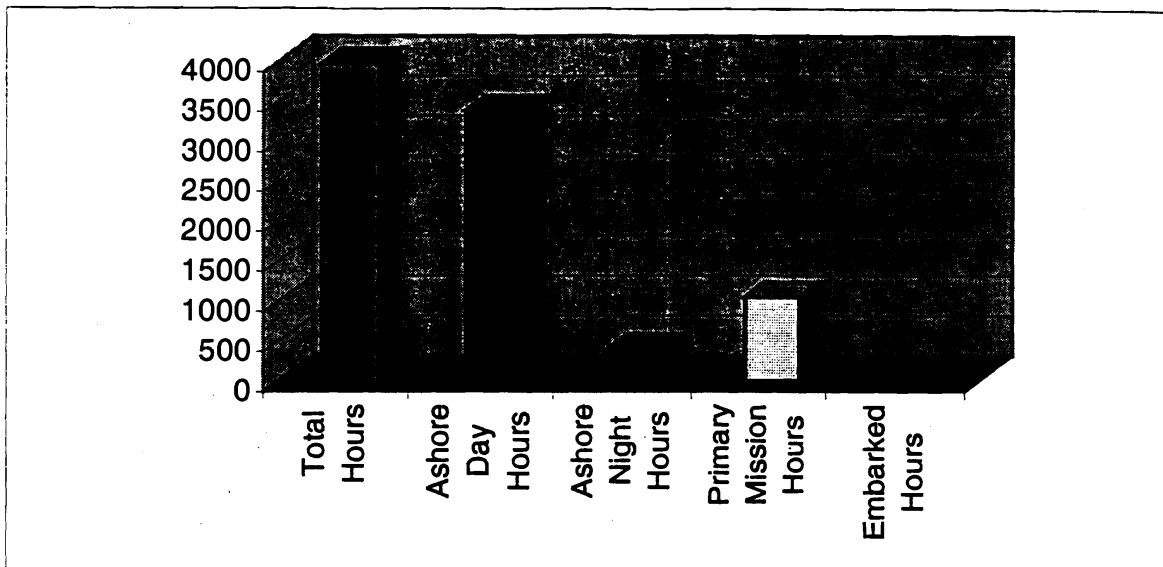
HM-14 is the largest combat deployable aviation squadron in the Atlantic Fleet. Uniquely, it is fully integrated with both active and reserve sailors. As such, the "World Famous VANGUARD" of HM-14 continued to raise the standards defining "Battle Efficiency" during 2000. Faced with unprecedented operational and administrative challenges, squadron personnel set new benchmarks for dedication, innovation and resourcefulness while accomplishing all tasking.

Operational tasking, both in and out of CONUS, continued to expand in the year 2000 as the Vanguard's reputation for meeting challenges and providing superior results grew. From maintaining the JCS permanent AMCM/VOD detachment for Fifth Fleet, participation in 3 major deployed exercises, short notice and routine fleet support detachments, as well as ongoing FRS and Reserve Training, HM-14 proved once again that they can do it all. The command's unique integration of active and reserve personnel provides a flexibility that is unmatched in Naval Aviation and enables concurrent tasking.

Despite a temporary fleet-wide grounding of all H-53E aircraft, the Vanguard amassed over 3,500 mishap free flight hours and set new standards in Airborne Mine Countermeasures and Naval Aviation excellence. With increased VOD, AMCM and Fleet Exercise commitments from HM-14 Det 1 in Bahrain, the command continued to lead the Naval Helicopter Community in tactical innovation and high op-tempo performance.

The year's achievements and successes could not have been attained without the enthusiasm and dedication of each member of this command. Truly the best and the brightest, it was their absolute commitment to excellence and willingness to give 110% that enabled HM-14 to achieve the unprecedented successes which have made the VANGUARD of HM-14 most deserving of the 2000 COMNAVAIRLANT Battle Efficiency Award.

1. OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:



A. FLIGHT HOURS: 3794.0

- (1) TOTAL HOURS FLOWN ASHORE: 3794.0/100%
 - a. DAY (HOURS/PERCENT): 3388.9/89%
 - b. NIGHT (HOURS/PERCENT): 405.1/11%
 - c. PRIMARY MISSION (HOURS/PERCENT): 1051.6/28%
- (2) TOTAL SORTIES ASHORE: 978
 - a. DAY: 805
 - b. NIGHT: 173
- (3) TOTAL EMBARKED HOURS: 0/0%
 - a. DAY: 0
 - b. NIGHT: 0
- (4) TOTAL SORTIES EMBARKED: 0
 - a. DAY: 0
 - b. NIGHT: 0
- (5) UTILIZATION RATE PER MONTH:
 - a. HOMEGUARD

JAN	16.7	JUL	43.1
FEB	33.2	AUG	18.1
MAR	46.0	SEP	00.0
APR	35.9	OCT	00.0
MAY	35.5	NOV	5.2
JUN	28.9	DEC	32.7

Average for year: 24.6%

b. Bahrain Detachment

JAN	35.3	JUL	25.1
FEB	21.8	AUG	00.0
MAR	36.9	SEP	00.0
APR	40.3	OCT	16.8
MAY	29.1	NOV	28.3
JUN	28.6	DEC	28.5

Average for year: 24.2%

B. SHIPBOARD LANDINGS: 587

(1) LARGE DECK (MULTI-SPOT) LANDINGS: 559

a. DAY: 472

b. NIGHT: 87

(2) SMALL DECK (SINGLE-SPOT) LANDINGS: 28

a. DAY: 22

b. NIGHT 6

C. RESCUES: 0

D. DEPLOYMENTS: Refer to Training Readiness and Deployments below for a detailed explanation of deployment)

(1) Al Manamah, Bahrain (01 January - 31 December)

(2) GW CVBG COMPTUEX VOD Support (17 - 21 March)

(3) Arabian Gauntlet 2000 (29 March - 10 April)

(4) Coordinated Exercise Late Sail (29 March - 10 April)

(5) Joint Task Force Exercise 2000-2 (06-16 May 00)

(6) Mercury/GOMEX 2000-2: (06-23 July 00)

2. TRAINING READINESS

A. DEPLOYMENTS:

(1) **Al Manamah, Bahrain: (01 January - 31 December)**

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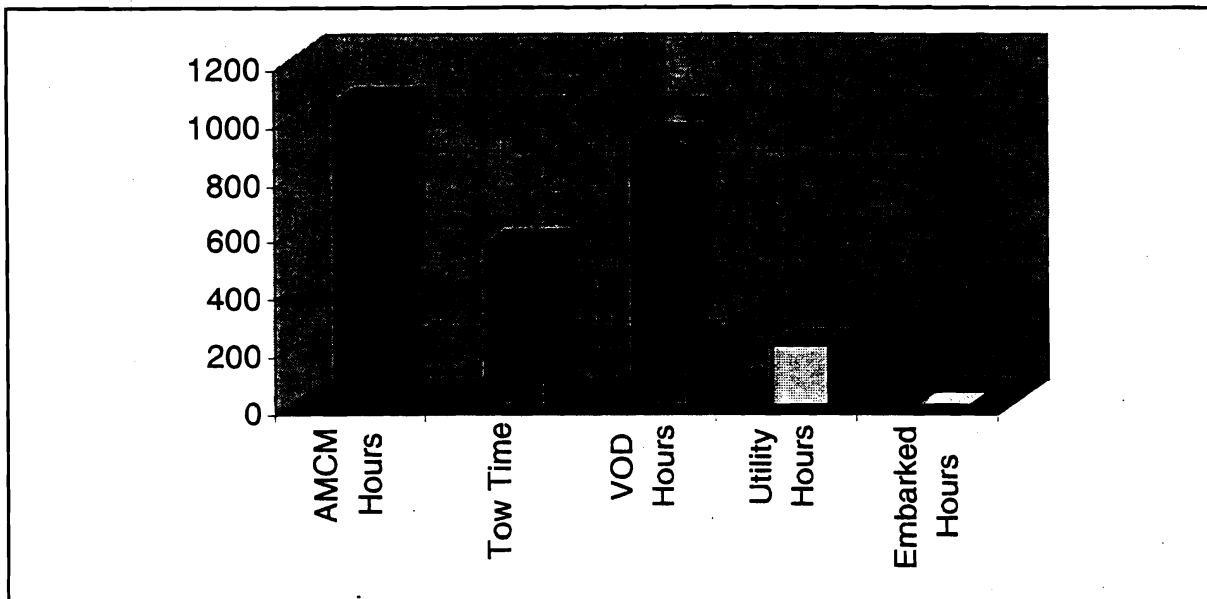
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B. AIRBORNE MINE COUNTERMEASURES:



- (1) AMCM: 1051.6
 - a. AMCM TIME: 1051.6
 - b. AMCM TIME ASHORE: 1051.6
 - c. AMCM TIME EMBARKED: 0

- (2) TOW: 577.1
 - a. TOW TIME: 577.1
 - b. TOW TIME ASHORE: 577.1
 - c. TOW TIME EMBARKED: 0

- (3) VOD HOURS: 928.8
 - a. VOD HOURS: 928.8
 - b. VOD HOURS SHORE BASED: 928.8
 - c. VOD HOURS EMBARKED: 0

- (4) UTILITY HOURS: 208.6
 - a. NUMBER OF PASSENGERS: 2,664
 - b. POUNDS OF CARGO: 2,435,220
 - c. POUNDS OF MAIL: 676,809
 - d. POUNDS OUTSIZED CARGO: 97,000

3. WEAPON SYSTEMS READINESS:

A. FULL MISSION CAPABLE

- (1) HOMEGUARD (FMC) RATE: 50.9%

JAN	71.2	JUL	56.3
FEB	88.3	AUG	58.0
MAR	68.4	SEP	00.0
APR	71.0	OCT	2.7
MAY	73.5	NOV	4.6
JUN	72.1	DEC	35.0

- (2) BAHRAIN DETACHMENT (FMC) RATE: 55.7%

JAN	99.9	JUL	64.8
FEB	33.5	AUG	59.8
MAR	29.5	SEP	54.3
APR	44.3	OCT	45.9
MAY	64.7	NOV	56.1
JUN	56.0	DEC	60.0

B. MISSION CAPABLE

(1) HOMEGUARD (MC) RATE: 52.5%

JAN	71.3	JUL	62.5
FEB	88.4	AUG	58.9
MAR	70.9	SEP	03.6
APR	73.7	OCT	15.9
MAY	74.3	NOV	04.7
JUN	76.1	DEC	30.0

(2) BAHRAIN DETACHMENT (MC) RATE: 66.6%

JAN	99.9	JUL	75.3
FEB	72.3	AUG	60.5
MAR	51.5	SEP	56.8
APR	57.5	OCT	45.9
MAY	64.9	NOV	74.2
JUN	65.0	DEC	75.0

C. CANNIBALIZATION RATE PER 100 FLIGHT HOURS:

(1) HOMEGUARD RATE: 26.9

JAN	34.1	JUL	20.2
FEB	27.6	AUG	57.8
MAR	19.6	SEP	00.0
APR	18.7	OCT	00.0
MAY	26.9	NOV	58.8
JUN	29.6	DEC	30.2

(2) BAHRAIN DETACHMENT RATE: 19.9

JAN	00.7	JUL	12.9
FEB	29.9	AUG	00.0
MAR	09.5	SEP	00.0
APR	11.8	OCT	13.4
MAY	16.4	NOV	80.3
JUN	19.2	DEC	45.0

D. SQUADRON "I" LEVEL A 799 RATE PER 100 REMOVALS FOR CAUSE.

(1) HOMEGUARD RATE: 1.2%

JAN	1.5	JUL	3.0
FEB	1.2	AUG	1.1
MAR	1.0	SEP	0.7
APR	1.2	OCT	0.8
MAY	1.3	NOV	0.6
JUN	1.1	DEC	1.2

(2) BAHRAIN DETACHMENT RATE: 4.1%

JAN	7.8	JUL	0.0
FEB	4.3	AUG	4.6
MAR	10.0	SEP	4.7
APR	8.9	OCT	0.0
MAY	0.0	NOV	5.1
JUN	0.0	DEC	4.0

E. TOTAL NUMBER OF FOD OCCURRANCES: 2

F. GENERAL MAINTENANCE:

The center of the VANGUARD success rests firmly on the strong, vigorous, and enormously effective aviation maintenance program. Consistently cited for superb material condition and exceptional mission capability rates, HM-14's Aircraft Maintenance Department continues to set new standards for training, productivity, and efficiency.

The Aircraft Maintenance Department has made the following contributions to weapon systems development:

(1) Repaired 90 main rotor blades at the Organizational level, saving the Navy \$4,367,700 in repair costs and approximately 900 man-hours at the Intermediate maintenance level.

(2) A front-runner in maintenance training, HM-14 has excelled in Maintenance Training Improvement Program (MTIP) readiness, maintaining an 81% completion rate for 220 personnel.

(3) Orchestrated the incorporation of five major Depot level airframe modifications on four forward-deployed

aircraft, while providing logistical support for three carrier battle groups in support of Operation Southern Watch.

(4) Completed Airframes Change 491 (Bearing Monitor System) on 10 aircraft after the fleet wide grounding of all H-53 aircraft. Modifications were completed in minimal time, returning the squadron aircraft "safe for flight".

(5) Discovered over 55 discrepancies in the Periodic Maintenance Information Cards (PMIC). Recommendation to COMNAVAIRSYSCOM resulted in a complete revision of the PMIC, saving the H-53 community numerous maintenance man-hours.

4. PERSONNEL READINESS

A. RETENTION RATE (GROSS PERCENTAGE)

WINNER OF THE GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD

- (1) FIRST TERM: 45.07%
- (2) SECOND TERM: 73.68%
- (3) CAREER 93.55%

B. ADVANCEMENT	E-4	E-5	E-6
(1) NUMBER ELIGIBLE	109	183	110
(2) NUMBER ADVANCED	72	35	15
(3) NUMBER (PNA)	20	127	90

5. COMBAT READINESS INSPECTION AND EXERCISES

A. INSPECTION RESULTS

- (1) MRCI - SATISFACTORY
- (2) QUALITY REVIEW - SATISFACTORY
- (3) NATOPS EVALUATION - NOT REQUIRED THIS PERIOD
- (4) NAVOSH - OVERALL EXCELLENT

6. ACHIEVEMENTS IN AVIATION SAFETY

- A. ALPHA MISHAPS - 0
- B. BRAVO MISHAPS - 0
- C. CHARLIE MISHAPS- 0
- D. HAZARD REPORTS SUBMITTED - 1
- E. NATOPS CHANGES SUBMITTED - 1
- F. SAFETY ARTICLES - 2
- G. SAFETY STANDOWNS - 3
- H. MAINTENANCE SAFETY - QDRS (2), HMRS (7), TPDRS (4).
- I. SAFETY AWARDS - "6 YEARS CLASS A MISHAP FREE" ON 11JUL00
- J. MAINTENANCE SAFETY PRO AWARDS - 1

7. AMCM OPERATIONS AND TACTICAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

A. MK-105 DynCorp VULCANEX (27 FEB 00 - 10 MAR 00). Provided maintenance liaison, Launch/Recovery Officers, and operational representatives in support of the initial MK-105 DynCorp pilot maintenance outsourcing program. Squadron efforts resulted in 18 successful operational sorties and a 100 percent equipment availability rate.

B. JTFEX 00-2, New River, NC (01 MAY 00- 19 MAY 00). Established a self-sufficient satellite maintenance facility consisting of 21 MILVANS and over 360,000 pounds of equipment in support of the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group. The squadron completed 136 flight hours and conducted 81 AMCM AN/AQS-14A Sonar tow hours.

C. MERCURY-GOMEX 00-2/MIREM 13, Corpus Christi, TX (05 JUL 00 - 26 JUL 00). Performed AN/AQS-14A Side Looking Sonar and MK-104 Acoustic Mine Hunting operations and maintenance in support of the bilateral mine countermeasures training exercise consisting of U.S. Surface and AMCM forces and personnel from the Republic of Singapore. HM-14 successfully completed 100 percent of COMMINEWARCOM tasking, logging over 120 flight hours and 100 AMCM tow hours.

D. AMCM GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

(1) Through proactive preventive maintenance, corrosion control and continuous process improvement programs, the MCM Maintenance Department maintained an outstanding 97.88% systems availability rate and a 95.21% average Full Mission Capable (FMC) rate this year. The MCM department performed over 4,320 maintenance actions, 211 equipment repair orders on 56 items of Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) and conducted 1458 accident free hours of small craft operations through calendar year 2000. Established Fifth Fleet AMCM readiness by placing four contingency mine sweeping and hunting systems forward deployed in Bahrain.

(2) Deployment Coordination. Responsible for loading and shipping over 50 tons of mission essential materials to Bahrain, while simultaneously establishing logistical footprints and controlling all aspects of AMCM maintenance for all Detachment Exercises.

(3) Extremely proactive in the AMCM Weapon Systems In-Process Review (IPR) and Quality Product Review (QPR) Programs. Hosted eight IPR committees during 2000 and attended numerous meetings at various CONUS locations. HM-14 personnel were instrumental in reviewing and verifying 13 Maintenance Instruction Manuals for six AMCM systems, including the AMNS and SWIMS programs currently under development. Additionally, HM-14 provided technical guidance for the introduction of the newly retrofitted Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB) for fleet distribution.

(4) Provided a recognized technical expert to perform preliminary inspections on 23 items of MK-105 equipment prior to acceptance and fleet re-induction from the DynCorp Outsourcing Program. This significantly reduced potential conflicts concerning inventory management and equipment integrity for CHTWL, HM-14 and HM-15.

(5) As the leading contributor to the 2000 AMCM ILSMT, HM-14 submitted 26 significant maintenance, supply and support action items for review. This critical fleet input will keep the ILSMT process alive and provide crucial improvements to AMCM support.

(6) Verified Maintenance Requirement Cards and procedures for 11 AMCM weapon systems and Mission Interface Removable

Systems for accuracy and incorporation into the Performance Support System (PSS).

(7) Developed a comprehensive qualification/training program increasing MK-105 Launch/Recovery Officer and Safe for Mission personnel qualifications by 75 percent and work center qualifications by 35 percent.

(8) Implemented AIMD rework procedures for the MK-105 Engine Performance Test Set (EPTS) saving over \$24,000 in DLR funding and several months in downtime.

(9) Implemented and developed maintenance procedures for the following newly procured AMCM assets:

a. Rapid Start 2000. External power source for the MK-105 Sled, replacing the Hobart System.

b. Self-Contained Cleansing System (Pressure Washer). Used to perform scheduled maintenance and post operation inspections. Use of this system decreases man-hours by 50 percent.

c. Power Generators. Received and reconfigured the electrical platform for four 60KW, four 40KW, and three 15KW replacement generators. This has greatly enhanced the capability and readiness of the Bahrain Detachment as well as for HM-14 Homeguard.

8. GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE:

(1) Squadron individual awards:

Navy Commendation Medals	26
Navy Achievement Medals	73
Letters Of Commendation	71
Letters of Appreciation	12

(2) Retirements: All retirees are offered an opportunity to have an official retirement ceremony. Each member receives an Appreciation of Service Letter from the Commanding Officer that outlines the member's career and awards earned. A shadow box is presented containing rating insignia, flag, awards, and an engraved brass plaque. Awards, Spouse Appreciation, and a Letter of

Recognition from the President are presented to the member. At the retirement ceremony, the member and spouse are piped over the side.

(3) Recognition: Recognition ceremonies are held to honor professional qualifications and reinforce the responsibility that accompanies the new designation. Plane Captains, Aircrew Designations, EAWS, and flight hour milestones are recognized.

(4) Family Events: The command recognizes family roles and makes a significant effort to help families through difficult times. This year the squadron helped 2 families in need of assistance after devastating fires to their homes. The Command involves family members in many programs and events, including an All-Hands Christmas party, Children's Christmas party, Summer Picnic and Children's Easter party, in addition to providing detailed briefing to the families of members deploying to Bahrain.

(5) Ombudsman Support: In addition to the Officer Support group, family members are updated on Command news at social functions and through the squadron's Ombudsman. The Command Ombudsman's superior work and dedication have played a key role in resolving the problems of many squadron dependents.

(7) Adopt-a-school: Since 1996, HM-14 has been associated with Lindenwood Elementary School in Norfolk, VA. The squadron's involvement includes supporting programs such as the Gentlemen's and Dad's Program, tutoring and chaperoning after school functions.

(8) Other Community events: The squadron had over 50 personnel volunteer help at the North American Sand Soccer Championships in VA Beach, setting up goals, lining fields, refereeing, and field marshaling. The proceeds for this event benefit the Hampton Roads Soccer Council, a CFC charity. The squadron also participated in the Cerebral Palsy walk-a-thon. HM-14 was recognized as a corporate sponsor by the City of Virginia Beach, due to the amount of man-hours donated. In addition, squadron members donated dozens of man hours to a critical project at Salem Middle School.

B. RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS:

HM-14 is one of two unique squadrons that enjoy a fully integrated Selected Reserve (SELRES) component. The Reserve Element is comprised of 13 highly qualified pilots, one Aviation Maintenance officer, and approximately 80 supporting aviation rated enlisted personnel.

The 13 Reserve pilots played an integral role in the squadron's achievements this year. Specifically, they comprise 50% of the squadron's AMCM mission commanders and 7 of the 11 AMCM Fleet Replacement Instructors. This year they amassed over 1100 mishap-free flight hours in direct support of all three CONUS AMCM exercises, Fleet Replacement training, and VOD. They also flew roughly 30% of the squadron's total AMCM tow hours. Chosen SELRES pilots and enlisted personnel provided augmented, forward-deployed support for Operation Desert Fox and Operation Southern Watch and two multi-national MCM exercises in the 5th Fleet AOR.

HM-14 Reserve Component developed and implemented a Reserve manned Detachment concept which has dramatically increased Job Qualification Requirement completion by 38%. This entity will eventually provide a stand-alone operational capability for Drill and Fly weekends and a capable detachment to assist in short-fused tasking requirements.

As a direct result of the Active commitment to Reserve training and development, SELRES retention and recruitment achieved an all-time high this year. HM-14 Reservists set the standard for retention and recruitment, attaining the coveted CNO Golden Anchor award for two consecutive quarters.

HM-14's synergistic Selected Reserve component continues to provide highly qualified and seasoned instruction for Fleet Replacement pilots, and Homeguard AMCM and heavy-lift VOD support, while offering a capable augmentation pool of personnel to forward-deployed detachments worldwide.

9. COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Calendar year 2000 has proven to be one of the most challenging and rewarding years in recent memory. From the Arabian Gulf to the Gulf of Mexico, the Vanguard has delivered on every commitment, further advancing their reputation for operational excellence and service to the Fleet.

Committed to mission capability, the men and women of HELMINERON FOURTEEN continued to display an impressive drive and enthusiasm. Always at the forefront, the Vanguard has established its presence in Fifth Fleet and is now preparing to assume all Fleet Replacement Training for our community. Mission readiness was the key to the many successes enjoyed by the Command. Arabian Gauntlet, JTFEX 00-2 and GOMEX 00-2/MIREM 13 were highly successful exercises that demonstrated the squadron's ability to mainstream mine warfare to the Fleet. In addition to meeting all operational commitments, the Vanguard provided Second Fleet support and conducted Fleet Pilot and Aircrew replacement training and tactical weapon systems evaluation, ensuring a robust future AMCM capability.

The Sailors of the Vanguard have served, in this past year, with distinction, demonstrating an enthusiasm and dedication second to none. They have remained flexible, adaptable and have met every challenge while providing support on short notice throughout the year. **It is this pride, teamwork and commitment to excellence that has made HM-14 most deserving of the 2000 Battle Efficiency Award.**