



1981

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
FPO NEW YORK 09532

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)  
Subj: Command History; submission of (OPNAV Report 5750-1)  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C  
Encl: (1) Command History for USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
for calendar year 1981

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

  
E. W. CLEPTON, JR.

Copy to:  
CINCLANTFLT  
COMNAVAIRLANT  
Director of Naval History

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS - 1981

1-22 JAN USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

22-27 JAN Virginia Capes OPAREA

28 JAN IKE enters Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA

11-16 MAY Underway for Sea Trials

27 MAY-2 JUN Fleet Carrier Qualifications

8-13 JUN Carrier Qualifications and Father and Son Cruise

17 JUN-23 JUL REFTRA/TYT I&II

2-5 JUL In port St. Thomas, V. I.

3 JUL Change of Command - CAPT E. W. CLEXTON, Jr., assumes command

6-23 JUL TYT I&II, READEX 2-81, Puerto Rican OPAREA

23 JUL-9 AUG Moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

10-14 AUG Underway Virginia Capes OPAREA

15-19 AUG Moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

20 AUG-6 OCT Underway in North Atlantic for participation in Magic Sword, Ocean Venture, and Ocean Safari NATO Exercises

18-21 SEP In port Lisbon, Portugal

22-23 SEP Underway in North Atlantic

24-28 SEP In port Portsmouth, England

29 SEP-6 OCT Enroute Norfolk, VA

7-28 OCT Moored to Pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

28 OCT-12 NOV Underway for TYT III/ORE, Puerto Rican OPAREA

12-15 NOV In port Bridgetown, Barbados

16-21 NOV Caribbean Operations

22-24 NOV Enroute Norfolk, VA

25 NOV-5 JAN 82 In port Naval Station, Norfolk, VA for holiday leave period and making ready for getting underway for deployment to Mediterranean in support of SIXTH Fleet Operations.

COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1981

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# USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

## Basic Data

### I. Command Organization

#### a. Commanding Officer

(1) Captain Edward W. CLEXTON, Jr., USN; 3 July 1981 - Present.

#### b. Executive Officer

(1) Captain George D. O'BRIEN, Jr., USN; 8 October 1980 - Present.

### II. Mission of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

The mission of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is to provide seabased tactical air power for defense of America's right to freedom of the sea as well as the protection of United States Sovereignty. As part of this mission, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is capable of projecting tactical air power both over the sea and land, as well as providing tactical air defense and antisubmarine warfare capabilities.

### III. Background

a. Named after the 34th President of the United States and General of the Army, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) is the third nuclear powered aircraft carrier ever built. Originally named EISENHOWER on 21 February 1970, the ship was renamed DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER on 25 May 1970.

b. The keel of the ship (Hull 599, as designated by Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company) was laid on 15 August 1970 and was authenticated by the late president's grandson, D. David Eisenhower II. Five years later, on October 11, 1975, the late Mrs. Mamie Doud Eisenhower, widow of the former President and ship's sponsor, christened the ship during launching ceremonies at the Newport News Shipyard.

c. On 18 October 1977, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) was placed into commission in ceremonies at pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

RESUME OF USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) OPERATIONS FOR  
CALENDAR YEAR 1981

The year 1981 found USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) moored at pier 12, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, for a much needed rest for the ship and crew. In late January, IKE entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, for work necessitated by the record-breaking 1980 Indian Ocean Deployment.

IKE departed the shipyard for sea trials in mid-May and finished the month undergoing Fleet Carrier Qualifications. After a brief in-port stay, IKE once again got underway, this time for a pleasant at-sea period which included many fathers and sons of IKE crewmembers who were able to witness Carrier Qualifications and other operations. IKE finished the month of June involved with Refresher Training and TYT I&II in the Puerto Rican Operational Area.

2 July, 1981 saw IKE sailing into the picturesque Caribbean port of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands for a much appreciated port call. This tiny island also served as the back-drop for an impressive change-of-command ceremony which saw Captain J. H. Mauldin, USN, turn over command of USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER to Captain Edward W. Clepton, Jr., USN. Captain Clepton was the first Executive Officer of IKE during her pre-commissioning, two years of construction, outfitting and training, and for a year of operational employment.

Returning to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, in late July, IKE got ready to participate in the largest NATO joint sea exercise the world had seen in 25 years of maritime history. Soon, Magic Sword - Ocean Venture - Ocean Safari became synonymous with USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. During these NATO exercises, IKE made visits to Lisbon, Portugal and Portsmouth, England, where her impressive size and well-mannered crew acted as true ambassadors of the Navy, the United States, and her people on foreign shores.

IKE again returned home to Norfolk, Virginia, and her families, proud of the participation and recognition. After nearly a month in home port, IKE set out for another great test - Operational Readiness Exercises in the Caribbean. During this short deployment, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER again distinguished herself by repeated successful planned exercises with the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). Two-carrier operations became the plan of the day and IKE again proved the great reliability of the aircraft carrier and Air Wing.

Following an enjoyable port visit in Bridgetown, Barbados, IKE and CVW-7 completed the Operational Readiness Exercise. IKE again returned to Norfolk, Virginia, in time for an appreciated holiday period and to get ready for yet another challenge - Deployment to the Mediterranean in support of SIXTH Fleet Operations.

It was during 1981 that USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER continued to distinguish herself as the greatest aircraft carrier in history by earning the coveted COMNAV-AIRLANT "Battle E" for the third consecutive year. Additionally, the following departments in IKE won awards for excellence in their respective fields; Operations (Green E), Engineering (Red E), Weapons (Black W), Supply (Blue E), Damage Control (Red DC), and Deck (Seamanship Insignia).

In a message dispatched to IKE, Vice Admiral Kilcline, Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, summed up 1981 for USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER when he said, "Across the board your performance has been superlative and is duly recognized. I have every expectation that your performance in 1982 will be equally as impressive."