

CLASSIFIED

1972

USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CVA63/5750
Ser 32/005
27 Feb 1973

HAWK (CVA)

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Command History, 1972; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A
(b) USS KITTY HAWK INST 5750.1

- Encl:
- (1) USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Command History 1972
 - (2) Officer's Roster
 - (3) Enlisted Roster
 - (4) USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Cruise Report, 1972
 - (5) Attack Carrier Air Wing Eleven Cruise Report, 1972
 - (6) IOIC, Intelligence Report, 1972
 - (7) Welcome Aboard, USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) enclosure (1) is submitted.

M. W. Townsend
M. W. TOWNSEND

Copy to:
CNO (OP-09B9 (less enclosures 2, 3, and 7)
CINCPACFLT (less enclosures 2 through 7)
COMNAVAIRPAC, Code 10 (less enclosures 2, 3, and 7)

COPY 1
OF 11 COPIES

CLASSIFIED BY: KITTY HAWK Code 32
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 1 MARCH 1980

[REDACTED]

ORIGINAL

DECLASSIFIED



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D. C. 20374

NHC/C
Ser 9879
December 9, 1977
IN REPLY REFER TO

From: Director of Naval History
To: Naval Aviation History Office, 23rd & E Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20372

Subj: CVA 63 Command History for 1972

Ref: (a) Telcon Mr. Van Vleet/CDR Clark of Dec 1, 1977
(b) OPNAVINST 5510.1E of Jun 24, 1974

1. The Command History of USS KITTYHAWK (CVA-63) for 1972, CVA 63/5750 ser 32005 dated 27 Feb 73 enclosure (1) thereto, has been reviewed by this office and is declassified effective December 5, 1977.


S. D. CLARK
By direction


DECLASSIFIED

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

During January and the beginning of February, 1972, USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) engaged in REFTRA, CARQUALS, and ORE in preparation for her ORI.

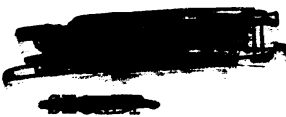
On 17 February, KITTY HAWK with Air Wing ELEVEN embarked, got underway for her sixth combat cruise, Captain O. H. OBERG commanding. Because of the urgent requirements in WESTPAC, KITTY HAWK departed without the usual 30 days standown and ORI. A detour of 280 miles was made from course to give emergency medical attention to a crewman of the USS VESUVIUS who was suffering from acute appendicitis. KITTY HAWK arrived Subic on 2 March.

From 5 through 8 March KITTY HAWK engaged in local operations; it was here that the first loss of the cruise occurred. The A-7E of Commander D. L. HALL, C. O. of VA-195, was lost at sea on 8 March. These operations were followed by Yankee Station operations through the 25 March against targets in South Vietnam and Laos. The operating directive for this period was the Seventh Air Force SEASIA Fragmentary message. All sorties were flown under strict control of Forward Air Controllers. Due to an operational loss of an A7E on 19 March, all A7E aircraft were temporarily grounded. The Corsairs flew on 22 and 23 March, but were grounded for the rest of the line period. The F4 squadrons were tasked with additional strike sorties to meet sortie commitments. One A7 was lost due to combat on 23 March. LT D. S. PIKE, the pilot, was listed as MIA.

-1-

DECLASSIFIED 

DECLASSIFIED


The period 27 March through 1 April comprized the second time inport Subic. Commander Task Force 77/COMCARDIV FIVE, Rear Admiral D. W. COOPER, commanding, was embarked on 27 March.

KITTY HAWK was recalled to the Gulf early from Subic Bay due to the North Vietnamese invasion across the DMZ on 2 April. Flight operations commenced on 3 April with strikes into DMZ area. The first Alfa strikes into North Vietnam were flown on 7 April. From this time until 1 May the area of operations alternated from North to South Vietnam depending on the weather and strike requirements. New operations included night diversionary strikes against SAM sites in the Vinh, Thanh Hoa, and Hai Phong areas in support of B-52's. After 1 May, KITTY HAWK worked exclusively in North Vietnam. Alfa strikes and A-6 night missions were used extensively. Beginning on 12 May, a mining campaign was mounted on North Vietnamese ports, river mouths and inland waterways. On 8 May CDR J. A. MCKENZIE relieved CDR H. HARDISTY as Air Wing Commander. One F4J of VF-114, LTJG GREENLEAF and LT C. MCKINNEY, listed MIA, was lost on 14 April, and one RA5C, CDR C. R. POLFER AND LTJG J. E. KERNAN, listed as POW, was lost on 7 May, while two MIG-21's were shot down on 6 May by VF-114.

After a third inport period in Subic Bay, KITTY HAWK conducted flight operations on 1 through 27 June. Again, operations were primarily over the North. Twenty-three Walleye weapons (including six Walleye II's) and eighteen laser-guided bombs were employed during this line period in addition to an exstensive amount of standard ordnance.

-2-
DECLASSIFIED



DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

Single aircraft A6 night missions were designated "Sneaky Pete" operations, these missions were tasked with deep penetrations of enemy territory. With the appearance of Chinese merchantmen at the Hon Nieu and Hon La anchorages, intensive reconnaissance of these areas began. Although two aircraft were lost, all personnel were recovered safely. On 5 June Captain M. W. TOWNSEND relieved Captain O. H. OBERG as C. O. of KITTY HAWK.

The crew enjoyed 7 days liberty in Hong Kong, from 30 June until 6 July, after which the KITTY HAWK got underway for her forth line period, the third with operations against North Vietnam. The line period included flight operations from 8 July to 4 August. The Walleye II with data link was evaluated and found to be a highly effective weapon. Additionally, numerous non-data link Walleye's and laser-guided bombs were employed with good results. Sneaky Pete operations continued, primarily in RP-VIB. No losses were sustained during the period. A TRAEX BRAVO was conducted on 5 August consisting of drills on currently assigned SIOP tasking.

After another period inport Subic, the KITTY HAWK returned to the line from 14 August until 5 September. Intensive combat operations continued over North and South Vietnam, hampered somewhat by deteriorating weather. On 1 September, KITTY HAWK departed the Gulf to evade Typhoon ELSIE. Full operations were not resumed until 4 September.

The principle types of ordnance expended were MK82's and MK20 Rockeyes. Some Walleyes and laser-guided bombs were also dropped, the MK83 LGB being introduced. Due to the poorer weather most operations

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

were cyclic or mini-Alfa/Bravo strikes vice Alfa Strikes. On 17 August, CDR Benjamin CLOUD relieved CDR M. A. PEELE as ship's Executive Officer. Also on the seventeenth, the C. O. of VF-114, CDR J. R. PITZEN was lost over North Vietnam with his RIO, LT J. PENDER Jr. On 19 August, LT R. LESTER and LT H. MOSSMAN of VA-52 were lost on a night mission over the North.

Following a Subic inport period, KITTY HAWK commenced her ~~fifth~~^{sixth} line period, 15 September through 2 October, with operations continuing over North Vietnam. Heavy emphasis was placed upon interdiction of LOC's in RP's II and III. To this end, a number of boxes, areas receptive to interdiction, were designated and assigned to the various squadrons. It was hoped this effort would cause supplies to backup in the storage areas of Binh Tram-18, north and west of Vinh. Only a limited number of guided bombs were expended, largely because of the weather. For the same reason, there were only seven Alfa strikes. No serious casualties were experienced on missions, but ABHAA T. GOETCH fell overboard and was lost at sea.

After yet another visit to Subic Bay, the ship commenced the seventh and final line period, concentrating its efforts of the North Vietnamese panhandle. A brief but well publicized disturbance occurred onboard on the night of 12 October but operation of the ship was not affected. Weather prohibited the employment of any Alfa strikes during the line period. The number of strike sorties was severely restricted by higher authority and, on 23 October, a no-bomb line was established on the twentieth

-4-

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

parallel. Despite restrictions, the interdiction campaign was continued, and several lucrative targets were struck in the Binh Tram-18 complex with good results. The code name for A6 night missions was changed to "Lurking Berthas" after the establishment of the no-bomb line. The pilot of the only aircraft lost due to combat was recovered safely. On 23 October, CTF 77/COMCARDIV FIVE was debarked.

On 4 November 1972, USS KITTY HAWK completed combat operations for this, her sixth combat cruise to Southeast Asia. The KITTY HAWK/CVW-11 team amassed a number of accomplishments this cruise for which statistical evidence readily exists; however, numbers cannot adequately convey the story of this most challenging and productive adventure over the last nine months. This fighting ship was intimately involved in the air campaign to interdict and destroy enemy capability to support offensive operations in South Vietnam. With the North Vietnamese invasion across the DMZ in April and ensuing months, KITTY HAWK sustained combat operations over a period of 187 line days with one period of 50 consecutive days. Nearly twenty seven thousand tons (26,376,608) of ordnance were delivered on the enemy at a rate which often exceeded 200 tons per day. A total of over 16,600 combat/combat support sorties were flown with minimum losses against the most formidable array of air defenses in the history of aerial warfare. "Smart" bombs, WALLEYE and LGB's, were introduced successfully to the Navy weapons arsenal with impressive results. Scores of ALPHA strikes were launched against the North Vietnamese heartland with outstanding effect in BDA and devastation of the

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

war-waging ability of the enemy. Thousands of lucrative targets were attacked during armed reconnaissance missions, resulting in the curtailment of logistical flow south. KITTY HAWK's record speaks well. This ship is proud to have been an integral part of Carrier Task Force SEVENTY SEVEN over the past nine exciting months. The statistics cannot record the personal sacrifices and efforts of the men of the HAWK. This is where the real story exists and where the credit is due. We of the KITTY HAWK are individually and collectively proud and consider this deployment to have made a major contribution to the honorable conclusion of the Vietnam war.

After a one day stopover in Subic, the ship proceeded to Sasebo, Japan, spending 11 through 13 November there. KITTY HAWK transited to Pearl Harbor 14-21 November in company with the USS GRIDLEY (DLG-21) and USS HOLT (DE-1074). The initial segment of the transit was completed under EMCON; no overflights by Soviet aircraft were experienced. After twenty-four hours in Pearl, KITTY HAWK continued to the West Coast, making landfall at San Diego on 28 November. The command went into a post deployment standown which lasted through the end of the year.

-6-

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENTS LAST CRUISE

17 FEB	USS MT KATMAI (AE 16)
18 FEB	USS MANATEE (AO 58)
21 FEB	USS LARSON (DD 830)
21 FEB	USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14)
22 FEB	USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14)
24 FEB	USS MISPELLION (AO 105)
28 FEB	USS LARSON (DD 830)
29 FEB	USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14)
9 MAR	USS WICHITA (AOR 1)
12 MAR	USS HALEAKALA (AE 25)
13 MAR	USS KAWISHIWI (AO 146)
16 MAR	USS VESUVIUS (AE 15)
17 MAR	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
19 MAR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
21 MAR	USS CAMDEN (AOR 2)
24 MAR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
3 APR	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
5 APR	USS NAVSOTA (AO 106)
6 APR	USS PYRO (AE 24)
8 APR	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
9 APR	USS VEGA (AF 59)
12 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
14 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
17 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
20 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
23 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
24 APR	USS VEGA (AFS 59)
26 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
30 APR	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
2 MAY	USS ASHTABULA (AO 51)
6 MAY	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
9 MAY	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
11 MAY	USS PYRO (AE 3)
12 MAY	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
16 MAY	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
18 MAY	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
21 MAY	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
2 JUN	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
3 JUN	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
6 JUN	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
9 JUN	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
12 JUN	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
14 JUN	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
17 JUN	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
20 JUN	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)

23 JUN	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
26 JUN	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
7 JUL	USS ROARK (DD 1053)
9 JUL	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
13 JUL	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
16 JUL	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
18 JUL	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
21 JUL	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
24 JUL	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
29 JUL	USS ASHTABULA (AOE 51)
1 AUG	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
3 AUG	USS NITRO (AE 23)
3 AUG	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
14 AUG	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
17 AUG	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
19 AUG	USS ENGLAND (DLG 22)
20 AUG	USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
27 AUG	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
31 AUG	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
1 SEP	USS VEGA (AF 59)
2 SEP	USS MARS (FS 1)
4 SEP	USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)
17 SEP	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
20 SEP	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
23 SEP	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
26 SEP	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
29 SEP	USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)
1 OCT	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
13 OCT	USS WICHITA (AOR 1)
17 OCT	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3)
20 OCT	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
23 OCT	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
26 OCT	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
30 OCT	USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
1 NOV	USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)
3 NOV	USS MARS (AFS 1)
6 NOV	USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)
17 NOV	USS HOLT (DE 1074)
19 NOV	USS GRIDLEY (DLG 21)

ARRESTING GEAR AND CATAPULT STATISTICS

TOTAL AIRCRAFT LAUNCHES EACH CATAPULT

<u>CATAPULT</u>	<u>CRUISE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
1	3927	4755
2	6273	7020
3	4569	4857
4	<u>3424</u>	<u>3575</u>
TOTAL	18,193	20,207

TOTAL ARRESTMENTS

<u>ARRESTING GEAR ENGINE</u>	<u>CRUISE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
1	1997	2444
2	5600	6249
3	7698	8375
4	3426	3844
5	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	18,722	20,913

LISTING OF THOUSANDTH CARRIER LANDINGS

<u>ARRESTMENT NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT TYPE</u>	<u>SQUADRON</u>
123,000	13 JAN 72		F-4	VF-114
124,000	28 JAN 72		F-4	VF-114
125,000	10 JAN 72		A-3	VAQ-135
126,000	17 MAR 72		A-7	VA-195
127,000	5 APR 72		F-4	VF-213
128,000	16 APR 72		F-4	VF-213
129,000	27 APR 72		A-6	VA-52
130,000	8 MAY 72		A-7	VA-192
131,000	18 MAY 72		A-6	VA-52
132,000	5 JUN 72		A-7	VA-192
133,000	14 JUN 72		A-7	VA-195
134,000	24 JUN 72		A-6	VA-52
135,000	13 JUL 72		A-6	VA-52
136,000	23 JUL 72		A-6	VA-52
137,000	1 AUG 72		A-3	VAQ-135 (DET.1)
138,000	20 AUG 72		A-7	VA-195
139,000	29 AUG 72		A-7	VA-192
140,000	18 SEP 72		A-7	VA-195
141,000	28 SEP 72		A-6	VA-52
142,000	16 OCT 72		F-4	VF-114
143,000	30 OCT 72		F-4	VF-114

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

SAMEX'S 1972

26 January 1972 - Pacific Missile Range. Fired 3 HT missiles at MQM-74A targets, one HT missile at a SEPTAR Surface Target. First shot direct hit, second shot failure, third shot failure, fourth shot (SEPTAR Target) dud missile.

6 October 1972 - Poro Pt. Range, Philippines. Fired one HT 3A missile at AQM-37 Target, Direct hit.

DECLASSIFIED

AWARDS APPROVED FOR SHIP'S COMPANY PERSONNEL (U)

Legion of Merit.....	1
*Bronze Star.....	2
*Meritorious Service Medal.....	3
Navy Commendation Medal.....	74
Navy Achievement Medal.....	179
COMSEVENTHFLT Letter of Commendation.....	302
*Award Recommendation on four Bronze Stars and one Meritorious Service Medal are pending approval.	

IMPORTANT KITTY HAWK VISITORS, 1972

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DATES (1972)</u>
BGEN J. M. TRAIL	AIR NATIONAL GUARD	10-11 JAN
MR. GARY C. ALLISON	ADVISOR, NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND	12-13 JAN
RADM J. D. RAMAGE	COMCARDIV SEVEN	2-4 FEB
VADM CHARLES MINTER	DEPUTY CNO (LOGISTICS)	6 MAY
RADM HALEY ROGERS	COMCRUDESFLT NINE	11 MAY
VADM F. A. BARDSHAR	DIRECTOR TACELEC PROGRAMS OPNAV	20-21 MAY
RADM J. S. LAKE		20-21 MAY
RADM H. S. MOORE	COMFAIRWESTPAC	2-3 JUN
RADM J. L. BUTTS	COMCARDIV ONE	17 JUN
BGEN CROSS	ASST DO 7AF	21 JUN
RADM W. R. FLANAGAN	PROS COMCARDIV ONE	4 JUL
BGEN GEDDES	COM AUSTRALIAN ARMY ASST GRP	18-19 JUL
VADM THOMAS J. WALKER	COMNAVAIRPAC	11 AUG
RADM ALBERT CLANCY		11 AUG
RADM WILLIAM HOUSER	PROS DCNO (AIR WARFARE)	11 AUG
VADM G. C. TALLEY, JR.	DEPUTY CINCPACFLT	14-16 AUG
DR. HORST VON ROM	GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO RVN	18-19 AUG
MR. WILLIE TILEMANS	BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO RVN	18-19 AUG
ADM ELMO R. ZUMWALT, JR.	CNC	22-23 AUG
VADM JAMES L. HOLLOWAY III	COMSEVENTHFLT	22-23 AUG
RADM PRICE		22-23 AUG
RADM HOLDER		22-23 AUG
MR. DONALD HEUMANN	MEMBER, BOARD OF VISITORS, USNA	22-23 AUG
VADM F. H. MICHAELIS	COMNAVAIRLANT	15 SEP
VADM M. JOHNSTON	INSPECTOR GENERAL	30 OCT
RADM J. M. TIERNEY	COMFAIRWHIDBEY	2 NOV
MR. FRANCIS B. RICHARDS	BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO RVN	5 NOV
REP. FLOYD V. HICKS	HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE	13 DEC
REP. W. C. DANIEL	HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE	13 DEC
REP. ALEXANDER PIRNIE	HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE	13 DEC

