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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NY 09581-0770

IN REPLY REFER TO

5520

Ser 32/c-9

21 MAR 87

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) 1986 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) 1986 Command History - *Unclass. Held in SH*  
(2) USS KITTY HAWK photography - *Unclass. Held in SH*  
(3) USS KITTY HAWK Operations schedule - *Unclass. Held in SH*  
(4) USS KITTY HAWK Welcome Aboard pamphlet - *Unclass. Held in SH*  
(5) USS KITTY HAWK Change of Command pamphlet - *Unclass. Held in SH*  
(6) Supporting documents *Confid. Held in AR*

1. Enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

*F. L. Tillotson*  
F. L. TILLOTSON

Copy to:  
COMNAVAIRPAC (012)

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)  
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: 3 Oct 2000

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## 2. Chronology

### a. Significant events.

January - May	Replacement of Boiler Bottom Blow System
21 February	Change of Command Ceremony
5 May - 12 May	Refreshed AIR WING 491 day/92 night landings. Flight Deck certified. Anchored two days.
15 May	TRE Evaluation: "READY FOR TRAINING."
22 May	KITTY HAWK'S 25th Anniversary
27 May - 3 Jun	Anchored two days. Completed AIR WING refresher 392 day/225 night landings.
9 JUN - 13 JUN	3-M inspection - satisfactory
16 Jun - 25 Jun	IREFTRA 386 day/285 night landings
28 Jun	Dependents' Day Cruise
18 Jul - 29 Jul	TRACOM 787 day/0 night landings. FRS 880 day/441 night landings. Other: (VQ-1, VRC-30, VS-33, VF-24, VF-211) 132 day/51 night. Filmed current CV Commercials for NAVY RECRUITCOM.
4 Aug - 8 Aug	INSURV
5 Sep - 25 Sep	AIROPS/COMPTUEX/ATA 868 day/789 night landings.
3 Oct - 10 Oct	FRS CQ, SMI AND [REDACTED], 1047 day/522 night landings.
11 Oct - 16 Oct	FLEET WEEK San Francisco
27 Oct - 30 Oct	OPPRE
5 NOV - 26 NOV	READIEX 87-1, BGE
26 NOV - 31 DEC	POM

**b. AWARDS EARNED BY USS KITTY HAWK.**

1. The CINCPACFLT ANNUAL PRICE FIGHTER AWARD for superior achievement in support of the CINCPACFLT Project BOSS Program.
2. The COMNAVAIRPAC Black "E" recognizing AIMD KITTY HAWK as the best CV AIMD in the Pacific Fleet.
3. The Navigation Department was the runner-up for the Battle "E" competition.
4. DORRIE P. MILLER AWARD in recognition of superior wardroom performance in food service and accommodation management.
5. S-2 (Food Service Division) selected as COMNAVAIRPAC's Food Service Excellence Award Winner for FY86 and to represent the Pacific Fleet for the Ney Award competition in recognition of Food Service Excellence.
6. S-3 (Sales Division) won the 1986 M.A. Notch Best Laundry Award and was runner-up for the NAVRESSO Best Ship's Store Sales and Service Award.
7. The ADMIRAL'S CUP TROPHY for INTER CARRIER ATHLETICS.

**c. MAJOR ACCIDENTS.**

Loss of life:

9 September, ABEAA Daniel Dixon, night flight operations mishap on flight deck.

27 September, FCSN Kermit Jones, motorcycle traffic accident.

**3. NARRATIVE OF EVENTS**

- a. USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) began 1986, its 25th year of service, in Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) inport San Diego. During the period from January to May, light off and testing of main propulsion was completed one week prior to scheduled sea trials. Despite the complete replacement of the Boiler Bottom Blow System, sufficient training was accomplished that sea trials were completed 24 hours early with no operation-induced casualties.
- b. A Change of Command ceremony was conducted 21 February 1986. CAPT D. W. Hoffman relieved CAPT P. R. Wood as Commanding Officer of USS KITTY HAWK.
- c. KITTY HAWK was evaluated ready for training in the 1986 TRE.

d. In the following months, the ship and its crew went through an intense work-up period, completing IREFTRA in 8 days vice 10 days, with satisfactory scores in Yoke, Zebra and the Conflagration Exercise. All 10 repair lockers were evaluated during the battle problem and rated effective, with individual exercises graded excellent or better. KITTY HAWK was named "FTG Star Performer" by FLETRAGRU for IREFTRA performance.

e. Staff change: Rear Admiral Robert K. U. Kihune broke his flag on USS KITTY HAWK 28 June 1986. Dependents' Day Cruise on 28 June was a great hit with the families.

f. During INSURV, KITTY HAWK was evaluated as fit for service and damage control was evaluated as effective. During AIROPS/COMPTUEX/ATA, KITTY HAWK was evaluated as excellent to outstanding. OPRE was passed and KITTY HAWK was nominated for the Arleigh Burke Award by CCDG-5.

g. A well-deserved rest for the men and an opportunity to show off KITTY HAWK came during FLEET WEEK in San Francisco. Embarked in KITTY HAWK for FLEET WEEK, CINCPACFLT commented, "I was pleased to have my flag at your yardarm."

h. In November, KITTY HAWK conducted READIEX 87-1 and BGE operations and participated in exercise KERNAL USHER 87-1 in the SOCAL OPAREA. KITTY HAWK achieved excellent to outstanding results. During READIEX 87-1, "AR" was described by RADM Bull, COMCARGRU SEVEN, as the best ever seen. KITTY HAWK successfully completed the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI).

i. KITTY HAWK began a one-month POM period in preparation for World Cruise '87.