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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KITTY HAWK(CV-63)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NY 09535-2770

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)  
To: Director of Naval History, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH), Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1990

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) Command History for Calendar Year 1990  
(2) Commanding Officer's biography and photograph

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

*D. L. Rainey Jr.*  
D. L. RAINEY, JR.

**United States Ship KITTY HAWK (CV 63) Command History for 1990**

**1. Command Composition and Organization**

a. Mission. USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) is an aircraft carrier whose operational mission is power projection and sea lane control in support of U.S. national policy.

b. Organizational Structure.

(1) Immediate Senior in Command.

(a) Operational: Commander Task Force 41

(b) Administrative: Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

(2) Units under operational control of USS KITTY HAWK: none.

c. Commanding Officer: Captain Daniel L. Rainey, Jr., 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1990

d. Homeport: Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, Pa.

e. Type of aircraft assigned: none.

**2. Chronology**

- 1 Jan Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) overhaul continues aboard USS KITTY HAWK. CAPT Daniel L. Rainey, Jr. is the Commanding Officer. The ship's administrative offices are located ashore in Building 620, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa. The KITTY HAWK Balance Crew Training Detachment is located in Building K-BB, Naval Station Norfolk, Va.
- 26 Jan Move on aft. Administrative, berthing and food services spaces in the after sections of the ship are occupied.
- 13 Feb First meal served on board since the crew moved ashore 27 months before. Sixteen days later, the Chief Petty Officers' mess and galley opens for service.
- 9 Apr CAPT Denny K. Major relieves CDR Frederick J. Dodge as Executive Officer, USS KITTY HAWK.
- 28 Apr USS KITTY HAWK moves from Dry Dock 5 to Pier 6E at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

## 2. Chronology, continued

- 22 Jun The first of four Main Machinery Room Light-Off Examinations is conducted.
- 4 Sep The Secretary of the Navy announces that USS KITTY HAWK will be homeported in San Diego, Calif., vice Pensacola, Fla.
- 15 Sep USS KITTY HAWK hosts its second Citizenship Day at Washington Square Park. Ten crewmen and family members, who became U.S. citizens the day before, are honored during the ceremony.
- 12 Oct The KITTY HAWK Balance Crew Training Detachment is disestablished. Approximately 1,400 enlisted personnel transitioned through the detachment.
- 27 Oct KITTY HAWK's Air Department conducts the first catapult certification test.
- 16 Nov USS KITTY HAWK wins Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Silver Anchor for excellence in personnel retention.

## 3. Narrative

a. On 1 January 1990, USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) is berthed in Dry Dock 5, at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa. CAPT Daniel L. Rainey, Jr. is the Commanding Officer. The ship is uninhabitable because of Service Life Extension Program renovations being performed. The administrative offices are located ashore in Building 620 aboard the naval shipyard. The KITTY HAWK Balance Crew Training Detachment is located in Building K-BB, Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

b. On 26 January, the crew begins moving into the after sections of the ship. Administrative, berthing and food services spaces are occupied for the first time since 18 December 1987. The after section of the ship now is considered habitable.

c. On 13 February, the first meal in more than two years is served on board in the after crew's mess. Sixteen days later, the Chief Petty Officers' mess and galley opens for service.

d. CAPT Denny K. Major relieves CDR Frederick J. Dodge as Executive Officer of USS KITTY HAWK on 9 April. CAPT Major reported aboard from USS LEXINGTON (AVT 16), in which he served as Air Officer.

e. On 28 April, USS KITTY HAWK moves from "wet berth" at Dry Dock 5 to Pier 6E at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

The ship was powered internally by its own diesel generators, becoming the first SLEP carrier to move out of dry dock without internal power assistance.

f. On 22 June, the first Light-Off Examination (LOE) is conducted in Main Machinery Room Number One (MMR1). The test is supervised by U.S. Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examination Board members. The test, which certified and authorized the operation of MMR1, is successfully completed the following day. On 21 August, LOE II is conducted in MMR4. On 19 October, LOE III is conducted in MMR2. The final examination, LOE IV, is conducted in MMR3 on 11 December.

g. After a review of the Strategic Homeporting Plan, the Secretary of the Navy on 4 September announces that USS KITTY HAWK will be homeported in San Diego, Calif., following the completion of SLEP. KITTY HAWK was scheduled to be homeported in Pensacola, Fla., under the plan.

h. On 15 September, USS KITTY HAWK hosts its second Citizenship Day ceremonies at Washington Square Park. Ten KITTY HAWK sailors and family members who, the day before, were given the oath of U.S. citizenship by the Honorable John B. Hannum, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, are honored. The ship's adopt-a-school, Belmont Elementary school, located in Northeast Philadelphia, also was honored.

i. On 12 October, the KITTY HAWK Balance Crew Training Detachment is disestablished. The detachment was located aboard Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Approximately 1,400 enlisted personnel transitioned through the detachment. LCDR Dwight Lawrence was the Officer in Charge.

j. On 27 October, KITTY HAWK's Air Department conducts the first catapult dead load certification test. Catapult number one is shot 61 times over a two-day period, during which a single-day record for dead loads (34 shots) was set for SLEP carriers. The test is conducted with the assistance of Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and Naval Air Engineering Center Lakehurst, N.J., personnel.

k. On 16 November, VADM John K. Ready, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, presents USS KITTY HAWK the Special Category I Silver Anchor award for fiscal year 1990 (COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA 161005Z NOV 90). The award is presented to ships and squadrons excelling in personnel retention during the year. KITTY HAWK did not have a personnel retention program the previous year. KITTY HAWK subsequently won first runner-up in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Golden Anchor award competition (CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA 171800Z DEC 90) for the same category.

l. The crew of USS KITTY HAWK continued their high level of interaction in the Philadelphia community from the previous year. The ship teamed up with St. Johns Church in downtown Philadelphia to feed the homeless during the month of December. The crew also participated significantly in the 1990 Philadelphia Special Olympics.

m. Distinguished visitors to KITTY HAWK in 1990 include Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command VADM Daniel W. McKinnon Jr., Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) VADM Richard M. Dunleavy, and Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet VADM John K. Ready.

n. On 31 December, SLEP overhaul work continues aboard USS KITTY HAWK. CAPT Daniel L. Rainey Jr. is the Commanding Officer. The ship is berthed at Pier 6E at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and is habitable.