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 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

S. J. TOMASZESKI

Copy to:
COMNAVAIRPAC
Command Composition and Organization

1. **Mission.** USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) is an aircraft carrier whose operational mission is power projection and to provide forward presence in support of national policy.

2. **Organizational Structure**

   (a). Immediate Operational Senior in Command

   (1) Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE, 1 January to 31 December 1996.

   (b). Immediate Administrative Senior in Command

   (1) Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE, 1 January to 31 December 1996.

3. **Commanding Officer.** Captain Terry E. Magee, 1 January to 31 July 1996; Captain Steven J. Tomaszeski, 31 July to 31 December 1996.


5. Type of aircraft assigned are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squadron</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Tailcode</th>
<th>Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS-6</td>
<td>SH/HH-60F/H</td>
<td>NL/610 Series</td>
<td>NAS North Island, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VRC-30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Det 2)</td>
<td>C-2A</td>
<td>RW/160 Series</td>
<td>NAS North Island, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VF-213</td>
<td>F-14A</td>
<td>NL/100 Series</td>
<td>NAS Miramar, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFA-97</td>
<td>F/A-18A</td>
<td>NL/200 Series</td>
<td>NAS Lemoore, CA</td>
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<td>F/A-18C</td>
<td>NL/300 Series</td>
<td>NAS Lemoore, CA</td>
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<td>VFA-94</td>
<td>F/A-18C</td>
<td>NL/400 Series</td>
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<td>E-2C</td>
<td>NL/600 Series</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAQ-135</td>
<td>EA-6B GRP II</td>
<td>NL/620 Series</td>
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<td>S-3B</td>
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<td>VQ-5</td>
<td>ES-3A</td>
<td>NL/720 Series</td>
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Enclosure (1)
**Chronology**

1 Jan  
USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) is import NAS North Island (NASNI), San Diego, Calif. CAPT Terry E. Magee is the Commanding Officer.

5 Jan  
Marine Detachment provides color guard for HT1 Retirement Ceremony.

23 Jan  
Engineering Department lights off ship's boilers for Tailored Ship Training Availability I/II.

24 Jan  

29 Jan-2 Feb  
At sea for Tailored Ship Training Availability I/II.

31 Jan  
Marine Detachment conducts .50 caliber gun shoot with Weapons Department.

1 Feb  
Underway replenishment (UNREP) with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL (TAO-193).

5-16 Feb  
Marine Detachment completes annual rifle requalification at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

21 Feb-1 Mar  
At sea for Tailored Ship Training Availability III. In addition, CNAP Weapons Safety Assist Team provides technical assist visit to Weapons Department. Engineering Department completes Final Evaluation Period.

23 Feb  
UNREP with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL (TAO-193).

Enclosure (2)
3 Mar  Staff members for the Honorable Duncan Hunter, U.S. Representative from San Diego, CA, on board for a tour.

6 Mar  Marine Detachment received a staff assist visit from various members from Marine Corps Security Force Battalion.

11-29 Mar  Marine Detachment attends Maritime Tactics course.

11 Mar  Sixty members of the Chief of Naval Operations' Executive Leadership Development Program tour KITTY HAWK.

12 Mar  Journalists from Mitsubishi, Japan tour KITTY HAWK.

16 Mar  The Honorable William Perry, Secretary of Defense, on board to speak with the officers and the crew. Presided over the reenlistment of J01 William Houlihan.

20-27 Mar  At sea for Fleet Replacement Squadron Carrier Qualifications (FRS CQ). In addition, Engineering Department receives Engineering Limited Team Training.

21 Mar  UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO-204).

22 Mar  Supply Department installs SNAP III.

24 Mar  Operations Department conducts successful NSSMS firing versus TDU-134 towed by SENTEL Lear aircraft.

25 Mar  Operations Department conducts successful CIWS firing versus TDU-34 towed by SENTEL Lear aircraft. UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO-204).

Apr  OED Division installs ship's Gridlock System Automatic Correlator (SGS/AC) MK-162 and removes old system.
8-12 Apr Marine Detachment completes annual rifle and pistol requalifications at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA.

11 Apr Marine Detachment completes exhibition drill at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium for Military Appreciation Day.

29 Apr-2 May 3M inspection.

29 Apr Celebration in honor of the thirty-fifth anniversary of KITTY HAWK’s commissioning.

May OED Division installs Over the Horizon Tracker System.

10 May Host Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE Change of Command ceremony. Rear Admiral Peter A.C. Long relieves Rear Admiral Thomas Marfiak. Marine Detachment provides color guard for the ceremony.

14 May Host Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN Change of Command ceremony. Captain Robert J. Taylor relieves Captain Dennis M. Gillespie. Marine Detachment provides color guard for the ceremony.

16 May-27 Jun At sea for Composite Training Unit, and Rim of the Pacific exercises 1996. The Discovery Channel on board to film a documentary.

16-24 May CNAP Weapons Safety Assist Team technical assist visit.

17 May UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO-204).

19 May Operations Department completes successful CIWS firings versus TDU-34 towed by SENTEL Lear aircraft.

20-24 May Mine Warfare Readiness Certification Inspection technical assist visit.

22 May UNREP(DD Rig) with USS COWPENS (CG-63).
23 May  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

28 May  UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO-204).

29-31 May  Marine Detachment completes small arms live fire with 9mm pistols, M16A2 rifles, shotguns, M249 Squad Automatic Weapons (SAW) and M240G medium machine guns.

June  OED Division installs Mission Geography and Tactical Environment Information System.

2 June  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

6 June  Operations Department conducts successful NSSMS firing versus BQM-74 Drone launched from PMRF, Barking Sands, Hawaii.

7 June  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

12-15 June  Ammunition onload.

12 June  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

15 June  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

16-20 June  Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

20 June  Hawaii Navy League Guest Cruise.

21-26 June  CNAP Supply Management Inspection.

21-28 June  Weapons Elevator Assessment.

14-18 July  At sea for Training Command CQ.

22-25 July  Operational Propulsion Plant Examination.

31 July  Captain Steven J. Tomaszeski relieves Captain Terry E. Magee as Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK.

5-19 Aug  At sea for Joint Task Force Exercise 96-2.
9 Aug  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).
13-16 Aug  Mine Warfare Readiness Certification Inspection.
16 Aug  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).
19 Aug  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).
22 Aug  Host the San Diego visit of Admiral Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations.
26-29 Aug  Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection.
Sep  The Xerox DocuTech Network Publisher, a state of the art publishing system capable of printing rate training manuals (RTM) locally, is installed in KITTY HAWK Print Shop.
3 Sep  Host fourteen diplomats from five African countries for a tour.
15 Sep  Supply Department completes renovation of the Hawk Shop and Luxury Store to include a new shelving system and lighting. A "Create-A-Card" machine was installed in the Hawk Shop.
20 Sep  Supply Department installs "Sailor Phones," phone card and stamp machines.
23 Sep  Host the visit of the Honorable William Leftwich, Deputy Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity for a tour on board and quality of life discussions with local command equal opportunity representatives.
28 Sep  CNAP holds awards ceremony on the Flight Deck. Members of VPB-146, a World War II era patrol squadron, receive Air Medals.
11 Oct  Deploy to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf.

12 Oct  Ammunition on load. Precision anchoring.

13 Oct  UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO-204).

17 Oct  UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

21 Oct  UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

26 Oct  Marine Detachment completes 9mm shoot on Flight Deck.

27 Oct  UNREP with USNS YUKON (TAO-202).

28 Oct  CONREP with USNS SAN JOSE (TAFS-7).

31 Oct  UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

2 Nov  UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

3-7 Nov  Inport Hong Kong.

4 Nov  Host 100 officials from the Royal Hong Kong Police for a tour.

6 Nov  CCDG-5 hosts reception on board while inport Hong Kong. U.S. Consul General to Hong Kong is in attendance. Marine Detachment performs ceremonial drill demonstration for reception.

9 Nov  Marine Detachment celebrates the 221st Marine Corps Birthday with a dinner and cake-cutting ceremony. Captain Steven J. Tomaszeski, Commanding Officer, and Chaplain (Lieutenant) [redacted], Catholic Chaplain, are in attendance.

10 Nov  UNREP with USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO-199).

12-17 Nov  Inport Singapore.
13 Nov  CCDG-5 hosts reception on board while inport Singapore. U.S. and Israeli Ambassadors to Singapore are in attendance. Marine Detachment performs ceremonial drill demonstration for the reception.

15 Nov  Marine Detachment celebrates the 221st Marine Corps Birthday with Marine Security Guards from the U.S. Embassy in Singapore.

18 Nov  Marine Colonel Robert Blose, Commanding Officer of the Eleventh Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), visits Marine Detachment.

18 Nov  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

22 Nov  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

26 Nov  UNREP/CONREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

27 Nov  Transit Strait of Hormuz and enter the Arabian Gulf.

28 Nov  Supply Department prepares special Thanksgiving meals for the officers and the crew.

29 Nov  Host the Honorable William Perry, Secretary of Defense. Dr. Perry is accompanied by Army General Binford Peay, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command; Vice Admiral Tom Fargo, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet; and Kuwaiti Lieutenant General Ali, Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

30 Nov  UNREP with USNS PECOS (TAO-197) and CONREP with USNS SIRIUS (TAFS-8).

1 Dec   Marine Detachment conducts pistol qualifications for Carrier Air Wing Eleven.

3 Dec   Hosts Admiral Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations, who holds an all hands call on the Flight Deck. Admiral Johnson is accompanied by Vice Admiral Tom Fargo, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet; and ETCM (SW) John Hagan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.
4 Dec  UNREP with USNS PECOS (TAO-197).
8 Dec  UNREP with USNS PECOS (TAO-197).
13 Dec UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).
15 Dec UNREP/CONREP with USNS SIRIUS (TAFS-8).
19 Dec UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).
23 Dec UNREP with USNS PECOS (TAO-197).
24-28 Dec Inport Manama, Bahrain. KITTY HAWK is only the second carrier to conduct a port visit to Manama.
25 Dec Supply Department prepares special Christmas meals for the officers and the crew.
29 Dec Marine Detachment participates in a 9mm shoot with Marine Security Force Company, Bahrain.
30 Dec UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).
Narrative

USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63), an aircraft carrier whose operational mission is to project power and provide forward presence in support of national policy, is currently homeported at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, CA.

KITTY HAWK's immediate operational and administrative senior in command in 1996 is Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE (CCDG-5).

The beginning of 1996 saw KITTY HAWK inport at NAS North Island (NASNI), CA. CAPT Terry E. Magee was the Commanding Officer.

In preparation for KITTY HAWK’s 1996-97 deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf, the ship conducted numerous turnaround training workups and exercises. It began with at-sea periods for Tailored Ship Training Availability I/II and III; January 29-February 2 and February 21-March 1 respectively. During the week of March 20-27, KITTY HAWK returned to sea for Fleet Replacement Squadron Carrier Qualifications. Also during this time period, the Engineering Department received Engineering Limited Team Training. May 16 and ending on June 27, KITTY HAWK was at sea for Composite Training Unit, and Rim of the Pacific exercises 1996. During this at-sea period, Kitty Hawk received a visit from the Discovery Channel, who was on board to film a documentary. From July 14 through the 18th, the ship returned to sea again for Training Command Carrier Qualifications. The final workup started August 5 and ended August 19, when KITTY HAWK participated in Joint Task Force Exercise 96 off the coast of Southern California.

KITTY HAWK sailed from NASNI October 11 for the last time in 1996, beginning its eighteenth deployment. Embarked in KITTY HAWK was Commander, Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW-11). The squadrons and aircraft assigned to CVW-11 were: Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6 (HS-6), homeported at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, CA, flying the SH/HH-60F/H Sea Hawk; Logistics Support Squadron 30, Detachment 2 (VRC-30), homeported at Naval Air Station North Island, CA, flying the C-2 Greyhound; Fighter Squadron 213 (VF-213), homeported at Naval Air Station Miramar, CA, flying the F-14A Tomcat; Fighter-Attack Squadrons 22 and 94, flying the F/A-18C Hornet and Fighter-Attack Squadron 97, flying the F/A-18A, all from Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA; Sea Control Squadron 29 (VS-29), homeported at Naval Air Station

Enclosure (3)
North Island, CA, flying the S-3B Viking; Aerial Reconnaissance Squadron 5 (VQ-5) Detachment B, homeported at Naval Air Station North Island, CA, flying the ES-3A Shadow; Airborne Early-Warning Squadron 117 (VAW-117), homeported at Naval Air Station Miramar, CA, flying the E-2C Group II Hawkeye; and Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 135, homeported at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA, flying the EA-6B Prowler.

In conjunction with the San Diego Union-Tribune, KITTY HAWK developed the "Standing the Watch" grid coordinate map (See Supporting Documents) allowing family members, friends and other interested parties in the San Diego area the opportunity to follow ship's movement during deployment. Using letter and number coordinates on the map, the Union-Tribune printed the latest location of the KITTY HAWK Task Group and the USS ESSEX Ready Group on page B-2 of the Sunday, Tuesday and Friday issues of the newspaper as well as on the Union-Tribune Home Page on the Internet.

The following are grid coordinates of KITTY HAWK October 11-December 31, 1996:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Diego Union-Tribune grid coordinates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 13.............E-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20.............F-64</td>
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<td>October 23.............K-76</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24...........O-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31...........M-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While on deployment, KITTY HAWK made port visits to Hong Kong November 3-7; Singapore November 12-17; and Manama, Bahrain on December 24-28. The Manama port visit was a milestone as KITTY HAWK was only the second U.S. aircraft carrier to conduct a port visit there.
KITTY HAWK experienced many new additions on board in 1996 in regards to technological and quality of life items. As a part of the Supply Department’s renovation of the Hawk Shop and Luxury Store, it added the "Create-A-Card" feature, "Sailor Phones," AT & T phone card and stamp machines September 15.

The Xerox DocuTech Network Publisher, an advanced printing system using digital technology, came about in keeping with the Navy’s installation of networks and desktop publishing systems to replace older labor-intensive word processing systems. DocuTech was installed in the KITTY HAWK Print Shop in September. Its implementation provides for the first time the ability to print rate training manuals (RTM) and PQS manuals locally as well as to modernize the production of shipboard newspapers. KITTY HAWK is currently the only ship utilizing DocuTech to print RTMs and PQS manuals.

Also in preparation for deployment, as well as a means to improve communications both on board and ashore, a civilian contractor installed Challenge Athena III in October, a communications satellite system which provided the pivotal backbone for Sailor Phones, the Battle Force E-Mail System, a Video Teleconferencing System, and Video Information Exchange System.

In addition to the inspections and special qualifications performed at sea, KITTY HAWK underwent inspections and qualifications while ashore as well. On March 6, the Marine Detachment received a staff assist visit from various members of the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion. Later, the Marine Detachment completed annual rifle and pistol requalifications at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, April 8-12. Kitty Hawk received a 3M inspection April 29-May 2. The Weapons Department conducted a Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection August 26-29.

In 1996, KITTY HAWK hosted a variety of distinguished visitors and dignitaries. Most noteworthy were the Honorable William Perry, Secretary of Defense, and Admiral Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations, who visited KITTY HAWK to speak with the officers and crew. Dr. Perry visited on March 16 and Admiral Johnson on August 22. The two gentlemen made return visits upon KITTY HAWK’s transit to the Arabian Gulf when Dr. Perry arrived on November 29 and Admiral Johnson on December 3.
Additionally, KITTY HAWK hosted the San Diego visit of the Honorable William Leftwich, Deputy Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity in which he toured the ship and discussed quality of life issues with local equal opportunity specialists on September 23.

In addition to hosting the KITTY HAWK Change of Command ceremony where Captain Steven J. Tomaszeski relieved Captain Terry E. Magee as Commanding Officer on July 31, various commands held their Changes of Command on board as well. On January 24, KITTY HAWK hosted the CNAP Change of Command ceremony. Vice Admiral Brent Bennitt relieved Vice Admiral Robert Spane, who retired. The ship was again the site of a Change of Command Ceremony, hosting the CCDG-5 Change of Command on May 10, where Rear Admiral Peter A.C. Long relieved Rear Admiral Thomas Marfiak. Later that month on the 14th, KITTY HAWK hosted the Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN Change of Command ceremony where Captain Robert J. Taylor relieved Captain Dennis M. Gillespie.

KITTY HAWK was also the site for special ceremonies and celebrations. The most recognized event was when KITTY HAWK celebrated the thirty-fifth anniversary of its commissioning on April 29. Another highly noteworthy event that attracted much attention was when CNAP held its awards ceremony on the flight deck on September 28. The awardees were members of VPB-146, a World War II-era patrol squadron, in which they received the Air Medal.
INDEPENDENT STEAMEX 18 JAN 94 - 25 JAN 94 = 8 DAYS
FRS CQ 14 FEB 94 - 20 FEB 94 = 7 DAYS
COMPTUEX 94 28 FEB 94 - 21 MAR 94 = 22 DAYS
FLEET EXERCISE 94 25 MAR 94 - 01 APR 94 = 8 DAYS
FLEET & MISSILE EX 4 APR 94 - 8 APR 94 = .5 DAYS
FAMILY DAY CRUISE 9 APR 94 = 1 DAYS
FLEETEX 94-2B 25 APR 94 - 5 MAY 94 = 11 DAYS
CARRIER QUALS & OPPE 11 MAY 94 - 26 MAY 94 = 16 DAYS
WESTPAC 24 JUN 94 - 22 DEC 94 = 182 DAYS

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<th>CALENDAR YEAR 94 = 260 TOTAL DAYS UNDERWAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRS CQ 7 FEB 95 - 13 FEB 95 = 7 DAYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEA TRIALS 2 JUN 95 - 11 JUN 95 = 10 DAYS</td>
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<td>FRS CQ 12 JUN 95 - 15 JUN 95 = 4 DAYS</td>
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<td>INSURV 95 30 OCT 95 - 2 NOV 95 = 4 DAYS</td>
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<td>FRS CQ 2 DEC 95 - 6 DEC 95 = 5 DAYS</td>
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<td>CVW-11 FRS CQ 7 DEC 95 - 13 DEC 95 = 7 DAYS</td>
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<td>FRS CQ 20 MAR 96 - 26 MAR 96 = 7 DAYS</td>
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<td>WESTPAC 96-97 = 181 DAYS</td>
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