



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63)
FPO AP 96634-2770

Rec-1-5 4/13/98
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720
Ser PAO/

w/o disk

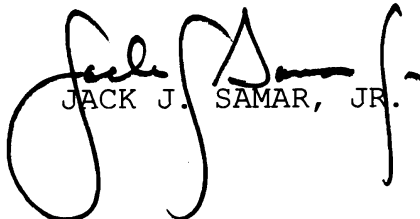
From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
To: Director of Naval History, Office of the Chief of Naval
Operations (OP 09BH), Washington DC 20350 2000

Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR
1997

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.


JACK J. SAMAR, JR.

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 1997.
 - (b) Immediate Administrative Senior in Command
 - (1) Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE, 1 January to 31 December 1997.
3. Commanding Officer. CAPT Steven J. Tomaszeski, 1 January to 31 July 1997; CAPT Jack J. Samar, 31 July to 31 December 1997.
4. Homeport. Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, CA. Deployed to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf (1996-97) 11 October 1996-11 April 1997.
5. Type of aircraft assigned are as follows:

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Tailcode</u>	<u>Base</u>
HS-6	SH/HH-60F/H	NL/610 Series	NAS North Island, CA
VRC-30			
(Det 2)	C-2A	RW/160 Series	NAS North Island, CA
VF-213	F-14A	NL/100 Series	NAS Miramar, CA
VFA-97	F/A-18A	NL/200 Series	NAS Lemoore, CA
VFA-22	F/A-18C	NL/300 Series	NAS Lemoore, CA
VFA-94	F/A-18C	NL/400 Series	NAS Lemoore, CA
VAW-117	E-2C	NL/600 Series	NAS Miramar, CA
VAQ-135	EA-6B GRP II	NL/620 Series	NAS Whidbey Island, WA
VS-29	S-3B	NL/700 Series	NAS North Island, CA
VQ-5			
(Det 2)	ES-3A	NL/720 Series	NAS North Island, CA

Enclosure (1)

Chronology

1 Jan USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) is underway on deployment in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch during its six-month deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. CAPT Steven J. Tomaszeski is the Commanding Officer.

Jan S-5 Division (Wardroom) of Supply Department wins 1996 Dorie P. Miller Award for wardroom excellence.

3 Jan Underway refueling replenishment (UNREP) with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

8 Jan UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

12 Jan Underway CONREP provisions with USNS SIRIUS (T-AFS 8).

14 Jan UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

16 Jan Vice Adm. Thomas Vargo, Commander-in-Chief, Fifth Fleet visits USS KITTY HAWK.

17 Jan UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

18-22 Jan Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates.

24 Jan UNREP with USNS PECOS (TAO 197).

27 Jan UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

28 Jan CONREP with USNS SIRIUS (T-AFS 8).

1 Feb UNREP with USNS PECOS (TAO 197).

5 Feb UNREP and CONREP provisions with USNS PECOS (TAO 197).

10 Feb UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

Enclosure (2)

11-15 Feb Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates.

16 Feb USS KITTY HAWK transits the Straits of Hormuz.

17 Feb UNREP and CONREP provisions with USNS PECOS (TAO 197).

23 Feb UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

24 Feb Engineering Department conducts Full Power Trial.

27 Feb UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

1 Mar Engineering Department conducts Economy Trial.

2 Mar Command Career Counselor's Office receives Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet (COMNAVAIRPAC) Silver Anchor Award 1996 for outstanding achievement in quality of life programs.

4 Mar UNREP with USNS H.J. KAISER (TAO 187).

5 Mar UNREP with USNS NIAGARA FALLS (T-AFS 3).

7-11 Mar Inport Fremantle, Australia.

7-10 Mar Chaplain Department conducts a series of Community Relations projects in Perth, Western Australia at the Willogge Primary School for Children, Rangeview Ramand Center for young adults and Oranna house for orphans. Thirty-five Sailors and Marines participate.

13 Mar UNREP with USNS H.J. KAISER. (TAO 187).

14 Mar HT1 (SW) [REDACTED] of Repair Division, Engineering Department, selected for COMNAVAIRPAC Engineer of the Year Award for 1996.

16-21 Mar Inport Hobart, Tasmania.

17-18 Mar Chaplain Department conducts a series of Community Relations projects in Hobart, Tasmania at the Windmere Hostel Retirement Home, Geeveston High School, St. Virgil's College, Sandy Bay Infants Pre-School, Stratglen Home for Disabled Children and Royal Hobart Hospital. Forty-four Sailors and Marines participate.

20 Mar LCDR [REDACTED] takes over as the Communications Officer from LCDR [REDACTED].

22 Mar DCCS(SW) [REDACTED], LCPO of Repair Division, is selected for the Navy League of the United States Honorable J. William Middendorf II Award for engineering excellence.

22 Mar UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

24 Mar Engineering Department completes satisfactory Engineering Mid-Cycle Assessment by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Five.

27 Mar UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

27-29 Mar Weapons Department performs ammunition off load UNREP with USS SHASTA (AE-33).

29 Mar USS KITTY HAWK conducts Crossing the Line Ceremony.

30 Mar CONREP provisions with USS SHASTA (AE-33).

31 Mar UNREP and CONREP provisions with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

3-4 Apr Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

4-11 Apr Tiger Cruise 1997.

4 Apr LT [REDACTED], former assistant navigator, is selected as one of the winners of the 1996 COMNAVAIRPAC Junior Officer Ship Handling Award.

5 Apr UNREP with USS RAINIER (AOE-7).

9 Apr Entertainment troupe from the USO performs show for crewmembers and guests on Tiger Cruise 1997.

11 Apr **USS KITTY HAWK arrives at NASNI, San Diego, Calif.**

15 May USS KITTY HAWK hosts the Golden Eagles Memorial Service and Luncheon.

21 May-15 Dec **USS KITTY HAWK FY 97 Complex Overhaul (Phase 1).**

24 May Norwegian Chief of Defense visits KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

26 Jun CDR [REDACTED] relieves CDR [REDACTED] as Chief Engineer.

3 Jun Weapons Department performs off load of retrograde and miscellaneous ordnance to NASNI.

27 Jun Community Relations project at the Montgomery Middle School in San Diego, Calif. Fourteen Sailors and Marines participate.

7-11 Jul Engineering Department completes Pre-Light Off Training (PLOT I) with Afloat Training Group.

14 Jul LTGEN Wu Quanxu, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army visits KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

27 Jul USS KITTY HAWK hosts San Diego Youth Speak Out, consortium of area drug counseling organizations, youth groups, Southwest Cable and HBO Productions. Former Heavyweight Champion boxer Riddick Bowe is in attendance.

31 Jul CAPT Jack J. Samar, Jr. relieves CAPT Steven J. Tomaszewski as Commanding Officer USS KITTY HAWK.

1 Aug BGEN Capka, Commanding General of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific, visits KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

1 Aug Officers of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

11 Aug Consul General of Switzerland for the Southeast United States visits KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

14 Aug Members of the Nebraska Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

11-15 Aug Engineering Department completes PLOT II with Afloat Training Group.

13 Aug U.S. Senate staff members visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

15 Aug Maintenance Department implements JFMM 4790.3.

20 Aug Staff members of the British Ministry of Defense (MoD) visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

21 Aug The Honorable Dr. Bernard D. Rostker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and family visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

21 Aug The Communications Security Material Systems Inspection received a grade of satisfactory on its inspection.

22 Aug Members of the World War II Black Veterans of Great Lakes visit KITTY HAWK in conjunction with their sixteenth annual reunion in the San Diego area.

26 Aug USS KITTY HAWK holds FY 97 COH Review Conference.

27 Aug Romanian Officers participating in the Mil 2 Mil program visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

28 Aug Members of the Naval Air Station North Island Judo Club and Navy Judo Team visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

29 Aug Faculty and staff of the German Staff College visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

9 Sep Foreign military liaison officers visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with a conference in the San Diego area.

10 Sep Members of the Massachusetts ESGR visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

11 Sep Polish Naval Officers visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

12 Sep Members of USS COLUMBUS Veterans visit KITTY HAWK in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

15-19 Sep Engineering Department completes PLOT IIA with Afloat Training Group.

15 Sep Supply Department holds grand reopening of Aft Gallery/Mess Deck following major renovation and refurbishment.

19 Sep USS KITTY HAWK hosts the reunion of over 200 former KITTY HAWK crewmembers. Former KITTY HAWK C.O.'s in attendance.

25 Sep German Army personnel visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

25 Sep AC1(AW) [REDACTED] of OC Division, Operations Department, is nominated by the San Diego Chapter of the Navy League of the United States and National City, Calif., Chamber of Commerce as Navy Sea Services Woman of the Year.

1 Oct USS KITTY HAWK hosts Commander, Carrier Group One (CCG-1) Change of Command ceremony. RADM William Pickavance, former KITTY HAWK C.O., relieves RADM Timothy Beard as CCG-1.

3 Oct Former crewmembers of USS MISSION BAY (CVE 59) visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

6-9 Oct Engineering Department completes PLOT III with Afloat Training Group.

7 Oct Former Crewmembers of USS YORKTOWN (LV 10) visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

9 Oct USS KITTY HAWK hosts Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eleven (CVW 11) Change of Command ceremony. CAPT James T. Knight relieves CAPT Robert J. Taylor as CVW 11.

14-17 Oct Engineering Department successfully completes Light-Off Assessment by the Propulsion Examining Board.

15 Oct S-3 Division (Sales) of Supply Department is awarded the Navy Exchange Service Command Ship's Store Best Sales and Service award.

15 Oct Nine members of the German Parliament visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

17 Oct Members and staff of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas football team visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

17 Oct U.S. Congressional Staff Delegates visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

18 Oct Former Crewmembers of USS ARCHERFISH visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

23 Oct Former Crewmembers of USS DENNIS visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

24 Oct Engineering Department conducts successful Light-Off for steam testing.

24 Oct Chaplain Department coordinates the largest San Diego area Jewish Shabbat Prayer Service on the flight deck. Over five-hundred military and civilian personnel participate.

31 Oct Former Crewmembers of USS ANSTOND(AS 24) visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

Nov Installation of the Navy Order Wire (NOW) completed. Replaced the Navy standard teletype using cost of the shelf equipment. NOW Requires no maintenance with PC system.

6-7 Nov Deck Department conducts Dockside Underway Replenishment training on USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64).

11-15 Nov Weapons Department replaces Fleet Optical Scanning Ammunition Marking System (FOSAMS) with Windows-based Retail Ordnance Logistics Management System (ROLMS).

12 Nov USS KITTY HAWK hosts the Gold Coast Classic's President's Reception. The reception in conjunction with first Gold Coast Classic football game which pitted historically black colleges Morgan State University against Howard University.

14 Nov Former Crewmembers of USS SARATOGA visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour in conjunction with their reunion in the San Diego area.

18 Nov Officers of the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

17-21 Nov COMNAVAIRPAC conducts QA Audit on Maintenance Department with satisfactory results.

17 Nov USS KITTY HAWK hosts over 500 students from Montgomery Middle School for "USS KITTY HAWK Day" in conjunction with KITTY HAWK/Montgomery Middle School's Partnership in Education.

18 Nov Members of the San Diego Chargers football team and three members of the Charger Girls Cheerleader Squad visit KITTY HAWK for autograph signing and ship's tour.

18 Nov Weapons Department off-loads Marine Detachment ammunition.

18 Nov Dental Department successfully completes Dental Readiness evaluation (DRE), conducted by the Force Dental Officer, CAPT T. L. Silverthorn, DC, USN. C-1 status throughout the department.

20 Nov BGEN McManus, Commanding General of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, visits KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

25 Nov Engineering Department conducts Crew Certification with Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE.

Dec RM3 [REDACTED] and RM3 [REDACTED] receive the Copernicus Award of C4I communications from the Chief of Naval Operations for their outstanding efforts during WestPac 96-97.

1 Dec Communications Department and S-7 Division of Supply Department integrate into Combat Systems Department consisting of CS-1, CS-2, and CS-3. Further integration during calendar year 1998. The Combat System Officer is LCDR [REDACTED] and the Combat Information Systems Officer LT [REDACTED].

2 Dec Ten Metro executives from Guangzhou, China visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

3 Dec SAR certification conducted on USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).

5 Dec Six members of the Atlanta Falcons football team visit KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

6 Dec Dental Department hosts Children's Holiday Party held in Hangar Bay One, Santa flown in on helicopter. Attended by more than 900 USS KITTY HAWK crew and family members.

9-12 Dec Underway for Sea Trials.

10 Dec USS KITTY HAWK hosts Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Five (CCDG-5) Change of Command ceremony. RADM Daniel R. Bowler relieves RADM Peter A. C. Long as CCDG-5.

10 Dec UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO 204).

11 Dec UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (TAO 204).

15 Dec Complete FY 97 COH.

16 Dec Maintenance Department conducts ILMST meeting with USS KITTY HAWK and USS CONSTELLATION.

19 Dec S-3 Division opens a new ship's store named "Flyer Emporium."

20 Dec The Honorable Mr. Tom Davis, Mayor of Lake Tahoe, visits KITTY HAWK for ship's tour.

28 Dec USS KITTY HAWK hosts Plymouth Holiday Bowl Navy-Marine Corps Luncheon.

30 Dec

Dental Department completes renovation of Dental clinic with new tile deck, three new and two upgraded dental chairs, upgraded x-ray chair and new administrative space.

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 1997 is Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE (CCDG-5).

The beginning of 1997 saw KITTY HAWK at sea in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch during its 1996-97 deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. CAPT Steven J. Tomaszewski was the Commanding Officer.

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

Enclosure (3)

from Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA; Sea Control Squadron 29 (VS-29), homeported at Naval Air Station North Island, CA, flying the S-3B Viking; Aerial Reconnaissance Squadron 5 (VQ-5) Detachment 2, 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) that allowed family members, friends and other interested parties in the San Diego area the opportunity to follow ship's movement throughout deployment by 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.

The following are grid coordinates of KITTY HAWK January 1-April 11, 1997:

San Diego Union-Tribune grid coordinates

- January 3.....N-9
- January 10.....N-10
- January 24.....N-10
- January 28.....O-11

January 29.....N-10
February 7.....M-10
February 9.....N-10
February 16.....P-12
February 23.....W-27
February 28.....EE-29
March 2.....LL-35
March 4.....OO-33
March 7.....UU-41
March 14.....YY-47
March 16..Below block 54
March 23.....YY-59
March 26.....MM-65
April 8.....K-71

During WESTPAC 1996-97, KITTY HAWK was the first aircraft carrier to successfully transit a designated choke point during PASSEX '96 without being detected. JAOC was configured as a remote CTAPS System in support of Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia (CJTF-SWA). The Surface Watch Team was directly responsible for the success of expanded U.N. sanctions enforcement of Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) Commander while deployed to the Arabian Gulf. Multi-mission tasking and innovative employment of SUW assets led to locating, tracking and identifying over 2,500 surface vessels in support of MIO

operations.

While on deployment, KITTY HAWK made port visits to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates January 18-22 and February 11-15; Fremantle/Perth, Australia March 7-11; Hobart, Tasmania on 16-21; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii April 3-4.

KITTY HAWK successfully returned to its homeport at Naval Air Station North Island on April 11, ending its eighteenth six-month deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf.

After its one-month stand down, KITTY HAWK began Phase One of an extensive Carrier Overhaul (COH) period from May 21 to December 15. During COH, the following are some examples of shipboard improvements accomplished by Quality of Life Division (QOL) Division personnel of the Maintenance Department and civilian contractors are as follows:

- * completed rehabilitation of nine berthing spaces. Approximately 795 racks and lockers were either removed or replaced. Installed new underlayment and tile in the berthing spaces. Fixed existing lighting problems.

- * Over 79 ship and squadron spaces were retiled. More than 1,000 kits of underlayment consisting of five bags of underlayment were used. In excess of 700 boxes of blue, brown and grey tile was used in the spaces. Over 1,380 gallons of glue and 407 tubes of caulking were used in the completion of the 79 spaces.

- * Forty-six spaces were lagged.

- * Welded over 100 light brackets to better illuminate berthing spaces. Over 795 rack foundation were installed, and 17 false bulkheads were built for privacy.
- * Electricians wired over 100 overhead lights to better illuminated berthing spaces, 795 racks lights to provide better lighting for individual racks.
- * The Aft Galley/Mess Decks was reopened on September 15 following major renovation.
- * The Flyer Emporium, a new ship's store, was built during COH. It was opened on December 19.
- * The Dental clinic was renovated with a new tile deck, three new and two upgraded dental chairs, upgraded x-ray chair and new administrative space.

Prior to the end of COH Phase One, KITTY HAWK returned to sea for four-day Sea Trials December 9-12.

Some departments onboard KITTY HAWK experienced major reorganization during 1997. On December 1, Communications Department and S-7 (Automated Data Processing) Division of Supply Department were integrated into one Combat Systems Department consisting of CS-1, CS-2 and CS-3.

KITTY HAWK was the recipients of awards and accolades during calendar year 1997. In January, KITTY HAWK Wardroom of Supply Department were the recipients of the prestigious 1996 Dorie P. Miller Award for wardroom excellence. On March 2, the Command

Career Counselor's Office received the COMNAVAIRPAC Silver Anchor Award for outstanding quality of life programs such as retention, sponsorship and command indoctrination programs, professional development, warfare and education, and awards and recognition. HT1(SW) [REDACTED] of Repair Division in the Engineering Department received the COMNAVAIRPAC Engineer of the Year 1996 Award for excellence in engineering on March 14. On March 22, DCCS(SW) [REDACTED], LCPO of Repair Division was selected for the Navy League of the United States Honorable J. William Middendorf II Award for engineering excellence. LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], former assistant navigator, was selected as one of the winners of the 1996 COMNAVAIRPAC Junior Officer Ship Handling Award on April 4.

On September 25, AC1(AW) [REDACTED] of OC Division, Operations Department, was nominated by the San Diego Chapter of the Navy League of the United States and the National City, Calif., Chamber of Commerce for the Navy Sea Services Woman of the Year. On October 15, S-3 Division (Sales) of Supply Department was awarded the Navy Exchange Service Command's Ships Store Best Sales and Service Award. A contributing factor in S-3 Division winning the award were its profits of \$2.6 million in sales. RM3 [REDACTED] and RM3 [REDACTED] of Combat Systems Division (Formerly Communications Department) received the Copernicus Award for C4I communications from the Chief of Naval Operations for their outstanding efforts during KITTY

HAWK's 1996-97 deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf.

In 1997, KITTY HAWK hosted a variety of distinguished visitors and dignitaries. One distinguished visitor was the Norwegian Chief of Defense when he visited KITTY HAWK on May 24. Another was LTGEN Wu Quanxu, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, when he visited KITTY HAWK on July 14. A third distinguished visitor was the Honorable Dr. Bernard D. Rostker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, when he and his family visited KITTY HAWK on August 21.

Former heavyweight champion boxer Riddick Bowe was yet another distinguished visitor who visited onboard in support of *San Diego Youth Speak Out* on July 27. *Youth Speak out* was a sponsored by a consortium of several San Diego area drug counseling organizations, youth groups, Home Box Office (HBO) and Southwestern Cable who converged onboard to speak on anti-drug messages. The event was videotaped and televised on local cable in conjunction with HBO's three-part special "Faces of Addiction."

Other distinguished visitors in 1997 included the members of the San Diego Chargers and Atlanta Falcons when they visited KITTY HAWK on November 18 and December 5 respectively.

In addition to hosting the USS KITTY HAWK Change of Command ceremony where CAPT Jack J. Samar relieved CAPT Steven J. Tomaszeski as Commanding Officer on July 31, various commands held their Changes of Command on board as well. On September 17, KITTY HAWK hosted the Carrier Group One (CCG-1) Change of Command ceremony. RADM William Pickavance relieved RADM Timothy Beard. The ship was again the site of a Change of Command Ceremony when KITTY HAWK hosted the Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eleven (CVW-11) Change of Command on October 9, where CAPT James T. Knight relieved CAPT Robert J. Taylor. On December 10 while underway on Sea Trials, KITTY HAWK hosted the Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Five (CCDG-5) Change of Command ceremony where RADM Daniel R. Bowler relieved RADM Peter A. C. Long.

In addition, KITTY HAWK was the site for special ceremonies and celebrations. One event was on May 15 when KITTY HAWK hosted the Golden Eagles Memorial Service and Luncheon. On June 14, the World Affairs Council of San Diego held its forum on "Aircraft Carrier Operations and Their Role in National Strategy" on board. Vice Admiral Bruce Bennitt, Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific was the guest speaker at both events. On August 22, Members of the World War II Black Veterans of Great Lakes visited KITTY HAWK in conjunction with their sixteenth annual reunion in the San Diego area. This event received television coverage by the local media.

On September 19, USS KITTY HAWK hosted the reunion of over 200 former KITTY HAWK crewmembers. Out of this group, former KITTY HAWK C.O.'s were in attendance.

KITTY HAWK was the site of the Gold Coast Classic's President's Reception on November 12. The reception was in conjunction with the first Gold Coast Classic football game which pitted historically black colleges Morgan State University versus Howard University.

On December 28, KITTY HAWK hosted the seventeenth annual Holiday Bowl luncheon for the University of Missouri and Colorado University football teams and their supporters.