



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63)  
FPO AP 96634-2770**

*Rec'd 3/5/01  
Wodish*

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5700  
Ser PAO/0102  
16 Feb 01

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: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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

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

*A. G. MYERS*  
A. G. MYERS

Copy to:  
COMNAVAIRPAC

## Command Composition and Organization

1. Mission. USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) is an aircraft carrier with an operational mission of power projection and control of the sea lanes in support of U.S. national Policy. She is permanently forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

### 2. Organizational Structure

(a) Immediate Operational Senior In Command: Commander, Carrier Group FIVE, Battle Force Seventh Fleet, CTF 70

(b) Immediate Administrative Senior in Command: Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

### 3. Commanding Officers

(a) Captain Mathew W. Tuohy, 1 January 2000 to 27 May 2000

(b) Captain Allen G. Myers, 27 May 2000 to 31 December 2000

4. Homeport. Forward deployed, operating out of Yokosuka, Japan aboard Commander, Fleet Activities, Yokosuka.

# KITTY HAWK HISTORY 1ST Q FY00

SHIP EVENT/LOCATION	FROM YOKO	U/W DAY	CURRENT		DEPLOYED		FW FLY	RAS FUEL	RAS WITH	VERT REP	VERT WITH	CON REP	CON WITH	# IN DV PARTY	DV FLT ON	FLT OFF	DATE	
			DEPLOYED FROM YOKO	DEPLOYED THIS QTR	INPORT YOKO	INPORT DAY												

Encl (2)



Material condition of equipment. No fuel moved  
RAP= USNS Rappahannock T-AO-204

CATTC CERT 24-27 FEB 00

DD Ras w/USS Vandegrift

Air wing departs, mass exodus

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8 Media arrive brow, depart helo. 12 DV's on via helo. HS-14 Fly on  
12 DV's depart COD, RAS w/Rappahannock

FLT OPS, RAS w/Rappahannock, VERT/CON REP w/Flint

Day/night CQ's, Guam Media Visit, Fire In Elevator 2 mach. Room Enter 10K time zone

RAS w/Rappahannock

Begin CART II, 21 CVW5 DV's, Vert REP w/Flint

NO FLY DAY. Easter Sunday.

CART II. RAS w/ Rappahannock

ATG CART II personnel offloaded, IA personnel onloaded

NSSMS MISSILEX AAW-11-SF, IA

IA out-brief/IA personnel disembark

Vert and Conrep w/San Jose brought on stores/Time zone I (-9)

Fuel RAS, Vertrep w/Rappahannock. Kitty Hawks 39th B'DAY

Surigao Strait transit thru Philippines, Leyte Gulf. Hazing stand down

Transit Balabac Strait. Enter South China Sea

Time zone H (-8). South China Sea. RAS with Rappahannock.

South China Sea

South China Sea. RAS w/Rappahannock. US Ambassador to Singapore visit.

Singapore Strait

Fuel RAS w/ Rappahannock. Ammo Vertrep w/Flint. Enter G (-7) time zone.

US Ambassador to Thailand visit

Begin Cobra Gold and TSTA I & II. Gulf of Thailand

RAS and CONREP w/ Rappahannock





ADM Fargo, CINCPACFLT visit.  
Vertrep/Conrep w/San Jose, DD RAS w/OBRIEN.  
South China Sea  
Vertrep w/Kilauea and Rappahannock. RAS w/Rappahannock.  
Enter H (-8) time zone  
TSTA Outbrief. RAS/CONREP with Rappahannock. BGSIT Hotwash

Change of Command

South China Sea.  
Bashi Channel. Safety stand down. Philippine Sea

Ammo/ 2 J-52 Engines Vertrep w/ FLINT  
Enter I (-9) time zone. Okinawa media visit.  
RAS w/ Rappahannock.  
CNR, VADM Ryan visit.  
stand-down 5-13 JUN 00

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3 QFY00 Totals	40	55	55	36	15	37	13	8	5	160	12	11	
Deployed No-Fly Days			Deployed No Fly Days				2						

1 Jul 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									1 Jul 00
2 Jul 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									2 Jul 00
3 Jul 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									3 Jul 00
4 Jul 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									4 Jul 00
5 Jul 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									5 Jul 00
6 Jul 00	Thu	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									6 Jul 00
7 Jul 00	Fri	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									7 Jul 00
8 Jul 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									8 Jul 00
9 Jul 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									9 Jul 00
10 Jul 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									10 Jul 00
11 Jul 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									11 Jul 00
12 Jul 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									12 Jul 00
13 Jul 00	Thu	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									13 Jul 00
14 Jul 00	Fri	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									14 Jul 00
15 Jul 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									15 Jul 00
16 Jul 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									16 Jul 00
17 Jul 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									17 Jul 00
18 Jul 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									18 Jul 00
19 Jul 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									19 Jul 00
20 Jul 00	Thu	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									20 Jul 00
21 Jul 00	Fri	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									21 Jul 00
22 Jul 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									22 Jul 00
23 Jul 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									23 Jul 00
24 Jul 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									24 Jul 00
25 Jul 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									25 Jul 00
26 Jul 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									26 Jul 00
27 Jul 00	Thu	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									27 Jul 00
28 Jul 00	Fri	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									28 Jul 00
29 Jul 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									29 Jul 00
30 Jul 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									30 Jul 00
31 Jul 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									31 Jul 00

JUL TOTALS	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deployed No-Fly Days			Deployed No Fly Days				0						

1 Aug 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									1 Aug 00
2 Aug 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									2 Aug 00
3 Aug 00	Thu	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									3 Aug 00
4 Aug 00	Fri	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									4 Aug 00
5 Aug 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									5 Aug 00
6 Aug 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									6 Aug 00
7 Aug 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									7 Aug 00
8 Aug 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									8 Aug 00
9 Aug 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									9 Aug 00
10 Aug 00	Thu	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									10 Aug 00
11 Aug 00	Fri	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									11 Aug 00
12 Aug 00	Sat	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									12 Aug 00
13 Aug 00	Sun	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									13 Aug 00
14 Aug 00	Mon	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									14 Aug 00
15 Aug 00	Tue	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									15 Aug 00
16 Aug 00	Wed	Inport Yokosuka	0	1									16 Aug 00

6

Begin CSRR, LTT E Plot I



**Friendship Day**

**12**

**Philippine Sea/SINS testing**

**RAS w/Rappahannock**

**Fit Deck cert**

**RAS w/Rappahannock**

**ULM 4 Range, 100 Hour SINS test**

**RAS w/Rappahannock**

**Japanese DV's**

Deployed No-Fly Days

Deployed No Fly Days	2
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4 QFY00 Totals	10	10	10	82	0	8	3	0	0	20	1	1
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Deployed No-Fly Days

Deployed No Fly Days	2
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1 Oct 00	Sun	Philippine Sea/CQ's	6	1	1	1		Y										1 Oct 00
2 Oct 00	Mon	XSIT to Okinawa OPAREAS/ RAS/ VERTREP	7	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP	1	KISKA						2 Oct 00
3 Oct 00	Tue	XSIT to Okinawa OPAREAS	8	1	1	1		Y										3 Oct 00
4 Oct 00	Wed	Okinawa OPAREAS	9	1	1	1		Y										4 Oct 00
5 Oct 00	Thu	Okinawa OPAREAS	10	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP								5 Oct 00
6 Oct 00	Fri	Okinawa OPAREAS/NSSMS Shoot	11	1	1	1		Y										6 Oct 00
7 Oct 00	Sat	Okinawa OPAREAS/CIWS TDU Shoot	12	1	1	1		Y						18	1	1		7 Oct 00
8 Oct 00	Sun	Okinawa OPAREAS	13	1	1	1		Y										8 Oct 00
9 Oct 00	Mon	XSIT to Otaru/RAS F/VERT REP	14	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP	1	RAP	1 RAP	RAP				9 Oct 00
10 Oct 00	Tue	XSIT to Otaru/Sea of Japan	15	1	1	1		Y										10 Oct 00
11 Oct 00	Wed	XSIT to Otaru/Sea of Japan	16	1	1	1		Y										11 Oct 00
12 Oct 00	Thu	XSIT to Otaru/Sea of Japan/RAS	17	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP				13	1			12 Oct 00
13 Oct 00	Fri	Pierside Otaru @ 0746 Local	18		1	1										1		13 Oct 00
14 Oct 00	Sat	Inport Otaru	19		1	1										1		14 Oct 00
15 Oct 00	Sun	Inport Otaru	20		1	1										1		15 Oct 00
16 Oct 00	Mon	Underway @ 0904 local	21	1	1	1		Y										16 Oct 00
17 Oct 00	Tue	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/ RAS	22	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP								17 Oct 00
18 Oct 00	Wed	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	23	1	1	1		Y										18 Oct 00
19 Oct 00	Thu	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	24	1	1	1		Y										19 Oct 00
20 Oct 00	Fri	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/ RAS	25	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP								20 Oct 00
21 Oct 00	Sat	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	26	1	1	1		Y										21 Oct 00
22 Oct 00	Sun	Sea of Japan	27	1	1	1		N										22 Oct 00
23 Oct 00	Mon	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/ Foal Eagle	28	1	1	1		Y										23 Oct 00
24 Oct 00	Tue	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/ RAS	29	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP	1	SJO						24 Oct 00
25 Oct 00	Wed	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	30	1	1	1		Y										25 Oct 00
26 Oct 00	Thu	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/7th FLT visit	31	1	1	1		Y						1	1			26 Oct 00
27 Oct 00	Fri	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/RAS	32	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP				19	1	2		27 Oct 00
28 Oct 00	Sat	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	33	1	1	1		Y										28 Oct 00
29 Oct 00	Sun	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	34	1	1	1		Y										29 Oct 00
30 Oct 00	Mon	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/RAS	35	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP				21	1	1		30 Oct 00
31 Oct 00	Tue	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	36	1	1	1		Y										31 Oct 00

OCT 00 TOTALS	28	31	31	0	3	27	9	3	0	72	5	4
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Deployed No-Fly Days

Deployed No Fly Days	1
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1 Nov 00	Wed	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/RAS	37	1	1	1		Y	1	RAP								1 Nov 00
2 Nov 00	Thu	Pierside Pusan @ 1210 Local	38		1	1		Y										2 Nov 00
3 Nov 00	Fri	Pierside Pusan	39		1	1										1		3 Nov 00
4 Nov 00	Sat	Pierside Pusan	40		1	1										1		4 Nov 00
5 Nov 00	Sun	Underway @ 1400 Local	41	1	1	1												5 Nov 00
6 Nov 00	Mon	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	42	1	1	1		Y										6 Nov 00
7 Nov 00	Tue	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/RAS	43	1	1	1		Y	1	PEC	1	SJO	1	PEC				7 Nov 00
8 Nov 00	Wed	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	44	1	1	1		Y						11	1			8 Nov 00
9 Nov 00	Thu	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/PHOTOEX	45	1	1	1		Y									1	9 Nov 00
10 Nov 00	Fri	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	46	1	1	1		Y						12	1			10 Nov 00
11 Nov 00	Sat	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS/RAS	47	1	1	1		Y	1	PEC							1	11 Nov 00
12 Nov 00	Sun	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	48	1	1	1		Y										12 Nov 00
13 Nov 00	Mon	Sea of Japan/FLT OPS	49	1	1	1		Y						15	1			13 Nov 00

**Ammo VERTREP w/ Kiska, RAS Fuel w/ Rappahannock**

**RAS w/Rappahannock**

**DV's**

**Otaru DV's**

**RAS w/ Rappahannock**

**LTT E w/ATG & CNAP N72**

**LTT E w/ATG & CNAP N72**

**RAS w/ Rappahannock. LTT E w/ATG & CNAP N72**

**Begin Foal Eagle**

**RAS w/ Rappahannock, VERTREP w/ San Jose**

**ADM Metzger (C7F) visit**

**RAS w/Rappahannock/ ADM Metzger departs**

**DV's CUSFK**

**End Foal Eagle**

**Begin ANNUALEX**

**RAS-F and CONREP w/USNS Pecos, VERTREP w/USNS SAN JOSE**

**DV's**

**DV's**

**RAS w/Pecos**

**DV'S**





RAS F and CONREP w/Pecos. DV's.  
Tsugaru Straits XSIT/Opposed Choke point XSIT  
FINISH ANNULEX  
VERTREP w/KISK  
Underway Demo out brief



## Narrative

The year 2000 began with anticipation and excitement for the Sailors of the United States' only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier. Since 1999 brought an unexpected, no-notice deployment to the Arabian Gulf, Sailors and their families were hopeful for a more routine year, with more typical scheduled spring and fall deployments. Their wish was granted.

KITTY HAWK began 2000 in a Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA) period in Yokosuka, Japan. Routine maintenance and preservation kept the ship's company and Ship Repair Facility personnel busy for the majority of January and February. Major projects included replacement of 102,000 square ft. of flight deck non-skid, extension of structural integrity and preservation of 79 tanks and voids on the 8<sup>th</sup> deck, 3A and 4A boiler Start of Availability Inspection, #1 Aircraft Elevator Zipper Track Buildup to ensure proper operation of the hangar bay doors, rehab of seven heads and seven berthings (housing 353 racks) and modification of the forward crew's galley.

The most significant combat system installation - one that greatly improved quality of life aboard KITTY HAWK - was completed during this time. Television Direct to Sailor, or TV DTS, enables the delivery of two channels of real-time TV, three channels of audio programming, and one data channel for print news products. All information, while originating from the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, was programmed specifically for forward-deployed Sailors by Naval Media Center.

KITTY HAWK got underway February 23 for sea trials, returning to Yokosuka March 6. During this 12-day period, ship's company and Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW-5) personnel completed over 1,100 aircraft launches and recoveries, performed numerous damage control drills and exercised the ship's systems from fore to aft.

Following a five-week in-port period, KITTY HAWK got underway for its spring deployment April 11. The ship headed east, gradually getting up to normal operating tempo as the ship's company took on a variety of shipboard drills in addition to qualifying a portion of CVW-5 aircrew at landing. The majority of CVW-5 crews flew ahead to Guam to participate in Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program at Andersen Air Force Base. Flight ops aboard HAWK continued each day through April 16.

KITTY HAWK pulled into Guam April 17 for a three-day visit. In addition to a hangar-bay reception for Guam-area distinguished visitors put on by the ship's supply department, the ship brought aboard over 5000 members of the general public during a one-day open house. Sailors enjoyed Guam's sun and 80-plus degree weather with a variety of recreational activities. The Guam visit was highlighted by the appearance of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jay Johnson.

Admiral Johnson's all-hands call was his first aboard HAWK since one-year prior, when he personally delivered the decision about HAWK's 1999 diversion to the Arabian Gulf. But Admiral Johnson's April 19, 2000, message did not include such news. Rather, he discussed the Navy's current efforts to recruit and retain Sailors. He also praised the efforts of HAWK/FIVE Sailors. "The key to success in the U.S. Navy is standing right in front of me," he told the audience composed of thousands of Sailors from HAWK/FIVE as well as around the Guam waterfront. "Without you, there would be nothing. You need to be proud of what you do each and every day."

KITTY HAWK pulled out of Guam April 20, but remained in the Guam operating area through April 27, completing carrier qualifications and flight operations in addition to Command Assessment and Readiness Training (CART II). Afloat Training Group Western Pacific (ATG WESTPAC) sent a team of specialists from Yokosuka aboard HAWK to evaluate Sailors in a variety of areas including damage control, combat systems, aviation, seamanship, engineering and medical. The period was also highlighted by HS-14's rescue of a man overboard and the test firing of NATO Sea Sparrow missile and the ship's Close in Weapons System.

On April 29, KITTY HAWK celebrated the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her commissioning. Sailors celebrated the oldest active ship in the Navy's birthday with cake on the mess deck and a speech by Captain Tuohy. Meanwhile, the HAWK/FIVE team engaged in flight operations during all but one day of the eight-day journey to Singapore. The trip was highlighted May 1 by transit of the Surigao Strait, leading into the Leyte Gulf.

On May 6, KITTY HAWK commenced a four-day port visit to Singapore. Sailors explored the exotic island nation through Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored tours, competed in sporting matches set up between divisional and departmental teams, and participated in community relations events sponsored by HAWK's Chaplain's Department.

In a somewhat unusual sequence of events, HAWK pulled out of Singapore for a brief two-day at-sea period en route Pattaya, Thailand. Sailors enjoyed four more days in port, highlighted by Pattaya's tropical delights and unique culture. Of particular note was the Nong Nooch Village, a 500-acre village-style recreation park including exotic animals in their botanical habitats.

Pulling out of Thailand May 17, KITTY HAWK immediately commenced its participation in Exercise Cobra Gold 2000, which began May 9. Cobra Gold is a regularly scheduled joint/combined U.S.-Thai military exercise designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai armed forces to defend Thailand or respond to regional contingencies. This year, forces from Singapore participated in Cobra Gold for the first time. As well as flying off KITTY HAWK, CVW-5 also operated F/A-18 and F-14 aircraft from Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, some 165 miles northeast of Bangkok. These aircrews trained allied pilots and acted as aggressors during the exercise.

On May 20, Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visited KITTY HAWK as the carrier operated in the Gulf of Thailand. Speaking on behalf of the Navy's senior leadership, ADM Fargo said, "(We) can't help but be impressed by your readiness and your motivation and the manner in which you do business. We really appreciate, as a nation, all you do to ensure the stability and prosperity of this region."

On May 22, KITTY HAWK completed its participation in Cobra Gold. Rear Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander, Task Force 70, embarked aboard KITTY HAWK concluded, "Cobra Gold was great training for everyone all around. It was great for the air wing because of availability of some target facilities that aren't available in Atsugi, and great for the KITTY HAWK crew because they got to put their battle skills to the test in this important region of the world."

KITTY HAWK also completed its annual Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA) from May 17-25 during the activity of Cobra Gold. TSTA brought some 40 ATG inspectors to the ship, including every department and nearly every major system from bow to stern.

On May 23, Captains Michael Galpin and Lee Holbrook made their 1000<sup>th</sup> arrested landings aboard KITTY HAWK. CAPT Galpin, CVW-5's Deputy Commander, and CAPT Holbrook, CTF 70 Operations

Officer, both naval flight officers, completed the feat in an F-14A Tomcat and EA-6B Prowler, respectively.

KITTY HAWK pulled into Hong Kong May 26 for its last port visit of the spring deployment. Once again, Sailors enjoyed MWR-sponsored activities, highlighted by a special offering at Ocean Park, a combination of a traditional amusement park and a zoo. Additionally, over 100 Sailors volunteered their time and talent, performing maintenance and entertaining children at the Hong Chi Pinehill Village for Handicapped Children.

On May 27, with the ship anchored off Hong Kong, Sailors from the HAWK/FIVE team and an assortment of distinguished guests gathered in the ship's hangar bay as Captain Allen G. Myers relieved Captain Matthew W. Tuohy as the 29<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer of USS KITTY HAWK.

CAPT Tuohy departed with orders to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C., with mixed emotions. "As with every Sailor, you come to a ship for a period of time and you do the best you can," he said. "You hope to make a difference while you are there. But when your time is done, it's time to move on to other challenges, and make room for your relief to make it even better than it was."

CAPT Myers commented on the history of KITTY HAWK as he looked to his future aboard America's oldest active-duty Navy ship. "What you get with 39 years of combat service is warrior spirit and professionalism," he said. "You get a tradition of service with courage and honor. That's what gives KITTY HAWK its character."

On June 5, KITTY HAWK pulled into Yokosuka, concluding her 55-day deployment. In sum, the carrier/air wing team steamed 19,440 miles, completed 3,146 arrested landings and flew 2,101 sorties.

During her summer 2000 Ship's Restricted Availability period, KITTY HAWK received two significant upgrades. The first, a Ring Laser Gyro Navigation System with Global Positioning System interface, increased the precision with which HAWK's navigation team could execute its mission. The second upgrade was Battle Force Email, a ship-to-ship, line-of-sight, high frequency data transmission system allowing direct data transfer from one battle group ship to another. According to KITTY HAWK's Combat Systems Officer, LCDR [REDACTED], both systems operated as advertised, providing the value for which they were intended.

Also, during the summer of 2000, KITTY HAWK replaced another 70,000 square feet of flight deck non-skid, performed preservation work on 71 8<sup>th</sup> deck tanks and voids, replaced the ship's pneumatic boiler controls with electronic ones, performed a Start of Availability Inspection on 1B and 3B boilers, #2 Aircraft Elevator Zipper Track Buildup, rehabilitated seven more heads, replaced outdated equipment on the aft Crew's Galley and Wardroom II and installed shredders and pulpers in various locations to reduce the dumping of trash into the sea.

Getting underway September 9, HAWK stretched her legs during her second and final sea trial period in the year 2000. Of particular note was the certification of the precision approach landing (PAL) system that "flies" planes down to HAWK's flight deck. A process required every 18-24 months, the PAL certifications lasted five days. The bi-annual flight deck recertification also occurred during the sea trial period, with teams from Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (AIRPAC) embarking to help train and evaluate HAWK's flight deck personnel.

On September 18, Rear Admiral Robert F. Willard relieved Rear Admiral Timothy J. Keating as HAWK's Immediate Operational Senior in Command in a ceremony in HAWK's hangar bay.

KITTY HAWK set sail September 26 for her final deployment of 2000. Initially, HAWK remained in Sagami Bay and the Philippine Sea to complete shipboard drills while aircrew from CVW-5 completed field carrier landing practice ashore. Captain Myers commented that this style of unit-level training - allowing ship's company to gradually ramp up training and readiness levels without the strain of heavy flight ops - was a positive change in operating procedure. By the third day, CVW-5 aircraft arrived and HAWK plunged headfirst into carrier qualifications.

On October 2, HAWK - with CVW-5 fully embarked - began transiting to the Okinawa operating area where the ship/wing team commenced a variety of integrated shipboard and air operations, honing their skills for participation in Exercise FOAL EAGLE. On October 9, while still performing integrated training, HAWK began its transit through the Sea of Japan, arriving October 13 in Otaru, on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, for a much-anticipated and highly publicized port visit.

KITTY HAWK was the second aircraft carrier to visit the small, semi-remote city near Sapporo on Japan's northern-most



island of Hokkaido. USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62), HAWK's immediate predecessor in Yokosuka, visited in 1998, attracting reported crowds of over 300,000 people. With the possibility of such enormous crowds, local officials and news media amplified concerns of the city's ability to adequately handle HAWK's visit. Nonetheless, a team of local supporters was assembled to support the visit, which included the construction of stairways to carry guests from HAWK's elevators one and three to the flight deck and back.

The first day of the visit included a welcome ceremony, media availability and tours, distinguished visitor tours, and a reception. Days two and three were reserved for a general public open house, in which HAWK hosted over 66,000 total visitors over the two days.

While the actual number of visitors received was less than expected, HAWK and local Otaru leadership were pleased with the quality of the open house. Specifically, local authorities were happy that visitors could visit the ship's flight deck, which they were unable to do during INDEPENDENCE's visit two years prior. Visitors also had a greater opportunity to chat with Sailors and spend more time viewing aircraft and equipment exhibits.

After a week of integrated training in the Sea of Japan, KITTY HAWK and CVW-5 launched into Exercise Foal Eagle with approximately 20,000 other U.S. troops and additional forces from the Republic of Korea. The HAWK/FIVE team's role was to support special and amphibious operations in addition to launching offensive strikes against "enemy" targets. The team engaged fully with battle group counterparts to provide the naval component of the exercise, including strike, air, surface and subsurface warfare. HAWK's participation in the exercise concluded November 1.

During the month of October, HAWK leadership took a new turn on the ship's ongoing maintenance and preservation effort. While at sea, departments offered up Sailors to form "tiger teams" specializing in specific maintenance and preservation work that throughout the ship to rehabilitate most visible internal spaces. The tiger team effort continued through the end of the fall deployment, increasing the ship's material readiness and quality of appearance and giving the crew a jump on the winter '00/01 SRA workload.

KITTY HAWK pulled into Pusan November 3 for a three-day port visit. A relief from the workload of the Otaru visit, Pusan

provided a ripe Christmas shopping opportunity for many Sailors. Imitation mink blankets, leather goods, shoes, clothing, hats and jewelry were some of the more popular items purchased by HAWK/FIVE Sailors. Additionally, over 50 Sailors took time to entertain orphans at the Pa Ae Won Orphanage in Pusan.

KITTY HAWK began their final exercises of the year 2000 on November 10. Annual Exercise (ANNUALEX) 12G and Keen Sword brought together the forces of Japan and the United States to hone their warfighting skills and improve interoperability. ANNUALEX focused on the maritime component of defense while Keen Sword focused on the air component. A number of Japanese Sailors and officers embarked KITTY HAWK during the exercises, providing a unique opportunity for some HAWK Sailors to work directly with their professional peers from the country KITTY HAWK calls home.

KITTY HAWK completed the fall deployment with an underway demonstration (UD), in which inspectors from AIRPAC boarded HAWK once again to observe and evaluate the HAWK team as they showed off the ship's engineering capability.

"The goal is to demonstrate our ability to sustain our power plants and the ship," said Machinist's Mate Chief (AW/SW) [REDACTED] of Engineering Department's P-1 Division. "We hold these inspections to make sure that engineering personnel have learned everything they need to know in the event of a real-world casualty."

At the end of the UD, the AIRPAC inspection team gave HAWK's engineers a very favorable report on their performance.

KITTY HAWK returned to Yokosuka on November 20, completing the 55-day fall deployment. In sum, the carrier/air wing team steamed 4,750 miles, completed 3,345 arrested landings and flew 3,411 sorties.

KITTY HAWK completed the year 2000 in its regularly scheduled SRA period in Yokosuka sandwiched by post-deployment and holiday stand-downs.