



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
PAO
31 Mar 04

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 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Organizational Chart
(3) Chronology
(4) Narrative
(5) Supporting Documents
 a. Welcome aboard brochure
 b. *KITTY HAWK Flyers*
 c. Press releases
 d. Biography of commanding officer
 e. KITTY HAWK news clips
 f. Photograph CDs

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

2. Enclosure (5) is being sent under separate cover on CDs as per reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Parker".

T. PARKER

Copy to:
COMNAVAIRPAC

Command Composition and Organization

1. Short title/UIC. USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)/03363
2. Mission. USS Kitty Hawk is America's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, operating out of Yokosuka, Japan. Its operational mission is power projection and control of the sea lanes in support of U.S. national policy.
3. Organizational Structure.
 - a. Immediate Operational Senior in Command: COMCARGRU FIVE; Battle Force Seventh Fleet; Commander Task Force 70.
 - b. Immediate Administrative Senior in Command: COMNAVAIRPAC
3. Commanding Officer. Capt. R. D. Barbaree, Jr., 01 Jan. 2003 – 26 Feb. 2003. Capt. T. Parker, 26 Feb. 2003 – 31 Dec. 2003.
4. 5. Type of aircraft assigned.

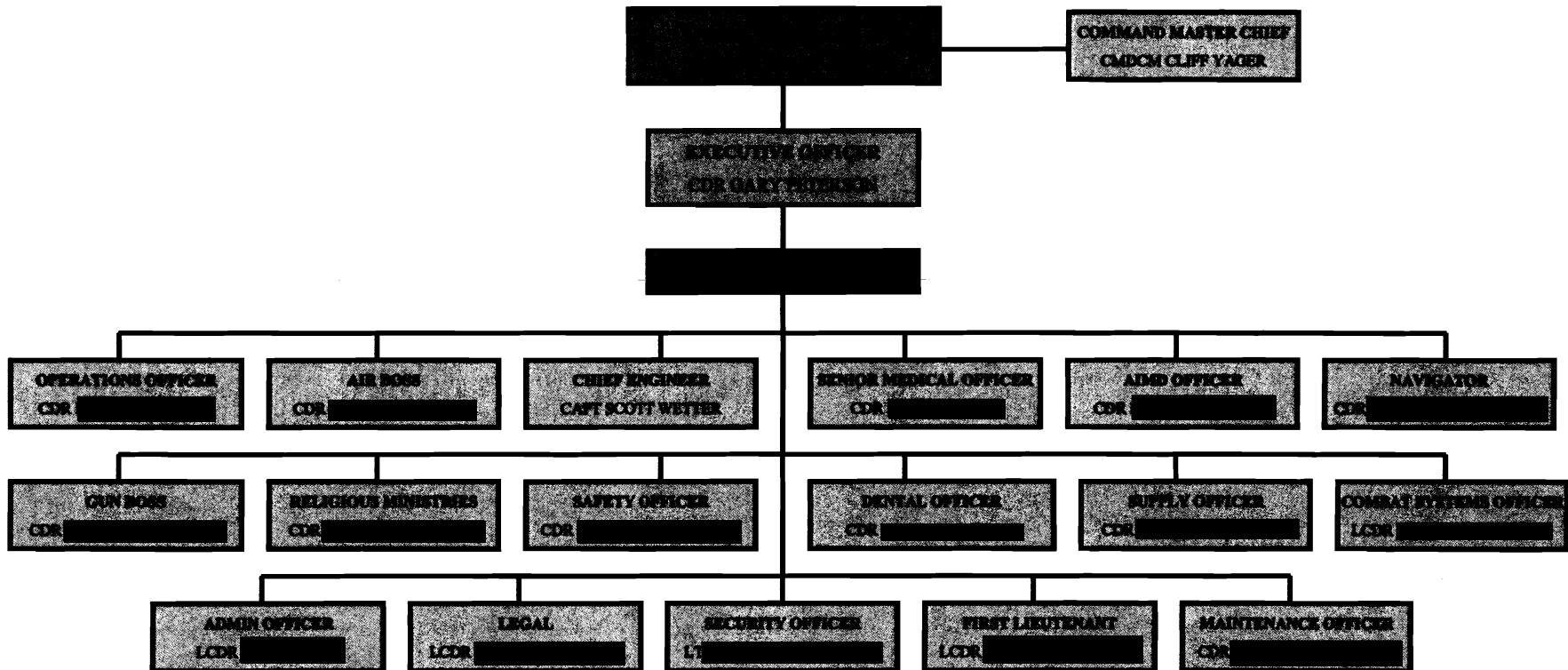
Carrier Air Wing FIVE Atsugi, Japan

HS-14	SH-60F
VAQ-136	EA-6B
VAW-115	E-2C
VF-154	F-14 (Decommissioned)
VFA-192	F-14
VFA-195	F/A-18C
VFA-27	F/A-18C
VRC-30	C-2A Greyhound aircraft
VS-21	S-3B
VFA-102	F/A-18F Super Hornet (Arrived November 2003)

2003

CV 63 BATTLE CAT

COMMAND ORGANIZATION



USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)
2003 Chronology

20 Jan Depart Yokosuka, Japan, for 2-day Sea Trial

29 Jan. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 11 pallets

3 Feb. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 43 pallets

8 Feb. Ship's bow catapult team launches 150,000th aircraft from No. 1 catapult

9 Feb. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 274 pallets

9 Feb. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 425 pallets

13 Feb. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 45 pallets

14 Feb. Kitty Hawk completes ISRA 301

23 Feb Kitty Hawk departs Yokosuka for 104-day deployment in support of OSW and OIF safely navigating through both the Strait of Malacca and Strait of Hormuz.

25 Feb. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 310 pallets

27 Feb. COC ceremony at sea. Capt. Parker assumes command.

2 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 265 pallets

8 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 275 pallets

14 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 350 pallets

19 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 257 pallets

26 Mar. RAS with CAMDEN, 380 pallets

1 Apr. RAS with RAINIER, 360 pallets

7 Apr. RAS with CAMDEN, 410 pallets

8 Apr. RAS with CAMDEN, 451 pallets

13 Apr. RAS with BRIDGE, 362 pallets

18 Apr. Depart Arabian Gulf for Yokosuka
 23 Apr. RAS with TIPPECANOE, 145 pallets
 28 Apr. RAS with TIPPECANOE, 20 pallets
 4 May. RAS with KILAUEA, 45 pallets
 19 May. Kitty Hawk begins DSRA period in Yokosuka
 12 Jul. Kitty Hawk crew completes move off of ship for DSRA period
 3 Oct. Kitty Hawk crew moves back onboard as DSRA nears completion
 9 Oct. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 350 pallets
 13 Oct. Kitty Hawk departs Yokosuka for post DSRA 10-day Sea Trial
 16 Oct. RAS with YUKON, 58 pallets
 17 Oct. DSRA complete
 22 Oct. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 400 pallets
 01 Nov. Kitty Hawk departs Yokosuka for ANNUALEX
 6 Nov. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 135 pallets
 6 Nov. RAS with CONCORD, 391 pallets
 16 Nov. RAS with YUKON, 65 pallets
 16 Nov. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 75 pallets
 20 Nov. RAS with SAN JOSE, 350 pallets
 24 Nov. RAS with YUKON, 58 pallets
 27 Nov. Arrive Guam for port visit
 2 Dec. RAS with YUKON, 50 pallets
 12 Dec. Kitty Hawk returns to Yokosuka after completion of ANNUALEX
 12 Dec. UPKEEP 401 begins

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)

2003 Command History Narrative

2003 was a busy year for the world's only forward deployed aircraft carrier. The oldest active ship in the U.S. Navy showed no signs of slowing down in 2003 as Kitty Hawk witnessed the arrival of a new Commanding Officer before steaming to the Persian Gulf for 104 continuous days at sea in support of Coalition Forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following a successful tour in the Gulf, Kitty Hawk returned to Yokosuka, Japan in May to begin an extensive maintenance and dry-dock period. Less than six months later the Battle Cat would emerge again in superb condition - immediately participating with Japan in the ANNUALEX 15G exercise, and continuing her role in the western Pacific Ocean.

Kitty Hawk began 2003 with a brief underway in January for a two-day sea trial period designed to increase readiness for possible future tasking in support of the Global War On Terrorism. The two-day training focused on the Precision Approach Landing System that assists pilots during nighttime and poor weather condition landings.

Upon returning to Yokosuka, Japan, Kitty Hawk reached a major milestone in her 42-year history. On Feb. 8, the ship's bow catapult team launched its 150,000th aircraft from the No. 1 catapult. As of noon on that day, 398,505 aircraft had launched from the four catapults on the flight deck of Kitty Hawk during four decades of service.

The second month of Kitty Hawk's 42nd year witnessed the arrival of the Battle Cat's 32nd Commanding Officer, Capt. Thomas A. Parker. During a scheduled ceremony at sea on Feb. 27, Capt. Parker relieved Capt. Robert D. Barbaree Jr. as commanding officer, a post he had held since Sept. 3, 2002.

Less than one week after assuming command, Capt. Parker and the crew of Kitty Hawk and Carrier Air Wing 5 joined other Navy carrier strike groups to monitor and conduct surveillance in Iraq. Kitty Hawk and CVW-5 played a prominent role enforcing the southern no-fly zone required by U.N. Resolution.

The Kitty Hawk Strike Group joined other strike groups in a rotating schedule as Operation Southern Watch continued on into the Spring of 2003. The schedule weaved together multiple forces participating in OSW for joint patrolling of the no-fly zone. The mission schedule intermixed different units allowing everyone involved in OSW to take part of the risk and responsibility of patrolling the no-fly zone.

Throughout the more than 100-day underway period in support of OIF, Kitty Hawk Public Affairs answered the SECDEF's call for all military public affairs teams to "lean forward" during the Global War On Terrorism. During her underway period, Kitty Hawk

hosted more than 30 members of the national and international media as embeds during the month of March and into April.

Media coverage of Kitty Hawk's, and other military operations, shaped public perceptions of the national security environment and played a critical role in informing the American public of the progress on the war on terror. Embedded media were given unprecedented access and the freedom to roam the ship - with exception of specific areas designated as restricted access. A significant change from the policies of the past when media were tightly restricted and controlled, Kitty Hawk embeds were largely given the opportunity to experience and tell the story through the eyes of the Sailors they were living alongside. According to Leila Gorchev, a photojournalist with the Agence France Presse (AFP), "Everyone has been very cooperative in helping me and the other media get what we need to do our jobs. I've talked with and photographed Sailors who fly aircraft and Sailors who repair that aircraft. It's been a great experience so far, and I'm enjoying this opportunity."

With the close of April brought an end to Kitty Hawk's historic mission in support of OIF. After more than 100 continuous days at sea and 28,936 nautical miles traveled, Kitty Hawk had much to be proud of.

During the Battle Cat's time in the Arabian Gulf, more than 5,000 sorties were flown (11,000+ flight hours and 5,081 successful takeoffs and trap landings) using nearly 900,000 pounds of ordnance.

Kitty Hawk's entire crew came together to make the historic deployment a major success. Approximately 39 million gallons of water were produced, and nine million gallons of fuel were expended. Also, 1.5 million meals were consumed, 377,000 pounds of laundry were washed and more than 20,000 medical and dental procedures/exams were performed. More than 1,500 educational advancement tests were delivered and 168 Sailors re-enlisted.

As witness of Kitty Hawk's exceptional crew and service to her country during a time of war, Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific, recognized crewmembers of four departments for their outstanding performance and proficiency while performing their duties. Supply was awarded its fourth consecutive Blue "E"; medical received a Blue "M"; weapons, a Black "W"; and aircraft intermediate maintenance department (AIMD) received its fifth Black "E".

Upon returning to Yokosuka, Kitty Hawk moved into dry dock to begin its scheduled maintenance period - its first in nearly half a decade. On May 4, Weapons completed the off loading of all ordnance on board with the successful and safe movement of more than 400 lifts, and on July 12, Kitty Hawk completed the offloading of all crew.

The 2003 DSRA was significant for several reasons. 2003's DSRA witnessed the Kitty Hawk's first dry dock period since being forward deployed. With decommissioning planned for 2008, DSRA would be Kitty Hawk's final major planned overhaul in her four

decades of service. For the first time since becoming forward deployed, Kitty Hawk successfully established DSRA organization in line with the Team 1 concept, allowing the Hawk to successfully organize internally to attack big ticket projects vertically with teams.

During the six-month dry dock period, more than 180,000 man-days were poured into preparing the Hawk for another half-decade of service to her country. There were 1,263 unique projects (JCNs) completed during this time, including the following major work:

- Major repair was completed on boilers 1A and 3A
- 1,000 berthing racks were refurbished
- 15 heads were completely replaced
- Re-tubing of #2 main condenser was completed
- 90% of the Kitty Hawk flight deck was resurfaced
- 50% of the entire ship completed a hotel steam piping effort, completing a year long process to bring the Kitty Hawk into 100% compliance
- Entire ship's sides were repainted utilizing new paint system designed to limit corrosive damage
- Major alterations were conducted related to F-18 E/F modifications to upgrade AIMD for preparation to fly F-18
- Significant work was completed on all four of the Kitty Hawk's shafts, screws and rudders and the ship's props were substantially refurbished leading to a noticeable improvement while underway during high speeds.

All in all, the 2003 DSRA was a hugely successful undertaking for America's oldest ship in service. According to the Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka, Kitty Hawk's 2003 DSRA represented the single largest DSRA availability in their history. With more than one thousand projects completed on time and under the Team 1 concept, Kitty Hawk ended her dry dock period ready to return to service as America's only forward deployed carrier, serving at the "tip of the spear."

During DSRA, Kitty Hawk welcomed aboard her new CMC. Command Master (AW) Chief Clifford E. Yager joined the crew of the Kitty Hawk in May, marking the sixth ship he has served on in his naval career. Previously stationed on USS Iwo Jima (LPH 2), USS Tripoli (LPH 10), USS Independence (CV 62), USS Forrestal (CV 59) and USS Nimitz (CVN 68), Kitty Hawk is Yager's third tour as CMC.

In October, Kitty Hawk wrapped up her extensive dry dock period with a 9-day "deep clean" effort. With the Dry Dock Ships Restricted Availability over, Battle Cat Sailors took pride in their ship, rolling up their sleeves and scrubbing five months of dirt and grime away.

As America's only permanently forward deployed aircraft carrier, community service plays an integral role in the daily life of the Battle Cat and her Sailors. Prior to leaving port in October, Kitty Hawk Sailors participated in one of their many community service activities during 2003. After completing dry dock, Sailors paid a visit to senior citizens living at the Kinugasa Nursing Home in Yokosuka, Japan. Sailors cleaned wheel chairs

and visited with residents sharing personal stories of life at sea and listened to the life stories of the residents – many of whom shared stories spanning more than eight decades of history.

On Oct. 13, with DSRA complete, Kitty Hawk prepared for its fall underway period with a sea trial departure.

Historically, stateside carriers have scheduled major shipyard availabilities around the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, which typically has a carrier and its associated strike group units returning from a six-month deployment, standing down for maintenance for six to 12 months, and then spending about six months ramping up for the next deployment. With sea trials under way in October, followed by Carrier Qualifications and Command Assessed Readiness Training, Kitty Hawk's crew accomplish all of the above by the end of 2003 – demonstrating a nearly 200% increase in readiness.

With the need for accurate personnel accounting and the reality of a heightened demand for security while in port, Kitty Hawk's security department introduced a new electronic liberty log system in October designed to give watch standers a fast and accurate means of identifying Hawk Sailors as they enter and exit the ship. The new system allows quarterdeck and brow watch standers the ability to identify Hawk Sailors by swiping armed forces identification cards, while an electronic log is kept of those coming and going. The system incorporates commercially hardware and software with the command's existing relational administration database by using an interface designed by Lt. Cmdr. [REDACTED], fuels division officer and a shooter on board the Battle Cat. The system was designed to replace the individual paper logs kept at the departmental level to track personnel departing and returning to the ship from liberty. The new system provides the command an enhanced force protection capability on the brow, enabling the command to step up its force protection measure, particularly in foreign ports and when in a heightened force protection condition. A biometrics identification feature has also been incorporated into the system – making it nearly impossible for fraudulent access in the event of false ID or the possibility a Sailor's card falls into the hands of terrorist.

With sea trials complete, the Battle Cat embarked in November on her second underway period in 2003 with the commencement of ANNUALEX exercises. U.S. and Japanese Forces practiced interoperability during ANNUALEX exercises designed to improve both naval forces capability for coordinated and bilateral operations in the defense of Japan. The successful routine bilateral exercise focused on military-to-military relationships, improving command and control, and air, undersea and surface warfare. Approximately 7,500 U.S. naval personnel participated in this year's exercise.

During her fall underway period, Kitty Hawk and her 5,300 Sailors and embarked airmen paid a Thanksgiving holiday visit to the island of Guam during a 5-day port call to the American territory. The Guam visit marked the Kitty Hawk's first liberty port call in more than a year. With multiple MWR events scheduled throughout the stay, Thanksgiving 2003 was a memorable and much needed holiday for the Battle Cat's war-tested crew.

After departing Guam and completing a successful six-week fall underway period, Kitty Hawk pulled back into Yokosuka, Japan, Dec. 12.

In addition to the many significant “physical” changes and successful exercises in 2003, Kitty Hawk’s new CO embarked on an aggressive campaign to lift the morale of the Battle Cat’s Sailors. One such effort to build pride and camaraderie amongst the Sailors on board America’s oldest active ship has spread like wildfire throughout both the enlisted and officer ranks. Upon assuming command, Capt. Parker christened a new name for CV 63 – the “Battle Cat”. During the CO’s daily 1MC, Sailors hear an energetic Capt. Parker speak with pride about the “Fightin’, Bitin’, Howlin’ Growlin’, Battle Cat,” and the great work being done by her Sailors every day. According to the CO: “This Battle Cat business is corny. It’s calculated. My intentions are entirely transparent and fool no one. But the use of the name ‘Battle Cat’ has been enthusiastically embraced by the crew.” Ship’s stores are unable to keep “Battle Cat” shirts in stock as the name has taken hold, along with a noticeable increase in overall crew morale.

The Battle Cat’s 42nd year of life was indeed one for the history books. After participating in the liberation of Iraq, undergoing extensive maintenance and upgrading during DSRA, conducting joint exercises with Japan and continuing her service as America’s first responder in times of crises, Kitty Hawk begins 2004 in an unprecedented state of readiness, prepared for the challenges of the global war on terror and the responsibilities that come with being America’s only forward deployed carrier.

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