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USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, 96601

~~SECRET~~

CVA63/ 5720
Ser 32/0032
11 March 1969

SECRET - Unclassified upon removal of enclosures

From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Command History, 1968; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Command History, 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J. F. Davis
J. F. DAVIS

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CNO (OP-09B9)
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVAIRPAC, Code 10

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1968



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Declassified by authority of the Director
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accordance with OPNAVINST 5510.1

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The following are separate publications, reports, or supporting materials forwarded as part of this report:

- ANNEX A USS KITTY HAWK Instruction 5750.1, Subj: KITTY HAWK
Command History
- B Roster of Officers, 1 December 1968
- C Roster of Enlisted Personnel, December 1968
- D KITTY HAWK and CVW-11 18 NOV 67-28 JUN 68 Cruise Report
- E KITTY HAWK Intelligence DEC 67-JUN 68 Cruise Report
- F KITTY HAWK 1967-68 Cruise Book - *to N. D. Library*
- G Selected Public Affairs Publications
- H Selected Photographs

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NARRATIVE OF EVENTS-1968

The onset of the 1968 calendar year found the USS KITTY HAWK in the Gulf of Tonkin commencing her fifth WESTPAC Cruise and third combat cruise in support of operations against the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam. The ship was under the command of Captain Donald C. DAVIS, USN with RADM R. W. COUSINS, USN, Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force, SEVENTH Fleet (CTF 77) and Commander Carrier Division FIVE (CCD5), and Commander Henry URBAN, Jr., USN, Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW-11) embarked.

On 1 January the KITTY HAWK was in the 10th day of her first line period which had begun on 23 December 1967, and had already experienced combat losses of two aircraft and four crewmen. On 27 December, an F4B manned by LCDR Leonard M. LEE, pilot, and LTJG Roger B. INNES, RIO from VF-114 failed to return from its mission and is presumed to have crashed. On 31 December an A6A from VA-75 apparently crashed due to a SAM hit in the Vinh area. Status of LCDR John D. PEACE, pilot, and LTJG Gordon S. PERISHO, RIO, is unknown.

On the morning of 3 January, VA-112 lost an A4C to a SAM missile over the Haiphong area. The pilot, LCDR Edward D. ESTES, ejected and landed in a populated area and was presumed captured. On 5 January VA-144 lost an A4E by groundfire over Haiphong. The pilot, CDR Robert J. SCHWEITZER, ejected and landed in a populated area and also was presumed captured.

A VF-114 F4B on a BARCAP mission was lost due to failure of PC-1 and 2 pressure on 10 January. The pilot LT Richard T. FLEMING and RIO LTJG Thomas L. HART ejected and were recovered by helicopter.

On 13 January, Commander Henry D. ARNOLD, USN, relieved Commander Henry URBAN, Jr., USN, as Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN.

On 13 January, catapult number one suffered a major steam leak in the outlet flange of the outboard launching valve. Technical assistance was requested from shore based personnel who stated that repairs of this magnitude had never been performed at sea and would take at least eleven days to complete in port. In spite of this opinion, repairs were undertaken at sea by ship's force personnel and completed in a record four days, while continuing to launch combat sorties from the remaining three catapults. Similar at sea repair work would be accomplished on catapult number three after it developed a steam leak on 13 May and again on catapult number one on 23 May.

During a morning launch on 16 January, the ship's C1A was lost over the side on a take-off run down the angle deck. Seven of the ten aboard were recovered. Lost were LT Orville D. COOLEY, pilot, LCDR William J. THOMPSON, co-pilot, and AO3 William H. REEDY, a passenger.

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On 18 January VF-114 lost an F4B while on a BARCAP mission. The aircraft was investigating a non-hostile surface ship below the overcast when all radio and radar contact was lost. The pilot, LTJG Warren W. BOLES and the RIO, LTJG Ronald L. ROEHRICH, were listed as "killed in action"

Following a catapult launch on 29 January, VA-144 lost an A4E due to a fire warning light followed by loss of power. The pilot, LJTG Joel D. GINGISS, ejected successfully and was returned to KITTY HAWK uninjured.

On 21 February, the KITTY HAWK completed a sixty-one day line period, establishing a new record for the number of consecutive days spent on Yankee Station by any carrier during the Vietnam conflict. After sixty-five days at sea, the HAWK moored at Leyte Pier, NAS Cubi Point on 24 February. The period 24 February to 1 March was spent inport conducting planned maintenance, upkeep, and supply replenishment.

On 2 March KITTY HAWK was underway from Subic for her second line period arriving Yankee Station on 4 March. On 6 March VA-75 lost an A6A over Haiphong. Radio Hanoi reported an A6A shot down over Haiphong at this flight's Haiphong TOT. The status of the crew, LT Richard C. NELSON, pilot, and LT Gilbert L. MITCHELL, RIO, is unknown. On the afternoon of 13 March VA-144 lost an A4E in the Khe Sanh area to probable automatic weapons fire. The pilot, LT Robert E. CURTIS, ejected, was rescued by helo, taken to Da Nang, and was returned to KITTY HAWK on 15 March.

KITTY HAWK hosted the Fifth Vietnamese Awards Ceremony on 22 March 1968. Seven distinguished Vietnamese officials were aboard, including Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky and Prime Minister Nguyen Van Loc. Annex G contains a copy of the awards program and awards luncheon place card. Annex H contains photographs of the awards ceremony.

On 25 March, KITTY HAWK and the USS PROCYON (AF-61) transferred 381 tons of stores in two and one half hours to establish one of the highest transfer rates ever achieved by a WESTPAC deployed ship.

On 27 March the HAWK completed her second line period and departed Yankee Station for Yokosuka, Japan, arriving 1 April.

On 30 March, while enroute to Yokosuka, the ship fired two TERRIER missiles on the Okinawa range at AQM-37A targets. The first missile, a BTN configured round, was evaluated as a success. The second, a HI round, was evaluated as a miss due to a malfunction within the missile.

On 11 April, while in port Yokosuka, the KITTY HAWK loaded stores while across the pier from the USS VEGA (AF-59). This unusual procedure presented few special problems and was carried out smoothly and efficiently by all hands.

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On 8 April, KITTY HAWK departed Yokosuka, Japan enroute to Yankee Station. The "HAWK-was-on-the-Stalk" again for her third line period on 12 April. On 15 April, two F4B's from VF-114 were lost in a mid-air collision over water while jinking in an attempt to break fire control radar lockon. The crews, LCDR John F. FARNSWORTH, LTJG Gerald K. BAER, pilots, and LTJG Joseph M. SARNECKY, LTJG Roy L. McCREADY, RIOs, ejected, and despite heavy 37-50-100MM fire from the beach, were rescued by helo and returned back aboard. During an early morning armed recce mission on 28 April, a VA-144 A4E piloted by LCDR Robert SAAVEDRA was lost over the beach. The pilot's status is unknown.

At the completion of the KITTY HAWK's twelve hour operations cycle on 29 April, the Commanding Officer took time out to do honors by cutting the KITTY HAWK's Seventh Birthday Cake. Captain DAVIS presented the first pieces to the three remaining members of the ship's original crew, Boatswain Mate Chief A. T. COMFORT, Boatswain Mate First Class J.S. KEARNEY, and Gunners Mate Missileman First Class B. G. LYON. These three "Plank Owners" were aboard KITTY HAWK in 1961 when she was commissioned in Philadelphia and set sail under her first Commanding Officer, now Vice Admiral BRINGLE, Commander of the SEVENTH Fleet. COMFORT and KEARNEY would again be honored on 30 August by Captain DAVIS when he presented them plaques prior to their leaving the ship. LYON, who is now the last remaining "Plank Owner", was still on board at the close of 1968. Photographs of the birthday party and plaque presentation are contained in Annex H.

Early morning flight operations on 30 April resulted in an UH2C helo ditching at sea. The crew, LTJG Richard C. KEARLEY, pilot, LTJG Scott F. MILNER, co-pilot, PR3 R. A. OSBECK and ADR3 R.G. SIEBJHR, crewmen, were recovered and returned aboard. Later the same day, LCDR C.C. HOFFNER of VF-114 made a barricade engagement in an F4B with a port stub main gear. The F4B made a good barricade entry but the port main gear caught the number three cross deck pendant (wire) causing the aircraft to swerve to the port and leave the flight deck. The aircraft came to rest suspended by the barricade straps with the nose dragging in the water. The pilot ejected when he thought the cockpit was going to remain submerged. The force of the ejection carried him clear of the water and aircraft. The RIO, LTJG J. W. LAING attempted an ejection but only the canopy separated. He then unstrapped and climbed out of the aft cockpit into the water. Both crewmen were rescued and returned to the ship. The barricade held the aircraft but it could not be salvaged and had to be cut away to prevent damage to the ship. Annex H contains six photos that show the sequence of events. On 1 May KITTY HAWK completed her third line period and departed Yankee Station for Hong Kong via Subic Bay, arriving Subic 3 May and departing on 4 May. On 5 May the HAWK arrived in Hong Kong for five days of R&R.

Departing Hong Kong on 11 May KITTY HAWK headed for Yankee Station arriving on 13 May for her fourth and final line period this cruise. On 18 May, an RA5C from RVAH-11 was lost to AAA in the Vinh area, two good

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chutes were sighted and CDR Charlie N. JONES, pilot and LCDR Vincent D. MONROE, navigator are presumed captured. On 1 June, the HAWK completed its fourth line period and began its trip home with a total of 13,144 accident free catapult launches to her credit.

During the cruise, over 120 underway replenishments were conducted without accident or injury to personnel.

S-3 Division established an all time high for an aircraft carrier in sales. A total of \$1,719,838.00 in merchandise was sold through the eight ships stores during the cruise.

During the cruise, the Communications Department handled a total traffic volume of 395,691 messages. The greatest amount of traffic for any one month was 78,576 messages, including 31,893 write ups, 7,232 transmitted and 39,451 received. These figures include message duplicates and messages serviced.

The ship arrived in Subic Bay on 3 June and remained there for three days until departing on 6 June for Yokosuka, Japan, arriving 10 June. RADM R. W. COUSINS, USN (CTF 77) shifted his flag from the KITTY HAWK to the USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) on 17 June, and the ship departed Yokosuka on 18 June for San Diego. On 20 June KITTY HAWK changed operational control from COMSEVENTHFLT to COMFIRSTFLT. 28 June saw KITTY HAWK return to her home port, San Diego, after a 7 month and 15 day deployment, and commence restricted availability (RAV) from 8 July until 2 September.

KITTY HAWK and CVW-11 were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for "exceptionally meritorious and heroic service from 23 December 1967 to 1 June 1968". The award was presented by Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet on 9 January 1969, as KITTY HAWK was on her way back for her fourth combat cruise. See page 26 for a copy of this citation.

KITTY HAWK changed operational control to COMNAVAIRPAC on 1 August. During the RAV, super-seal modifications were made to all four of the catapults enabling them to accommodate the new A7 aircraft. A new closed circuit TV system was installed on the flight and hangar decks, allowing the Air Boss and Aircraft Handler a more complete view of aircraft movement. The Air Department received the COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency Award on 30 August.

Also during the RAV period, the probe fueling at sea capability was installed. The first utilization of which would be on 18 November with the USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107). The reduced rigging and unrigging time, increase transfer rate and reduction in personnel hazards all combine to make this system a highly desirable and effective addition to the ship's refueling capability.

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Sea trials were conducted off Southern California on 5 September. KITTY HAWK changed operational control back to COMFIRSTFLT on 9 September. From 10 to 12 September the ship was underway off Southern California conducting interim refresher training and air operations. On 16 September KITTY HAWK changed operational control to COMTRAPAC and commenced refresher training. 18 to 20 September were spent underway off Southern California conducting carrier qualifications and training exercises. From 23-27 September, the ship was underway off Southern California conducting air operations and final refresher training exercises. On 28 September, KITTY HAWK changed operational control back to COMFIRSTFLT.

On 30 September, Captain John F. DAVIS, USN relieved Captain Donald C. DAVIS, USN as Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK. Annex G includes a Change of Command brochure used during the ceremony. Annex H contains photographs of the ceremony.

The HAWK was underway off Southern California from 7 to 11 October conducting carrier qualifications for Readiness Attack Carrier Wing TWELVE (RVCW-12) and air operations with CVW-11 from the 21st through the 25th.

Commander Sylvester R. FOLEY, Jr., USN, relieved Commander Henry D. ARNOLD as Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN on 2 November 1968.

An Inspection and Survey (INSURV) was conducted from the 4th through the 8th of November in port San Diego.

From 18 to 25 October, the recruiting film "Seven Seas for Joe" was filmed on KITTY HAWK. "Handle With Care" was also filmed on board.

CVW-11 air operations were conducted off the Southern California coast from the 9th through the 22nd of November. This training period was conducted in conjunction with COMPTUEX 24-68. Chief of Staff COMCARDIV SEVEN was the chief observer. The Administrative and Material Inspection was conducted by COMCARDIV ONE from 25 to 27 November in port San Diego. KITTY HAWK was again off the coast of Southern California from 2 to 9 December conducting "Exercise Beef Trust", an Operational Readiness Exercise, with COMCARDIV SEVEN as Chief Observer. The ship commenced her "preparations for overseas movement (POM) on 10 December at San Diego.

On 15 December all winches and replenishment hardware on the port side were removed. This seldom used equipment was deemed to be of very little use in accomplishing the Deck Department's primary job of replenishing the ship. This alteration is not expected to create any future problems, and has added a considerable amount of usable space to all port side sponsons.

While the KITTY HAWK has been operating since 1 October 1967 with the Deck Department under the First Lieutenant, it was not until 28

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December 1968 that COMNAVAIRPAC officially established separate Weapons and Deck Departments. This reorganization allows the Weapons Department to concentrate entirely on weapons and weapon's handling matters and should substantially improve the readiness of each CVA. During the calendar year 1968, the Deck Department was fully able to meet all operational commitments without any significant personnel, material, or maintenance problems.

On 30 December the ship with Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN, commanded by Commander Sylvester R. FOLEY, Jr., USN embarked, departed San Diego enroute to Pearl Harbor on the first leg of her sixth WESTPAC cruise and her fourth combat cruise. The "HAWK-is-back-on-the-Stalk".

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
1 JAN 68 THRU 31 DEC 68

1	JAN	20	FEB	Yankee Station Operations (1st Line Period)
21	FEB	23	FEB	Yankee Station Operations and enroute Naval Air Station Cubi Pt, Philippine Islands (finished 61 day line period)
24	FEB	1	MAR	In port Naval Air Station Cubi Pt, Philippine Islands
2	MAR	3	MAR	Enroute Yankee Station
4	MAR	27	MAR	Yankee Station Operations (2nd Line Period)
28	MAR	31	MAR	Enroute Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan
1	APR	7	APR	In port Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan
8	APR	11	APR	Enroute Yankee Station
12	APR	30	APR	Yankee Station Operations (3rd Line Period)
1	MAY	2	MAY	Enroute Naval Air Station Cubi Pt, Philippine Islands
3	MAY			In port Naval Air Station Cubi Pt, Philippine Islands
4	MAY			Enroute Hong Kong
5	MAY	10	MAY	In port Hong Kong
11	MAY	13	MAY	Enroute Yankee Station
13	MAY	1	JUN	Yankee Station Operations (4th Line Period)
2	JUN			Enroute Naval Air Station Cubi Pt, Philippine Islands
3	JUN	5	JUN	In port Naval Air Station Cubi Pt, Philippine Islands
6	JUN	10	JUN	Enroute Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan
10	JUN	17	JUN	In port Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan (Disembarked CTF 77 17 JUN)
18	JUN	28	JUN	Enroute Naval Air Station San Diego (CHOP COMFIRSTFLT 20 JUN)
28	JUN	2	SEP	In port Naval Air Station, San Diego (RAV 8 JUL-2 SEP) (CHOP CNAP 1 AUG)

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3 SEP 4 SEP In port Naval Air Station, San Diego
5 SEP Sea Trials - SOCAL
6 SEP 9 SEP In port Naval Air Station, San Diego. (CHOP COMFIRST-
FLT, 9 SEP)
10 SEP 12 SEP Underway SOCAL
13 SEP 17 SEP In port Naval Air Station, San Diego (CHOP COMTRAPAC
16 SEP)
18 SEP 20 SEP Underway SOCAL
21 SEP 22 SEP In port Naval Air Station, San Diego
23 SEP 27 SEP Underway SOCAL
28 SEP 6 OCT In port Naval Air Station, San Diego (CHOP COMFIRSTFLT
28 SEP) (30 SEP Change of Command)
7 OCT 16 OCT Underway SOCAL
17 OCT 20 OCT In port Naval Air Station, San Diego
21 OCT 25 OCT Underway SOCAL
26 OCT 8 NOV In port Naval Air Station, San Diego (4-8 NOV INSURV)
9 NOV 22 NOV Underway SOCAL - COMPTUEX 24-68 (In port Naval Station,
Long Beach PM 18 NOV and AM 19 NOV)
23 NOV 1 DEC In port Naval Air Station, San Diego (ADMAT Inspection)
2 DEC 9 DEC Underway SOCAL - ORE
10 DEC 29 DEC POM, Naval Air Station San Diego
30 DEC Depart for 1969 WESTPAC Cruise

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 3 JAN Conducted strikes 5 miles West of Haiphong and in Kien An section of Haiphong
- 4 JAN Two major strikes in Haiphong Area
- 22 JAN A6's of VA-75 struck the RR yards at Nam Dinh and Hai Duong along with seeding the Song Ca Waterway Interdiction Point and Phu Qui Highway Ferry
- 23 JAN A6's seeded Song Ca, Hoang May, Cua Sot, Vinh Loc and the Phu Qui Highway Ferry
- 24 JAN Two F4's and two MIG 21's engaged in combat
- 25 JAN Ban Houei Sane Airfield was struck by CVW-11 A4's, destroying 26 buildings
- 26 JAN Two VA-75 A6 aircraft and two VA-144 A4 aircraft struck Vinh Airfield
- 27 JAN Seeding of the Day Giang, Cua Tra Ly and Cua Ba Lat Waterways, bombing of the Cam Pha Military Barracks
- 28 JAN CVW-11 aircraft bombed various storage areas in the Vinh Complex
- 29 JAN Struck Vinh Airfield, seeded Vinh Storage, Vinh Transhipment Point and Ben Thuy Ferry
- 30 JAN Destroyed 15 trucks and damaged 6 others on North Vietnam highways
- 31 JAN Struck Qui Vinh RR siding, Phu Qui Highway Ferry, Phu Dien Causeway, and Dong Phong Thuong RR Siding with system runs
- 2 FEB VA-75 A6 aircraft struck Vinh Airfield at night
- 5 FEB Struck Bai Thuong Airfield and Thion Barge Repair Facility
- 6 FEB Struck Thion Barge Facility, Thanh Hoa Transhipment Point and various RR sidings and yards
- 7 FEB AMTI strike on 12 moving vehicles on North Vietnam highways
- 8 FEB Seeded Vinh Airfield, using system runs

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- 9 FEB ALFA Strikes Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant and Cat Bi airfield
- 10 FEB Single VA-75 A6 strike on Hanoi Radio Communications Facility
- 12 FEB Single A6 aircraft struck Vinh and Bai Thuong Airfield on systems run
- 13 FEB Struck Phu Ly Transshipment Point, Nam Dinh RR yard, Nam Cap Communications and Weather Station
- 14 FEB Haiphong Cat Bi Airfield struck, cutting runway
- 15 FEB A6's seeded Phu Diem Highway Bridge and Hoang May Waterway Interdiction Point
- 16 FEB Single A-6 struck Uong Bi Thermal Plant on systems run
- 17 FEB Struck Cam Pha Transformer Station, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh Transshipment points
- 19 FEB Seeded Tra Ly Highway and Phat Diem Transshipment Point and struck Trai Con Leu Transshipment Point and Qui Vinh RR Siding
- 20 FEB Struck Hoang Le vulnerable highway segment. Nhan Son Cave Storage and Phu Qui Highway Ferry
- 21 FEB Attacked Ban Thach Hydro Electric Power Plant
- 24 FEB One A6, with crew from VA-75 staging through Enterprise, was launched in night all-weather strike against Hanoi Port Facilities in early AM hours
- 4 MAR A6's struck Nam Cap Communications/Weather Complex, Vinh Loc Vulnerable Highway Segment, Qui Vinh RR Siding, and Ha Tinh Radar Site, using system runs
- 6 MAR A6 aircraft participated in first operational use of standard ARM missile in North Vietnam. Two A6B's expended 4 AGM-78's
- 7 MAR A6's expended six AGM-78's at SAM-Missile Sites in Hanoi, Haiphong, and Nam Dinh areas
- 8 MAR Vinh Airfield attacked. Large secondary explosion observed
- 11 MAR A6A's struck Dong Trieu Army Barracks, Thanh Hoa Thermal Power Plant, Trinh Xuyen, Dong Phong Thuong and My Coi RR Sidings, and Thanh Hoa RR Bypass and RR Siding

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- 12 MAR Struck and seeded Haiphong RR Yard
- 13 MAR Single A6A, with A6B support, struck Hanoi Port Facilities
- 14 MAR Various RR sidings struck
- 15 MAR Three trucks destroyed, thirteen damaged North Vietnam Highways, multiple road cuts
- 16 MAR Alfa Strike on Kien An Highway Bridge Complex
- 18 MAR Haiphong Kien An Airfield, Ta Xa Petroleum Products Storage, Yen Phuc Transshipment Point, Qui Vinh RR Siding, Hoi Dai Military area, and Hon Gay Thermal Power Plant struck by A6's using system runs
- 19 MAR Ile Aux Buissons Boat Yard struck
- 20 MAR A6's struck Le Xa RR Siding, Yen Phuc Transshipment Point, Hon Gay Thermal Power Plant, Pho Cac Ba Transshipment Point, and seeded Diem Dien Highway Ferry using system runs
- 21 MAR While supporting a strike in an area south of Hanoi, A6B fired one standard ARM missile
- 22 MAR Various targets in the Northeast Sector were struck
- 23 MAR A6's struck Ha Dong Army Barracks southwest of Hanoi and Haiphong Cat Bi Airfield using system runs
- 25 MAR Single A6 egressing after successfully striking Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant, was narrowly missed by SAM
- 26 MAR One A6 struck Yen Vien RR Classification Yard four miles northeast of Hanoi
- 27 MAR Four A6 aircraft struck targets Northeast Sector of Haiphong Cat Bi Airfield, Ta Xa Petroleum Products Storage, and Route Package 6A along the Northeast Railway from Hanoi and parallel portions of Route 1A were struck with all ordnance on target
- 30 MAR While transiting the Okinawa ADIZ a missile firing exercise was conducted
- 12 APR A6 aircraft concentrated on interdicting transportation, associated targets in authorized Navy package areas
- 13 APR A6's continued efforts to impede North Vietnamese traffic

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15 APR. An Air Wing 11 Strike Group attacked two bridges south of Vinh in order to impede the flow of men and supplies into South Vietnam

21 MAY Successful attack carried out on two SA-2's and three transporters located near Route 82, 13 miles south-southwest of Vinh

17 JUN CTF 77/CCD-5 and Staff debarked KITTY HAWK

20 JUN KITTY HAWK CHOPS to COMFIRSTFLT

8 JUL 2 SEP RAV in San Diego

30 SEP Change of Command for KITTY HAWK. Captain J. F. DAVIS, USN relieving Captain D.C. DAVIS, USN. Captain DAVIS becomes KITTY HAWK's eighth Commanding Officer

4 NOV 8 NOV INSURV

25 NOV 27 NOV ADMAT Inspection

2 DEC 9 DEC ORE "BEEF TRUST"

30 DEC KITTY HAWK departs San Diego enroute WESTPAC and her Sixth WESTPAC Deployment and Fourth Combat Cruise

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ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet (CTF 77) and
Commander Carrier Division FIVE (CCD-5)

RADM Ralph Wynne COUSINS, USN (Embarked 1 JAN-17 JUN)

Chief of Staff, CTF 77 and CCD-5

Captain Charlie Neal CONATSER, USN (Embarked 1 JAN-3 MAY)

Captain Billy Douglas HOLDER, USN (Embarked 3 MAY-17 JUN)

Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW-11) (Embarked 1 JAN-28 JUN and 6 NOV-31 DEC)

Commander Henry (n) URBAN, Jr., USN	01 JAN	13 JAN
Commander Henry D. ARNOLD, USN	13 JAN	02 NOV
Commander Sylvester R. FOLEY, USN	02 NOV	31 DEC

Commanding Officer (00)

Captain Donald C. DAVIS, USN	01 JAN	30 SEP
Captain John F. DAVIS, USN	30 SEP	31 DEC

Executive Officer (01)

Captain Thomas J. HUDNER, Jr., USN	01 JAN	06 MAY
Captain Merle P. MEAD, USN	06 MAY	31 DEC

Administrative Assistant (011)

Lieutenant Donald E. WINSLOW, USN	01 JAN	31 DEC
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Operations Officer (03)

Commander Roy W. MCLAIN, Jr., USN	01 JAN	10 JUL
Commander Harold A. RIEDL, USN	10 JUL	31 DEC

Strike Operations (03A)

Commander Felton 'M' HUMPREYS, Jr., USN	01 JAN	31 DEC
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CATCC (31)

Commander Harold A. RIEDL, USN	01 JAN	10 JUL
Commander Charles E. STEEL, USN	10 JUL	31 DEC

IOIC Supervisor (32)

Lieutenant Commander Edward F. HAVEL, USN	01 JAN	01 AUG
Lieutenant Commander Johann R. FORSTER, USN	01 AUG	31 DEC

CIC (34)

Commander George R. CARLSON, USN	01 JAN	09 DEC
Commander John W. GILROY, USN	09 DEC	31 DEC

Navigator (02)

Commander Merle P. MEAD, USN	01 JAN	06 MAY
(Became Executive Officer 6 MAY)		
Commander Herman W. JONES, USN	06 MAY	31 DEC

Communications Officer (36)

Lieutenant Commander Carl W. HEDSTROM, USN	01 JAN	13 MAY
Lieutenant Commander Albert (n) MILLS, USN	13 MAY	31 DEC

Air Officer (04)

Captain Grant C. YOUNG, USN	01 JAN	28 FEB
Commander Kenneth E. CORNELL, USN	28 FEB	31 DEC

Assistant Air Officer

Commander Kenneth E. CORNELL, USN	01 JAN	28 FEB
Commander Richard E. WHITE, USN	28 FEB	31 DEC

Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Officer (20)

Commander Rolland E. LEENERTS, USN	01 JAN	31 DEC
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Weapons Officer (05)

Commander Jack B. RADER, USN	01 JAN	29 NOV
Commander Charles J. MOORE, USN	29 NOV	31 DEC

Deck Department Officer (10)

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm A. MALLOY, USN	01 JAN	31 JAN
Lieutenant Commander Frederick W. BENCE, USN	01 MAR	31 DEC

Engineering Officer (06)

Commander Winfred L. BUCKINGHAM, USN	01 JAN	31 DEC
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Supply Officer (07)

Commander Charles L. CULWELL, USN	01 JAN	15 OCT
Commander Andrew A. GIORDIANO, USN	15 OCT	31 DEC

Medical Officer (08)

Captain Seldon C. DUNN, USN	01 JAN	29 JUL
Commander George E. BALYEAT, USN	29 JUL	31 DEC

Dental Officer (09)

Commander James M. WILSON, USN	01 JAN	19 AUG
Commander Jack E. HYDE, USN	19 AUG	31 DEC

Protestant Chaplain

Commander Roy A. PROPST, Jr., CHC, USN	01 JAN	09 NOV
Commander Charles D. KEMP, CHC, USN	09 NOV	31 DEC

Catholic Chaplain

Lieutenant John R. DALY, Jr., CHC, USN	01 JAN	31 DEC
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Marine Detachment Commanding Officer

Captain Charles D. TURBAK, USMC	01 JAN	20 DEC
Captain William E. HUDSON, USMC	20 DEC	31 DEC

THOUSANDTH CARRIER LANDINGS

<u>ENGAGEMENT NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>SQD</u>	<u>A/C</u>
73,000	21 JAN	LTJG OYLER	VA-75	A6A
74,000	30 JAN	CDR MILLS	VF-114	F4B
75,000	11 FEB	LTJG CROTEAU	VA-112	A4C
76,000	04 MAR	LCDR SAAVEDRA	VA-144	A4E
77,000	13 MAR	LCDR FARNSWORTH	VF-114	F4B
78,000	24 MAR	LTJG MOREL	VA-144	A4E
79,000	17 APR	LTJG SMITH	VAW-11	EA1F
80,000	26 APR	CDR FALCONER	VA-65	A6A
81,000	16 MAY	LCDR FINK	VA-65	A6A
82,000	25 MAY	LCDR KNAPP	VF-213	F4B
83,000	11 SEP	LCDR McBRIDE	CVA-63	C1A
84,000	10 OCT	LTJG GOLDEN	VF-101	F4J
85,000	15 OCT	CDR HILL	CNAP	A7B
86,000	12 NOV	LTJG FISCHER	VA-105	A7A
87,000	07 DEC	LCDR KUNKLE	VA-37	A7A

COMBAT AND SUPPORT SORTIES.

Number of sorties flown during the 1st Line Period from 1 January to 25 February: (23 December-31 December 1967 - 967)	3,090
Number of sorties flown during the 2nd Line Period from 4 March to 31 March	1,533
Number of sorties flown during the 3rd Line Period from 8 April to 5 May	1,643
Number of sorties flown during the 4th Line Period from 13 May to 2 June	1,946

ARRESTING GEAR STATISTICS

<u>ENGINE</u>	<u>CRUISE/YEAR</u>
#1	1937 / 2152
#2	4043 / 4699
#3	4848 / 4699
#4	2254 / 3251
Barricade.....	1 / 1
	<hr/> 13083 / 14802

CATAPULT STATISTICS

<u>CAT</u>	<u>CRUISE/YEAR</u>
#1	3681 / 5419
#2	3115 / 4256
#3	2742 / 2738
#4	3606 / 3597
	<hr/> 13144 / 16010

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHIP</u>
2 JAN	USS VESUVIOUS (AE-15)
3 JAN	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
4 JAN	USS ALUDRA (AF-55)
5 JAN	USS MAUNA LOA (AE-8)
6 JAN	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
8 JAN	USS MAUNA LOA (AE-8)
9 JAN	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
11 JAN	USS CHARA (AE-31)
12 JAN	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
13 JAN	USS POLLUX (AKS-4)
14 JAN	USS CHARA (AE-31)
15 JAN	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
16 JAN	USS ALUDRA (AF-55)
17 JAN	USS FIREDRAKE (AE-14)
18 JAN	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
20 JAN	USS FIREDRAKE (AE-14)
21 JAN	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
23 JAN	USS MT KATMAI (AE-16)
24 JAN	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
25 JAN	USS ZELIMA (AF-49)
26 JAN	USS MT BAKER (AE-4)
28 JAN	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
30 JAN	USS MAUNA LOA (AE-8)
31 JAN	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
2 FEB	USS MAUNA LOA (AE-8)
3 FEB	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
4 FEB	USS CASTOR (AKS-1)
5 FEB	USS FIREDRAKE (AE-14)
6 FEB	USS TULARE (AKA-112)
7 FEB	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
8 FEB	USS VESUVIUS (AE-15)
9 FEB	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
10 FEB	USS REGULUS (AF-57)
11 FEB	USS VESUVIUS (AE-15)
12 FEB	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
14 FEB	USS MT KATMAI (AE-16)
15 FEB	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
17 FEB	USS MT KATMAI (AE-16)
18 FEB	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
19 FEB	USS TULARE (AKA-112)
20 FEB	USS MAUNA LOA (AE-8)
4 MAR	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO-148)
5 MAR	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
7 MAR	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
8 MAR	USS MT BAKER (AE-4)

9	MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
10	MAR	USS CASTOR (AKS-1)
11	MAR	USS MAUNA LOA (AE-8)
12	MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
14	MAR	USS FIREDRAKE (AE-14)
15	MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
17	MAR	USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22)
18	MAR	USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
19	MAR	USS POLLUX (AKS-4)
20	MAR	USS MT BAKER (AE-4)
21	MAR	USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
23	MAR	USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22)
24	MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
25	MAR	USS PROCYON (AF-61)
26	MAR	USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22)
27	MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
11	APR	USS VEGA (AF-59) (In port)
12	APR	USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
13	APR	USS VIRGO (AE-30)
14	APR	USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
14	APR	USS VEGA (AF-59)
16	APR	USS VIRGO (AE-30)
17	APR	USS NAVASOTA (AO-106)
17	APR	USS POLLUX (AKS-4)
19	APR	USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22)
20	APR	USS NAVASOTA (AO-106)
22	APR	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
23	APR	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
24	APR	USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1)
26	APR	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64)
27	APR	USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1)
28	APR	USS PROCYON (AF-61)
29	APR	USS CALIENTE (AO-53)
30	APR	USS VIRGO (AE-30)
1	MAY	USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
13	MAY	USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
14	MAY	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
16	MAY	USS NAVASOTA (AO-106)
17	MAY	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
18	MAY	USS VEGA (AF-59)
19	MAY	USS CASTOR (AKS-1)
19	MAY	USS KENNEBEC (AO-36)
20	MAY	USS VIRGO (AE-30)
22	MAY	USS TALUGA (AO-62)
23	MAY	USS HELEAKALA (AE-25)
25	MAY	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
26	MAY	USS HALEAKALA (AE-25)
28	MAY	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)

29	MAY	USS HALEAKALA (AE-25)
31	MAY	USS KAWISHIWI (AO-146)
31	MAY	USS GREAT SITKIN (AE-17)
20	JUN	USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)
18	SEP	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64)
24	SEP	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
11	OCT	USS TOLOVANA (AO-64)
15	OCT	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
23	OCT	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
13	NOV	USS CALIENTE (AO-53)
18	NOV	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)
20	NOV	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
22	NOV	USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)
4	DEC	USS CALIENTE (AO-53)
5	DEC	USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22)

SUMMARY

AO	46
AE	42
AOE	3
AF	9
AKS	6
AKA	2
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DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

- 1 JAN Congressmen Richard White (D. Tex), Jerry L. Pettis (R. Cal), and Howard W. Pollock (R. Alaska)
- 3 JAN Congressmen Alphonzo Bell (R. Cal), Paul McCloskey (R. Cal), and George Bush (R. Tex)
- 8-9 JAN Congressmen G. Hansen (R. Idaho) and Eliglo De La Garza (D. Tex)
- 13 JAN VADM W. F. Bringle, USN, Commander SEVENTH Fleet, RADM Ralph Cousins, USN, CTF 77, on board for CVW-11 Change of Command
- 15 JAN Congressmen Melvin Price (D. Ill), Donald Clancey (R. Ohio), Charles Wilson (D. Cal), Harvey Machen (D. Md), and James Smith (R. Okla)
- 16 JAN VADM Connolly, USN and RADM Miller, USN
- 20 JAN Senator Birch Bayh (D. Ind)
- 31 JAN Senator Frank Moss (D. Utah)
- 19 MAR ADM John J. Hyland, USN, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet on board to present Navy Cross Awards
- 22 MAR South Vietnamese guests including Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and wife, Prime Minister Ngyuen Van Loc, and Minister of the Interior, LT GEN Ling Quang Vien. The U.S. Government was represented by GEN William Momyer, Commander SEVENTH Air Force, MAJ GEN Normal Anderson, Commander 3RD Marine Air Wing, and VADM William F. Bringle, USN, Commander SEVENTH Fleet at the 5th Vietnamese Foreign Awards Ceremony
- 23 APR Congressman Jerome R. Waldie (D. Cal) spent two days on the ship observing operations and meeting constituents
- 6 MAY British Commodore T.H.P. Wilson on board for visit
- 18 MAY LT GEN James V. Edmundson, Vice Commander of the Pacific Air Force, on board for orientation on Naval Air Operations in Vietnam
- 12 JUN VADM W. F. Bringle, USN, COMSEVENTHFLT, on board to present Silver Star Awards
- 13 JUN Retired Japanese RADM Tanaka on board for visit
- 30 SEP VADM Allen M. Shinn, USN, COMNAVAIRPAC, guest of honor at KITTY HAWK Change of Command Ceremony. The Honorable Frank Curran, Mayor of San Diego, was also present

- 6 OCT Twenty-seven members of the National Defense Executive Reserve
- 7-8 OCT Fourteen SECNAV guests on board for briefings and demonstrations. All influential representatives in their various fields. They were flown back to San Diego after spending a day at sea
- 9 OCT Fifteen members of the American Medical Association Military Advisory Board
- 22 NOV Three hundred members of the Radio and Television News Directors Association spent a day at sea aboard KITTY HAWK. Guests also included RADM L.B. Geis, USN, Chief of Naval Information.
- 25 NOV Congressmen Benjamin Blackburn (R. Ga), Maston O'Neal (D. Ga), Alexander Prinie (R. N.Y.), Larry Winn, Jr. (R. Kan) on board for orientation tour. VADM A. M. Shinn, USN, COMNAVAIRPAC and RADM M.W. Cagle, USN, COMCARDIV ONE were also on board
- 4 DEC RADM J.A. Charles, Canadian Maritime Pacific, on board for tour

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS

- 1-7 APR 45 Japanese Girl Scouts, 19 Brownie Scouts, 16 Chinese newsmen and 40 school children from Sullivan Annex
- 9 MAY 200 boys and girls with Father Nubleman visited in Hong Kong
- 10 MAY 50 students from International School of Hong Kong and 15 Boy Scouts visited KITTY HAWK
- 14 JUN 50 Cub Scouts from Naval Security Group, Kamasura toured KITTY HAWK
- 16 JUL Hosted 200 San Diego County welfare patients for tour and lunch
- 31 JUL 400 underprivileged San Diego youths were presented circus tickets through Welfare and Recreation Funds
- 5 AUG Crewmembers escorted 30 Mexican children on tour of ship
- 18 AUG 30 members of American Numismatic Association visited for a tour
- 26 NOV 60 second graders from Chula Vista on board for tour
- 28 NOV 60 members of Fallbrook Union High School visited

KITTY HAWK also sponsored a Balboa Pop Warner Football Association team, 2 Mission Bay Little League teams, a Coronado Little League team and a Coronado Navy swim team

AWARDS EARNED BY SHIPS COMPANY PERSONNEL

Legion of Merit	1
Navy Meritorious Service Medal	5 (Foreign Award)
Navy Distinguished Service Order, Second Class	12 (Foreign Award)
Navy Commendation Medal, with CDD	15
Bronze Star Medal, with CDD	9
Navy Achievement Medal, with CDD	62
CINCPACFLT Letter of Commendation	20
SEVENTHFLT Letter of Commendation	79

The above awards were earned by personnel while attached to the USS KITTY HAWK.

SELECTED CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

The following message was received from General WESTMORELAND, USA, COMUSMACV, on 23 February 1968

"ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEPARTURE FROM VIETNAM WATERS OF CORAL SEA AND KITTY HAWK, PLEASE CONVEY TO THESE TWO FINE FIGHTING TEAMS MY APPRECIATION FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT. AIRCRAFT FROM THESE TWO SHIPS, ALONG WITH THOSE FROM TICONDEROGA, HAVE FLOWN 3800 SORTIES IN THE PAST 30 DAYS IN DEFENSE OF THE KHE SANH AND SURROUNDING AREAS. PARTICULAR NOTE IS ALSO MADE OF KITTY HAWK'S HAVING COMPLETED 61 CONSECUTIVE DAYS ON THE LINE, A RECORD FOR THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CONCERNED."

The following message was received from VADM W.F. BRINGLE, Jr., USN, COMSEVENTHFLT on 25 March 1968:

"FOREIGN AWARDS CEREMONY

1. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL THANKS TO ALL HANDS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE FOREIGN AWARDS CEREMONY CONDUCTED ON BOARD KITTY HAWK ON 22 MARCH.

2. THE WELL COORDINATED EFFORTS PUT FORTH BY YOUR COMMAND CULMINATED IN A MOST IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY. I AM SURE THE FOREIGN AND U.S. DIGNITARIES AND THE MANY PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE PRESENT ALL CARRIED AWAY A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF OUR NAVY TEAM. WELL DONE. VADM W. F. BRINGLE, USN"

The following message was received from RADM R. W. COUSINS, USN, Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force, SEVENTH Fleet on 2 June 1968:

"1. ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR FINAL DEPARTURE FROM YANKEE STATION ON THIS DEPLOYMENT, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE ADMIRATION FOR THE KITTY HAWK AND HER AIR WING. THROUGHOUT THE PAST SIX MONTHS THE KITTY HAWK/AIR WING ELEVEN TEAM HAS DEMONSTRATED AN ENTHUSIASTIC ATTITUDE AND A PROFESSIONAL ABILITY THAT IS FOUND ONLY AMONG THE VERY BEST. YOUR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE ALL THROUGH ONE OF THE LONGEST LINE PERIODS ON RECORD IS NOTED WITH PARTICULAR PRIDE. THE SPLENDID MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAVE MET YOUR MANY COMMITMENTS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE MONTHS OF EXTREMELY ADVERSE WEATHER IS IRREFUTABLE TESTIMONY TO THE COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE OF YOUR AIRCREWS AND TO THE HARD WORK AND COMPETENCE OF EACH AND EVERY MAN ON BOARD.

2. PLEASE CONVEY MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO ALL HANDS. WELL DONE. RADM R. W. COUSINS."



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to

USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)
AND
ATTACK CARRIER AIR WING ELEVEN (CVW-11)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious and heroic service from 23 December 1967 to 1 June 1968 while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia in support of United States national policy. As a unit of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN, USS KITTY HAWK and embarked Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN launched numerous major strikes on significant military targets in North Vietnam, and succeeded in inflicting extensive damage and destruction to sites and installations vital to the enemy's operations. Continuously overcoming formidable enemy defenses and hazardous weather conditions to project aggressive, effective naval air power against the enemy, KITTY HAWK and her embarked air wing accomplished all assigned tasks expeditiously, and contributed substantially to the United States combat air efforts in Southeast Asia. The exceptional professionalism, enthusiasm, and unstinting devotion to duty displayed by the officers and men of USS KITTY HAWK and embarked Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the President of the United States at the time, is positioned at the bottom center of the page. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.