

1970



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



CVA63/5720  
Ser 32/035  
1 March 1971

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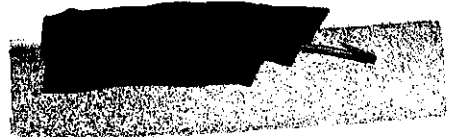
From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)  
  
Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Command History, 1970; forwarding of  
  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A  
(b) USS KITTY HAWK INST 5750.1  
  
Encl: (1) USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) Command History, 1970

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*Earl F. Godfrey*  
EARL F. GODFREY

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

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CVA63/5120  
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NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

(U) 1970 dawned on USS KITTY in Dry Dock 6 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington as she was undergoing the most extensive overhaul she has had since her commissioning in 1961.

(U) Captain Earl F. Godfrey, USN commanded KITTY HAWK throughout 1970.

(U) Two systems were developed in overhaul for the efficient utilization of ship's material and manpower. The Supply Overhaul Assistance Program (SOAP) processed, offloaded and inventoried ashore all line items under the cognizance of the Supply Department. The Ship's Force Overhaul Management System effected many of the overhaul requirements. KITTY HAWK is the first carrier to have utilized SFOMS in the Pacific and the first carrier in the Navy to have utilized the system in as large a scale. Both SOAP and SFOMS were successful beyond expectations.

(U) Two new divisions were formed during the overhaul. The Vents and Voids Division opened, cleaned, repaired, painted and resealed all the ship's vents and voids. The Habitability Division upgraded all of the ship's berthing compartments and staterooms to give the ship the best living conditions in the fleet. The results of the Habitability Division were so successful that the division has been actively retained to improve and repair material which affect the living of the crew.

(U) Phase I of the Improved Rearming Rate Package installed in KITTY HAWK during overhaul improved the ship's strikedown capability (rate at which the ship can place weapons in her magazines during UNREP) and her strikeup capability (rate at which the ship can take weapons from the magazines and ready them to be hung on aircraft).

(U) The ship's closed circuit entertainment system was improved to include the installation of a live or replay closed circuit color TV system with over six hundred outlets including outlets in each berthing compartment, lounge and stateroom. The outlets also serve the ship's closed circuit FM radio system that broadcasts on four stations.

(U) A closed circuit color TV system was also installed in IOIC to present classified live or replay intelligence briefs and programs to all ready rooms, flag warroom, captain's at-sea cabin and CIC.

(U) A third closed circuit TV system (B&W) was installed in CIC to offer surface contact status board, NTDS surface search, and NTDS AAW presentations to the bridge, secondary conn, flag warroom and IOIC.

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- (U) All of the CCTV systems have proven to be highly successful.
- (U) In February, KITTY HAWK Supply Department was selected as "Best of Type" by COMNAVAIRPAC for 1968-69 competitive year.
- (U) KITTY HAWK left Dry Dock Six on 8 March. Light-off from cold iron status was conducted on 25 March. Dock trials were completed 28 April. Sea trials were carried out from 16 May to 18 May.
- (U) Upon completion of overhaul on 19 June, three weeks ahead of schedule, KITTY HAWK got underway for San Diego Harbor, arriving at her homeport, San Diego, on 22 June. The ship transported 350 dependents in "first class accommodations" including maternity patient preparations by the medical department. Unfortunately, KITTY HAWK did not have the honor of a birth at sea.
- (U) During one to three week periods from 30 June until 9 October KITTY HAWK trained at sea by undergoing operations, exercises and inspections in the Southern California Operating Area (SOCAL OP AREA) (See Calendar of Events).
- (U) On 5 July 1970, the Marine Detachment provided an honor guard, firing squad, and pallbearers for the Burial at Sea of a retired Marine Corps Captain.
- (U) On 9 July, KITTY HAWK received her first UNREP since August 1969 from USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- (U) The AN/SPN-42 Automatic Carrier Landing System (ACLS) was certified aboard KITTY HAWK in July. Test pilots from Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, made one hundred fifteen MODE I (hands off) ACLS landings to prove the system was satisfactory.
- (U) KITTY HAWK precisioned her emergency reacting abilities by developing first rate damage control and repair teams and crew preparedness through her refresher training period, 27 July to 14 August, under the operational control of Commander, Training Forces, Pacific.
- (U) KITTY HAWK's Administrative/Material Inspection was conducted by COMCARDIVNINE from 17 to 21 August. The overall grade for the ship was 93.47.
- (U) The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph H. Mobutu, included KITTY HAWK in his and his family's visit to Disneyland on 19 August. The surprise call gave one hour to KITTY HAWK to translate and give in French the command presentation and tour of the ship. The President and party seemed impressed and pleased with their visit.

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(U) During the CARQUAL period from 24 August to 28 August, KITTY HAWK utilized the patrol gunboat USS BEACON (PG-99) as her planeguard. This was the first time that a PG had been tasked as carrier plane guard. KITTY HAWK refueled BEACON in an UNREP during this period for a CVA-to-PG UNREP historical first.

(U) On 3 September, KITTY HAWK was the dress ship for President Nixon's meeting with President Diaz of Mexico in Coronado, California.

(U) On 5 September, KITTY HAWK hosted the change of command ceremony for Commander, Carrier Division NINE. RADM William R. McClendon, USN, was relieved by RADM Damon W. Cooper, USN.

(U) The first KITTY HAWK JP-5 fueling UNREP to a destroyer was made on 15 September to USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050).

(U) On 16 September LT Mike Riggio of VF-213, piloting an F4J, made the first MODE I landing within Air Wing ELEVEN utilizing the newly installed Automatic Carrier Landing System (ACLS). This was also the first ACLS landing aboard any West Coast carrier by an operational squadron aircraft.

(C) The largest naval exercise since the Korean War, ROPEVAL 4-70, was conducted from 23 September to 2 October and included KITTY HAWK with Airwing ELEVEN aboard as one of the three attack carriers. This intensive readiness and operational evaluation tasked KITTY HAWK with defense of the force from air, surface and sub-surface attack, conduct of Alpha strikes, sustained air to ground attacks and nuclear planning. New offensive and defensive tactics were employed as were the proven tactics. New equipment and capabilities incorporated in KITTY HAWK during her overhaul period were evaluated extensively.

(C) On 23 September, LCDR S. L. SPEAR, USN, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, was recovered in good condition by helo after his specially configured A7E rolled off the flight deck when his brakes failed during preparation for launch.

(C) A total of thirteen surface to air missiles were fired during SOCAL Operations. Range support provided KITTY HAWK by the Pacific Missile Range was outstanding. The operational experience gained through the conduct of unstaged live missile firings in a multi-ship, multi-threat, countermeasures environment during ROPEVAL 4-70 cannot be surpassed, short of the real thing. Of the 13 missiles fired during the period, six were successful, six were failures and one was undetermined.

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(U) KITTY HAWK's Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) took place from 5 to 9 October. COMCARDIVNINE was chief observer. A final grade of "EXCELLENT" was assigned.

(U) After her POM period from 9 October to 5 November, KITTY HAWK departed San Diego on 6 November for her seventh WESTPAC deployment and fifth combat cruise. Attack Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW-11) under Commander Jack F. O'Hara, USN, was embarked.

(U) The squadrons in Air Wing ELEVEN in 1970 were VF-114 Blacklions and VF-213 Aardvarks flying F4J's, VA-192 Golden Dragons and VA-195 Dambusters piloting A7E's, VA-52 Knightriders flying A6A's and A6B's, RVAH-6 Fleurs flying RA5C's, VAQ-133 Golden Zappers flying EKA3B's and KA3B's, VAW-114 Hormell's controlling from E2B's and a detachment of HC-1 hovering in UH2C's.

(U) Fourteen guests of the Secretary of the Navy were hosted on the first leg of the transit to Hawaii. After observing the carrier in exercises off the Hawaiian Islands, the guests departed the ship upon arrival in Pearl Harbor 16 November.

(U) On 17 and 18 November, COMFAIRHAWAII gave KITTY HAWK her Operational Readiness Exercise.

(C) At night, on 18 November, an F4J from VF-114 caught on fire after catapult launch. The pilot, LT J. E. KERR, and the RIO, LT D. MATTHEWS, ejected and were picked up in good condition by helo.

(U) After two days inport Pearl Harbor, KITTY HAWK got underway for WESTPAC on the morning of 21 November.

(U) On 27 November, the ship passed from operational control of Commander, First Fleet, to Commander, Seventh Fleet, Captain Earl F. Godfrey, Commanding Officer, assumed Commander, Task Group Seventy Seven Point Five (CG 77.5).

(U) KITTY HAWK arrived in Subic Bay on 3 December and moored at Leyte Pier. On 4 December, Commander Task Force Seventy Seven/Carrier Division Five, Vice Admiral Frederic A. Bardishar, USN, embarked KITTY HAWK with his staff.

(U) On 5 December KITTY HAWK was again underway. The ship and air wing successfully completed the NOREX requirements then took up heading for Yankee Station. The ship arrived in the Gulf of Tonkin on 7 December.

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(C) The first line period commenced 8 December and ended 29 December. No KITTY HAWK aircraft were lost or damaged during the first line period. 1320 strike sorties were flown over Laos and 32 were flown over South Vietnam.

(U) On 8 December an E2B from VAW-114 drifted left of center on approach, caught number one wire and continued left into the catwalk which resulted in substantial damage to the aircraft. There were no personal injuries incurred.

(U) A Vietnamese national was injured on board a Market Time U.S. minesweeper when a mine sweeping cable parted on 20 December. He was high lined to USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22). A KITTY HAWK medical officer and corpsman were transferred by helo to MAUNA KEA and after a brief examination, the injured man was brought to KITTY HAWK. The man was treated for fractures, abrasions and contusions then transferred to the Army hospital at DaNang on 21 December.

(U) After a very successful line period, KITTY HAWK departed Yankee Station on 29 December and arrived in Subic Bay on 31 December.

(U) The year 1970 ended with KITTY HAWK moored at Leyte Pier, NAS CUBI POINT, Philippine Islands.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS (C)  
1 JAN 70 THROUGH 31 DEC 70

1 JAN	19 JUN	Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington - Overhaul
19 JUN	22 JUN	Enroute San Diego Harbor
22 JUN	30 JUN	Inport NAS North Island (Homeport)
30 JUN	2 JUL	ISE, SOCAL OP Area
2 JUL	6 JUL	Inport NAS North Island
6 JUL	10 JUL	ISE SOCAL OP Area
10 JUL	13 JUL	Inport NAS North Island
13 JUL	17 JUL	TYT, SOCAL OP Area
17 JUL	20 JUL	Inport NAS North Island
20 JUL	24 JUL	TYT, SOCAL OP Area
24 JUL	29 JUL	Inport NAS North Island
29 JUL	31 JUL	RFT, SOCAL OP Area
31 JUL	3 AUG	RFT, Inport NAS North Island
3 AUG	7 AUG	RFT, SOCAL OP Area
7 AUG	10 AUG	RFT, Inport NAS North Island
10 AUG	14 AUG	RFT, SOCAL OP Area
14 AUG	24 AUG	UPK, Inport NAS North Island ADMAT INSP 17-21 AUG
24 AUG	28 AUG	CARQUALS, SOCAL OP Area
28 AUG	31 AUG	Inport NAS North Island
31 AUG	2 SEP	TYT, SOCAL OP Area
2 SEP	8 SEP	Inport NAS North Island

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Enclosure (1)



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8 SEP	18 SEP	TYT, SOCAL OP Area
18 SEP	23 SEP	Inport NAS North Island
23 SEP	2 OCT	ROPEVAL 4-70, SOCAL OP Area
2 OCT	5 OCT	Inport NAS North Island
5 OCT	9 OCT	ORI, SOCAL OP Area
9 OCT	6 NOV	POM, Inport NAS North Island
6 NOV		Deploy for Seventh WESTPAC Cruise, Fifth Combat Cruise
6 NOV	16 NOV	Enroute Hawaii
16 NOV	17 NOV	Inport Pearl Harbor
17 NOV	19 NOV	ORE, Hawaiian OP Area
19 NOV	21 NOV	Inport Pearl Harbor
21 NOV	3 DEC	Enroute Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippine Islands (Chop to Seventh Fleet 27 NOV)
3 DEC	5 DEC	Inport Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippine Islands (Embarked GTF 77/CCD 5 4 DEC)
5 DEC	7 DEC	Enroute Yankee Station
8 DEC	29 DEC	Yankee Station Operations (First Line Period)
29 DEC	31 DEC	Enroute Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippine Islands
31 DEC		Inport Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippine Islands

Enclosure (1)

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