

1990



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501-5700

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser 10/C106
4 Mar 91

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From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch,
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-05714

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1990 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) 1990 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
(2) Narrative summary (C)

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


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1990 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 is assigned to Helicopter Tactical Wing One at Naval Air Station (NAS), Norfolk, Virginia. The "Vanguard" is capable of rapid deployment and can operate from either aviation capable vessels or shore bases to carry out its primary mission of Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM). CDR W. G. Arnold and CDR J. A. Haggart were the Commanding Officers for the year of 1990. HM-14 is based at NAS Norfolk, Virginia and currently has one detachment of six MH-53E helicopters on board the USS Tripoli conducting AMCM missions in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM.

January

- Continued transition from RH-53D to a 12 aircraft MH-53E squadron.

February - March

07 - Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163058 from Sikorsky Aircraft, the squadron's sixth Sea Dragon helicopter.

12 Feb-16 Mar - Participated in Exercise "Safe Pass 90" on board the USS Guam.

20 Mar - Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163065 from Sikorsky Aircraft, the squadron's seventh Sea Dragon helicopter.

April

01 - HM-14 attains Initial Operating Capability, (IOC), with the first MH-53E four helicopter detachment.

07-15 - Deployed two MH-53E helicopters on a non-stop flight to Bermuda in support of a Presidential Conference with British Prime Minister Thatcher.

09 - Transferred RH-53D helicopters buno 158749, 158756, 158689 and 158751 to the U.S. Marine Corps (MAG 42).

12 - Static display of one MH-53E at Fleet Mine Warfare Training Center, Charleston, SC.

19-23 - Participated in Exercise "OCEAN VENTURE 90" on board the USS Guam.

26 - Change of Command from CDR W. G. Arnold to CDR J. A. Haggart.

May

- 02 - Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163066 from Sikorsky Aircraft, the squadron's eighth Sea Dragon helicopter.
- 13 - Completed twelve years of mishap free flying.
- 15 - Transferred RH-53D buno 158683 to HM-19, NAS Alameda, CA.

June

- 07- Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163067 from Sikorsky Aircraft, the squadron's ninth Sea Dragon.
- 19-22 - Immediate Superior in Command Inspection (ISIC)
- 22-24 - Static display of one MH-53E on board the USS Intrepid, New York City, NY.
- 26-27 - MK-106 missions flown in support of development of the "QUICKSTRIKE" mine simulator.

July

- 17-18 - MK-106 missions flown in support of development of the "QUICKSTRIKE" mine simulator.
- 20-24 - Static display, Prince Edward Island, Canada.
- 27-30 - Conducted expanded flight deck spot verification aboard USS Raleigh, LPD-1.

August

- 01-03 - Conducted MK-105 training onboard USS Raleigh.
- 02 - Static display of one MH-53E at Charleston, SC.
- 13 - Transferred RH-53D bunos 158752 and 158745 to the U.S. Marine Corps (MAG 42), marking the departure of the last RH-53Ds from the active Navy.

September

- 01 - Static Display of one MH-53E at Westminster, MD.
- 07 - Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163068 from Sikorsky Aircraft the squadron's tenth Sea Dragon helicopter.

October

- 02 - Detachment One (DET 1) is the first U.S. Navy Squadron to forward deploy in support of operation "DESERT SHIELD".
- 29 Oct-02 Nov - DET 1 participated in "DESEX-01", a joint U.S.-U.K. mine countermeasures (MCM) exercise.

November

- 02 - Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163069 from Sikorsky Aircraft, the squadron's eleventh Sea Dragon Helicopter.
- 10-15 - DET 1 participated in "DESEX-02", a joint U.S. - Royal Saudi Navy MCM exercise.
- 25 Nov-15 Dec - AN/ALQ 141 mine neutralization system training detachment in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.
- 26 - Took delivery of MH-53E buno 163070 from Sikorsky Aircraft, the twelfth and last Sea Dragon helicopter side number 555, the "Triple Nickel."

December

- 07-09 - Conducted a heavy lift mission in support of US Navy Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center Detachment Andros Island Bahamas.
- 31 - HM-14 attained Full Operational Capability (FOC) operating the MH-53E Sea Dragon.

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

January

(U) HM-14 continued it's transition from the RH-53D to the newer MH-53E Sea Dragon. Having entered the year with seven RH-53Ds and five MH-53Es, the squadron was well under way in it's transition.

February/March

(U) HM-14 deployed on board the USS Guam (LPH-9), with five RH-53D and three MH-53E helicopters. This was to mark the last and one of the most successful deployments of the "Delta". The USS Guam was in port in New Orleans, Louisiana from 20 Feb through 28 Feb. The command participated in Exercise "Safe Pass" from 05 Mar through 14 Mar in the Charleston, SC OPAREA. Having completed 66 sorties, the "Vanguard" successfully searched and swept approximately 60 linear miles of ocean shipping routes. In all, HM-14 swept three mines and located all bottom mines with AQS-14 sonar.

April

(U) Conducted the transfer of five RH-53D helicopters to the U.S. Marines Corps (MAG-29), each with certified error free logbooks, and complete aircraft inventories. The "Delta" had served this squadron well and will be remembered as a great machine.

(C) HM-14 attained Initial Operating Capability (IOC) to deploy a four aircraft MH-53E detachment to any location in the world within 72 hours.

(U) HM-14, under high level tasking, successfully deployed a long range over-water two plane MH-53E detachment to Bermuda. This was in support of a Presidential conference with British Prime Minister Thatcher. The mission included operational in-flight refueling from C-130 tanker aircraft.

(C) HM-14 deployed four MH-53E helicopters onboard the USS Guam to participate in Exercise "Ocean Venture". This first such deployment for the "Sea Dragon" was highly successful. The improved reliability and capability of the MH-53E enabled HM-14 to sweep 31 linear miles of ocean shipping channels. HM-14 also served as the MCM commander in this exercise and thus directed the efforts of two MSOs and two EOD units achieving over 85% clearance. Of that clearance, the "MIGHTY MH" was responsible for 66%.

(U) CDR W. G. Arnold was relieved by CDR J. A. Haggart at NAS Norfolk. RADM Jesberg, Commander Helicopter Wings Atlantic was the guest speaker.

May

(U) HM-14 completed 12 years of class A mishap free flight for which the "Vanguard" received the COMNAVAIRLANT Safety Award.

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June

(U) CAPT C. F. Harrison, Commander Helicopter Tactical Wing ONE, conducted ISIC inspection. No major discrepancies were noted. CAPT Harrison characterized HM-14 as the "Best in the Wing."

(U) Providing fleet support, one MH-53E was static displayed on board the USS Intrepid, New York City, NY.

(U) Conducted numerous mission flights in support of NSWC's development of the Quickstrike mine simulator. Real-time feedback for various sweep settings of the MK-106 were obtained greatly enhancing AMCM tactics and procedures.

August

(U) HM-14 deployed three MK-105 sleds and three 17' RHIB boats aboard the USS Raleigh. The squadron sortied the MH-53E daily from home base at NAS Norfolk to rendezvous with the USS Raleigh and exercise LPD launch/recovery of the MK-105 system.

October

(U) HM-14 was the first Navy squadron to forward deploy in support of Operation "Desert Shield." Six MH-53E aircraft, 300 men and all necessary support gear were expeditiously loaded out and deployed on C-5 and C-141 aircraft to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to become the largest AMCM detachment in community history. Beginning with an empty container parking lot in Abu Dhabi, UAE, HM-14 worked closely with host nationals to establish a fully functional AMCM base affectionately named "NAS Abu Dhabi." The first mission was conducted within five days, all aircraft were full mission capable within seven days, and the first AMCM flight took place within 11 days of arrival.

(C) DESEX-01 was a joint U.S.-U.K. MCM exercise that integrated each country's surface MCM assets and HM-14. Significant results were achieved, in that HM-14 swept two mine simulators and located, within 60 yards, one of two possible mine shapes. AMCM capabilities against the region's indigenous mines and environment were proven effective.

(U) At NAS Norfolk, the squadron took delivery of the last of 12 MH-53E Sea Dragon aircraft, side number 555 or "Triple Nickel."

November

(C) DESEX-02 the second exercise conducted by DET 1 was a joint U.S.-Royal Saudi Navy exercise conducted off the coast of Saudi Arabia. This exercise clearly demonstrated HM-14's ability to successfully project AMCM into a forward threat area. Aircraft flew 300 miles each way between NAS Abu Dhabi and Jubayil, S. A. for four consecutive days and completed sixteen missions. Over 162 linear miles were swept using MK-103, MK-104 and MK-106 devices.

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(U) HM-14 deployed three MH-53E helicopters to Ft Lauderdale, Fl. to conduct annual training with the AN/ALQ 141 system, validate tactics for employing this system, and evaluate the system's newly delivered mobile maintenance support unit.

December

(U) In support of the US Navy Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center, HM-14 conducted a heavy lift of a 26,000 pound sea buoy which had been grounded off the coast of Andros Island, Bahamas as a result of a severe storm. Once again the "Mighty MH" demonstrated its awesome capability.

(U) HM-14 reached full operational capability on 31 December completing the transition to the MH-53E aircraft. This marked the culmination of maintenance, pilot and aircrew training in the most advanced AMCM platform in history. This transition was completed with DET ONE, comprised of six vice the normal four aircraft, deployed for the last quarter of the calendar year.

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