



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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

1991

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Code 10/171  
10 Mar 92

**From:** Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14  
**To:** Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch, Washington, D.C.

**Subj:** SUBMISSION OF 1991 COMMAND HISTORY

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

**Encl:** (1) 1991 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)  
(2) Narrative summary

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

  
R. B. JONES

*Logged*

MAR 20 1992

## 1991 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 is assigned to Helicopter Tactical Wing One at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Va. The "Vanguard" is capable of rapid deployment and can operate from aviation capable ships or shore bases to carry out its primary mission of Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM). CDR J.A. Haggert and CDR R.B. Jones were the Commanding Officers for the year of 1991. HM-14 is based at NAS Norfolk , Virginia.

### January

- 8-12: Sent 3 aircraft to Jacksonville. F1 for SAT/BAF exercise.
- 17: Airwar begins marking the end of "Desert Shield" and the beginning of "Desert Storm".
- 21: HM-14 Det-1 embarks USS TRIPOLI

### February

- 13: USS TRIPOLI is on station, Northern Arabian Gulf.
- 16: First ever wartime utilization of AMCM forces begins with MK-103 and MK 106 missions tasked to clear a channel for naval gunfire support just off the Kuwaiti coast.
- 18: USS TPIPOLI strikes an Iraqi mine in the pre-dawn hours suffering significant structural damage.
- 23: Fire Support Areas (FSA's) cleared to 80% or better enabling the battlegroup to move into position to stage illusory amphibious assault.
- 24: USS TPIPOLI arrives Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia for repairs.
- 28: HM-14 Det-1 crossdecks to the USS NEW ORLEANS.

### March

- 1: USS NEW ORLEANS arrives on station Northern Arabian Gulf. HM-14 Det-1 begins port break-in AMCM operations in the Kuwaiti ports of Ash Shuaybah, Al Amhadi, and Al Qulaylah and mine danger areas.
- 25: CDR R. B. Jones , USN relieves CDR J. A. Haggart, USN as Commanding Officer of HM-14.

## April

- 6: HM-14 Det-1 interrupts AMCM in Iraqi mine danger areas. USS NEW ORLEANS leaves station in the Northern Arabian Gulf.
- 7: HM-14 Det-1 crossdecks to the USS TRIPOLI at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- 8: Static display, The Reverend Daniel Barry Jr. High School.
- 11: USS Tripoli on station in Northern Arabian Gulf. HM-14 Det-1 resumes Iraqi mine danger area AMCM.

## May

- 9-19: USS TRIPOLI in port Dubai, U.A.E. HM-14 Det-1 interrupts AMCM in Iraqi mine danger areas.
- 17-19: Sent one aircraft to Jacksonville, Fl. in support of National Scout Day.

## June

- 2: Sent two aircraft to participate in National Victory Celebration in Washington D.C. Four enlisted marched in the parade.
- 18: HM-14 completes all AMCM tasking in Operation Desert Storm having successfully swept and hunted numerous Iraqi mines. USS TRIPOLI departs North Arabian Gulf to commence off-load of HM-14 Det-1 at Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.
- 25: First HM-14 Det-1 personnel arrive back at NAS Norfolk.
- 29: Hosted 150 local high school students for an informational display.

## July

- 9: Final HM-14 Det-1 personnel arrive home.
- 19-21: Static display, Dayton Airshow, Dayton, Ohio.

## August

- 1: Conclusion of CHTW-1 Semi-annual corrosion inspection.
- 20-28: Participated in Exercise "Northstar '91"
- 26: Static Display, Governor's Island, N.Y.

September

6-9: Static display, Johnstown, Pa.

20-22: Static display, Altoona, Pa.

20-22: Static display, South Weymouth, Ma.

20: Awarded the CNO Safety Award for CY 1990 by Captain T.C. Lacke, Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing One.

20-22: Static display, NAS Oceana Air Show.

October

1-27: AN/ALQ-141 mine neutralization system training detachment in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.

15-29: Dynamic MK-105 display for Admiral Taylor, Panama City, Fl.

November

December

11: Squadron Christmas Party

20-22: Static display, Schenectady, N.Y.

## Narrative of Events

### January

HM-14 Det-1 left its forward deployed training base at Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. aboard the U.S.S. Tripoli to commence minesweeping operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf concurrent with the on-going airwar.

HM-14 homeguard deployed a three aircraft detachment to Mayport, Florida to provide SAT/BAF support for special weapons movements. Additionally, successful testing of a very shallow water minesweeping configuration for wartime amphibious assault was conducted.

### February

HM-14 Det-1 began tasking to clear sea lanes for a possible amphibious assault on Falayka Island and the shores of Kuwait as well as Fire Support Areas for the Battleship Task Force. Aircrews flew in conditions of near zero visibility as a result of the proximity of the burning oil fields of Kuwait City. After TRIPOLI struck an Iraqi mine while transiting unswept waters, HM-14 continued to fight. Missions continued daily. While TRIPOLI was in port in AL Jubail, Saudi Arabia effecting repairs, HM-14 used the USS LaSalle as a 'lillypad' base for its operations. Mission completion involved having two crews fly from AL Jubail to the 'lillypad', disembark one crew, refuel, fly one mission, hot seat and hot refuel, fly the second mission, refuel, pick up the second crew and finally fly the hundred-or-so miles back to the TRIPOLI.

Home Det conducted operational test of specialized sweep equipment to support Arabian Gulf shallow water mine clearance operations. When the replacement platform, USS NEW ORLEANS arrived, the massive cross-decking task began in earnest. Once aboard the NEW ORLEANS, and back on station, normal mission profile resumed.

### March

Tasking changed to a post-war strategy of opening the Kuwaiti ports to shipping to afford economic recovery and free trade it had been denied since the previous summer. MK-103 and MK-106 missions continued from sun-up to sun-down clearing the channels that fed the beleaguered country. Aircrews flew within yards of the coast providing them with bird's-eye view of the awesome destruction imparted on Kuwait City by Iraq.

CDR James A. Haggert was relieved as Commanding Officer by CDR Robert B. Jones on board USS NEW ORLEANS.

## April

During a brief port visit in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., HM-14 Det-1 crossdecked back to the newly repaired USS TRIPOLI. Soon after TRIPOLI began to steam north Det-1 began a turnover of personnel, continually maintaining a 250 man presence in the Arabian Gulf. Men returning from the Gulf received a hero's welcome.

HM-14 provided a static display MH-53E at the Rev. Daniel Berry Jr. High School in Hamden, Conn. to thank them for their support during the war. The school collectively sent pictures and letters throughout the deployment.

## May

An inport period in Dubai, U.A.E. afforded HM-14 Det-1 with some much needed maintenance time as well as some time off for the troops. When operations resumed, successful employment of the Q-14 mine hunting sonar began and HM-14 Det-1 commenced operations in waters near the Iran - Iraq border.

On the home-front, support was provided for National Scout Day with the deployment of a parachute jump team from a single squadron aircraft to kick-off the airshow.

## June

A nine month presence in the Arabian Gulf ended for HM-14 as the six - plane, 250 man AMCM detachment began redeployment of aircraft, MCM equipment, and personnel. HM-14 Det-1 flew over 2700 hours, including 1425 hours under tow, setting the record as the most extensive and successful AMCM effort in history. Over 765 square miles of sweep areas were covered and numerous Iraqi mines were swept and hunted to clear the way for surface mine sweepers and commercial shipping.

On the home front, 2 MH-53Es led a flyover during the massive Victory Day celebration in Washington D.C. Four sailors from HM-14 marched in the parade.

## July

As final HM-14 Det-1 personnel returned, the squadron prepared for its semi-annual corrosion inspection. Reassembly of redeployed aircraft was completed.

## August

Operation North Star was an exercise designed to simulate a port-breakout scenario. HM-14 Det-2 consisted of four aircraft, four AN/AQS-14 mine hunting systems and two MK-105 mine neutralization sleds located at a remote site at

NAS Norfolk to resemble an actual four plane AMCM detachment. HM-14 Det-2 was lauded as "highly effective" by the MCM Commander, achieving 100% completion of its tasking.

#### September

HM-14 received the CNO safety award at quarters. The award was presented by Capt. T. C. Lackey, CHTW-1.

#### October

HM-14 deployed four MH-53Es to Fort Lauderdale, Fl. to obtain initial qualifications as well as requalifications for aircrews in the AN/ALQ-141 minesweeping system, evaluate the CHTW-1 TACMEMO, and evaluate the AN/ALQ-141 Mobile Maintenance Support Unit.

During a dynamic MK-105 demonstration for Admiral Taylor in Panama City, HM-14 completed 12 of 12 missions.

#### November

HM-14 contributed non-perishable food items to the Hampton Roads Holiday Assistance Program.

#### December

The year was wrapped up with the squadron Christmas party, and the Children's Christmas party where Santa Clause arrived via squadron aircraft.