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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
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From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch, Washington D.C.
Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1994 COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
Encl: (1) 1994 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
(2) Narrative Summary
(3) HM-14 Change of Command Program of 23 Sep 94
(4) Photo of HM-14 Sikorsky MH-53E Sea Dragon Helicopter
1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.


K. D. GARBOW

1994 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

Command Composition and Organization

HM-14 is based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia. The Squadron reports operationally to Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron TWO (COMCMRON 2) and administratively to Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELTACWINGLANT). HM-14 combines all the capabilities and responsibilities associated with an Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) squadron to include; mission systems and equipment, and the computer hardware and software required for conducting a total minesweeping/minehunting operation. HM-14 provides a rapid response AMCM capability worldwide. The squadron is manned to operate and maintain eight Sikorsky MH-53E Sea Dragon aircraft, numerous minesweeping and minehunting devices and related equipment, and provides expertise required for planning, executing and evaluating the effectiveness of a complete minesweeping operation. CDR D. N. Hartwell was relieved by CDR K. D. Garbow as the Commanding Officer on 23 Sep 1994. CDR T. P. Keating assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1994

January

- 12 - PEO of Mine Warfare and PMS 377 tour squadron.
- 13 - PMO 210 observes MK-103 AMCM training mission.
- 23 - Commenced Technical Evaluation (TECHEVAL) of a new deep water mine sweeping system (AN/37U) in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
- 25 - Notified of 4th consecutive Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award for CY 1993.

February

- 06 - Concluded AN/37U TECHEVAL and commenced annual AN/ALQ-141 Mine Countermeasures System training in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
- 12 - Commanding Officer presented briefing on HM-14 to NAS Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society.
- 19 - Concluded AN/ALQ-141 Mine Countermeasures System training.

March

- 25 - Awarded 2nd consecutive CINCLANTFLT Golden Anchor Award by Captain Tennant, COMHELTACWINGLANT.

April

- 23-24 - Participated in Azalea Festival Airshow in Norfolk.

May

- 10-11 - Participated in "Operation Quickstrike" using MK-106 Magnetic/Acoustic Minesweeping System.
- 19 - Awarded 4th consecutive Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award by RADM Granuzzo, Commander Naval Safety Center.
 - Squadron celebrates 16 years accident free flying on their 16th anniversary.
- 26 - Hosted Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group TWO Change of Command ceremony. CAPT R. B. O'Donnell relieved CAPT L. W. Hewitt.
- 31 - VULCAN EXERCISE '94 (VULCANEX '94) begins as HM-14 exercises its ability to rapidly deploy within 72 hours.
 - Detachment departed for USS Shreveport to participate in "Fleet Week '94" in New York City.

June

- 03 - VULCAN EXERCISE '94 complete.
 - One aircraft participates in Myrtle Beach Airshow.
- 08 - "Fleet Week" Detachment returns.
- 11 - Squadron participates in "CLEAN THE BAY DAY".
- 16-29 - United States Naval Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corp Midshipmen receive orientation flights in squadron aircraft.

July

- 05 - Commenced OPEVAL of a new deep water mine sweeping system (AN/37U) in Panama City and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
- 11-15 - Participated in "Operation Quickstrike" testing using the AN/SPU-1W Magnetic Influence Minesweeping System.

August

- 02-04 - Flew Sikorsky MH-53E aircraft with computerized Navigation/Communication System (NCS) "glass cockpit" for evaluation.
- 11 - Offloaded USS America.
- 17 - Offloaded 29 passengers from USS Theodore Roosevelt.
- 19 - Offloaded 36 passengers from USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- 22-24 - Concluded AN/37U OPEVAL in Panama City and Ft. Lauderdale.

September

- 06-07 - Commenced operations for participation in Joint Task Force Exercise 95-1 (JTFX 95-1) in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 14-15 - Concluded participation in JTFX 95-1.
- 23 - CDR D. N. Hartwell USN relieved by CDR K. D. Garbow USN as HM-14 Commanding Officer in a Change of Command Ceremony. CDR T. P. Keating USN assumed the duties as Executive Officer.

October

- 01 - Moved from hangars LP-2, LP-3 and LP-4 to hangar SP-31 and building SP-241.
- 11 - N85, Lieutenant General Myatt, tours squadron viewing static display of all MCM equipment and AN/AQS-14 Minehunting System equipment in aircraft.
 - Squadron receives pre-deployment message to prepare for possible deployment to Southwest Asia.
- 19-21 - Offloaded 81,500 lbs of cargo and 42 passengers from USS America.
- 20 - Squadron Southwest Asia deployment canceled.
- 26 - Squadron received a new MH-53E aircraft from Sikorsky.

November

- 01 - Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group TWO (COMCMGRU 2) renamed Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron TWO (COMCMRON 2).
- 02 - HM-14 aircraft, flown by CAPT John Tennant, COMHELTACWINGLANT, flew to Sikorsky plant.
 - Sikorsky hosts ceremony for HM-14 as it receives logbook for last production MH-53E.
 - Squadron receives new MH-53E aircraft from Sikorsky.
- 10 - Offloaded USS Enterprise.
- 13 - Commenced operations with USS INCHON for Static Display in New York City.
- 17 - Transported 30 passengers in support of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 6.
- 20 - Concluded operations with USS INCHON.
- 21 - Delivered 6000 lbs of ammunition to Italian aircraft carrier ITS GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI.
- 30 - Commenced participation in Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) in Corpus Christi, Texas.

December

- 01 - Static display provided for Senior Officers from Naval War College.
- 09 - Concluded GOMEX operations in Corpus Cristi, Texas.
- 12 - Transported passengers for USS Enterprise.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

January

A three MH-53E aircraft detachment and over 100 personnel deployed to Naval Coastal Systems Station (NCSS), Panama City, Florida for Technical Evaluation (TECHEVAL) of the AN/37U Controlled Depth Moored Sweep (CDMS) airborne minesweeping system. Standard mission procedures of stream, tow, recovery, and air to air procedures were employed to execute the required tests. All objectives were successfully accomplished.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 177.4 flight hours for the month.

February

The squadron conducted annual AN/ALQ-141 Mine Countermeasures System training operations in the deep water field off the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida coast. Squadron personnel took part in qualifying and requalifying in the procedures associated with the AN/ALQ-141. The detachment worked out of space provided by National Jet located at the Ft Lauderdale International Airport. Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), also located adjacent to the airport, sponsored the squadron. Additional support was provided by Naval Coastal Systems Station based out of Panama City, Florida. All AMCM operations took place in an ocean range facility provided by NSWC just off the coast of Ft Lauderdale, Florida. All objectives were successfully accomplished.

The Commanding Officer presented the Naval Air Station Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society with a briefing on HM-14 and Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM).

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 291.3 flight hours for the month.

March

For the second consecutive year the squadron was awarded the CINCLANTFLT Golden Anchor Award, presented by Captain John Tennant, Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 152.7 flight hours for the month.

April

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 227.3 flight hours for the month.

May

The squadron provided aircraft and equipment for participation in "Operation Quickstrike", an exercise providing experimental assistance for the testing of underwater magnetic and acoustic mine sensors. HM-14 provided MH-53E helicopters using MK-106 Magnetic/Acoustic Minesweeping System to successfully complete all missions.

For the fourth consecutive year the squadron was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award, presented by Rear Admiral Granuzzo, Commander, Naval Safety Center. The squadron also celebrated 16 years of

accident free flying as well as their 16 year anniversary.

HM-14 hosted Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group TWO Change of Command Ceremony as Captain R. B. O'Donnell USN relieved Captain L. W. Hewitt USN.

The squadron commenced VULCAN EXERCISE '94 (VULCANEX '94), a self generated exercise. Squadron personnel completed a major disassembly and reassembly of an MH-53E helicopter to allow it to be loaded aboard a C-5 Galaxy aircraft. This allows the squadron to rapidly deploy around the world within 72 hours.

A two HM-14 aircraft detachment departed for USS Shreveport to participate in "Fleet Week '94" in New York City. The detachment provided a static display onboard ship, performed deck landing requalification for pilots, as well as transporting VIP's during the weeklong stay pierside in New York City.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 209.6 flight hours for the month.

June

Over 500 members of the squadron participated in "CLEAN THE BAY DAY '94". They provided 1/6th of the volunteers for the Hampton Roads community environmental clean-up effort. The squadron cleaned 17 lakes, ponds and streams collecting more than 17 tons of trash in one day. The Squadron was awarded an Environmental Service Award by the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission for their efforts. Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf presented the award.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 232.6 flight hours for the month.

July

A four MH-53E aircraft detachment and over 100 personnel deployed to Naval Coastal Systems Station (NCSS), Panama City for Operational Test and Evaluation (OPEVAL) of AN/37U Controlled Depth Moored Sweep (CDMS) airborne minesweeping system. In January 1994, the squadron performed a technical evaluation of the upgraded mine sweeping system. Standard mission procedures of stream, tow, recovery, and air to air procedures were employed to execute the required tests. Upon completion of operations at NCSS the detachment deployed to Ft. Lauderdale International Airport for the remainder of the OPEVAL. Naval Surface Weapons Center Station (NSWC) provided facilities for the detachment while in Ft. Lauderdale. A total of 242.0 flight hours were logged by this detachment.

Assistance was again provided for "Operation Quickstrike." Using MH-53E helicopters towing the AN/SPU-1W Magnetic Influence Minesweeping System, the squadron again successfully met all mission objectives.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 236.5 flight hours for the month.

August

An MH-53E aircraft with a new computerized Navigation/Communication System (NCS) was provided for testing and evaluation by HM-14. This aircraft represents state of the art technology in aviation hardware and software and is under evaluation for use in the Fleet.

Primarily a Mine Countermeasures squadron, HM-14 was tasked to perform the Vertical Onboard Delivery (VOD) mission. Using several aircraft, the squadron provided MH-53E aircraft to successfully offload passengers and equipment from

several aircraft carriers.

The squadron detachment concluded their OPEVAL of the AN/37U AMCM equipment in Panama City and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 212.3 flight hours for the month.

September

A four MH-53E aircraft detachment and over one hundred Navy personnel, deployed to Naval Air Station Corpus Cristi, Texas where it participated in Joint Task Force Exercise 95-1 (JTFX 95-1). This multi-force exercise used assets from the United States Navy, Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard. While the bulk of the exercise was conducted off the coast of North Carolina, HM-14 conducted the Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) portion off the coast of Texas in the Gulf of Mexico. In a joint effort with surface mine countermeasures assets, HM-14 performed minesweeping/minehunting operations in preparation of an amphibious assault. This also represented the first ever integrated exercise combining Navy and Naval Reserve components as Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 18, a reserve squadron, combined assets with HM-14 and conducted operations jointly. A total of 135.6 flight hours were logged by this detachment.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 194.7 flight hours for the month.

October

The squadron, in a massive effort, relocated all aircraft, equipment and personnel out of hangars LP-2, LP-3, and LP-4 into hangar SP-31 and building SP-241.

The squadron continued their support of the VOD mission with a massive ammunition, equipment and passenger offload of the USS America, offloading 81,500 lbs. of cargo and 42 passengers.

The squadron received a pre-deployment message for rapid deployment to Southwest Asia. Aircraft were disassembled for loading onboard C-5 Galaxy aircraft for transport, as well as all necessary preparations for personnel and other equipment. The deployment was canceled eleven days after the alert order was issued.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 168.1 flight hours for the month.

November

The squadron flew an aircraft to the Sikorsky/United Technologies Aircraft plant in Stratford, Connecticut for participation in the roll-out ceremony for the last production MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter. The president of Sikorsky, Mr. Gene Buckley, presented Captain, John Tennant, Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet with the logbook of the last production MH-53E. Members toured the plant and then returned with a new MH-53E aircraft.

A single MH-53E aircraft detachment deployed onboard USS INCHON for deck landing qualifications for pilots as well as a static display while pierside in New York City. USS INCHON hosted the Italian Navy aircraft carrier ITS GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI while in the United States to procure aircraft and weapons.

The squadron continued their support of the VOD mission by offloading USS Enterprise and Italian Navy aircraft carrier ITS GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI.

A four MH-53E aircraft detachment and over one hundred Navy personnel deployed to Naval Air Station Corpus Cristi, Texas where it participated in Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX). HM-14 conducted AMCM operations off the coast of Texas in the Gulf of Mexico. In a joint effort with surface mine countermeasures (MCM) assets, HM-14 performed minesweeping and minehunting operations using specialized AMCM equipment and integrating operations with all facets of the MCM community. Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Eighteen (HM-18), a Naval Reserve squadron, provided three MH-53E's and support personnel which operated jointly with HM-14. A total of 178 flight hours were logged by the detachment.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 232.7 flight hours for the month.

December

The squadron provided a static display of aircraft and MCM equipment for Senior Officers from the Naval War College.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 268.8 flight hours for the month.