



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
UNIT 60180
FPO AE 09507-5700

AUTOVON: 564-4545
COMM: 804-444-4545
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser 00/089
17 MAR 99

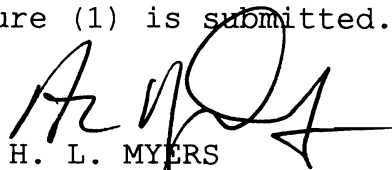
From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures
Squadron 14
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch,
Washington, D.C.

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1997 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN
(HM-14)

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


H. L. MYERS
By direction

1998 COMMAND HISTORY FOR HELMINERON FOURTEEN (HM-14)

HM-14 is based onboard Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia. The Squadron reports operationally to Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (MCMRON 2) and administratively to Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELTACWINGLANT). HM-14 possesses all the capabilities and responsibilities of an Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) squadron including mission systems and equipment and the computer hardware and software required for conducting mine hunting/minesweeping operations. HM-14 provides a rapid response AMCM capability worldwide. The squadron operates and maintains twelve Sikorsky MH-53E Sea Dragon aircraft, numerous minesweeping and minehunting devices, and the expertise required for planning, executing and evaluating mine countermeasures operations. CDR R. K. Young commanded HM-14 during 1998 with CDR B.F. Dagnall serving as Executive Officer.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1998

January

20-28 - Conducted Q-141 training at Homestead AFB

February

3-10 - AUTEK AMCM detachment

3-10 - NAS Jacksonville VOD detachment

March

19-25 - UK exercise in VACAPES oparea

April

3 - VOD support to USS GEORGE WASHINGTON

15 - Paradrop operations with EODMU 2

May

12-18 - OPERATION GOMEX 98-1 aboard USS INCHON

June

8-19 - OPERATION MARCOT 98 aboard USS INCHON

July

8-14 - STANAVFORCHAN 98 exercise

August

- 6 - Conducted Midshipmen orientation flight
- 6 - Conducted paradrop with SEALs
- 11 - VOD support for USS BATAAN

September

- 11 - VOD support for USS BATAAN
- 15-16 - HAR operations
- 25 - ALE-39 operations

October

- 7 - Photo Ex
- 23 - MEDIVAC exercise with USAF
- 29-31 - Blue Angel Airshow support at NAS New Orleans

November

- 1-2 - Blue Angel Airshow support at NAS New Orleans
- 17 - Conducted .50 caliber GUNEX training
- 19 - Day/Night HAR operations
- 23 - Conducted paradrop with SEALs

December

- 5-12 - USS JOHN F KENNEDY detachment VOD support
- 10 - Conducted paradrop with SEALs
- 15 - OT&E flight operations

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

January

HOMESTEAD DETACHMENT operated from 20 Jan through 28 Jan. The primary training goal was to qualify a core cadre of aircrew in ALQ-141 tactics in both surveillance and countermeasure modes. Refinement of ALQ-141 tactics for use in real world scenarios was also a priority. The tactics division validated planning values for the ALQ-141 and evaluated the reliability and potential benefits of the MPS flashcard system. The detachment logged 119.2 flight hours, 56.9 mission hours, and 32.2 tow hours over 24 missions.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 301.9 flight hours for the month.

February

AUTEC DETACHMENT operated from 3 Feb through 10 Feb. Two aircraft conducted AMCM flights at the AUTEC underwater range to validate the planning values for AQS-14 in the volume search mode. The test plan was developed with the assistance of engineers from the Coastal Systems Command in Panama City, Florida. The test plan provided valuable fleet input into these new AQS-14 tactics. The AQS-14 tests were conducted at different altitudes and offsets to determine the sonar's imaging capability against moored mines. The detachment logged 52.7 flight hours, 18.6 mission hours, and 8.0 tow hours during 8 missions.

Two aircraft detached to NAS Jacksonville to conduct VOD support and troop movements during CVW and TRAWING CQ periods aboard the USS JOHN F KENNEDY. This rapid response to AIRLANT tasking demonstrated the need to keep MH-53's in Norfolk to support carrier training evolutions. The detachment logged 54.1 flight hours, carried 50,400 lbs. of cargo, and carried 160 pax. HM-14 completed 11 missions during the detachment.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 307.2 flight hours for the month.

March

UK EXERCISE was conducted from 16 Mar through 24 Mar. This exercise was conducted by HM-14 in the VACAPES oparea using geotranslated minefields identical to the actual exercise fields located in the Arabian Gulf. Tactical information was relayed to C5F/forward deployed MCMRON staffs using the standard "Mike Whiskey" reporting format and a JMCS/MEDAL data link. In addition, the exercise served to evaluate CINC OPLAN timeline execution for exploratory AMCM mine hunting along NAVCENT Q-routes in the Arabian Gulf/Straits of Hormuz. The squadron logged 178.3 flight hours and 102.0 mission hours, towing 1205.5 linear miles and completing 8 missions during the exercise.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 398.0 flight hours for the month.

April

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 248.5 flight hours for the month.

May

GOMEX 98-1 was conducted from 2 May through 21 May in the Corpus Christi oparea onboard the USS INCHON. The exercise was a work-up for the upcoming MARCOT 98 exercise in Newfoundland, Canada. All MARCOT 98 minefields were replicated in the GOMEX oparea to establish valid timelines for MCM tasking. HM-14 primarily conducted AQS-14 operations covering 96.7 nmi² at an average of 24.2 nmi²/day. MK-105 operations were conducted for the first time aboard the USS INCHON after her reconfiguration as an MCS class ship. Post exercise analysis revealed that AMCM was responsible for locating 7 mines (3 moored and 4 bottom). The squadron logged 170.0 flight hours and 101.6 tow hours, towed 935.9 linear miles, and completed 37 missions during the exercise.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 398.4 flight hours for the month.

June

MARCOT 98 was conducted from 22 May through 25 Jun. This North Atlantic deployment to the Newfoundland oparea included the largest NATO amphibious exercise in more than a decade. Participating mine warfare forces included vessels from Canada, United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, France, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Over the 6.5-day MCM portion of the exercise, no days were lost to inclement weather. This deployment established the surge performance standard of 15 sorties/day for an MH-53E squadron embarked on USS INCHON. The eight helicopters sustained an average sortie generation rate of 13 AMCM missions per day, with each flying 3 to 4 hours and towing 2.5 to 3.5 hours. A 94% aircraft availability rate was sustained over the exercise. During the exercise, HM-14 towed five different systems and provided logistic support to the Battle Group Commander. The squadron logged 297.6 flight hours and 197.2 tow hours, towing 1460.0 linear miles and completing 70 missions during the exercise.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 398.0 flight hours for the month.

July

STANAVFORCHAN 98 was conducted from 7 Jul through 12 Jul. This exercise was conducted in the VACAPES oparea as a NATO MCM follow on to MARCOT 98. HM-14 reported directly to the STANAVFORCHAN staff. Other participating mine warfare forces included vessels from Canada, United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, France, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Due to exceptional hunting conditions, only AQS-14 missions were conducted. The squadron averaged 26.7 square nautical miles per day. AMCM was credited with locating 13 mines (4 moored and 9 bottom). The squadron logged 196.1 flight hours and 111.5 tow hours, towed 1324.4 linear miles, and completed 50 missions during the exercise.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 332.8 flight hours for the month.

August

HM-14 hosted three Midshipmen for their summer aviation training. The Midshipmen were given observation flights as passengers. Junior officers at HM-14 trained the Midshipmen on the operation of a Navy squadron. The midshipmen also learned the tactical importance and execution of AMCM operations.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 260.2 flight hours for the month.

September

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 316.0 flight hours for the month.

October

HM-14 participated in joint MEDEVAC training with the Air Force. Mass casualty and MEDEVAC were simulated with squadron aircraft transferring casualties to Portsmouth Naval Hospital. The training also provided hospital personnel with the experience of caring for a large number of casualties arriving at once by MH-53E aircraft.

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 358.5 flight hours for the month.

November

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 341.6 flight hours for the month.

December

The squadron conducted routine training and operational flights logging 170.2 flight hours for the month.