



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14)
UNIT 60180
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From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures
Squadron FOURTEEN
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation Branch,
Washington, D.C.
Subj: SUBMISSION OF 2002 COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G
Encl: (1) 2002 Command History for HELMINERON FOURTEEN
(2) Command History Summary for Change of Command Program
from February 2003
(3) 2002 Battle Efficiency Submission
1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.


G. C. MCINTYRE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN (HM-14), UIC 53827, is based at Naval Air Station Oceana Detachment Norfolk, Virginia, and maintains a permanent Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM)/ Vertical Onboard Delivery (VOD) Detachment (DET ONE) in Bahrain. The squadron also houses the Fleet Replacement Detachment and conducts all of the Navy's MH-53E aircrew and pilot training. HM-14 reports operationally to Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (MCMRON TWO) and administratively to Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELTACWINGLANT). HM-14 is the largest combat deployable aviation squadron in the Atlantic Fleet. Uniquely, it is fully integrated with both active and reserve sailors. HM-14's primary mission is to provide a rapid response AMCM capability worldwide. The squadron is manned to maintain and operate fifteen Sikorsky MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters; eleven in Norfolk for FRD training and squadron operations and four permanently deployed in Bahrain. HM-14 employs numerous minesweeping and minehunting devices and related support equipment. The squadron has the capability and expertise required to independently plan, execute and evaluate the effectiveness of a complete airborne mine countermeasures operation from ship or shore. CDR Steven A. Borden relieved CDR Kevin D. Scott as Commanding Officer on 1 March 2001. CDR Ian C. McIntyre assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2002

January:

- 1: Selected by Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) Retention Honor Roll for the First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2002.
- 1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.
- 13-16: Completed the recovery of a downed USAF UAV from a remote desert location.
- 14-26: Participated in JTFEX 02-1 in the New River, NC operating area.
- 18-20: Conducted rapid response operation for the Kingdom of Bahrain in search of the national flagship's rudder.
- 18-25: Conducted MK-105 test and evaluation launch/recovery operations off the experimental platform HSV X-1 JOINT VENTURE.

February

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

March

1: CDR Steven A. Borden relieved CDR Kevin D. Scott as Commanding Officer of HM-14 and CDR Ian C. McIntyre assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

3-9: Participated in Mine Warfare Readiness and Efficiency Measuring Operation 20 (MIREM-20) in the Persian Gulf.

14-16: Transported the Vice President throughout the Persian Gulf region.

April

1: Selected to Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) Retention Honor Roll for the Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2002.

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

May

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

31: Participated in ARGEX-02 in the New River, NC operating area.

June

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

1-8: Participated in ARGEX-02 in the New River, NC operating area.

July

1: Selected for Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) Retention Honor Roll for the Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2002.

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

August

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.
16-17: Bloodsworth Island Environmental Exercise in the NAS Patuxent River area.
27-28: Transported a Former President throughout the Cherry Point operating area.

September

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.
20-21: Participated in the Neptune Air Show at NAS Oceana, VA.

October

1: Selected for Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) Retention Honor Roll for the Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2002.
1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.
16-25: Participated in JTFEX 03-1 in the New River, NC operating area.

November

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.
2: Transported the deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs throughout the Norfolk, VA area.

December

1-31: Conducted AMCM/VOD operations in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.
9-11: Participated in Operation FIND A WAY OR MAKE ONE (FAWOMO) in the Persian Gulf region.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

January

(1) **HM-14 Detachment ONE, Manama, Bahrain (1 January - 31 December, 2002)**. HM-14 Detachment ONE is a permanent, forward-deployed four aircraft detachment supporting COMFIFTHFLT AMCM and VOD initiatives. The detachment is responsible for contingency AMCM and logistics support to afloat assets in the COMFIFTHFLT Area of Responsibility. This detachment adds a robust mine countermeasures (MCM) capability to the region, completing Commander, U.S. Naval Central Command's mine warfare triad of surface and underwater MCM assets. During this period the detachment transported 1,733 passengers and 1,174,000 pounds of mail and cargo to ships participating in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM. Additionally, the detachment surveyed over 1,000 nautical miles of Q-routes gaining invaluable information for FIFTH Fleet.

(2) **Remote USAF UAV Recovery (13 - 16 January 2002)** HM-14 Detachment ONE completed the safe and expeditious recovery of a crashed USAF RQ-4 Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle from a remote desert location in the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, eight external lifts were executed during extreme desert brownout conditions while extracting over 16,000 pounds of wreckage to successfully complete what no other asset in-theater could.

(3) **Bahraini Rudder Search (18 - 20 January 2002)** HM-14 Detachment ONE Provided the Kingdom of Bahrain with a rapid response search capability when the national flagship lost its rudder in the Persian Gulf.

(4) **JOINT VENTURE MK-105 Test and Evaluation (18 January - 25 January 2002)** The squadron conducted MK-105 test and evaluation launch/recovery operations off the experimental platform HSV X-1 JOINT VENTURE. These operations included 1 MK-105, 3 Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB) and 30 personnel in the Moorehead City, NC and Little Creek, VA operating areas.

February

Nothing additional to highlight.

March

(1) **Change of Command (2002)**. CDR Steven A. Borden relieved CDR Kevin D. Scott as the Commanding Officer. CDR Ian C. McIntyre assumed duties as the Executive Officer.

(2) **Mine Warfare Readiness and Efficiency Measuring Operation 20 (MIREM-20) (3 - 9 March 2002)** The squadron participated in exercise MIREM-20 to evaluate current AMCM tactics. The exercise validated all of the tactics currently employed by HM-14.

(3) **Vice Presidential Transport (14 -16 March 2002)** HM-14 Detachment ONE was hand picked to transport the Vice President of the United States throughout the Persian Gulf region.

April

Nothing additional to highlight.

May

Nothing additional to highlight.

June

Nothing additional to highlight.

July

Nothing additional to highlight.

August

(1) **Bloodsworth Island Environmental Project (16 - 17 August 2002)** The squadron provided heavy lift services for a high visibility project to reestablish nesting sites for indigenous waterfowl on Navy-owned Bloodsworth Island in the Chesapeake Bay. HM-14 planned and executed the transportation of over 25,000 pounds of lumber and heavy equipment to Bloodsworth Island from NAS Patuxent River, MD. During this project HM-14 evaluated the feasibility of loading a Bobcat front-end-loader for remote site transport to support expeditionary warfare.

(2) Former Presidential Transport (27 August - 28 August, 2002) The squadron was hand picked to transport a Former President of the United States throughout the Cherry Point, NC operating area.

September

Neptune Air Show (20 - 21 September 2002) HM-14 aircraft assisted with the Neptune Air Show by transporting both the British Red Devils and the United States Army's Golden Knights parachute teams to 10,000 feet for their demonstration parachute jumps.

October

Nothing additional to highlight.

November

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Transportation (2 November 2002) HM-14 was hand picked to transport the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs throughout the Norfolk, VA area.

December

Operation FIND A WAY OR MAKE ONE (FAWOMO) (9-11 December 2002) HM-14 Det ONE aircraft participated in Operation FAWOMO in the Persian Gulf region, evaluating current tactics and weapon systems.

HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN

HM-14 was established on 12 May 1978, at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia. An independent and self-contained operational Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) Squadron, today the Vanguard consists of approximately 650 enlisted personnel and 50 officers, and is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. Using the USAF C-5A "Galaxy" and C-141 "Starlifter" transport aircraft, the squadron is capable of providing a rapid response mine countermeasures (MCM) capability to any location in the world where a mine threat may exist. The aircraft used by the squadron in its MCM operations is the Sikorsky MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter.

Since its establishment, HM-14 has conducted a multitude of operations at home and abroad. In 1978, the squadron participated in exercise OLIVES NOIRES off the coast of Toulon, France and in exercise CRAZY HORSE near La Spezia, Italy. In April 1980, the squadron embarked on USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) and deployed to the Indian Ocean for operation EVENING LIGHT during the Iranian hostage crisis. Elements of the squadron remained in the Indian Ocean until November 1980, when the main body of the squadron rejoined the detachment and established the first AMCM capability in the Indian Ocean/Arabian Gulf theater. In April 1981, the squadron deployed to Europe for 5 1/2 months as the AMCM element of the first integrated MCM Task Group, along with surface and underwater MCM units. HM-14 earned two Meritorious Unit Commendations during this period.

During 1982, HM-14 participated in two major exercises: OCEAN VENTURE '82 at NAS Jacksonville, Florida, and CANUS MARCOT 1-82 at Canadian Forces Base Shearwater, Nova Scotia, Canada. The Squadron was the recipient of the 1982 Battle "E" Award and the CNO Safety Award. Exercises and AMCM demonstrations in Belgium, Scotland, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Japan, Philippines and South Korea graphically demonstrated to NATO Allies that the U.S. Navy is capable of countering diverse mining threats anywhere in the world.

In June 1984, HM-14 took delivery of the AN/AQS-14 Mine Hunting Sonar and established the Fleet's first operational airborne mine hunting capability. In August 1984, the squadron responded to a JCS-directed rapid deployment order in support of operation INTENSE LOOK. HM-14 conducted split site AMCM operations in the Gulf of Suez in support of the Egyptian Government, and in the Red Sea in support of the Saudi Arabian Government. During this period, HM-14 also responded to provide vertical onboard delivery (VOD) support following the Beirut embassy annex bombing. For its performance during these operations, the squadron was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

In August 1987, the Squadron executed another JCS-directed rapid deployment order operating off the USS GUADALCANAL (LPH-7) and USS OKINAWA (LPH-3) in the Arabian Gulf as part of Operation EARNEST WILL. During these operations, HM-14 was credited with the first live moored mines swept by a U.S. Navy unit since the Korean Conflict. As a result of superb performance in the hostile and extremely demanding environment of the Arabian Gulf, HM-14 received the Navy Unit Commendation.

In October 1990, HM-14 deployed to the Arabian Gulf for Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. Maintaining a nine month presence in the Arabian Gulf staged in Abu Dhabi, UAE and later aboard USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10) and USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), HM-14 flew 5315 hours clearing over 768 square miles of Iraqi-mined Gulf waters. Together with the surface and explosive ordnance disposal elements of the U.S. MCM Group, these actions re-established mine free passage for commercial and military shipping in the North Arabian Gulf and renewed commerce into and out of Kuwait. For the Vanguard's accomplishments, the Squadron earned the Navy Unit Commendation and Combat Action Award.

In January 1992, HM-14 rapidly deployed via self-lift to Atlantic City, New Jersey, for Operation TOXIC LOOK. Searching for several containers of hazardous arsenic which were swept over the side of a cargo ship during high seas, the Squadron successfully located the entire spillage area within six days of intense AQS-14 operations. The TOXIC LOOK detachment was awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Award for this action.

In January of 1993, HM-14 participated in the first integrated exercise at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas. In March, HM-14 deployed to Northern Europe aboard USS INCHON (LPH-12) to participate in NATO Exercise BLUE HARRIER '93.

In March 1995, HM-14 completed an unprecedented integration with their Naval Reserve sister squadron, HM-18. Given the CNO directive to integrate at the squadron level, HM-14 developed a model plan with HM-18 to combine material assets and nearly 700 Regular, TAR and Selected Reserve personnel, becoming the first squadron in the Atlantic Fleet to integrate in such a manner. This achievement, combined with the squadron's participation in four major MCM exercises, FRS training and Fleet Support services, set the standard in AMCM and Air Logistics excellence and culminated in the awarding of the 1995 Battle "E" and CNO Safety Awards.

From March to June 1996, HM-14 participated in two major NATO exercises: WESTLANT MCMV Phases I, II, & IV and CJTFEX 96 (Purple Star). These exercises employed separate detachments in Charleston, South Carolina, New River, North Carolina, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and split site operations on the USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12) and at New River, North Carolina, over a four month period.

In November 1996, HM-14 began the initial work-up cycle training with the newly configured MCM command ship USS INCHON (MCS-12). Training continued in January 1997 followed by deployment of an integrated MCM task force to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea in support of "EURO 97". During this deployment, HM-14 towed over 5000 linear miles, playing a pivotal role in three major NATO exercises: BLUE HARRIER '97, OLIVES VERTES and ALCUDRA.

From May to June 1998, HM-14 again embarked on INCHON for training and participation in GOMEX 98 and NATO Exercise UNIFIED ENDEAVOR/MARCOT 98 supporting amphibious exercises in Saint John's Bay, Newfoundland.

1999 was a busy year as the squadron established the first permanent forward-deployed AMCM detachment in the Arabian Gulf. In addition to the Bahrain detachment, the Vanguard participated in exercise KERNEL BLITZ off the coast of California, provided relief in Kosovo during Operation Shining Hope, provided support for the salvage of EgyptAir 990, and provided humanitarian support in the wake of Hurricane Floyd.

In the year 2000, HM-14 participated in tasking that included VOD support and AMCM exercises, ARABIAN GAUNTLET and Coordinated Exercise LATE SAIL in the Arabian Gulf, and operations throughout the continental United States, such as MERCURY/GOMEX 2000-2 in the Gulf of Mexico and JTFEX 2000-2 in the Atlantic.

In 2001, HM-14 began conducting, in conjunction with Airborne Mine Countermeasures and Weapons Systems Training School (AWSTS), all replacement aircrew training for the MH-53E. The squadron also participated in exercises ARABIAN GAUNTLET, CASUAL GANDERI and supported the fleet following the terrorist attacks of September 11th during Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM.

The year 2002 was as exceptional as it was busy for HM-14. Flying over 5,000 hours in fiscal year '02, the command participated in both a JTFEX and a MEUEX in support of a Carrier Battle Group and a Marine Expeditionary Unit deployment. In Bahrain, Det-1 continued to sharpen mine countermeasures effectiveness through participation in MIREM-20. Det-1 was hand picked by Fifth Fleet to transport the Vice President within the Arabian Gulf theater. The Vanguard continued to lead the way introducing the enhanced digital imagery of the Q-24 sonar and laser line scan to fleet operations. During the Neptune Air Show at NAS Oceana HM-14 transported both the British Red Devils and the U.S. Army's Golden Knights to 10,000 feet for parachute jumps. In support of joint operations, the Vanguard recovered an unmanned aerial vehicle from United Arab Emirates for the U.S. Air Force. HM-14 aided the local Heron population by airlifting nest-building supplies to Bloodsworth Island in the Northern Chesapeake bay.