



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
FPO AP 96634-2770

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
PAO
31 Mar 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
To: Director of Naval History, Office of the Chief of
Naval Operations (OP-09BH), Washington, D.C.,
20350-2000

Subj: USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) COMMAND HISTORY FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Organizational Chart
(3) Chronology
(4) Narrative
(5) Supporting Documents
 a. Welcome aboard brochure
 b. *KITTY HAWK Flyers*
 c. Press releases
 d. Biography of commanding officer
 e. KITTY HAWK news clips
 f. Photograph CDs

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

2. Enclosure (5) is being sent under separate cover on CDs as per reference (a).

T. PARKER

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COMNAVAIRPAC

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)

2003 Command History Narrative

2003 was a busy year for the world's only forward deployed aircraft carrier. The oldest active ship in the U.S. Navy showed no signs of slowing down in 2003 as Kitty Hawk witnessed the arrival of a new Commanding Officer before steaming to the Persian Gulf for 104 continuous days at sea in support of Coalition Forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following a successful tour in the Gulf, Kitty Hawk returned to Yokosuka, Japan in May to begin an extensive maintenance and dry-dock period. Less than six months later the Battle Cat would emerge again in superb condition - immediately participating with Japan in the ANNUALEX 15G exercise, and continuing her role in the western Pacific Ocean.

Kitty Hawk began 2003 with a brief underway in January for a two-day sea trial period designed to increase readiness for possible future tasking in support of the Global War On Terrorism. The two-day training focused on the Precision Approach Landing System that assists pilots during nighttime and poor weather condition landings.

Upon returning to Yokosuka, Japan, Kitty Hawk reached a major milestone in her 42-year history. On Feb. 8, the ship's bow catapult team launched its 150,000th aircraft from the No. 1 catapult. As of noon on that day, 398,505 aircraft had launched from the four catapults on the flight deck of Kitty Hawk during four decades of service.

The second month of Kitty Hawk's 42nd year witnessed the arrival of the Battle Cat's 32nd Commanding Officer, Capt. Thomas A. Parker. During a scheduled ceremony at sea on Feb. 27, Capt. Parker relieved Capt. Robert D. Barbaree Jr. as commanding officer, a post he had held since Sept. 3, 2002.

Less than one week after assuming command, Capt. Parker and the crew of Kitty Hawk and Carrier Air Wing 5 joined other Navy carrier strike groups to monitor and conduct surveillance in Iraq. Kitty Hawk and CVW-5 played a prominent role enforcing the southern no-fly zone required by U.N. Resolution.

The Kitty Hawk Strike Group joined other strike groups in a rotating schedule as Operation Southern Watch continued on into the Spring of 2003. The schedule weaved together multiple forces participating in OSW for joint patrolling of the no-fly zone. The mission schedule intermixed different units allowing everyone involved in OSW to take part of the risk and responsibility of patrolling the no-fly zone.

Throughout the more than 100-day underway period in support of OIF, Kitty Hawk Public Affairs answered the SECDEF's call for all military public affairs teams to "lean forward" during the Global War On Terrorism. During her underway period, Kitty Hawk

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) 2003 Chronology

- 20 Jan Depart Yokosuka, Japan, for 2-day Sea Trial
- 29 Jan. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 11 pallets
- 3 Feb. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 43 pallets
- 8 Feb. Ship's bow catapult team launches 150,000th aircraft from No. 1 catapult
- 9 Feb. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 274 pallets
- 9 Feb. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 425 pallets
- 13 Feb. RAS with RAPPAHANOUK, 45 pallets
- 14 Feb. Kitty Hawk completes ISRA 301
- 23 Feb Kitty Hawk departs Yokosuka for 104-day deployment in support of OSW and OIF safely navigating through both the Strait of Malacca and Strait of Hormuz.
- 25 Feb. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 310 pallets
- 27 Feb. COC ceremony at sea. Capt. Parker assumes command.
- 2 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 265 pallets
- 8 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 275 pallets
- 14 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 350 pallets
- 19 Mar. RAS with NIAGARA FALLS, 257 pallets
- 26 Mar. RAS with CAMDEN, 380 pallets
- 1 Apr. RAS with RAINIER, 360 pallets
- 7 Apr. RAS with CAMDEN, 410 pallets
- 8 Apr. RAS with CAMDEN, 451 pallets
- 13 Apr. RAS with BRIDGE, 362 pallets