

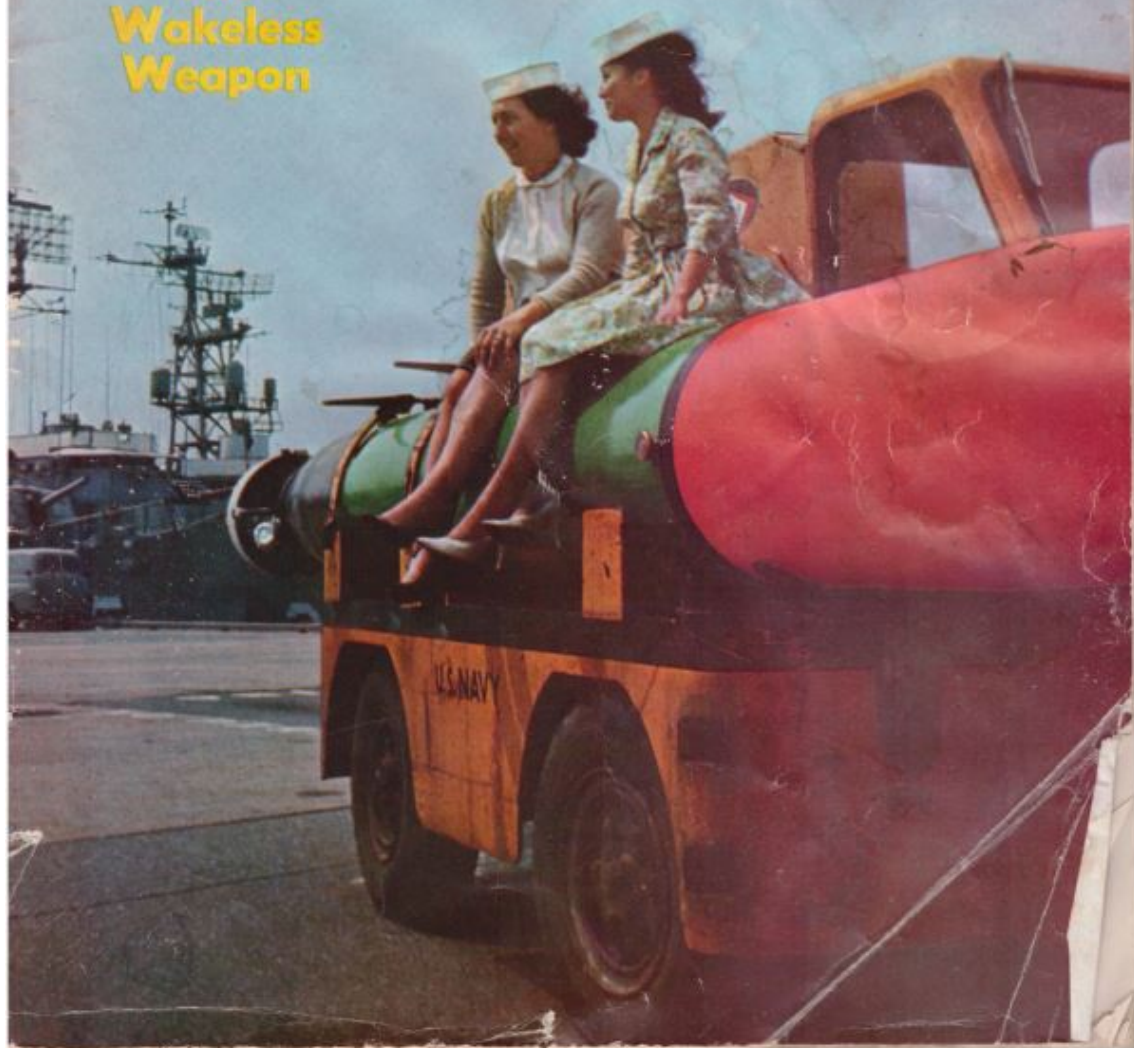
JULY, 1965

35

OUR NAVY

THE NAVYMAN'S MAGAZINE FOUNDED 1897

The
Wakeless
Weapon





CAT SHOT—Flight Deck crewmen place the bridle on an A3B Skywarrior just prior to catapulting the huge bomber into the air.



STINGERS—Kitty Hawk has her missiles as well as her planes. She is the world's first guided missile aircraft carrier.

Ship of the Month

USS Kitty Hawk

"It is with great pleasure that I nominate the USS KITTY HAWK CVA 63 for the Our Navy's Fifth Annual Ship of the Year Trophy for 1964.

The USS KITTY HAWK won my Battle Efficiency Award in her first competitive cycle since commissioning. She also won two departmental awards—Communication and Air—and was runner-up in the Weapons and Operations Department Competition. In addition, the KITTY HAWK stood number one in the Operational Readiness Inspection and Quarterly Performance Rating for Fiscal Year 1964.

"This outstanding record is a source of personal pride and is indicative of the outstanding leadership, dedication, and esprit de corps of this ship."

This is how Paul D. Stroop, VAdm, USN, characterized KITTY HAWK. She is not only a magnificent ship but she also has an outstanding crew.

KITTY HAWK left the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for her homeport, San Diego, California recently as the most modern and best equipped conventionally powered attack aircraft carrier in the Navy.

During her eight and one-half month yard period, she had installed the latest in data systems, the Naval Tactical Data System or NTDS, and the latest in intelligence systems, the Integrated Operational Intelligence System or IOIC. In addition, the shipyard installed satellite tracking instruments for navigation as well as more advanced and powerful radar.

The NTDS gives KITTY HAWK a fully automated, computerized command and control system, which allows the Commanding Officer to make accurate decisions faster than ever before possible. The IOIC incorporates the latest developments in automatic data

processing and integrates the ship with the world's most refined reconnaissance aircraft, the RASC Vigilante.

Satellite tracking instruments enable KITTY HAWK to make full use of United States navigation satellites. With these instruments the ship can pinpoint her position at any time with little or no delay. In addition to the time factor consideration, navigation by satellite gives more accurate position plotting than has ever before been possible.

Advanced and more powerful radar systems give the ship greater protection from surprise attacks and enable her to make better use of her Terrier guided missiles.

Both the ship and the men have benefited from the yard period. During the stay at Bremerton, more than a thousand of KITTY HAWK's crewmen took advantage of the in-port time to improve their training and education through Naval schools, Armed Forces Institute, and local college courses. Almost 900 officers and men attended service schools varying from courses in baking to the highly technical areas of data and missile systems. The schools most attended included Fire Fighting, Prospective Officer-of-the-Deck, Damage Control, Career Information and Counseling, NTDS Data Collection and Basic Indoctrination in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Defense. The service schools locations were spread from coast to coast and from border to border.

The education program is paying off through KITTY HAWK's reenlistment program which is receiving renewed impetus through use of career information and counseling school graduates. For example the number of men reenlisted during the first three months of this year was more than 35% of last year's total first term

OUR NAVY'S Ship of the Month



USS Kitty Hawk, CVA-63

reenlistees. And there were still nine months to go in this year's effort.

In her short life *KITTY HAWK* has received many accolades, but her greatest recognition of excellence came on when she received notice that she had officially become "top carrier in the Pacific Fleet." As Admiral Stroop mentioned, she had joined the most exclusive letterman's club in the world—the proud group of the Navy "E" winners. However, it was not just a single "E" for the ship. *KITTY HAWK* won two other top awards for departmental efficiency. Her Air Department won the yellow "E" for its outstanding safety record and the Communications Department won the green "C" for efficient communications. The awards came after *KITTY HAWK* completed her first qualifying period. The coveted letters are now prominently displayed on the ship's island structure and stand as visible symbols of *KITTY HAWK*'s superiority.

Contributing to the "E" award was the safety record which also won for her the Pacific Fleet's nomination for the Admiral Flatley Aviation Safety Award. She had over 25,000 arrested landings and 30,000 catapult assisted launches with no major accidents, thereby surpassing all other attack carriers in the Pacific Fleet in Naval Aviation Safety.

Winning these awards was the result of a great deal of teamwork on the part of her crew who, numbering to about 4500 men, represent almost every rating known to the U. S. Navy. In addition to the usual ratings, however, *KITTY HAWK* has recently added new men to her crew in those rates which are needed to sufficiently staff the new IOIC and NTDS facilities. There are highly trained Data Systems Technicians and Photographic Intelligence men as well as specially trained Radarmen and Electronics Technicians to give the necessary human skills to these new and highly complicated systems.

In addition to operating a huge floating city *KITTY HAWK*'s crew operates a completely equipped airfield capable of handling, operating and maintaining the



Captain Martin D. Carmody

world's most advanced jet aircraft over prolonged periods of time. This floating airfield is able to range all the oceans of the world, enabling the ship's air wing to go anywhere and to meet any situation. Such mobility renders *KITTY HAWK* virtually invulnerable to attack by ballistic missiles, yet leaves her free to answer any aggressive challenge.

Duty on the largest conventionally powered warship in the world (1,081 ft., 82,000 tons) has many advantages. The facilities available to the crew aboard ship are equal to and frequently exceed those of many small cities of the same population. There is a closed circuit television station with a receiver in every crew living space, which is used for educational as well as entertainment purposes. Training films and lectures, messages from the Captain or embarked Admiral, special events, news broadcasts and movies are on the program nearly every evening at sea.

To help occupy their off-duty hours the crew has a gymnasium with ample facilities for a complete physical fitness program. The ship's library provides both fiction and non-fiction books as well as current magazines and newspapers, all in a relaxing atmosphere.

The Special Services Office aboard ship controls all of *KITTY HAWK*'s recreation facilities providing many opportunities for recreation ashore while the ship is in port. When overseas, tours of the nearby cities and countryside leave the ship daily providing ship's personnel with an opportunity to learn something about their foreign neighbors and their nations. Special Services also provides two minibuses for the crew's recreational use. Fishing trips, theatre tickets, and excursions are but a few of the items available. Whether at sea or in port, *KITTY HAWK*'s crew has outstanding facilities

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Ship of the Month

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at their disposal. There are no better recreation and entertainment facilities on any war ship in the world.

The many recent crises in South East Asia have re-emphasized the importance of the mobile attack aircraft carrier striking force in America's present defense system. KITTY HAWK will again take her place in that system of defense when she deploys this year. As one of America's most advanced weapons systems, KITTY HAWK is ready and able to protect her country's interests anywhere in the world on very short notice. The effort and enthusiasm of each member of the crew in combination with advanced technological systems have made KITTY HAWK the "E" carrier—"tops" in the U. S. Navy—and in the world. She has made a magnificent record which promises to be surpassed only by her future performance.