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From: Commanding Officer, USS LEXINGTON (CVT 16)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0301)

Subj: Command History (1 Jan to 31 Dec 77); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12B

Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as this command's annual history record.

E. B. MCDANIEL

Copy to:
Director of Naval History
COMNAVAIRLANT
CINCLANTFLT

(1) Command History (1 Jan 77 - 31 Dec 77)

Commanding Officer - Captain Eugene B. McDaniel

(2) Summary of Operations in chronological order

LEXINGTON is homeported at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida and is the Training Carrier for basic and advanced pilot carrier qualifications. LEXINGTON is under the operational control of the Chief of Naval Training and the administrative control of the Commander, U. S. Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

LEXINGTON was inport, moored at Allegheny Pier, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida on 1 January.

On 5 January, the Eagle Scouts held a ceremony on board.

On 11 January, a DC Photo Session visited for D.C.'s new reserves book.

Mrs. Wilson, Don King and Mrs. King were OOD on board the LEXINGTON on 19 January.

On 20 January, LEXINGTON recorded her 365,000th arrested landing.

On 21 January, ABC's Wide World of Sports (DON KING PRODUCTIONS) were held on the flight deck attracting 3,000 guests.

(3,365 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in January, five of those were at-sea visits.)

On 9 February, LEXINGTON recorded her 366,000th arrested landing.

Educators from the Tennessee area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 16 February.

(512 sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in February, 46 of those were at-sea visits.)

CNATRA's VIP's from the Corpus Christi, Texas area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 9 March.

On 10 March, Air Traffic Controllers from Houston, Texas visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit.

On 15 March, LEXINGTON recorded her 367,000th arrested landing.

Sea Explorer Executives visit LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 18 March.

Educators from the Dallas, Texas area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 30 March.

(1,768 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in March, 184 of those were at-sea visits.)

On 6 April, LEXINGTON recorded her 368,000th arrested landing.

On 11 April, Southeast Broadcasters visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit.

Young Presidents Association visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 14 April.

Educators from the Buffalo, New York area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 20 April.

(1,026 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in April, 108 were at-sea visits.)

On 10 May, LEXINGTON recorded her 369,000th arrested landing.

On 14 May, the LEXINGTON hosted its annual Dependent's Day Cruise for an at-sea tour.

On 17 May, LEXINGTON recorded her 370,000th arrested landing.

Educators from the NRD Miami area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea tour on 18 May.

Captain T. F. Rush was relieved of his command by Captain E. B. McDaniel in a change of command ceremony held on the Flight Deck on 25 May.

(1,440 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in May, 976 of those were at-sea visits.)

Educators from the Cleveland/Detroit area visited LEXINGTON for a tour on 8 June.

On 10 June, Court of Deluna visited the LEXINGTON and presented plaques to the Commanding Officer and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Command.

On 16 June, LEXINGTON recorded her 371,000th arrested landing.

A Category "B" cruise was held on 24 June for an at-sea visit of LEXINGTON.

(1,331 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in June, 862 of those were at-sea visits.)

Aerospace Workshop from the NRD Memphis area, visited LEXINGTON for a tour on 7 July.

On 26 July, LEXINGTON recorded her 372,000th arrested landing.

Guests of Admiral Shepherd, CNATRA, visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea tour on 26 July.

On 29 July, LEXINGTON recorded her 373,000th arrested landing.

(604 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in July, 42 of those were at-sea visits.)

Educators from Cleveland, OH, visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 2 August.

Foreign Officers from Kessler Air Force Base visited LEXINGTON on 27 August.

On 31 August, LEXINGTON recorded her 374,000th arrested landing.

(452 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in August, 66 of those were at-sea visits.)

On 14 September, U.S. Representative L. Gedet, Rep. G. Byron and Rep. P. Trible aboard LEXINGTON for Congressman Orientation visit.

On 16 September, the LEXINGTON was underway for Galveston, Texas.

At 1130, 17 September, LEXINGTON was moored in Galveston, Texas and was visited by 3,300 visitors from the Houston/Galveston, Texas area.

On 18 September, 13,400 guests visited LEXINGTON from the Houston/Galveston, Texas area.

On 26 September, LEXINGTON recorded her 375,000th arrested landing.

(21,960 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in September, 25 of those were at-sea visits.)

Educators from the NRD Kansas City, area visited LEXINGTON on 6 October.

(122 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in October, 44 of those were at-sea visits.)

On 1 November, LEXINGTON recorded her 376,000th arrested landing.

Educators from the NRD Atlanta, Georgia area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 2 November.

On 19 November, Educators from Dallas, Texas area visited LEXINGTON.

(1,195 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in November, 25 of those were at-sea visits.)

Educators from the Kansas City, Missouri area visited LEXINGTON for an at-sea visit on 1 December.

On 3 December, LEXINGTON recorded her 377,000th arrested landing.

(52) Foriegn Officer from Armed Forces Staff College, Maxwell AFB, visited LEXINGTON on 5 December.

LSO Training Systems Engineers including femal, Ms. Janice Eisele, visited LEXINGTON for three days while underway.

(832 command sponsored guests visited LEXINGTON in December, 15 of those were at-sea visits.)

LEXINGTON's contributions to the Navy's overall community relations program again proved to be significant for calendar year 1977. A major Gulf Coast tourist attraction, the "Lady LEX," hosted 50,107 casual, in-port visitors during 1977. In addition, the LEX hosted 2,421 at-sea visitors during the course of routine operations. These special guests included participants in the Navy's civilian orientation cruises, RECRUI-COM sponsored guests, high-level educators, media representatives, Sea Cadets, Allied Officers, and LEX's annual Dependent's Day Cruise.

During 1977, LEXINGTON was underway for 106 days, steaming a total of 42,400 nautical miles. LEXINGTON recorded 12,724 arrested landings in the year of 1977.