

1980

VAW-113
SMV:smv
5750/1
SER:192
15 October 1981

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (2))

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Attn: OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1980
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
Encl: (1) Black Eagle Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1980
Abbreviated Format
(2) Black Eagle Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1980
Narrative Format
(3) History of CARAEWRON 113
(4) Commanding Officer History - CDR D. H. Olsen
(5) Commanding Officer History - CDR A. J. Schroeder
(6) General Squadron Statistics

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted.

S. E. Curtis

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVAIRPAC
COMCARAIRWING FOURTEEN
COMFITAEEWINGPAC
FILE

Classified by COMTHIRDFLT/COMSEVENTHFLT OPORD 201
Declassify on 15 October 1987

DECLASSIFIED

BLACK EAGLE SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
1980

JANUARY:

01-07 Inport, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines
08-14 Operations, South China Sea
15-17 Operations, Gulf of Thailand
18-20 Port Visit, Pattaya Beach, Thailand
21-24 Operation Merlion VII, South China Sea
25-28 Port Visit, Singapore
29-30 Operations, South China Sea
31 Transit, Straits of Malacca

FEBRUARY:

01-07 Enroute Gulf of Oman
04 Aircraft Exchange with VAW-115, USS MIDWAY (CV-41)
08-29 Operations on Gonzo Station - Gulf of Oman/Arabian Sea

MARCH:

01-31 Operations on Gonzo Station - Gulf of Oman/Arabian Sea
14-16 Exercise - Gonzo 1-81

APRIL:

01-28 Operations on Gonzo Station - Gulf of Oman/Arabian Sea
09-11 Exercise - Gonzo 2-81
30 Pasex with USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64)

MAY:

01-08 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines
09-21 Inport, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines
22 Enroute Okinawa
23-31 Operations on Station - Korean Modloc

JUNE:

01-10 Great Circle Transit to NAS Alameda, CA
10 CVW-14 Fly-off USS CORAL SEA (CV-43)
11 Inport, NAS Alameda, CA
12-16 Squadron Stand-down, NAS Miramar, CA
17-30 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
26 Transfer BUNO 152482 to NARF, NAS North Island, CA

JULY:

01-31 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
03 Black Eagle Change of Command, NAS Miramar, CA
16-18 Readix 34-80, Orange Forces

AUGUST:

01-31 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
05-07 CNO Project - Tomahawk
21 Topgun - FADEX

(ENCLOSURE 1)

26-27 Norad Exercise - Amalgam Chief

SEPTEMBER:

01-30 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
08 Linkex with USS RANGER (CV-61)
17 Alpha Strike, NAS Lemoore, CA

OCTOBER:

01-31 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
03-05 Airshow, NAS Miramar, CA
14 Transitex to SOCAL
16 Air Operations, USS CORAL SEA
28-30 Air Operations and Carrier Qualifications, USS CORAL SEA, SOCAL

NOVEMBER:

01-30 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
09-20 Field Carrier Landing Practice and CQ, USS CORAL SEA, SOCAL
11-14 Exercise Hey Rube 1-81
24 Carrier Qualifications, USS CORAL SEA, SOCAL

DECEMBER:

01-31 Turn-Around Training, NAS Miramar, CA
03-04 SOCAL Operations, USS CORAL SEA
29-31 Field Carrier Landing Practice

1980 SQUADRON STATISTICS:

Total Hours Flown: 1542.4 Hours

Total Carrier Landings: 555 Traps

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BLACK EAGLE SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
1980

VAW-113 began the decade of the 1980's facing real world threats and heavy operational commitments. The United States Embassy in Tehran had been in the hands of Iranian militants for over two months. The Persian Gulf region was facing increased tensions; and U.S. naval presence was an essential fact of American foreign policy.

The Black Eagles, Commanded by CDR Deter H. Olsen and with Executive Officer, CDR Arthur J. Schroeder, started 1980 in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. After a well deserved Christmas layoff, VAW-113 began operations in preparation for up-coming refresher Carrier Qualifications in the Subic Bay Oparea. In early January, Field Carrier Landing Practices were staged from NAS Cubi Point, and on 8 January, the USS CORAL SEA (CV-43) departed Subic Bay for three days of refresher operations.

The major evolution of January was the participation in Merlion VII with units of the Singapore Navy and Air Force. The Royal Singapore Navy launched fast patrol boat and coordinated naval/air force strikes against the USS CORAL SEA battle group, during which time the Black Eagles played an essential role in the interception of all incoming strikes.

During the first week of February, the USS CORAL SEA began a high speed transit to the Indian Ocean in response to the two task force diplomacy in the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

(ENCLOSURE 2)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

Persian Gulf. On 7 February, VAW-113 and USS CORAL SEA participated in an "I. O. Inchopex" in conjunction with the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68.) Simulated raids were launched from the USS NIMITZ at distances in excess of 400 nm. Black Eagle crews were able to detect and report continuous raids in excess of 300 nm from the USS CORAL SEA Battle Group. On 8 and 9 February, VAW-113 launched from Alert-30 status in response to Soviet IL-38 May aircraft flying from Aden and AN-12 Cub aircraft flying out of Karachi. Other Soviet May surveillance flights of USS CORAL SEA/USS NIMITZ Battle Group were flown on 13, 16, 20, 25, and 29 February. Black Eagle participation in dual carrier operations effectively opposed Soviet surveillance flights from Aden and Karachi. VAW-113 crews were able to position intercept/escort aircraft in the proper sector in all cases.

In March, Soviet surveillance flights noticeably declined. In all cases, Soviet aircraft were detected in excess of 270 nm and were intercepted 200 nm from the Battle Group. On 5 March, the Black Eagles hosted COMCARGRU THREE on a Soviet May surveillance mission. RADM L. C. Chambers launched as co-pilot and was able to obtain first hand knowledge of the E-2B's AAW/AEW capabilities. During March, Black Eagle assets were tasked more and more frequently for SSSC missions. VAW-113 received the first designation as "Airborne SSSC Pro of the Week" by DESRON TWENTY-THREE. Exercise commitments during the month included several Harpoonex's, AAWEX's, WASEX's, a MINEX and GONZO 1-80 - a major three day exercise.

Apart from participation in GONZO 2-80, the Black Eagles primary mission emphasis was on AEW and SSSC. Only one Soviet surveillance flight was recorded

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

in April. VAW-113 detected the Soviet May at 350 nm from the carrier and vectored two Marine F-4N's to intercept at 200 nm. On 28 April, the USS CORAL SEA departed GONZO Station and began coordinated exercises with the USS CONSTELLATION as part of CV-64's Inchop exercises in the Indian Ocean.

In May, the Black Eagles and the USS CORAL SEA began their departure from the Indian Ocean enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. 9 May marked the end of 102 consecutive days at sea without a port call. This also represented the longest at sea period for a Pacific based carrier since the end of World War Two. After a twelve day inport period in Subic Bay, RP, the USS CORAL SEA again put to sea enroute NAS Alameda, California.

June was a quiet month for the Black Eagles. On 2 and 3 June, VAW-113 launched in response to possible maritime reconnaissance by Soviet aircraft from Vladivostok. 10 June marked the end of the seven month cruise when all four Black Eagle aircraft flew into NAS Miramar for a well deserved homecoming.

Due to the post-cruise stand-down, the tempo of operations for VAW-113 slowed considerably in July. CDR A. J. Schroeder relieved CDR D. H. Olsen as Commanding Officer of VAW-113 on 3 July during a ceremony held at NAS Miramar. CDR S. E. Curtis became the Black Eagles new Executive Officer. The Squadron did participate in two exercises in late July, however. Black Eagle crews served as Orange forces in Readix 3A-80 and acted as controlling platform for small and mass ASCM raids against the USS RANGER (CV-61).

Turn-around training intensified during August with the participation of the Black Eagles in three exercises. From 5 August through 7 August, VAW-113

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

provided prelaunch over-the-horizon targeting for the CNO's Project Tomahawk. In mid-August the Squadron provided communications support and acted as FAA liason for a thirty-five plane graduation exercise from the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Topgun). Near the end of August, the Black Eagles participated in the NORAD Exercise "Amalgam Chief." VAW-113 crews controlled Air Force F-106 interceptors for Combat Air Patrol.

Ground training dominated the Squadron's time during the month of September, however, flight operations and exercises still played a significant role in the turn-around training of VAW-113. The Black Eagles provided communication and link services to the USS RANGER and acted as the FAA coordinators for two Alpha Strikes on Edwards Air Force Base Bombing Ranges.

The 1980 Air Show, held at NAS Miramar in early October, gave the Squadron the opportunity to perform for the general public. CVW-14 acted as host for the Air Show and all member Squadrons participated with the Blue Angels in two performances. The remainder of October was devoted to Field Carrier Landing Practice in preparation for a Carrier Qualification period with the USS CORAL SEA for 28 through 30 October.

November's schedule proved to be both strenuous and heavy. Refresher Training aboard the USS CORAL SEA required the majority of the Squadron's attention and assets, with refresher Carrier Qualifications dominating VAW-113 flight operations. The Black Eagles were also tasked with an exercise "Hey Rube," in which aircrews recorded detailed information for evaluation of the effectiveness of vector logic.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

During the first week of December, Cyclic Flight Operations were flown from aboard the USS CORAL SEA. During the remainder of the month, VAW-113 concentrated on ground training and preparation for the upcoming Holiday Season. Upon completion of the first year of the 1980's, the Black Eagles were already well on the way toward the completion of the training necessary for the Squadron's next deployment; scheduled for 20 August 1981.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**HISTORY OF
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN**

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VAW-113) had its early beginning at the end of World War II as a research project to explore the feasibility of the airborne early warning concept. In 1948, the Navy formed the first Airborne Early Warning Squadron, VAW-11, homeported at NAS North Island. VAW-11 continued to work in developing the AEW concept and in 1950 deployed detachments which provided both ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) and AEW (Airborne Early Warning) protection throughout the Korean Conflict. The mission of the squadron was clearly defined to provide all-weather early warning services to the fleet and shore warning nets.

On April 20, 1967, VAW-11 was divided into seven individual squadrons. Nine days later, on April 29, 1967, VAW-113 deployed to the Western Pacific flying E-2A aircraft aboard the USS CONSTELLATION as a member of Attack Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN.

The Black Eagles of VAW-113 have made eight deployments to the Western Pacific aboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64), USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), and USS CORAL SEA (CV-43). The squadron has been awarded two Battle Efficiency "E's", the CNO Aviation Safety Award, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Navy Expeditionary Medal. World Famous Black Eagle crews participated in Vietnamese Operations every year since 1967, climaxing in May of 1975 with "Operation Frequent Wind," the evacuation of American Forces from South Vietnam.

(ENCLOSURE 3)

During the 1975 deployment aboard the USS ENTERPRISE, VAW-113 became the Navy's first E-2B squadron to operate with the F-14A "Tomcats." As such, the squadron was instrumental in developing tactics which best utilize the "Hawkeye" with the expanded capabilities of the Navy's newest fighter.

In July 1975, VAW-113 changed homeports from NAS North Island to NAS Miramar. One year later VAW-113 became the recipient of the First Annual CNO AEW Excellence Award, in September of 1976. This distinction designated the Black Eagles as the best AEW squadron in the U. S. Navy.

In 1978, the Black Eagles completed their final deployment aboard the USS ENTERPRISE. Following their turn-around cycle, VAW-113 and a new CVW-14 embarked on the USS CORAL SEA with Marine Fighter Squadrons aboard. The Black Eagles' 79/80 WESTPAC cruise was highlighted by the Iranian Crisis, in which the USS CORAL SEA and CVW-14 remained at sea for 102 continuous days of Indian Ocean Contingency Operations. At the completion of their deployment in June of 1980, the Black Eagles returned to NAS Miramar.

After an extremely successful turn-around training cycle, highlighted by an outstanding performance during the Operational Readiness Evaluation and participation in Fleetex 1-81, the Black Eagles, aboard the USS CORAL SEA, deployed on 20 August 1981, marking their ninth such deployment to the Western Pacific.