



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
 CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON  
 ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN  
 FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1987

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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 113  
 To: Chief of Naval Operations (ATTN: OP-05D2)  
 Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1987  
 Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D  
 Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
 (2) Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1987  
 (3) Narrative  
 (4) Commanding Officer's Biography  
 (5) History of VAW-113  
 (6) Squadron Statistics (Mar 87, May 87, Jul 87, Sep 87, Nov 87 and Jan 88) (C)

1. (U) Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted:

*D. A. Ersek*  
 D. A. ERSEK

Copy to:  
 Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)  
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## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

### MISSION

The Grumman E-2C Hawkeye is a five seat, twin turboprop, all weather carrier based aircraft. It patrols the task force defense perimeters to provide early warning of approaching enemy aircraft and to vector interceptors into attack position. In addition to this primary function the Hawkeye can also provide strike and traffic control, area surveillance, search and rescue guidance, navigational assistance and communications relay.

### SENIOR COMMAND

Operational Commander: Commander Carrier Air Wing Fourteen

Type Commander: Commander Fighter Airborne Early Warning  
Wing U.S. Pacific Fleet

COMMANDING OFFICER: CDR David Alan Ersek, USN

HOME PORT: NAS Miramar

AIRCRAFT: Four E-2C Grumman Hawkeye (NK 600-603)

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1987

JANUARY

01-28 NAS MIRAMAR  
29-31 READIEX 87-2

FEBRUARY

01-07 READIEX 87-2  
08-11 BGE  
12-28 NAS MIRAMAR

MARCH

01-30 NAS MIRAMAR

APRIL

01-10 NAS MIRAMAR  
11-13 CQ  
14-30 TRANSPAC

MAY

01-02 TRANSPAC  
03-08 INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
09-19 TRANSIT TO DIEGO GARCIA  
19-24 INPORT DIEGO GARCIA  
24-29 AIR OPS, INDIAN OCEAN  
29-31 INPORT DIEGO GARCIA

JUNE

01-11 INPORT DIEGO GARCIA  
12-15 AIR OPS, INDIAN OCEAN  
16-20 INPORT DIEGO GARCIA  
21-30 NAS OPS

JULY

01-31 NAS OPS

AUGUST

01-31 NAS OPS

SEPTEMBER

01-06 ENROUTE PERTH, AUSTRALIA  
07-13 INPORT PERTH  
14-21 ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP  
22-25 INPORT SUBIC  
26-30 ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HI

OCTOBER

01-05 ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR  
06 INPORT PEARL HARBOR  
07-12 ENROUTE SAN DIEGO  
13 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
14-31 POM

NOVEMBER

01-13 POM  
14-30 NAS MIRAMAR

DECEMBER

01-31 NAS MIRAMAR

## NARRATIVE

The training schedule in January emphasized AIC flights and FCLP's in preparation for READIEX 87-2 and BGE. The last days of January were spent on the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) in the Southern California area flying CQ.

The majority of February was spent on the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) for READIEX 87-2 and BGE. The Black Eagles worked closely with the other CVW-14 squadrons flying AIC, SSC missions and special exercises such as heavy ECM environment operations.

In March and the beginning of April, AIC and FCLP's were emphasized to prepare for deployment.

During Transpac, the airwing practiced various tactics. The training paid off during the extended NAS operations during July and August.

On June 8 CDR Frank Bush was relieved by CDR David A. Ersek.

September brought on two well deserved ports and an AEW-Outer Air Battle exercise with the Australians.

In October, during the return from WESTPAC, the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) stopped for a day in Pearl Harbor to pick up "Tigers" for a Tiger Cruise.

After the post cruise standdown operations were centered on overland detection and renewed exercises with the airwing.

**HISTORY OF**  
**CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON**  
**ONE ONE THREE**

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE THREE (VAW-113) had its early beginnings at the end of World War II as a research project designed 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 Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California. VAW-11 continued to work on developing the AEW (Airborne Early Warning) concept and in 1950, deployed detachments which provided both ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) and AEW 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 20 April 1967, VAW-11 was divided into seven individual squadrons. On 29 April 1967, VAW-113 deployed to the Western Pacific flying the E-2A "Hawkeye" aircraft aboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64), as a member of Attack Carrier Air Wing Fourteen.

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

During the 1975 deployment aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CV 65), VAW-113 became the first E-2C squadron to operate with the F-14A Tomcat. Ten years later, with their WESTPAC deployment aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) the "Black Eagles" were forerunners once again. This time VAW-113 became the first E-2 squadron to operate with the F/A-18 Hornet, providing substantial input to the tactical development and utilization of this dual role platform.

The "Black Eagles" have transitioned to the new Grumman E-2C aircraft equipped with the APS-138 advanced radar processing system. Last year they were awarded the 1986 CNO Naval Aviation Safety Award. VAW-113 has now surpassed nine years and 18,000 Hours of Mishap-Free Aviation. This distinction, added to an impressive list of operational and tactical milestones, have served to recognize VAW-113 as the **PREMIER AEW SQUADRON IN THE PACIFIC FLEET.**