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1996 ✓

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN
UNIT 25421
FPO AP 98801-8404

5750
Ser 10/C002
19 Feb 97

[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (5))

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE SIX

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND ANNUAL HISTORY FOR CY 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (Series)

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Command Mission
(3) CO Biography
(4) CO Photograph } *Privacy Act*
(5) VAW-116 Battle E/AEW Excellence Award/Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy Nomination.

[3.5 DISKETTE]

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are hereby submitted.

M. E. Mills
M. E. MILLS

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Classified by: OPNAVINST C5513.2B
Declassify on: OADR

VAW-116 COMMAND HISTORY

A. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Primary Mission: Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management. Secondary Mission: Airwing Command and Control, Air Intercept Control, Strike Control, Surface Search Coordination, War at Sea, Deconfliction of Friendly/Hostile Aircraft, Communications Relay, and Passive Detection of Hostile Emitters.

2. Organization Structure: Operational Senior Command: Commander, Carrier Air Wing Two. Administrative Senior Command: Commander, Airborne Early Warning Wing U.S. Pacific Fleet. Deployed aboard U.S.S. CONSTELLATION (CV-64) under Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE, as part of Battle Group Echo.

3. Commanding Officer: CDR Mark E. Mills, [REDACTED]/1310

4. Home Base: Hangar Three, NAS Miramar, San Diego, CA. U.S.S. CONSTELLATION is home-ported at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.

5. Type and Number Aircraft Assigned : Four E-2C Group II Hawkeye Aircraft. Tail codes NE600, NE601, NE602, NE603. Bunos: 164484, 164486, 164487, 164488.

B. CHRONOLOGY

1. Major Exercises/Special Operations.

- a. 08 January - 26 January: FFARP, El Centro, CA.
- b. 26 January - 03 February: Desert Rescue, Fallon, NV.
- c. 12 February - 31 March: JIATF-E Counter Drug Operations, NSRR, Puerto Rico
- d. 01 March - 05 March: Operation Standoff IV, Key West, FL.
- e. 08 April - 14 April: MAWTS-1 Support Flights, Miramar, CA.
- f. 22 April - 10 May: SFARP, Fallon, NV.
- g. 13 May - 14 May: Seal Team 3 Support Flights, Miramar, CA.
- h. 15 May - 16 May: SLQ-20B Support Flights, Miramar, CA.
- i. 10 June - 17 June: Roving Sands, Roswell AFB, NM.
- j. 10 July - 23 July: TSTA I/II, USS CONSTELLATION
- k. 04 August - 09 August: 422nd TAC D&E Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV.

Enclosure (1)

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- l. 18 August - 23 August: CSAR/Hook 112, Fallon, NV.
- m. 24 August - 14 September: Fallon Airwing Det, Fallon, NV.
- n. 13 September - 19 September: CNO JTIDS Test Hops, Miramar, CA.
- o. 07 October - 18 October: TSTA III, USS CONSTELLATION
- p. 20 October - 04 November: COMPTUEX A, USS CONSTELLATION
- q. 05 November - 07 November: ITA, USS CONSTELLATION
- r. 13 November - 18 November: COMPTUEX B, USS CONSTELLATION.
- s. 04, 10, and 18 December: Counternarcotics, Miramar, CA.

2. Major Command Events

- a. None.

C. NARRATIVE

1. General Contributions to the E-2C Community.
 - a. Instrumental in the evaluation of the HOOK-112 aircrew emergency hand-held radio.
 - b. Engaged in numerous intercepts of suspected drug trafficking vessels while conducting counter narcotics operations in Puerto Rico.
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the JTIDS system with the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron (TES) at Nellis AFB. Exercise proved highly successful with a sortie completion rate of 100%.
 - d. Wrote policy and integrated tactical usage of Have Quick radios throughout Carrier Air Wing TWO.
 - e. Provided valuable inputs for the follow-on Aviation Life Support System (ALSS) and HEED system to include: Parachute system, Oxygen system, Survival Vest (SV-2B), Lumbar support, Anti-exposure gear and hearing protection.
 - f. Spearheaded the development and testing of the tactical cockpit laptop display.

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D. ANNUAL SQUADRON SUMMARY.

1. In January, conducted Fleet Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (FFARP) in El Centro, California with VF-2. In addition, the Sun Kings participated in a Joint Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) exercise, in Fallon, NV, where the HOOK 112 survival radio was evaluated.
2. In February and March, deployed to Puerto Rico to conduct Counter Drug Operations for JIATF-E. While on deployment, detached to Key West, Florida to provide surveillance support to "Brothers to the Rescue" memorial service.
3. In April, flew several missions in support of Marine Aviation Weapons Training Squadron ONE (MAWTS-1). The Sun Kings evaluated the potential use of the E-2C in Marine Corps combat exercises.
3. In April and May, conducted Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) in Fallon, Nevada with VFMA-323, VFA-151 and VFA-137. In addition, the Sun Kings flew missions in support of Seal Team 3.
4. In June, participated in Roving Sands joint exercise, where the Sun Kings acted as both blue and red forces.
5. In July, detached for two weeks onboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) for Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA) I/II.
6. In August, detached to Nellis, Air Force Base to train with Air Force assets evaluating advanced missile tactics using JTIDS.
7. In August, detached to Fallon, Nevada for Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) exercises. In addition, participated in Fallon Weapons detachment.
8. In October and November, participated in TSTA III, COMPTUEX A/B, and ITA on USS Constellation.
9. The Sun King safety statistics for 1996 included 21 years of class A mishap free flying, surpassing 43,500 hours.

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COMMAND MISSION

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN (VAW-116) is a four-plane Airborne Early Warning (AEW) Squadron under the command of Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO.

VAW-116 operates four twin-turboprop E-2C "Hawkeye" aircraft, each capable of all-weather carrier and shore-based operations. The E-2C is 57 feet 7 inches long, has an 80 feet and 7 inches wing span and weighs 55,000 pounds at maximum gross weight. Its most distinguishing physical characteristics are its four vertical stabilizers and its 24 foot diameter, dish shaped rotodome mounted six feet above the fuselage.

The five man crew consists of a pilot, co-pilot, Combat Information Center Officer (CICO), Air Control Officer (ACO) and Radar Operator (RO). This highly skilled crew, when working as a coordinated team, can perform the following missions:

1. Airborne Early Warning (AEW)--the detection of unknown air contacts closing the Task Force.
2. Battle Space Management
3. Tactical Aircraft Intercept Control (AIC).
4. Strike Flight Following/Control.
5. Surface/Subsurface Surveillance Coordination (SSSC), including interface with S-3 aircraft via voice and Link-11.
6. Data Link control and relay via Link 4 (air only), Link 11 and JTIDS for surface and air assets.
7. Helicopter Control.
8. Aerial Mining Control.
9. Tactical Reconnaissance Aircraft Control.
10. Secondary Approach Assistance for carrier aircraft.
11. Communications relay, both manual and automatic.
12. Airborne Search and Rescue Coordination (SAR).

Enclosure (2)