DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
UNIT 25422
FPO AP 96601-6405

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
Ser 00/

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN

To: Chief of Naval Operations, Director Air Warfare Division, Special Assistant for Publications and Operational Records (N78H)

Subj: CALENDER YEAR 2002 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Biography and Photo of CDR Plummer, Commanding Officer, VAW-117
(3) Biography and Photo of CDR Oberst, Commanding Officer, VAW-117
(4) 09 DEC 02 Change of Command Press Release
(5) Photograph of E-2C Hawkeye 2000
(6) 3.5" Disk, Filename; VAW-117CommandHistory2002

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) - (6) are submitted for permanent retention.

2. Point of contact is LTJG Barefoot, Squadron Public Affairs Officer, email: barefod@nimitz.navy.mil.

C.W. Plummer

VAW-117 "WALLBANGERS"
COMMAND HISTORY REPORT
CY-2002

COMMAND COMPOSITION and Organization

1. **Command Short Title:** CARAEWRON ONE ONE SEVEN

2. **Unit Identification Code:** 09985

3. **Mission:** Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE SEVEN carries out electronic search and radar warfare functions along with command and control of carrier and land based tactical aircraft.

4. **Commanding Officer(s):** CDR J.C. Oberst, USN; CDR C.W. Plummer, USN

5. **Immediate Senior Command:** CAPT C.R. Wright, CVW-11

5. **Type/ number of Aircraft with Tailcode:**

   a. Type: E-2C Hawkeye 2000

   b. Number of Aircraft: 4

   c. Tailcode: Aircraft 600 - 165649
   Aircraft 601 - 165650
   Aircraft 602 - 165811
   Aircraft 603 - 165812

Chronology

1. 01Jan02 - 18Jan02: WESTPAC2001

2. 23Jan02: Accepted Delivery of First Hawkeye 2000

3. 20Mar02 - 21Apr02: Counter Narcotics Detachment, Puerto Rico

4. 28Mar02: Accepted Delivery of Second Hawkeye 2000

5. 16Jun02 - 29Jun02: Desert Rescue X, NAS Fallon

6. 18Jul02: Accepted Delivery of Third Hawkeye 2000

7. 28Jul02 - 15Aug02: Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP), NAS Fallon

8. 13Sep02 - 23Sep02: Tailored Ships Training Assessment II/III (TSTA), SOCAL OP Area

9. 23Oct02: Accepted Delivery of Fourth Hawkeye 2000

10. 01Nov02 - 15Nov02: Battle Group Sustainment Operations, SOCAL OP Area

11. 01Dec02 - 21Dec02: Air Wing Fallon(CVW Weapons Detachment), NAS Fallon

12. 09Dec02: Change of Command, CDR C.W. Plummer relieved by CDR J.C.Oberst, NAS Fallon

A. **Operational Assessments (calendar year 2002):**

1. Flight Hours

(a) Total Hours Flown: 1618.6

(b) Total Hours Flown Ashore:

(1) Ashore Day Hrs: 1045.5

(2) Ashore Night Hrs: 269.7

(c) Total Sorties Ashore:

(1) Day: 408

(2) Night: 131

(d) Total Embarked Hours:

(1) Day Embarked Hours: 207.2

(2) Night Embarked Hours: 96.2

(e) Total Sorties Embarked:

(1) Day: 70

(2) Night: 40

2. Shipboard Landings

(a) Total Carrier Arrested Landings:
(1) Day: 128

(2) Night:74

(b) Boarding Rate (day/night/overall): 99.7/94.6/97.8

(c) Carrier Landing Grades (COMNAVAIRPACINST/COMNAVAIRLANTINST 1520.3 applies):

	CY(current)	CY(last)	% Change
Overall	3.404	3.408	-0.1%
Day	3.452	3.406	+1.3%
Night	3.356	3.410	-1.6%

B. Squadron Awards

CY2001 CNAP BATTLE "E"
CY2001 SAFETY "S"
Navy Unit Commendation
COMPACFLT Retention Honor Roll

C. Individual Awards

All OEF aircrew received Navy Commendation Medals with Combat Devices, Strike Flight Air Medals and National Defense Service Medals.

Narrative

(1). 01Jan02 - 18Jan02: WESTPAC2001

VAW-117's WESTPAC deployment was nothing less than spectacular due to its support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (7 Oct 01 - 16 Dec 01). Over a ten-week span, the Wallbangers flew 333 sorties and 1270 flight hours with a 97% sortie completion rate in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The Bangers' direct and continuous contributions to contingency planning, command and control execution, data link management and coalition liaison earned the squadron a theater-wide reputation of excellence envied by all. The squadron's phenomenal efforts directly contributed to the success of Air Wing ELEVEN, the USS CARL VINSON Battle Group and the war on terrorism. The first few weeks of 2002 gave VAW-117 an opportunity to come home and prepare to transition to the new Hawkeye 2000.

(2). 23Jan02: VAW-117 took delivery of first Hawkeye 2000

The Wallbangers were tasked with transitioning to the Fleet's newest weapon system, the Hawkeye 2000 aircraft. Arrangements with Naval Air Systems Command were developed to provide squadron personnel with training from Northrop Grumman and Flight Test Engineers and Aircrew. The publications distributed were preliminary versions and required fleet review. Some of the maintenance publications were not available and technical drawings were still under modification. The Wallbangers eagerly tallied this nascent, technically demanding, training intensive program and rapidly became the subject-matter experts meeting and exceeding all testing requirements. This advancement in air warfare and command and control will provide Joint Force Commanders the Battlespace Dominance required for forward deployed operations for years to come. In addition to an accelerated IDTC, which included Counter Narcotics operations in the Caribbean, Desert Rescue X, IDTC exercises onboard USS NIMITZ and Air Wing Fallon Detachment, VAW-117 expertly supported every aspect of Hawkeye 2000 testing. Testing and evaluation of these critical subsystems provided invaluable contributions to platform development.

(3). 20Mar02 - 21Apr02: Counter Narcotics Detachment, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico

In March 2002, just two months back from a combat deployment, the squadron deployed on a one-month COUNTER NARCOTICS (CN) Operation at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The limited supply support and paucity of logistics material at Roosevelt Roads required extraordinary planning by VAW-117's maintenance professionals. The squadron excelled and overcame these obstacles, supporting JIATF East's counter narcotics missions with over 300 hours and a 98 percent sortie completion rate. The Wallbangers proved that a highly skilled team makes a difference in the Secretary of Defense's contribution to waging the President's "War on Drugs".

(4). 16Jun02 - 29Jun02: Desert Rescue X, NAS Fallon

The Wallbangers sought the most challenging joint missions for training during our turnaround period and participated in DESERT RESCUE X at NAS Fallon, NV to exercise Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) operations. Aircrew gained invaluable tactical experience in CSAR while refining Joint Tactics Techniques and Procedures for future operations. The Wallbangers raised the benchmark in Combined Command Control Communications and Intelligence (C^3I), employing the aircraft's extensive communication and data-link systems. The squadron's skilled air controllers excelled and provided

flawless link management for ground stations. The squadron was able to fly 26 sorties and 55.1 hours during Desert Rescue.

(5). 28Jul02 - 15Aug02: Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program(SFARP)

In August 2002, VAW-117 as part of Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW-11) conducted Strike Fighter Advance Readiness Program exercise controlling aircraft and providing battle management. VAW-117 served as a cornerstone in creating a cohesive and combat-ready CVW-11 team. Exercise evaluator's from Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific stated VAW-117's performance was well ahead of training cycle schedule and sortie completion exceeded previous Air Wing training detachments. Since the E-2C community lacks a test squadron, the Wallbangers performed data extraction for system engineers to analyze anomalies noted by aircrew in the aircraft's updated software. Avionics and power plant expertise and indefatigable dedication ensured ever-ready E-2C Mission Capable aircraft contributed to squadron's successful accomplishment of training goals and the Air Wing's improved integration. 43 sorties and 123.7 flight hours provided aircrew ample time for training.

(6). 13Sep02 - 23Sep02: Tailored Ships Training Assessment II/III (TSTA)

Naval Aviation's mission is operating from sea. The squadron deployed onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) with CVW-11 in September 2002 for Tailored Ships Training Assessment II/III. The Wallbangers provided the NIMITZ Battle Group it's first look at the Hawkeye 2000 aircraft and successfully employed Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) and satellite communications contributing to the Fleet's increased combat survivability and joint interoperability. Maintenance personnel were challenged by the aircrafts unique power requirements and worked with flight deck personnel to keep the aircraft up and ready.

(7). 01Nov02 - 15Nov02: Battle Group Sustainment aboard CVN-68 USS NIMITZ

During the first half of November, VAW-117 was back onboard USS NIMITZ for a Battle Group Sustainment period. The at sea period provided VAW-117 another opportunity to train with the rest of CVW-11 and to complete more CEC testing with the Battle Group. VAW-117 participated in Exercise Roving Burro while underway. Roving Burro was a detect to engage exercise, designed to reduce the time window for detecting and engaging theatre ballistic missiles(TBM). VAW-117 served as a conduit of targeting information between Joint Forces working to detect TBMs, the Battle Group, and aircraft striking the time sensitive targets. VAW-117 flew 51 sorties and 142 hours during Battle Group Sustainment.

(8). 01Dec - 21Dec02: Air Wing Fallon, NAS Fallon

VAW-117 participated in numerous events during Air Wing Fallon, ranging from overland strikes, long range strikes, combat search and rescue, close air support, and time sensitive targeting. Air Wing Fallon provides many challenges for the aircrew and the maintainers, but VAW-117 was able to show its flexibility and expertise in its new E-2C Hawkeye 2000. Valuable time was spent planning, integrating inorganic assets, and maximizing the Hawkeye 2000's new capabilities to provide a coherent and accurate tactical picture. Completing 78 sorties and 234 flight hours, the aircrew training afforded at Air Wing Fallon was second to none.

During the detachment to NAS Fallon, VAW-117 held a change of command ceremony on 9Dec02. CDR J.C. Oberst was relieved by CDR Christopher W. Plummer.