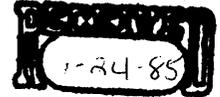




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE
FPO NEWYORK 09501

1983



5750
Ser 00/022
15 JAN 1985

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

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY; SUBMISSION OF

Ref: (a) CNO ltr, OP-05D2, ser 000802 of 5 DEC 1984
(b) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) 1983 Command History

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE's command history for calendar year 1983 is hereby submitted as enclosure (1).

W. C. Liebe
W. C. LIEBE

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

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SCREWTOP HISTORY 1983

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
COMMANDING OFFICER	CDR MAHOOD	13 MAR 1982	16 MAY 1983
	CDR BUNTON	16 MAY 1983	31 DEC 1983
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	CDR BUNTON	13 MAR 1982	13 MAY 1983
	CDR LIEBE	14 MAY 1983	31 DEC 1983
MAINTENANCE OFFICER	CDR REIF	19 JUN 1982	3 OCT 1983
	LCDR GROSEL	3 OCT 1983	31 DEC 1983
OPERATIONS OFFICER	LCDR ACHILLE	8 DEC 1982	1 MAY 1983
	LCDR DUNLAP	1 MAY 1983	31 DEC 1983
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	LCDR GROSEL	8 DEC 1982	29 JUL 1983
	LCDR LANG	29 JUL 1983	31 DEC 1983
SAFETY OFFICER	LCDR WELLER	8 NOV 1982	7 OCT 1983
	LCDR PYLES	7 OCT 1983	31 DEC 1983

SCREWTOP AIRCRAFT

<u>1 JAN 1983</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT TRANSACTIONS</u>	<u>31 DEC 1983</u>
158641		161097
161097	AUG 1983 161097 TRANSFERRED TO VAW-124	161098
160697		160697
159112	AUG 1983 161098 RECEIVED TO VAW-123	159112

NARRATIVE

On 8 December 1982, VAW-123, attached to CVW-1 onboard USS AMERICA (CV-66), departed Norfolk for an extended deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean. 1983 began with the SCREWTOPS at sea, transiting toward the central Mediterranean for joint exercises with USS NIMITZ (CVN-68). During the first week of January, in addition to dual Battle Group operations, the squadron controlled Airwing airborne refueling qualifications with Air Force KC-135 tankers and bombing missions on the Augo Nisi target in southern Sicily. In the middle of January, the Battle Group transited to the Eastern Mediterranean, making a port call in Athens, Greece from the 23rd through the 28th of January. Following a final two days of Mediterranean operations, the Battle Group transited southward through the Suez Canal enroute to the North Arabian Sea and ultimately into the Indian Ocean.

During February, March and April, the SCREWTOPS conducted routine AEW missions in support of the Battle Group. In addition, numerous exercises were conducted; a Weapons Week at Diego Garcia, Operation GLAD CUSTOMER (raids by Air Force B-52s), ASWEX (Boston Tea Party) and Operation BEACON FLASH with the Sultan of Oman's Air Force. This latter exercise provided extremely realistic training in the control of dissimilar air combat maneuvering (DACM) missions and opposed overland air strikes. Indian Ocean port calls included Sri Lanka (7-12 March) and Mombasa, Kenya (5-11 May).

Enclosure (1)

On 4 May, the Battle Group transited the Suez Canal northward, returning for duty once again to the SIXTH Fleet. Limited operations were conducted during a short transit to the Western Mediterranean, ending with a port call to Malaga, Spain. During this port visit, CDR Ray L. BUNTON relieved CDR James N. MAHOOD as Commanding Officer on 16 May. CDR William C. LIEBE reported aboard as Executive Officer.

On 23 May, the AMERICA "outchopped" SIXTH Fleet enroute to Norfolk. Heavy flight operations during the 10 day transit allowed a thorough evaluation of the new Collins ARC-182 "Have Quick" radio suite. This new system proved invaluable in fleet exercises conducted against the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) prior to the SCREWTOPS return to Norfolk on 1 June.

For the next five months, through early November, VAW-123 operated primarily out of NAS Norfolk, conducting extensive "turnaround" operations in AEW, AICs and SSSC. Of particular note was a period of dedicated operations in a jamming environment. This training in particular provided a highly realistic environment for SCREWTOP controllers. In July 1983, the squadron sent a detachment of 3 aircraft to Homestead Air Force Base in support of Operation THUNDERBOLT, a Vice Presidential Task Force created to combat the influx of drugs into south Florida. Squadron E-2s provided early detection and radar tracking of suspicious targets while U.S. Customs aircraft acted as intercept platforms. Two additional detachments rounded out the turnaround period, "Orange Air" tasking at NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico from 13-26 August and CVW-1 Weapons Week at NAS Fallon, Nevada from 15-27 October.

On 2 November, the AMERICA and CVW-1 received orders to proceed to sea on a "No-Notice Exercise" two weeks prior to the scheduled departure date. Airwing and squadron personnel responded to the challenge with professional dedication, resulting in a superbly coordinated turnaround and on-load. Within a matter of hours the squadron was fully aboard and operationally ready.

From 2 November through 16 December VAW-123 operated in the Jacksonville warning areas off the coast of Florida, conducting carrier qualifications and refresher training. On 19 November, with the entire Airwing fully carrier qualified, TYT-1 commenced. Despite a severely compressed schedule, this initial type training proved to be an unqualified success for the SCREWTOPS. Highlighting TYT air operations were long range strikes, vector logic exercises and extended round-the-clock operations, all controlled by the airborne E-2C.

Following an enjoyable port visit to Nassau, Bahamas (1-5 December), the SCREWTOPS spent an additional 11 days at sea off the coast of south Florida. A variety of exercises were conducted, including air intercepts using the new ARC-182 radio. This new capability proved especially valuable during numerous "real world" intercepts of Soviet BEAR "Ds" and "Fs".

The squadron returned to Norfolk on 15 December, just in time for the Christmas holidays with family and friends.