

1987



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571
Subj: 1987 COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D
Encl: (1) Command Organization
(2) Chronology of Events CY-87

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted for VAW-123 1987 Calendar Year History.

W. J. Tyson III
W. J. TYSON, III
Acting

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VAW-123 COMMAND ORGANIZATION

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123 (VAW-123). The SCREWTOPS fly the Grumman E-2C Hawkeye and are assigned to Carrier Air Wing ONE (CVW-1) when embarked aboard USS AMERICA (CV-66). While ashore, VAW-123 is attached to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing TWELVE based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia. The squadron's primary mission is to provide airborne early warning (AEW) and command and control services to fleet forces with prompt and sustained combat operations at sea in direct support of the carrier air wing, carrier battle group and the Navy's global maritime strategy. VAW-123 is presently commanded by Commander D. S. LUEBBECKE.

Enclosure (1)

VAW-123 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS CY 1987

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------|---------------------------------|
| 01 Jan | - | 05 Jan | INPORT NORFOLK |
| 06 Jan | - | 27 Jan | CVN-71 SHAKEDOWN, GITMO OPAREA |
| 28 Jan | - | 03 Feb | INPORT NASSAU |
| 04 Feb | - | 19 Feb | CVN-71 OPS JAX OPAREA |
| 20 Feb | - | 28 Feb | INPORT NORFOLK |
| 09 Mar | - | 12 Mar | CVN-71 CQ |
| | | Apr | AFWTF MISSELEX - PROA |
| | | 14 Mar | CVN/CV-1 WSE |
| 24 Mar | - | 25 Mar | CVN-71 LINKEX |
| 27 Apr | - | 31 Apr | T BOLT-GTM |
| | | 28 Apr | CG-48 WASEX |
| 03 May | - | 08 May | SOLID SHIELD - NORVA |
| 12 May | - | 14 May | CVW-13 JAMEX - VACAPES |
| 18 May | - | 19 May | CG-51 TRIALS - BRUNSWICK |
| | | 21 May | CG-53 SHOCK TRIALS - JAXOA |
| 29 May | - | 03 Jun | CNO PROJ 251 - PROA |
| | | 17 Jun | CG-48 AAWEX - VACAPES |
| | | 18 Jun | MAG-31 MOA-EX - BEAUFORT |
| 18 Jun | - | 22 Jun | CNO PROJ 251 - EGLIN |
| 01 Jul | - | 02 Jul | VANDALEX - NORVA |
| 06 Jul | - | 10 Jul | FAST - NORVA |
| | | 13 Jul | CNO PROJ 179 - JAXOA |
| 13 Jul | - | 14 Jul | ORANGE AIR - JAXOA |
| 14 Jul | - | 19 Jul | CNO PROJ 251/OTL - EGLIN |
| 27 Jul | - | 30 Jul | EMBARKED (CQ) - CVN-71 |
| 04 Aug | - | 14 Aug | EMBARKED - CVN-71 |
| 24 Aug | - | 28 Aug | TPS SUPPORT - PAX RIVER |
| 24 Aug | - | 26 Aug | LINK 4 OPS - CECIL |
| 11 Sep | - | 18 Sep | TBOLT - PROA |
| 22 Sep | - | 23 Sep | CNO-124 - NORVA |
| 25 Sep | - | 09 Oct | FFARP VF-102 - NORVA |
| 19 Oct | - | 23 Oct | NWP-55-1-E2 REVISION CONFERENCE |
| 24 Oct | - | 07 Nov | RED FLAG 88-1 - NELLIS |
| 01 Nov | - | 07 Nov | RED FLAG 88-1 - NELLIS |
| 12 Nov | - | 15 Nov | FCG CV-56 |
| 13 Nov | - | 19 Nov | TBOLT - CORPUS CHRISTI |
| 01 Dec | - | 03 Dec | MAW 2 MISSILEX - VACAPES |
| 07 Dec | - | 10 Dec | CAROLINA COMBAT ACE - VACAPES |
| | | 16 Dec | CHANGE OF COMMAND |
| 17 Dec | - | 22 Dec | TBOLT - GITMO |

MAJOR EXERCISES/SPECIAL OPERATIONS

06 Jan - 20 Feb 87: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) shakedown. Embarked aboard ship, The Screwtops provided C3 services for ship and integrated air wing operations. Although a reduced air wing complement (detachments from VF-33, VF-102, VS-32, HS-11, VA-176 (KA-6) and VAW-123) resulted in a limited variety of missions, five to seven cycles daily was the norm with CAP/AIC, DACT and SSC the most common tasking. After a port visit to Nassau and cyclic Operations in the JAX OPAREA, the Screwtops returned home 20 February.

09 Mar - 12 Mar 87: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) carrier qualifications.

24 Mar - 25 Mar 87: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) Combat Direction Center (CDC) validation. Provided communications, tracking and data link services during successful validation exercises.

April - During a MISSELEX detachment to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico in April 1987, the Screwtops became the third E-2C squadron in as many detachments unable to establish 2-way LINK-11 (TADIL A) with the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF). Investigations into this problem by squadron personnel identified it's cause. Further research, technical advise from FCDSSA personnel, and LINK-11 simulations conducted with NTISA Det 2 Norfolk, yielded a solution which was forwarded to AFWTF immediately. No further technical problems with AFWTF/E-2C LINK-11 operations were experienced.

27 Apr - 31 Apr 87: Operation Thunderbolt, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

28 Apr 87: USS YORKTOWN (CG-48) War-at-Sea exercise. Controlled USAF F-15A aircraft in a conventional Cap Station AAWEX against USN F-14A aircraft conducting simulated attacks on USS YORKTOWN.

03 May - 08 May 87: Operation SOLID SHIELD. Provided C3 functions for all participating aircraft.

12 May 87: VAW-123 receives the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Excellence Award.

12 May - 14 May 87: USS CORAL SEA/CVW-13 Jamming Exercise. Successfully provided air intercept control in a dense ECM environment.

18 May - 19 May 87: USS MOBILE BAY (CG-51), shock trials support. Provided range surveillance and communications services during acceptance shock testing.

21 May 87: USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG-53) shock trials support.

29 May - 03 May 87: CNO Project 251, NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Provided range surveillance and AIC support for multiple, successful firing of TASM variant of the Tomahawk missile. During this exercise squadron personnel successfully identified long-standing data link technical difficulties between the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Testing Facility (AFWTF), and E-2C aircraft. Subsequent data link simulations conducted with NITSA DET 2, Norfolk, revealed problem causes, and solutions were implemented at AFWTF.

01 Jun - 02 Jun 87: VANDALEX, VACAPES OPAREA. Provided C3 and range surveillance support for the employment of the AEGIS weapon system against the Vandal target drone in a high speed, low altitude profile. Exercise enabled realistic training for surface ship weapons systems against a real world threat simulation.

01 Jun - 02 Jun 87: VANDALEX, VACAPES OPAREA.

06 Jun - 10 Jun 87: Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST), Norfolk.

17 Jun 87: USS YORKTOWN (CG-48) AAWEX, VACAPES OPEREA.

18 Jun 87: MAG-31 AAWEX, MCAS Beaufort, NC. Controlled USMC F/A-18 aircraft in simulated raids on opposing USAF aircraft and USMC forces utilizing IADS tactics.

18 Jun - 22 Jun 87: CNO Project 251/OTL, Eglin AFB, FL. Provided range surveillance, C3, and AIC Services in support of most successful test firings of TLAM and TASM variants of the Tomahawk missile from both surface and sub-surface launch platforms.

13 Jul 87: CNO Project 179, NAS Jacksonville, FL. Provided C3 functions and range surveillance for surface units tracking development exercises.

13 Jul - 14 Jul 87: USS CORAL SEA (CV-43)/CVW-13 Orange Air Support, NAS Jacksonville, FL. Controlled OPFOR aircraft conducting simulated strikes and ECM operations.

14 Jul - 19 Jul 87: CNO Project 251/OTL, Eglin AFB, FL.

27 Jul - 30 Jul 87: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) Fleet Carrier Qualifications, VACAPES OPAREA. After restoring night currency, six days of cyclic Ops provided a refresher in shipboard operations for all aircrew.

Aug - Dec: During August, September and December 1987, squadron personnel were chosen to conduct in-flight evaluations on the AN/APS-139 radar installed in a testbed E-2C at NAS Patuxent River, MD.

04 Aug - 14 Aug 87: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) final acceptance trials, VACAPES OPAREA.

18 Aug - 19 Aug 87: SWOS Department Head School E-2C Awareness Briefings, Newport, RI.

24 Aug - 04 Sep 87: OPTEVFOR APS-139 Test Support, NAS Patuxent River, MD. Conducted in-flight evaluations of the AN/APS-139 radar, the follow-on to the AN/APS-138 currently installed in USN E-2C aircraft.

29 Aug - 30 Aug 87: VANDALEX, VACAPES OPAREA.

11 Sep - 18 Sep 87: Operation Thunderbolt, NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

22 Sep - 23 Sep 87: CNO Project 124, VACAPES OPAREA.

25 Sep 87: FFARP VF-102/33, VACAPES OPAREA.

13 Oct - 17 Oct NWP-55-1-E2 (E2C TACTICAL MANUAL) Revisions Conference. Submitted 3 Chapter revisions, all unanimously accepted.

20 Oct - 21 Oct 87: VANDALEX, VACAPES OPAREA.

24 Oct - 07 Nov 87: RED FLAG 88-1, Nellis AFB, NV. Controlled Blue and Red F-15, F-16, F-4, F-5, F-111, EF-111, B-52, A-10, RAF Tornado, and C-130 aircraft both independently and simultaneously. This was the first time ever in which an E-2C aircraft had controlled both sides of the battle program in this highly complex and ECM intensive exercise.

12 Nov - 16 Nov 87: USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) Fleet Carrier Qualifications, Jacksonville OPAREA.

13 Nov - 19 Nov 87: Operation Thunderbolt, NAS Corpus Christi.

02 Dec - 04 Dec 87: 2ND MAW/VMFA 451 MISSILEX, VACAPES OPAREA. Controlled successful firings of AIM-9M and AIM-7F missiles from USMC F/A-18 aircraft against AQM-37A and BQM-74C target drones.

07 Dec - 10 Dec 87: Operation Carolina Combat Ace, MCAS Cherry Point, NC. Controlled the entire AAW battle for USMC units CAP within an IADS strategy. Received second MAW 150512Z Dec Bravo Zulu.

16 Dec 87: Commander W. Dennis Holbrook, was relieved by Commander Donald S. Luebbecke as Commanding Officer of VAW-123.

17 Dec - 22 Dec 87: Operation Thunderbolt, NAS Guantanamo Bay. This highly successful detachment was responsible for the detection, intercept, and confiscation of 1000 pounds of cocaine. In participation with the COMNAVAIRLANT AREM program, the Screwtops drafted proposals for the following tactical development and evaluation projects: