DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR
UNIT 60139
FPO AE 09507-6410

5750
Ser 00/010
4 Mar 02

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO FOUR
To: Director, Naval Historic Center, Washington Navy Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: CALENDAR YEAR 2000 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) VAW-124 Calendar Year 2000 Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J. S. ANDREWS

VAW-124 CALENDAR YEAR 2000 COMMAND HISTORY

1. **COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:**

a. Short Title: VAW-124.

b. Unit Identification Code: 09526.

c. Squadron Mission: The primary mission of VAW-124 is to provide the Carrier Battle Groups with early detection and warning of enemy forces and to apply command and control required to neutralize that threat. The squadron is fully integrated into the delivery of combat air power from the sea.

d. Organizational Structure:

Immediate Senior Command: CARRIER AIR WING EIGHT

Personnel:

Officers:	30
Flying Status:	26
Intel/Maint:	4
Enlisted:	130

e. Commanding Officer: Commander Steven L. Guse

f. Duty Station: Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO FOUR, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

g. Aircraft: Four Grumman Group 0 E-2C Hawkeyes

AJ 600	163026
AJ 601	163025
AJ 602	163027
AJ 603	162797

Transitioned to Group II E-2C Hawkeyes

AJ 600	163540
AJ 601	164108
AJ 602	163850
AJ 603	163696

2. **CHRONOLOGY:**

10 JAN-9 FEB	COUNTERNARCOTIC OPS - NAS ROOSEVELT ROADS
22 MAR-2 APR	ORANGE AIR - NAS PENSACOLA
12-20 APR	CQ - USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
2-3 MAY	VANDALEX - NS NORFOLK
02 Jun-11 SEP	TRANSITION TO GROUP II HAWKEYES
27 JUN-7 JUL	HUMMER ADVANCED READINESS PROGRAM
26-31 JUL	CQ - USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
12 AUG-2 SEP	A/G SFARP - NAS FALLON
18 SEP-04 OCT	TSTA I/II - USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
18 OCT-10 NOV	AIRWING FALLON - NAS FALLON CVW-8 GOLDEN WRENCH AWARD
30 NOV-04 DEC	CQ - USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)

3. **NARRATIVE:**

a. VAW-124 began 2000 at home in Norfolk but soon left to spend a few weeks in Puerto Rico supporting national tasking. The squadron left Virginia in March for a week of training at NAS Pensacola for operations involving Air Force and other Navy squadrons. The BEAR ACES made their first visit to their new home away from Norfolk, USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) from 12-20 April during CQ.

b. VAW-124 supported a VANDALEX from Norfolk on 2-3 May. The remainder of May was spent preparing for the transition to Group II E-2C Hawkeyes. The arrival of the first Group II, on 2 June, provided both a challenge and a reward for the squadron. Over the next several months, the maintenance department worked countless hours to get our new aircraft ready for operational use. By October, CDR Steve Guse, the Commanding Officer of the BEAR ACES, was able to fly from Norfolk to Fallon and look over his shoulder and proudly see three new Group II Hawkeyes in addition to the one he was flying.

c. VAW-124 started the HUMMER ADVANCED READINESS PROGRAM on 27 June. After briefs and simulators with the staff from NSAWC, the squadron was ready to start training with other squadrons from the airwing. The BEAR ACES left home on 12 August for A/G SFARP at NAS Fallon with two Group II Hawkeyes. With improved APS-145 radars, the E-2C once again proved its value to the airwing during overland strikes.

d. The squadron returned to the ENTERPRISE for a few weeks of workups during TSTA I/II, followed by ten days at home in Norfolk. Then it was back to Nevada for three weeks during airwing Fallon. The BEAR ACES' outstanding performance earned the squadron a 4.5 on a 5.0 scale. While at Fallon, VAW-124 was awarded the CVW-8 Golden Wrench Award for 2000. This award is given to the squadron in AIR WING EIGHT that has the most outstanding performance in its maintenance department. CAPT Jack Godlewski, Commanding Officer of CVW-8, said that VAW-124 deserved the Golden Wrench for their work related to the four new Group II Hawkeyes. Other awards for squadron members included East Coast Hawkeye Pilot of the Year for LT Tim Slentz, Sailor of the Year for AT1(AW) Steven Ott, and BEAR ACE of the Year for AN Zamir Alvarez.

e. After CQ aboard USS ENTERRISE (CVN-65) from 30 November-04 December, the BEAR ACES celebrated the Christmas holidays at home.