

1994 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE
FLEET POST OFFICE, AE 09507-6411

5750
Ser VAW125-00/056-95
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125
To: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publications Division, Naval Historical Center, Bldg. 157-1, Washington

Subj: 1994 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1994 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT
(2) Bimonthly Operating Reports for January to December 1994
(3) CDR G. E. Carter Biography and Photo
(4) CDR J. P. Wilkins Biography and Photo

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted for use by the Director of Naval History.

J P Wilkins
J. P. WILKINS

COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY1994

Command Composition and Organization

1. **Squadron Mission:** The primary mission of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125 (VAW-125) is providing the early detection and warning of airborne and surface threats. The principle, as ancient as warfare, involves the use of long range radar and sophisticated computer controlled electronic systems to detect, identify, and report threats while still distant from the fleet task force.

2. **Organizational Structure:** VAW-125 reports directly to Carrier Air Wing 17 (CVW-17). While ashore, VAW-125 reports to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

3. **Name of Commander:** CDR G. E. CARTER 01 JAN - 28 OCT 94
CDR J. P. WILKINS 28 OCT - 31 DEC 94

4. **Permanent Duty Station:** Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA

5. **Type and Number of Aircraft:** (Tailcode AA)
E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #160699 (JAN 94 - DEC 94) 600
E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #161227 (JAN 94 - DEC 94) 601
E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #161346 (JAN 94 - DEC 94) 602
E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #160703 (JAN 94 - DEC 94) 603
E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #162618 (JUN 94 - DEC 94) 604

CHRONOLOGY

12 JAN SAIL FROM MAYPORT, FLORIDA ON BOARD USS SARATOGA
(CV 60)

12 JAN - 14 JAN FLY ON 4 E-2C AIRCRAFT--CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS

15 JAN - 25 JAN TRANSIT ATLANTIC OCEAN, EAST BOUND

26 JAN ENTER MEDITERRANEAN SEA (INCHOP)/TURNOVER WITH
USS AMERICA (CV 66)

27 JAN - 28 JAN ADRIATIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR) IN-BRIEFS

01 FEB - 24 FEB OPERATION DENY FLIGHT/PROVIDE PROMISE--ADRIATIC
SEA

25 FEB - 28 FEB IN PORT TRIESTE, ITALY

01 MAR - 09 MAR OPERATION DENY FLIGHT/PROVIDE PROMISE--ADRIATIC
SEA

10 MAR - 12 MAR TRANSIT TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

13 MAR - 17 MAR EXERCISE NOBLE STALLION, ISRAEL

18 MAR - 19 MAR TRANSIT TO ADRIATIC SEA

20 MAR - 21 MAR OPERATION DENY FLIGHT/PROVIDE PROMISE--ADRIATIC
SEA

22 MAR - 25 MAR IN PORT TRIESTE, ITALY

26 MAR - 27 MAR TRANSIT CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

28 MAR - 30 MAR LONG RANGE STRIKES AT AVGO NISI, GREECE

31 MAR DISSIMILAR AIRCRAFT COMBAT TRAINING (DACT)
AGAINST HELLENIC (GREEK) AIR FORCE

01 APR TRANSIT TO ADRIATIC SEA

02 APR - 06 APR OPERATION DENY FLIGHT/PROVIDE PROMISE--ADRIATIC
SEA

03 APR - 07 APR EAGLE ARENA (2 LIAISON OFFICERS TO EGYPT)

07 APR - 15 APR TRANSIT/IN PORT NAPLES, ITALY

16 APR - 30 APR TRANSIT/OPERATION DENY FLIGHT/PROVIDE PROMISE
ADRIATIC SEA

01 MAY - 02 MAY TRANSIT TO WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

03 MAY - 08 MAY IN PORT PALMA, SPAIN

09 MAY - 18 MAY TRANSIT/ EXERCISE DYNAMIC IMPACT, WESTERN
MEDITERRANEAN

19 MAY TRANSIT WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

20 MAY - 28 MAY IN PORT VALENCIA, SPAIN

29 MAY - 09 JUN TRANSIT/EXERCISE ILES D'OR, WESTERN
MEDITERRANEAN

10 JUN - 11 JUN TRANSIT WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

12 JUN TURNOVER WITH USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
ENTER ATLANTIC OCEAN (OUTCHOPP MEDITERRANEAN)

13 JUN - 22 JUN TRANSIT ATLANTIC, WEST BOUND

23 JUN FLY OFF--4 E-2C AIRCRAFT

24 JUN USS SARATOGA IN PORT MAYPORT, FL

20 AUG USS SARATOGA DECOMMISSIONED

12 SEP MISSILE FIRING EXERCISE WITH VF-103, VIRGINIA
CAPES OPERATING AREAS (VACAPES OPAREAS)

18 SEP MISSILE FIRING EXERCISE WITH VF-101, VIRGINIA
OPERATING AREAS (VACAPES OPAREAS)

18 SEP - 21 SEP ORANGE AIR EXERCISE AGAINST EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
BATTLE GROUP, VACAPES AND CHERRY POINT, NC
OPAREAS)

27 SEP DEPLOYED AIRWING READINESS TRAINING (DART) VA-35
AND VF-103, VACAPES OPAREAS

13 OCT - 22 OCT EXERCISE DESERT RESCUE 4, NAS FALLON, NEVADA

19 OCT - 21 OCT DDG 60 SEA TRAILS, GULF OF MAINE

25 OCT CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS, USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65),
VACAPES OPAREAS

28 OCT CHANGE OF COMMAND

01 NOV EXERCISE HORNET'S NEST, VACAPES OPAREAS

05 NOV DEPENDENTS'S DAY CRUISE, USS ENTERPRISE,
VACAPES OPAREAS

07 NOV DATA LINK SERVICES FOR USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)

08 NOV - 11 NOV CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS ON BOARD USS ENTERPRISE
(CVN 65)

10 NOV JOINT COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE, VACAPES
AND CHERRY POINT OPAREAS.

01 DEC - 10 DEC ORANGE AIR DETACHMENT AGAINST USS THEODORE
ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) BATTLE GROUP, NAS ROOSEVELT
ROADS, PUERTO RICO

COMMAND HISTORY
FOR 1994

DETACHMENTS/DEPLOYMENTS

USS SARATOGA (CV 60)	12 JAN 94 - 24 JUN 94
NAS FALLON, DESERT RESCUE 4	13 OCT 94 - 22 OCT 94
NAS ROOSEVELT ROADS, ORANGE AIR	01 DEC 94 - 10 DEC 94

PORT VISITS AND TIME IN PORT

TRIESTE, ITALY	25 FEB 94 - 28 FEB 94
TRIESTE, ITALY	22 MAR 94 - 25 MAR 94
NAPLES, ITALY	07 APR 94 - 15 APR 94
PALMA, SPAIN	03 MAY 94 - 08 MAY 94
VALENCIA, SPAIN	20 MAY 94 - 28 MAY 94

MAJOR OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES

OPERATIONS DENY FLIGHT AND PROVIDE PROMISE - ADRIATIC SEA

02 FEB - 24 FEB
01 MAR - 09 MAR
20 MAR - 21 MAR
02 APR - 06 APR
16 APR - 30 APR

EXERCISE NOBEL STALLION - EAST MED (ISRAEL)

13 MAR - 17 MAR

LONG RANGE SIMULATED AIR STRIKES - CENT MED (AVGO NISI TARGET)

28 MAR - 30 MAR

DACT WITH GREEK (HELLENIC) AIR FORCE

31 MAR

EXERCISE EAGLE ARENA - EAST MED (EGYPT)

03 APR - 07 APR

NATO EXERCISE DYNAMIC IMPACT - WEST MED

09 MAY - 18 MAY

NATO EXERCISE ILES D'OR - WEST MED (FRANCE)

29 MAY - 09 JUN

ORANGE AIR AGAINST USS EISENHOWER (CVN 69), VIRGINIA CAPES/CHEERY POINT, NC OPAREAS

18 SEP - 21 SEP

EXERCISE DESERT RESCUE, NAS FALLON, NEVADA

13 OCT - 22 OCT

HORNET, S NEST, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREAS

01 NOV

ORANGE AIR AGAINST USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) BATTLE GROUP,
PUERTO RICO OPAREAS
01 DEC - 10 DEC

NARRATIVE.

The TIGERTAILS of VAW-125, home based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia, deployed on board USS SARATOGA (CV 60) on 12 January for the ship's twenty-second and final deployment (MED 1-94).

During the deployment, the TIGERTAILS and Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN (CVW-17) joined NATO forces flying in support of Operations PROVIDE PROMISE - Adriatic operations in support of United Nations relief efforts for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and DENY FLIGHT - Adriatic operations enforcing the United Nations No-Fly Zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. The squadron's four E-2C aircraft provided airspace surveillance, control, and communications support over the Bosnia-Herzegovina area ensuring safe flight for all U.S. and United Nations air forces.

Operating areas during the deployment spanned the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas and, though on an operational "tether" to the Adriatic Sea, SARATOGA and the TIGERTAILS were able to participate in two highly successful NATO exercises and a joint USN/USAF exercise in Israel. The first NATO exercise, DYNAMIC IMPACT (9-18 May), consisted of naval, air and amphibious operations between the SARATOGA Battle Group and ten NATO countries in the western Mediterranean. The second exercise, ILES D'OR (29 May-9 Jun), saw naval and air operations between the SARATOGA Battle Group and eleven NATO countries in the western Mediterranean. The joint USN/USAF exercise, NOBLE STALLION (13-18 March), gave the TIGERTAILS valuable experience in controlling and opposing U. S. Air Force F-16 fighter aircraft.

A major highlight during the deployment was the TIGERTAILS' operational evaluation of the Navy's prototype mini-Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) satellite communication (SATCOM) system. In addition to providing crucial direct communications to theater commanders in the Adriatic Sea, SATCOM allowed the TIGERTAILS to pioneer a new mission as an Airborne Battlefield Command Control Center (ABCCC). Normally a mission performed by a crew of twelve on board an Air Force EC-130, the TIGERTAILS performed this mission flawlessly and set standards for years to come.

Due to the Navy's budgetary realignment to support world-wide operations in Somalia, Haiti, and the Adriatic Sea, VAW-125 was directed to place all four aircraft into preservation in July. After two months with little flying, the TIGERTAILS

brought their E-2C aircraft out of preservation in September. During September, they provided range surveillance and air control for VF-103 air-to-air missile firings, participated in ORANGE AIR exercises against USS EISENHOWER (CVN 69) Battle Group, and, later that month, controlled VA-35 and VF-103 in simulated air strikes near Dare County, NC.

In October the TIGERTAILS sent an aircraft to NAS Fallon, Nevada to participate in the joint exercise, DESERT RESCUE 4. These operations consisted of search and rescue missions in both peaceful and hostile environments.

In an October 28th change of command ceremony, Commander Jacob Preston Wilkins took command of the TIGERTAILS, relieving Commander Gary Eugene Carter, who reported to USS ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) as the ship's Navigator.

November found the TIGERTAILS controlling F/A-18 "Hornets" in a joint exercise, HORNETS NEST, in the Cherry Point OPAREAS. Against opposing Air Force F-15's, the TIGERTAILS provided air control for VFA-81 simulated air strikes. Later that month, the TIGERTAILS were the strike lead for a Combat Search and Rescue Exercise (CSAREX) in the Virginia Capes/Cherry Point OPAREAS.

In December, the TIGERTAILS took four aircraft to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to participate in ORANGE AIR exercises against the THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Battle Group. After ORANGE AIR commitments were fulfilled, the TIGERTAILS provided range surveillance and air control for a 3-day CVW-17 air-to-air missile firing exercise prior to returning to NAS Norfolk, VA.