



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX
FPO NEW YORK 09501

UAW-126
#974

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
Code 11
1000
10 March 1975

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning
Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0502)
Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1); submission of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is
submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. P. Garthner".

J. P. GARTHNER
By direction

COMMAND HISTORY, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1974

Calendar year 1974 began with "work-ups" in preparation for a Mediterranean deployment scheduled 11 March. On 7 January, VAW-126, embarked in USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) as a component of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN commenced an at sea period during which TYT TWO/THREE and an Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) were completed. The success of the squadron's coordinated and aggressive training program was reflected by an adjective grade of "Outstanding", which was the highest grade ever received by an East Coast VAW Squadron for its performance during on ORE.

Returning on 31 January the squadron continued training while moving from its assigned hangar spaces at NAS Norfolk to aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59).

On 7 February VAW-126 held its 5th Change of Command as CDR David M. KLETTER relieved CDR Harold J. BERNSEN. CDR KLETTER had served as the squadron's Executive Officer during the past year. CDR BERNSEN detached to train for his next assignment as Navigation Officer aboard FORRESTAL.

On 11 March VAW-126 departed Norfolk, Virginia for the squadron's fourth consecutive Mediterranean deployment aboard FORRESTAL. During the deployment the squadron participated in several exercises and in July when open hostilities broke out in Cyprus the FORRESTAL was again tasked. The Sixth Fleet was called upon to provide a stabilizing influence during the Cypriot conflict. In support of Sixth Fleet efforts, VAW-126 flew over 150 hours of airborne surveillance and spent a second unbroken 30 days at-sea with around-the-clock flight operation.

An unexpected and unusual one month extension was received and on the morning of 9 September while the FORRESTAL was homeward bound, VAW-126 cross-decked its men, E-2B aircraft, and 32,000 lbs. of equipment to USS AMERICA (CVA-66) in the Atlantic, achieving another VAW East Coast first. This first mid-ocean transfer of an E-2 squadron from ship to ship provided CVW-8 with AEW assets for the annual exercise, Northern Merger. Despite the inclement weather the squadron received the Air Wing's Top Tailhook Award for Northern Merger.

The squadron returned to NAS, Norfolk on 11 October and soon afterward transferred the last of its E-2B aircraft to West Coast squadrons. Since returning to NAS, Norfolk the squadron has begun intensive training of all personnel in preparation for receiving the new Grumman E-2C Hawkeye aircraft,

Enclosure (1)

scheduled for delivery in February.

During Calendar Year 1974 VAW-126 deployed aboard USS FORRESTAL for a six month Mediterranean cruise and aboard USS AMERICA for a one month North Atlantic deployment. The squadron flew a total of 1,549.1 hours in 535 sorties and completed 442 carrier arrested landings. The squadron received the COMNAVAIRLANT 5-year accident free citation in April and was awarded the coveted NAVAIRLANT Battle Efficiency "E" for 1973-1974.