U.S.S. BAIROKO (CVE-115) Fleet Post Office Francisco, California

RDH:wck CVE115/A12/10 Ser OOI

3 March 1952

INFORMATION

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS DOD THE 5200.13

Commanding Officer and Commander Task Element 95.11 From:

DECLASSIFIED

To:

Chief of Naval Operations

Via:

(1) Commander Task Group 95.1 (2) Commander Task Force NINETY-FIVE

(3) Commander SEVENTH Fleet

(4) Commander Naval Forces, Far East (5) Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet

Action Report 15 February through 26 February 1952 Subj:

Ref:

(a) Article 0705 Navy Regulations

(b) OPNAV INST 3480.4 (c) CINCPACFIT INST 3480.1

(d) CTG 95.1 OpOrder 2-51 (Revised)

(e) CTE 95.11 OpOrder 2-51

(1) Sample Air Schedule Encl:

- 1. In accordance with reference (a), (b), (c), and (d), the action report of Task Element 95.11 for the period 15 February through 26 February 1952 is submitted herewith. The Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BAIROKO (CVE-115) was CTE 95.11 during this period.
- 2. The report is divided into 6 parts, as listed below:

General Natrative. Part I

Chronological order of events. Part II

Part III Remarks on performance of ordnance material and equipment, including ammunition expenditure.

Summary of own and enemy battle damage. Part IV

Part V Personnel performance and casualties.

Comments and recommendations. Part VI

PART I GENERAL NARRATIVE

(A) During the period 15 February 1952 through 26 February 1952 the USS BAIROKO (CVE-115) under the Command of Captain R.D. HOGLE 62672/1310, USN, and the Marine Aircraft Squadron, VMF-312 embarked Lieutenant Colonel J.H. MC GLOTHLIN JR., 07445/7302, USMC, Commanding Officer operated as a part of the U.S. SEVENTH FLEET in Task Force 95, under the operational control of Commander Task Group 95.1. ..

SECRET

RDH:wck CVE115/A12/10 Ser (100)

- (1) The Commanding Officer, USS BAIROKO, was Commander Task Element 95.11 from 2100I 15 February 1652100I 24 February 1952 at which time the Command of the Element was shifted to the Commanding Officer HMS GLORY. During the reporting period, TE 95.11 consisted of one escort carrier and a maximum of 4 DD's acting as screening vessels. The screen was reduced to less than three ships when required by operational demands. The mission of this Task Element was to conduct operations in support of the United Nations Blockade, West Coast of Korea, the United States Eighth Army in Korea (EUSAK) and to render search and rescue assistance as required.
- (2) The enemy forces were the North Korean People's Army and "Volunteer Chinese Communist Forces" in enemy held North Korea. No enemy surface or Air Forces were encountered by this Trsk Element and, therefore, no surface or air action is related. However, enemy small craft operating in the rivers, estuaries, and along the West Coast of Korea were attacked and destroyed by aircraft of this Element when directed or as targets of opportunity.
- (3) During this operating period VMF-312 aircraft flew armed recconaissance, Target Combat Air Patrol, Combat Air Patrol, pre-briefed strikes,
 Air Spot for Naval gunfire, and Photo Recconaissance missions as illustrated
 by schedule, enclosure (1). Of the nine (9) days scheduled in the operating area, one (1) day was lost due to inclement weather delaying arrival,
 thus giving a total of eight (8) days of Air Operations. During these eight
 (8) days VMF-312 flew 31 combat sorties (of which aborted) and four (4)
 administrative flights. There was a total of 652.3 combat hours flown for
 an overall average of 81.5 hours and 40 missions per day. The squadron
 aircraft allowance was 24, the total average aircraft flyable on board 22,
 and the total average aircraft availability 16.
- (4) During this operation period ships of Task Element 95.11 operated in the Korean Coastal area NAN in the vicinity of Lat 37°30N and 124°30E. The screen consisted of the HMS CHARITY (D-29), HMS COSSACK (D-57), USS SOUTHERLAND (DDR-743), and for the last two days HMCS NOOTKA (DDE-213).

PART II CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS

- 1507001 The USS BAIROKO (CVE-115) got underway for the Yellow Sea Area with VMF-312 embarked in company with HMS CHARITY (D-29) and HMS COSSACK (D-57).
- 1511001 Cancelled gunnery firing drills, on towed sleeve, because of inclement weather and reduced visibility.
- 152035I Rough choppy seas necessitated a reduction in speed. This poor weather condition held throughout the night.
- 152166I Relieved the HMS GLORY and assumed duties of CTE 95.11.
- 1600011 Steamed throughout this day at reduced speed due to high winds and high seas-precluding a timely arrival in the operating area for air operations.

RDH:wck CVE115/A12/10 Ser 001

PART II - CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS (CONTID)

161050I The USS SOUTHERLAND (DDR-743) and the USS MARSHALL (DD-676) joined CTE 95.11.

161207I The USS MARSHALL (DD-676) was released from CTE 95.11 to return to Sasebo.

1618001 Arrived in the operating area.

AND PART ARREST OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

17 Feb A total of thirty-eight (38) flights (2 of which were administrative) were flown this date. The weather was generally fair with low overcast and reduced visibility in scattered snow showers.

MERCHANIC

171626I HMS COSSACK (D-57) was detached to carry cut night patrol in the Paengnyong-Do Kirin-Do area. The remainder of the force retired to the southward for the night. VMF mircraft accomplished the following:

34 500 lb GP bombs 0 CAP 241 5" HVAR rockets 12 ARMED RECCO 61 3.5" rockets 0 PHOTO 4 Napalm bombs 16 TARCAP 20,500 Rounds .50 cal. ammo 8 STRIKE 2 Other	ORDIVANOR	EXPENDED	<u>M.1.</u>	SSIONS
61 3.5" rockets 0 PHOTO 4 Napalm bombs 16 TARCAP 20,500 Rounds .50 cal. ammo 8 STRIKE	34	500 lb GP bombs	0	CAP
61 3.5" rockets 0 PHOTO 4 Napalm bombs 16 TARCAP 20,500 Rounds .50 cal. ammo 8 STRIKE	241	5" HVAR rockets	12	ARMED RECCO
20,500 Rounds .50 cal. ammo 8 STRIKE			0	PHOTO
	4	Napalm bombs	16	TARCAP
2 Other	20,500	Rounds .50 cal. amn	no 8	STRIKE
	٠.	·	2	Other

18 Feb A total of 40 flights (8 of which were defensive) were flown this date. The weather remained generally the same.

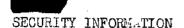
181632I Detached the USS SOUTHERLAND (DDR-743) to carry out night patrol assignment in the Paengnyong-Do Kirin-Do area.

VMF-312 aircraft accomplished the following:

ORINANCE	EXPENDED	MIS	SIONS
27 221 32	1000 1b GP bombs 500 1b GP bombs 5" HVAR rockets 3.5" rockets rounds .50 cal. ammo	8 16	CAP ARMED RECCO TARCAP STRIKE

19 Feb A total of 39 flights (10 of which were defensive) were flown this date. The weather remained gnerally the same.

191614I One F4U-4 missed all wires and crashed into barrier and island. structure. Wreckage quickly cleared - operations continued as usual - on time.



RDH:wck CVEll5/Al2/10 Ser 0**01**

PART II - CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS (CONTID)

ORDINANCE EXPENDED

191625I Detached HMS CHARITY (D-29) to carry out night patrol assignment in the Paegnyong-Do Kirin-Do area.

VMF-312 aircraft accomplished the following:

	CITATIONS THE EXCEPT	4,44,1	BBLONG	
	27 500 lb GP bombs		CAP	
	193 5" HVAR rockets	1/4	TARCAP	
	24 3.5" rockets	9	ARMED RECCO	
	25,600 Rounds .50 cal. a	mano 4	STRIKE	
		2	PHOTO	
Feb	A total of 43 flights (12	of Which were	defensive) which w	ore

20 Feb A total of 43 flights (12 of which were defensive) which were flown this date. The weather remained generally good with improved ceilings and visibility.

201640I HMS COSSACK (D-57) detached to carry out night patrol assignment in the Paegnyong-Do Kirin-Do area.

VMF-312 aircraft accomplished the following:

<u>OR DNANCE</u>	EXPUNDED	MI	SSIONS
28	500 lb GP bombs	12	CAP
183	5" HVAR rockets	16	TARCAP
64	3.5" rockets	12	ARMED RECCO
3	Napalm bombs	3	STRIKE
36,600	Rounds .50 cal. ammo	_	

21 Feb A **Actol**al of 42 flights (10 of which were defensive) were flown this date. The weather was excellent with unlimited ceiling and visibility:

211622I Detached the USS SOUTHERLAND (DER-743) to carry out night patrol assignments in the Paegnyong-Do Kirin-Do area.

VMF-312 aircraft accomplished the following:

ORDNANCE	EXPENDED	MIS	SIONS
	1000 lb GP bombs 500 lb GP bombs		CAP Turcap
235	5" HVAR rockets	8	ARMED RECCO
	Napalm bombs Rounds .50 cal. amnio		STRIKE SPOT

RDH:wck CVE115/A12/10 Ser 001

PART II - CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS (CONT'D)

22 Feb A total of 36 flights (6 of which were defensive and 2 administrative) were flown this date. Weather remained generally excellent.

221618I Detached HMS CHARITY (D-29) to carry out night patrol assignment in the Paegnyong-Do Kirin-Do area.

VMF-312 aircraft accomplished the following:

ORDNANCE	EXPENDED	<u>MIS</u>	SIONS
22	500 lb GP bombs	6	CAP
197	5" HVAR rockets	12	TARCAP
3	Napalm bombs	2	FHOTO
300, 18	Rounds 50 cal ammo	2	SPOT
		j 2	OTHER

23 Feb A total of 40 sorties (12 of which were defensive) were flown this date. The weather remained excellent unrestricted ceiling and visibility.

231315I The ship exercised the crew at General Quarters conducting antiaircraft tracking drills.

231646I Detached HMS COSSACH (D-57) to carry out night patrol assignment in the Pacingnyong-Do Mirin-Do area.

VMF-312 accomplished the following:

ORDNANCE	EXPENDED	MIS	<u>SIONS</u>
224	500 lb GP bombs 5" HVAR rockets Rounds .50 cal amno	16	CAP TARCAP ARIED RECCO

- 24 Feb A total of 43 flights (12 of which were defensive) were flown this date. The weather remained generally excellent with a slightly reduced visibility over the previous day:
- 241430I Detached USS SOUTHERLAND (DER-743) and HMCS NOOTKA (DDE-213) to join Task Element 95.12, to carry out night patrols as assigned, and to join HMS GLORY as directed. Turnover notes, ICDR LUBBERTS from the BAIROKO, and ICDR O'CONNOR from CTF 95 Staff aboard the USS SOUTHERLAND for transfer to HMS GLORY.
- 241815I USS BAIROKO with VMF-312 embarked, accompanied by HMS CHARITY and HMS COSSACK took departure from the operating area for Sasebo, Japan.
- 242100I Command of Task Element 95.11 passed to the Commanding Officer HMS GLORY.

REH: wck CVEll5/Al2/10 Ser0017

PART II - CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS (CONTID)

VMF-312 aircraft accomplished the following:

ORDMANCE EXPENDED	MISSIONS
27 500 lb GP bombs 216 5" HVAR reckets 28,400 Rounds .50 cal ammo	12 CAP 16 TARCAP 11 ARLED RECCO 4 SPOT

25 Feb USS BATROKC with HMS CHARITY, HMS COSSACK enroute Sasebo, Japan.

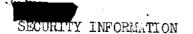
2511001 USS BATROKO, HMS CHARITY and HMS COSSACK coeried out Anti-aircraft firing practice in area GEORGE

251137I HMS CHARITY detached to proceed independently to Kure, Japan in accordance with previous instructions.

251742I Moored at buoy #18, Sasebo harbor to remain through 3 March 1952 for replemnishment and recreation.

PART III - PERFORMANCE OF ORDNANCE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AMMUNI

- A. No undue difficulties were experienced in the handling of ordnance.
- B. A total of 98 rockets, or about five percent of all rockets loaded, both 5 inch HVAR and 3.5 inch W.P., were returned to the ship as hung rockets. 95% these came off the launchers after arrested landings and were immediately jettisoned by means of a ramp extended over the port side of the flight deck. A rolled-up cargo net barrier was pulled into position just aft of the forward elevator as recommended by the USS BADOING STRAIT when recovering aircraft with hung rockets. Cross deck pendants were left in the up position after the aircraft engaged a wire, and in most cases the free rocket was arrested by the cross deck pendants and did not reach the carrier net.
- C. Numerous cases of erratic flight characteristics with the 5" HVAR rocket were reported by the pilots. This erratic flight consisted mainly of a tendency on the part of the rockets to fall off of the anticipated flight path causing the impact point to be short of the target. Whether the difficulty was due to low propellant temperatures, deteriorated propellant, or error in sighting on the part of the pilot has not been determined, but the few remaining 5" rocket motors on board will be turned in and an entire new lot of motors drawn prior to the next employment period.
- D. One underwater explosion resulted from the jettisoning of a 5" HVAR rocket. Depth of water was 40 fathoms. The rocket entered the water fin first and exploded approximately fifteen (15) seconds after entry. Nose arming wire remained attached to the arming solenoid and the vane cup was released from the nose. No other damage was noted to the AN-MK-49 nose fuze prior to jettisoning.



RDH:wck OVE115/A12/10 Ser 001

PART III - PERFORMANCE OF ORDNANCE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AMMUNITION EXPENDITUE CONTOD)

- E. Ammunition expenditures.
- 1. During the operating period covered by this report the following ordnance was expended:

BY VAIF-312 AURCRAFT.

1000 lb. GP bembs	10
500 lb. GP borbs	2.5
5" HVAR rockets	1,710
3.5" rockets	171.
Napaln bombs	i, r,
.50 cal (Belted)	207,425

BY USS BAIRCKO

40MM	1,50%
20 _M M	2,794

PART IV SUMMARY OF O'M AND FREMY BATTLE DAMAGE.

- A, Own Battle damage.
 - 1. None of the ships of the task element sustained battle damage.
- 2. For damage sustained by aircraft see Naval Air Warfare Report (OPNAV 338.5 revised 4-51) submitted for this operating period.
 - B. Battle damage inflicted on the enemy.
- 1. Ships of this Task Element inflicted no damage on the enemy while operating as part of screen during the period covered by this report.
- 2. For battle damage inflicted on the enemy by aircraft of the task element see Naval Air Warfare Report (CPNAV 338.5 revised 3-51) submitted for this operating period.

PART V PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALITIES

- A. Personnel performance was considered to be excellent especially in view of the fact that this was the first combat tour for both the BAIROKO and VMF-312.
 - B. Casualties,
 - 1. No casualties experienced.



RDH:wck CVE115/A12/10 Ser 00%

PART V PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALTIES (CONTID)

- C. Personnel requirements and individual department comments.
 - 1. Executive Department: No comment,
 - 2. Air Department:

VI Division: Adequate rated personnel, but short about ten (10) AN/AA to provide adequate number of plane handlers. This is over and above present complement.

V2 Mivision: No Comment.

V3 Division: No Comment.

V4 Division: Two additional AD or AD strikers required to keep Quick Engage Change unit ready for installation. A ready QEC Unit will expedite shipboard engine changes, and thus cut down on the period of time that aircraft requiring engine changes are not available for combat duty.

V6 Division: Require one (1) Aviation Cheif Boatswain Mate (allowed by complement but not on board) to assist the Gasoline Officer in the proper supervision, operation, and maintenance of the gasoline system, and the refueling and defueling of aircraft.

3. Gunnery Department:

Recommend that this department be brought up to complement as soon as possible. Continious Condition III watches, Condition IAA at dawn and dusk, and the possibility of fueling operations present a serious problem that can be solved only by the presence of adequate personnel. (4 BMl, 1 BM3, 4 GM2, 5 GM3, 1 FCC, 1 FC2, 1 FT1).

- 4. Medical Department: No Comment.
- 5. Supply Department: No Comment.
- 6. Navigation Papartment:

Recommend that a second and first class QM and two seamen allowed by complement but not on board be made available at the earliest possible time to bring this department up to best possible combat readiness.

7. Squadron:

Recommend that one (1) engineering clerk MOS 7031, and six (6) aircraft engine mechanics MOS 6413 and three (3) metalsmiths MOS 6444 be added to the squadron complement in order to provide more efficient operations while at sea. Squadron in excess two (2) Electronics technicians MOS 6600.



RDH:wck-CVE115/A12/10 Ser OOE

PART V - PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALTIES CONT'D

8. Engineering Department:

Recommend that the department be brought up to complement especially with respect to diesel and refrigeration mechanics. Department able to operate adequately with present personnel assigned but not at best combat efficiency.

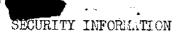
9. Operation Depostment:

In visw of the exceedingly heavy amount of paper work and reports involved in the Ships Air Intelligence functions during an operations such as this, it is recommended that the ships complement of first class youmen be increased by one (1) and that yeoman be specifically assigned to intelligence duties. There is an urgani need for the various teleman ratings and the ships complement should be failed to whatever extent possible.

PART VI COMMENTS AND REPORTED ATTOMS

- 1. From an over all viewporat it is considered that the operations of the USS BAIROKO with VMP-312 ordered as part of TE 95.11 for the period 15 February through 26 February 1952, were conducted in a satisfactory manner. It is felt that the primary mission of the Task Element, that of providing the necessary air cover in the enforcement of a seaward and coastwise blockade of the Vest Coast of Red held Korea, was effectively accomplished.
- 2. Coordination of offert and cooperation between the various ships of the Task Element was excellent. Factical maneuvering posed no problem whateso ever.
- 3. Air Operations were conducted in an expeditious manner with a minimum of delay. In the majority of cases all flights schedueld were flown. Aircraft Maintenan ce Grews performed a very commendable job in providing maximum availability possible.
- 4. Damage to aircraft from small arms fire was noticeable greater on missions flown on inland targets than on the coastal targets. Strikes on inland targets, while an effective method of interdication, are not considered as high priority flights as compared with Coastal Recon, Tarcap and NGF spotting.
- 5. Normally only three destroyers were attached to the Task Element. One destroyer was detached each evening for special patrol and returned to the TE in the morning. Therefore, only two destroyers were available for night screening. It is felt that this number represents the absolute minimum for anti-submarine protection, and that if at all possible four destroyers should normally be assigned to CTE 95.11.





RDH:wck; CVE115/A12/10 Ser 001

DISTRIBUTION

Copy to: (ADVANCE)

GNO GGairfaFPac ComMarCorps GGFMFPac

CINCPACFLT CG1stMAW

COMMANYFE USS BADCENG STRAIT (CVE-116)

CON7thFLT USS BATTAN (CVL-29)
CTG-95 USS SICELY (CVE-118)
CTG-95.1 USS RENICVAL (CVE-114)

COMAIRPAC CO MAG-JA CO WAG-JA CO WAF-310

1 copy to: PacFltEvalGroup

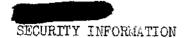
R. D. HOGAL

AUTHENTICATED:

R. M. ALLISON Commander, U.S. Navy

SECURITY INFORMATION





FLIGHT SCHEDULE FOR 21 February 1952

SUNRISE	0727		•		SUNSET 1828	3
EVENT	COMP	MISSION	LAUNCH	LAND	AMMO	FUEL
Al	2	CAP	0715	0915	Note 1	380 Gals
A2	2	TARCAP	0715	0915	Note 4	380 Gals
A3	4	STRIKE	0715	0915	Note 3	380 Gals
B4	2	CAP	0900	1100	Note 1	380 Gals
B5	2	TARCAP	0900	1100	Note 4	380 Gals
B6	2	SPOT	0900	1100	Note 1	380 Gals
07	2	CAP	1045	1245	Note 1	380 Gals
08	2	TARCAP	1045	1245	Note 4	380 Gals
09	4	COAST RECCO(N)	1045	1245	Note 4	380 Gals
D10	2	CAP	1230	1430	Note 1	380 Gals
D11	2	TARCAP	1230	1430	Note 4	380 Gals
D12	2	SPOT	1230	1430	Note 1	380 Gals
E13	2	CAP	1415	1615	Note 1	380 Gals
E14	2	TARCAP	1415	1615	Note 4	380 Gals
E15	4	COAST RECCO(S)	1415	1615	Note 4	380 Gals
F16	2	CAP	1600	1750	Note 1	380 Gals
F17	2	TARCAP	1600	1750	Note 4	380 Gals
F18	4	STRIKE	1600	1750	Note 6	380 Gals

NOTE 1 - All A/C full load..50 cal.

- 2 500 lb GP/DC 8 HVAR
- 3 NAPALM 8 HVAR
- 4 500 lb. GP 1/100 delay 8 HVAR
- 5 Maintain 2 A/C condition 11 after each launch from one half hour before sunrise until sunset. 1 A/C each CAP flight with ADSK 1 mounted
- 6 1,000 lb. GP 1/1000 nose .025 tail 8 HVAR

APPROVED

SUBMITTED

R. M. ALLISON CDR, USN OPERATIONS OFFICER J. C. COULTHARD LCDR, USN ALR OPERATIONS OFFICER

Copy to: CO, XO, OOD, OPS, AIROPS, AIR, VMF-312, NAV, AERO LAB, GUNNERY AIR INTELLIGENCE, RR #2

Enclosure (I) to USS BAIROMO'S ltr Ser 001 of 3 March 1952