



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON 112
FPO AP 96601-6400

1999 ✓

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
Ser 00/108
22 Apr 00

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning
Squadron ONE ONE TWO
To: Director of Naval History, Naval Historical Center
Subj: 1999 COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) VAW 112 1999 Command History
(2) Commanding Officer's Photograph
(3) Commanding Officer's Biography
(4) Nomination of VAW 112 Golden Hawks for Battle
Efficiency, Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy and AEW
Excellence Award
(5) CNO Aviation Safety Award

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.
2. VAW 112 is currently deployed onboard USS JOHN C. STENNIS
(CVN 74). If you have any questions, please contact LTJG [REDACTED]
at email [REDACTED]@stennis.navy.mil.


C. M. SKIDMORE

VAW 112 Command History for 1999

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. VAW 112 is a squadron of over 160 people and four E-2C Group II Hawkeye aircraft commanded by Commander Chad M. Skidmore. VAW 112 is one of nine squadrons attached to Carrier Airwing NINE (CVW 9), currently assigned to USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74). Administratively, VAW 112 reports to Commander, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing Pacific and is based at NAS Point Mugu, California.

b. The mission of VAW 112 is to provide early warning and battle management to Navy, Joint and Allied Forces. The Golden Hawks are ready to deploy on short notice to any location around the world. Primarily, the squadron supports CVW 9 aircraft in projecting U.S. power from the sea while based aboard USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) or other aircraft carriers as assigned.

c. Aircraft Assigned to VAW 112

| <u>Side Number</u> | <u>Tail Number</u> | <u>Bureau Number</u> | <u>Date Acquired</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|
| 600 | NG 4353 | 164353 | 1998 |
| 601 | NG 4486 | 164486 | 29 Jul 99 from Naval Aviation Depot NAS North Island |
| 602 | NG 4483 | 164483 | 10 May 99 from VAW 117 |
| 603 | NG 4492 | 164492 | 06 Apr 99 from Naval Aviation Depot NAS North Island |

2. Chronology

a. Deployments, Exercises and Operations

(1) Detached in support of VF 211 Weapons Detachment to NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico (22 Feb - 5 Mar 99). VAW 112 coordinated range clearance and air intercepts resulting in AIM-54 Phoenix firings against drones.

(2) Carrier Qualification Detachment, USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) (5 Apr - 13 Apr 99). Golden Hawk pilots sharpened their carrier landing skills in preparation for future exercises and deployment.

(3) Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) 99-2, NAS Fallon, NV (3 May - 21 May 99). Golden Hawk crews practiced small strikes and air intercept control with VFA 146, VFA 147, and VMFA 314 in preparation for Airwing Fallon in September.

(4) Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) II/III, (10 Jul - 28 Jul 99). VAW 112 integrated itself into the Battle Group for the first time since the previous deployment. Many link and communications systems were exercised for the first time in over one year.

(5) Competitive Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) 99-2, (CVW 9) (2 Aug - 26 Aug 99). VAW-112 as part of CVW 9 and the USS JOHN C STENNIS (CVN 74) Battle Group integrated as a fighting team in war games against exercise opponents in a three week crisis/war scenario.

(6) Airwing Fallon, NAS Fallon, NV (21 Sep - 15 Oct 99). All CARRIER AIR WING NINE (CVW 9) squadrons (VAW 112, VF 211, VMFA 314, VFA 146, VFA 147, VAQ 138, VS 33, and HS 8) integrated to practice strike warfare tactics.

(7) Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX) 00-1, (29 Oct -7 Nov 99). This exercise tested VAW 112 crews and USS JOHN C STENNIS (CVN 74) Battle Group's ability to fight at sea.

(8) Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 00-1, USS JOHN C. STENNIS (12 Nov - 23 Nov 99). VAW 112 crews and USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) practiced fighting an integrated scenario with Joint U.S. and foreign military services.

b. Change of Command

(1) CDR Chad M. Skidmore relieved CDR Michael J. Becknell as Commanding Officer on 20 September 1999.

c. Major Accidents

(1) An E-2C propeller was destroyed while taxiing on USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) flight deck causing \$107,000 damage and two minor shrapnel injuries.

3. Narrative

a. The VAW 112 Golden Hawks were settling into their new home at NAS Point Mugu, CA from January through most of February 1999. From 22 February to 5 March VAW 112 provided range clearance and fighter control for VF 211's live AIM-54 Phoenix firings against drones from NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Golden Hawks then detached to USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64), from 5 April to 13 April, to practice carrier landing skills. This was a valuable warm up period for at sea exercises later that summer.

From 27 April to 31 April Hawkeye Advanced Readiness Program (HARP) was held at MCAS Miramar utilizing the E-2C Hawkeye simulators. This was a prelude to May's Strike Fighter Readiness Training Program (SFARP) at NAS Fallon. From 3 May to 21 May Golden Hawks controlled Air Intercept (AIC) and Strike events for CVW 9 aircraft participating in SFARP at NAS Fallon, NV. This over land radar training was crucial to success at Airwing Fallon detachment later that fall.

From 10 July to 28 July VAW 112 participated in Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) II and III. This tested the Battle Group's integration and provided VAW 112 the opportunity to fully utilize datalink and communications equipment for the first time in many months.

TSTA was followed by Competitive Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) 99-2 from 2 through 26 August. COMPTUEX exercised our AIC, Strike, Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), and War at Sea (WAS) skills. During COMPTUEX, VAW 112 experienced its biggest accident of the year. An E-2C Hawkeye was taxied into an open hatch on the flight deck. This severed the propeller tips and caused 2 shrapnel injuries and \$107,000 in damage. Both shrapnel injuries were minor and both individuals were soon back on the job.

Golden Hawks hailed CDR Chad M. Skidmore as he relieved CDR Mike J. Becknell as Commanding Officer on 20 September. Soon thereafter VAW 112's war fighting skills were tested at Airwing Fallon from 21 September to 15 October. This intense syllabus refined our strike, air control and over land radar skills.

From 20 October through 7 November FLEETEX flexed the battlegroup's ability to fight at sea. E-2C operators refined

over water and littoral radar skills, air control, datalink integration, and a wide range of war fighting skills. Joint Forces Exercises (JTFEX) was the final phase of work-ups that exercised the Battle Group's skills in working with USAF, USA, USMC, USCG and foreign militaries.

4. Supporting Documents

- (a) 1999 Battle E Submission
- (b) 1999 Safety Report
- (c) CO's Biography