

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE TWO

The "Golden Hawks" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 112 (VAW-112) arrived at NAS Point Mugu, July 1998, from MCAS Miramar, California.

VAW-112 was established April 20, 1967. At that time, VAW-112 was assigned to Carrier Air Wing 9 (CVW-9) and made three deployments operating the E-2A in the western Pacific in support of the Vietnam conflict aboard USS Enterprise, CVAN 65.

In May 1970, the squadron was temporarily disestablished and placed in a "stand down" status until activated again July 3, 1973. VAW-112, flying E-2B's, was assigned to CVW-2 and made three Western Pacific/Indian Ocean deployments aboard USS Ranger, CV 61, before reassignment to CVW-8 aboard USS Nimitz, CVN 68, for a Mediterranean and Indian Ocean deployment.

In May 1979, the squadron transitioned to the E-2C and again became part of CVW-9 in February 1981. As part of CVW-9, VAW-112 made three Western Pacific/Indian Ocean deployments aboard USS Constellation, CV 64, USS Ranger, CV-61, and USS Kitty Hawk, CV 63. During this period, VAW-112 was awarded Battle Efficiency award for 1979 and 1985.

During 1989, VAW-112 deployed aboard USS Nimitz for NORPAC 89, and in August 1989, they became the first West Coast squadron to transition to the latest E-2C Plus aircraft.

In February and March of 1990, VAW-112 deployed aboard the USS Constellation, CV 64 "Around the Horn" of South America to Norfolk, Virginia. Then in September 1990, the squadron deployed to Howard Air Force Base, Panama, for a JTF-4 project. VAW-112 finished the year and entered 1991 with the CVW-9 workup schedule aboard USS Nimitz.

In March 1991, the squadron departed for the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, Northern Arabian Gulf cruise in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm aboard USS Nimitz.

In December 1991, VAW-112 deployed again to Howard Air Force Base, Panama for a JTF-4 counter narcotics operation. VAW-112 participated in joint and combined exercises in

1992 to include JADO/JEZ in March and Roving Sands in May 1992.

In February 1993, VAW-112 deployed aboard USS Nimitz to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch, flying more than 1,000 hours. Upon returning, VAW-112 transitioned to the E-2C Group II, a quantum leap in Carrier Airborne Early Warning. In November 1993, VAW-112 deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The year of 1994 was a year of numerous detachments for VAW-112, due to the USS Nimitz' dry dock period. These included Red Air and Red Flag exercises during February; JADO/JEZ trials in March; Roving Sands and Maple Flag in Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada in June; and another JTF-4 counter narcotics operation detachment in August.

Following a rigorous work-up cycle in 1995, the squadron departed San Diego for the Arabian Gulf aboard USS Nimitz in December.

After remaining on station for three months, VAW-112 departed the Gulf to support United States foreign policy off the coast of Taiwan. After returning home in May, the squadron then headed for Puerto Rico in mid July for counter narcotics operations at NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads.

During a 1997 work-up cycle for an "Around the World" Deployment in late July, the squadron participated in a Pacific Fleet Surge Exercise. The squadron provided unparalleled battle space management support to the battle group for more than 96 continuous hours. It was during this time that VAW-112 also surpassed a safety milestone - 27 years and more than 57,000 mishaps-free flight hours. They departed San Diego in September 1997 on another "Around the World" deployment. In 1997, the Golden Hawks were presented the Battle "E", the CNO Safety "S" Award, and the Airborne Early Warning Excellence Award.

The Golden Hawks deployed in July 1998 for a short detachment to Hawaii aboard the USS Kitty Hawk and later transferred the newest E-2C Group II Navigation Upgrade aircraft to VAW-115 home bases at NAF Atsugi, Japan.

Following a work up period in 1999, the Golden Hawks deployed aboard USS John C. Stennis in January 2000 for a Western Pacific/Indian Ocean cruise that included flight

operations in support of Operation Southern Watch over Iraq. The Squadron wrapped up 2000 with counter narcotics operations in Puerto Rico in September and a carrier qualification detachment to Mazatlan, Mexico in December.

VAW-112 demonstrated how Airborne Early Warning is done in 2001 with successful intercept control detachments at NAS Key West, Florida; NS Norfolk, Virginia; and NAS Fallon, Nevada. While still continuing their workup cycle leading to a 2002 deployment, the Golden Hawks also participated in Fleet Battle Experiment India, providing air control services to the battle group participating in the highest profile Navy exercise in many years.

In July of 2001, the Golden Hawks left for Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA). This was the first underway workups since the previous cruise. VAW-112 pulled in Seattle for 4 days and left again for Comprehensive Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX). VAW-112 was called to defend the country after the September 11th terrorist act on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Around the clock, the Golden Hawks stood alerts and flew combat missions for the air defense of the entire western coast of the U.S. in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Immediately following their actions in operation Noble Eagle, the Golden Hawks left for Air Wing Fallon in Fallon, Nevada. VAW-112 finished an accelerated training schedule and deployed two months early in mid-November 2001 along with the rest of Carrier Air Wing Nine (CVW-9) aboard the USS John C. Stennis, CVN 74. After a swift transit across the Pacific, including port calls in Hong Kong and Singapore, the squadron commenced combat operations over Afghanistan in mid-December. The squadron accumulated over 2,095 hours, 500 sorties, and logging 666 arrested landings in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Golden Hawks returned home to Naval Base Ventura County at Pt. Mugu at the end of May, 2002, enjoying port calls in Perth and Hobart, Australia during the transit home.

Upon returning home, VAW-112 completed training to transition to the Mission Computer Upgrade and Advanced Controller Indicator Set (MCUACIS) Navigation Upgrade version of the E-2C. This new version of the Hawkeye featured new display scopes and interfaces for aircraft controllers and mission commanders, along with a new, more

powerful mission computer. In addition, the new version's navigation system is significantly more reliable.

After four short months at home, VAW-112 was called upon again to ready itself for the possibility of an early deployment. In October of 2002, the Golden Hawks commenced a compressed inter-deployment turnaround cycle and left for Fallon, Nevada to complete both Strike Fighter Advance Readiness Program (SFARP) and Air Wing Nine Fallon Det in the span of three weeks. The Golden Hawks returned home for three weeks and readied themselves for COMPTUEX PLUS onboard the USS Carl Vinson, CVN-70. Following the completion of this accelerated IDTC, in January 2003 the Golden Hawks deployed to the Western Pacific in USS Carl Vinson, CVN 70, seven months ahead of schedule to serve as a deterrent force in the global war against terrorism. During the West Pac 2003 cruise the Golden Hawks visited Hawaii, Guam, Pusan South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Perth, and Hong Kong.

Following the West Pac, VAW-112 finally got some well-earned time at home. During this time, various exercises continued to keep the squadron's skills sharpened. In January 2004, the Golden Hawks departed once more on the USS Carl Vinson for a three week Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA). This was repeated again in June 2004 and served as the beginning of the next workup cycle.

When not at home at NBVC, Point Mugu, the Golden Hawks are attached to CVW-9 aboard the USS Carl Vinson CVN 70.

PREVIOUS COMMANDING OFFICERS

CDR F. D. GOETSCHIUS, USN	APR 67 - SEP 68
CDR H. H. BOWERS, USN	SEP 68 - AUG 69
CDR J. C. WINSLETT, USN	AUG 69 - MAY 70
CDR M. W. PARSONS, USN	JUL 73 - JUN 74
CDR R. L. HARSHBERGER, USN	JUN 74 - MAY 75
CDR R. W. THOMAS, USN	MAY 75 - JUL 76
CDR W. R. SOLMS, USN	JUL 76 - SEP 77
CDR A. J. ROCHELLS, USN	SEP 77 - JAN 79
CDR W. T. HOOD, USN	JAN 79 - APR 80
CDR T. E. MORGAN, USN	APR 80 - JUL 81
CDR F. A. MILEY, USN	JUL 81 - OCT 82
CDR W. F. DUFRENSNE, USN	OCT 82 - APR 84

CDR S. P. HANNIFIN, USN
CDR R. F. BRADEN, USN
CDR T. E. MAGEE, USN
CDR G. W. DUNDAS, USN
CDR C. V. VOSS, USN
CDR D. B. SUMMERALL, USN
CDR N. L. LILLY, USN
CDR R. W. BANNISTER, USN
CDR B. M. ROBY, USN
CDR R. A. YOUNG, USN
CDR J. D. FELLOWS, USN
CDR M. J. BECKNELL, USN
CDR C. M. SKIDMORE, USN
CDR P. G. O'CONNOR, USN
CDR H. A. ORTIZ-MARTY, USN
CDR J. L. TRENT, USN
CDR P. D. HAYNES, USN

APR 84 – AUG 85
AUG 85 – JAN 87
JAN 87 – AUG 88
AUG 88 – JAN 90
JAN 90 – APR 91
APR 91 – JUN 92
JUN 92 – SEP 93
SEP 93 – OCT 94
OCT 94 – FEB 96
FEB 96 – MAY 97
MAY 97 – JUN 98
JUN 98 – SEP 99
SEP 99 – JAN 01
JAN 01 – APR 02
APR 02 – MAY 03
MAY 03 – AUG 04
AUG 04 –