

1995 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN
FPO AP 96601-6401

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
ADMIN
18 Feb 96

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 113

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
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Abbreviated Format
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 - (7) E-2C Group II Photograph
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1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are submitted.

Stephen G. Squires
S. G. SQUIRES

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: The Black Eagles are tasked with providing carrier based Airborne Early Warning as well as Command and Control for the Carl Vinson (CVN-70) Battle Group.

ISIC: Carrier Air Wing 14

Commanding Officer: CDR Stephen G. Squires

Homeport: NAS Miramar

Type and Number of Aircraft: (4) E-2C+ Group II Hawkeye Aircraft

Tail Code: NK

Bureau Numbers: 164353, 164486, 164355, 164487

Encl (1)

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995
ABBREVIATED FORMAT

JANUARY		
	01-09	SECOND SQUADRON LEAVE PERIOD
	10-30	NAS MIRAMAR - LOCAL OPS
	30-31	CN DET - NS ROOSEVELT ROADS
FEBRUARY		
	01-28	CN DET - NS ROOSEVELT ROADS
MARCH		
	01-27	CN DET - NS ROOSEVELT ROADS
APRIL		
	03-15	MAWTS WTI 2-95
	25-30	ROVING SANDS '95
MAY		
	01-12	ROVING SANDS '95
	26	SEAL TEAM 3 OPERATIONAL READINESS EVALUATION
JUNE		
	05-15	TSTA I/II
	20-21	HARM MISSILEX
JULY		
	05-28	FFARP/SFARP
AUGUST		
	21-31	KE KOA '95
SEPTEMBER		
	01-13	KE KOA '95
	25-30	AIRWING WEAPONS DETACHMENT
OCTOBER		
	01-11	AIRWING WEAPONS DETACHMENT
NOVEMBER		
	13-21	TSTA III
	27-30	COMPTUEX 96-1A
DECEMBER		
	01-15	COMPTUEX 96-1A
	16-18	ITA

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995
NARRATIVE FORM

The "World Famous Black Eagles" of VAW-113 continued where they left off in 1994 as the best AEW squadron in the Navy. They began the year with a two-month detachment to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico supporting JIATF East's war against drugs. Flying the most advanced airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft in the world, the 162 men of the Black Eagles maintained an unprecedented 97.5% sortie completion rate, stopped the delivery of over 2352 kilograms of cocaine (street value of \$50 million), assisted in 10 arrests and the seizure of one aircraft and one go-fast boat, and coordinated the processing of 20 illegal immigrants. Returning home to Miramar Naval Air Station San Diego, California, the squadron celebrated the first E-2C Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) graduate from Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1). For two weeks in April, the squadron flew 12 sorties in support of MAWTS which led to the development of E-2C-specific tactics and procedures for VAW employment in the amphibious arena. Thanks to the Black Eagles the VAW community is now capable of taking on the duties and responsibilities of Direct Air Support Center (Airborne) (DASC(A)), Tactical Air Coordinator (Airborne) (TAC(A)), and Airborne Battlefield Command, Control, and Communications (ABCCC).

The end of April and the first twelve days of May saw the Black Eagles participating in the largest joint and combined air defense exercise in the World - Roving Sands '95. With air and land units from Germany, the Netherlands, and each of four U.S. military services, the two-week detachment made for an excellent training evolution. It was the first time many of the aircrew were tasked to control 60-plus strikes. It also marked the first time that an E-2C aircrewman served as Joint Force Air Component Commander, Combat Plans.

With May wrapping up, the Black Eagles verified the utility and enhanced effectiveness a command and control aircraft can provide to a special operations unit during SEAL Team 3's Operational Readiness Evaluation.

In June, the squadron took part in TSTA I/II with the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) and the airwing of CVW-14. Primarily a carrier qualification (CQ) event, the squadron amassed over 300 hours, 200 arrested landings, and achieved an impressive 95% boarding rate.

In July, after a three-week reprieve with our families, the squadron departed for NAS Fallon for the "unofficial" beginning of our work-up cycle. Titled FFARP/SFARP or Fighter/Strike-Fighter Fleet Air Readiness Program, it marked the first time this year that the Black Eagles were able to work extensively with the four fighter/strike-fighter squadrons of CVW-14. Flying in excess of 56 sorties and 180 hours, the squadron maintained its reputation of professionalism with precise and succinct air control.

August and September saw VAW-113 deployed aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) for a historical commemoration of the end of World War II. With 14 additional WW-II era aircraft on-board, the world saw for possibly the last time the deck launch of some of the most celebrated aircraft of WWII.

With a week-long break in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Black Eagles enjoyed some much needed rest. They also flew for three days at the Pearl Harbor Naval Air Station's Airshow celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

September also saw the Black Eagles head back to NAS Fallon. This detachment was to be the first integration of the entire airwing (CVW-14) into a true fighting force. It also marked the full implementation of HAVE QUICK II and a new JTIDS net into the fleet, led by VAW-113. With a grade of outstanding and labeled as the best airwing ever seen, Strike Warfare Center summarized it best, "The Black Eagles of VAW-113 were by far the best AEW squadron to ever go through our training regimen. It was through their superb skill as Battle Managers that the airwing was able to succeed as well as they did."

Taking what we learned at Fallon, the squadron embarked again on the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) for TSTA III, COMPTUEX 96-1A, and ITA for much of November and December. Continuing to excel, the airwing and the carrier came together as a team, showing COMCARGRU 1 that they are the very best in their profession. After six grueling weeks, the Carl Vinson Battle Group received their "Blue Water" qualification.

December also bore witness to a new addition to the Black Eagle family. With the arrival of CDR Hardesty as Executive Officer, CDR Squires took the helm as Commanding Officer. CDR Squires' change-of-command was unique in that it occurred overhead the CARL VINSON with two E-2Cs exchanging the lead. Within days, the CAG would present his squadron with the TOP HOOK trophy for the squadron achieving the best landing grades in the airwing. With a pilot turnover rate of over 65% since last year, the Black Eagles showed their ability to overcome diversity and to excel, mounting an impressive 98.5% boarding completion rate while logging 144 arrested landings.

The Black Eagles closed out the year with 28 years and over 57,000 mishap-free flight hours. With another successful and productive year, the squadron is well-prepared for the up-coming year and our deployment to the Arabian Gulf. 1996 is looked upon as the year to solidify VAW-113's claim as the best AEW squadron in the Navy.

HOURS AND TRAPS FOR 1995, 1 JAN TO 31 DEC

HOURS FLOWN:	2023.8
NIGHT HOURS:	659.3
EMBARKED HOURS:	472.9
CARRIER LANDINGS:	433

Encl (4)