



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

1996 ✓

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
ADMIN  
28 Feb 97


From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 113  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1996 (Abbreviated)  
(3) Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1996 (Narrative)  
(4) Hours and Traps for Calendar Year 1996  
(5) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(6) Photo of Commanding Officer  
(7) E-2C Hawkeye Group II and Photograph  
(8) Organizational Chart  
(9) Alpha List ) OPVD. Privacy Act Info  
(10) VAW-113NOTE 1301

[ENCL. 10; (1) 3.5 in WP5 format]

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are submitted.

  
G. T. FADOK  
By direction

## **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 USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) 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, 164112, 164355, 164492

Encl (1)

**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996  
ABBREVIATED FORMAT**

**JANUARY**

Local Ops NAS Miramar.

**FEBRUARY**

5-19 COMPTUEX/FLEETEX 96-1A.

**MARCH**

8-19 JTFEX 96-1.

**APRIL**

15-18 Carrier Qualification Refresher Training.

**MAY**

14-30 WESTPAC '96.  
29-30 JAPAN Foreign Military Sales Visit.  
58,000 mishap free flight hours surpassed.

**JUNE**

1-30 WESTPAC '96.  
Air show in Jakarta, Indonesia.  
Port calls in Hong Kong and Singapore.

**JULY**

1-31 WESTPAC '96.  
Exercise 'Rugged Nautilus' in the Arabian Gulf.  
Operation Southern Watch in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

**AUGUST**

1-31 WESTPAC '96.  
17-21 Port Call in Muscat, Oman ... First Carrier to visit in 10 years.

**SEPTEMBER**

1-30 WESTPAC '96.  
03 Operation 'Desert Strike'.  
Provided AEW for B-52s out of Guam that launched cruise missiles into Iraq.  
Provided AEW, DCA, and fighter command and control for all sorties launched into box.  
Extended on station in the Arabian Gulf until 01 Oct, due to Iraqi violation of UN resolutions.  
59,000 mishap free flight hours surpassed

Encl (2)

**OCTOBER**

1-31 WESTPAC '96.  
01 Outchopped out of Arabian Gulf.  
20 Port Call in Hobart, Tasmania.

**NOVEMBER**

1-12 WESTPAC '96.  
3-7 Inport Pearl Harbor.  
7-12 Tiger Cruise.  
13-30 Leave/POM Period after returning from deployment.

**DECEMBER**

ASPA Inspection.  
1-31 Local Ops NAS Miramar.  
Holiday leave period.

**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996  
NARRATIVE FORM**

The "World Famous Black Eagles" of VAW-113 continued where they left off in 1995 as the best AEW squadron in the Navy. This is evident as they were selected as the recipients of the 1996 Battle Efficiency Award. They began the year with a 16 day detachment in February to the carrier USS Carl Vinson, in support of COMPTUEX/FLEETEX 96-1A. Superb command and control coupled with vigilant AEW proved instrumental in the Vinson Battle Group's successful, live missile shoot, qualification to conduct E-2C controlled approaches, and a "Blue Water" certification.

During the month of March the Black Eagles provided command and control and AEW services for THIRTEENTH MEU and COMPHIBRON THREE as they conducted amphibious operations. Additionally, VAW-113 provided command and control for Battle Group assets conducting deep strikes overland, and through the presentation of numerous scenarios and briefs, ensured the Battle Group was prepared for operations with any current theater ROE. Following the JTFEX, the squadron participated in the PACNORWEST MISSILEX. They provided command and control for the safe launch of eight live missiles by ensuring the operating area was clear of traffic. An accurate data link picture was provided to all participants, both at sea and ashore, helping to maintain situational awareness for all involved. This same month the Black Eagles had another Weapons and Tactics Instructor graduate from Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, (MAWTS-1), this time at the top of his class.

On the 14th of May, the squadron left NAS Miramar behind to join the rest of CVW-14 on WESTPAC 1996. Shortly after crossing the Pacific, a Black Eagle E-2C Group II was dispatched for demonstration to the Japanese Air Force. Professionalism of the aircrew and superb condition of the aircraft resulted in the demonstration flights being praised by all agencies involved. In addition, the crew tested the Group II radar detection and tracking over the Korean peninsula. As the transit south continued, VAW-113 designed, coordinated, and conducted a MRAAWEX against Air Force and Naval assets out of Kadena AFB. June saw the Black Eagles surpass 58,000 flight hours of mishap free aviation. After some brief port visits to Hong Kong and Singapore, the USS Carl Vinson passed through the Sunda Straits into the Indian Ocean. This was accompanied by participation in the Jakarta air show, where the Black Eagles led the rest of the air wing in a fly-by.

On the first of July the Vinson Carrier Task Force arrived in the Arabian Gulf. For three months VAW-113 patrolled over Southern Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. They were instrumental in enforcing the U.N. No-Fly-Zone. Flying three sorties per day, VAW-113 controlled Navy, Air Force and Multi-national strike packages in the "box".

In addition to OSW duties, the Black Eagles participated in the quick-reaction joint exercise, "Rugged Nautilus", by providing planning and support as the liaison to the JFACC Afloat. VAW-113 was instrumental throughout the strike planning process as well as providing essential in-flight AEW coverage and airspace coordination.

On September 3rd, Operation Desert Strike was commenced in response to Saddam Hussein's violation of U.N. policies. A vital role was played by the Black Eagles, in the planning and execution of USAF's B-52s CALCM strike against predesignated targets in Southern Iraq. VAW-113 provided AEW, controlled fighter escort, and flight-following through Oman and UAE for two B-52s. In addition, AEW coverage was provided for possible retaliatory strikes in the wake of extensive TLAM salvo following the B-52 strike.

Before vacating the Arabian Gulf, the Black Eagles were fortunate to make a well deserved port call to Muscat Oman. Muscat had not been visited by the Carl Vinson in over ten years, and the liberty was enjoyed by all. The Vinson Task Force out-chopped from the Arabian Gulf on 1 October, but not before surpassing 59,000 hours of mishap free aviation. Returning south through the Indian Ocean and then back into Pacific waters, VAW-113 was again fortunate to visit the unique city of Hobart, Tasmania on October 20th. A first-time visit for almost everyone in the squadron, Hobart gained consensus as the best port call of WESTPAC '96.

After Tasmania it was off to Pearl Harbor for the squadron's final port visit. Pearl Harbor and the hangar bay of the Carl Vinson, was also the site for the CINCPACFLT Change-of-Command ceremony. The final bit of business which the Black Eagles were to take care of before returning home to Miramar, was ensuring the safe arrival of their 'Tigers'. Thirty-six Black Eagle Tigers joined the squadron for the transit home, experiencing Naval Aviation first-hand. While aboard, they gained an appreciation for the jobs performed by their sponsors on a daily basis.

Upon their return on 12 November, the Black Eagles had only a week off before they began preparing for ASPA inspections. In December, some hard earned holiday leave was enjoyed by all. The Black Eagles closed out the year with an impressive 2,350 total flight hours. While embarked, they logged 1,863 hours, 554 sorties, and 831 carrier arrested landings. This amounted to a 97% boarding rate and a 3.42 overall landing grade average. In addition to being awarded the Battle "E", VAW-113 also had one of its personnel awarded the coveted "Hawkeye Top Maintainer of the Year, 1996". Under the leadership of CDR Squires, the Black Eagles accomplished what they set out to do at the end of 1995: they solidified their claim as the best AEW squadron in the Navy.

**HOURS AND TRAPS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996**

HOURS FLOWN: 2350.3  
NIGHT HOURS: 809.2  
EMBARKED HOURS: 1863.5  
CARRIER LANDINGS: 831