



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

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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 113
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1997 (Abbreviated Format)
(3) Summary of Operations for Calendar Year 1997 (Narrative Format)
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(5) Commanding Officer's Biography
(6) Commanding Officer's Photograph
(7) E-2C Hawkeye GROUP II Photograph
(8) Organizational Chart
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(10) 1 3 1/2" Diskette

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are submitted.


D. C. HARDESTY

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 David C. Hardesty, USN

Homeport: NAS Miramar, CA (01JAN97-30SEP97).
MCAS Miramar, CA (01OCT97-31DEC97)

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

Tail Code: NK

**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997
ABBREVIATED FORMAT**

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

03-04 CVN-72 Deck Certification

19-20 Tactical Exercise

MARCH

05-06 Tactical Exercise

09-10 CVN-72 Carrier Qualification

14 Change of Command

27-31 Counter-Drug Detachment, NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico

APRIL

01-30 Counter-Drug Detachment, NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico

20 Reached the 60,000 flight hour mishap-free mark

29 30th anniversary of Class A mishap-free flying

MAY

01-05 Counter-Drug Detachment, NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico

29 Tactical Exercise

JUNE

14-22 DESERT RESCUE IV, NAS Fallon, NV

JULY

17-18 Tailored Ship's Training Assessment I (TSTA I) on board CVN-72

AUGUST

10-29 Strike Fighters' Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) at NAS Fallon, NV

SEPTEMBER

12-28 TSTA II/III on board CVN-72

OCTOBER

12-31 CVW-14 Weapons Detachment, NAS Fallon. NV

NOVEMBER

29-30 Competitive Training Unit Exercise/Integrated Training Assessment
(COMPTUEX/ITA) on board CVN 72

DECEMBER

01-17 COMPTUEX/ITA

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997 NARRATIVE FORMAT

Upon return from Western Pacific 1996 deployment, the World Famous Black Eagles of VAW-113 embarked on a busy turnaround cycle in preparation for another deployment in the summer of 1998. Recipients of the 1996 Battle "E" award, the Black Eagles used their momentum to once again push them to the top of the Navy's Carrier Airborne Early Warning community. A short leave period in January helped the squadron prepare for the rigorous and challenging year before them.

The month of February found the Black Eagles supporting the Marine Air Warfare Tactical School (MAWTS 1) at MCAS Yuma, CA. In addition to sending two members to MAWTS, the squadron flew eight missions to support MAWTS training. Its role included Airborne Battlefield Command, Control, and Communications (ABCCC) and Direct Air Support Center, Airborne (DASC-A). In these roles, the Black Eagles were able to plan and execute battlefield management, Offensive Air support, Assault Support, Anti-air warfare and Command and Control of participating Navy and Marine Corps units. In addition to supporting MAWTS, Black Eagle pilots flew on board USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) for Carrier Qualification and Deck Certification.

During March the squadron performed another Carrier Qualification on board USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), followed by Commander David C. Hardesty relieving Commander Stephen G. Squires as the squadron's Commanding Officer. The next major event was the squadron's deployment to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for Counter-Drug operations in support of Joint Inter-Agency Task Force East (JIATF East). From March 27 to May 5, VAW-113 provided six weeks of Detection and Monitoring to JIATF East in support of the war on drugs. VAW-113's innovative and dedicated employment of the E-2C's weapon system resulted in multiple intercepts of drug carrying aircraft and surface vessels. In the six weeks spent in Puerto Rico, the Black Eagles were directly responsible for preventing over 11 million dollars of drugs and equipment from penetrating U.S. borders.

The squadron's return to NAS Miramar provided a short break to prepare for DESERT RESCUE at NAS Fallon, NV. From 14 to 22 June, a detachment of two aircraft, their aircrews, and a strong contingent of maintenance personnel trained with the Naval Strike and Warfare Center and other Services in this integrated Joint Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) Exercise. The Exercise's purpose was to develop and improve CSAR capabilities and coordination among the different military services. VAW-113, functioning as the Airborne Mission Commander (AMC) for the training missions, also played a major role in the development of PRC-112 Survival Radio and Interrogator set tactics.

July marked the deployment work-up cycle's official start, with Tailored Ship's Training Assessment I (TSTA I). This was the first integrated evolution for Carrier Air Wing 14 and its new carrier, the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72). The Carrier Qualification Detachment allowed the pilots of VAW-113 and the rest of the Air Wing to attain day and night qualifications. Strike Fighters' Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) at NAS Fallon ensued.

For approximately three weeks in August (10-29 August), the Black Eagles provided Air intercept Control to CVW-14's Strike/Fighter squadrons during Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP). This allowed the most recent tactical advances in air intercept to be integrated and polished between the E-2C GROUP II and the F/A-18 Hornet.

Following a two-week preparation period back at NAS Miramar, VAW-113 and the rest of Carrier Air Wing 14 once again embarked on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) for TSTA II/III. Another Carrier Qualification period was followed by the Black Eagles' first training and integration period with the entire CVW-14 Air Wing. For two and a half weeks, the Black Eagles supplied the Command and Control for various elements of Air Wing training, which included air defense, anti-surface warfare, simulated strikes, and E-2C controlled Carrier Air Traffic Control Center (CATCC) casualty approaches.

The initial training and integration learned in TSTA II/III, intensified during the CVW-14 Weapons Detachment to NAS Fallon, NV. From 12 to 31 October, VAW-113 provided Command and Control and Airborne Early Warning for Air Wing assets to conduct complicated simulated strikes. This led to December's Competitive Training Unit Exercise/Integrated Training Assessment (COMPTUEX/ITA), which combined learned Weapons Detachment objectives with Carrier Battle Group operations from the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72). Displaying tactical expertise and professionalism, the Black Eagles greatly contributed to Carrier Group One's evaluation of CVW-14's performance as "Outstanding".

Nineteen ninety-seven was a diverse year for the Black Eagles. The squadron played significant roles in several elements of military operations. From Marine Corps training to Counter-Drug operations, Joint Service exercises to a hectic work-up cycle, VAW-113 once again exhibited its renown flexibility, reliability and performance. Amassing 2,023 flight hours, 717 sorties, 302 arrested landings with a 96 percent boarding rate, and countless hours of hard work and determination, the Black Eagles of VAW-113 once again staked their claim as the United States Navy's premiere Carrier Airborne Early Warning squadron.

HOURS AND TRAPS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997

HOURS FLOWN: 2023.3

NIGHT HOURS: 625.9

EMBARKED HOURS: 619.7

CARRIER LANDINGS: 302