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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE ONE FIVE
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601-6403

1986
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

3500
Ser: C 019
23 FEB 87

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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV 5750.1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) VAW-115 Monthly Operating/Training report Ser C005 11MAR86
(2) VAW-115 Monthly Operating/Training report Ser C006 10MAY86
(3) VAW-115 Monthly Operating/Training report Ser C035 10JUL86
(4) VAW-115 Monthly Operating/Training report Ser C009 10SEP86
(5) VAW-115 Monthly Operating/Training report Ser C010 10NOV86
(6) VAW-115 Monthly Operating/Training report Ser C018 10JAN87

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded and the following report is submitted.

2. Narrative: January found the Liberty Bells participating in Cope Thunder 86-4 out of NAS Cubi Point, Philippines. While operating from the field and USS MIDWAY, a wide range of training with the USAF was accomplished. Following a port visit in Thailand VAW-115 participated in Team Spirit 86 off the coast of South Korea in March. April was marked by "Hawkeye" day in Atsugi during which a formal Sister Squadron Agreement was signed between the JASDF 601 AEW Squadron and VAW-115. VAW-115 participated in Cope Thunder 86-6 in May, and in June supported the USS NEW JERSEY battle group in the first of many AAWEX's in the Sea of Japan. In July the Liberty Bells deployed to Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan, where they sponsored a two week interoperability training program, with participants from the USAF, USMC and USN. In August, VAW-115 provided command and control for a multi-platform air, surface and subsurface Harpoon exercise, employing the USS NEW JERSEY, USS TUNNEY, P-3C's and A-6E's. Following this exercise, the squadron operated out of Atsugi supporting Cope North 86-4, a joint JASDF, USAF and USN DACT exercise. In September VAW-115 detached four pilots to Cubi Point for Carrier Qualification on USS CARL VINSON, and embarked one aircraft on USS RANGER with a full crew and maintenance team to support the RANGER battle group's Sea of Japan transit and participation in Annalex 61G. In October the "Liberty Bells" sent ten NFO's to NAS Miramar, San Diego for 2-way Link-4 and other refresher training in the 15F8A simulator and then on to NAS Fallon to participate in the integration of the new F/A-18 into CVW-5. This was the airwing's first Fallon weapons detachment since MIDWAY departed CONUS 13 years ago. In November VAW-115 began working up for CQ aboard USS MIDWAY after her long EISRA period. In December, USS MIDWAY with VAW-115 embarked, completed sea trials and workups to and from Sasebo, Japan.

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3. Special Topics:

a. Commander Franklin S. Achille relieved Commander Ronald B. Weber on 6 January 1987.

b. On 6 January 1987, Commander Leo F. McGinn assumed his duties as Executive Officer.

c. During the period 17 to 19 September VAW-115 scored an overall rating of outstanding on the first Command Inspection the squadron had received in over two years.

d. In September VAW-115 published the most comprehensive analysis to date of ALR-73 PDS operations in the Western Pacific. This in effect restructured the entire PDS section of the Electronic Order of Battle, directly improving the Navy's combat readiness. As a result of this work VAW-115 was nominated by COMCARGRU FIVE and COMFITAEWINGPAC for a unit award in Electronic Warfare Excellence from the Association of Old Crows.

e. VAW-115 won the CVW-5 Retention Award for the period 1 July to 31 December 1986. COMFITAEWINGPAC nominated the "Liberty Bells" for the CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Award.

f. Commander Ronald B. Weber received the Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding service as Commanding Officer of VAW-115 from August 1985 to January 1987.

4. For statistical and other detailed data see enclosures (1) - (6).

F.S. Achille
F.S. ACHILLE

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