

1989



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser ADMIN/ 252  
13 Apr 90

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
D. E. STOEHR

*Logged*

## VAW 115 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 1989

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE. VAW-115 is a carrier based airborne early warning squadron forward deployed as part of CARRIER AIR WING FIVE aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) homeported in Yokosuka, Honshu, Japan. VAW-115 is commanded by CDR L. F. McGinn JR., USN. The VAW-115 Liberty Bells, call sign LIBERTY fly and maintain four E-2C HAWKEYES, tailcode NF.

### 2. CHRONOLOGY

1 - 20 JAN	TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JA
17 - 18 JAN	HOSTED JAPANESE AIR SELF DEFENSE FORCE AEW 601 SQDRN FOR SISTER SQDRN LIAISON IN ATSUGI, JAPAN.
21 JAN - 23 FEB	EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PHILIPPINE SEA AND SOUTH CHINA SEA
21 - 22 JAN	MISSILEX 89-1 PORO POINT, RP
25 JAN	DETACHMENT TO MCAS IWAKUNI, JAPAN FOR TADIL C AND DACT TRAINING
31 JAN	COMPLETED AVIATION MAINTENANCE EVALUATION. GRADED EXCELLENT
21 FEB	COMNAVAIRPAC ADVANCED TACTICAL ASSESSMENT. GRADED FULLY OPERATIONALLY READY
24 - 26 FEB	TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JA
27 FEB - 8 APR	EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) SEA OF JAPAN, PHILIPPINE SEA, AND SOUTH CHINA SEA
28 FEB	TADIL A INTEROPERABILITY CERTIFICATION WITH JAPANESE BASE AIR DEFENSE GROUND ENVIRONMENT (BADGE) NET
8 MAR - 22 MAR	TEAM SPIRIT 89
9 APR - 30 MAY	TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JA
31 MAY - 24 JUL	EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PHILIPPINE SEA, SOUTH CHINA SEA, AND GULF OF THAILAND
20 JUN	SHRIKEX, PORO POINT, RP
21 JUN	HARPOONEX 89, PORO POINT, RP
26 JUN	GUMMY BEAR 89, CAM RAHN BAY, VN
25 JUL - 14 AUG	TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JA
15 AUG - 10 DEC	EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PHILIPPINE SEA, SOUTH CHINA SEA, GULF OF THAILAND, INDIAN OCEAN, AND NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

CHRONOLOGY (CONT.)

23 AUG                   MISSILEX 89-4, PORO POINT RP  
26 - 30 AUG             THALAY THAI 89, GULF OF SIAM  
11 SEP - 11 DEC        INDIAN OCEAN DEPLOYMENT  
29 NOV                 MISSILEX 90-3  
30 NOV - 6 DEC         OPERATION CLASSIC RESOLVE, RP  
11 - 31 DEC            TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JA

3. NARRATIVE. VAW-115 began 1989 temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan preparing for the upcoming at sea period aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41). On 17 and 18 January the Liberty Bells hosted the JASDF 601 AEW squadron. Pilots and NFO/WSOs from the sister squadrons flew exchange flights in each squadron's E-2C aircraft and fostered a relationship that has been crucial to US - Japanese AEW interoperability. From 21 January to 8 April the Liberty Bells embarked aboard MIDWAY for a cruise that included operations in the Sea of Japan, South China Sea, and the Philippine Sea. On 25 January a detachment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan conducted TADIL C and DACT training flights with USMC F/A 18 aircraft. VAW-115 participation provided squadron aircrew and the Marines with valuable interoperability training that paid off on 21 March when LIBERTY controlled Marine Hornets to the first ever Navy/Marine team intercept and escort of a TU-26 BACKFIRE. Between 21 January and 21 February VAW-115 flew a record 400 hours in arduous real world and Advanced Tactical Assessment tasking. On 28 February VAW-115 participated in a TADIL A interoperability assessment with the Japanese BADGE air defense system. Tests proved the viability of international multi-asset data link. From 8 to 22 March the Liberty Bells participated in Team Spirit 89 in the Sea of Japan. On 15 March LIBERTY detected and intercepted a 10 aircraft TU-16 BADGER raid. From 9 April to 30 May VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore NAF Atsugi. On 22 May a Liberty Bell visit to the JASDF 601 AEW squadron in Misawa, Japan further enhanced the sister squadron relationship. From 31 May to 24 July VAW-115 embarked aboard MIDWAY for a cruise that included operations in the Philippine Sea, South China Sea, and Gulf of Thailand. On 21 June LIBERTY was a key participant in HARPOONEX 89. The E-2C's provided coordination, range clearance, and radar tracking of the Harpoon that allowed an AIM-7 telemetry kill of the missile. On 26 June LIBERTY aircraft participating in GUMMY BEAR 89 off the southern coast of Vietnam intercepted Cam Rahn Bay based Soviet aircraft. From 26 June to 6 July VAW-115 aircrew participated in an exchange visit with the Royal Singapore Air Force 111 AEW squadron. From 25 July to 14 August VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore NAF Atsugi. From 15 August to 10 December the Liberty Bells embarked aboard USS MIDWAY for a cruise that included operations in the Philippine sea, South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Indian Ocean, and North Arabian Sea. From 26 to 30 August VAW-115 participated in THALAY THAI joint exercise with the Royal Thai Navy. On 11 September CVW 5/USS MIDWAY began a short notice Indian Ocean deployment in response to national tasking. On 11 October LIBERTY controlled a highly effective deceptive intercept of Aden based IL-38 MAY aircraft in the North Arabian Sea. On 30 November VAW-115's return to Japan was delayed by the outbreak of a coup d'etat in the Republic of the Philippines. The Liberty Bells remained on station in the South China Sea for Operation CLASSIC RESOLVE, flight operations in support of the Aquino government and evacuation of US personnel from the Manila area. VAW-115 returned to NAF Atsugi on 11 DEC.