



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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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) VAW-115 Command History for Calendar Year (CY) 1990

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

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VAW-115 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 1990

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE. VAW-115 is a carrier based airborne early warning squadron forward deployed as a part of Carrier Air Wing 5 (CVW-5) embarked on USS MIDWAY (CV-41) homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. VAW-115 is commanded by Commander Dale E. Stoehr, U.S. Navy. The VAW-115 "Liberty Bells" call sign "Liberty", fly and maintain 4 E-2C Hawkeyes, tailcode "NF".

2. CHRONOLOGY:

1 JAN - 19 FEB TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

16 JAN - 19 JAN DETACHMENT TO KADENA AB, OKINAWA, JAPAN FOR DACT TRAINING AND EXCHANGE FLIGHTS WITH 961ST AWACS SQUADRON.

25 JAN - 26 JAN DETACHMENT TO OSAN AB, KOREA TO EXERCISE LINK-11 CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN BATTLE GROUP ALFA UNITS AND UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNITS BASED IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

20 FEB - 6 APR EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PACIFIC OCEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA.

20 FEB - 2 MAR DETACHMENT TO NAS CUBI POINT, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR "COPE THUNDER" EXERCISE. CONCURRENTLY CONDUCTED INTEROPERABILITY EXCHANGE FLIGHTS WITH 962ND AWACS SQUADRON AT CLARK AB, RP.

6 MAR - 31 DEC 10 AIRCREW COMPLETED CROSSDECK PROGRAM BETWEEN USS MOBILE BAY (CG-53), USS BUNKER HILL (CG-52) AND VAW-115 TO FOSTER IMPROVED BATTLE GROUP ALFA ATDS/NTDS OPERABILITY.

9 MAR MISSILEX.

20 MAR - 22 MAR DUAL CARRIER OPS WITH USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) SOUTH CHINA SEA.

24 MAR SHRIKEX.

7 APR - 17 JUN TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE AT NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

18 APR COMFAIRWESTPAC MCI. GRADE OF SATISFACTORY. (SAT/UNSAT INSPECTION).

22 APR - 18 MAY SQUADRON AUGMENTATION UNIT MEMBER ON BOARD FOR ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.

2 MAY - 19 MAY DETACHMENT TO MISAWA AB, JAPAN FOR DACT TRAINING AND SISTER SQUADRON INTEROPERABILITY FLIGHTS WITH AEW 601 JAPANESE E-2C SQUADRON.

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18 JUN - 21 JUN EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PACIFIC OCEAN.

18 JUN - 24 JUN PROVIDED BG ALFA LIAISON OFFICER DURING JOINT U.S./ JAPANESE LINK-11 OPERATIONS. LESSONS LEARNED WERE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED DURING ANNUALEX 90.

20 JUN USS MIDWAY (CV-41) FIRE. AWARDED LETTER FROM CVW-5 FOR SQUADRON PROFESSIONALISM, DEDICATION, AND SERVICE FOR PROVIDING AIRBORNE COORDINATION BETWEEN SHIP AND SHORE MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR MEDEVAC OF SHIPBOARD PERSONNEL, MEDICAL O2 RESUPPLY, AND RETURN TO PORT REQUIREMENTS.

22 JUN - 28 JUN TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

29 JUN - 30 JUN EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PACIFIC OCEAN.

1 JUL - 5 JUL TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

6 JUL - 26 JUL EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PACIFIC OCEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA.

8 JUL MISSILEX.

13 JUL COMNAVAIRPAC AME. GRADED OUTSTANDING/95 PERCENT. HIGHEST GRADE THIS YEAR FOR A COMNAVAIRPAC DEPLOYABLE SQUADRON.

14 JUL MISSILEX.

18 JUL MISSILEX.

22 JUL - 26 JUL COMNAVAIRPAC ATA. GRADED FULLY QUALIFIED.

27 JUL - 4 SEP TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

5 SEP - 17 SEP EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41) PACIFIC OCEAN AND SEA OF JAPAN.

6 SEP MISSILEX.

18 SEP - 1 OCT TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

2 OCT - 31 DEC EMBARKED ABOARD USS MIDWAY (CV-41). PERSIAN (ARABIAN) GULF DEPLOYMENT.

2 OCT - 9 OCT ANNUALEX, PACIFIC OCEAN.

17 OCT - 19 OCT DETACHMENT TO PAYA LEBAR AB, SINGAPORE TO FLY WITH RSAF SISTER SQUADRON, AND TO DISCUSS LINK-11 AND INTEROPERABILITY.

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24 OCT - 31 DEC PROVIDED A MISSION COMMANDER TAD TO USCENTCOM, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA TO COORDINATE ISSUES OF DATALINKS AND CV AIR OPS RELATED TO BG ALFA ARABIAN GULF PRESENCE.

2 NOV - 31 DEC OPERATION "DESERT SHIELD".

5 NOV - 31 DEC PROVIDED LIAISON OFFICER TO BAHRAIN CENTER TO FACILITATE BG ALFA FLIGHT OPS WHILE OPERATING IN THE ARABIAN GULF.

17 NOV - 21 NOV OPERATION "IMMINENT THUNDER".

28 NOV - 29 NOV OPERATION "FREE LUNCH".

6 DEC - 7 DEC OPERATION "EAGER ANVIL".

8 DEC - 10 DEC OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE TURNOVER BRIEFING WITH EAST COAST E-2C DETACHMENT IN BAHRAIN.

8 DEC - 18 DEC DACT CONTROL VS. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) MIRAGE FIGHTERS BASED AT AL DHAFRA AB, UAE.

3. NARRATIVE. VAW-115 began 1990 temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan preparing for the upcoming at sea period aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41). From 16 January to 18 January, a detachment to Kadena AB, Japan conducted DACT training with USAF F-16's and exchange flights with USAF AWACS. On 25 and 26 January, a detachment was sent to Osan AB, Korea to exercise LINK-11 connectivity between BG ALFA units and USAF units based there. From 20 January to 6 April, the "Liberty Bells" embarked aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) for a deployment that included operations in the Pacific Ocean and South China Sea. Also beginning 20 January, a detachment was sent to NAS Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines for exercise "Cope Thunder" which concluded 2 March. This detachment concurrently conducted exchange flights with the 962nd AWACS Squadron at Clark AB, RP. On 2 March, "Liberty" detected 2 TU-95 BEAR D aircraft and vectored escort aircraft to the scene. Again, on 10, 21 and 23 March, "Liberty" detected single TU-95 BEAR D and TU-142 BEAR F aircraft. From 20 to 22 March, "Liberty" provided essential detection and Airborne Early Warning (AEW) in a dual-carrier exercise conducted with USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) in the South China Sea. From 7 April to 17 June, VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. From 2 to 19 May, a detachment was sent to Misawa AB, Japan for DACT training with USAF F-16's and for sister squadron exchange flights with the AEW 601 Japanese E-2C Squadron. Pilots and Naval Flight Officers from the sister squadrons flew in each other's E-2C aircraft and continued the relationship which has been established for United States - Japanese AEW interoperability. From 18 to 21 June, VAW-115 embarked aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) for operations in the Pacific Ocean. On 20 June, a fire aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) crippled the ship with the loss of personnel and materiel. Due to "Liberty's" airborne coordination of medical evacuation, VAW-115 was awarded a Letter of Commendation from CVW-5 for professionalism, dedication and service. From 22 to 28 June, VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore at

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NAF Atsugi, Japan. On 29 and 30 June, VAW-115 embarked aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) for operations in the Pacific Ocean. From 1 to 5 July VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. From 6 to 26 July VAW-115 embarked aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) for operations in the Pacific Ocean and South China Sea. On 6 July, "Liberty" detected 1 TU-95 BEAR D and 1 TU-142 BEAR F aircraft in the South China Sea. Again, on 11 July, "Liberty" detected 2 TU-142 BEAR F aircraft. On 13 July, VAW-115 received a grade of "Outstanding"/95 percent on the COMNAVAIRAPC AME. This is the highest grade this year for a COMNAVAIRPAC deployable squadron. From 27 July to 4 September, VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. From 5 to 17 September VAW-115 embarked aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) for operations in the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Japan. On 8 September, "Liberty" detected and tracked a surfaced FOXTROT submarine in the Sea of Japan. On 9 September, "Liberty" detected 1 IL-38 MAY over the Sea of Japan. From 18 September to 1 October, VAW-115 was temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. On 2 October, VAW-115 embarked aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41) for deployment to the Persian (Arabian) Gulf. From 2 to 9 October, "Liberty" aircraft participated in ANNUALEX, a joint United States - Japanese naval warfare exercise. From 17 to 19 October, VAW-115 sent an airplane to Paya Lebar AB, Singapore to fly with the Republic of Singapore Air Force E-2C squadron. Sister squadron exchange flights were flown, and LINK-11 interoperability was discussed. On 29 October, VAW-115 intercepted an Indian IL-38 MAY in the Indian Ocean. On 2 November, USS MIDWAY (CV-41) relieved USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) from her station in support of Operation "Desert Shield". VAW-115 provided a Mission Commander TAD to USCENTCOM Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 24 October to 31 December to coordinate issues of Datalinks and carrier air operations related to BG ALFA Arabian Gulf presence. Also, VAW-115 provided a liaison officer to Bahrain ATC to facilitate BG ALFA flight operations while operating during peacetime in the Arabian Gulf. From 17 to 21 November, VAW-115 participated in Operation "Imminent Thunder". On 28 and 29 November, VAW-115 participated in Operation "Free Lunch". On 6 and 7 December, VAW-115 participated in Operation "Eager Anvil". From 8 to 10 December, VAW-115 sent a detachment to Bahrain International Airport to welcome the arriving east coast E-2C crews and to provide them with information concerning Arabian Gulf and CVW-5 operating procedures. From 8 to 18 December, VAW-115 provided DACT for CVW-5 air assets to train with Mirage aircraft from the UAE stationed at Al Dhafra, AB. VAW-115 continued in support of Operation "Desert Shield" through the end of the year.

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