

VAW-115 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 1992

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE. VAW-115 is a carrier based airborne early warning squadron forward deployed as a part of Carrier Air Wing (CVW-5) embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. VAW-115 is commanded by Commander Richard J. Mauldin, U.S. Navy. The VAW-115 "Liberty Bells", call sign "Liberty", fly and maintain 5 E-2C Hawkeyes, tailcode "NF"

2. CHRONOLOGY:

1 JAN - 1 MAR TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, ATSUGI, JAPAN.

27 JAN - 30 JAN PROVIDED OFFICER TO USS MOBILE BAY (CG-53) FOR INTEROPERABILITY AND LINK TRAINING.

19 FEB - 20 FEB CONDUCTED SISTER SQUADRON OPERATIONS WITH JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCE AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (JASDF AEW) SQUADRON 601, INCLUDING EXCHANGE FLIGHTS AND LINK TESTING.

23 FEB - 02 MAR PROVIDED ONE AIRCRAFT TO SINGAPORE AS PART OF ASIAN AEROSPACE 92. ALSO CONDUCTED SISTER SQUADRON OPERATIONS WITH ROYAL SINGAPORIAN AIR FORCE 111 SQUADRON INCLUDING ONE FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHT.

2 MAR - 31 MAR EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

6 MAR - 16 MAR ORANGE AIR DETACHMENT TO NAS CUBI POINT.

8 MAR - 16 MAR OPERATION "SPRING TRAINING".

15 MAR. CONDUCTED EXERCISE INTEGRATING SEAL TEAMS TO CVW-5 CSAR TACTICS.

16 MAR. PROVIDED MISSION COMMANDER TO USS MOBILE BAY FOR MISSILE EXERCISE LIAISON AND TACPRO BRIEFS.

16 MAR MISSILEX.

17 MAR - 20 MAR INPORT SUBIC BAY.

23 MAR - 26 MAR INPORT HONG KONG.

1 APR - 2 APR CONDUCTED SISTER SQUADRON OPERATIONS WITH JASDF AEW 601. INCLUDED DEFENSIVE AIR COMBAT TACTICS WITH 3RD AND 5TH FIGHTER WINGS AT MISAWA AB, JAPAN. ALSO INCLUDED THE FIRST FORMATION/LINK-EX MISSIONS WITH JASDF.

1 APR - 14 APR TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, ATSUGI, JAPAN.

6 APR HOSTED SIX OPERATION SPECIALISTS AND COMBAT DIRECTION CENTER (CDC) OFFICERS FROM USS BUNKER HILL, USS MOBILE BAY, AND USS INDEPENDENCE AT NAF ATSUGI. PROVIDED BRIEFS AND FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHTS.

6 APR - 8 APR PROVIDED A MISSION COMMANDER TO KADENA, JA FOR FAR EAST TADIL A INTEROPERABILITY CONFERENCE TO PRESENT AN E2C CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS BRIEF. ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH 6990TH ESG AND 620 ACF, AND FURTHERED RELATIONS WITH THE 961ST AWACS SQUADRON.

6 APR - 9 APR PROVIDED TWO OFFICERS TO IRUMA GCI SITE TO INTEGRATE AIR INTERCEPT CONTROL TRAINING FOR JASDF/CVW-5.

15 APR - 13 OCT EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

2 APR - 30 APR EXERCISE "CORAL SEA". FIRST USE OF STRONGHOLD TACTIC BY AIRWING.

1 MAY - 4 MAY INPORT SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

4 MAY - 5 MAY EXCHANGED FOUR PILOTS AND NFO'S FOR FIVE OFFICERS FROM USS MOBILE BAY FOR CROSS TRAINING.

6 MAY - 13 JUN PROVIDED ONE OFFICER TO DHAHRAN, SA TO ESTABLISH INITIAL AIRWING BEACH DETACHMENT.

23 MAY - 9 SEP SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPS IN USCENCOM.

25 MAY OPERATIONAL FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHT FOR CO OF USS MOBILE BAY.

3 JUN - 4 JUN PROVIDED ONE AIRCRAFT TO QATAR FOR FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHT FOR QATARI AIR CONTROLLERS.

6 JUN - 10 JUN PROVIDED ONE AIRCRAFT TO BAHRAIN FOR AIR CONTROL DURING EXERCISE "NEON ARROW".

14 JUN - 17 JUN INPORT DUBAI, UAE.

18 JUN - 25 JUN PROVIDED A MISSION COMMANDER TO MASIRAH, OMAN AS A LIAISON WITH MASIRAH RADAR DURING OPERATION BEACON FLASH.

27 JUN PROVIDED INTEROPERABILITY TRAINING FOR TWO RC-135 AIRCREW FROM THE 6975TH ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SQUADRON. INCLUDED FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHTS.

30 JUN CDR R. J. MAULDIN RELIEVES CDR T.L. JOBE AS COMMANDING OFFICER.

10 JUL - 15 JUL PROVIDED FOUR NFO'S TAD TO 6975TH ESS/552ND AWACS AT RIYAD, SA FOR FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHTS IN RC-135 AND WILD WEASEL AIRCRAFT.

1 JUL - 8 JUL INPORT ABU DHABI, UAE.

11 JUL - 12 JUL EXERCISE "NAUTICAL ARTIST" WITH SAUDI ARABIA.

15 JUL INTERCEPTED IRANIAN P-3.

22 JUL - 29 JUL EXERCISE "INITIAL LINK" WITH BAHRAIN AND USAF.

1 AUG - 5 AUG INPORT JEBEL ALI, UAE.

15 AUG - 17 AUG EXERCISE "ARABIAN KNIGHT".

15 AUG - 17 AUG MISSILEX.

17 AUG ACHIEVED 7 YEARS MISHAP FREE.

18 AUG - 23 AUG INPORT ABU DHABI, UAE.

27 AUG - 16 SEP OPERATION "SOUTHERN WATCH". FLEW 110 SORTIES OF UNINTERRUPTED FULLY MISSION CAPABLE AIRCRAFT FOR A TOTAL OF 440 FLIGHT HOURS. ENSURED IRAQI COMPLIANCE WITH U.N. "NO FLY" RESOLUTIONS. FIRST E-2 CONTROL OF USN AND USAF ASSETS AS PART OF A JOINT OPERATION.

16 SEP OUTCHOP USNAVCENT.

19 SEP MISSILEX.

19 SEP LINK-EX WITH THAILAND AS PART OF LINK EVALUATION.

28 SEP - 1 OCT INPORT PATTYA BEACH, THAILAND.

6 OCT - 8 OCT INPORT HONG KONG.

6 NOV - 16 NOV PROVIDED AEW FOR TWO JAPANESE MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE TASK FORCES DURING ANNUAL EX.

8 NOV PROVIDED AEW FOR THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH KOREA'S FLIGHT TO JAPAN.

7 DEC - 15 DEC MISSILE EX, KADENA, OKINAWA.

3. NARRATIVE.

January: VAW-115 began the year temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. January was spent conducting aircrew training with other airwing squadrons and assets. From 27 Jan to 30 Jan, an officer was sent TAD to USS MOBILE BAY for interoperability and LINK training.

February: During February, the "Liberty Bells" conducted a number of "sister squadron" operations with foreign squadrons of a similar nature. From 19 FEB to 20 FEB they conducted exchange flights and exchanged aircrew with Japanese Self Defense Force Airborne Early Warning Squadron 601, based in Misawa Japan. Exercises included formation and familiarization flights as well as LINK testing. From 23 FEB to 2 MAR, one aircraft flew to Singapore to participate in Asian Aerospace 92. As well as participating in the airshow, the crew also furthered relations with Royal Singaporean Air Force Squadron 111, including one familiarization flight.

March: VAW-115 spent March embarked aboard USS INDEPENDENCE for cruise work-ups, and exercise "Spring Training" (from 8 MAR to 16 MAR). As well as participating in the exercise, VAW-115 also provided an aircraft to NAS Cubi Point to provide air control for ORANGE AIR forces. The "Liberty Bells" also provided range safety/clearance, target, and missile tracking for the 16 MAR MISSILEX. During this at sea period, the "Liberty Bells" made port calls in Subic Bay, RP, and Hong Kong.

April: VAW-115 spent the first part of April temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. On 1 and 2 APR, they again conducted sister squadron operations with JASDF AEW 601. These operations also included the 3rd and 5th fighter wings based in Misawa, Japan. Operations included bilateral formation and familiarization exchange flights. They also included the first LINK-EX to include the JASDF. On 6 APR, six operation specialists from USS Bunker Hill, USS Mobile Bay, and USS Independence received familiarization flights and capability briefs on the E-2C. From 6 APR to 9 APR, two officers were sent to the Iruma GCI site to integrate AIC training for JASDF and Carrier Air Wing Five. VAW-115 embarked aboard USS Independence on 15 APR to begin their Indian Ocean deployment. The squadron deployed with 4 of its 5 aircraft, the 5th, side number 604, was left at NAF Atsugi. Enroute to Sydney, Australia from 25 APR to 30 APR, they conducted exercise "Coral Sea", involving the first use of the "Stronghold" tactic, with the "Liberty Bells" as lead.

May: May began with USS Independence inport Sydney, Australia, for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea celebration. On 4 May, they departed for the Persian gulf. On 4 and 5 May, four pilots and NFO's were exchanged with USS Mobile Bay officers for cross-training. On 6 May, an officer was detached to Dhahran, SA, to establish the initial airwing beach detachment. Beginning on 23 May, with the inchoption into USCENTCOM, the "Liberty Bells" commenced surveillance and control operations for the carrier battle group and airwing. This continued until 9 SEP, with no flight violations.

June: VAW-115 spent June conducting operational flights in USCENTCOM. On 3 and 4 JUN, they provided one aircraft to Qatar for familiarization flights for Qatari air controllers. From 6 JUN to 10 JUN, the "Liberty Bells" provided one aircraft to Bahrain for exercise "Neon Arrow". Along with air control, VIP's were also given tours, including one for the son of the Crown Prince of Bahrain. 14 JUN to 17 JUN was spent inport in Dubai, UAE. From 18 JUN to 25 JUN, a mission commander was provided to Masirah, Oman, as a liaison with Masirah radar during operation "Beacon Flash". On the 27th of June, interoperability training was conducted with two aircrew from the 6975th Electronic Surveillance Squadron. Training included familiarization flights off of the carrier.

July: 1 JUL marked a transition point for the "Liberty Bells" as Commander Richard J. Mauldin relieved Commander Terry L. Jobe as Commanding Officer. Commander Martin Erdossy reported aboard to assume the duties of Executive Officer. VAW-115 continued their operational missions of surveillance and control throughout July. 1 JUL through 8 JUL was spent inport Abu Dhabi, UAE. Other events included exchanging four NFO's with the 6975 ESS and 552nd AWACS squadrons in Riyadh, SA, from 10 JUL to 1 JUL. Training included familiarization flights in RC-135 and F-4 "Wild Weasel" aircraft. The "Liberty Bells" participated in operation "Nautical Artist" on 11 and 12 JUL, and in operation "Initial Link", with Bahrain and the USAF, from 22 to 29 JUL. On 15 July, a VAW-115 aircraft detected and vectored fighters to intercept an Iranian P-3.

August: The "Liberty Bells" began August inport Jebel Ali, UAE, from 1 AUG to 5 AUG. They then participated in operation "Arabian Knight" from 15 AUG to 17 AUG. From 15 AUG to 17 AUG, they provided range safety and airborne control, as well as target information during the August MISSILEX. 18 AUG to 23 AUG found them inport Abu Dhabi. After leaving, on 23 AUG, the "Liberty Bells" and the rest of the carrier battle group were called on to enforce Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions in operation "Southern Watch". VAW-115 flew an uninterrupted string of 110 fully mission capable flights, totalling 440 flight hours, in less than 3 weeks. Missions included AEW, control of airborne assets, and information relay.

September: On 16 SEP, the "Liberty Bells" were relieved on station by the "Sun Kings" of VAW-116, ending their part in operation "Southern Watch". On 19 SEP, they controlled the September MISSILEX. Also on 19 SEP, they participated in a LINK-EX with Thai forces. This, as well as a further LINK-EX on 27 and 28 SEP, was part of a link evaluation exercise conducted to exercise United States and Thai interoperational capabilities. From 28 SEP to 1 OCT, VAW-115 was inport Pattya Beach, Thailand.

October: VAW-115 spent October transitting to Atsugi, Japan, and in post cruise maintenance. VAW-115 spent from 6 OCT to 8 OCT inport Hong Kong, arriving in Yokosuka on 15 OCT. 4 Airplanes were flown off on 10 and 11 OCT to Atsugi. No flying was conducted the rest of the month, but the maintenance department conducted two ASPA inspections, on aircraft 602 and 603.

November: The "Liberty Bells" again concentrated on post-cruise maintenance during November. Low tempo flight operations were conducted to maintain qualifications, as well as to keep the aircraft not in maintenance in peak flying condition. From 6 NOV to 10 NOV, one aircraft was sent to Kadena, Okinawa to provide AEW for two JMSDF task forces during ANNUAL EX. On 8 NOV, two aircraft provided AEW for the President of South Korea during a flight to Japan.

December: Flying began in earnest in December, with the squadron flying nearly 200 hours for the month. From 7 DEC to 15 DEC, a detachment of two aircraft was sent to Kadena AB, Okinawa to provide range safety and control for the December MISSILEX. The operations, described by Captain Langston, Commander Carrier Airwing Five, as "the largest and most successful in OFRP history" consisted of live missile firings by both surface and airborne platforms. Training and aircrew proficiency operations continued throughout the rest of the year.