

1993 ✓



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

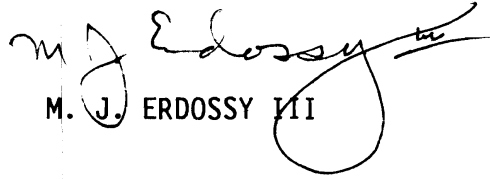
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1. Per reference (a), 1993 Command History is submitted.


M. J. ERDOSSY III

VAW 115 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 1993

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE. VAW 115 is a carrier based early warning squadron forward deployed as a part of Carrier Air Wing 5 (CVW 5) embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. The E-2C mission of airborne early warning is to detect, identify, and track long range threats to the carrier battlegroup. Additional missions include air intercept control, surface surveillance control, and strike control for coordinated attacks. VAW 115 is commanded by Commander Martin J. Erdossy III, U.S. Navy. The VAW 115 "Liberty Bells," call sign "Liberty," fly and maintain five E-2C Hawkeyes, tailcode "NF."

2. CHRONOLOGY:

01 JAN - 24 JAN	TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.
08 JAN - 13 JAN	JOINT AIR SUPERIORITY EXERCISE WITH USAF IN NORTHERN JAPAN OPERATION AREAS.
25 JAN - 01 FEB	CONDUCTED CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.
02 FEB - 15 FEB	TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.
16 FEB - 24 MAR	EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.
23 FEB	PERFORMED OVER-THE-HORIZON TARGETING (OTH-T) TACTICAL DEVELOPMENT.
28 FEB - 04 MAR	INPORT SASEBO, JAPAN

08 MAR COMPLETED MAJOR PASS EXERCISE WITH USS NIMITZ (CVN 68).

08 MAR - 18 MAR PROVIDED REAL WORLD AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW) AND ELECTRONIC SUPPORT MEASURES (ESM) DURING TEAM SPIRIT 93.

18 MAR - 22 MAR INPORT PUSAN, KOREA

25 MAR - 10 MAY TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

29 MAR - 02 APR CONDUCTED AIR INTERCEPT CONTROL (AIC) WITH USMC F-18 CREWS FROM MCAS IWAKUNI.

14 APR LED CVW 5 WAR-AT-SEA EXERCISE IN SUPPORT OF MAJOR JAPANESE FLEET EXERCISE.

23 APR - 25 APR CONDUCTED SISTER SQUADRON OPERATIONS WITH JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCE AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (JASDF AEW) SQUADRON 601.

11 MAY - 30 JUN EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

20 MAY - 27 MAY ESTABLISHED SISTER SQUADRON RELATIONSHIP WITH ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE NUMBER 2 CONTROL AND REPORTING UNIT. CONDUCTED LINK TRAINING AND FAMILIARIZATION (FAM) FLIGHTS WITH RAAF CREWS.

23 MAY LED DEFENSE OF CVBG AGAINST LARGE SCALE RAAF F-111 RAID. VALIDATED VAW 115 AUTHORED TACMAS TACPRO WITH COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF ALL BG AIR AND SURFACE AAW PLATFORMS.

28 MAY - 01 JUN INPORT PERTH, AUSTRALIA

18 JUN RECEIVED CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AVIATION SAFETY AWARD.

01 JUL - 20 SEP TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

27 JUL PROVIDED LINK SUPPORT FOR USS MOBILE BAY.

03 AUG PROVIDED LINK SUPPORT FOR USS RODNEY M DAVIS.

17 AUG - 19 AUG CONDUCTED FAM FLIGHTS AND AEW BRIEFS FOR USAF 961 AWACS SQUADRON.

17 AUG ACHIEVED EIGHT YEARS MISHAP FREE.

18 AUG FLEW THREE E-2C AIRCREW ABOARD 961 AWACS.

22 AUG - 29 AUG FIRST HAWKEYE DETACHMENT TO GUAM. FOCUSED ON E-2C UTILIZATION OF ES-3 PROVIDED INFORMATION AND INTEGRATION OF ES-3 INTO CARRIER BATTLEGROUP/AIRWING OPERATIONS.

24 AUG - 25 AUG CONDUCTED INTEGRATED COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE (CSAR) TRAINING WITH SEAL TEAM ONE, HC 5, AND VQ 5.

21 SEP - 13 OCT EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

09 OCT AIRCRAFT 604 STRUCK RAMP OF USS INDEPENDENCE. CLASS C MISHAP.

21 SEP PROVIDED LINK SUPPORT TO USS BLUE RIDGE.

26 SEP - 30 SEP JOINT INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISE TO TEST INTEGRATION OF CVBG AND AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS.

10 OCT - 11 OCT PLANNED, BRIEFED AND LED TWO CVW 5 WAR-AT-SEA STRIKES AGAINST US AND JMSDF UNITS AS PART OF MAREX.

14 OCT - 16 NOV TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

04 NOV CDR M. J. ERDOSSY III RELIEVES CDR R. J. MAULDIN AS COMMANDING OFFICER.

17 NOV - 31 DEC EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

28 NOV - 29 NOV CONDUCTED LARGE SCALE BILATERAL PASSEX WITH GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND NAVAL AND AIR FORCES.

01 DEC - 05 DEC INPORT SINGAPORE.

05 DEC HOSTED OFFICERS FROM REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE 111 E-2C SQUADRON.

09 DEC CONTROLLED LONG RANGE CSAR EXERCISE.

14 DEC INCHOP USNAVCENT.

24 DEC - 27 DEC INPORT ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

30 DEC FLEW TWO VAW 115 AIRCREW IN AWACS MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH.

31 DEC FLEW TWO 963 AWACS AIRCREW IN VAW 115 AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH.

3. NARRATIVE.

January: VAW 115 began the year temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi, Japan. The "Liberty Bells" controlled CVW 5 fighters against USAF F-16s in a series of air superiority scenarios in northern Japan operation areas. Towards the end of the month, VAW 115 conducted carrier qualifications onboard the USS INDEPENDENCE in preparation for the upcoming at-sea-period.

February: The first half of February was spent inport Atsugi, conducting routine training flights and aircrew proficiency training. The squadron, embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE, set sail for a five-week at-sea-period, completing Over-The-Horizon Targeting tactical development.

March: While underway, the Liberty Bells completed a major PASSEX with the USS NIMITZ, capping a 3-day Over-The-Horizon Targeting exercise with a long range strike. During routine participation in Team Spirit '93, VAW 115 provided real world battle group defense and ESM support, resulting in the successful interception of targeted aircraft. The month of March concluded with a full week of gradually escalating air intercept control scenarios with USMC F-18 crews deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. The crew enjoyed liberty port visits to Sasebo, Japan and Pusan, Korea.

April: The Liberty Bells spent the month at home in Japan. The Bells led a CVW 5 war-at-sea exercise, in support of a major Japanese fleet exercise. Specific goals were to integrate the S-3B ISAR capability to identify surface combatants in area of dense, friendly traffic. From April 23 to April 25, VAW 115 hosted COL Nishida, Vice Commander JASDF AEW Wing, in conjunction with Wings '93 Atsugi Airshow. Briefs and a familiarization visit to the USS INDEPENDENCE highlighted the sister squadron operation. Additional operations with the Japanese Maritime Self

Defense Force included providing technical expertise on AEW and airborne C3 in support of Link 11 training.

May: The first ten days of May were spent in port at Atsugi, Japan. From May 11 to May 27 the squadron was underway, transiting the Indian Ocean enroute to Australia. The Liberty Bells established sister squadron relations with the RAAF Number 2 Control and Reporting Unit. Numerous briefs and visits followed, including a brief on RAAF air defense capabilities in the Northern sector and a tour of RAAF air defense command post. On May 23 VAW 115 flew 3 RAAF controllers in the E-2C Hawkeye, followed by a familiarization flight for the RAAF AEW Introduction Project Officer. A joint defense exercise was held on May 23, with VAW 115 providing command, control, and AEW in defense of the carrier battle group against a large scale RAAF F-111 raid. Link 4 training commenced on the 24th of May with RAAF F-18 aircraft. Capping a week of intense flight operations was a port call to Perth, Australia from 28 May to 01 June.

June: Underway the entire month of June, the Liberty Bells and the airwing continued daily flights and mission essential training, including overland strike training on Delamere Range Australia.

July: The squadron returned to NAF Atsugi on the first of July, following the one and one-half month at-sea-period. Regularly scheduled training and post-cruise maintenance predominated through July including Link 11 C3 support provided to the USS MOBILE BAY.

August: Operational tempo picked up in August with Link 11 C3 support for USS RODNEY M. DAVIS on the 3rd. Sister squadron operations were held with 961 AWACS from the 17th to the 19th. Familiarization flights and briefs were conducted for 961 AWACS Commander, Vice Commander, and operations/training personnel. Five AWACS personnel were flown on Liberty E-2s. Reciprocal

flights were extended to the Bells, with 3 E-2C aircrew receiving AWACS flights. Squadron operations continued with VQ 5, stationed on NAS Agana, Guam. Three E-2Cs left Japan on the 22nd, flying via Iwo Jima for the first ever VAW Guam detachment. The impetus of the detachment was to integrate VQ 5 into CVW 5 operations. Uses of ES-3 data were explored, and dissimilar formation flights were flown. Combat search and rescue training was held with Seal Team ONE, HC 5, and VQ 5. The successful deployment concluded on the 29th.

September: The Liberty Bells were ashore Atsugi the first half of September, preparing for a three-week at-sea-period. Once underway the Liberty Bells charged ahead with Link 11 C3 technical support for the USS BLUE RIDGE and a 26-30 September joint interoperability exercise with the US Marine Corps. This ground breaking exercise tested the integration of carrier battle group and amphibious operations. VAW 115 participated in CAS for USMC amphibious assault.

October: Still underway conducting routine operations. On 09 October, the Liberty Bells sustained a Class 'C' mishap when Aircraft 604 struck the ramp of USS INDEPENDENCE. On the 10th and 11th, the Liberty Bells planned, briefed, and led 2 CVW 5 war-at-sea strikes against US and JMSDF units as part of MAREX, a major training operation with our host nation. VAW 115 returned to NAF Atsugi on 14 October, remaining inport for the remainder of the month.

November: The fourth of November marked a transition point for the Liberty Bells as Commander Martin J. Erdossy relieved Commander Richard J. Mauldin in a ceremony held aboard NAF Atsugi. Lieutenant Commander Richard B. Wren reported aboard to assume the duties of Executive Officer. On 17 November VAW 115 embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE for scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Gulf. The Liberty Bells supported a long range C3 problem with USS BLUE

RIDGE on 21 November, conducting link and communication relays. On the 26th, the Bells participated in the planning and execution of a massive long range passive collection exercise against specific targets. A large scale bilateral PASSEX with the government of Thailand was held on the 28th and 29th, to include the control of opposing Thailand fighters and DACT. Technical support and assistance was extended to the Royal Thai Air Defense System. This featured combined real time data exchange via HF and UHF radios. Additional tasking for VAW 115 included supporting a 2 day MINEX in the Gulf of Thailand.

December: The first five days of December were spent in port Singapore. Once at sea the Liberty Bells hosted officers from the Republic of Singapore Air Force 111 E-2 Squadron, giving tours of the USS INDEPENDENCE and VAW 115 operation and maintenance spaces. On 09 December the Bells controlled a long range combat SAR in simulated hostile territory during a surface war scenario. On 14 December VAW 115 and the battle group inched into the reporting responsibility of USCENCOM. On December 19, operational missions of surveillance and control in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH commenced. A port visit to Abu Dhabi, UAE was held from 24 to 27 December. Exchange flights between VAW 115 and 963 AWACS closed out the month and the year, as two VAW 115 aircrew flew AWACS missions and two 963 AWACS aircrew received extensive cross training in the E-2C to enhance joint AEW support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.