



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5758
Ser ADMIN/126
25 Mar 95

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) VAW-115 Command History for CY 1994

1. Per reference (a), 1994 Command History is submitted.


R. B. WREN

VAW-115 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 1994

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 was commanded by Commander Martin J. Erdossy III, U.S. Navy during the calender year. The VAW-115 "Liberty Bells," call sign "Liberty," fly and maintain five E-2C Hawkeyes, tailcode "NF".

2. CHRONOLOGY:

01 JAN - 07 JAN	EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH.
08 JAN - 11 JAN	INPORT JEBEL ALI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.
12 JAN - 25 JAN	EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH.
26 JAN - 31 JAN	INPORT JEBEL ALI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.
01 FEB - 25 FEB	EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE IN TRANSIT FROM PERSIAN GULF TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.
14 FEB	OUTCHOP USNAVCENT.
26 FEB - 02 MAR	INPORT PATTAYA, THAILAND.
03 MAR - 06 MAR	EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE IN TRANSIT FROM PERSIAN GULF TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

07 MAR - 11 MAR INPORT HONG KONG, B.C.

12 MAR - 16 MAR EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE IN TRANSIT FROM PERSIAN GULF TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

17 MAR - 26 MAY TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

04 APR - 08 APR SQUADRON DETACHMENT TO KADENA AIR FORCE BASE

22 APR - 29 APR SQUADRON DETACHMENT TO KADENA AIR FORCE BASE.

27 MAY - 03 JUN AT SEA, CONDUCTING CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

04 JUN - 05 JUN INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

06 JUN - 16 JUN EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE, PARTICIPATING IN RIMPAC '94, WESTERN PACIFIC.

17 JUN - 22 JUN INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII.

23 JUN - 05 JUL EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE RETURN TRANSIT TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

06 JUL - 19 JUL TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

20 JUL - 22 JUL AT SEA, CONDUCTING CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE.

23 JUL - 24 JUL INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

25 JUL - 30 JUL EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE

31 JUL - 04 AUG INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

05 AUG - 12 AUG EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE

13 AUG - 18 AUG TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

17 AUG ACHIEVED NINE YEARS MISHAP FREE.

19 AUG - 27 AUG EMBARKED ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE

28 AUG - 31 DEC TEMPORARILY BASED ASHORE, NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN.

19 OCT - 03 NOV SQUADRON DETACHMENT TO KADENA AIR FORCE BASE.

19 SEPT- 23 SEPT SQUADRON DETACHMENT TO GUAM.

3. NARRATIVE.

JANUARY: VAW-115 began the year in the Persian Gulf operating in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Two January port calls were made in Jebel Ali, UAE from 8 to 11 January and 26 to 31 January. In addition VAW-115 continued crosstraining begun in December USAF 963 AWACS. VAW-115 also conducted crosstraining with the foreign naval units HMS GLASGOW and ADM VINAGRADOV. Tactically, VAW-115 planned and led an airwing strike against the USS CALLAHAN exercising long range Over-the-Horizon Targeting and utilizing coordinated surface and air tactics. The Liberty Bells also participated in a joint combined Link 11 conference in Bahrain and Bahran.

FEBRUARY: The first half of February was spent in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Sorties for SOUTHERN WATCH and crosstraining with 963 AWACS continued. On 14 February, VAW-115 outchopped from USCENTCOM. A port call to Pattaya, Thailand was made from 26 February to 2 March. The Liberty Bells also provided an aircraft for the Asian Aerospace International Airshow in Singapore.

MARCH: March was spent in transit from the Persian Gulf. A port call in Hong Kong, BC was made 7 March to 11 March. The squadron returned to NAF Atsugi on 17 March, remaining inport for the rest of the month.

APRIL: Although inport during April, VAW-115 sent detachments to

Kadena from 4 April to 8 April and 22 April to 29 April. These detachments were made in support of a battlegroup MISSILEX where the Liberty Bells provided primary range control and the 18th Operations Group Large Force Exercise, in which the Liberty Bells acted as Orange Air Control with USMC F/A-18's and AV-8B's. The Large Force Exercise also included a MISSILEX with firings from CVW-5 squadrons and MAG-12 assets including the first CVW-5 AMRAAM (AIM-120) shots. VAW-115 also provided command, control and targeting information during a large War-at-Sea Strike against Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) units in the Sea of Japan.

MAY: The beginning of May was spent temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi. During that time, the Liberty Bells provided control to aircraft from the 13th Fighter Squadron aircraft in the Misawa Operations Area, exercising joint positive identification criteria and close control. On 27 May, VAW-115 embarked aboard the USS INDEPENDENCE for carrier qualifications in preparation for RIMPAC '94.

JUNE: The squadron began the month embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE, pulling into Yokosuka for 4 June and 5 June. The squadron remained onboard USS INDEPENDENCE, returning to sea on 6 June. RIMPAC '94 took place 6 June to 16 June. In conjunction with RIMPAC '94, the Liberty Bells conducted range clearance, air control, and safety for an open ocean AIM-54 Phoenix shot. During RIMPAC '94, VAW-115 controlled and conducted numerous War-at-Sea strikes against USS KITTY HAWK battlegroup with specific

CVW-5 assets and joint air, US surface and JMSDF surface units. During June, the Liberty Bells also provided Orange Air control for TACMAS scenarios involving USAF tactical aircraft, USN, and JMSDF maritime patrol aircraft. VAW-115 also conducted real world contingency operations planning for the Korean Peninsula. The USS INDEPENDENCE battlegroup pulled into port 17 June at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and departed for Yokosuka on 22 June. The remainder of the month was spent enroute to Japan. On 24 June, the Liberty Bells provided targeting, range clearance, and control for combined arms HARPOONEX and the first fleet firing of a Penguin missile by HSL-51.

JULY: The Liberty Bells were embarked until 5 July and then temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi until 19 July. Tense political conditions with North Korea necessitated a Ready-for-Sea posture, alternating at sea with short inport periods to support national emergent operational tasking. The Liberty Bells embarked 20 July for carrier qualifications, spent 22 July to 24 July inport at Yokosuka, left port on 25 July, and returned to Yokosuka on 30 July.

AUGUST: VAW-115, embarked onboard USS INDEPENDENCE, left Yokosuka on 4 August. Returning to Yokosuka on 12 August, VAW-115 remained embarked. USS INDEPENDENCE was, again, at sea from 18 August to 27 August. The Liberty Bells then spent the remainder of the month temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi. During the month, VAW-115 maintained a Ready-for-Sea posture. Also, VAW-115 participated in a joint USAF-USN tactical strike

integration scenario. The E-2C's of the Liberty Bells provided air control and data fusion to both USAF and CVW-5 assets. VAW-115 also provided range clearance, air control, and safety to combined CTF-70, USMC, and USAF surface-to-air and air-to-air missile shots through judicious use of shipboard and land-based squadron assets.

SEPTEMBER: The Liberty Bells conducted normal land-based operations while temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi.

OCTOBER: VAW-115 spent the beginning of the month temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi. The Liberty Bells provided planners to the 7th Air Force Link Coordination Meeting in Osan, Korea. The Liberty Bells on 18 October sent a detachment of 3 aircraft to Kadena for FFARP/SFARP exercises with CVW-5 aircraft. During this exercise the Liberty Bells conducted extensive crosstraining with CVW-5 VF and VFA squadrons flying a minimum of two events per day during exercise sorties.

NOVEMBER: FFARP/SFARP exercises continued until the VAW-115 detachment returned to NAF Atsugi on 3 November. The remainder of the month was spent conducting normal land-based operations while temporarily based ashore at NAF Atsugi. During the month we also completed our annual command inspection by Commander Airborne Early Warning, Pacific, and Commander Fleet Air, Western Pacific. The Liberty Bells passed with the maximum grade of Satisfactory on an inspection that encompassed our personnel, all command spaces including our hangar and barracks, administration

programs, and aircraft corrosion.

DECEMBER: VAW-115 continued normal land-based operations from NAF Atsugi. From 13 December to 15 December, the Liberty Bells provided range clearance, datalink connectivity, air control, and safety for CTF-70, USMC, and USAF missile shots including a cooperative engagement AIM-7 Sparrow shot by USAF assets.

4. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NOTEWORTHY EVENTS. The Liberty Bells performance through the course of 1994 earned the squadron the Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet's Battle Efficiency Award. Additionally, The Liberty Bells were the Pacific Fleet's nominee for the Airborne Early Warning Excellence Award. The VAW-115 Maintenance Department earned the CVW-5 Golden Wrench for professionalism in aircraft maintenance for the 4th quarter of the calendar year 1994. In addition to being the Liberty Bell's Sailor of the Year, Aviation Electronics Technician Petty Officer First Class [REDACTED] was selected as Commander Carrier Air Wing FIVE and Commander Carrier Group FIVE Sailor of the Year.