

OPNAVINST 5750.12K
DNS-H
21 May 2012

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1
Command Serial Number: 081
Date Submitted: 17 JUN 2015

Classification (when filled in): UNCLASSIFIED

Command Operations Report

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE FIVE (VAW-115)

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 09463

Name and Rank of Commanding Officer:

Last: France First: Michael M.I.: D Rank: Commander (CDR)

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2014-09-08

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: Carrier Airborne Early Warning and Command and Control / forward deployed in Far East Asia

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): Naval Air Facility, Atsugi Japan

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Commander, Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW-5)

Administrative: Commander, Airborne Command, Control, and Logistics Wing (CACCLW)

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): Commander, Battle Force Seventh Fleet (CTF-70), Carrier Strike Group FIVE (CSG-5) / Commander, Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW-5). Participated in Operation DAMAYAN.

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): N/A

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: Four E-2C Hawkeye 2000 CNS/ATM aircraft:

<u>MODEX</u>	<u>BUNO</u>
600	166505
601	165812
602	166506
603	165649

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): N/A

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 30 Enlisted: 141 Civilian: None

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LT [REDACTED]

Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED] /

Phone number(s): DSN [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: VAW-115, UNIT 25428, FPO AP 96601-6403

2. Commander's Assessment

During 2014 the Liberty Bells achieved unparalleled success in operational adaptability and tactical prowess while accomplishing USPACOM, SEVENTH Fleet, and CTF-70 missions. As the only forward-deployed Hawkeye squadron, the Liberty Bells completed three at-sea patrols, Operation DAMAYAN (FY2014), two large exercises with joint and multinational forces, and CVW-5's first ever Air Wing Fallon detachment to Fallon, NV, with outstanding results. Executing 698 sorties and 1935.4 flight hours against a demanding and unpredictable operational tempo, VAW-115 met every challenge and surpassed all expectations. VAW-115 remains the unequivocal choice for recognition among the Pacific Fleet Hawkeye community and was awarded the 2014 Battle Efficiency/AEW Excellence Award.

3. Chronology and Narrative (FY2014)

- OPERATION DAMAYAN 14 – 21 NOV 2013
- SFARP / AIR WING FALLON; 26 FEB 2014 – 20 MAR 2014
- IWO-TO CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS DET; 09 MAY 2014 – 13 MAY 2014
- TRILATERAL EXERCISE 2014; 21 JUL 2014 – 22 JUL 2014

- MALABAR 2014; 24 JUL 2014 – 30 JUL 2014
- VALIANT SHIELD 2014; 15 SEP 2014 – 22 SEP 2014
- FORAGER FURY 2014; 24 SEP 2014 – 30 SEP 2014

In November 2013, VAW-115 flew more than 80 hours in support of Operation DAMAYAN, the multi-national response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The Liberty Bells provided the command and control infrastructure for the US military and Philippine government while coordinating the delivery of 1,000,000 pounds of water, 600,000 pounds of food, 2,800 pounds of medical supplies, and transportation of 6,552 evacuees and relief workers. According to CTF-70, RADM Mark Montgomery, having VAW-115 airborne increased the air wing's ability to deliver life-saving relief supplies by more than 40 percent.

Less than 24 hours after the Carrier Strike Group's (CSG) completion with Operation DAMAYAN, the Liberty Bells of VAW-115 accomplished an unprecedented cross-deck exchange of eight E-2C Hawkeyes with VAW-117, embarked on USS NIMITZ. This massive evolution was completed flawlessly and without interruption to carrier operations as the squadron and the GEORGE WASHINGTON Strike Group prepared for ANNUAL EX, the combined exercise with the Japanese military. VAW-115 maintainers successfully ensured four mission capable aircraft were available to support ANNUAL EX just two days later.

Just days after inheriting new aircraft from its sister squadron, VAW-115 executed 40.9 flight hours in support of ANNUAL EX, a critical combined exercise with the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). VAW-115 was at the core of every CSG mission acting as the main C2 platform for all CSG Defense missions including long range maritime strikes, Defensive Counter Air (DCA) and Offensive Counter Air (OCA).

In February 2014, VAW-115 was instrumental to the success of Carrier Air Wing FIVE's (CVW-5) first ever Fallon detachment. Under VAW-115's leadership, four west-coast based Hawkeye squadrons and CAEWWS came together to support the airborne requirements of this demanding and challenging training detachment. Simultaneously, Liberty Bell aircrew participated in three separate simulator detachments to Naval Base Ventura County-Point Mugu, CA and executed over 90 flight hours in Atsugi, Japan.

In September 2014, VAW-115 played a crucial role in VALIANT SHIELD 2014, a joint exercise involving two Carrier Strike Groups and over 18,000 personnel across all branches of the U.S. military. The Liberty Bells controlled complex, large force, counter-air and counter-sea missions with outstanding results and substantively contributed to proof of concept execution of new CSG air defense tactics.

4. Supporting Reports (Refer to specific guide for Ship/Shore/Aviation or Fleet Command)

- 2014 Battle "E" submission
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5. Published Documents

- “Brake Dancing in the LA” published in the SEP/OCT 2014 Approach magazine
 - VAW-115 Welcome aboard packet
 - CDR France Bio
 - CDR Waidelich Bio
 - 2014 Change of Command Program
 - <https://www.facebook.com/VAW115LibertyBells>
 - http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnri/installations/naf_atsugi/about/tenant_commands/cvw_5/vaw_115.html
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6. Photographs

- CO Picture (see Change of Command Program)
 - XO Picture (see Change of Command Program)
 - VAW-115 squadron
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