

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

### Command Operations Report

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This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

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The Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) collects, organizes, preserves, and makes Command Operations Reports (CORs) available for reference and research. CORs not only serve as an annual report, they represent a snapshot in history of your command and may be used in the future by individuals such as naval personnel, historians, and benefits managers.

To use this form as a template, delete the guidance and type in your material. All sections must be completed. List the attachments included within each section in a numbered list. See OPNAVINST 5750.12K CH-1 and/or contact NHHC\_COR@navy(.smil).mil for assistance in compiling and submitting this form and any attachments. Submission instructions contained in this form are current and correct.

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It is only necessary to submit one full version of the COR. Electronic submission is highly preferred. Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), PDF, TIFF (preferred), JPEG, or plain text. Attachments in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail, AMRDEC, or on a CD as explained at the end of this form. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit them in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD.

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#### 1. Command Data

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

Unit Identification Code (UIC): 09463

Name, rank, and contact information of Commanding Officer:

Last: Ventimiglia First: Matthew M.I.: T Rank: CDR

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: DSN [REDACTED]

Date Assumed Command (date format is YYYY-MM-DD): 2017-02-16

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):

CTF-70

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

Type and number of Aircraft/Ships Assigned and Tail Codes/Hull Numbers, if applicable:

Four E-2C Hawkeye 2000 CNS/ATM aircraft:

<u>MODEX</u>	<u>BUNO</u>
600	165812
601	165815
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: 165

Officers: 32      Enlisted: 133      Civilian: NONE

Command Point of Contact:

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

Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer

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

[REDACTED]

Phone number(s): DSN [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address:

## 2. Commander's Assessment

Throughout 2016, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE FIVE (VAW-115) has sustained its outstanding record of professionalism and aviation excellence as the only forward-deployed Hawkeye squadron in the fleet. The squadron continued its 31 year and 62,000 hour record of Class Alpha mishap-free flight operations while successfully executing five international exercises, three trans-Pacific training detachments to Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu, and Guam; and completed two deployments aboard USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) over five months underway. While preparing for its historic home port change to NAS Point Mugu, the squadron continuously operates in a dynamic Area of Responsibility, maintaining the highest levels of readiness while deployed and ashore.

## 3. Chronology

- POINT MUGU SIM DET; 20 FEB – 06 MAR 2016
- CVW-5 FALLON SFARP DET; 07–18 MAR 2016
- CVW-5 GUAM A/A DET; 09 – 23 MAR 2016
- COPE SAKI MORE EXERCISE; 21 MAR 16 – 22 APR 2016
- JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE INTEGRATION; 26 APR 2016
- IWO-JIMA FCLP DET; 03 – 07 MAY 2016
- IWO-JIMA FCLP DET; 28 – 29 MAY 2016
- SPRING PATROL ABOARD CVN 76 - SOUTH CHINA SEA; 04 JUN – 26 JUL 2016
- JAPAN AIR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE INTEGRATION; 03 – 04 AUG 2016
- IWO-JIMA FCLP DET; 23 – 25 AUG 2016
- FALL PATROL ABOARD CVN 76 – GUAM OP AREAS, EAST CHINA SEA, PHILLIPINE SEA; 04 SEP – 16 NOV 2016
- VALIANT SHIELD; 12 – 23 SEP 2016
- INVINCIBLE SPIRIT; 11 – 14 OCT 2016
- KEEN SWORD; 11 NOV 2016

### Narrative

During 2016, the Liberty Bells achieved unparalleled success in operational execution, tactical development, and Strike Group interoperability while accomplishing USPACOM, SEVENTH Fleet, and CTF-70 mission requirements. As the only forward-deployed Hawkeye squadron, the Liberty Bells completed two at sea patrols, five major exercises with joint and multi-national forces, accomplished five training detachments, and conducted four unit-level integration flights with host nation Japan Air and Maritime Self-Defense Forces.

Throughout the early months of 2016, the Liberty Bells participated in several operational level planning conferences focused on advancing bilateral warfighting capabilities with Japan. The Liberty Bells also conducted 10 training and integration sessions with the USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), who recently homeport shifted to FDNF to advance the warfighting capability of

Carrier Strike Group Five. VAW-115 routinely leads CVW-5 in joint, multi-national, and warfare commander integration.

In July 2016, VAW-115 conducted operations in the South China Sea while in close proximity to Chinese forces as China tested their territorial claims. Operating during a time of heightened tensions due to The Hague's arbitration decision regarding the Scarborough Reef, the Liberty Bells effectively provided Commander, Strike Group FIVE leaders and CVW-5 aircraft with persistent situational awareness, which in turn led to zero PSA violations, zero unescorted carrier overflights, and zero threat aircraft intercepts of CVW-5 assets.

In July 2016, the Liberty Bells pushed the envelope of E-2C Hawkeye capabilities by leading CVW-5 aircraft in what was likely the longest range organic carrier air wing maritime strike exercise in recent history. VAW-115 also led several initiatives to develop game-changing combat identification, degraded Command and Control and electromagnetic maneuver warfare tactics, techniques and procedures.

In September 2016, VAW-115 played a crucial role in VALIANT SHIELD 2016, a joint exercise involving over 10,000 personnel across all branches of the U.S. military. The Liberty Bells controlled complex, large force, counter-air and counter-sea missions while often filling Tactical Air Operations Center and AWACS Command and Control gaps.

The Liberty Bells were the first FDNF squadron to deploy with Iridium Chat capability, which paved the way for new lines of communication throughout the Strike Group. In September 2016, VAW-115 successfully employed this system to the VALIANT SHIELD exercise, greatly enhancing Strike Group and Joint capabilities throughout the exercise.

This was a tremendously demanding year for the forward deployed Liberty Bells. Executing 671 sorties and 1,887.5 flight hours against a demanding and unpredictable operational tempo, VAW-115 met every challenge and surpassed all expectations.

#### **4. Supporting Reports**

- 2016 Battle "E" submission and cover letter
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#### **5. Published Documents**

- VAW-115 Welcome aboard trifold
  - CDR Waidelich Bio
  - CDR Ventimiglia Bio
  - CDR Hulitt Bio
  - CMC Davis Bio
  - 2017 Change of Command Program
  - <https://www.facebook.com/VAW115LibertyBells>
  - [http://www.cnicy.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/naf\\_atsugi/about/tenant\\_commands/cv\\_w\\_5/vaw\\_115.html](http://www.cnicy.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/naf_atsugi/about/tenant_commands/cv_w_5/vaw_115.html)
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## 6. Photographs

- Former CO Portrait (NOV 2015 – FEB 2017)
  - CO Portrait (FEB 2017 – PRESENT)
  - XO Portrait
  - CMC Portrait
  - Squadron photo aboard USS Ronald Reagan
  - “Last Flyby” of 4 VAW-115 E-2C Hawkeyes in formation above USS Ronald Reagan
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