



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN
UNIT 25421
FPO AP 96601-6404

5750
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning
Squadron ONE ONE SIX
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
Subj: COMMAND ANNUAL HISTORY FOR CY 1997
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (Series)
Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Command Mission
(3) CO Biography ✓
(4) CO Photograph ✓
(5) VAW-116 Battle E/AEW Excellence Award/Arleigh Burke
Fleet Trophy Nomination.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are hereby submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. E. Mills".

M. E. MILLS

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VAW-116 COMMAND HISTORY

A. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Primary Mission: Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management. Secondary Mission: Airwing Command and Control, Air Intercept Control, Strike Control, Surface Search Coordination, War at Sea, Deconfliction of Friendly/Hostile Aircraft, Communications Relay, and Passive Detection of Hostile Emitters.
2. Organization Structure: Operational Senior Command: Commander, Carrier Air Wing Two. Administrative Senior Command: Commander, Airborne Early Warning Wing U.S. Pacific Fleet. Deployed aboard U.S.S. CONSTELLATION (CV-64) under Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE, as part of the Constellation Battle Group.
3. Commanding Officer: CDR Mark E. Mills, [REDACTED]/1310
4. Home Base: Hangar Three, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA. U.S.S. CONSTELLATION is home-ported at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.
5. Type and Number Aircraft Assigned : Four E-2C Group II Hawkeye Aircraft. Tail codes NE600, NE601, NE602, NE603. Bunos: 164484, 164486, 164487, 164488.

B. CHRONOLOGY

1. Major Exercises/Special Operations.
 - a. 17 January 1997 - 25 January 1997: FLEETEX 97-1, USS CONSTELLATION.
 - b. 20 February 1997 - 30 February 1997: JTFEX 97-1, USS CONSTELLATION.
 - c. 01 April 1997 - 01 October 1997: WESTPAC Deployment, USS CONSTELLATION.
 - d. 20 May 1997 - 06 August 1997: Operation Southern Watch, Persian Gulf.
 - e. 23 July 1997 - 31 July 1997: Iron Magic, United Arab Emirates.

Enclosure (1)

- f. 09 August 1997 - 13 August 1997: Inspired Alert / Union 97-2, Pakistan.
- g. 15 September 1997 - 17 September 1997: Northern Exposure (PASSEX), Pacific Ocean.

2. Major Command Events

- a. None.

C. NARRATIVE

1. General Contributions to the E-2C Community.

- a. Spearheaded the development and testing of the tactical cockpit laptop display.
- b. Developed E-2 ABCCC tactics for the Battle Group and JTF-SWA, resulting in a whole new era in Battle Management which had been previously reserved for the USAF.
- c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the Air Force and Army JTIDS Class II terminals in the OSW theater of operations, resulting in major improvements in interoperability and joint network design.
- d. Implemented changes in CVW-2 HAVEQUICK (HQ) procedures and ensured near 100 percent HQ success in 73 days of OSW operations.
- e. Spearheaded the execution of EMCON operations with the Constellation Battlegroup. These tactics and procedures were frequently exercised during the return transit.
- f. Demonstrated the viability and necessity of the "Hummer" Controlled Approach (HCA) procedures.

Enclosure (1)

D. ANNUAL SQUADRON SUMMARY.

1. In January 1997, participated in FLEETEX 97-1 onboard USS CONSTELLATION.
2. In February 1997, completed JTFEX 97-1 onboard USS CONSTELLATION. JTFEX and FLEETEX demonstrated the Battlegroup's ability to handle any type of hostile conflict.
3. In April 1997, deployed on USS CONSTELLATION for WESTPAC 1997.
4. In May, June and July 1997, conducted Operation Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf. The Sun Kings spearheaded two very successful strikes-of-the-month while participating in OSW. VAW 116 set unprecedented standards in the area of multi-link architecture, ABCCC, and joint JTIDS operations.
5. In July 1997, participated in Iron Magic, an amphibious assault exercise in United Arab Emirates.
6. In August 1997, participated in Inspired Alert/Union, an air to air exercise with the Pakistani Air Force.
7. In September 1997, conducted Northern Exposure in the North Pacific Ocean. The Sun Kings demonstrated flexibility and endurance by tracking the USS NIMITZ Battlegroup.
8. The Sun King safety statistics for 1997 included 22 years of class A mishap free flying, surpassing 45,000 hours.

Enclosure (1)

COMMAND MISSION

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN (VAW-116) is a four-plane Airborne Early Warning (AEW) Squadron under the command of Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO.

VAW-116 operates the five-place, twin-turboprop E-2C "Hawkeye" aircraft, which is capable of all-weather carrier and shore-based operations. The E-2C is 57 1/2 feet long, has an 81 foot wing span and weighs 54,000 pounds when operationally loaded. Its most distinguishing physical characteristics are its four vertical stabilizers and its 24 foot diameter, dish shaped rotodome mounted six feet above the fuselage.

The five man crew consists of a pilot, co-pilot, Combat Information Center Officer (CICO), Air Control Officer (ACO) and a Radar Operator (RO). This highly skilled crew, when working as a coordinated team, can perform the following missions:

1. Airborne Early Warning (AEW)--the detection of unknown air contacts closing the Task Force.
2. Battle Space Management
3. Tactical Aircraft Intercept Control (AIC).
4. Strike Flight Following/Control.
5. Surface/Subsurface Surveillance Coordination (SSSC), including interface with S-3 aircraft via voice and Link-11.
6. Helicopter Control.
7. Aerial Mining Control.
8. Tactical Reconnaissance Aircraft Control.
9. Secondary Approach Assistance for carrier aircraft.
10. Communications Relay, both manual and automatic.
11. Airborne Search and Rescue Coordination (SAR).

Enclosure (2)