

OPNAVINST 5750.12K  
DNS-H  
17 FEB 2016

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1  
Command Serial Number: 09465  
Date Submitted: 03MAR16

**Classification (when filled in):** 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 report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. See instructions appendices for assistance in compiling and on submitting this form and any attachments.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format.

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#### 1. Command Data (Boxes will expand as information is typed)

Name of your Command or Organization:

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE SIX (VAW-116)

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL:

09465

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: Thomas First: Matthew M.I.: C. Rank: Commander (O-5)

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

2015-10-22

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations:

Mission:

Airborne Early Warning (AEW), Command and Control (C2)

Command Employment:

2014-2015 Operation INHERENT RESOLVE  
2015 Charles De Gaulle Carrier Detachment  
2015 Malaysian PASSEX Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT)

Area of Operations:

United States 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet/ North Arabian Gulf (NAG)  
United States 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet/ Western Pacific Ocean

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units):

Naval Base Ventura County, NAS Point Mugu, CA

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Commander, Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN  
Administrative: Commander, Airborne Command and Control Logistics Wing

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):

Carrier Strike Group ONE  
USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)  
Operation INHERENT RESOLVE

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: 7 E-2C "Hawkeye"

SIDE #	BUNO	CONFIGURATION	DATES
600	165648	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	All Year
601	165815	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	JAN 15 – AUG 15
601	165812	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	AUG 15 – DEC 15
602	165814	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	All Year
603	165811	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	All Year
604	165650	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	AUG 15 – DEC 15
611	165828	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	JUL 15 - DEC 15
613	165825	Hawkeye 200 CNS/ATM	JUL 15 – DEC 15

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed onboard or stationed onboard as tenant activities (as applicable):

N/A

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 32    Enlisted: 127    Civilian: 0

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

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

Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer/ Admin

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

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: VAW-116  
13<sup>th</sup> Street, Hangar 553  
Point Mugu, CA 93042

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## 2. Commander's Assessment

Throughout 2015, the VAW-116 "Sun Kings" faced unique challenges with rewarding outcomes and established themselves as the premier Hawkeye squadron in the fleet. The Sun Kings spent part of the year embarked on the second half of a 10-month combat deployment to the FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility with Carrier Strike Group ONE (CSG-1) and Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN (CVW-17) in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). Upon returning home to Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu, they seamlessly transitioned to a support role for other deployed and deploying west coast Hawkeye squadrons.

Throughout the year, the Sun Kings demonstrated success on every level. In the air, the squadron executed 710 sorties (430 combat) totaling 2,628 mishap-free flight hours. On the ground, the maintenance professionals of VAW-116 completed 14,726 maintenance actions involving over 55,776 maintenance hours, facilitating an astounding 98-percent sortie completion rate.

Most notably, VAW-116 maintained a Ready Basic Aircraft (RBA) of 93.6-percent and a cumulative Ready for Tasking (RFT) gap of only 0.26, the lowest in the community, all while executing 19-percent below the fiscal year planned cost per flight-hour. Quality workmanship and smart troubleshooting enabled the Sun Kings to operate at \$1.65 million under the Aviation Depot Level Repairables (AVDLR) target cost.

One of the command's greatest success stories was its ability to ensure the timely completion of Sun King 601's transfer to VAW-115, stationed in NAS Atsugi, Japan. In a spectacular display of coordination and prioritization, the maintenance department concurrently executed two major short-notice repairs on the aircraft and completed all required transfer inspections in the matter of only a few days. Their herculean efforts culminated in the on-time

delivery of a mission capable asset to VAW-115, ensuring that the only Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) Hawkeye squadron maintained a full complement of aircraft to execute its mission.

As a combat proven command, the Sun Kings set the benchmark for what a Naval Aviation squadron is capable of accomplishing. VAW-116 personifies teamwork both inside and outside the command by readily lending support to other air wing and VAW sister squadrons. The Sun Kings' commitment to excellence was evidenced by the achievement of multiple awards including the 2015 CNAF Pacific Fleet Battle Efficiency Award, 2015 CNO Aviation Safety 'S', 2015 CNAP Aviation Safety 'S', CNAF Blue 'M', Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Gold Level of Achievement Award, EAWS Pennant, Retention Excellence Award, COMACCLOGWING Quarterly Safety 'S' for both 2nd and 3rd Quarters, E-2 Pilot of the Year (Afloat), COMACCLOGWING Senior Sailor of the Year and two CNAF Safety Pros of the Week. In every aspect, the Sun Kings LEAD THE WAY!

### 3. Chronology

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Operation INHERENT RESOLVE	FIFTH Fleet Area of Responsibility/ North Arabian Gulf (NAG) / Iraq	19OCT14- 11APR15
Commander Airborne Command, Control And Logistics Wing (COMACCLOGWING) Mid Cruise Material Condition Inspection (MCI)	NAG	12JAN15- 16JAN15
SCS-8.0 INSTALL	NAG	19JAN15- 22JAN15
Charles De Gaulle Carrier Detachment	NAG /FS Charles De Gaulle (R91)	13MAR15
CVN 70 2015 Malaysian PASSEX Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT)	SEVENTH Fleet Area of Responsibility / Western Pacific Ocean	10MAY15- 13MAY15
Return to Home Port	Western Pacific / NBVC Point Mugu, CA	25MAY15- 04JUN15
NAVSEA CEC DX Testing / USS PRINCETON (CG 59) CSSQT	NBVC Point Mugu, CA	16JUN15
COMACCLOGWING Post-Cruise Material Condition Inspection (MCI)	NBVC Point Mugu, CA	03AUG15- 07AUG15
Aircraft BUNO# 165815 transfer to VAW-115	NBVC Point Mugu, CA	10AUG15- 14AUG15
COMPACFLT SSN UAS Joint Capability Technology Demonstration	NBVC Point Mugu, CA	20SEP15

## 4. Narrative

Backed by the full support of the Hawkeye/Greyhound community and Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN, the 159 members of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE SIX (VAW-116) deployed onboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) for 9.5 months, including 6 months conducting sustained combat operations in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. The Sun Kings excelled at every challenge by exhibiting a skillset that has been, and will always be, quintessential to Naval Aviation – outstanding performance from outstanding Sailors.

On October 19th, 2014, the Sun Kings and Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN (CVW-17) arrived in the North Arabian Gulf, relieving USS GEORGE H. W. BUSH (CVN 77) and CVW-8 on station. For six months and 11 days, the Sun Kings safely and skillfully conducted combat sorties over the skies of Iraq and Syria. Executing 1,847 mishap-free flight hours, VAW-116 directly facilitated the allocation, implementation and execution of more than 56 million pounds of airborne fuel, 327 ATO mission changes and the safe and expeditious resolution of 134 aircraft emergencies. In the process of executing those missions, the squadron succeeded in forging innovative combined tactical interoperability in the fight against ISIL, flying 124 sorties, eight in conjunction with FS CHARLES DE GAULLE (R91). The Sun Kings' consistent dedication to team improvement was critical to the qualification of three VFA(strike fighter squadron) strike leads, 11 division leads, ten HSM/HSC(helicopter maritime strike/helicopter sea combat squadron) HACs(helicopter aircraft commanders), and the Air Combat Training Continuum (ACTC) level advancement of thirteen VAW squadron aircrew.

Beyond the scope of combat operations, the Sun Kings continued to distinguish themselves. As the first operationally deployed Hawkeye squadron to receive SCS 8.0, VAW-116 seamlessly integrated and implemented the new host of capabilities; increasing situational awareness across the C5F AOR (5th Fleet Area of Responsibility). While not executing OIR missions, the Sun Kings played a primary role in the C5F Exercise SHAMAL 15-1, and served as the lead command and control (C2) planner for DESRON-1 in support of the ground breaking carrier strike group fleet synthetic joint war games. Conducted virtually, the synthetic joint war games enhanced joint collaborative tactical execution, saving \$3.5 million dollars in operating costs, and stand as the blueprint for the future of naval tactical training.

Following combat operations, CVN 70 began its transit east and operational control of the Carl Vinson Strike Group transferred to Commander SEVENTH Fleet. Tasked with maritime security operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, the Sun Kings participated in bilateral Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT) with assets from the Royal Malaysian Air Force in support of USPACOM's theater security cooperation (TSC) efforts. On June 3rd, the Sun Kings returned home, flying their four E-2C Hawkeyes back to NBVC (Naval Base Ventura County) Point Mugu, CA. With CVN 70 arriving pier side at Naval Station North Island, CA the following day, VAW-116, CVW-17 and the rest of the Carl Vinson Strike Group successfully completed the longest scheduled deployment since the Vietnam War.

Not one to rest on the enormity of their achievements, VAW-116 immediately turned its focus on how to best support COMACCLGWING initiatives and other needs across the fleet.

In the weeks after returning home, the squadron provided support to both the NAVSEA Systems Command's Combat System Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) of USS PRINCETON (CG 59) and then the COMPACFLT SSN UAS Joint Capability Technology Demonstration of third party targeting tactics of over-the-horizon threats. When not flying missions, the Sun Kings ensured that other squadrons could. Assisting VAW-115 with a time-critical aircraft transfer, MCI inspection, and Fallon detachment; providing VAW-112 with two aircraft to successfully conduct carrier qualifications; and supporting VAW-113 and VAW-117 during local field carrier landing practice periods, the Sun Kings demonstrated VAW-116's 'team first' mindset and ensured persistent capable C2 squadrons across the fleet remained both trained and ready. For their extraordinary efforts, both individually and collectively, VAW-116 has been recognized with a myriad of distinguished awards throughout FY15 including the 2015 CNAF Pacific Fleet Battle 'E', 2015 CNO Aviation Safety 'S', CNAF Blue 'M', SECNAV Energy and Water Management Gold Level of Achievement Award, EAWS Pennant, Retention Excellence Award, COMACCLOGWING Quarterly Safety 'S' for both 2nd and 3rd Quarters, E-2 Pilot of the Year (Afloat), COMACCLOGWING Senior Sailor of the Year and two CNAF Safety Pros of the Week. While embarked, the Sun Kings finished 3rd or better in each CVW-17 Line Period, including the entire cruise, won CVW-17 Top Hook Award for the 3rd Line Period, had the highest boarding rate of any CVW-17 squadron, and placed two pilots among the CVW-17 Top 3 aviators for the entire cruise.

The Sun Kings began this year fully engaged with the enemy over hostile ground, have journeyed halfway around the globe, positively shaped theater security initiatives, executed sustained combat flight operations, and enthusiastically engaged in several Hawkeye Community initiatives. After a long and challenging year, we are prouder than ever to be Sun Kings and continue to "Lead the Way!"

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

See folder on CD

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#### **5. Published Documents**

See folder on CD

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#### **6. Photographs**

See folder on CD

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