

1977



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning
Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) OPNAV Report 5750-1

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), enclosure
(1) is submitted.

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Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-0989)
CINCPACFLT

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN

COMMAND HISTORY
1977

Enclosure (1)

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PROLOGUE

The modern threat environment places ever increasing demands on the offensive and defensive posture of today's naval task force. The complexity and tempo of operations have increased the necessity for early detection and evaluation of potentially hostile forces. The Airborne Tactical Data System (ATDS) installed aboard the E2B Hawkeye Airborne Early Warning (AEW) Aircraft is designed to provide this essential information in a rapid and reliable manner. The goal of the officers and men of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN is to provide the best possible aircraft, weapons systems, and utilization of these systems in support of this mission. The experience gained during two Mediterranean Deployments is a solid base from which to build a continued high state of operational readiness.

SQUADRON DESCRIPTION

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN operates four Grumman E-2B Hawkeye Aircraft. The squadron is comprised of twenty-two officers and 146 enlisted personnel. Homeported at NAS Miramar, San Diego, California under the administrative control of Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet, the squadron was operationally assigned to Commander, Carrier Air Wing SEVEN.

AIRCRAFT DESCRIPTION

The Grumman Aircraft Corporation E-2B Hawkeye is an all weather, carrier based airborne early warning aircraft. The primary mission is to provide an extended airborne early warning horizon with interceptor control to meet any enemy airborne threat to the task force. In addition to the primary AEW mission, the Hawkeye can provide strike and traffic control, area surveillance, search and rescue guidance, navigational assistance and communications relay.

The Hawkeye is designed for a crew of five: Pilot, Copilot, Combat Information Center Officer, Air Control Officer, and Flight Technician.

The Grumman Hawkeye has a high wing and is powered by two T56A-42B Turbo Props. The aircraft may be easily identified by the 24 foot diameter rotodome and the four vertical tails.

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

JANUARY

- 01 VAW-117 was under the operational command of Commander Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, based ashore at NAS Miramar.
- 08 Squadron departed NAS Miramar for USS INDEPENDENCE.
- 11 REFTRA commenced.
- 14 Completed REFTRA.
- 15 CARIBEX commenced.

FEBRUARY

- 05 CARIBEX completed.
- 06 MISSILEX commenced.
- 07 MISSILEX completed.
- Squadron aircraft depart USS INDEPENDENCE for NAS Miramar.
- 08 Squadron aircraft arrive at NAS Miramar.
- 21 Pre-cruise Corrosion Inspection completed.

MARCH

- 07 Unit NATOPS EVAL commenced.
- 11 Unit NATOPS Evaluation completed.
- 19 Squadron aircraft depart NAS Miramar for USS INDEPENDENCE.
- 20 Squadron aircraft arrive USS INDEPENDENCE.
- CARQUALS aboard USS INDEPENDENCE commence.
- 30 CARQUALS, USS INDEPENDENCE completed.
- 31 USS INDEPENDENCE commenced Atlantic transit from Norfolk, Virginia bound for Rota, Spain

APRIL

- 07 Major Atlantic storm encountered during transit aboard USS INDEPENDENCE.
- 12 USS INDEPENDENCE inport Rota, Spain.
- 13 USS INDEPENDENCE transits the Strait of Gibraltar and INCHOPS to SIXTH Fleet.
- 20 One VAW-117 aircraft departs to Lossiemouth, Scotland for Joint Maritime Course 772.
- 22 Inport Naples.

MAY

- 03 Commenced Exercise Determined Defender.
- 04 Completed Exercise Determined Defender.
Commenced Salto Di Quirra Missillex.
- 05 Completed Salto Di Quirra Missillex.
- 10 VAW-117 aircraft returned from Lossiemouth, Scotland.
- 15 Commenced Exercise Dawn Patrol.
- 17 Completed Exercise Dawn Patrol.
- 18 VAW-117 participated in Exercise Damsel Fair.
- 23 Commenced Exercise ASW Week.
- 27 Completed Exercise ASW Week.
- 28 Inport Brindisi, Italy.

JUNE

- 14 Commenced Exercise Combat Readiness Assessment.
- 15 Completed Exercise Combat Readiness Assessment.
- 16 Commenced NAMFI Missillex.
- 17 Completed NAMFI Missillex.
- 20 Inport Bari, Italy.

JULY

02 Inport Naples, Italy

11 Commenced Open Ocean Missilex.

12 Completed Open Ocean Missilex.

14 Participated in NAMFI Missilex.

19 Commenced Exercise ENDUREX.

21 Completed Exercise ENDUREX.

26 Participated in Exercise PHIBLEX 7A-77.

29 Inport Naples, Italy.

30 INDEPENDENCE crew including VAW-117 Officers and Enlisted respond to a request for assistance in fighting a fire which was out of control on the Isle of Capri, Italy.

AUGUST

16 Commenced Exercise National Week XXIII.

22 Completed Exercise National Week XXIII.

26 Inport Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

SEPTEMBER

08 Inport, Barcelona, Spain

12 Exercise PHIBLEX 9-77 commenced.

13 Completed PHIBLEX 9-77.

15 Inport Allassio, Italy.

22 Commenced Exercise Display Determination.

28 Participated in DATEX 77.

29 Completed Exercise Display Determination.

OCTOBER

- 01 Inport Malaga, Spain.
- 08 USS INDEPENDENCE transited Strait of Gibraltar.
Inport Rota, Spain.
- 10 USS INDEPENDENCE begins Atlantic transit.
- 20 VAW-117 aircraft fly-off USS INDEPENDENCE for NAS Miramar.
- 21 VAW-117 under the administrative command of Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

NOVEMBER

- 28 VAW-117 was inspected by Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet for Administrative and Material Procedures.

DECEMBER

- 09 VAW-117 Change of Command, CDR J. Compton FRENCH, Jr. relieved CDR Grady F. GHRER.
- 31 VAW-117 based ashore at NAS Miramar, California under administrative command of Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

AIRCRAFT ONBOARD DURING CY YEAR 1977

E2B BUNO 151710

E2B BUNO 151715

E2B BUNO 151718

E2B BUNO 152484

FLIGHT HOUR SUMMARY FOR CY 1977

	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
JAN	103.0	31.8	134.8
FEB	84.1	19.7	103.8
MAR	77.9	58.8	136.7
APR	99.9	16.3	116.2
MAY	35.2	54.7	89.9
JUN	104.8	40.6	145.4
JUL	156.8	31.7	188.5
AUG	112.1	51.4	163.5
SEP	176.7	37.7	214.4
OCT	55.2	6.7	61.9
NOV	28.0	4.3	32.3
DEC	56.9	4.3	61.2
TOTAL	1190.6	357.0	1547.6

SAILOR AND SUPERVISOR OF THE QUARTER

FIRST QTR - AMH1 [REDACTED] (Supervisor)
AT3 [REDACTED] (Sailor)

SECOND QTR - AMS1 [REDACTED] (Supervisor)
AE2 [REDACTED] (Sailor)

THIRD QTR - AT2 [REDACTED] (Supervisor)
AMSAN [REDACTED] (Sailor)

FOURTH QTR - AE1 [REDACTED] Supervisor)
AME3 [REDACTED] (Sailor)

PERSONAL COMMENDATIONS 1977

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

AMCS [REDACTED] USN
BM1 [REDACTED], USN

COMSIXTHFLT LETTER OF COMMENDATION

AMSC [REDACTED], USN
ATC [REDACTED], USN
AK1 [REDACTED], USN
PN2 [REDACTED], USN

CO USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) LETTER OF COMMENDATION

ADC [REDACTED] USN
AMS1 [REDACTED], USN
YNC [REDACTED], USN
AT1 [REDACTED] USN
ATC [REDACTED] USN

CVW-SEVEN LETTER OF COMMENDATION

AVCM [REDACTED] USN
ADCS [REDACTED], USN
AD1 [REDACTED], USN
AT1 [REDACTED], USN
AE1 [REDACTED], USN
AMSAN [REDACTED], USN