



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
UNIT 25416
FPO AP 96601-6405

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5750
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) VAW-117 Command History

1. As directed by reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. R. Andersen", written over a horizontal line.

K. R. ANDERSEN
By direction

VAW-117 COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. **Mission.** VAW-117 is an Airborne Early Warning (AEW) squadron operating the E-2C Group II Hawkeye aircraft. While the E-2C was originally designed for “blue-water” AEW, innovative Hawkeye crews have proven their platform to be extremely adaptive and effective in every environment. Current mission capabilities include: Battle Space Management, Command and Control, Strike Interdiction, Search and Rescue Control, Fighter Control, and Airborne Early Warning.

b. **Organizational Structure.** Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117’s operational chain of command:

Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN
Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group FIVE
Numbered Fleet Commander

c. **Commanding Officer:** Commander Roger D. Jaskot

d. **Permanent Duty Station:** NAS Miramar

e. **Number and Type Aircraft Assigned:** Four E-2C Group II Hawkeyes

Buno 164108 - Side 600

Buno 164354 - Side 601

Buno 164352 - Side 602

Buno 164483 - Side 603

2. Chronology

a. **USCG Operation Dorsal Fin (USCG):** 27DEC95 - 05JAN96

b. **Strike Fighter Air Combat Maneuvering Refresher Program (SFARP):** 11JAN96 - 26JAN96

c. **Fleet Fighter Air Combat Maneuvering Refresher Program (FFARP):** 23JAN96 - 26JAN96

d. **Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) III:** 21FEB96 - 25FEB96

e. **CVW-11 Air Wing Fallon Detachment:** 26MAR96 - 19APR96

f. **RIMPAC 1996:** 15MAY96 - 27JUN96

g. **COMPTUEX:** 15MAY96 - 11JUN96

h. **Intermediate Training Assessment (ITA):** 13JUN96 - 15JUN96

- i. Joint Training Fleet Exercises (JTFX): 05AUG96 - 18AUG96
- j. WESTPAC '97 Deployment: 11OCT96 - 11APR97
- k. Operation Southern Watch: 04DEC96 - 09FEB97
- l. Eager Archer: 18DEC96 - 22DEC96

***Embarked 152 days during CY 96**

3. **Narrative.** January 1996 found the World Famous Wallbangers working with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in Operation Dorsal Fin. VAW-117 volunteered to provide vital surveillance to help the USCG search for surface vessels suspected of transporting illegal immigrants and narcotics into U.S. and Mexican territorial seas. Also in January 1996, the Wallbangers won their second consecutive Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet Annual Price Fighter Excellence Award for 1995. In February, the Wallbangers and CVW-11 reintroduced themselves to the USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) during Tailored Shipboard Training Assessment III. At the end of March, VAW-117 participated in the CVW-11 Air Wing Fallon Detachment in which the entire air wing practiced strike tactics over the desert in Nevada. In May VAW-117 embarked on the KITTY HAWK for Rim of the Pacific Exercise '96. The Wallbangers were the first E-2C Group II squadron to participate in this exercise during Air Wing turnaround training. In a ceremony held on 30 July, Commander Roger D. Jaskot relieved Commander Nicholas A. Trongale as Commanding Officer of the VAW-117 Wallbangers. Commander Joseph A. Kupcha reported aboard as the Executive Officer. During August, VAW-117 participated in Joint Training Fleet Exercise 96-2, in which the Squadron flew 72 sorties and over 220 mission hours, and proved to be essential in resolving many vital joint interoperability items. On 11 October the Wallbangers departed for Western Pacific '96. While on cruise VAW-117 participated in Operation Southern Watch. The overall mission of Operation Southern Watch was to maintain complete air superiority in United Nations "No Fly Zone." The mission was a complete success. In conjunction with Operation Southern Watch, the Wallbangers participated in Operation Eager Archer with the Kuwait Air Force in late December.

During 1996, the Wallbangers completed their second abbreviated turnaround cycle, flying 817 sorties and a total of 2087.8 flight hours. Also, the VAW-117 Wallbangers received several awards, including their sixth Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet Battle Efficiency Award, and the 1995 Grampaw Pettibone Award. The Wallbanger's safety and NATOPS program has allowed the aircrew to remain mishap free for over 19 years and over 43,000 flight hours.