



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
UNIT 25422
FPO AP 96601-6405

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations, Director Air Warfare Division,
Special Assistant for Publications and Operational Records (N78H)

Subj: CALENDAR YEAR 2000 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Photo/Biography CDR Pawlowski (CO, VAW 117) — *not enclosed*

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted for permanent retention.

2. Point of contact is LTJG [REDACTED] Squadron Public Affairs Officer,
email: [REDACTED]@vinson.navy.mil.

J C Oberst
J. C. OBERST

**VAW 117 "WALLBANGERS"
COMMAND HISTORY
FOR CY-2000**

COMMAND COMPOSITION

1. **Command Short Title:** CARAEWRON ONE ONE SEVEN
2. **Unit Identification Code:** 09985
3. **Mission:** Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE SEVEN carries out electronic search and radar warfare functions along with command the interceptors toward the target; Aircraft used is E-2C Hawkeye.
4. **Commanding Officer:** CDR Fredrick D. Pawlowski, USN
5. **Type/Number of Aircraft with Tailcode:**
 - a. Type: E-2C Hawkeye
 - b. Number of aircraft: 4
 - c. Tailcode: 600: 164352
601: 164111
602: 164355
603: 164112

CHRONOLOGY

The Wallbangers of VAW-117 have had nothing short of a stellar 2000!

The Bangers continue to aggressively spearhead the Hawkeye community transition towards Hawkeye 2000 and are involved in the operational evaluation and testing of the MCU/ACIS. Playing an instrumental role in its development, VAW-117 has embraced with enthusiasm the opportunity to pave the way for the future of the VAW community. Despite being AEWWINGPAC's lowest priority for parts support, the squadron sought and executed missions in all tactical areas, allowing a complete and accurate assessment of the MCU/ACIS system. During this extended IDTC, VAW-117 has maintained training and readiness levels thought unachievable.

The Wallbangers seized every opportunity for training after deployment. On 09 February, VAW-117 deployed to Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada participating in **Desert Rescue '00**. Operating in a joint environment, this intense CSAR exercise facilitated testing the MCU/ACIS integration and compatibility with all branches of the armed services. The training provided a rare opportunity to work joint interoperability issues in a realistic CSAR environment. The exercise proved our ability to successfully operate in these challenging scenarios.

A few short weeks after returning from Fallon, Nevada the Wallbanger team deployed to Savannah, Georgia for the **All Services Combat Identification Evaluation Team 2000**. This was a true test for both squadron and platform. VAW-117 proved its tactical prowess and the capabilities of the MCU/ACIS platform by setting the standards of command and control for not only U.S. forces, but also for all participants in an international exercise. E-2C MCU/ACIS compatibility was demonstrated with Rivet Joint, AWACS, Patriot, Avenger, JSTARS, F-14 and F-18 (via MIDS), as well as other Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and British units. A new E-2C capability was tested in the robust JTIDS network. The MCU's first use of intelligence messages passed via JTIDS from other units provided the E-2C an additional source of information and increased situational awareness.

The Wallbangers have taken full advantage of an extended IDTC to hone their tactical skills. By actively seeking out training opportunities the squadron has become the "go to man" for command and control for CVW-11 and COMCARGRU 3. VAW-117 has participated in successful missile shoots supporting the USS MILIUS (DDG-69), USS MONTPELIER (SSN-765), USS DAVIS (FFG-60), USS CURTIS (FFG-38), USS PHILLIPS (FFG-12), and the Southern California Offshore Range (SCORE) range. Additional fleet support included SEAL Team ONE working on San Clemente Island, and Marine amphibious operations off the coast of Camp Pendleton, California.

VAW-117 improved squadron tactical proficiency and offset the effects of an extended IDTC by sending multiple aircrew to graduate and instructor level courses. Aircrew successfully completed one course at TOP GUN and four courses of Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC) Advanced Mission Commander's Course. An aggressive lecture and simulator schedule further raised the level of knowledge and increased tactical ability and depth. This additional training has allowed the Bangers to start the work-up cycle ahead of the game.

Squadron expertise at the beginning of SFARP and TSTA II/III has been compared by fellow Air Wing aircrew to that of a unit ready to deploy.

Continuing to spearhead the tactical ability and efficiency of the Air Wing, VAW-117 stood up the Current Operations (COPS) Watch program for COMCARGRU 3. As the avowed experts on command and control, the Wallbangers provided the leadership and training that allowed for timely passage of tactical information to all levels of command and provided new operational possibilities for the Air Wing by centralizing information.

Throughout the year, VAW-117 has executed on all cylinders with astounding operational and safety success, extending their impressive safety record beyond 49,000 hours. The Wallbangers are duly proud of their many accomplishments and contributions to the entire VAW community and Naval Aviation in 2000

Major Exercises and Special Exercises

(1) Desert Rescue: 10 Feb - 18 Feb 00

Conducted joint Combat Search and Rescue operations with units from all 4 services in a realistic combat environment against a modern threat. VAW-117 aircrew gained invaluable tactical experience in this unique mission area while developing Joint TTP for CSAR operations in the 21st century.

(2) ASCIET 2000: 22 Feb - 11 Mar 00

Participated in the combined operational environment of the All Service Combat Identification Evaluation Team. VAW-117 ably represented the entire E-2 Community in C³I, demonstrating the versatility of the new MCU/ACIS in an extremely challenging, multi platform data-link environment. The Wallbangers excelled in a robust air control arena and provided flawless link management in a multi-TADIL architecture.

(3) CVW-11 Strike of the Month: 28 Apr 00

VAW-117 sponsored an Air Wing Eleven Strike of the Month in Point Mugu. Hosting 8 F/A-18 Hornets, 2 EA-6B Prowlers, 1 F-14D Tomcat, 2 S-3B Vikings, and 2 SH-60B Seahawks, the Wallbangers' expertise in organization and preparation ensured that all visiting aircrew had a memorable experience, both on the ground and in the air. Mission success was guaranteed by the effort and professionalism demonstrated by VAW-117 aircrew.

(4) USS MILIUS/VFA-97 MISSILEX: 10 May - 11 May 00

Supported USS Milius (DDG-69) and SCORE (Southern California Offshore Range) with range clearance and airspace safety for a missile shoot involving the intercept of two BQM-74s with SM-2s. In addition the command supported VFA-97 and SCORE in the firing of two AIM-7s and 1 AIM-9.

(5) FALLON STRIKE WEEK: 20 May - 28 May 00

Participated in an Air Wing Eleven strike week. VAW-117 provided Air Wing assets with outstanding command and control over the course of numerous day and night strikes. This week also stressed Air Wing camaraderie and serves as the first layer in a foundation for WestPac 01-02.

(6) CVW-11 Strike of the Month: 22 Jun 00

Provided ABCC in support of Air Wing CSAR and Close Air Support missions in direct support of SEAL Team 1 training. This exercise continued the drive to maintain deployment level tactical ability.

(7) USS MONTPELIER MISSILEX: 12,13 Jun 00

VAW-117 assisted the USS Montpelier (SSN 765) and Eglin Air Force Base in a Tomahawk missile shoot. The Bangers provided communications relay and range clearance, ensuring a safe and successful exercise.

(8) LINK-16 TESTING: Spring, Summer 00

The Bangers conducted an extensive series of Link-16 evaluation flights with Patuxent River, VX-9, and Weapons Test Squadron Point Mugu. These tests were instrumental in the progression of the MCU/ACIS platform into a combat ready airplane. The flights facilitated the introduction and testing of the F-14 ACR tape revision for JTIDS.

(9) STRIKE FIGHTER ADVANCED READINESS PROGRAM: 13 Sep - 29 Sep 00

SFARP 00 was an extremely successful detachment producing a strong foundation in the cohesive and combat-ready CVW-11 team. The Wallbangers provided outstanding tactical air control on a myriad of missions primarily focused on air-to-air employment. Overall evaluation from Strike Fighter Weapon School Pacific was that VAW-117 readiness is well ahead of schedule in the IDTC.

(10) TAILORED SHIPS TRAINING AVAILABILITY II/III: 30 Oct -13 Nov 00

TSTA II/III was the first opportunity to integrate the Air Wing and CVN 70 into a team. Despite the long turnaround time, the two meshed nearly seamlessly and were working as one from the start. The Wallbangers established and trained the Air Wing on the new Current Operations Watch and worked integration issues with the ship. VAW-117 also brought the MCU/ACIS to sea as part of the Battle Group team for the first time, providing tactical control for long range overland strikes, SUW, and AW.

(11) MISSILEX: 06 Dec 00

The Wallbangers supplied coordination among USS Rodney M. Davis (FFG-60), USS Curtis (FFG-38), USS George Phillips (FFG-12), and the SCORE range. VAW-117 ensured range safety and clearance and provided a steady communications link to ensure a safe and complete test of the NATO Sea Sparrow.

Additional Squadron Accomplishments

1. Sponsored the ROTC units from the Universities of Southern California and California Los Angeles to a Fleet Interaction Day. In a day filled with aircraft tours, mission briefs, and even a flight for a lucky Midshipman, all parties gained valuable insight into each other's daily operations.

2. Provided invaluable support to NTSB officials as well as NAS Point Mugu during the Alaskan Airline MD-80 accident off the Oxnard coastline. The Wallbangers provided extra hangar space as well as an alert aircraft to assist the search effort for the survivors of the crash.

3. Provided first Air Wing Landing Signal Officer to wave the new F-18F Super Hornet aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln during Carrier Qualifications and PALS certification.

4. AT1 (AW) [REDACTED] was named VAW-117 and Commander, Airborne Early Warning Wing Pacific Sailor of the Year and is a candidate for the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet award.

5. AZCM (AW) [REDACTED] selected as Ventura County Military Woman of the Year for 2000 in recognition of her outstanding leadership.

6. Awarded "Grampaw Pettibone" award from Commander, Naval Safety Center for safety awareness.

SUMMARY

2000 has been a remarkable year for VAW-117! During the last year, the squadron has repeatedly proven their ability to perform tactically by taking every opportunity to hone their skills, ensuring the highest state of training and readiness.

Their dedication to safety, superb quality of maintenance and top notch QA, ORM and NATOPS programs have allowed the Wallbanger aircrew and maintenance team to remain mishap free for over 23 years and over 49,000 hours. This squadron and its people truly epitomize the best in today's Navy as evidence in winning the 2000 CINCPACFLT Retention Excellence Award.