



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser 00/051  
11 Apr 02

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: CALENDER YEAR 2001 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G  
Encl: (1) Command History  
(2) Photo/Bio CDR Oberst, Commanding Officer, VAW-117  
(3) 04 Sept 01 Change of Command Press Release  
(4) VAW-117 Wallbangers Win the Squadron "Top Hook" Award (press  
release)  
(5) The VAW-117 Wallbangers Answer the Call of Duty (press  
release)  
(6) Battle Efficiency Award (Sample Page 13)  
(7) CINCPACFLT Retention Excellence Award Message

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted for permanent retention.

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

*J. C. Oberst*  
J. C. OBERST

**VAW-117 "WALLBANGERS"**  
**COMMAND HISTORY REPORT**  
**CY-2001**

**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 the E-2C Hawkeye.
4. **Commanding Officer(s):** CDR F.D. Pawlowski, USN; CDR J.C. Oberst, USN
5. **Type/ number of Aircraft with Tailcode:**
  - a. Type: E-2C Hawkeye, Mission Computer Upgrade/ Advanced Communication Indicator Set
  - b. Number of Aircraft: 4
  - c. Tailcode: Aircraft 600 - 164352  
Aircraft 601 - 164111  
Aircraft 602 - 164355  
Aircraft 603 - 164112

**A. Operational Assessments (calendar year 2001):**

1. Flight Hours

- (a) Total Hours Flown: 3006.2
- (b) Total Hours Flown Ashore/Percent of Total Hours: 667.2 / 22.2%
  - (1) Ashore Day Hrs / Prct of Total: 514.3 / 77.1%
  - (2) Ashore Night Hrs / Prct of Total: 152.9 / 22.9%
  - (3) Primary Missions Ashore (hours/percent): 667.2 / 100%
- (c) Total Sorties Ashore: 330
  - (1) Day: 243
  - (2) Night: 87
- (d) Total Embarked Hours/Percent of Total Hours: 2339.0 / 77.8%
  - (1) Day Embarked Hours/Percent of Embarked Total: 1331.4 / 56.9%
  - (2) Night Embarked Hours/Percent of Embarked Total: 1007.6 / 43.1%
  - (3) Total Primary Missions Embarked (hours/percent of embarked hours): 2339.0 / 100%
- (e) Total Sorties Embarked: 603
  - (1) Day: 259
  - (2) Night: 344

2. Shipboard Landings

- (a) Total Carrier Arrested Landings: 738
  - (1) Day (number/percentage): 335 / 45.4%
  - (2) Night (number/percentage): 403 / 54.6%
- (b) Boarding Rate (day/night/overall): 96.3% / 95.7% / 95.2%
- (c) Carrier Landing Grades (COMNAVAIRPACINST/COMNAVAIRLANTINST 1520.3 applies): 3.406 Day / 3.410 Night / 3.408 Overall

**B. Personnel Readiness**

Advancement:

1. March 2001 Cycle:

	TIS / TIR Eligible	Taking Exam	Not Recommend	Selected	PNA	Failed
<b>E-4</b>	12	12	0	14	1	0
<b>E-5</b>	23	22	1	7	14	1

<b>E-6</b>	7	6	1	2	5	0
------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

2. September 2001 Cycle:

	TIS / TIR Eligible	Taking Exam	Not Recommend	Selected	PNA	Failed
<b>E-4</b>	11	11	0	9	2	0
<b>E-5</b>	24	24	1	8	15	0
<b>E-6</b>	8	8	0	2	6	0

**C. Combat and Training Readiness:**

Major Exercises/Special Operations

1. COMPTUEX (12 Feb 01 through 02 Mar 01): Due to unprecedented utilization of the WST at Point Mugu during the IDTC, the Bangers entered COMPTUEX already on the step and ready to led the tactical integration of the Battle Group in all warfare areas. As the Subject Matter Experts for Battle Group Air Defense missions, the squadron made significant modifications to standing procedures for CAP station management improving the efficiency of the defense posture and drastically reducing the number of alert launches. The Wallbangers solidified their reputation as the Battle Group's Command and Control experts by sending representatives to several ships in order to improve air control, remedy crypto difficulties and solidify data link integration. The cohesive data link picture enjoyed during COMPUTEX was a direct result of the aircrew's technical knowledge of JTIDS and developed a foundation for the successful data link operations throughout the work-up cycle. The Wallbangers completed COMPTUEX with 68 sorties, 226.2 hours, 91 arrestments and a 97.1 percent sortie completion rate.

2. Air Wing Fallon (12 Mar 01 through 06 Apr 01): The Bangers led the Air Wing through the training challenges of Fallon including the innovative integration of tactical communications between uniquely configured aircraft. An innovative solution was developed using JTIDS between fighter and E-2C aircraft that dramatically improved the Air Wing's tactical air-to-air effectiveness across the board. VAW-117 maximized the advantages afforded by the new MCU/ACIS display and turned them into tactical advantages. One standout result was improved target identification enabling the squadron to be the most accurate ever. The ability to describe the tactical picture without inducing false target reports brought recognition from NASWC as the best ever, increasing overall strike package situational awareness. The Bangers logged 79 sorties, 168.6 hours and a 100 percent mission completion rate.

3. JTFEX (17 May 01 through 15 Jun 01): The Bangers brought an extremely well trained and cohesive squadron team to the fight and maintained T1 readiness ratings throughout. The Bangers astutely controlled three missile exercises, ten overland strikes, 15 offensive air missions, and numerous C2 sorties supporting Battle Group Defense. Realizing the benefits of networking, the squadron dedicated a liaison officer for every AWACS sortie flown in JTFEX enabling the Air Force crews to tactically integrate air controllers and data link operations into the Battle Group for a seamless

transition between forces. The Bangers completed JTFEX with 96 sorties, 327 hours and a phenomenal 99% mission completion rate.

4. WESTPAC 2001 (26 Jul 01 - 18 Jan 02): Hawaiian OPAREA. The northern transit route across the Pacific has few Air Wing training opportunities for strike warfare. VAW-117 identified and filled a critical liaison gap between CVW-11 and the Hawaiian area civilian control agencies allowing for extensive air-to-air and air-to-ground training at the Kaula Rock range. The air control provided by the Bangers was critical to the successful deconfliction of the heavy commercial aviation environment with Air Wing aircraft resulting in the successful completion of training objectives and improved relations between military and civilian agencies.

(a) Guam Strike Ops. The squadron provided expert Battle Management for the three days of Battle Group operations in the Guam and Farallon de Medina range complex allowing for the safe delivery of thousands of pounds of ordnance and the completion of the Air Wing's required air-to-ground training.

(b) Dual CVBG Ops. During a PASSEX with the USS Constellation Battle Group, VAW-117 orchestrated the Air Wing's planning and execution of a newsworthy, dual carrier exercise against a very robust air and surface swarm threat in the Western Pacific. The Bangers' command and control was crucial to the Air Wing's ability to evaluate new operational concepts.

(c) Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (7 Oct 01 - 16 Dec 01). Over a ten-week span, the Wallbangers flew a record-breaking 333 sorties and 1270 flight hours with a 97% sortie completion rate in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The Bangers' direct and continuous contributions to theater planning, command and control execution, data link management and coalition liaison earned the squadron a theater-wide reputation of excellence envied by all. The squadron's phenomenal efforts directly contributed to the success of Air Wing ELEVEN, the USS CARL VINSON Battle Group and the operation.

#### **D. Achievements in Aviation Safety:**

1. Alpha Flight/Flight Related/Ground Mishaps: 0
2. Bravo Flight/Flight Related/Ground Mishaps: 0
3. Hazard Reports Submitted: 14
4. NATOPS Changes Submitted: 48
5. Safety Articles Submitted: 54
6. Safety Articles Published: 15
7. Bravo Zulus: 2

*The Wallbangers have been class A Mishap Free for 24 years while logging over 52,770 hours!  
VAW-117 has amassed over 3,116 days and 16,919 hours engine FOD Free!*

#### **E. Contributions to Weapons System Development**

1. RAMECS

(a) Proposed RAMEC, E-2C Avionics Change No. XXX, TDC 54, Installation of Circuit Breaker for External Power System.

(b) MLG Aft Door Fitting Assembly, Proposal.

2. ILSMT Inputs

- (a) Pitot Static System Moisture fix
- (b) ACIS Bullnose Roller Deterioration fix
- (c) Inertial Reeling Machine Knob fix

### 3. MCU/ACIS Evaluation

(a) OPEVAL of the MCU/ACIS Hawkeye. Amidst the challenges of the inter-deployment training cycle, the Bangers spearheaded the Hawkeye community's transition towards Hawkeye 2000. Serving as the community's "VX" component, the squadron shined in the challenge of the OPEVAL of the MCU/ACIS Hawkeye by becoming not only an integral part of the aircraft's evaluation, but also a steward of its development. The squadron selflessly provided input and feedback that far surpassed the tasking at hand. VAW-117 flew over 346 sorties in multiple testing and operational environments for a total of 796.1 hours in support of the OPEVAL. Exhibiting tenacity in the diligent collection of metrics and intensive analysis and feedback, the Bangers' efforts were critical in the successful completion of OPEVAL and the Milestone III decision.

## **F. Contributions to Tactics Development**

### 1. Tactical Documents Submitted

(a) TOPS Package Inputs - The Bangers are currently collaborating with NSAWC to re-energize the community's TOPS program by creating an online, SIPRNET-based system to support real-time feedback of tactics and data. This initiative, proposed by VAW-117, has the goal of revolutionizing information flow within the community by posting current operational narratives, lessons learned and attachments. The Bangers are providing detailed information regarding current operations in Afghanistan to NSAWC and the FRS and will continue to work closely with NSAWC throughout the coming IDTC to incorporate additional sections online.

(b) NSAWC Journal Articles - Four articles relating to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and a fifth depicting the advantages of the MCU/ACIS in Air Control are currently in production:

- (1) "A Day in the Life of an OEF CAPC"
- (2) "A Day in the Life of an OEF CICO"
- (3) "Hawkeye Support of OEF Close Air Support"
- (4) "JTIDS Macro Management: the Lifeblood of C2 in OEF"

(c) NWP/NTTP Changes: 15

### 2. Tactical Projects Completed

(a) TACMEMO 3-22.1-01. Commander Third Fleet TACMEMO 3-22.1-01: E-2C Mission Computer Upgrade (MCU)/Advanced Control Indicator Set (ACIS) Tactics identifying techniques and procedures to employ the benefits of the advanced avionics equipment of the E-2C MCU/ACIS.

(b) Many Air Wings have recently established a Current Ops (COPS) watch. The Wallbangers, however, took CVW-11's COPS beyond a normal administrative clearinghouse and utilized available Network Centric capabilities to uniquely customize an effective watch around Time Sensitive Targeting (TST) and the rapid flow of information. Centered on the Siprnet and Microsoft Chat, real-time collaboration with the Coalition Forces Air Component Commander (CFACC) was the mainstream of information flow in the

watch throughout Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. This rapid feedback made last minute targeting and weapons changes possible and resulted in unprecedented combat effectiveness. Countless times, comments were received from the CFACC lauding CVW-11's uncanny ability to rapidly flex mission tasking. This was one of the key elements to tactical success of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

3. Number of TACMAN Changes Submitted: Throughout the OPEVAL, the IDTC and our combat deployment, the Bangers continued to generate and collect tactical inputs for collaboration on an MCU/ACIS chapter for the E-2C TACMAN. This ongoing effort will continue through the OPEVAL of Hawkeye 2000 with the goal of creating a quality product for the community as well as a guide for other squadrons' transition to this new system.

#### **G. General Contributions to Individual Community**

The squadron's fleet introduction of the MCU/ACIS Hawkeye and the successful employment in sustained war fighting operations will produce benefits for the community for years to come. During Operation ENDURING FREEDOM the Bangers proactive battle management earned the praise and trust of the highest levels of the operational chain of command. From the start of the operation, VAW-117 planners were involved in the development of theater-wide command and control plans that became the SOP. The Bangers continuous feedback in the most complex data link architecture ever assembled directly resulted in its unequivocal success and furthered the community's reputation as the premiere command and control platform.

VAW-117 provided numerous innovative ideas and feedback to the E-2C program office and Mission Information and Software Transfer System (MIST) developers on future mission planning system upgrade requirements. The MIST program office acknowledged many of VAW-117's inputs were incorporated into the new Hawkeye 2000 MIST machine.

VAW-117 received recognition from COMNAVAIRPAC with a Bravo Zulu for Price Fighter Inputs for 2000. The Wallbangers tallied 7 Price Fighter Submissions for 2001 in the Quest for Greater Fleet-Wide Cost Reductions and Increased Overall Military Readiness. Many price challenges are still outstanding and could result in additional funds being recuperated.

The squadron has made several significant contributions to NSAWC with regards to changing mission requirements for the E-2C in battle management. The squadron has requested the additional capability for JTIDS freetext messaging display in the aircraft to support time sensitive targeting.

The squadron has resurrected the PRC-112 suitcase interrogator for use in E-2C aircraft supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Recognizing the short life span of the system, the Wallbangers are researching additional methods of supporting joint CSAR operations.

#### **H. Additional Squadron Remarks**

1. Squadron Awards. Include Letters of Commendation above the wing level in chain of command and from commands outside the chain of command.

- (a) Grampaw Pettibone award
- (b) CINCPACFLT Retention Excellence award
- (c) COMNAVAIRPAC Retention Honor Roll - 3 Quarters CY2001
- (d) COMAEWWINGPAC Quarterly Safety Award - 3 Quarters CY2001
- (e) CVW-11 Top Hook line period - 3 Awards
- (f) Safety S
- (g) COMNAVAIRPAC Price Fighter honorable mention

2. Individual Awards

(a) All Aircrew nominated for Air Medals from Commander, FIFTH Fleet.

(b) All Aircrew nominated for Navy Commendation Medals (Combat V) from Secretary of the Navy.

3. Additional Squadron Remarks. 2001 was a historic year for the Nation, the Navy, the Hawkeye community as well as a banner year for VAW-117. Command achievements ranged from an impressive class-A mishap free safety record surpassing 52,000 hours, CNO recognition as the 2000 Grampaw Pettibone Award winner, successfully introducing the E-2C MCU/ACIS Hawkeye to the fleet and flying over 1,200 hours in direct support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the Bangers mission accomplishments speak for themselves. The pride and professionalism this squadron has demonstrated over an extremely demanding year is awe-inspiring and clearly surpasses all traditional expectations.