



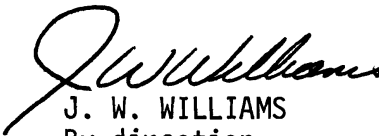
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE
FPO NEW YORK 09501

1977

IN REPLY REFER TO:
VAW121/10:hes
5000
Ser 321
5 September 1978

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History for 1977
Ref: (a) CNO ltr Ser: 05D 730111 of 18 Aug 78
Encl: (1) Command History of 1977

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


J. W. WILLIAMS
By direction

SQUADRON HISTORY VAW 121 "GRIFFINS"

The history of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE (VAW 121) begins in the years immediately following World War II. At that time it became obvious that with advancing technology and increasing weapons ranges a method of detecting enemy threats at greater ranges from the Task Force was essential to the safety of the Fleet. An experimental Squadron was established in December 1945 utilizing the Grumman "Avenger" with an attached radome. This was soon replaced by the Airborne Early Warning (AEW) version of the Douglas "Skyraider."

This was the aircraft being flown in July 1948 when the rudimentary AEW forces in the Fleet were consolidated into two squadrons; VAW 1 on the West Coast and VAW 2 on the East Coast. It was VAW 2 which would later evolve into the six operational and one training squadrons now in use on the East Coast.

VAW 2 was originally based at Norfolk, Virginia. It was soon redesignated Composite Squadron 12 (VC 12) and relocated to Quonset Point, Rhode Island. A basic organization of one parent squadron with numerous detachments operating aboard East Coast Carriers was established. The squadron continued to operate the "Skyraider" until January 1960 when the first WF-2 "Tracer" (Willy Fudd) was introduced to the squadron, which had again been redesignated to VAW 12. By 1961 the WF-2 was officially designated the E-1 and had taken over sole responsibility for early warning operations for the Fleet.

In 1962 the squadron was moved to Norfolk, Va. There it continued to operate and continued to grow. In 1966 the first E-2A was delivered and it soon became apparent that, with two different aircraft, 200 officers, and 800 enlisted men VAW 12 had simply grown too large for a single squadron. Consequently, in April 1967 Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing TWELVE was established, with overall command of East Coast AEW squadrons. VAW 12 was renamed VAW 121 with control of all East Coast E-1 aircraft, and separate E-2 squadrons and a training squadron were established.

VAW 121 continued to operate the E-1B aircraft with detachments aboard many East Coast anti submarine and attack carriers until July 1973, when they disestablished their last "Det" and operated exclusively aboard the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. Finally, in July 1975 VAW 121 also began transition to the E-2C aircraft. In December 1975 the last E-1B was flown into retirement and the squadron received their first E-2C. The squadron soon transitioned to the new E2C (ARPS), receiving their first aircraft April 1977. They received its last E2C in the fall of 1977. The aircraft's first trial by sea was with the nuclear powered Aircraft Carrier, Dwight D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69), in the months of Jan., Feb., and March 1978. During that time the Griffins first learned that they were to be made part of Carrier Air Wing Seven and the CVN 69 team currently scheduled to deploy to the Mediterranean in early 79.

Over the years, VAW 121 has established a reputation for superior performance throughout the Fleet. It has operated around the world from the North Atlantic to the South China Sea, and has been on the scene in the Vietnam War and the conflicts in the Middle East. Few squadrons have had the broad range of operating experience found in VAW 121.

OFFICERS ON BOARD VAW 121

FY77/77

	<u>DATE RECEIVED</u>	<u>DATE TRANSFERRED</u>
CDR P.E. ELLISON - CO		12 AUG 76
CDR J.A. WAGNER - XO/CO	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LCDR D. E. BEYMAN - XO	13 AUG 76	
LCDR [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LT [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LT [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LT [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LT [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LT [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LTJG [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LTJG [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LTJG [REDACTED] R [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LTJG [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
LTJG [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	15 JUL 76	
LTJG [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	11 NOV 76	
LTJG [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	4 OCT 76	
ENS [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	5 NOV 76	
ENS [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	
ENS [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] E	2 JUL 76	14 DEC 76
CWO2 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]	ON BOARD ENTIRE YEAR	