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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Via: Office of Information (OI-211) Washington, DC 20350

Subj: 1985 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
(b) COMNAVAIRLANT Norfolk Va 080813Z Jan 86

Encl: (1) 1985 Command History (Unclassified)
(2) 1985 Command History (Classified)
(3) 1985 Flight Statistics

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE's command history for calender year 1985 is hereby submitted.

2. Enclosure (1) is the unclassified portion of the squadron's history highlighting major events, developments and operations. Enclosure (2) is the classified narrative squadron history. Enclosure (3) provides VAW-123's flight statistics for CY 1985.

W. C. LIEBE

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1985 COMMAND HISTORY

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE, also known as the World Famous SCREWTOPS, flies the Grumman E-2C Hawkeye and is assigned to Carrier Air Wing ONE (CVW-1) when embarked aboard the USS AMERICA (CV 66). While ashore, VAW-123 is attached to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing TWELVE based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia. The squadron's primary mission is to provide airborne early warning (AEW) and command and control services to fleet forces and/or shore warning nets. VAW-123 thereby supports the Navy's overall objective including aiding in prompt and sustained combat operations at sea in support of U.S. national policy. VAW-123 is presently commanded by Commander W. C. LIEBE.

JANUARY

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE began 1985 with a continuation of the holiday standdown. By mid month, the squadron was back to full strength and preparations for upcoming operations began.

FEBRUARY

In early February, the squadron's turnaround training plan shifted into high gear. The squadron participated in Operation Seabat off the Virginia Capes and closed out the month with Fleet Air Superiority Training. This provided the SCREWTOPS with briefs and weapon system trainers on the latest Anti-Air Warfare tactics. Classified portions of the No-Notice Missile Exercise are located in enclosure (2).

MARCH

In the first half of March, the SCREWTOPS participated in Operation Green Flag at Nellis AFB. Here the squadron received intense training in the planning and execution of overland tactical air concepts with emphasis on electronic warfare. SCREWTOP E-2s were primarily tasked with providing command and control for opposition forces against U.S. Air Force strike aircraft. In mid-March, the squadron left Nellis for a weapons detachment in Fallon, Nevada. This exercise, as usual, provided excellent training in intergrated air wing operations even though the SCREWTOPS missed one week of the exercise due to concurrent Green Flag commitments.

APRIL

The first two weeks of April saw the squadron with a two plane detachment going back to Nellis AFB for Operation Green Flag, providing essentially the same services as during the previous detachment in March. The SCREWTOPS participated in battle force inport training upon their return to Norfolk. April ended with the squadron preparing for operations at sea with USS AMERICA. Classsified narrative located in enclosure (2).

MAY and JUNE

During these two months, the SCREWTOPS participated in embarked operations aboard the USS AMERICA. Along with CVW-1, the squadron participated in refresher training and Sopwith Camel commitments during Fleet Carrier Qualifications. During this operation, USS AMERICA was in close proximity to two other aircraft carriers thus requiring extensive coordination to optimize airspace utilization in the Jacksonville operating area. During this at-sea period the SCREWTOPS capitalized on the opportunity to detect and control intercepts on Soviet TU-95s transiting the Atlantic. There was a short port call in Mid-June to Port Everglades, Florida which provided some relief from the high tempo of operations experienced during the previous month and a half.

JULY

July was an important and extremely busy month for the SCREWTOPS. Driven by the impending Ocean Safari exercise, the tempo of operations was very high with squadron participation in anti-ship missile defense, anti-surface and outer air battle exercises. During Phase 1B, the squadron concentrated on refining command and control in battleforce EMCON. On July 17, the squadron, CVW-1 and USS AMERICA (CV 66) were treated to a surprise when First Lady Nancy Reagan and Secretary of the Navy John Lehman came aboard AMERICA to observe carrier operations. The SCREWTOPS provided flight following for the executive helicopter to and from the ship. The First Lady was quite impressed with the warm welcome that she received from the entire crew.

AUGUST

The SCREWTOPS ended Phase 1B operations and returned to Norfolk to prepare for the Ocean Safari exercise slated to begin at the end of August. As the end of August approached, the SCREWTOPS readied for the upcoming exercise with simulators and flights off the Virginia Capes. The AMERICA and her air wing pulled out on the 26th and commenced Mobile Sea Range exercises which entailed working in a three carrier battle group. Working together with two other E-2C squadrons, the SCREWTOPS coordinated battle group defenses against regimental size raids by simulated Soviet aircraft and coordinated overland strikes by air wing strike aircraft.

SEPTEMBER

During September, the squadron was heavily involved in exercise Ocean Safari 85. The extensive training that the aircrews had gone through, especially in EMCON procedures, paid off. September was capped by a week long visit to Portsmouth, England, that provided a respite from the high tempo of operations. Classified operation narrative located in enclosure (2).

OCTOBER

Most of October was spent inport at Norfolk. Toward the latter part of the month, the squadron sent a detachment to complete carrier qualifications for its pilots. Leaving with the expectations of getting only a few traps, the SCREWTOPS were completely surprised by the ship. At the end of the period, the squadron achieved a first in the E-2C community by accumulating

262 traps in five days. AMERICA once again showed why she is number one with the SCREWTOPS. October was also the point for another important milestone. On October 16, the SCREWTOPS achieved its 17th accident free year encompassing over 33,000 flight hours. This was a significant accomplishment and directly reflects the command's continued attitude toward excellence through safety.

NOVEMBER

The squadron was inport during the month of November, however, that did not stop the squadron from getting some good training. The bulk of exercises and successes achieved as a result of this training are classified; see enclosure (2).

DECEMBER

1985 wound down with additional carrier qualifications and refresher training for the squadron and entire air wing. The remainder of the year was dominated by a holiday standown with the SCREWTOPS spending much deserved time with their families and friends. See enclosure (2) for classified narrative.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TOTAL HRS	53.0	94.9	214.7	87.7	152.1	227.6	311.8	265.1	323.5	176.9	123.2	178.5	2209.0
TRN HRS	27.4	73.5	140.9	75.5	126.8	210.3	242.1	56.1	10.5	12.2	19.0	47.3	1041.6
OPER HRS	11.2	16.8	73.8	12.2	17.3	13.8	69.7	90.1	49.0	164.7	104.2	131.2	754.0
SERV HRS	14.4	4.6	0	0	8.0	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	30.5
EXER HRS								118.9	264.0				382.9
SHIP DAY HRS	0	0	0	0	25.7	137.3	198.2	151.1	269.9	96.3	0	77.8	956.3
SHIP NITE HRS	0	0	0	0	4.5	67.6	93.1	75.1	53.6	32.0	0	45.4	371.3
SHORE DAY HRS	35.8	78.4	192.6	72.8	81.5	22.0	14.1	24.2	0	42.3	110.8	46.8	720.8
SHORE NITE HRS	17.7	16.5	22.1	14.9	40.4	.7	6.4	14.7	0	6.3	12.4	8.5	160.6
SHORE													
DAY SORT SKED	17	27	54	25	27	8	7	6	0	13	37	15	236
DAY SORT FLWN	16	27	53	24	27	8	7	6	0	13	37	15	233
NITE SORT SKED	4	9	14	6	16	1	2	11	0	2	4	6	75
NITE SORT FLWN	4	8	14	6	16	1	2	11	0	2	4	6	74
SHIP													
DAY SORT SKED	0	0	0	0	7	42	51	38	70	36	0	31	275
DAY SORT FLWN	0	0	0	0	7	42	51	38	70	36	0	31	275
NITE SORT SKED	0	0	0	0	6	28	40	34	19	13	0	14	154
NITE SORT FLWN	0	0	0	0	6	28	40	34	19	13	0	14	154
DAY TRAPS	0	0	0	0	35	79	55	48	70	221	0	40	548
NITE TRAPS	0	0	0	0	22	31	44	31	19	57	0	16	220
AIDS MISSION HRS													
FLOWN	57.4	71.3	182.1	60.6	0	298.5	305.0	230.5	323.5	150.9	112.1	161.7	1953.6
OR	56.4	69.4	177.3	58.3	0	286.1	291.5	226.3	323.5	124.4	109.8	161.7	1884.7
FMC	48.3	57.1	157.0	52.0	0	243.7	250.2	198.0	299.2	76.2	98.6	142.7	1623.0
FMC	8.1	12.3	20.3	6.3	0	42.4	41.3	28.3	24.3	48.2	11.2	19.0	261.7
NMC	1.0	1.9	4.5	2.3	0	12.4	13.5	4.2	0	26.5	2.3	0	68.6

Enclosure (3)