

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1986



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE
FPO NEW YORK 09501

DECLASSIFIED

5000
Ser 000004
06 MAR 1987

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures (3), and (5))

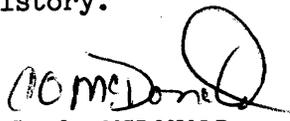
From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1986 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Organization (U)
(2) Chronology of Events CY-86 (U)
(3) Amplifying Narrative (C)
(4) Supporting Documents (U)
(5) 1986 End of Deployment Report (C)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted for VAW-123 1986 Calendar Year History.


C. O. MCDONALD
By direction

Copy to:
COMCAEWING 12

LOGGED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

VAW-123 COMMAND ORGANIZATION

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123 (VAW-123). The SCREWTOPS fly the Grumman E-2C Hawkeye and are assigned to Carrier Air Wing ONE (CVW-1) when embarked aboard 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 with prompt and sustained combat operations at sea in direct support of the carrier air wing, carrier battle group and the Navy's global maritime strategy. VAW-123 is presently commanded by Commander W. D. Holbrook.

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

VAW-123 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS CY 1986

JANUARY

- 02 Two day post holiday safety standdown at NAS Norfolk.
- 07 VAW-123 participated in link excercises with USS BOSTON (SSN-703) at Montauk Point, NY.
- 22 Provided range clearance for VF-33 missile excercise.
- 23 Provided range clearance for USS DETROIT missile excercise.

FEBUARY

- 03 Screwtop carrier qualification aboard USS AMERICA.
- 06 Commenced FLEET EXERCISE 1-86 in Puerto Rico operating area.
- 25 Completed FLEET EXERCISE 1-86 and returned to Norfolk.

MARCH

- 09 Loaded aboard USS AMERICA and underway for six month Mediterranean deployment.
- 22 Three Carrier Battle Group operations in the vicinity of Libya; USS AMERICA, USS SARATOGA, USS CORAL SEA.
- 31 Training anchorage Augusta Bay, Sicily turnover with the USS SARATOGA and Air Wing SEVENTEEN.

APRIL

- 04 Port visit to Livorno, Italy.
- 09 Return to the Gulf of Sidra for dual Carrier Battle Group operations with USS CORAL SEA
- 28 Port visit to Naples Italy.

MAY

- 05 Participated in NATO excercise DISTANT HAMMER.
- 17 Dual carrier operation with USS ENTERPRISE in central Mediterranean Sea.
- 20 Port visit to Cannes, France.
- 23 VAW-123 Change of Command, CDR Holbrook relieved CDR Liebe.
- 29 Squadron safety standdown.
- 31 Central Mediterranean operations.

JUNE

- 11 Participated in Excercise POOPDECK with the Spanish Air Force.
- 13 Port visit to Palma De Majorca, Spain.
- 19 NATO Excercise TRIDENTE.
- 24 Dual carrier operations with USS FORRESTAL.
- 28 Port visit to Naples, Italy.

Enclosure (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

JULY

- 08 Central Mediterranean operation NATIONAL WEEK.
- 13 Port visit to Catania, Sicily.
- 23 Western Mediterranean operations.
- 28 Port visit to Benidorm, Spain.

AUGUST

- 07 Western Mediterranean operations.
- 11 Port visit to Naples, Italy.
- 18 Western Mediterranean operations.
- 21 Central Mediterranean operations.
- 28 Inport Rota, Spain to turnover with USS KENNEDY.
- 21 Outchop 6th Fleet.

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Trans-Atlantic crossing enroute to home port Norfolk, Virginia.
- 09 Screwtops fly off USS AMERICA to NAS Norfolk to complete squadrons 17th deployment since commissioning.
- 10 USS AMERICA Battle Group inport Norfolk.

OCTOBER

- 16 Squadron celebrated 18 years of mishap free flying.
- 25 Participated in Excercise Red Flag 87-1 at AFB Nellis, Nevada.

NOVEMBER

- 12 Drug interdiction operations at NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

DECEMBER

- 01 Fleet fighter air combat maneuver refresher program in Virginia Vacapes operating area with VF-33 and VF-102.

UNCLASSIFIED

JANUARY

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123 began 1986 with a two day post holiday safety standdown, and prepared for an earlier than expected deployment. The Screwtops also provided range clearance for VF-33 and USS DETROIT missile exercise in the Virginia Capes operating area.

FEBRUARY

In early February, the squadron moved aboard USS AMERICA (CV-66) and participated in carrier qualifications. The Screwtops then steamed south to the Puerto Rico operating area and participated in one of the most successful exercises this squadron has ever undertaken, FLEETEX 1-86. The results were the successful employment and refinement of new Anti-Air Warfare Battle Force procedures.

MARCH

On March 10, two weeks earlier than expected, the Screwtops moved aboard USS AMERICA for a Mediterranean deployment. A short trans-Atlantic crossing allowed only limited carrier qualifications but expedited our arrival in the vicinity of Libya. The Screwtops and the USS AMERICA Battle Group took station with the USS SARATOGA and USS CORAL SEA in the central Ionian. Due to increased activity of terrorists, the three carrier battle groups moved South into the Gulf of Sidra. See the classified narrative in enclosure (3).

APRIL

After the USS AMERICA turnover with the USS SARATOGA, the Screwtops returned to the Gulf of Sidra for dual carrier battle group operations. The results of those operations were described in detail in various national media. During strikes against Libya, the Screwtops provided combat air patrol, electronic support measures, command and control support for Airwing one attack aircraft on the eastern targets and delousing and tanker control for the FB-111's returning from the Tripoli targets. After following the USN/USAF strikes into Libya, the Screwtops settled into routine Central Mediterranean operations which consisted primarily of surface search and combat air patrol. See the classified narrative in enclosure (3).

Enclosure (3)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

MAY

The Screwtops started the month of May with NATO exercise DISTANT HAMMER. Designed to enhance Allied tactical interoperability, the exercise was significantly curtailed due to real world tension in the southern Mediterranean. During the exercise, one Screwtop NFO flew with the NE-3A AWACS and three NAEW controllers visited the Screwtops for some eye-opening carrier experience. Following DISTANT HAMMER, the squadron participated briefly in dual carrier operations with the USS ENTERPRISE and also B-52 over the horizon targeting (OHT) exercises in the western Mediterranean. On 23 May, VAW-123 held a change of command ceremony aboard USS AMERICA in which CDR W. D. Holbrook relieved CDR W. C. Liebe.

JUNE

During the first half of the June, Screwtops patrolled the central Mediterranean and participated in exercise POOPDECK with the Spanish Air Force. A USAF controller and two Spanish Air Force controllers flew with the Screwtops to control USAF/SAF fighters against embarked F-14 Tomcats. After a short port visit to Palma De Majorca, Spain, the Screwtops participated in exercise TRIDENTE, and dual carrier operations with the USS CORAL SEA as she transited to Naples Italy.

JULY

After a port visit to Naples, Italy, the Screwtops returned to flight operations in the central Mediterranean and participated in NATO exercise NATIONAL WEEK. Then came port visits to Catania, Sicily and Benidorm, Spain followed by more central Mediterranean flight operations.

AUGUST

Western Mediterranean flight operations continued during the month. On 28 August, while inport Rota, Spain, USS AMERICA turned over with USS KENNEDY. After the turnover was completed, USS AMERICA outchopped from 6th Fleet and began a trans-Atlantic crossing enroute to its homeport of Norfolk, VA.

SEPTEMBER

On the 9 September, Screwtops flew back to NAS Norfolk concluding a six month Mediterranean deployment. During the post deployment standown period, the Screwtops coordinated two missile exercises with VC-12 and the USS BARNEY. The remainder of the month, the Screwtops concentrated on maintaining aircrew proficient in primary mission areas in preparation for Red Flag 87-1.

UNCLASSIFIED

OCTOBER

The Screwtops were inport during the month to celebrate 18 years of mishap free flying having accumulated 35,900 total hours, 8850 arrested landings during 9 major deployments. The ground training efforts kicked off the turnaround training plan and preparation for the NATOPS unit evaluation. Nearing the end of the month, the Screwtops participated excercise Red Flag 87-1 in Nellis AFB, Nevada.

NOVEMBER

The Screwtops flew to NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to conduct drug interdiction operation THUNDERBOLT.

DECEMBER

During the first part of the month, Screwtops participated in a Fleet Fighter Air combat maneuver Refresher Program (FFARP) for VF-33 and VF-102 in the Virginia Capes operating area. The remainder of the month was dominated by a holiday standdown and preparation for upcoming shakedown training in USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

1986 AWARDSSQUADRON

1986 Battle "E"

Navy Expeditionary Award (23-31 Mar 86)

Meritorious Unit Commendation (21 Mar-27 Jun 86)

COMNAVAIRLANT nomination for 1986 AEW Excellence Award

COMNAVAIRLANT Nomination for 1986 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award

INDIVIDUAL

1986 Sailor of the Year - AE1 [REDACTED], USN

1986 Hawkeye of the Year - LCDR [REDACTED], USN

1986 Junior Pilot of the Year - LT [REDACTED], USNR

LCDR James L. DELANEY Award - LT [REDACTED], USNR

LCDR Paul M. WRIGHT Safety Award - LCDR [REDACTED], USN

Command Advancement Program (CAP) - DK2 [REDACTED], USN

AMH1 [REDACTED], USN

Navy Achievement Medals - LT [REDACTED], USN

LT [REDACTED], USN

AMS1 [REDACTED], USN

AT2 [REDACTED], USN

END OF DEPLOYMENT AWARDSNAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL:

AFCM [REDACTED], USN

LCDR [REDACTED], USN

AMS1 [REDACTED], USN

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL:

DK2 [REDACTED], USN

AE2 [REDACTED], USN

AMH2 [REDACTED], USN

AT1 [REDACTED], USN

ATC [REDACTED], USN

AT2 [REDACTED], USN

HM1 [REDACTED], USN

LT [REDACTED], USN

LT [REDACTED], USN

ATC [REDACTED], USN

AT1 [REDACTED], USN

LCDR [REDACTED], USN

COMCRUDESGRU 12 LETTERS OF COMMENDATION:

AT2 [REDACTED], USN

AMS2 [REDACTED], USN

PN3 [REDACTED], USN

AT2 [REDACTED], USN

AT2 [REDACTED], USN

YNC [REDACTED], USN

ADC [REDACTED], USN

AE1 [REDACTED], USN

AMS3 [REDACTED], USN

AMS3 [REDACTED], USN

AE3 [REDACTED], USN

AEC [REDACTED], USN

AMH1 [REDACTED], USN

Enclosure (4)