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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE
UNIT 60138
FPO AE 09507-6409

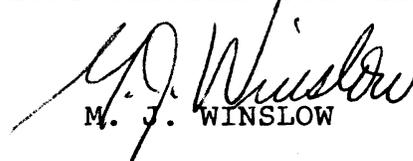
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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571
Subj: 1991 COMMAND HISTORY (U)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
Encl: (1) Command Organization (U)
(2) Chronology of Events CY-91 (U)
(3) Amplifying Narrative (U)
(4) Biography of Commanding Officer (U)
(5) Photograph of Commanding Officer (U)
(6) Battle Efficiency Award Submission CY-91(C)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted for VAW-123 1991 Calendar Year History.


M. J. WINSLOW

R 431-586-666

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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) 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 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 Michael J. Winslow.

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VAW-123 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS CY 1991

JANUARY

01 - 16 CVW-1/CV 66 2-91, Operation Desert Shield, Mediterranean
Sea / Red Sea
16 - 31 Operation Desert Storm, Red Sea
01 - 22 CVW-8 Bahrain Detachment, Saudi Arabia

FEBRUARY

01 - 07 Operation Desert Storm, Red Sea
07 - 28 Operation Desert Storm, Arabian Gulf

MARCH

01 - 03 Operation Desert Storm, Arabian Gulf
04 - 31 CVW-1 / CV 66 2-91, Red Sea / Mediterranean Sea

APRIL

01 - 18 CVW-1 / CV 66 2-91, Mediterranean Sea / Atlantic Ocean

MAY

01 - 31 Inport NAS Norfolk, VA

JUNE

04 - 14 Fleet Week, New York, NY
13 - 28 FFARP, VACAPES

JULY

01 - 02 CVW-1 Misslex, VACAPES
10 - 19 REFTRA, USS AMERICA (CV 66), VACAPES
28 - 31 CVW-1 Weapons Detachment, NAS Fallon, Nevada

AUGUST

01 - 10 CVW-1 Weapons Detachment, NAS Fallon, Nevada
21 - 31 CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) Advanced Phase / Combat
Enhancement Training, Western Atlantic

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SEPTEMBER

- 01 - 05 CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) Combat Enhancement Training,
Western Atlantic
- 10 - 19 OPERATION NORTH STAR 91, Norwegian Sea
- 29 - 31 CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) FLEETEX 1-92, Eastern Atlantic

OCTOBER

- 01 - 11 CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) FLEETEX 1-92, Eastern/Western
Atlantic
- 31 Change of Command Ceremony, NAS Norfolk, VA

NOVEMBER

- 02 - 03 Search and Rescue, VACAPES

DECEMBER

- 02 - 31 CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) MED 1-92, Atlantic Ocean/
Mediterranean Sea

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JANUARY

The SCREWTOPS started 1991 with a rapid deployment in support of Operation Desert Shield. One day after arriving in the Red Sea, Operation Desert Storm began, thrusting the SCREWTOPS into combat. The beginning of the war saw the SCREWTOPS providing air defence for the fleet. As the month progressed the squadron participated in offensive strikes into Iraq and provided threat detection for air wing assets. The SCREWTOPS also controlled SCUD missile suppression packages as they sought to destroy those missiles before they could be launched.

FEBRUARY

In February the SCREWTOPS transited to the Arabian Gulf with the rest of the CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) Battle Group. This made the SCREWTOPS the only E-2C squadron to operate in both theaters of the war. In the Arabian Gulf the squadron continued to provide airborne early warning for the ships operating there. In addition, the SCREWTOPS controlled numerous raids against coastal defenses and strategic targets in Kuwait and Iraq.

MARCH

At war's end in March, the SCREWTOPS again transited to the Red Sea to continue cyclic operations. The battle group remained in the Red Sea to monitor the cease fire agreement and to keep an American presence in that region. After a much heralded port visit in Hurghada, Egypt, the SCREWTOPS began the long voyage home. While the Mediterranean Sea transit left little time for flying the squadron did enjoy some well deserved rest after their successful war effort.

APRIL

The highlight of April was the squadron's fly-in to NAS Norfolk. There the SCREWTOPS were met by a large crowd of family and friends including Vice Admiral Ready, COMNAVAIRLANT. The rest of the month was spent with the squadron enjoying POM period.

MAY

In May the SCREWTOPS began the task of preparing for an accelerated work up cycle. The squadron finalized plans that would carry them through an aggressive training schedule.

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JUNE

June saw the squadron participate in the Fleet Week celebration in New York City. This was described by some as the "greatest party ever thrown." The SCREWTOPS then returned to NAS Norfolk to participate in FFARP training at nearby NAS Oceana. During this training the squadron practiced advanced AAW techniques with VF-102, an F-14 squadron from the CVW-1 air wing team.

JULY

The SCREWTOPS started July with a Misslex in the VACAPES operating area. This was followed by the squadron's introduction to an accelerated work up cycle by joining the CVW-1 / USS AMERICA (CV 66) team for refresher training (REFTRA). The major thrust of this exercise for the SCREWTOPS was carrier qualifications for the pilots. July ended with the SCREWTOPS at NAS Fallon for the air wing weapons detachment.

AUGUST

CVW-1 weapons training continued for the SCREWTOPS in the month of August. Here the squadron was voted as the most improved squadron in the air wing. The squadron returned to NAS Norfolk for two weeks before deploying for Operation North Star 91. On the way to this exercise, the squadron conducted Advanced Phase and Combat Enhancement Training in the Atlantic Ocean. During these exercises, the SCREWTOPS worked with fighter and bomber squadrons from USAF and Canadian forces.

SEPTEMBER

September marked the beginning of Operation North Star 91. During this training the SCREWTOPS operated in the fjords of Norway and had the opportunity to work with assets not normally encountered by E-2C squadrons. Among these were British Sea Harriers, Norwegian F-16s and German Tornados. Working in the harsh Norwegian Sea environment proved a test for both aircraft and pilots. The cold temperatures and high seas were a formidable opponent for the SCREWTOPS. After completing a successful North Star 91, the squadron made a port visit in Portsmouth, England.

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OCTOBER

FLEETEX 1-92 kicked off October. This exercise was the final test for the SCREWTOPS before cruise. The squadron lived up to the challenge. providing superlative command and control throughout the operation. Highlights included long range AAW against USN and USAF aircraft and long range anti-surface strikes, all of which were controlled by the SCREWTOPS. On the 12th of October the squadron returned to NAS Norfolk and began a series of maintenance and administrative inspections which the SCREWTOPS passed with outstanding results. CDR Michael J. Winslow relieved CDR Michael L. Maurer as Commanding Officer of VAW-123 on 31 October.

NOVEMBER

In November, the squadron prepared for the upcoming Mediterranean deployment. This was a month for preperation for overseas movement (POM) and fine tuning of aircraft. Still the squadron was tasked to aid the USCG in a major search and rescue effort in the VACAPES area.

DECEMBER

On December 2nd, the SCREWTOPS deployed to the Mediterranean. The first half of the month was consumed by the Atlantic crossing and cyclic operations. After turning over with USS FORESTALL (CV 59), the squadron began operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. The SCREWTOPS once again provided the quality battle management that has been their trademark. Christmas and New Year's were spent in Naples, Italy.

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