

1993 ✓



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 (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1993 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Organization
(2) Chronology of Events CY-93
(3) Monthly Narration for CY-93
(4) Aircraft Assignment to Command During CY-93
(5) Biography of Commanding Officer
(6) Photograph of Commanding Officer
(7) Photograph of Squadron Aircraft

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted as VAW-123's 1993 Calendar Year History.

2. POC: LTJG [REDACTED] Public Affairs Officer, deployed.

S. L. Smolski
S. L. SMOLSKI

Copy to:
Public Affairs Officer



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 USS AMERICA (CV-66). VAW-123 is home ported at Naval Air Station Norfolk, VA. The squadron's primary mission is to provide Airborne Early Warning (AEW), 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 commanded by Commander Stefan L. Smolski.

VAW-123 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS CY 1993

JANUARY

01-11 NAS Norfolk
12-13 BLUE SHIELD, NAS Cecil Field
20 USS AMERICA LINKEX, W-72
21 Change of Command ceremony, NAS Norfolk
26,28 Wallops Island LINKEX, W-386
29-31 NAS Norfolk

FEBRUARY

01,02 NAS Norfolk
03-05 FCLPS, OLF Fentress
08-10 Gulf of Maine Aegis Trials, NAS Brunswick
10-12 FCLPS, OLF Fentress
15-16 VFA-82/86 Missilex, NAS Cecil Field
16-21 FCLPS, OLF Fentress
18-19 VF-33/102 AARP, NAS Oceana
23-28 TSTA 2/REFTRA USS AMERICA (CV-66)

MARCH

01-05 TSTA 2/REFTRA, USS AMERICA (CV-66)
11-26 CVW-1 Weapons DET, NAS Fallon, NV
29-31 Commuter Week, NB Dam Neck, VA

APRIL

01-02 Commuter Week, NB Dam Neck, VA
13-30 COMPTUEX, USS AMERICA (CV-66)

MAY

01-03 ITA, USS AMERICA (CV-66)
04-06 Port visit, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
07-17 OCEAN VENTURE 93, USS AMERICA (CV-66)
21-28 JOINT TASK GROUP 93, USS AMERICA (CV-66)
29,31 NAS Norfolk

JUNE

07-10 BG Inport Training, NB Dam Neck, VA
14-18 NATOPS Unit Eval, NAS Norfolk
15-17 USMC TRUEX 93, Philadelphia, PA
21-25 Squadron ADMAT, Squadron AMCI, NAS Norfolk
27-30 FCLPS, OLF Fentress

JULY

01-06 NAS Norfolk
07-23 FLEETEX, USS AMERICA (CV-66)
24-31 NAS Norfolk

AUGUST

01-04 NAS Norfolk
05-09 FCLPS, OLF Fentress
11 Squadron embarks onboard USS AMERICA (CV-66) for six
month Med deployment
12-29 TRANSLANT
30,31 DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS

SEPTEMBER

01-09 DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS
10-13 Port visit, Trieste, Italy
14-30 DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS

OCTOBER

01-05 Port visit, Corfu, Greece
06-17 DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS
18-25 Port visit, Trieste, Italy
26 DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS
27 CV-66/CVW-1 departs for Indian Ocean/Somalia
28 CV-66/CVW-1 eastern Mediterranean Sea
29 Transit Suez Canal
30-31 Transit Red Sea

NOVEMBER

01-03 CV-66/CVW-1 en route for Indian Ocean/Somalia
04-30 RESTORE HOPE OPERATIONS over Somalia

DECEMBER

01 Crossing The Line Ceremony, Indian Ocean
02,03 RESTORE HOPE OPERATIONS
04 USS AMERICA (CV-66)/CVW-1 departs Indian Ocean for
Mediterranean Sea via Red Sea
09-10 Red Sea in support of SOUTHERN WATCH OPERATIONS
11-12 USS AMERICA (CV-66)/CVW-1 transit Red Sea/Suez Canal
13-17 Port visit, Haifa, Israel
18-21 Transit to Marseille, France
22-31 Port visit, Marseille, France

VAW-123 COMMAND MONTHLY NARRATIVE SUMMARY FOR CY93

JANUARY

Period included a joint exercise, BLUE SHIELD, and a link exercise with USS AMERICA (CV-66). Additionally, the squadron provided support for Wallops Island AEGIS link exercises. The change of command ceremony was held on 21 JAN 93 in hanger SP-2 at NAS Norfolk; CDR Stefan L. Smolski relieved CDR Michael J. Winslow.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	34.9
NIGHT	9.6

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	14
NIGHT	4

FEBRUARY

The month focused on turnaround training consisting primarily of REFTRA on board USS AMERICA (CV-66) which was the squadron's first at sea period for the year. The squadron conducted FCLPS throughout the month in preparation for REFTRA. The command also flew out of NAS Brunswick, Maine in support of AEGIS sea trials. During the middle of the month, the SCREWTOPS provided air control for VFA-82 and VFA-86 missile ex out of NAS Cecil Field, Florida. In addition, squadron provided the air control in W-72 for VF-33 and VF-102's AARP.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	95.3
NIGHT	88.2

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	26
NIGHT	40

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	34
NIGHT	20

MARCH

The squadron finished REFTRA onboard USS AMERICA (CV-66). The air wing weapons detachment to NAS Fallon, Nevada also occurred during the month. VAW-123 was praised by the Naval Strike Warfare Center for their work during the air wing det at Fallon. The end of the month the SCREWTOPS participated in COMMUTER WEEK at FCTCLANT Dam Neck, VA.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	246.4
NIGHT	75.1

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	67
NIGHT	27

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	5
NIGHT	5

APRIL

SCREWTOPS started the month by finishing Commuter Week with FCTCLANT Dam Neck, VA. The air wing deployed again onboard USS AMERICA (CV-66) for COMPTUEX 93. This was the advance working phase for the air wing's upcoming MED deployment. The exercise was conducted in the north and south PROA with strikes made on Vieques bombing range. In addition, several MISSILEX, HARMEX, and HARPOONEX evolutions involved SCREWTOP participation.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	197.5
NIGHT	120.2

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	51
NIGHT	44

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	55
NIGHT	35

MAY

The SCREWTOPS continued working in the PROA during the month, while the ship and air wing completed their advance phase. This period also included a port visit to St Thomas, Virgin Islands. A major joint service, multi-national exercise, OCEAN VENTURE 93, was also conducted during the month, and VAW-123 played a major role in providing valuable inter-service coordination for the air wing. The SCREWTOPS continued joint operations by working with Marine Corps assets that deployed on board USS AMERICA (CV-66). The squadron returned to NAS Norfolk at the end of the month.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	209.0
NIGHT	52.8

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	59
NIGHT	22

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	50
NIGHT	22

JUNE

The squadron conducted Battle Group inport training at the start of the month with CVW-1 and USS AMERICA (CV-66) assets. The command also conducted its annual unit NATOPS evaluation and ADMAT/AMCI in June, receiving grades of outstanding on both. The command continued with its involvement in joint operations with the 22ND MEU-SOC in TRUEX; where the squadron provided communication relay during the exercise. Finally, the squadron conducted FCLPS at the end of the month.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	30.1
NIGHT	30.1

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	11
NIGHT	8

JULY

This month saw the SCREWTOPS along with CVW-1 and USS AMERICA (CV-66) in their last training evaluation before the deployment. FLEETEX was conducted 07-23 July, with the first Joint Task Group (JTG) off the coasts of North and South Carolina. At the completion of FLEETEX, the squadron returned to NAS Norfolk and started their POM period for the 93/94 deployment.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	186.0
NIGHT	65.4

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	51
NIGHT	27

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	59
NIGHT	24

AUGUST

The squadron concluded the POM period while conducting FCLPS. On 11 August, the command embarked on USS AMERICA (CV-66) for its 93/94 deployment. Following the TRANSLANT and turnover with Air Wing 8 and the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71), the SCREWTOPS started flying DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS from the Adriatic Sea. (On 30 August, the SCREWTOPS became the second E-2C squadron in the NAVY to conduct overland operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.)

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	102.6
NIGHT	66.0

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	29
NIGHT	26

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	34
NIGHT	24

SEPTEMBER

Except for a port visit to Trieste, Italy from 10-13 September, the SCREWTOPS spent the entire month flying missions over Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	134.1
NIGHT	91.6

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	39
NIGHT	37

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	38
NIGHT	38

OCTOBER

The month began with a port visit to Corfu, Greece. After the port visit, the SCREWTOPS continued DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS. On 16 October the command achieved twenty-five years of mishap free operations; the squadron had flown 51,526 hours and recorded 11,755 carrier arrested landings as of this date. On 18 October, another port visit was made to Trieste, Italy. After one day of DENY FLIGHT OPERATIONS and two days after the final Trieste port visit, USS AMERICA received orders to sail to Somalia. The rest of the month was spent in transit to the Red Sea.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	101.0
NIGHT	65.0

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	27
NIGHT	24

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	27
NIGHT	24

NOVEMBER

The USS AMERICA arrived on station in the Indian Ocean 03 November. On 04 November, the SCREWTOPS flew their first flight in support of OPERATION RESTORE HOPE. RESTORE HOPE operations continued for the entire month providing flight following for United Nations relief flights into and out of Mogadishu, Somalia, and for CVW-1 assets in country. The SCREWTOPS became the first E-2C squadron to fly feet dry over Somalia.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	230.1
NIGHT	69.1

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	64
NIGHT	36

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	67
NIGHT	44

DECEMBER

On 01 December USS AMERICA held a Crossing The Line Ceremony. The SCREWTOPS participated in the ceremony. On 03 December the squadron flew its last RESTORE HOPE OPERATIONS flight over Somalia. While USS AMERICA (CV-66) was transiting back towards the Mediterranean Sea, CVW-1 conducted two days of flight operations in the Red Sea in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH over Iraq. The SCREWTOPS were tasked in this operation to coordinate the air wing's route of flight through Saudi Arabian airspace. The SCREWTOPS had a port visit to Haifa, Israel, after which USS AMERICA sailed to Marseille, France. The squadron spent the rest of the year with a well deserved port visit in the city of Marseille.

HOURS FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	71.5
NIGHT	42.7

SORTIES FLOWN FOR THE MONTH

DAY	17
NIGHT	38

ARRESTED LANDINGS FOR THE MONTH

DAY	26
NIGHT	22

AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO VAW-123 DURING CY 1993

MODEX	BUNO	TRANSFERRED/RECEIVED DATE
AB/600	161099	RECEIVED 30 DEC 92
AB/600	162619	TRANSFERRED 7 JAN 93
AB/601	161229	RECEIVED 3 MAR 93
AB/601	162801	TRANSFERRED 26 MAR 93
AB/604	160008	TRANSFERRED 29 MAR 93
AB/603	160992	RECEIVED 1 APR 93
AB/603	162798	TRANSFERRED 20 APR 93
AB/602	160991	RECEIVED 22 APR 93
AB/602	162797	TRANSFERRED 26 MAY 93