



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

1978
[REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED

VAW124:18:jet
5750
Ser C-11-79
21 MAY 1979

[REDACTED]--Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

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

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0502)

Subj: Command History for 1978; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) VAW124 Command History for 1978 (U)

1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

J. R. Slaughter
J. R. SLAUGHTER

Copy to:
PAO History File

CLASSIFIED BY: OPNAVINST 5750.12B
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1985

DECLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

COMMAND HISTORY
1978

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Command Organization
 - A. Commanding Officer
 - B. Executive Officer
 - C. Mission of Command
 - D. Composition of Command
 - E. Squadron Nickname
 - F. Squadron Motto
- II. Chronology of Events
- III. Operations History
- IV. Maintenance History
- V. Safety History
- VI. Awards
- VII. Appendix
 - A. Periodic Operating Report
 - 1 January to 31 March 1978

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1978

I. (U) COMMAND ORGANIZATION

A. Commanding Officers

Commander J. R. CONDON
14 September 1977 to 15 December 1978

Commander J. R. SLAUGHTER
15 December 1978 to Present

B. Executive Officers

Commander J. R. SLAUGHTER
14 September 1977 to 15 December 1978

Commander L. N. ODEN
15 December to Present

C. Mission

To act as an airborne tactical command and control center for offensive and defensive fleet operations by providing early warning and aircraft control through data link and voice communications.

D. Composition of Command

Aircraft: Four (4) E-2C

Personnel on board: Officers in flight status
(31 December 1978) - 20

Enlisted in flight status
(31 December 1978) - 1

Officers (Maintenance and Intelligence)
(31 December 1978) - 3

Enlisted on board
(31 December 1978) - 137

CLASSIFIED BY: CO, CARAEWRON 124
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED 31 DECEMBER 1985

Enclosure (1)
~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

E. Squadron Nickname

"Bullseye Hummers":

F. Squadron Motto

"Bullseye Hummers - Right on Target"

II. (U) CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1 JAN - 8 JAN 78	INPORT GENOA, ITALY
9 JAN - 13 JAN 78	OPS TYRRHENIAN SEA
14 JAN - 19 JAN 78	INPORT NAPLES, ITALY
20 JAN - 23 JAN 78	OPS TYRRHENIAN SEA
24 JAN 78	ANCHORAGE, SARDENIA
25 JAN - 26 JAN 78	MISSELEX QUIRRA RANGE
27 JAN 78	ANCHORAGE, SARDENIA
28 JAN 78	OPS TYRRHENIAN SEA
29 JAN - 01 FEB 78	INPORT CATANIA SICILY
2 FEB - 12 FEB 78	OPS TYRRHENIAN SEA/WESTERN BASIN/ NATIONAL WEEK XXIV
13 FEB - 26 FEB 78	INPORT PALMA DE MALLORCA, SPAIN
27 FEB - 2 MAR 78	OPS TYRRHENIAN SEA/WESTERN BASIN
3 MAR - 8 MAR 78	INPORT NAPLES, ITALY
9 MAR - 18 MAR 78	OPS WESTERN BASIN
19 MAR - 29 MAR 78	INPORT BARCELONA, SPAIN/SHORE DET ZARAGOZA, SPAIN
30 MAR - 31 MAR 78	OPS WESTERN BASIN/SHORE DET NAVSTA ROTA
1 APR - 4 APR 78	INPORT VALENCIA, SPAIN
5 APR - 6 APR 78	OPS WESTERN BASIN
7 APR - 11 APR 78	INPORT MALAGA, SPAIN
12 APR - 13 APR 78	STRAITS OF GILBRALTAR
14 APR - 15 APR 78	INPORT ROTA, SPAIN (OUTCHOP)
15 APR - 24 APR 78	TRANSLANT ENROUTE NORFOLK
25 APR - 30 APR 78	INPORT NORFOLK
1 MAY - 30 MAY 78	INPORT NORFOLK
31 MAY 78	AVELEX (1-78)
1 JUN - 2 JUN 78	AVELEX (1-78)
3 JUN - 10 JUN 78	INPORT NORFOLK
11 JUN 78	USS MISSISSIPPI TRACKEX
12 JUN - 13 JUN 78	INPORT NORFOLK
14 JUN - 16 JUN 78	WASEX CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA MISSILEX, VACAPES
17 JUN - 21 JUN 78	INPORT NORFOLK
22 JUN - 23 JUN 78	AVELEX (2-78)
24 JUN - 27 JUN 78	INPORT NORFOLK
28 JUN - 30 JUN 78	WHALE TAIL OPS, BERMUDA
1 JUL - 8 JUL 78	WHALE TAIL OPS, BERMUDA
9 JUL - 26 JUL 78	INPORT NORFOLK
27 JUL - 28 JUL 78	MISSILEX, VACAPES
29 JUL - 31 JUL 78	INPORT NORFOLK
1 AUG - 27 AUG 78	INPORT NORFOLK
28 AUG 78	TORPEX
29 AUG 78	LINKEX FLECOMBATRACENLANT
29 AUG - 31 AUG 78	SOPWITH CAMEL

DECLASSIFIED

1 SEP - 2 SEP 78	SOPWITH CAMEL
3 SEP - 7 SEP 78	INPORT NORFOLK
8 SEP - 11 SEP 78	LINKEX, SAIPAN
	INPORT NORFOLK
	MISSILEX, VACAPES
13 SEP - 19 SEP 78	FALLON DET STRIKEX
16 SEP - 18 SEP 78	WASEX, CECIL FIELD
	INPORT NORFOLK
21 SEP - 22 SEP 78	CARQUAL NIMITZ
22 SEP - 24 SEP 78	AVELEX (3-78)
25 SEP - 26 SEP 78	MISSILEX USS AMERICA
	WASEX, CECIL FIELD
	MISSILEX
	WASEX, CECIL FIELD
	MISSILEX
	INPORT NORFOLK
1 OCT - 2 OCT 78	WASEX, CECIL FIELD
	LINKEX
3 OCT - 4 OCT 78	FLEX DECK INDEPENDENCE
5 OCT - 14 OCT 78	INPORT NORFOLK
15 OCT - 20 OCT 78	SOPWITH CAMEL
21 OCT - 26 OCT 78	INPORT NORFOLK
27 OCT - 31 OCT 78	WEAPONS DET, NAS, FALLON, NV
1 NOV - 9 NOV 78	WEAPONS DET, NAS, FALLON, NV
10 NOV - 26 NOV 78	INPORT NORFOLK
27 NOV - 30 NOV 78	TYT I - CVW SIX
1 DEC - 7 DEC 78	TYT I - CVW SIX
8 DEC - 31 DEC 78	INPORT NORFOLK

III. (U) OPERATIONS HISTORY

The "Bullseye Hummers" opened 1978 in Genoa, Italy with three months of their Mediterranean deployment behind them. During January the squadron provided range surveillance and LINK II targeting data for the USS AMERICA (CV 66) missile shoot at Salto Di Quirra range. The "Bullseye Hummers" also directed a SAR effort to assist a burning merchant ship off the coast of Sicily.

In February, AMERICA participated in National Week XXIV. During this period VAW 124 flew 73 straight hours with 100 per cent AEW coverage. Following National Week XXIV, AMERICA made a port call to Palma, Mallorca.

In March the "Bullseye Hummers" were busy. The squadron helped in implementing over-the-horizon targeting for the harpoon missile. One aircraft was detached to Zaragoza to assist in controlling DACM between F15's and F14's. During this time Air Force controllers were given hands-on experience in the E-2C Hawkeye.

In April, while visiting Valencia, Spain VAW 124 detached another aircraft, this time to NAS Rota to control DACM between USN F14's and Spanish AV8's. On 15 April 78 the USS AMERICA was relieved by the USS FORRESTAL and departed Rota for CONUS. On 25 April 78 USS AMERICA arrived at Pier 12 NOB Norfolk, Virginia.

Most of May was devoted to a stand-down period for the squadron. At the end of the month the "Bullseye Hummers" participated in AVELEX 1-78 with various Marine squadrons out of USMCAS Cherry Point, NC.

During June VAW 124 participated in a MISSILEX in the Vacapes area, a War-at-Sea exercise at Cecil Field, and AVELEX 2-78 in Beaufort, SC. This second AVELEX was highly successful and included squadrons of F-4's, AV8, A4M's and A6E's from the US Marine Corps, A7E's from the Air National Guard, and F-15's from the US Air Force. At the end of June two aircraft were detached to NAS Bermuda for Operation Whaletail.

July started with Operation Whaletail continuing from NAS Bermuda. During this period, the "Bullseye Hummers" on two occasions successfully intercepted Soviet Bear D aircraft with an EA3 from VAQ 33. These were the first time such intercepts were attempted and their success was gratifying to all concerned.

The "Bullseye Hummers" spent much of August at NAS Norfolk conducting ground training. Some LINK II training flights were conducted with FLECOMBATTRACENLANT. The squadron was also on alert status in conjunction with SOPWITH CAMEL.

In September VAW 124 increased its pace of operations. Numerous war-at-sea exercises and missile exercises were supported, along with a CARQUAL period aboard the USS NIMITZ. A detachment was also sent to NAS Fallon to support CVW 11 Strikex's.

October saw much of the same type of mission tasking as September. At the end of the month, the squadron went to NAS Fallon to support CVW 11 as a weapons detachment.

In November the weapons detachment continued through the first week. Following that, there was a standdown period for ground training, followed by the start of TYT-I with CVW 6.

TYT-I continued into the first week of December. While on TYT-I with CVW 6 aboard the USS AMERICA, the squadron was notified of its selection for CNAL's Battle Efficiency "E" for 1978. On 15 December CDR J. R. CONDON was relieved by CDR J. R. SLAUGHTER as Commanding Officer of VAW 124.

IV. MAINTENANCE HISTORY

The nineteen seventy eight maintenance effort was characterized by about an even split between continuous at sea and ashore maintenance support. Through a demanding operational schedule, outstanding improvements were continued in operationally ready aircraft and full systems capability performance, bringing both to an all time high of 87 percent and 71 percent respectively.

Two new aircraft transitioned through the squadron as the scheduled depot level maintenance cycle was met. Both these aircraft were fresh out of a modernization and update program. The average onboard inventory was four E-2C aircraft.

V. SAFETY SQUADRON HISTORY

During the period 1 JAN - 31 DEC 1978, VAW 124 completed 1876 accident free hours. July 21, 1978 marked the seventh year of accident free operations totaling 10,515 hours. These achievements were a direct result of an aggressive safety awareness program that is evident at all levels of command within the squadron. Further proof of the squadron's outstanding safety awareness was given when it was awarded the coveted Chief of Naval Operations Annual Aviation Safety Award for 1978. The real payoff for the many hours of education and briefings this year was the fact that no person was seriously injured in the line of duty.

VI. AWARDS, CITATIONS AND COMMENDATIONS

Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet Battle Efficiency "E"
 Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet Silver Anchor Retention Award

Chief of Naval Operations Annual Aviation Safety Award for 1978.

Sailor of the Year: BM1 [REDACTED]

Sailors of the Quarter 1978:

First Quarter: AMH1 [REDACTED]

Second Quarter: AMS3 [REDACTED]

Third Quarter: BM1 [REDACTED]

Fourth Quarter: AMH1 [REDACTED]

COMCARGRU EIGHT Letters of COMMENDATION:

AMS2 [REDACTED]	AT1 [REDACTED]
AD1 [REDACTED]	YN3 [REDACTED]
AMH1 [REDACTED]	AMH1 [REDACTED]
AMS1 [REDACTED]	AD2 [REDACTED]
AMSC [REDACTED]	AMH1 [REDACTED]
BM1 [REDACTED]	AT1 [REDACTED]
AT1 [REDACTED]	AZ2 [REDACTED]
ADC [REDACTED]	AE1 [REDACTED]

USS AMERICA (CV 66) Letters of Appreciation:

AT2 [REDACTED]	PN1 [REDACTED]
AMS3 [REDACTED]	AD3 [REDACTED]

USS AMERICA (CV 66) Letters of COMMENDATIONS:

AMSAN [REDACTED]	AT3 [REDACTED]
------------------	----------------

NATO HQ Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic Letter of Appreciation:

AMH2 [REDACTED]

Commanding Officer, NRD Chicago Letter of Appreciation:

AT2 [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

CINCUSNAVEUR Letter of COMMENDATION:

YN1 [REDACTED]

CO, NATTC, Patuxent River, MD Letter of Appreciation:

AE1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

CO, RVAW 120 NORVA Letter of Appreciation

AT2 [REDACTED]

Joint Service Commendation Medal:

PN1 [REDACTED]

CO, NAS, NORVA Letter of Appreciation:

AE1 [REDACTED]

CO, VAW 124 Letter of Appreciation:

AT2 [REDACTED]	ADC [REDACTED]
ATC [REDACTED]	ADC [REDACTED]
AZ2 [REDACTED]	

COMCARAIRWING SIX Letter of Appreciation:

AMS1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED