



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

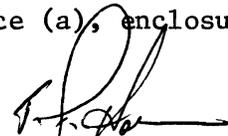
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REGISTERED MAIL

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History OPNAV 5750.1
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
Encl: (1) Command Organization
(2) Chronological Order of Events
(3) Operations
(4) Statistics

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.


T. F. HORNER

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B4)

Reg. no. R 010 418 411

THE VAW-124 COMMAND HISTORY
FOR 1982
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VAW-124 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1982

I. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

Commander H. C. Fortenberry (09 MAY 1981 to 25 AUGUST 1982)

Commander T. F. Horner (25 AUGUST 1982 to Present)

b. Executive Officer

Commander T. F. Horner (09 MAY 1981 to 25 AUGUST 1982)

Commander R. A. Engle (25 AUGUST 1982 to Present)

c. Squadron Mission

To function as an airborne tactical command and control center for offensive and defensive fleet operations by providing Airborne Early Warning and aircraft control through data link and voice communications.

d. Command Composition

Aircraft: Four (4) Grumman E-2C "Hawkeye" (ARPS)

Personnel: Officers in Flight Status: 27

(31 December 1982) Enlisted in Flight Status: 3

Officers Maintenance/Intelligence: 3

Enlisted On board: 139

e. Squadron Nickname: "BEAR ACES"

f. Squadron Motto: "Bear Aces - On the Road, Again."

II. Chronological Order of Events:

21 DEC 1981 - 04 JAN	PVST (NAPLES)
05 JAN - 10 JAN	OPS/ C MED
11 JAN - 16 JAN	PVST (PALMA)
17 JAN	TURNOVER VAW-121
18 JAN - 28 JAN	"NATIONAL WEEK XXXI/W MED
29 JAN - 30 JAN	TRANSIT
31 JAN	OUTCHOP
1 FEB - 11 FEB	TRANSLANT
12 FEB - 1 MAR	STANDDOWN
1 MAR - 16 MAR	STAND UP
17 MAR - 19 MAR	AVELEX 2-82
18 MAR - 19 MAR	AEGIS SRE-1
23 MAR - 25 MAR	SEABAT 2-82
14 APR - 30 APR	REFTRA (USS VINSON)
1 MAY - 5 MAY	PVST (FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA)
6 MAY - 16 MAY	REFTRA (USS VINSON)
17 MAY - 19 MAY	PVST (ST. THOMAS, V. I.)
20 MAY - 22 MAY	REFTRA (USS VINSON)
23 MAY - 25 MAY	PVST (BARBADOS)
26 MAY - 10 JUN	REFTRA (USS VINSON)
11 JUN - 9 JUL	PVST (NORFOLK)
10 JUL - 1 AUG	REFTRA (USS NIMITZ)
2 AUG - 6 AUG	PVST (FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA)
7 AUG - 16 AUG	TYT-I (USS NIMITZ)
17 AUG -08 SEP	PVST (NORFOLK)
09 SEP - 21 SEP	TYT-2 (USS NIMITZ)
22 SEP - 26 SEP	PVST (ST. THOMAS, V.I.)
27 SEP - 02 OCT	TYT-3 (USS NIMITZ)

04 OCT - 07 OCT	ORE
10 OCT - 12 OCT	READEX
16 OCT - 09 NOV	PVST (NORFOLK)
10 NOV - 13 NOV	CARIBBEAN TRANSIT
14 NOV - 22 NOV	CARIBBEAN OPS
22 NOV - 30 NOV	ATLANTIC TRANSIT
01 DEC - 02 DEC	WEST MED TRANSIT
03 DEC	OPERATION IN THE VICINITY OF LIBYA
04 DEC - 05 DEC	TRANSIT TO EAST MOD LOC
06 DEC - 01 JAN	EAST MED MOD LOC

III. OPERATIONS.

The beginning of the New Year 1982 found the Bear Aces of VAW-124 in Naples, Italy on a well deserved break in the action. Having completed no less than five major exercises in the preceding months, VAW 124 had accumulated an impressive track record. By early January, VAW 124 was back at sea, conducting cyclic flight operations. After a short port visit to Palma de Mallorca, VAW 124 completed its turnover to VAW 121.

NATIONAL WEEK XXXI was the final exercise of the 81-82 cruise. VAW 124 participated alongside the Spanish Air Force. The Squadron was tasked with AEW and coordination of multinational forces.

The Squadron had to hit the ground running following a two week standdown at the end of the cruise. Our operations concentrated on the major exercises, AVELEX 2-82, AEGIS SRE-1, and SEABAG 2-82, but also included an increased emphasis on training flights.

AVELEX 2-82 was the first major exercise after the 81-82 MED Cruise. It was a Wing size exercise designed to provide training in all facets of Marine aviation. In addition to AVELEX 2-82, VAW 124 was tasked with supporting AEGIS SRE-1. The primary mission of the E-2C was data link coordination as well as aircraft control. The SEABAG 2-82 was one of a series of exercises designed to introduce Electronic Countermeasures training to fighter crews.

In Mid-April, VAW 124 was tasked with Refresher Training for the Navy's newest Nuclear Carrier the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70). This "Maiden"/REFTRA VOYAGE was an interesting experience for the entire Squadron. This period provided valuable training, considering the sizeable turnover of personnel that traditionally occurs after a major deployment.

The four week period following the USS CARL VINSON REFTRA, saw VAW 124 based ashore at Norfolk. During this time flight operations concentrated on pilot training. Mid July found VAW 124 back on board USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) for REFTRA and TYT ONE. During the REFTRA period the aircrews conducted many individual complexes, as well as participating in Airwing and ship complexes. These included AAW, SSSC, lost plane, and ASW exercises and range surveillance for a SAMEX/GUNEX in the GITMO OP area.

Following a successful port visit to Ft. Lauderdale Florida, TYT ONE began. This period concentrated on the "Bread and Butter" missions of AEW and AIC, but also included SSSC and flight following CVW-8 assets using the various bombing ranges along the East Coast. The high point for the at sea period was the orientation and familiarization hop for the Honorable Mr. Sawyer, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Shipbuilding and Logistics. After a brief port visit to Norfolk, VAW 124 resumed preparation for the November deployment. TYT 2 and TYT 3 put the entire Airwing through its paces. However, during the ORE, VAW-124 really began to shine. The aircrews were at their peak and maintenance support was superlative, permitting the Squadron to fly 30 out of 30 scheduled sorties for 120.4 hours, while maintaining a 97.1% full mission capable rate within the 60 hour ORE period.

Two days after the ORE, the Carrier Battle Group began READEX 3-82. Designed as an Anti-Carrier Warfare Exercise READEX 3-82 tasked a single CVBG to operate in a multi-threat environment. Although originally planned as a two CVBG operation, unanticipated Mediterranean commitments precluded any involvement from USS AMERICA

and her associated Task Group. The E-2C was tasked, along with the E-3A, to perform AAW and AEW.

After less than a month stay in homeport Norfolk, the Bear Aces were on the road, again, the first few weeks of the NIMITZ/CVW-8 deployment consisted of airpower demonstrations for Venezuelan, Colombian, and Honduran Officials. This period saw Coast Guard Authorities embarked aboard U. S. Navy vessels for the first time with the expressed intent of drug traffic interdiction.

Once in the Mediterranean, the NIMITZ Battle Group conducted operations in the vicinity of Libya. The "Bear Aces" provided AEW, CAP, and SSSC control.

Arrival at MODLOC in the Eastern Mediterranean in early December, proved quite routine. Typical missions include CAP, SSSC, and flight following of various helo logistics runs. The tempo of operations slowed down for the Bear Aces, as they settled in for a Christmas at sea.

IV STATISTICS

a. Milestones:

Flight Hours for CY 82	<u>2362.4</u>
Highest Monthly Flight Hours for Cycle 82	<u>316.1</u> in October
Average Monthly Flight Hours for Cycle 82	<u>196.9</u>

21 July Eleventh Consecutive Year of Accident Free Flying.

Operational Readiness Evaluation 30/30 sortie completion rate at 97.1%
FMC (11% above any previous recorded ORE).