



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK O9501-6410

1987

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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 5750.12D CH-1

Encl: (1) Command Organization
(2) Chronological Order of Events
(3) Narrative History
(4) Statistics
(5) Published Articles

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded.

W. L. Carter
W. L. CARTER

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

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VAW-124 COMMAND HISTORY
FOR 1987

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VAW-124 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1987

I. Command Organization

- a. Commanding Officer
Commander S. T. Wesselhoff
02 SEP 86 - Present
- b. Executive Officer
Commander W. L. Carter
02 SEP 86 - Present
- c. Squadron Mission

To function as an airborne tactical command and control center for offensive and defensive 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"

AJ 600, Buno # 161552, class B mishap 23 March
AJ 601, Buno # 161780, renumbered AJ 600 in March 1987
AJ 602, Buno # 161781
AJ 603, Buno # 161782

Personnel: 164

Officers: 28

Flying Status: 25

Maint/Intel: 3

Enlisted: 136

Enlisted on Board: 136

Flight Status: 3

e. Squadron Nickname: "BEAR ACES"

II. Chronological Order of Events

01 JAN - 10 JAN 1987	TRANSIT TO MEDITERRANEAN
11 JAN 1987	INCHOP
12 JAN - 15 JAN 1987	INPORT/PALMA, SPAIN
16 JAN - 18 JAN 1987	CENT MED
19 JAN - 21 JAN 1987	NATIONAL WEEK OPS
22 JAN - 23 JAN 1987	AUGUSTA BAY TURNOVER
24 JAN - 25 JAN 1987	NATIONAL WEEK OPS
26 JAN - 13 FEB 1987	EAST MED
14 FEB - 17 FEB 1987	INPORT/ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
18 FEB - 28 FEB 1987	EAST MED
01 MAR - 06 MAR 1987	CENT MED
07 MAR - 09 MAR 1987	INPORT/NAPLES, ITALY
10 MAR - 12 MAR 1987	CENT MED
13 MAR - 15 MAR 1987	INPORT/ANTALYA, TURKEY
16 MAR - 24 MAR 1987	CENT MED/DEMON JAZZ EXERCISE
23 MAR 1987	CLASS B MISHAP TO AIRCRAFT AJ 600 BUNO# 161552
25 MAR - 31 MAR 1987	INPORT/MONACO/SARDINIA 87 EXERCISE
01 APR - 03 APR 1987	INPORT/MONACO
04 APR - 12 APR 1987	WEST MED
13 APR - 19 APR 1987	INPORT/PALMA, SPAIN
20 APR - 24 APR 1987	WEST MED
25 APR - 30 APR 1987	INPORT/TOULON, FRANCE
01 MAY - 03 MAY 1987	INPORT/CANNES, FRANCE
04 MAY - 15 MAY 1987	CENT-EAST MED/DRAGON HAMMER '87
16 MAY - 18 MAY 1987	CENT MED

19 MAY - 20 MAY 1987	AUGUSTA BAY/TURNOVER WITH VAW-112 (USS KITTY HAWK)
21 MAY - 22 MAY 1987	TRANSIT WEST MED
23 MAY 1987	OUTCHOP MED
24 MAY - 01 JUN 1987	TRANSLANT
02 JUN - 03 JUN 1987	TOPEX '87 BRAZILIAN NAVY
04 JUN - 08 JUN 1987	INPORT/RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
09 JUN - 24 JUN 1987	ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CA VIA CAPE HORN
25 JUN 1987	FLY-OFF
26 JUN - 27 JUL 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
28 JUL - 30 JUL 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA/VF-101 MISSILEX
01 AUG - 12 AUG 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
13 AUG - 27 AUG 1987	DRUG INTERDICTION/CVW-8 MISSILEX PUERTO RICO
27 AUG - 13 SEP 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
14 SEP - 16 SEP 1987	CNO AEGIS SUPPORT/ NAS PENSACOLA, FL
17 SEP - 21 SEP 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
22 SEP 1987	GERMAN AIR FORCE SUPPORT GEORGE AFB, CA
23 SEP - 05 OCT 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
06 OCT - 15 OCT 1987	CQ, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)
16 OCT - 18 OCT 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
19 OCT - 13 NOV 1987	CVW-8 FFARP
01 NOV - 05 NOV 1987	CVW-8 WASEX DET, NAS CECIL FIELD
14 NOV - 15 NOV 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA
16 NOV 1987	USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) MISSILEX
17 NOV - 20 NOV 1987	CNO PROJECT 124-2 AEGIS SUPPORT
21 NOV - 29 NOV 1987	NAS NORFOLK, VA

30 NOV - 04 DEC 1987

CVW-8 FAST

05 DEC - 06 DEC 1987

NAS NORFOLK, VA

07 DEC - 10 DEC 1987

CAROLINA COMBAT ACE 1-88

11 DEC - 13 DEC 1987

NAS NORFOLK, VA

14 DEC - 18 DEC 1987

CVW-8 MIXED DIVISION TACTICS
DEVELOPMENT

19 DEC - 31 DEC 1987

NAS NORFOLK, VA

COMMAND HISTORY VAW-124

NARRATIVE

During the first half of 1987 the Bear Aces of VAW-124, commanded by CDR Steve Wesselhoff, completed their tenth Mediterranean cruise. The cruise began in December 1986 aboard USS NIMITZ, and returned to Naval Air Station, Norfolk on 27 June 1987. During the six month deployment, the Bear Aces working in unison with Carrier Air Wing Eight provided airborne support in numerous anti-air, anti surface, and strike warfare exercises. In addition to the busy work schedule, the Bear Aces also enjoyed the opportunity to become familiar with foreign cultures during several interesting port visits.

The deployment was highlighted by the Bear Aces providing airborne control for several notable exercises including: National Week, a war at sea exercise where the USS NIMITZ, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY and a French Battle Group headed by the carrier FOCH joined to form a multi-carrier battle force to conduct coordinated strikes in the central Mediterranean; Demon Jazz, an electronic warfare exercise with Turkish forces; Sardinia 87 an amphibious exercise conducted with Italian forces in the Tyrrhenian sea and southern Sardinia; a Tunisian exercise where the Bear Aces controlled Tunisian F-5 aircraft; a joint Dissimilar Aerial Combat Training/strike exercise, involving the first successful implementation of Commander in Chief U.S. Forces Europe initiative to provide better USN/USAF escort training; Dragon Hammer, an exercise conducted with French, Italian and Turkish forces; and an operation with the Brazilian Navy.

In addition to providing an opportunity for the Bear Aces to participate in numerous exercises with foreign countries, this deployment also offered an excellent opportunity to visit several ports including: Palma, Alexandria, Naples, Antalya, Monte Carlo, Toulon, Cannes, and Rio de Janeiro. The Rio port visit marks a first for most Bear Aces as the USS NIMITZ instead of returning to Norfolk, transited around South America, via Cape Horn, enroute to its new homeport, Bremerton, Washington. Enroute to Rio the USS NIMITZ crossed the equator, and as she entered the Royal Kingdom of Neptunus Rex, some 4,600 slimy pollywogs suffered Neptune's wrath during a traditional initiation ceremony where they became honored shellbacks.

The Bear Aces welcomed the month of July in anticipation of our post cruise standdown. Operations were at a minimum. In late July we participated in a VF-101 Missilex. During August the squadron participated in a SEABAT exercise for three days. An ERA-3 and NKC-135 provided the rare opportunity for needed training not normally experienced in daily cyclic ops.

Two aircraft were flown to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for drug interdiction and a CVW-8 Missilex. An average of two sorties per flying day was maintained during both portions of the detachment. In early August the squadron flew drug interdiction operations which offered valuable interoperability training with the Customs Agency and the Coast Guard's new E-2C's. The successful air wing missilex, later in August, provided excellent training for the remainder of the detachment.

The operational pace picked up during the months of September and October with several Missilex's and CNO Aegis support flights. The highlight of the month of October was a brief CQ period onboard the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71). This afforded the Bear Aces our first look at the operations of CVN-71. The ship was more than eager to help us meet our CQ goals. The month of October was closed out with FFARP. Continuing on into November the AAW training involving F-14's continued with AIC training.

A CNO project required one E-2C on station for four hours a night as range safety and raid control against the AEGIS test site in Moorestown, NJ. Because of traffic conflicts in New York Center airspace, all flights were early morning (0100-0500). These missions were used to achieve PMA qualifications.

In Carolina Combat Ace 1-88 the squadron controlled CVW-8 aircraft against the BT-11 target complex defended by Second Marine Aircraft Wing units. Additionally, CVW-8 conducted multi-ship mixed division tactics development training on the TACTS range.

The conclusion of 1987 marks sixteen years of accident free flying for the Bear Aces, over 32,000 hours. VAW-124 attributes this overall success to the combined efforts of all squadron members.

III. STATISTICS

a. Milestones

Flight Hours for CY 1987 2033.6

Completed sixteen years of accident free flying in July 1987, over 32,000 hours.

IV. PUBLISHED ARTICLES