



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR  
UNIT 60139  
FPO AE 09507-6410

5750  
Ser 00/011  
4 Mar 02

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning  
Squadron ONE TWO FOUR  
To: Director, Naval Historic Center, Washington Navy Yard,  
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: CALENDAR YEAR 2001 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) VAW-124 Calendar Year 2001 Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
J. S. ANDREWS

VAW-124 CALENDAR YEAR 2001 COMMAND HISTORY

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

a. Short Title: VAW-124.

b. Unit Identification Code: 09526.

c. Mission: The primary mission of VAW-124 is to provide Carrier Battle Groups with early detection and warning of enemy forces and to apply command and control required to neutralize that threat. The squadron is fully integrated into the delivery of combat air power from the sea.

d. Organizational Structure:

Immediate Senior Command: CARRIER AIR WING EIGHT

Personnel:

Officers:	30
Flying Status:	26
Intel/Maint:	4
Enlisted:	130

e. Commanding Officer:

(1) Commander Steven L. Guse, 1 JAN - 6 APR

(2) Commander John S. Andrews, 6 APR - DEC

f. Duty Station: Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO FOUR, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

g. Aircraft: Four Grumman Group II E-2C Hawkeyes

AJ 600	163540
AJ 601	164108
AJ 602	163850
AJ 603	163696

Encl (1)

2. CHRONOLOGY:

17 JAN-01 FEB	COMPTUEX A - USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
27 FEB-27 MAR	COMPTUEX B/JTFEX - USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
6 APR	CDR STEPHEN L. GUSE RECEIVED BY CDR JOHN S. ANDREWS AS COMMANDING OFFICER
25 APR-10 NOV	DEPLOYED JTG 2-01 - USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
28-30 APR	FLIGHT OPS - VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO
1-6 MAY	TRANSLANT
7-8 MAY	NATO AEW MAGIC PASSEX 01-2 - WEST MED SEA
9 MAY	STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR TRANSIT, INCHOP SIXTH FLEET
10-13 MAY	INPORT PALMA, SPAIN
15-20 MAY	TUNISIA DETACHMENT
23-28 MAY	TRIDENT D'OR - CORSICA
23 MAY	FS CHARLES DE GAULLE CROSSDECK
4-7 JUN	INPORT NAPLES, ITALY
13-16 JUN	INPORT PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND
17-28 JUN	JOINT MARITIME COURSE 012 - NORTH ATLANTIC
2-6 JUL	INPORT LISBON, PORTUGAL
10-18 JUL	CENTRAL/EAST MED FLIGHT OPSS
19-23 JUL	INPORT RHODES, GREECE
29 JUL	SUEZ TRANSIT
2 AUG-9 SEP	Operation SOUTHERN WATCH - ARABIAN GULF
25-29 AUG	INPORT JEBEL ALI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

2-22 OCT	Operation ENDURING FREEDOM - ARABIAN SEA
28 OCT	TRANSIT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
29-31 OCT	INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
10 NOV	INPORT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
9-17 DEC	Operation NOBLE EAGLE - NS NORFOLK

3. **NARRATIVE:**

a. The "BEAR ACES" of VAW-124 started 2001 in their homeport of Norfolk, Virginia. Preparation for deployment started with COMPTUEX A from 17 January - 1 February on board USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65). Workups continued with the combination of COMPTUEX B and JTFEX from 27 February - 27 March. These exercises took the Bears from the cold waters off the Virginia coast to the tropics of the Puerto Rico OPAREA.

b. A stand-down period upon our return allowed families to prepare for the upcoming deployment. The Bears also said farewell to CDR Stephen L. Guse when he was relieved by CDR John S. Andrews as the VAW-124 Commanding Officer on 6 April.

c. The USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) departed Norfolk, Virginia on 25 April and after a few days of flight operations in the Puerto Rico OPAREA began the trip across the Atlantic. Our first flights in the restricted airspace of the Mediterranean Sea were in support of the NATO AEW MAGIC PASSEX. The "Bear Cave" was created when confronted with the problems posed to the airwing of flying in the limited airspace the "Bear Cave" was created. This document standardized the daily operating area for the entire battle group and resulted in no territorial violations for the entire cruise.

d. On 15 May two aircraft were sent to Tunisia for the first of three land-based detachments. These multi-national exercises provided excellent training that the BEAR ACES would utilize in future operations. VAW-124 also participated in the first launch and recovery of an American aircraft from the French Carrier Charles de Gaulle on 23 May.

e. At the beginning of June, the battle group left the confines of the Mediterranean and proceeded north into the

frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Here the Bears took part in JOINT MARITIME COURSE 012. This was a rare opportunity to work with many of our NATO allies and proved to be very exciting.

f. The battle group spent the rest of July operating in the central and western Mediterranean. After a transit of the Suez Canal on 29 July we proceeded directly to the Arabian Gulf.

g. Once in the Gulf supporting Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, the BEAR ACES reestablished the ability for the E-2C to be the sole controlling AEW platform for radar coverage of the Southern No Fly Zone. This proved to be a vital link in the JTF-SWA's ability to keep constant AEW coverage during vulnerability (VUL) periods and established added flexibility for the commanders. Due to the VUL window length, the BEAR ACES coordinated with Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait during four E-2C only missions to refuel one aircraft while the other remained on station. This allowed the E-2Cs flying from the ship to remain over Kuwait for more than eight hours.

h. The battle group left the Gulf on 9 September and was heading toward Capetown, South Africa when the events of 11 September occurred. ENTERPRISE quickly took station in the Arabian Sea ready for tasking from the NCA. On 2 October Operation ENDURING FREEDOM began and the BEAR ACES led the way. VAW-124 flew over 50 sorties and 250 hours of AEW/C2/Time Critical Strike (TCS). The BEAR ACES made a name for ourselves in sortie completion rate, skill in all phases of C2, and flexibility to take on any mission.

i. The battle group departed the Arabian Sea on 22 October having accumulated 9 Top Ten and 4 Top Nugget awards for landing grades. Superior performance at the carrier resulted in the squadron being awarded the Top Hook Award for the final line period which encompassed all OSW and OEF missions.

j. VAW-124 returned home on 10 November to a heroes' welcome in Norfolk, Virginia. The remainder of November and the beginning of December was spent with family and friends. The BEAR ACES ended 2001 flying four flights in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE, ready to continue the war against terrorism in 2002.