

1977
Commanding Officer
Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE
Fleet Post Office, New York 09501

VAW-125/14:alm
5750
Ser: C14
8 June 1978

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To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0502)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command Organization and Mission
(2) Summary of Operations (C)
(3) Chronological Itinerary
(4) Biography of Commander Henry R. DOMBROWSKI, USN
(5) Biography of Commander James E. CONNERTON, Jr., USN
(6) Special Topics
(7) VAW-125 Officer Precedence List
(8) VAW-125 Enlisted Personnel Assigned

1. In accordance with reference (a), Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE Command History is submitted as enclosures (1) through (8).


E. CONNERTON, JR.

Copy to:
Director of Navy History
COMNAVAIRLANT

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COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND MISSION

1. The Command. The Squadron's Commanding Officers during the year 1977, and their dates of command were as follows:

Commander Henry R. DOMBROWSKI 1 July 1976 - 4 July 1977

Commander James E. CONNERTON, Jr. 4 July 1977 - Present

2. The Mission of VAW-125.

a. The primary mission of VAW-125 is to provide units of the Fleet with early detection and warning of approaching forces. The principle is as old as warfare itself but as practiced by VAW-125, involves the use of long range radar and sophisticated computer controlled electronic systems to detect, identify and report contacts while they are still many miles from the Task Force.

b. The Squadron's aircraft, the Grumman built E-2C "HAWKEYE", is a twin engine turbo-prop capable of reaching a station well ahead of the force at speeds up to 300 knots and altitudes above 30,000 feet. The E-2C with its 80 foot wing span and gross weight of over 25 tons, is one of the largest aircraft operated from the deck of an aircraft carrier. The crew consists of a pilot, co-pilot, combat information center officer, air control officer and flight technician, who fly the aircraft and operate the complex electronic equipment which it carries. This equipment, collectively called the Airborne Tactical Data System, forms an airborne extension of the modern Navy Tactical Data System employed aboard all of our newer warships. The heart of the ATDS is a powerful, long range radar which transmits its energy through the 24 foot rotating antenna dome atop the aircraft.

c. Contacts detected by the radar are analyzed and identified by computer controlled electronics subsystems which simultaneously display the contacts to the operators and automatically report them back to the Task Force Commander. If a contact is a threat to the force, aircraft can be immediately dispatched to intercept it and, if necessary, destroy it. The intercepting aircraft are directed in this flight by the E-2C's computer through a radio data link. This assures that the aircraft reaches a position in relation to the target to permit final visual identification and attack.

d. The inherent flexibility of the ATDS, when operated by the highly trained flight crews, allows its use in a variety of secondary missions. Significant among these are its use in directing Strike Aircraft to their targets, as an automatic radio relay to assist in long range communications and in the vital role of control and coordination during search and rescue missions.

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CHRONOLOGICAL ITENERARY

The following is chronological itinerary of VAW-125 activities for 1977.

1-10 JAN	Inport NORVA, extensive FCLP
11-12 JAN	REFTRA/CQ Virginia Capes
13-14 JAN	Inport NORVA
15 JAN	Deployed aboard USS JOHN F KENNEDY to the MED
16-25 JAN	Transit, Atlantic
26-28 JAN	Inport, Rota, Spain
29-30 JAN	REFTRA/CQ, Mediterranean
31 JAN - 9 FEB	Exercise LOCKED GATE
10-11 FEB	Cyclic OPS, enroute Naples, Italy
12-25 FEB	Inport, Naples, Italy
26 FEB	Guest and dependent's cruise, vicinity of Naples, Italy
27 FEB	Inport, Naples, Italy
28 FEB - 6 MAR	OPS: Tyrrhenian Sea
7-17 MAR	Inport, Naples, Italy
18-19 MAR	OPS: Tyrrhenian Sea
20-21 MAR	OPS: Ionian Sea (Phase I of National Week XXII)
22 MAR	Anchored, Golfo de Castellamare, Sicily
23 MAR	OPS: Tyrrhenian Sea (Phase II of National Week XXII)
24-25 MAR	OPS, Ionian Sea (Phase III of National Week XXII)
26 MAR	Anchored, August Bay, Sicily (PXD National Week XXII)
27 MAR	OPS: Transit Ionian Sea
28 MAR - 2 APR	Inport, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia
2-4 MAR	OPS: Adriatic/Ionian Sea
5-18 APR	Inport, Naples, Italy
19-22 APR	OPS: Ionian Sea
23-24 APR	Anchored, Souda Bay, Crete
25 APR - 1 MAY	OPS: Eastern MED (CENTO Exercise "SHAHBAZ" 25-28 APR, evacuation of Ethiopia, 29 APR)
2-5 MAY	Inport, Alexandria, Egypt
6-16 MAY	OPS: Eastern MED (NATO Exercise "DAWN PATROL 77")
17-31 MAY	Inport, Naples, Italy
1-5 JUN	OPS: Tyrrhenian Sea (PASSEX with HMAS MELBOURNE 5 JUN)
6-13 JUN	Inport, Barcelona, Spain
14-22 JUN	OPS: Western MED
23 JUN - 4 JUL	Inport, Palma de Mallorca, Spain (Change of Command 1 July)
5-12 JUL	OPS: Western MED

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Enclosure (3)

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13-19 JUL	Inport, Malaga, Spain
19 JUL	Transit, Rota, Spain
19-22 JUL	Inport, Rota, Spain
22-31 JUL	Transit, Norfolk, VA
1 AUG - 1 SEP	Inport, Norfolk VA (Post Cruise Standdown)
2 SEP - 1 NOV	Inport, Norfolk VA (Squadron training)
2-6 NOV	Extensive FCLP Pilot Training
7 NOV	Embarked aboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
8-9 NOV	Transit, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (FTG embarked)
10-11 NOV	Anchored, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
12-25 NOV	OPS: FTG Caribbean Area
26-27 NOV	Anchored, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
28-30 NOV	OPS: FTG Caribbean Area
1 DEC	Transit, Roosevelt Roads
2-8 DEC	OPS: AFWTF Areas
9-10 DEC	Transit, Norfolk, VA
11-31 DEC	Inport, Norfolk, VA

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Enclosure (3)

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Special Topics

1. Operational Statistics:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>FLIGHTS PER MONTH</u>	<u>CARRIER LANDINGS</u>	<u>CAT SHOTS</u>
JAN	72.0	39	30	25
FEB	147.9	48	48	48
MAR	212.6	70	69	69
APR	176.9	58	58	57
MAY	196.6	57	55	55
JUN	246.5	76	89	86
JUL	189.2	59	61	65
AUG	17.8	7	00	00
SEP	70.8	33	3	3
OCT	65.9	27	00	00
NOV	64.2	26	3	6
DEC	46.0	26	00	00
	<u>1506.4</u>	<u>526</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>414</u>

ATDS MISSION TIME

Scheduled: 1119.8 hours, Flown 1117.9 hours - 99.8%.

SORTIES

Scheduled: 480, flown: 467 - 97.3%.

TOTAL INTERCEPTS - 2036

TOTAL ASI's - 2329