

1985



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE
FLEET POST OFFICE, NEW YORK 09501-6411

5750
VAW125/00

10 FEB 1986

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-05DZ)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1985
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
Encl: (1) 1985 Squadron Command History

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

R. K. Zia
R. K. ZIA

Copy to:
Office of Information (OI-211)
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350

Reg H 078 410 581

Joseph

1985 COMMAND HISTORY FOR VAW-125

VAW-125 is currently assigned to Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN embarked in USS SARATOGA (CV-60). The squadron mission is to provide units of the fleet with early detection and warning of approaching hostile forces. VAW-125 utilizes 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. The Grumman E2-C Hawkeye aircraft employed by the squadron are utilized by aircrew to conduct air intercept control, airborne command and communication, and overland/sea strikes. CDR Ralph K. ZIA received CDR John O. OGLE on 8 March as Commanding Officer.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1985

JANUARY

- Early Jan - Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST)
- 21 - 25 - L-11 Eval with USS CORAL SEA (NTDS)
- 27 - 31 - CVW-17 Weapons Training Det, NAS Fallon, NV

FEBRUARY

- 1 - 11 - CVW-17 Weapons Training Det, NAS Fallon, NV
- 12 - 15 - CVW-17 SEABAT exercise
- 13 - 17 - Operation THUNDERBOLT - Homestead AFB, FL.

MARCH

- 1 - 8 - FFARP VF-103
- 8 - Change of Command, CDR Zia relieved CDR Ogle
- 11 - 28 - FFARP VF-74
- 11 - 14 - ISE/SOPWITH CAMEL/L-11/CQ/USS SARA
- 25 - L-11 Evaluation certification NITSA Det 2 NORVA
- 26 - BFIT L-11 Exercise (Battle Force Inport Training)
- 28 - 02APR - ISE/AIRWING CQ/SOPWITH CAMEL aboard USS SARA

APRIL

- 12 - 27 - REFTRA GITMO OPAREA

MAY

- 1 - 10 - SOPWITH CAMEL FCQ/TCQ
- 17 - 28 - Phase 1A JAX OPAREA
- 29 - 1 JUN - Inport Nassau, Bahamas

JUNE

- 2 - 20 - Phase 1B JAX OPAREA
- 17 - 20 - SOPWITH CAMEL/USS SARA/OPPE

JULY

- 5 - 17 - PHASE II/MSR/READEX 2-85
- 18 - 20 - Operational Readiness Exercise
- 26 - 25 AUG- POM

AUGUST

- 26 - Underway Deployment/CVW-17/USS SARATOGA (CV-60)

SEPTEMBER

- 29 AUG - 2 SEP - OCEAN SAFARI 85
- 7 - 9 - INCHOP Sixth Fleet/West Med Ops
- 10 - 13 - Augusta Bay Anchorage (NIMITZ Turnover)
- 14 - 18 - Central Med Ops/Display Determination (Phase I)
- 19 - 22 - Inport Toulon, France
- 23 - 27 - Display Determination (Phase II)
- 28 - 2 OCT - Inport Naples, Italy

OCTOBER

- 2 - 8 - Display Determination 85 (Phase IV)
- 8 - 10 - Achille Lauro Operation
- 11 - 14 - Inport Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia
- 15 - 20 - Display Determination 85 (PHASE V)
- 21 - 25 - CONTINUEX 85
- 26 - 2 NOV - Inport Naples, Italy

NOVEMBER

- 3 - 6 - Transit East Med
- 7 - 12 - Inport Haifa, Israel
- 12 - 13 - East Med Ops
- 14 - Suez Canal Transit
- 17 - Inchop Seventh Fleet Indian Ocean

DECEMBER

- 1 - 5 - Anchorage Masirah, Oman
- 10 - 12 - Inport Diego Garcia
- 23 - 27 - Inport Singapore
- 28 - 31 - Indian Ocean Ops

January - February

The Tigertails were involved in early January in Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST). SEABAT, a joint services multi-platform jamming and air intercept control exercise, was conducted from 12 to 15 February.

A week of Naval Tactical Data System evaluation with the USS CORAL SEA (CV-43) was followed by a CVW-17 Weapons Training Detachment to NAS Fallon, Nevada. The first week at Fallon involved air intercept control and small scale strikes. The second week involved large unopposed strikes with practice sea/air rescues and an actual SAR evolution.

March

During March the Tigertails prepared for workups onboard the USS SARATOGA (CV-60) including Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP) with Fighter Squadrons 74 and 103. Tigertail aircrews participated in FFARP lectures and controlled VF-74 and VF-103 aircraft in Dissimilar Air Combat Training versus aggressors. On 8 March, Change of Command ceremonies were held onboard Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia. CDR Ralph K. ZIA relieved CDR John L. OGLE, Jr. Following the Change of Command, the Tigertails provided LINK-11 services to USS SARATOGA (CV-60) during her sea trials. Additionally, aircraft were launched to the Jacksonville operating area for LINK-11 services & Carrier Qualifications. Two LINK-11 exercises were conducted during March in which our aircrafts' LINK-11 equipment was certified by Naval Interoperability Tactical Support Activity (NITSA) Det 2 in Norfolk, Virginia. This certification aided in preparing two Tigertail aircraft for COMSECONDFLT Battle Force Inport Training exercise (BFIT). The objective of the exercise was to establish an East Coast wide LINK-11 network.

April

The Tigertails began a workup cycle in preparation for deployment in April. After returning from USS SARATOGA Sea Trials on 2 April, the squadron prepared for Refresher Training, getting underway again for the Guantanamo Bay Operating Area on 12 April. The first two days were dedicated to carrier qualifications. In addition to cyclic operations, the Tigertails and CVW-17 practiced Case I and Case III EMCON recoveries and the Battle Flexdeck Plan. Long range strikes were flown against the USS TICONDEROGA/USS YORKTOWN Battle Group transiting to the Puerto Rican Operating Area for Comptuex 2-85.

May/June

A continuation of the workup cycle in preparation for deployment in August highlighted the May-June time frame. After a three day inport period following REFTRA, USS SARATOGA got underway for a ten day Fleet/TRACOM CQ period. VAW-125 aircrew participated in both the E-2C Software Conference and an East Coast E-2C Tactical Manual Review hosted by VAW-120. The Tigertails also utilized the E-2C Weapon System Trainer to maintain air intercept control proficiency between REFTRA and Phase IA/B. USS SARATOGA was underway on 17 May for Phase IA/B in the Jacksonville OPAREA. SARATOGA/CVW-17 averaged 10-12 hours of flight operations per day. The phase ended with a continuous 36 hour Flexdeck. Operational exercises included Mine, War at Sea, and Anti-Air Warfare Exercises, and day and night EMCON launches and recoveries.

JULY

Phase II involved the SARATOGA departing for the Puerto Rican Operating Area in company with USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47), USS YORKTOWN (CG-48), USS R. K. TURNER (CG-20), and USS MAHAN (DDG-42) to eventually join up with twenty other ships and submarines for READEX 2-85. Phase II and READEX 2-85 integrated the BG into one of the most formidable battle forces assembled for an exercise in years. From 14 to 17 July, the Tigertails took part in a number of surface, subsurface, and air launched missile exercises. A total of nine Harpoon missiles were launched on two target hulks. The last phase of READEX consisted of the SARATOGA/CVW-17's Operational Readiness Evaluation. The USS EISENHOWER (CV-69) joined SARATOGA to form a dual carrier battle group. During ORE the Tigertails and VAW-121 Bluetails were tasked with keeping the entire air and surface picture updated using two separate links. The squadron received an overall grade of superior from COMNAVAIRLANT ORE observers.

AUGUST

The month of August included the POM period in preparation for deployment on 26 August. The majority of Tigertail flights were dedicated to PMCF/pilot training. However, the Tigertails did participate in a joint services exercise with Navy/USAF simulated strikes on MCAS Beaufort, S.C. On 26 August USS SARATOGA got underway from Mayport, Florida with CVW-17 embarked. Following two days of CQ, SARATOGA joined USS AMERICA and USS EISENHOWER south of Nova Scotia for three days of TRI-CV operations as part of OCEAN SAFARI 85. In addition to cyclic operations, the carriers defended against manned raids by Orange Air Forces staged out of NAS Oceana and NAS Bermuda. On 30 August VAW-125 conducted range surveillance for a surface-to-air missile shoot. A total of eight drones were engaged by various surface missile shooters.

September

In September the Tigertails, embarked in USS SARATOGA, detached from the Ocean Safari Battle Group and continued the transit toward the Mediterranean. A turnover was conducted with the USS NIMITZ at Augusta Bay Anchorage. The Tigertails participated in Display Determination 85 (Phase I, II and III), a multi-national exercise involving NATO participants during September.

October

After departing Naples, SARATOGA proceeded to the Ionian Sea for Phase IV of Display Determination 85. Following Phase IV, SARATOGA/CVW-17 was scheduled to enter the Adriatic Sea for a port visit at Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, on the morning of 10 October. As SARATOGA approached the Adriatic Sea, CVW-17 was tasked with the intercept of the Achille Lauro hijackers onboard an Egypt Air flight. A total of three E-2C's were launched to control the intercept. SARATOGA/CVW-17 departed Dubrovnik on 15 October enroute to the southern coast of Turkey for the fifth and final phase of Display Determination and CONTINUEX 85. After completion of Phase V on 20 October, SARATOGA exchanged operating areas with USS CORAL SEA (CV-43). For the next two days SARATOGA, CORAL SEA, and Turkish units participated in CONTINUEX 85.

November

Prior to departing for the Indian Ocean, the USS SARATOGA visited Haifa, Israel. After the port visit, SARATOGA departed for Port Said, Egypt, to begin her transit of the Suez Canal at night. Upon entering the Red Sea, the SARATOGA inchooped to Seventh Fleet and into the Indian Ocean eventually to an anchorage south of Masirah.

December

The Tigertails began December at anchorage in Masirah, Oman. On 5 December, SARATOGA proceeded south to Diego Garcia where the SARATOGA became the first aircraft carrier to pull up pierside in that facility's history. The Tigertails enjoyed the hospitality of the Naval Base during their short port call. After departing Diego Garcia, SARATOGA steamed for Singapore and Christmas liberty. Following six enjoyable days of liberty, the SARATOGA departed for Diego Garcia and Indian Ocean operations.

FLIGHT HOURS 1985

	<u>ASHORE</u>	<u>AFLOAT</u>
JANUARY	149.1	-
FEBRUARY	181.8	-
MARCH	147.7	49.0
APRIL	47.5	148.7
MAY	60.0	176.9
JUNE	58.8	112.2
JULY	44.6	345.1
AUGUST	63.2	121.5
SEPTEMBER		287.1
OCTOBER	4.2	279.9
NOVEMBER		214.5
DECEMBER		174.3

TOTAL:	756.9	1909.2
CUMULATIVE TOTAL:	2666.1	