

1991



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE
FLEET POST OFFICE, AE 09507-6411

5750
Ser 00/197-92
16 Dec 92

From: Commanding Officer, Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125,
Unit 60140, FPO AE, 09507-6411
To: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publications
Division, Naval Historical Center, Bldg. 157-1,
Washington, DC 20374-5059

Subj: 1991 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1991 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted for use by the Director of Naval History.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. D. Sullivan".

M. D. SULLIVAN

Logged

COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY1991

Command Composition and Organization

1. **Squadron Mission:** The primary mission of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125 (VAW-125) is providing early detection and warning of airborne or surface threats. The principle of early warning is as ancient as warfare, but as practiced by VAW-125, it involves the use of long range radar and sophisticated computer controlled electronic systems to detect, identify, and report threats while still distant from the fleet task force.

2. **Organizational Structure:** VAW-125 reports operationally to Carrier Air Wing 17 (CVW-17). Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing 12 (CAEWW-12) is VAW-125's *TYPEWING* providing administrative and maintenance support.

3. **Name of Commander:** CDR H. O. MCDANIEL 1 JAN - 31 DEC 91

4. **Permanent Duty Station:** Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA

5. **Type and Number of Aircraft:**

E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #158638 (JAN 91 - DEC 91)

E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #158643 (JAN 91 - JUN 91)

E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #159107 (JAN 91 - DEC 91)

E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #159109 (JUN 91 - DEC 91)

E-2C Hawkeye, Buno #160700 (JAN 91 - DEC 91)

Chronology

01 JAN	MED 3-90 Deployment (<i>USS Saratoga</i> [CV-60])
01 - 03 JAN	Port Visit: Antalya, Turkey
06 JAN	Suez Canal transit
16 JAN	Operation Desert Shield ends
17 JAN	Operation Desert Storm begins
14 - 15 FEB	Port Visit: Jetta, Saudi Arabia
10 MAR	<i>USS Saratoga</i> relieved from Operation Desert Storm duty
11 MAR	Suez Canal transit
16 MAR	Outchop 2nd Fleet/Mediterranean Sea
28 MAR	Detach from <i>USS Saratoga</i> / MED 3-90 Cruise ends
29 APR - 02 MAY	Aegis Test/Evaluation (<i>USS Hue City</i> [CG-66])
12 - 15 MAY	Aegis Test/Evaluation (<i>USS Hue City</i> [CG-66])
29 MAY - 02 JUN	Tomahawk Missile Firing Eglin AFB, FL
23 JUN - 03 JUL	Orange Air/Misslex NS Roosevelt Roads
07 JUL - 19 JUL	SFARP VFA-81/83 NAS Key West
18 AUG - 31 AUG	SFARP VFA-81/CVW-17 NAS Key West
13 SEP - 27 SEP	Aegis Test/Evaluation (<i>USS Arleigh Burke</i> [DDG-51]/ <i>USS Gettysburg</i> [CG-64])
04 OCT - 21 OCT	CVW-17 Weapons Det NAS Fallon, NV
04 NOV - 13 DEC	REFTRA/CQ <i>USS Saratoga</i> (CV-60)
27 - 29 NOV	Port Visit: St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125 (VAW-125), embarked in *USS Saratoga* (CV-60), began 1991 inport Anatolia, Turkey. At that time, Battle Force Sixth Fleet--including the *Saratoga*--was involved in **OPERATION DESERT SHIELD**.

On 6 January, *USS Saratoga* transited the Suez Canal in preparation for the ensuing hostilities during **OPERATION DESERT STORM**. During **OPERATION DESERT STORM**, the TIGERTAILS of VAW-125 directed VFA-81 F/A-18's in the only US Navy shoot down of Iraqi MiG-21's. In addition to this noteworthy achievement, the squadron was responsible for air wing air/strike control as well as Command, Control, and Communications (C³) for Battle Force Sixth Fleet. TIGERTAIL participation in **OPERATION DESERT STORM** ended on 10 March with *Saratoga*'s departure from the Red Sea. For VAW-125's participation in **OPERATION DESERT STORM** the squadron earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation, as well as many other individual awards for aircrew, maintenance, and administrative personnel.

On 11 March, *USS Saratoga* once again transited the Suez Canal, finally heading home. Outchopping the Sixth Fleet on 16 March, *USS Saratoga* arrived in Mayport, Florida twelve days later--28 March. The Airwing flew home safely on 27 March.

In May, VAW-125 provided services to *USS Hue City* (CG-66) twice. The services provided included shakedown testing and evaluation of the *Hue City*'s SPY-1A AEGIS radar system.

For the week of 29 May to 2 June, VAW-125 provided range control services for a TOMAHAWK Missile firing at Eglin AFB, Florida.

Two weeks in late June/early July, the TIGERTAILS participated with Air Wing 17 for Orange Air/Missile services at NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Air Wing 17 provided the aggressor forces for a battlegroup in workups for deployment. In addition, VAW-125 provided range control for a live missile firing.

During the periods 7 to 19 July and 18 to 31 August, VAW-125 was involved in SFARP training in Key West, Florida. Also involved in the training were F/A-18 squadrons VFA-81 SUNLINERS and VFA-83 RAMPAGERS. Later training also included the entire Air Wing.

On 13-27 September, VAW-125 once again provided AEGIS test and evaluation services for two ships: *USS Arleigh Burke* [DDG-51] and *USS Gettysburg* [CG-64].

In October, the TIGERTAILS joined the rest of Air Wing 17 to participate in a weapons detachment to NAS Fallon, Nevada. The detachment was weapons and tactics training for the entire air wing in preparation for the air wing's 1992 Mediterranean deployment in May.

The TIGERTAILS finished up the year in *USS Saratoga*. *USS Saratoga* performed its preparatory refresher training deployment and carrier qualifications from 4 November to 13 December near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During this period, VAW-125 was able to enjoy liberty in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands during *Saratoga*'s port visit.