



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

7/70-6/71

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
**DECLASSIFIED**  
IN REPLY REFER TO  
VAW-126/11/vz  
5750  
Ser: 026  
20 September 1971

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (3))

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning  
Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV 5750-1) for 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1971

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology of Major Events  
(2) Basic Narrative  
(3) Documentary Annex

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are forwarded.

F. A. FRIESEN

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)  
COMNAVAIRLANT Public Affairs (w/o encl (2) and (3))

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CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

- 8 July 1970. VAW-126, aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59), arrived at Norfolk, Virginia, completing its first Mediterranean cruise.
- August 1970. VAW-126 began receiving the new F-2B aircraft.
- 24, 25 September 1970. VAW-126 received its first Administrative/Material Inspection from Commander Fleet Air Norfolk and received a grade of Outstanding (95.52) - the highest grade awarded by COMFAIRNORFOLK in several years.
- 16-23 November 1970. VAW-126 participated in the first of two refresher training periods in the Virginia Capes operating area aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) as part of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN (CVW-17).
- 30 November - 7 December 1970. VAW-126 underwent its second refresher period in the Virginia Capes area aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59).
- 30 December 1970. A Change of Command Ceremony was held in which Commander Floyd A. FRIESEN relieved Commander Robert M. HARP as Commanding Officer of VAW-126.
- 5 January 1971. VAW-126 departed Norfolk, Virginia, on its second Mediterranean deployment aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59).
- 13-15 January 1971. Enroute to the Mediterranean, VAW-126 was given its second Operational Readiness Inspection and attained a grade of Excellent (89.61).
- 24 January 1971. VAW-126 inchopped to the SIXTH Fleet and relieved VAW-122 aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62) at Rota, Spain.
- 26 June 1971. VAW-126, aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59), outchopped to the SECOND Fleet and commenced its journey enroute to CONUS upon being relieved by VAW-123 aboard USS SARATOGA (CVA-60).

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Enclosure (1)

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## BASIC NARRATIVE

In July 1970, upon returning from its first Mediterranean cruise, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX began transitioning to the new Grumman E-2B aircraft. All of the squadron's Naval Flight Officers were sent to San Diego, California, at various times to complete a one month training period to familiarize them with the more sophisticated E-2B aircraft. The squadron began receiving its new aircraft in August 1970.

On 24 and 25 September 1970 Commander Fleet Air Norfolk gave VAW-126 its first Administrative/Material Inspection. In recognition of its professionalism, the squadron received a grade of Outstanding (95.52) on the inspection. This was the first time in several years that COMFAIRNORFOLK found a squadron worthy of the grade of Outstanding.

Having completed its initial transition training and having received all four of the new E-2B aircraft, VAW-126 embarked aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) as part of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN (CVW-17) for two one-week refresher training cruises on 16 November and 30 November. Working in the Virginia Capes operating area, these short cruises provided a considerable amount of much needed training for flight and maintenance personnel with the new weapons systems.

Shortly after the Christmas holidays, VAW-126 once again embarked aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) on a Mediterranean deployment. Before proceeding to the Mediterranean, FORRESTAL operated in the Caribbean for a brief period in which the ship and air wing received an Operational Readiness Inspection. In spite of its relative state of unfamiliarity with the new aircraft, VAW-126 received a grade of Excellent (89.61) on the ORI.

Proceeding on to the Mediterranean, FORRESTAL joined the SIXTH Fleet on 24 January 1971. During its five months in the Mediterranean, the squadron took part in numerous exercises and constantly increased in efficiency. By the end of the cruise VAW-126 had achieved near 100 percent efficiency in all phases of operation. The various exercises conducted and problems encountered are recounted in operating reports included in enclosure (3).

Special topics covering such areas as operational statistics, flight hours, weapons systems, tactics, logistics, personnel, etc. are included in full in the documentary annexes.