



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


1972
VAW-126

IN REPLY REFER TO
VAW-126/11/mo
5700
Ser 31

27 FEB 1973

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning
Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Public Affairs Information; submission of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) Basic Narrative
(2) Documentary Annex

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


C. C. SMITH, Jr.
By direction

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

BASIC NARRATIVE

Calendar year 1972 began with VAW-126 in a major stand-down, while FORRESTAL was still in overhaul. On 19 January 1972, having completed one week of carrier qualifications aboard USS ROOSEVELT (CVA-42), the squadron entered one of their most significant operations of the year, Exercise Snowy Beach. As part of the "Orange Forces", VAW-126 and its 55 personnel embarked, used NAS Brunswick, Maine as its launch base, while executing "strike control" against the "Blue Forces". With the three E-2B aircraft alternating control, the squadron vectored A3, A4 and A6 type aircraft, in strikes against the "Blue Forces."

Through the spring months of 1972, the squadron spent the greater portion of its time in refresher training and carrier qualifications aboard FORRESTAL (CVA-59). This buildup culminated with an Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) on 28 June. However, as a result of a fire aboard FORRESTAL, the squadron did not deploy, but instead remained Norfolk-based until late September.

On 9-11 August, the squadron assisted CVW-1, serving aboard USS KENNEDY (CVA-67), in their Translant of air wing aircraft from CONUS to Rota, Spain. Two VAW-126 aircraft deployed to NAS Bermuda. From there they provided radar coverage and join-ups, as the aircraft involved refueled, in-flight, enroute to the Azores.

Again, beginning in late August, the squadron began Carrier Qualifications and Type Training with FORRESTAL. This training again culminated with a second ORE. Finally on 22 September, the squadron deployed to the Mediterranean for the third time as part of CVW-17, embarked in USS FORRESTAL.

On 16 October, squadron personnel were among the 3500 men of FORRESTAL and CVW-17, to visit Istanbul, Turkey. This marked the first time in over four years that a CVA had visited this Turkish city. Strangely enough, it was the USS FORRESTAL that last sent a liberty party ashore in Istanbul in 1968.

The squadron's major event of November was as a participant with FORRESTAL, in National Week XIV held in the Ionian Sea on 14-18 November. This five day exercise commenced with twenty "Blue Force" units including USS FORRESTAL and USS ROOSEVELT against the 17 units of the "Orange Force."

The last significant event of the year was a Passing Exercise (PASSEX) involving the USS FORRESTAL and HMS ARK ROYAL. The first phase of the exercise began with each unit conducting operations in search of each other. When the search was finally

Enclosure (1)

completed and successful, VAW-126 served as "strike control" for FORRESTAL as it exchanged raids with the ARK ROYAL.

VAW-126 was awarded the NAVAIRLANT Safety Citation for its accident-free operations during the period July 1971 through June 1972.

Enclosure (1)

E-2B AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO VAW-126
1 January - 31 December 1972

<u>Bureau Number</u>	<u>Status</u>
149819	Transferred 28 April 1972.
150537	Transferred 6 July 1972.
151707	Received 23 March 1972.
152476	Received 27 July 1972.
152479	Transferred 28 February 1972.
152484	Received 9 May 1972.
152488	On board entire period.