

1985 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX
FPO NEW YORK 09501-6412

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5757
Ser **030**
10 FEB 1986

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 85
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
Encl: (1) VAW-126 Command History For 1985
(2) 1985 Major Exercises/Special Operations
(3) Commanding Officer's Biography
(4) Commanding Officer's Picture
(5) Executive Officer's Biography
(6) Executive Officer's Picture
(7) Squadron's Aircraft Picture
(8) VAW-126 Immediate Superior in Command and Aircraft Listing

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are provided to supply the Command History for CY 1985 of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX.


D. M. PARKER
By direction

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (w/o encls (4), (6) and (7))
Office of Information (01-2111) (w/o encls (4), (6) and (7))

VAW-126 COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1985

1985 found the VAW-126 Seahawks based ashore while the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) was in the shipyard for overhaul. Being based ashore however, did not slow us down. We spent much of the year on detachments all over the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean, on a multitude of missions.

In January the Seahawks traveled to Homestead AFB for Operation Thunderbolt as part of the Vice Presidential Task Force involved in illegal drug interdiction. We were associated with this project throughout the year in various places in the Southeastern U.S. Towards the end of the month we carrier qualified aboard the USS NIMITZ (CV-68) and closed the month with a Link 11 Exercise with the USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47).

During the month of February the Seahawks provided Sopwith Camel support for two Norfolk based aircraft carriers, USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). This service ensured that no hostile aircraft would overfly either carrier without U.S. fighter escort. Next it was off to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for another six day Thunderbolt mission—the first of three trips to Puerto Rico.

The month of March began with still another Thunderbolt mission, this one at Homestead AFB in Florida. During this Thunderbolt we were joined by our wing commander, Captain J.R. Condon, who actually took part in several flights. After returning from Florida it was off to Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada, for Operation Green Flag, a joint exercise involving the U.S. Air Force and international units from Great Britain.

The Seahawks celebrated their sixteenth birthday on 1 April. This birthday took on double significance as it also marked sixteen years and 32,000 hours of accident-free flying. The majority of the month was spent participating in various MISSLEX's conducted at Eglin AFB and off the Virginia Capes. We again traveled to Roosevelt Roads at the end of the month for COMPTUEX 2-85.

May began with a COMFITWING ONE MISSLEX followed by Seabat 3-83. Preparations were then made for our trip to Canada and participation in "Amalgam Brave" in Goose Bay, Labrador. "Amalgam Brave" was a two week NORAD Exercise involving units from U.S. and Canadian Air Forces.

The month of June was "Thunderbolt Month" again for the Seahawks. The month found us in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Pensacola, Florida, for what was to involve many hours of surveillance covering the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

It was back to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for two weeks in July to participate in Orange Air Exercises with Airwing 3 and the USS SARATOGA (CV-60) and her airwing CVW 8. VAW-126 along with Airwing 3 staged numerous raids on SARATOGA in support of her Operational Readiness Evaluation. During this detachment we received the first of four brand new E-2C's flown from the Grumman Factory on Long Island, New York, to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, by our skipper, CDR Dan Whalen.

The Seahawks began the month of August in support of various MISSLEX's off the Virginia Capes. We also participated in an opposed war at sea exercise (WASEX). We embarked on another Thunderbolt operation to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and were credited with aiding in the interception of several suspected drug shipments.

September began preparations for our weapons detachment to Fallon, Nevada. We joined the rest of the airwing on 8 September for three weeks of intensive training. The second of our four new E-2C's was delivered this month. While in Nevada we were able to attend the Tailhook '85' Convention in Las Vegas and the 1985 National Air Races in Reno.

October was the high point of 1985 for the Seahawks. It marked our return to a newly refurbished USS JOHN F. KENNEDY and renewal of our status as a seagoing squadron. After weeks of field carrier landing practice, we flew aboard the KENNEDY for initial carrier qualification and a ten day deployment off the coast of Florida. We were able to stop for a three day port visit in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In November we again deployed for 28 days aboard the KENNEDY for refresher training. We spent much of our time off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, training and adjusting to the routine of carrier based operations. The KENNEDY made a four day port call in Nassau, Bahamas, before resuming training off Cuba. Just before returning to Norfolk, the KENNEDY made one last port call for eight hours for food and fun in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

December was by far the quietest month of the year for the Seahawks. Our squadron spent a total of 179 days of the year on the road. After a brief carrier qualification period aboard the KENNEDY we began preparing for the holidays and contemplating another accident-free year. Can we do it again? You bet we can!

1985 MAJOR EXERCISES/SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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|---|---------------|
| 1. USS YORKTOWN (CG-48) Link 11 Exercise | 5 Jan |
| 2. SPN 46 ACLS Testing Patuxent River, Maryland | 8-11 Jan |
| 3. E-2C Brief Lowry AFB, Colorado | 9-11 Jan |
| 4. Thunderbolt Homestead AFB, Florida | 13-19 Jan |
| 5. Carrier Quals, USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) | 27-31 Jan |
| 6. USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47) Link 11 Exercise | 26 Jan |
| 7. Sopwith Camel USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) | 5-15 Feb |
| 8. Seabat 2-85 | 12-15 Feb |
| 9. Sopwith Camel USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) | 18-19 Feb |
| 10. SM2 Block 2 ER Testing Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico | 22-28 Feb |
| 11. Thunderbolt, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico | 22-28 Feb |
| 12. DACT Training VF 11/94TH TFW | 25-28 Feb |
| 13. Thunderbolt Homestead AFB, Florida | 4-10 Mar |
| 14. War at Sea, VA-75/USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) | 12 Mar |
| 15. Battle Force Inport Training | 12 Mar |
| 16. Green Flag, Nellis AFB, Nevada | 16-29 Mar |
| 17. USS VINCENNES (CG-49), MISSLEX Exercise Eglin AFB: | 1-5 Apr |
| 18. VF-103 MISSLEX | 9-10 Apr |
| 19. War at Sea USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47) | 11 Apr-22 May |
| 20. BFIT | 16-19 Apr |
| 21. USS VINCENNES (CG-49) Link 11 Exercise | 23 Apr |
| 22. COMPTUEX 2-85 Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico | 23 Apr-3 May |
| 23. VF-14 MISSLEX | 30 Apr |
| 24. COMFITWING ONE MISSLEX | 9 May-21 May |
| 25. Seabat 3-85 | 14-17 May |

Enclosure (2)

26. Amalgam Brave, Goose Bay, Canada	23 May-8 Jun
27. E-2C Presentation to French CNO Lakehurst, New Jersey	9-10 May
28. Thunderbolt, NAS New Orleans, Louisiana	13-17 Jun
29. Thunderbolt, NAS Pensacola, Florida	25-28 Jun
30. Readex 2-85 Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico	8-21 Jul
31. VF-14 FFARP	29 Jul-2 Aug
32. VF-32 MISSLEX	31 Jul
33. VF-11/31 MISSLEX	13 Aug
34. VF-33 MISSLEX	15 Aug
35. Mates Opposed War at Sea	21 Aug
36. VF-14 MISSLEX	20 AUG-5 Sep
37. Ocean Safari 85	28-29 Aug
38. CVW-3 Weapons DET Fallon, Nevada	8-28 Sep
39. ACLS Certification USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67)	8-18 Oct
40. Fast Training	21-25 Oct
41. TRE, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67)	28 Oct-25 Nov
42. Carrier Quals USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67)	14-19 Dec

VAW-126 Immediate Superior in Command and Aircraft Listing

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX is a major element of the Carrier Airborne Early Warning (VAW) forces of the United States Navy. The squadron's primary mission is to use long range radars installed in our aircraft to provide the Commander, Carrier Task Force with the earliest possible warning of impending air attack, and using the computer based weapons system, defend the force by directing fighter aircraft to meet the threat. Moreover, the capabilities of our four Grumman E-2C Hawkeye Aircraft have proven to be exceptionally versatile, enabling the squadron's aircrews to play important roles in other varied operations, among them strike control, surface surveillance, and search and rescue missions.

Immediate Superior Command:

Administrative: COMCAEWING 12

Operational: COMCARAIRWING 3

Aircraft Assigned: Grumman E-2C "Hawkeye"

Bureau #'s: AC600 - 162615
AC601 - 162616
AC602 - 162617
AC603 - 162618