



1987

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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12 April 1988

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2), Washington Navy yard,
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) VAW-126 Command History for CY-87

1. In accordance with reference (a), Enclosure (1) is forwarded.


E. L. FENN
By direction

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
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VAW-126 COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1987

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

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, with the APS-138 radar and ALR-73 passive detection system, 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

Commanding Officer:

CDR John W. Bookhultz, designator 1310

Change of Command - 11 June 1987

CAPT Ray L. Bunton, designator 1310

OPERATIONAL: COMCARAIRWING 3

Commanding Officer:

CDR Robert E. Houser, designator 1310

Change of Command - 24 July 1987

CAPT James D. Norris, designator 1320

Aircraft Assigned: Grumman E-2C "Hawkeye"

Bureau #'s: A/C 600 - 162615
 A/C 601 - 162616
 A/C 602 - 162617
 A/C 603 - 162618

VAW-126 COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1987

NARRATIVE

1987 was a highly productive year for the "Seahawks". The beginning of the year the Seahawks were half way through with the Mediterranean cruise. COMCARGRU-3/JOHN F. KENNEDY did dual Carrier Battle Group operations with COMCARGRU-8/NIMITZ. Due to the fast pace of these operations, the meaningful evaluation of the NFO Co-Pilot concept was precluded. Also, during this period a total of 120.6 hours were flown by the Seahawks aircrew with 100% Sortie completion and FMC Rates, a tribute to the earnest efforts of the maintenance department.

In April a two airplane det deployed to NAS, Brunswick, ME., in support of USS Thomas Gates (CG 51) Trial Bravo. This included an Open Ocean MISSILEX and Combat Systems demonstration. A thorough prebrief with all units involved precluded any problems, and support by NAS Brunswick was outstanding.

During May and June, operations were highlighted by numerous dets that included: a total of 43 missiles fired during exercises under Seahawk control (9 I-Hawk, 3 Aim-54, 14 Aim-7, and 17 Aim-9); over 167 hours flown for Drug Interdiction operations on two detachments, during which one suspect aircraft crashed with two SOB's and nine Kilos of cocaine (a kill is a kill); AEGIS support combined with two days of E-2C familiarization and orientation flights for VT-10/VT-4 students. Although individual operations were not overly demanding, continuing high tasking levels presented quite a challenge, especially since the loss of BUNO 162615 to VAW-120. The number and size of the dets has required some creative modification and re-scheduling of school quotas in the turnaround training plan.

July and August were extremely busy for the Seahawks. The intensive mixed bag of OPS summarized above was completed with only three airplanes, while cycling numerous personnel through schools and training programs.

The pace of operations in September slowed some, affording both a welcome respite from det requirements and an opportunity to enjoy a Change of Command ceremony where Commander Gordon Charles Reif, Jr., relieved departing Commander Daniel Matthew Parker. The bulk of our remaining energies were now focused on the tactical implications of deploying in "Super Carrier" under the command of a Super CAG.

November marked the half-way point in our turnaround training cycle, with most significant operational training and aircrew turnover still to come. Our November ISE provided a welcome opportunity to CQ after our long absence from the CV and gave our two new pilots and three new NFO's a gentle introduction to shipboard OAS. A flight deck incident the night of 16 November occurred when an F-14 Wing and tail section was taxied through 603's turning starboard prop. 602 was turning alongside of 603 and ultimately two prop changes, one engine change and numerous skin patches were required to repair both aircraft.

During the December REFTRA the Seahawks were back on step with cyclic OPS and full airwing tactical operations. Training emphasis remains on overland warfare in anticipation of Fallon in early March.

The Seahawks ended the year with no accidents and over 36,000 safe flight hours. This continues the Seahawks prestigious record of 18 1/2 years of safe flying.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR VAW-126

02-05 January	OPS MED
16-18 January	OPS MED
19-21 January	National Week/Dual CVBG OPS
21-22 January	Turnover w/CVN-68 Augusta Bay
23-25 January	National Week/Dual CVBG OPS
26-28 January	OPS WMED
30 January - 02 February	Transit Bagel Station
02-05 February	Dual CVBG OPS Bagel Station
12-17 February	OPS Bagel Station
18-20 February	Transit Rota
22-28 February	Translant
01 March	Flyoff
03 March	Arrive Norfolk
27-30 April	Aegis Support, Gulf of Maine
03-10 May	CVW-3 Missilex (PROA)
18-31 May	HAT TRICK/T-BOLT/HARPOONEX/WASEX (Key West/PROA)
01-05 June	AV8-B/F/A-18/I HAWK MISSILEX (SOCAR OPAREA)
11 June	WING-12 Change of Command
15-22 June	T-BOLT/HAT TRICK (Gitmo)
28 June - 01 July	AEGIS SUPPORT/FLEET AWARENESS (NAS Pensacola)
01-02 July	VANDALEX (Vacapes)
06 July	CNO Project 124
09-10 July	FLEETEX 3-87 MISSILEX
14 July	VF-32 MISSILEX
15 July - 7 August	VF-14/32 FFARP (Vacapes)
24 July	CVW-3 Change of Command
10-13 August	MAG-31 MISSILEX
11-12 August	CV-67 FAST/LINKEX
11-12 August	MAG-31 AAWEX 4-87
12-13 August	CNO Project 124-2
21-26 August	ORANGE AIR (Vacapes/Bermuda)
25 August - 7 September	Latrobe, PA Air Show
28 August - 9 September	AEGIS Trials, Pensacola
28 August - 16 September	JFK/CQ/Boston/Portland
16 September	Airwing Fly By
24 September	VAW-126 Change of Command
1-5 October	Lake Charles, LA Air Show
7 October	USS Semmes MISSILEX
7 October	ISAR Brief, VP-44 NAS Brunswick, MA
13 October	CNO Project 124
13 October	UNIT EVALUATION
19-26 October	Drug Interdiction NAS New Orleans, LA
16-24 November	JFK ISE, Vacapes
04-15 December	JFK REFTRA, Vacapes
21-22 December	MISSILEX, Vacapes