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VAW-126 COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

COMMAND MISSION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

VAW-126 is one of seven Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadrons based in Norfolk, Virginia, and an integral part of Carrier Air Wing THREE. The squadron's primary mission is providing long range airborne early warning and threat detection for the Carrier Battle Group. Other primary mission areas include air control for fighter intercepts, strike control, surface surveillance and search and rescue coordination. At present, approximately 136 Enlisted and 34 Officers man the squadron in four departments: Maintenance, Operations, Administration and Safety.

IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR IN COMMAND

Commander Carrier Air Wing 3
CAPT A. H. White Jr., USN
CHANGE OF COMMAND - 25 JUNE 1991
CAPT H. D. Connell II, USN

Aircraft assigned: Grumman E-2C "Hawkeye"

Bureau #'s: A/C 600 - 162614

A/C 601 - 162616

A/C 602 - 162617

A/C 603 - 162618

A/C 604 - 163024

All assigned aircraft are AN/APS 138 configured.

BUNO 162614 was transferred to GSAC on 8 May 91 for a wing center section replacement. BUNO 163024 was then designated A/C 600.

Classified by: Multiple Sources
Declassify on: OADR

Encl (1)

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1991 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR VAW-126

01-16 JAN.....DESERT SHIELD.....RED SEA
17 JAN-02 MAR.....DESERT STORM.....RED SEA
04-10 MAR.....PORT VISIT.....HURGADHA, EGYPT
10-12 MAR.....RED SEA OPS.....RED SEA
12-28 MAR.....TRANSLANT.....
27 MAR.....FLYOFF.....NAS NORFOLK
29 MAR-28 APR.....STANDDOWN.....NAS NORFOLK
02-03 MAY.....USS KITTY HAWK SUPPORT...W-386
07-09 MAY.....SOCEX 3-91.....W-122
20-22 MAY.....DDG-51 SUPPORT.....ACOA
08 JUN.....VICTORY PARADE FLY-BY....WASHINGTON, D.C.
13 JUN.....COASTAL CARNAGE.....W-72, W-122
18 JUN.....CVW-3 MISSILEX.....W-72
20, 27 JUN.....COASTAL CARNAGE.....W-72, W-122
22-26 JUL.....CVW-3 MISSILEX.....PROA
27 JUL-03 AUG.....FLEETEX 4-91 ORANGE AIR...PROA
14-15 AUG.....MISSILEX.....W-72
15 AUG.....COASTAL CARNAGE.....W-72, W-122
26 AUG-16 SEP.....USS KITTY HAWK SUPPORT...PROA
17 OCT-06 DEC.....COUNTER-NARCOTICS OPS....HOWARD AFB, PANAMA
18 DEC.....CHANGE OF COMMAND.....NAS NORFOLK
19-20 DEC.....COASTAL CARNAGE.....W-72, W-122

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VAW-126 opened 1991 with intense flight operations in support of Operation Desert Shield. On 17 January Desert Shield escalated to Desert Storm as offensive operations began against Iraq. During the next two months, the SEAHAWKS flew 176 combat and 50 strike sorties, totaling over 745 combat hours. During all of these missions no aircraft under SEAHAWK control were lost. See enclosure (1) for additional information.

In March, after the air strikes over Iraq had ceased, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) began the transit home. On 27 March, the SEAHAWKS flew back to Norfolk to a warm homecoming.

On 8 June, the SEAHAWKS led a mixture of Carrier Air Wing THREE aircraft in the National Victory Celebration over Washington, D.C. During the second half of June, VAW-126 participated in three CVW-3 Coastal Carnage events and an air wing missilex.

From 22-26 July, the SEAHAWKS were in Puerto Rico participating in another CVW-3 missilex. On 27 July, the SEAHAWKS joined the Orange Air Forces to oppose USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) Battle Group in FLEETEX 4-91, returning home on 3 August. On 26 August, following another Coastal Carnage and air wing missilex, the SEAHAWKS embarked in USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) along with a major portion of CVW-3 for 3 weeks of intensive training.

On 17 October, VAW-126 deployed to Howard Air Force Base in Panama as Task Unit 4.1.3 under Commander Joint Task Force FOUR. The mission involved detection and monitoring in support of JTF-4 CN operations. While in Panama, VAW-126 flew more than 630 hours and 150 sorties in support of the counter-narcotics mission. After an intense seven weeks of operations, the SEAHAWKS returned to Norfolk on 6 December.

On 18 December, CDR Terrence M. Dudash was relieved by CDR William J. McCarthy, and CDR Jeffrey D. Weddle reported aboard as Executive Officer.

One of the SEAHAWK's proudest achievements to date is its continuing history of accident-free operations. Since commissioning, the squadron has logged over 49,000 accident free flight hours.

1991 was an exceptionally successful year for the SEAHAWKS which culminated in earning the CINCLANTFLT nomination for the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Excellence Award and the COMNAVAIRLANT nomination for the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy.

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