



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE TWO SIX
UNIT 60141
FPO AE 09507-6412

5750
Ser 10/ 058
FEB 26 1998

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO SIX
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

1. Mission: Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO SIX is an integral part of the tactical air forces of the United States Navy. VAW-126 is one of seven Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadrons based in Norfolk, Virginia. Equipped with four E-2C "HAWKEYE" aircraft, the squadron's primary mission is long range airborne early warning in defense of the Carrier Battle Group. In addition, the squadron plays a vital role in such diverse operations as fighter intercept and air strike control, ocean surveillance and search and rescue coordination.

Command Composition: 160 personnel: 28 Officers/132 Enlisted

Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC): Carrier Air Wing THREE, CAPT Thomas L. Hagen

Commanding Officer: Commander David A. Newland

Aircraft Bureau Numbers: (600) 162616
(601) 162798
(602) 161782
(603) 162618
(604) 161550 Transferred to SDLM late February 1998

2. Chronology:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
JTG 97-1	01 Jan-22 May 97	USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
DELIBERATE GUARD	08-14 Jan	Mediterranean Sea/Bosnia
Juniper Stallion	02-07 Feb	Mediterranean Sea/Israel
Fan-Fev Passex	11-15 Feb	Mediterranean Sea/Italy
C6F Invitex 97-1	03-07 Mar	Mediterranean Sea/Italy
SOUTHERN WATCH	25 Mar-07 Apr	Arabian Gulf

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Eagle Arena	21-24 Apr	Mediterranean Sea/Egypt
Poop Deck	28-30 Apr	Mediterranean Sea/Spain
Low Altitude Radar Coverage in the Florida Straits (LARCFS)	27-29 Jun	Key West, Fl
VANDALEX	10 Jul	Virginia Capes
PASSIVE OVERSIGHT	11-13 Jul	Key West, Fl
LARCFS	08-10 Aug	Key West, Fl
Counter Drug Ops	19 Aug-16 Oct	Puerto Rico/ Panama/Curacao
LARCFS	26-28 Sep	Key West, Fl
LARCFS	24-26 Oct	Key West, Fl
GOMEX	27-29 Oct	Pensacola, Fl
PASSIVE OVERSIGHT	31 Oct-02 Nov	Key West, Fl
Orange Air	17-22 Nov	Puerto Rico
LARCFS	26-30 Nov	Key West, Fl
CVW 3 Coastal Carnage	10-11 Dec	Virginia Capes
VAW-126 Change of Command	15 Jan 98	NAS Norfolk, Va
Carrier Qualification	29-31 Jan 98	USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
LARCFS	6-8 Feb 98	Key West, Fl
NSAWC Advanced Readiness Program	30 March-10 April	Fallon, Nevada
TSTA 1/2	16 April-1 May	Virginia Capes

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3. Narrative:

In November 1996, VAW-126 deployed aboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) for JTG 97-1. In its first few months the squadron worked with many NATO countries in several training evolutions. VAW-126 participated in Juniper Stallion, US/French PASSEX, INVITEX, and was also involved in Bosnian operations. In March 1997, CVN 71 with VAW-126 transited the Suez to work with 5th fleet in Arabian Gulf operations. Flying in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, the Seahawks were often the deciding factor on whether or not allied forces were allowed to fly into Southern Iraq. After leaving the Gulf in April 1997, CVW-3 participated in Eagle Arena and Poopdeck Exercises with the Egyptians and Spanish, respectively. The Roosevelt turned over with the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) on 11 May 1997 and returned to Norfolk on 22 May 1997.

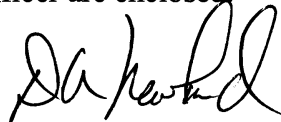
From May 1997 to August 1997, the Seahawks sent several detachments to NAS Key West, FL for "Brothers to the Rescue" monitoring. Providing a solid link picture proved to be the key, especially for the anniversary weekend of the shutdown by the Cuban MiG. VAW-126 also conducted a VANDALEX missile exercise in early July off the Virginia coast.

The squadron performed Counter Narcotic Operations in Puerto Rico from 20 August 1997 to 16 October 1997. Although based out of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, the squadron occasionally worked out of Howard Air Force Base, Panama and Curacao, a small island North of Venezuela.

After returning home, VAW-126 continued to provide low level radar coverage several weekends each month for Cuban "Brothers to the Rescue" operations. A small detachment was also sent to Puerto Rico for Orange Air in the end of November 1997.

Carrier Qualifications aboard the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) took place in late January 1998, followed by SFARP, in Fallon, Nevada, March 1998. VAW-126 will continue workups throughout the Spring and Summer to prepare for deployment onboard the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in November 1998.

3. Photo and biography of Commanding Officer are enclosed



D. A. NEWLAND