

1999



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

5750  
Ser 00/ 044  
MAR 28 2000

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 126  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

1. Mission: Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 126 is an integral part of the tactical air forces of the United States Navy. VAW-126 is one of six 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: 26 Officers/126 Enlisted

Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC): Carrier Air Wing THREE, Captain Robert W. Nelson

Commanding Officer: Commander Thomas J. Henning

Executive Officer: Commander James D. Settele

Aircraft Bureau Numbers:

- (600) 162616
- (601) 163024
- (602) 163028
- (603) 162618

2. Chronology

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATA</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
JTG 99-1	6 NOV 98-6 MAY 99	USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
Operation Deliberate Forge	20 JAN - 03 MAR	Bosnia
Operation Southern Watch	25 MAR - 07 APR	Arabian Gulf
STS-103 Support	15 DEC - 19 DEC	Cape Canaveral, Florida
Counter-narcotic Operations	15 JUL - 10 SEP	Puerto Rico/Curacao

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3. Narrative: In November 1998, VAW-126 deployed aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) for JTG 99-1. In its first few months, the squadron participated in Arabian Gulf operations including Operations Desert Fox and Southern Watch. VAW-126 also participated in Juniper Stallion, INVITEX, Operation Deliberate Forge over Bosnia and also in Kosovo operations. In all the squadron and everyone aboard USS ENTERPRISE transited the Suez Canal four times. The Enterprise Battle Group wrapped up the deployment in the Arabian Gulf in April 1999. After leaving the Gulf in April 1999, the Enterprise turned over with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT on 12 April 1999 and returned to Norfolk on 6 May 1999.

From 15 July to 10 September 1999, VAW-126 participated in Counter-narcotics operations, based out of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The SEAHAWKS were tasked with the monitoring and detection of illegal drug operations in the Caribbean in cooperation with the Joint Interagency Task Force. After returning from Puerto Rico, VAW-126 also assisted in air control for the massive search and rescue effort to rescue Hurricane Floyd survivors in North Carolina.

In December 1999, VAW-126 provided Space Shuttle support to NASA for STS-103, which launched on 23 December 1999.

4. Photo and biography of Commanding Officer are enclosed.



T. J. HENNING