



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE
UNIT 60136, FPO AE 09507-6406

2001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650
Ser 00/017
22 Jan 02

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121

To: Director, Naval Historical Center


Subj: CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON 121 COMMAND HISTORY FOR FY 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) VAW 121 Command History for CY 2001

- (2) ~~Biography of CDR K. W. Oakes CO VAW 121~~
- (3) ~~Biography of CDR E. J. Quinn CO VAW 121~~
- (4) ~~Report of Change of Command~~
- (5) ~~Patrol and Safety Package for CY 2001~~
- (6) ~~Annual Mission Safety Award Package for CY 2001~~
- (7) ~~AW/ASG 100 Radio Historical Panel CDR Time of Day Modification~~

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.


T. J. QUINN

**CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON 121
2001 HISTORY**

MISSION: To safely train professionals in order to provide Airborne Early Warning and Command/Control to the Battle Group Commander in support of National Command Directives.

COMMAND: VAW-121

UIC: 09467

ORGANIZATION: Commanded by Airborne Early Warning Wing Atlantic, attached to Carrier Air Wing Seven onboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67)

COMMANDERS: Commanding Officer CDR Thomas J. Quinn, USN
Executive Officer CDR Timothy J. Block, USN

LOCATION: NAS Norfolk, Virginia

AIRCRAFT: E-2C Hawkeye Group II

TAILCODES/BUNOS: 600/163538
601/163694
602/163697
603/163539

CHRONOLOGY

January

February

07-21 Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) Operations Technical Evaluation (OPTECEVAL) with JOHN F. KENNEDY Battlegroup (Puerto Rico)

March

02-04 CEC VACAPES
05-09 Hawkeye Advanced Readiness Program (HARP)
19-21 Airborne Intercept Control (AIC) VF-143 and VF-131 Orange Air

April

02-13 F-14 Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP), VACAPES

18-19 Space Transportation System Launch support,
Cape Canaveral, FL
20-22 Maxwell AFB Air Show, Montgomery, AL

May

02 VF-143 Missile Exercise (Missilex)
04-06 Air Show, Charlotte, NC
08-09 USS WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG 81) shock
trials
09 VF-11 AIC
VFA-131 AIC
14-25 F/A-18 SFARP, VACAPES
21 Field Carrier Landing Proficiency (FCLP)
22-30 Fleet Week with the JFK, New York, New York
23 VF-11 Misselex

June

01-03 Air Show, Fallon NV
01-16 Air to Ground SFARP, Fallon, NV
15-17 Air Show, LaCrosse, WI
20-21 USS CHESTER NIMITZ (CVN-68) Fleet Support

July

05-06 FCLPs
06-25 Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA
I/II), JFK VACAPES

August

01 Misselex
07-08 Misselex
08 VFA-131 AIC
20 VFA-131 AIC
VFA-136 AIC
21 VFA-131 AIC
VF-43 AIC
23 Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) exercise
27-31 FCLPs

September

04-06 FCLPs
06 Misselex
11-14 Operation NOBLE EAGLE, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON
(CVN-73)

12-30	TSTA III/IV, Comprehensive Training Underway Exercise (COMPTUEX), JFK Puerto Rico Operating Area (PROA)
October	
01-18	TSTA III/IV, COMPTUEX, JFK PROA
26	Change of Command
November	
01-11	Homeland Defense, Operation NOBLE EAGLE
26-30	Air Wing Fallon Weapons Detachment, Fallon, NV
December	
01-16	Air Wing Fallon Weapons Detachment, Fallon, NV

NARRATIVE

The VAW 121 Bluetails participated in a wide variety of challenging missions through out 2001. Early in the year the Bluetails provided Space Shuttle Launch Support for STS-100 out of Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The squadron's rigorous pre-deployment work-up schedule included over two months at sea as well as several weeks of intensive training in Fallon, Nevada. Later in the year, the Bluetails participated in homeland defense. Reacting immediately to the tragic events of September 11th, the Bluetails deviated from scheduled training aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). As members of CVW-7, Bluetail aircraft and personnel were diverted to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), where they operated off the coast of New York City. This call to immediate operational readiness and a heightened state of alert remained a common thread throughout the remaining compressed training schedule as the Bluetails were readied for early deployment in 2002. The Bluetails finished up 2001 with a safety milestone of 35 years and over 67,700 hours Class Alpha mishap-free, one of the most outstanding safety records in Naval Aviation. The events of 2001 reflect the resolution of the Bluetails to overcome every challenge with absolute dedication to safety and successful mission accomplishment.

1. Contributions to Weapons System Development:

CEC Testing/Techeval. The Bluetails have continued to be the only fleet E-2C support for CEC testing and the CEC techeval onboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67), assisting in the effort to ensure that CEC systems are installed throughout the fleet and ultimately in the E-2C. The Bluetails in conjunction with the Space and Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) designed, developed, and built three networks within JTIDS Network Library (JNL) 505 to facilitate the testing and evaluation of CEC. These networks were instrumental in the Bluetails 100% connectivity, an achievement obtained by few platforms during the testing.

2. Contributions to Tactics Development and Training:

GPS/AIRWING GPS SOP. While onboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY for TSTAIIII/COMPTUEX the Bluetails were instrumental in changing the standard for which GPS is used for integral strike planning. In a combined effort with US SPACECOM, VAW 121 was able to ensure that the JFK Battle Group utilizes GPS to its utmost accuracy for training and employment. These efforts will not only allow for more accurate overland precision strike planning but also increase the accuracy of precision-guided munitions in flight.

3. Contributions to the VAW Community:

a. Carrier Based Aircrew Training Syllabus (CBATS) REWRITE: While trying to ensure that VAW 121 optimized the training required to achieve Mission Commander designation a complete review of COMAEWWINGLANT's CBATS was conducted. The squadron spent countless hours writing a syllabus that made more sense, from initial Radar Officer to ICICO qualifications. The improved product was implemented by this command and subsequently adopted by not only COMAEWWINGLANT but COMAEWWINGPAC as well.

b. Naval Strike Air Warfare Center (NSAWC) FLEET SUPPORT: The Bluetails were the first squadron to provide an aircraft and squadron support to an Airborn Mission Commander Course (AMCC) class. The squadron

was successful in 100% completion of assigned sorties. This support has set the example for future fleet support that is invaluable in reinforcing classroom objectives with practical application.

c. OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE: In an instant the Navy went from a peacetime training tempo to a real time operational force. That very day the Bluetails were the only VAW squadron to provide the forces for homeland protection. At a moments notice the squadron was able to provide two aircraft for the USS JOHN F KENNEDY (CV-67) and two aircraft for the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73). This quick response time helped with calming the nation with assurance that there was a military present. Additional support for these operations has been the number one priority for VAW 121 since their return from COMPTUEX in October.