

1988



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501-6410

5750  
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18 MAR 1988

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OPNAV 5750-1

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D CH-1

- Encl:
- (1) Command Organization
  - (2) Chronological Order of Events
  - (3) Narrative History
  - (4) Statistics
  - (5) Published Articles

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded.

W. L. CARTER

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-09B4)

*Log sent*

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VAW-124 COMMAND HISTORY  
FOR 1988

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VAW-124 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1988

I. Command Organization

- a. Commanding Officer  
Commander W. L. Carter  
13 APR 88 - Present
- b. Executive Officer  
Commander J. R. Neff  
13 APR 88 - Present
- c. Squadron Mission

To function as an airborne tactical command and control center for offensive and defensive operations by providing Airborne Early Warning and aircraft control through data link and voice communications.

d. Command Composition

Aircraft: Grumman E-2C "Hawkeye"

AJ 600, Buno # 161780  
AJ 601, Buno # 161552  
AJ 602, Buno # 161781  
AJ 603, Buno # 161782, transferred to VAW-127 in June 1988,  
returned November 1988 and numbered  
AJ 603  
AJ 604, Buno # 161783, received April 1988, renumbered AJ 603  
June 1988, transferred to VAW-120  
October 1988

Personnel: 162

Officers: 32

Flying Status: 29  
Maint/Intel: 3

Enlisted: 136

Enlisted on Board: 130  
Flight Status: 3

e. Squadron Nickname: "BEAR ACES"

## II. Chronological Order of Events

01 JAN - 10 JAN 1988	INPORT/NAS NORVA
11 JAN - 14 JAN 1988	CVW-8 MISSILEX/NAS ROOSEVELT ROADS PUERTO RICO
15 JAN - 21 JAN 1988	FLEETEX 1-88/NAS ROOSEVELT ROADS PUERTO RICO
22 JAN 1988	MOBILE SEA RANGE/ROOSEVELT ROADS PUERTO RICO
23 JAN - 28 JAN 1988	OPERATION JUSTICE/NAS ROOSEVELT ROADS PUERTO RICO
29 JAN - 31 JAN 1988	INPORT/NAS NORVA
01 FEB - 03 FEB 1988	CNO PROJECT 547/623/935/VACAPES OPAREA
04 FEB - 15 FEB 1988	INPORT/NAS NORVA
16 FEB - 29 FEB 1988	FCLPS/INPORT NAS NORVA
01 MAR - 03 MAR 1988	CQ, CVN 71/VACAPES
04 MAR - 06 MAR 1988	TRANSIT ROOSEVELT ROADS OPAREA
07 MAR - 30 MAR 1988	REFTRA/ROOSEVELT ROADS OPAREA
31 MAR - 05 APR 1988	INPORT/FT LAUDERDALE FLORIDA
06 APR - 15 APR 1988	TRANSIT NAS NORVA
16 APR - 05 MAY 1988	WEAPONS DET/NAS FALLON NEVADA
06 MAY - 19 MAY 1988	RETURN NAS NORVA
20 MAY - 27 JUN 1988	ADV PHASE/CVN 71 PUERTO RICO OPAREA
28 JUN - 30 JUN 1988	RETURN NAS NORVA
01 JUL - 24 AUG 1988	HOME PORT/NAS NORVA
25 AUG - 24 SEP 1988	TEAMWORK 88/NORWEGIAN SEA
25 SEP - 29 SEP 1988	INPORT/WILHELMSHAVEN GERMANY
30 SEP - 11 OCT 1988	TRANSLANT
12 OCT - 06 NOV 1988	INPORT/NAS NORVA

07 NOV - 17 NOV 1988

FLEETEX 88/CARIBBEAN

18 NOV - 21 NOV 1988

SOCEX 88/VACAPES

22 NOV - 30 DEC 1988

INPORT/NAS NORVA

31 DEC 1988

CQ/VACAPES

III.

NARRATIVE HISTORY CY 1988

Throughout CY 1988 the "Bear Aces" of VAW 124 have continued providing outstanding AEW support for fleet operations. The keys to our success are dedication, hard work, and outstanding leadership at all levels.

In January the squadron participated in an Orange Air/Drug Interdiction Detachment at NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. A 100% FMC sortie completion rate was achieved despite being limited to only two aircraft.

On 1 March 1988 the squadron embarked in USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and proceeded to the Puerto Rico OPAREA for refresher training. This was the first full test of the "Notional Air Wing" concept. The hard work of the USS Theodore Roosevelt/CVW-8 team was the key to the great success of the Battle Group during refresher training.

Returning from sea in early April, we deployed to NAS Fallon. The squadron accomplished a 100% FMC sortie completion rate over the three week deployment. The outstanding aircraft availability provided by the maintenance department enabled the squadron to successfully accomplish the valuable training available at NAS Fallon.

During the two week turnaround between NAS Fallon and deployment for Advanced Phase Training, our operations consisted of a heavy FCLP schedule. One week prior to deployment, to further develop the Navy's first Notional Carrier Air Wing, we received our fifth E-2C, BUNO 161783. Partial mission capable upon receipt, its wings and many other parts had been cannibalized eight months earlier.

During Advanced Phase Training VAW-124 was heavily relied upon to provide airborne early warning and aircraft control for Anti-Air Warfare exercises and War-at-Sea exercises. In addition, the Bear Aces provided range surveillance for several CVW-8 missile shoots.

On 25 August VAW-124 departed NAS Norfolk for the North Atlantic aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) to participate in TEAMWORK 88. VAW-124 participated in many Anti-Air Warfare exercises and coordinated War-at-Sea strikes with ISAR P-3's and B-52's which proved to be an invaluable asset. Alert launches to intercept and escort Soviet reconnaissance aircraft became routine. Aircraft 603 suffered an electrical fire on 23 September and was NMC the remainder of the deployment. On 12 October the squadron returned to NAS Norfolk.

On 7 November the USS Theodore Roosevelt sortied from Norfolk to begin FLEETEX 1-89. After conducting Air Wing CQ the transit to the Puerto Rican OPAREA began, during which several long range strikes, Chainsaw operations, Sly Fox tactics, and ASUW operations were conducted. During the hostilities phase, VAW-124 participated in numerous War-at-Sea strikes against Orange SAGs, Silent SAM and AAW operations against Orange air from Roosevelt Roads, and power projection ashore. In addition, various air-to-air and surface-to-surface missile shoots were conducted throughout the exercise. Upon return to NAS Norfolk on 17 November, Air Wing 8 assumed an alert posture through 22 November in support of SOCEX. On 31 December VAW-124 departed NAS Norfolk for a six month Mediterranean deployment aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

Encl (3)

IV. STATISTICS

a. Milestones

Flight Hours for CY 1988 2226.2

Completed seventeen years of accident free flying as of July 1988, over 34,000 hours.

b. Performance Statistics

1. Mission Capable Rate (MC) 77.3%
2. Full Mission Capable Rate (FMC) 66.9%
3. A799 Rate 1.28%
4. FOD Incidents: 1
5. Sorte Completion Rate 99%

V. PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- a. "JOIN AN AWARD WINNING TEAM": LINK magazine, submitted November 1988
- b. Michael P. Schmidt, Lloyd Barker Award: Soundings, submitted August 1988
- c. AME2 Danny R. Walker, CVW-8 Sailor of the Quarter April-June 1988:  
Soundings, submitted July 1988
- d. LT Eric R. Hinger, Naval Test Pilot School: Soundings, submitted August  
1988