

1999



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON SEVEN SEVEN
NAVAL AIR STATION ATLANTA
1000 HALSEY AVE
MARIETTA GEORGIA 30060-5099

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

Ser N00/081

22 MAR 2000

From: Commanding Officer, Airborne Early Warning Squadron 77
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Biography and Photo of CDR B. P. Cutchen
(3) Hurricane Floyd After Action Report
(4) CY99 Noel Davis Trophy Nomination
(5) 1999 CVWR 20 Maintenance Excellence Award Nomination
(6) CY99 Nomination For CNARF Aviation Safety Award
(7) Diskette ✓

1. Per reference (a), the subject report is submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. P. CUTCHEN", written over a large, stylized flourish.

B. P. CUTCHEN

VAW-77 Command History

1. Command Composition and Organization Airborne Early Warning Squadron SEVEN SEVEN's (VAW-77) primary mission is to serve as a counter-drug command and control asset in our nation's war on drugs. VAW-77 is a Naval Reserve Squadron based at NAS Atlanta, Georgia, flying four Northrop Grumman E-2C Hawkeye aircraft. The command falls under the administrative control of Carrier Air Wing Reserve TWO ZERO while based at NAS Atlanta, GA, and under the operational control of Commander, Task Force FOUR ZERO while deployed. The squadron's operational commitment was 120 days per year until recently, when it was increased to a 150 day annual requirement. The area of operations while deployed has been the Caribbean. Tasking comes from Director, Joint Interagency Task Force EAST via the Tactical Support Center at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. Squadron manning is composed of eighteen full time Training and Administration of the Reserves (TAR) officers, nineteen enlisted, twenty-six Selected Reserve Officers and ten enlisted. Maintenance on the aircraft is provided by thirty-nine Northrop Grumman contractor personnel.

2. Chronology

(1) 13-16 January 99 - Operation Bahamas Turks to Op Locka, Florida.

(2) 10 February 99 to 10 April 99 - Counter-Drug deployment to NS Roosevelt Roads.

(3) 11-14 May 99 - Operation Bahamas Turks to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

(4) 15 June 99 to 17 July 99 - Counter-Drug deployment to NS Roosevelt Roads.

(5) 10-14 August 99 - Operation Bahamas Turks Detachment to Patrick AFB, FL.

(6) 2 August 99 - CDR B. P. Cutchen reports aboard as the new Executive Officer. CDR G. L. Bouts assumed the role of PXO until the change of command in January 2000.

(7) 17 September 99 - 22 September - Flew in Support of hurricane Floyd rescue efforts.

(8) 19 October 99 to 21 December 99 - Counter-Drug deployment to NS Roosevelt Roads.

3. Narrative

On 31 July 99 CDR B. P. Cutchen assumed the duties of Executive Officer. VAW 77 provided support to Operations Bahamas Turks with

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3 Detachments and flying 31 sorties for a total of 87 hours. The squadron was called into provide Command and Control in the state of North Carolina in support of Hurricane Floyd Rescue efforts. The Squadron flew 21 flights for a total of 62 hours supporting the rescue efforts for over 2000 state residents.

VAW 77 was awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for calendar year 1997 and the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period of 01 October 95 to 28 May 1998. The Squadron was also awarded the Battle "E" for calendar year 1998. To date VAW-77 has flown 6676.5 hours and 1755 sorties in support of Counter-Drug operations. The squadron has been directly responsible for the seizure of 20.4 metric tons of cocaine and 10.5 metric tons of marijuana enroute to the United States.

4. Supporting Documents. The following enclosures are submitted as supporting documents:

- (1) Command History
- (2) Biography and Photo of CDR B. P. Cutchen
- (3) Hurricane Floyd After Action Report
- (4) CY99 Noel Davis Trophy Nomination
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Enclosure (1)