

VAW-77 Command History

1. Command Composition and Organization. The primary mission of Airborne Early Warning Squadron SEVEN SEVEN (VAW 77) is to provide Detection, Monitoring and Command and Control support for Counter-drug operations in the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). VAW 77 is a special mission squadron assigned to Commander Naval Air Force, Reserve (CNAR) based onboard NAS Atlanta, Marietta, Georgia. The squadron operates four Northrop Grumman E-2C Hawkeye aircraft. The command falls under the administrative control of Carrier Air Wing Reserve 20 (CVWR 20) and under the operational control of Commander, US Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSO) when deployed. VAW 77 deployed to the USSOUTHCOM AOR under a CJCS Execute Order for 150 days in FY 2002.

Counter-drug mission tasking comes from Director, Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATF-E) via the Tactical Support Center at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads or other agencies who exercise tactical control (TACON) of squadron missions. CVWR 20 assigns fleet support tasking.

Squadron manning consists of twenty Training and Administration of Reserve (TAR) officers; twenty-two enlisted TAR's, twenty-six Selected Reserve (SELRES) officers and seven SELRES enlisted personnel. Thirty-nine Northrop Grumman contract personnel provide aircraft organizational level maintenance.

2. Chronology.

- (1) 02 January - 19 March 2002 - Counter-drug Operations, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, PR
- (2) 25 - 28 April 2002 - Flight Operations, NAF Andrews MD
- (3) 10 - 12 June 2002 - SURFLANT Target Exercise, NAS Oceana, VA
- (4) 17 - 20 June 2002 - CVWR-20 Missile Exercise, NAS New Orleans, LA
- (5) 22 June 2002 - Change of Command. CDR John K. Winkler, USNR relieved CDR Gerald L. Bouts, USNR as Commanding Officer of VAW-77. The new Executive Officer is CDR David B. Sheckells, USNR.
- (6) 24 - 30 August 2002 - Operation TRIDENT WARRIOR, Comalapa AB, El Salvador
- (7) 1 July - 14 September 2002 - Counter-drug Operations, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, PR
- (8) 1 - 2 October 2002 - STS-112 Space Shuttle Launch Mission Support, Patrick AFB, FL

- (9) 13 - 17 October 2002 - VFA-201 SFARP, NAS Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, TX
- (10) 17 - 20 October 2002 - Flight Training, NAF Andrews MD
- (11) 12 - 17 November 2002 - Operation Bahamas, Turks And Caicos Islands (OPBAT), NAF Key West, FL
- (12) 20 - 21 November 2002 - NCTSI L-11 Evaluation, NAS Brunswick, ME

3. Narrative.

VAW 77 flew 456 sorties for a total of 1717 mishap free flight hours in CY 2002. The squadron also provided support to several fleet, air wing and operational exercises.

VAW 77 was awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for calendar year 1997 and the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period of 01 October 1995 to 28 May 1998. The squadron was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award for calendar year 1998, and the CNO Safety Award for calendar year 2002. To date VAW-77 has flown 9466.6 hours and 2508 sorties in support of Counter-Drug operations. The squadron has been directly responsible for the seizure of 28 metric tons of cocaine and 11.5 metric tons of marijuana enroute to the United States.

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

- (1) Command History
- (2) CY02 Noel Davis Trophy Nomination
- (3) Change of Command Program
- (4) Diskette

From: Commanding Officer, Airborne Early Warning Squadron, SEVEN SEVEN
To: Commander, Carrier Air Wing Reserve TWO ZERO (N31)

Subj: VAW-77 NOMINATION FOR THE NOEL DAVIS TROPHY, CY-02

Ref: (a) COMNAVAIRRESFORINST 3590.1C
(b) COMCVWR-20INST 3590.2C

Encl: (1) 2002 NOEL DAVIS TROPHY DATA SHEET

1. Per reference (b), enclosure (4) is submitted.
2. The year 2002 saw the Nightwolves operate among the top tier of DOD assets dedicated to Fleet Support and our nations war on Narco-Terrorism. VAW-77 successfully completed two 75-day forward deployed overseas counter narcotics deployments and flew 2136 hours. All flight operations were conducted mishap-free.

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
CN OPS	NSRR, PR	02 Jan-19 Mar	226	880.6
Columbus Airshow	Columbus, GA	22-24 Mar	3	2.5
Corpus Static Display	NAS Corpus Christi, TX	18-20 Apr	3	8.1
Andrews Ops	Andrews AFB, MD	25-28 Apr	6	10.2
Winnipeg Airshow	Winnipeg, Canada	31 May-03 Jun	4	13.7
SURFLANT Sink-X	NAS Oceana, VA	10-12 Jun	3	10.1
CVW-20 Missile-X	NAS New Orleans, LA	17-20 Jun	8	19.1
CN OPS	NSRR, PR	01Jul-14 Sep	230	837.2
BUPERS Static Display	Millington, TN	27-28 Sep	3	7
STS-112 Support	Patrick AFB, FL	01-02 Oct	2	6
VFA-201 SFARP	JRB FT Worth, TX	13-17 Oct	11	25.3
Andrews Ops	Andrews AFB, MD	17-20 Oct	6	11
OPBAT	NAF Key West, FL	12-17 Nov	16	48.4
NCTSI L-11 Eval	NAS Brunswick, ME	20-21 Nov	5	21

3. The Nightwolves have met each operational commitment with enthusiasm and professionalism. VAW 77 continues to be the premiere AEW Command and Control squadron and the recognized expert on the Nations War on Drugs. Their efforts are most deserving of the recognition afforded by the Noel Davis Award.

J. K. WINKLER