

CARRIER ONBOARD DELIVERY



PH3 Angela Virnig

The Navy's two Fleet Tactical Support Squadrons—VRC-30, NAS North Island, Calif., and VRC-40, NS Norfolk, Va.—fly the C-2A Greyhound, transporting millions of pounds of mail and other cargo and thousands of passengers each year. The carrier onboard delivery mission took on additional importance as dets of both squadrons flew in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Clockwise from top: a VRC-30 Greyhound deployed on board *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) flies with a Strike Fighter Squadron 94 F/A-18 *Hornet* over the North Arabian Sea on 1 September 2001. A few weeks later the carrier and air wing were among the forces that commenced Operation Enduring Freedom. The pilot of a VRC-30 Greyhound starts the port engine under the watchful eye of a plane captain aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) on 28 January. While the cargo offloaded from this VRC-40 C-2A on board *Enterprise* (CVN 65) on 18 October 2001 may be critical to the carrier's operations, the incoming mail holds the greatest interest for the majority of the crew. Bags stuffed to the brim with outgoing mail are loaded onto a VRC-30 Greyhound on 21 January, helping keep Sailors in touch with their loved ones back home.



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