F.P.O. N.Y.

FILE COPY
AVIATION HISTORY UNIT

AVIATION HISTORICAL SUMMARY
OPNAV FORM 5750-2 (REV. 4-60)

See effective edition of OPNAVINST 5750.8

Unit	*Period Covered (From - To)*
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVS-39)	1 April 1961 - 30 September 1961
Signature of Commanding Officer or authorized representative	*Date Forwarded*
C.A. BOLAM, CAPTAIN, USN	19 Oct 1961

DIRECTIONS: Complete in duplicate semi-annually for periods ending 31 March and 30 September, retain copy and forward original to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Op-05A5G, Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C., within 15 days after report period. No covering letter is required.

All units complete Part I and other Parts as indicated. Follow instructions for each blank; fill in all required blanks using "same" to avoid repeating previously recorded information. If more space is needed, attach extra sheets. Amplifying and/or historically significant documents, including photos, may be appended with proper notation under Part VI.

Security classification may be at any level consistent with content. Identify classified items within the report, by an additional stamp at their position in the report. Avoid over-classification.

PART I - ALL UNITS

1. Designation: Omit if same as in previous period. If changed, enter previous designation, date of change and the authorizing directive. New units record date and place of commissioning.

2. Commanding Officer	*C.O. relieved if command changed this period*	*Date of change*
C. A. BOLAM, CAPT, USN	R. WEYMOUTH, CAPT, USN	21 July 1961

3. PERSONNEL ON BOARD

At end of reporting period. Ships give ships company only; wings and groups give staffs only; air stations give station personnel only.

	AVIATORS	AIR PILOTS	OTHER	TOTAL
OFFICER	27		75	102
ENLISTED			1510	1510
CIVILIAN				

4. Mission or function (If changed or specifically assigned during the period, then enter a brief with dates and identity of authorizing directive.)

To conduct sustained anti-submarine warfare, escort convoys and provide close air support under all weather conditions.

5. Next senior operational command (Give start and end dates if changed during this reporting period.)

COMCARDIV EIGHTEEN 1 April - 10 May 1961
COMCARDIV TWENTY 10 May - 30 September 1961

6. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: (Air Stations omit; ships enter in Part II. Wings and groups should not record squadron locations; ship-based units give name of ship only. Enter beginning and end dates when part of period is involved.)

PERIOD *(From - To)*	PLACE

7. Participation in special exercises, operations, and operational tests (Principally those of a major nature rather than what is normally a part of routine operational training. Use official code names or descriptive titles, identify the overall command, and give dates, area and brief summary of own participation. Make reference to reports and orders covering the operation.)

Carrier suitability trials for HSS-2; overall command NATC; 3 April to 7 April 1961.

MR-3 Test; overall command COMDESFLOT 4; 5 May 1961; Atlantic Missile Range: Primary recovery ship for astronaut and spacecraft in accordance with COMDESFLOT 4 OPLAN 1-60, COMDESFLOT 4 OPORD 3-61 and COMCARDIV 18 OPORD 5-61. Freedom-7 launched at 1434Z landed 262.5 NM down range and 8 NM from LAKE CHAMPLAIN's station. MAG-26 helicopters sighted spacecraft prior to landing and were in the impact area when landing occured at 1449Z. By 1500Z CDR SHEPARD and spacecraft were aboard the LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

8. Official or other recognition of accomplishment - (Such as unit citations, commendations and awards; decorations and awards to individuals, and records or events believed to be "firsts" which may be fleet-wide or apply only within the unit. Give dates of awards and events; claims for "firsts" are meaningless without a date.)

Medical oxygen for a heart patient was delivered from the USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN to SS QUEEN OF BERMUDA 115 miles distant by two NATC HSS-2 helicopters on 6 April 1961.

COMCARDIV 20 msg 5 May 1961. The CHAMP is now a part of space history. Congratulations on your performance in the astronaut recovery which was splendid as expected. Well done. TUTTLE.

COMASDEFORLANT msg 5 May 1961. Enthusiastic pride for the performance of ASDEFORLANT units instrumental in initial manned shot goes forth with our sincerest well done. VADM TAYLOR.

Captain and men USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN. The Burlington Lake Champlain area is indescribably proud of you and your participation in today's dramatic history making event. Hearty congratulations. The Burlington Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce, Burlington, Vt.

9. General resume of activity - (Narrative statement of activity not otherwise covered, summarizing work, training, special cruises and visits, conversion, modification, overhaul, new equipment, and the like. Air Stations consider, in addition, such things as reorganization, new operational administrative and management procedures introduced; special programs initiated or completed, construction in progress, expansion of facilities, etc. Use additional sheets as necessary. Documents appended should be identified in Part VI, page 4.)

Unit	Period Covered (From - To)
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVS-39)	1 April 1961 - 30 September 61

PART II - SHIPS

1. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION: Daily location positions not required. Note dates in and out of U.S. ports and general operating area in between as: Mediterranean, Caribbean, Hawaiian, West Pac, etc. For daily or frequent operations out of one port, use the term "Operating out of".

PERIOD	LOCATION
1 Apr - 3 Apr 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
3 Apr - 7 Apr 61	Western Atlantic
7 Apr - 17 Apr 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
17 Apr - 26 Apr 61	Western Atlantic
26 Apr - 1 May 61	Berthed NS Mayport, Fla.
1 May - 6 May 61	Western Atlantic
6 May - 7 May 61	Berthed NS Mayport, Fla.
7 May - 9 May 61	Enroute Quonset Point, R. I.
9 May - 22 May 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
22 May - 23 May 61	Enroute Norfolk, Va.
23 May - 25 May 61	Berthed NOB Norfolk, Va.
25 May - 12 Jun 61	Western Atlantic
12 Jun - 27 Jun 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
27 Jun - 8 Jul 61	Western Atlantic

2. AIR UNITS ON BOARD OR TENDED (Omit component squadrons when an Air Group is on board.)

PERIOD	UNIT	PERIOD	UNIT
1 Apr - 7 Apr 61	CVSG-54	22 May - 12 Jun 61	CVSG-54
17 Apr - 6 May 61	CVSG-54	27 Jun - 31 Aug 61	CVSG-54
1 May - 6 May 61	HMR-262	19 Sep - 22 Sep 61	HS-11 DET 34
6 May - 9 May 61	HS-5		

3. Miles steamed	4. Ship's fuel consumed	Aviation fuel consumed
31,306	6,327,217	593,883

CARRIER LANDINGS AND CATAPULT LAUNCHINGS: Give date upon which even thousands were reached, cumulative from original commissioning when possible, but if from other event as recommissioning or conversion, should so state. May include a breakdown as desired. For some numbers it will be of interest to note, also, the air unit, plane type, and pilot involved.

5. Carrier landings	6. Catapult launchings
Fixed wing - 48,000 - 29 Aug	Stbd - 12,000 - 22 Apr
Rotary wing - 14,000 - 18 Jul	Port - 13,000 - 16 Jul
Cumulative since recommissioning -	Cumulative since recommissioning

PART III - WINGS AND GROUPS: List units on board, including detachments; give dates when only part of report period is involved, otherwise use "entire" or "all".

PERIOD	SUBORDINATE UNITS	PERIOD	SUBORDINATE UNITS

PART IV - SQUADRONS

1. TYPE A/C ASSIGNED	NUMBER ON HAND	DATE FIRST RECEIVED

2. OPERATIONAL STATISTICS	MONTH	HOURS FLOWN	NO. OF FLIGHTS	MONTH	HOURS FLOWN	NO. OF FLIGHTS

PART V - AIR STATIONS: On board refers in this instance to what is physically present; not to be confused with Home Port assignment. Do not repeat units reported as on board in the previous period unless they departed in this period. For composite units such as Carrier Air Groups, record only the parent group.

1. UNITS ON BOARD	ARRIVED	DEPARTED

2. COMMANDS AND ACTIVITIES ON BOARD	ARRIVED	DEPARTED

PART VI - DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL APPENDED (Number serially and describe sufficiently to insure proper identification.)

8. Official or other recognition of accomplishment

CTF 140 msg 5 May 1961. Press communications and pic coverage MR-3. 1. Following received from NASA rep embarked on LAKE CHAMPLAIN quote everyone here hysterically happy with word and picture coverage. CHAMPLAIN communications crew has done magnificent job unquote. 2. Local NASA reps concur.

Prouder than ever of the CHAMP. Heartiest congratulations on your triumphant participation. Looking forward to another New York shipboard show. Say when. Mort Karpp, the 52 Association 226 West 48 Street New York.

COMCARDIV 18 msg 6 May 1961. 1. It is with regret that in a few days I will haul down my flag from my first flagship, the LAKE CHAMPLAIN. I will always remember my pleasant association with your fine ship and air group. The support which you gave me and my staff left nothing to be desired. 2. I greatly admire your outstanding spirit, enthusiasm and performance. These qualities, which are the hallmark of a fine ship, were again amply demonstrated by your performance in the Mercury Recovery Operations. 3. To the Commanding Officer of the CHAMP and his officers and men well done and smooth sailing. RADM G. P. KOCH.

CAPT R. WEYMOUTH. Dear sir congratulations to you and your officers and men for such a splendid job done in assisting to complete one of the greatest feats ever accomplished. William J. Cuzzi, Contract Furniture Sales, Boston, Mass.

On 7 June 1961, the 6CA team aided in the approach of the USS EATON (DDE 510) to a position alongside for the highline transfer of a medical patient. The approach was accomplished with less than 50 yds visibility utilizing the SPN-8, CCA Final Approach Radar.

NAVAIRLANT msg 28 July 1961 awarded Fiscal Year 61 Battle Efficiency Pennant, Air Department E and Operations Department E for CVS class carriers to the USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN. The message read in part "The competitive year just completed reflected an unusually fine performance on the part of all units. Final standings were extremely close and all units can be justly proud of their records. Congratulations to all hands and a special well done to the winners. Signed VADM Frank OBEIRNE.

8. Official or other recognition of accomplishment (Cont'd)

COMCARDIV 20 msg 29 July 1961. To every officer and man in the flag ship I add my congratulations to those of COMNAVAIRLANT for winning the Battle Efficiency Award, Air Department E, and Operations Department E. These achievements demonstrate efficient performance over a continuing period which can only be accomplished by a well coordinated team pulling together in the right direction. I take great pride in flying my flag from such a fine ship. Keep up the good work - RADM TUTTLE.

CTU 83.4.2 msg 31 July 1961. Congratulations on the big E and the shower of small ones. We are proud to be with you.

COMFAIRQUONSET msg 31 July 1961. Battle Efficiency Awards. 1. For the first time Quonset units have made a clean sweep of both ship and air ASW E awards. 2. The close competitive scores of all units indicate fine performance and spirit by all. My personal congratulations to the winners. RADM MOORE.

CINCLANTFLT msg 31 July 1961. 1. Well done to FORRESTAL, LAKE CHAMPLAIN and DUXBURY BAY on winning the NAVAIRLANT Battle Efficiency pennants. FORRESTAL's clean sweep of the Departmental E's for CVA's is a significant achievement and the ultimate target for future competitions. Well done also to the other ships winning departmental E's. 2. During the competitive year just completed you have all carried out on short notice, many special missions of great importance to our nation's security. Your hard work is eminently worthy in this the fiftieth anniversary year of naval aviation.

COMASFORLANT msg 1 August 1961. 1. It is with extreme pleasure that I congratulate you on winning the NAVAIRLANT Battle Efficiency Pennant for CVS class. Inspirational leadership and devotion to duty are always winners. Well done to all hands in the "CHAMP". VADM E. B. TAYLOR, USN

COMDESFLOT 4 msg 23 August 1961. Mercury-Redstone Flight Program. 1. It is with great pride that I pass the following to all participants in the Project Mercury Recovery role: "The remainder of the Mercury-Redstone Flight Program consisting of one flight MR-5 is hereby cancelled, thus terminating the Redstone phase of Project Mercury. Our Objectives for this phase have been achieved and the successful manned flights provide a sound foundation for future manned space flight operations. The Department of Defense elements are congratulated on the outstanding support which they provided. Walter C. Williams, Associate Director sends". 2. The zeal and adaptability with which all recovery supporting units performed provided a significant contribution to the accomplishments achieved. RADM John L. CREW.

8. Official or other recognition of accomplishment (Cont'd)

On 21 September 1961, during Hurricane Esther, USS Lake Champlain proceeded to rendezvous with USS Lookout and successfully transferred emergency appendicitis case. The transfer was conducted during heavy sea conditions by two helicopters from HS-11.

COMASWFORLANT msg 22 September 1961. Mission of Mercy. 1. The expeditious manner in which Lake Champlain and HS-11 carried to successful completion their recent mercy mission is exemplary of the Navy and the traditions of the sea. Please extend to all hands a well done. VADM E. B. TAYLOR.

COMEASTSEAFRON msg 22 September 1961. Medical emergency transfer. 1. Prompt action of all concerned in transfer of emergency appendicitis case and subsequent successful surgery greatly appreciated.

1. Geographical Location

Period	Location
8 Jul - 14 Jul 61	Berthed Wolfe Cove Wharf, Quebec, P.Q. Canada
14 Jul - 21 Jul 61	Western Atlantic
21 Jul - 28 Jul 61	Berthed South Annex, Naval Shipyard, Boston, Mass.
28 Jul - 11 Aug 61	Western Atlantic
11 Aug - 17 Aug 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
17 Aug - 21 Aug 61	Western Atlantic and Caribbean
21 Aug - 22 Aug 61	Anchored Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
22 Aug - 23 Aug 61	Enroute Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.
23 Aug - 25 Aug 61	Anchored Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.
25 Aug - 31 Aug 61	Caribbean and Western Atlantic
31 Aug - 19 Sep 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
19 Sep - 22 Sep 61	Western Atlantic (evading hurricane Esther)
22 Sep - 28 Sep 61	Berthed NAS Quonset Point, R. I.
28 Sep - 30 Sep 61	Western Atlantic