

1966

FLEET TACTICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 09501

VRG-40  
Code OLE  
5750  
Ser: 51  
87 JAN 1967

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05A5G)

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 of 8 NOV 1966

Encl: (1) VRG-40 Command History  
(2) VRG-40 FAMILYGRAM  
(3) Copies of "Well Dones"  
(4) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer  
(5) Four Photographs of Squadron's Aircraft

1. In accordance with the provision of reference (a), Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY's History (enclosure (1)) is forwarded.

  
R. E. FELLOWES

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## Enclosure (1)

### VRC-40 COMMAND HISTORY 1 January - 31 December 1966

#### 1. Narrative

a. Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY (VRC-40) was commissioned on 1 July, 1960, and assigned the mission of providing Logistic Support to the Navy's Atlantic Fleet. VRC-40 is presently home based at the United States Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia and functions under the operational control of Commander, Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. CDR Robert Evans FELLOWES, USN, 5211431/1310 (enclosure (4)), the current Commanding Officer, relieved CDR Donald Joseph DE BAETS on 21 July, 1966.

b. VRC-40 operates ten (10) C-1A aircraft (enclosure (5)) with 31 officers and 145 enlisted men. In addition this squadron is assigned the responsibility of maintaining 5 additional pool aircraft as replacements for Atlantic Fleet carrier C-1A's.

c. VRC-40 is the only squadron in the Atlantic Fleet that carries out such unusual tasks as Carrier-Onboard-Delivery (COD) operations and Paratroop operations for Navy Sea Air Land (SEAL) Teams and Marine Special Recon Forces. COD operations consist of transporting passengers, mail, and high priority cargo to and from aircraft carriers operating at sea. Some of our country's leading businessmen, government, and military leaders have flown with VRC-40 as well as foreign dignitaries; however, the majority of our passengers are naval personnel. In addition, VRC-40 is required, from time to time, to deliver urgently needed aviation equipment and emergency supplies to ports along the eastern seaboard and occasionally to different islands in the Caribbean Sea. Throughout 1966, VRC-40 aircraft deployed over 30 times to ports along the Atlantic Coast and in the Caribbean as well as on carriers attached to the Atlantic Fleet.

d. Since its commissioning in 1960, VRC-40 has transported over 3 million pounds of cargo, 42,000 passengers and is approaching 7500 carrier landings. Last July VRC-40 received its 4th consecutive yearly safety award and to date has logged over 23,000 accident free hours.

#### 2. Chronology of 1966 Highlights

a. GEMINI 9. One VRC-40 aircraft was deployed onboard USS WASP to assist in the GEMINI 9 Space recovery from 13-19 May. While attached to the space recovery force, it provided transportation for NASA and civilian officials as well as personnel from the various news media.

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b. NATO CRUISE. For a period of more than 3 months (17 May - 31 August) one plane was attached to USS RANDOLPH to assist in the passenger and cargo requirements during the NATO Cruise. NATO dignitaries, military leaders and news media personnel from Norway, England, Scotland and Germany were transported to RANDOLPH at sea to observe the exercise.

c. RECONEX 1-66. Three VRC-40 aircraft supported a company of the 2nd FORRECON U. S. Marines during the period of 24 October to 8 November 1966. Day and night paradrops were conducted on Vieques Island and the U. S. Naval Reservation, Trinidad, West Indies.

d. GEMINI 12. Again on the 5th of November a COD was attached to USS WASP for a 2 week period to assist in the GEMINI 12 recovery. Many civilian and military dignitaries were transported to and from USS WASP while in the Bermuda area. One of the most valuable passengers on this detachment was one of the astronauts, James A. LOVELL.

e. LANTFLEX 66. This exercise occurred during the period 28 November through 14 December 1966. The detachment was the largest in terms of personnel and aircraft ever performed by VRC-40. Five C-1A aircraft, 15 officers and 22 enlisted men were involved in meeting the logistic requirements of over 80 ships of the Atlantic Fleet: among them the carriers USS WASP, USS RANDOLPH, and USS AMERICA. Confidential message "well dones" (not included in enclosure (3)) were received from Commander SECOND Fleet and Commander Carrier Division FOUR for squadron performance during this exercise.

3. Conclusions. Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY's motto of "Service to the Fleet with safety, dependability and courtesy" has been well supported by squadron performance during 1966. However, present COD Logistic Support operations only scratch the surface of what can be done because of limitations in cargo space (100 cubic ft) and entry (side door loading) of the C-1A. An aircraft such as the C-2 (1700 cubic ft cargo space, ramp loading) would allow COD delivery of present jet aircraft engines and similar items that are impossible to put in the C-1A as well as enable each aircraft/mission to carry a bigger payload. Greater C-2 range and speed would be additional assets.

Enclosure (1)