

1967

FLEET TACTICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 09501

VRC-40:01E

5750

Ser 92

29 FEB 1968

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY

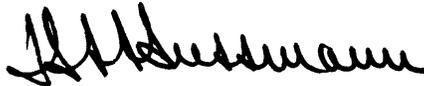
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05A5G)

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) VRC-40 Command History
(2) Seventeen Copies of "Well Dones"
(3) Two VRC-40 Family Grams
(4) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer
(5) Photograph of Squadron's Aircraft
(6) Six News Clippings Covering VRC-40 Events
(7) Three Photograph's of VRC-40 Events of Special Interest

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded and comprise the squadron command history for the calendar year 1967.



H. "L" HUSSMANN III

Copy to:
CNO (OP-09B9)

ENCLOSURE (1)

VRG-40 COMMAND HISTORY

1 JAN - 31 DEC 1967

1. 1967 CHRONOLOGY

- 19-25 FEBRUARY - Detachment of 4 aircraft at Jacksonville, Florida to provide COD services for the USS WASP (CVS-18) and the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42).
- 11-14 APRIL - 3 aircraft detachment to Pensacola, Florida to transport 20 NATO military committee dignitaries from USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16) to New Orleans, Louisiana. Admiral WARD, U. S. Navy was the senior U. S. officer on this flight.
- 13 APRIL-
5 MAY - Detachment of 5 aircraft and 37 personnel to support GLOVEHITCH 67. Operations were staged out of Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads P.R. and Isla Grande CGAS, P.R.
- 12 MAY - VRG-40 Change of Command - Commander Harry "L" HUSSMANN III relieved Commander Robert Evans FELLOWES as Commanding Officer.
- 13 MAY - Belgian Ambassador to U. S. and the Belgian Military Representative to NATO lifted on a flight from Andrews Air Force Base to the USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) and return.
- 28 MAY-
20 AUGUST - One aircraft detachment onboard the USS ESSEX (CVS-9) for support of the annual NATO exercises. Missions were staged out of Norway, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, England, Italy, and Malta.
- 6 JUNE-
1 JULY - One aircraft deployed onboard the USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) to assist in transporting passengers in the Carribean and from Rio De Janerio. The Honorable Mr. TUTHILL, U. S. Ambassador to Brazil and Admiral RADAMAKER, Brazilian Minister of the Navy were among the many dignitaries transported.
- 9-17 JUNE - Detachment of 4 aircraft to Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, P.R. to provide COD services for the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) and the USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59).

Enclosure (1)

- 23 JUNE - VRC-40 open house to celebrate 7th anniversary. Cake cutting ceremonies and open house, followed a personnel inspection.
- 1 JULY - VRC-40 was presented its 5th CONSECUTIVE annual safety award from Chief of Naval Operations for fiscal year 1967.
- 6-7 JULY - VRC-40 received Administration and Material Inspection from Commander Fleet Air Norfolk. Grade - EXCELLENT.
- 18 OCTOBER - Secretary of the Navy IGNATIUS transported from Andrews Air Force Base to the USS ESSEX (CVS-9) and return. Admiral HOLMES transported from Naval Air Station, Norfolk to USS ESSEX (CVS-9) and return.
- 13-14 NOVEMBER - Vice Admiral BOOTH transported from Kindley Air Force Base, Bermuda, to the USS ESSEX (CVS-9) and return.

2. COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONS

a. Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY (VRC-40) was commissioned on 1 July 1960, and assigned the mission of providing logistical support to the Navy's Atlantic Fleet. VRC-40 is presently home based at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, and functions under the operational control of Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Commander Harry "L" HUSSMANN III, U. S. Navy, 532909/1310 (see enclosure (4)), the current Commanding Officer, relieved Commander Robert Evans FELLOWES on 12 May 1967.

b. VRC-40 operates ten (10) C-1A aircraft (see enclosure (5)) with 28 officers and 145 enlisted men. Twenty-six (26) officers are aviators and fourteen (14) men are designated aircrewmembers. This squadron is assigned the additional responsibility of maintaining approximately 3 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 paradrop 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. The in-port time for some ships has been reduced by flying urgently needed parts and supplies to them. Some of our country's leading businessmen, government and military leaders, as well as foreign dignitaries, have flown with VRC-40; however, the majority of our passengers are naval personnel. In addition, VRC-40 is required, from time to time, to transport urgently needed personnel, equipment, and supplies to ports along the eastern seaboard and occasionally to different islands in the Caribbean area. The command maintains a weapons replenishment capability for ships at sea.

3. OPERATIONS

a. VRC-40 differs from the majority of aviation commands in that it rarely deploys as a unit. However, we do assist various operations with one or two plane detachments. Throughout 1967, VRC-40 aircraft deployed over 50 times to assist in operations along the Atlantic coast, the Carribean area, South America and Northern Europe. The majority of these were COD (Carrier-Onboard-Delivery) detachments in support of Atlantic Fleet carriers. In performing this, our primary mission, VRC-40 operated out of ports along the eastern seaboard and in the Carribean area for one and two week periods. One of the largest COD detachments in VRC-40's history occurred from 13 April to 5 May with our participation in GLOVEHITCH 67. Five aircraft and 37 personnel provided logistical support for naval and marine forces as well as transportation for observation teams and news media personnel. As in the past, our longest detachment of the year was in connection with the 1967 NATO exercises. One VRC-40 COD was deployed aboard the USS ESSEX (CVS-9) to assist in transporting NATO dignitaries and observation teams for a three month period, and in doing so, visited the majority of the Northern European ports.

4. SPECIAL TOPICS

a. Since its commissioning in 1960, VRC-40 has transported over 3.5 million pounds of cargo and 48,000 passengers. With the addition of 5976 flight hours, 1169 carrier landings and 293 catapult launches in 1967, VRC-40 passed the 30,000 mark in consecutive accident-free hours. In July 1967, VRC-40 received its 5th CONSECUTIVE yearly safety award from Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

5. CONCLUSIONS

a. VRC-40 has once again in 1967 accomplished its motto of "Service to the Fleet with Safety, Dependability and Courtesy" (see enclosure (2)).