

FLEET TACTICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY

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VRC-40:15

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1968

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

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1); Submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

- Encl: (1) VRC-40 Chronology, 1 JAN 68 to 31 DEC 68
(2) VRC-40 Command History, Narrative
(3) Eleven Copies of "Well Dones"
(4) VRC-40 Familygram
(5) Biographies & Photographs of Commanding Officers
(6) Photographs of Squadron Aircraft
(7) Four News Clippings Covering VRC-40 Events
(8) CNO "Safety Award" Fact Sheets

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded and comprise the Squadron Command History for the calander year of 1968.


C. WITHERS

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (CP-09B9)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20390

VRC-40 COMMAND HISTORY
1 JAN - 31 DEC 1968

1. 1968 CHRONCLOGY

- 15-18 JANUARY - Weapons loading exercises conducted with NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, and USS AMERICA (CVA-66)
- 16-29 JANUARY - Two aircraft detachment to NAS Jacksonville, Florida, and NAS Pensacola, Florida, for COD services to USS RANDOLPH (CVS-15) plus carrier landing qualifications for squadron pilots.
- FEBRUARY - Squadron past 30,000 hours mark for accident free flying.
- 7-11 FEBRUARY - Commander, Second Fleet, transported to Charleston AFB, South Carolina.
- 23 FEBRUARY - Aircraft detached to NAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida, to shuttle between Jacksonville and Dallas, Texas, for transporting of A-7A aircraft parts.
- 31 MARCH
13 APRIL - C-1A aircraft detached to Jacksonville for USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62) COD service.
- 9-15 APRIL - COD service for USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) while conducting sea trials.
- 12 APRIL - Aircraft sent with USS AMERICA (CVA-66) to work out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.
- 6 MAY
- 15 APRIL - VRC-40 carried its 50,000th passenger aboard the squadron's C-1A "Trader".
- 30 APRIL - One aircraft detached to USS ESSEX (CVS-9) for operations in the Northeast Atlantic area.
- 15 JUNE
- 1 MAY - One aircraft to USS INTREPID (CVS-11) out of Jacksonville and one aircraft to USS WASP (CVS-18) out of Norfolk providing COD service.
- 10-13 JUNE - Serviced HMCS BONAVENTURE, and Canadian aircraft carrier, in operation "Racer Run" off of San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 1 JULY - VRC-40 was presented its sixth consecutive annual safety award from Chief of Naval Operations for fiscal year 1968.

Enclosure (1)

- 28 JULY - COD service provided to USS ESSEX (CVS-9) near Bermuda
04 AUGUST in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 09 AUGUST - VRC-40 Change of Command. Commander Maurice M. JOHNSTON
relieved Commander Harry "L" HUSSMANN as Commanding
Officer.
- 11-30 AUGUST - Conducted carquals and COD service at NAS Corpus
Christi and NAS Pensacola aboard USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16)
- 12 AUGUST - One plane detachment deployed aboard USS WASP (CVS-18)
for North Atlantic and Mediterranean cruise. On
15 November aircraft bureau number 136764 crashed on
the island of Crete while returning on a COD
mission to the USS WASP. LT Wayne EPLER, LTJG Ronald
WOLFE and AEL KING were fatally injured.
- 26-27 SEPTEMBER - VRC-40 Received Administration and Material Inspection
from Commander Fleet Air Norfolk; Capt John R.
KINCAID, USN, Chief Inspector, Grade - excellent.
- 10 OCTOBER - Two aircraft provide COD service to USS ESSEX (CVS-9)
27 NOVEMBER working out of Kindley AFB, Bermuda. This commenced
VRC-40's role in the Apollo 7 space mission.
- 20 NOVEMBER - One aircraft working out of NAS Guantonimo Bay, Cuba,
provided COD service to USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67).
- 06-19 DECEMBER - COD services provided to USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38)
out of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Additional Carrier On Board Delivery provided:

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
USS ESSEX (CVS-9)	6-18 JAN	NORFOLK
	24 AUG-9 SEP	NORFOLK
	22 OCT-2 NOV	NORFOLK
USS RANDOLPH (CVS-15)	24 FEB-1 MAR	PENSACOLA
	10-11 MAR	NORFOLK
	17-29 JUN	PENSACOLA
	22-24 JUL	JACKSONVILLE
USS AMERICA (CVA-66)	3-10 FEB	PUERTO RICO
	11-18 FEB	JACKSONVILLE
	9 MAR	JACKSONVILLE

	12-21 APR	PUERTO RICO
	22 OCT-2 NOV	NORFOLK
	15-16 DEC	NORFOLK
USS INDEPENDENCE (CVS-62)	7-11 FEB	GUANTANIMO BAY
	11-18 FEB	JACKSONVILLE
	10-11 MAR	NORFOLK
	23 MAR-13 APR	JACKSONVILLE
USS WASP (CVS-18)	9-26 FEB	OPALOCKA AFB, FLA
	31 MAY-9 JUN	NORFOLK
USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16)	25-29 MAR	PENSACOLA
	30 APR-3 MAY	CORPUS CHRISTI
	15-17 MAY	CORPUS CHRISTI
	24-29 JUL	JACKSONVILLE
	10-25 SEP	PENSACOLA
	8-24 OCT	CORPUS CHRISTI
	11-27 NOV	PENSACOLA
USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59)	10 JUN-3 JUL	JACKSONVILLE

BASIC NARRATIVE

1. 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 Maurice M. JOHNSTON, U.S. Navy, 381069/1310, the current Commanding Officer, relieved Commander Harry "L" HUSSMANN III on 9 August 1968.

b. VRC-40 operates ten (10) C-1A aircraft with 31 officers and 151 enlisted men. Twenty-nine (29) officers are aviators and fourteen (14) men are designated aircrewmembers. This squadron is assigned the additional responsibility of maintaining approximately three (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) Team and Marine Special Recon Forces. Additionally, air gunspotting services are provided for Forward Air Controller training and weapons loading exercises are conducted on a quarterly basis at NAS Guantanamo Bay and NAS Roosevelt Roads. One organization frequently transported along the East Coast is the Atlantic Combat Camera Group. 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.

When badly needed parts for the Navy's newest attack aircraft, the A-7A, needed to be transported from their production point in Dallas, Texas, to the squadron at NAS Cecil Field for expeditious deployment to Southeast Asia, VRC-40 was on hand to provide its unique service. A bilateral exercise of Canadian and U.S. ships and aircraft, operation "Racer Run", found a COD servicing the Canadian aircraft carrier BONAVENTURE while swapping operational techniques with that ship's own COD crew. During the Apollo 7 space mission a VRC-40 COD logged over 10,000 miles carrying personnel, equipment, and the U.S. mail to the recovery area south of Bermuda. Astronauts LTCOL EISELE and Mr. CUNNINGHAM became honorary copilots in "CODFISH" airlines during the windup of the mission. Paradrop operations for the squadron averaged ten commitments per month with forty drops during each commitment.

Enclosure (2)

2. 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 detachments. Throughout 1968, VRC-40 aircraft deployed over 75 times to assist in operations along the Atlantic Coast, the Caribbean area, South America, and Northern Europe. The majority of these detachments were in support of carriers at sea. VRC-40 operated out of ports along the Eastern seaboard and in the Caribbean area for one and two week periods. As in the past, our longest detachment of the year was in connection with the Northern European cruise of a First Fleet aircraft carrier. One VRC-40 C-1A was embarked in USS WASP (CVS-18) to assist in Carrier-Onboard-Delivery for a three month period, and in so doing, visited the majority of Northern European and Mediterranean ports.

3. SPECIAL TOPICS

a. Since its commissioning in 1960, VRC-40 has transported over five million pounds of cargo and mail with 55,000 passengers in 50,000 hours of flight time. In July 1968 VRC-40 received its 6th consecutive yearly safety award from Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Another milestone for 1968 is the 10,000 arrested carrier landing for the squadron.

4. CONCLUSIONS

a. VRC-40 has once again in 1968 accomplished its motto of "Service to the Fleet with Safety, Dependability, and Courtesy".