

VRC-40



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FLEET TACTICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY  
NAVAL AIR STATION  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

VRC-40/15/ra1  
5750  
Ser 144  
25 FEB 74

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Tactical Support Squadron  
FORTY

To: Chief of Naval Operations

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

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Basic History with Documentary Annexes A-K

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded. Enclosure (1) comprises the Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY history for calendar year 1973.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. A. Petrich".  
H. A. PETRICH

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History  
COMNAVAIRLANT  
COMTACSUPWING ONE

4 MAR RECD

## BASIC HISTORY

Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY (VRC-40) is the only squadron of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet tasked with the mission of Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD). VRC-40 is literally an airline, transporting passengers, mail and high priority cargo with destinations such as USS J. F. KENNEDY, INDEPENDENCE, LEXINGTON and SARATOGA. These airports, however, are not the familiar land locked metropolitan sites but are the nation's aircraft carriers at sea. VRC-40 pilots and crews fly the Grumman built twin-engined C-1A, capable of carrying 8 passengers or 3,500 pounds of mail/cargo or combinations of the two. Other configurations allow the C-1 to be used to carry litter patients for medevac flights or to act as the platform for Navy Seal Teams and Marines on parachute drop missions. Though home based at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, many of VRC-40's operational commitments are staged from other eastern bases as well as Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The demands of widely detached operations and such varying missions requires the utmost in flexibility and proficiency while ensuring the highest degree of passenger comfort and safety.

CDR Russell E. BIGNEY served as Commanding Officer of VRC-40 until 13 July 1973 when he was relieved by CDR Horst A. PETRICH. July signaled another change when on the first of that month, VRC-40 came under the aegis of Fleet Tactical Support Wing ONE, a newly established functional wing composed of the special missions squadrons on the East Coast. Captain A. W. HOWARD, Jr, became the first Commodore of TACSUPWING ONE assuming the responsibilities of reporting senior for VRC-40.

The responsibilities of passenger transportation give an added dimension to the area of safety. All carrier work is demanding and precise but VRC-40's tasks call for the highest levels of skill and expertise. COMNAVAIRLANT awarded the squadron a citation for its fifth consecutive year of accident free flying. Since November of 1968, VRC-40 has logged 29,008 flight hours without an accident. Since its commissioning in 1960, no passenger has been injured while flying with "CODFISH AIRLINES".

1973 saw the VRC-40 aircrews operate from seven different aircraft carriers staging out of five different bases. Though most of the detachments consisted of one or two aircraft, twice the squadron was called on to provide six aircraft to accomplish the mission. In March, CDR R. E. BIGNEY, Commanding Officer, led a six plane detachment to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to provide services for the USS AMERICA (CVA-66)

Enclosure (1)

returning from a Westpac deployment. While AMERICA steamed past the Caribbean Islands on the 20th, VRC-40 made 12 separate flights to and from her deck. CDR H. A. PETRICH, then squadron Executive Officer, led six aircraft to Pensacola, Florida in June where a highly successful three day evolution of COD services and carrier qualifications were carried out with the USS LEXINGTON (CVT-16). Other operational highlights of the year included several training/recruiting flights made in support of the NAVAIRLANT Hometown Recruiting Program, weapons loading operations in Roosevelt Roads and a paradrop mission in Lexington, Ohio. By the time 1973 drew to a close, VRC-40 had made 3,312 flights while transporting 6041 passengers (253 VIPs) and 258,063 pounds of mail and cargo and had grabbed a wire 1,044 times.

VRC-40's administrative, operational and maintenance activities were carried out by an average onboard count of 110 enlisted and 26 officers including 22 pilots. The squadron maintained an average of 10 aircraft during the year.

VRC-40 personnel remained active in many outside interests including Boy Scouting, community affairs and other youth programs. The squadron was represented well on the NAS Norfolk athletic fields as the volleyball team captured the league championship and both the softball and basketball teams made the championship playoffs.

1973 saw vast changes in the appearance of both barracks and working spaces as an extensive self-help program was carried out under the direction of the Leading Chief Petty Officer.

Of particular note was a first term reenlistment rate of 64% for the last six months of 1973, nearly triple the Navy wide average.

ACCIDENT FREE FLIGHT HOURS

1968 (NOV-DEC)	-	989.3
1969	-	6006.0
1970	-	5344.6
1971	-	5653.5
1972	-	<u>4913.5</u>
		22906.9

<u>1973</u>	<u>Squadron pilots</u>	<u>CVA In-port Support</u>	<u>Total</u>
JAN	322.1	0.0	322.1
FEB	429.9	0.0	429.9
MAR	499.0	32.0	531.0
APR	530.6	130.5	661.1
MAY	679.8	151.2	831.0
JUN	431.7	116.4	548.1
JUL	386.1	49.8	435.9
AUG	383.0	95.8	478.8
SEP	360.0	66.0	426.0
OCT	324.8	158.6	483.4
NOV	465.5	120.8	586.3
DEC	264.3	103.2	367.5
TOTAL	5076.8	1024.3	6101.1

	22906.9
+	<u>6101.1</u>
	29008.0

ANNEX A



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS  
COMMANDER NAVAL AIR FORCE, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET  
NAVAL AIR STATION  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

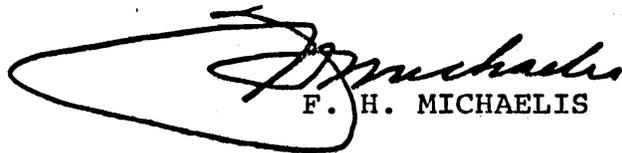
CNAL 002  
S810-773  
Ser 8177  
13 DEC 1973

From: Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet  
To: Commanding Officer, Fleet Tactical Support Squadron 40  
Via: Commander Tactical Support Wing 1

Subj: Recognition for accident-free aircraft operations

Encl: (1) COMNAVAIRLANT Citation

1. The Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet takes great pleasure in according special recognition for meritorious achievement in aviation safety.
2. The enclosed citation for operations without a major aircraft accident for the five year period from 16 November 1968 to 15 November 1973 is hereby forwarded. The Commanding Officer, officers, and men of FLETACSUPPRON 40 are congratulated for this fine achievement. They can take pride in such outstanding performance and in their contribution to the continued reduction in losses of personnel and material assets within the Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and the United States Navy.
3. The Commanding Officer is encouraged to reflect this achievement in the official evaluations of the officers and men who contributed to the success of FLETACSUPPRON 40 in operational safety. Action to provide individual awards to personnel who have made outstanding contributions to this success is appropriate.

  
F. H. MICHAELIS

ANNEX B

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

MONTH	AVE. PILOTS	SORTIES	SQUADRON PILOT FLT. HRS.	CVA IN-PORT SUPPORT
JAN	20	175	322.1	0.0
FEB	21	230	429.9	0.0
MAR	23	266	499.0	32.0
APR	23	379	530.6	130.5
MAY	22	466	679.8	151.2
JUN	22	276	431.7	116.4
JUL	23	253	386.1	49.8
AUG	24	254	383.0	95.8
SEP	24	260	360.0	66.0
OCT	22	235	324.8	158.6
NOV	25	325	465.5	120.8
DEC	24	193	264.3	103.2
	20	3312	5076.8	1024.3

	CV LANDINGS	NO, PAX	VIP's	MAIL AND CARGO- LBS
JAN	33	356	23	15895
FEB	44	358	17	34301
MAR	49	434	13	25657
APR	87	797	22	29109
MAY	133	1066	27	36803
JUN	175	515	10	14151
JUL	106	540	16	14928
AUG	44	473	6	5326
SEP	63	546	13	12353
OCT	148	219	35	4120
NOV	124	485	45	47127
DEC	38	252	26	18293
	1044	6041	253	258063

ANNEX C

COD SUPPORT 1973

DATES	UNIT SUPPORTED	STAGING POINT	REMARKS*
JAN 05-07	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
16-23	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
30-31	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
FEB 01-06	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
04-09	-----	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	WEAPONS LOAD
11	CVA-60	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	2 A/C
12	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
13-19	CVA-67	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
MAR 13-16	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
19-21	CVA-66/CVA-42	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	6 A/C
23-27	CVA-62	NORFOLK	
27-30	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
28-31	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
APR 01-03	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
03-05	CVA-62	NORFOLK	
09-15	CVA-62	NORFOLK	
13-23	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
23-30	CVA-62	NORFOLK	
24-27	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
30	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
29-04	MAY -----	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	WEAPONS LOAD
MAY 01-08	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
01-04	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
01	CVA-62	NORFOLK	
07-10	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	
08-15	CVA-62	JACKSONVILLE	
18-19	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
21-26	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
22-24	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
22-25	CVA-62	JACKSONVILLE	
27-28	CVA-62	JACKSONVILLE	
29-31	CVA-62	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
30-31	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
JUN 01	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
03-06	CVA-42	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	2 A/C
11-14	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	6 A/C
16-22	-----	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	WEAPONS LOAD
19-22	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
26-28	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
JUL 05	CVA-59	NORFOLK	
07-09	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
12	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
15-19	CVA-42	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	
16-18	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	3 A/C
22	CVA-42	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	
24-26	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
25	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	
31	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
AUG 01-02	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	4 A/C
21-23	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	4 A/C
22-23	CVA-66	NORFOLK	

ANNEX D

DATES	UNIT SUPPORTED	STAGING POINT	REMARKS*
AUG 27-29	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
28-31	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
27-31	-----	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	WEAPONS LOAD
SEP 07-09	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
10-14	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
10-18	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
18-19	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
25-26	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
OCT 16-17	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
16-18	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
23-24	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	4 A/C
23-25	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
30-31	CVA-66	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
NOV 01-07	CVA-66	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	2 A/C
08	CVA-59	NORFOLK	
12-16	CVA-66	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
13-15	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
18-20	CVA-66	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
19-21	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	3 A/C
26-30	CVA-59	NORFOLK	
27-28	CVA-66	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
30	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
DEC 01-02	CVA-59	NORFOLK	
02-08	CVA-66	ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.	2 A/C
06-13	CVA-59	NORFOLK	

\*SINGLE AIRCRAFT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

OFFICER ROSTER (AS OF 31 DEC 73)

RANK	NAME	P/C DESIGNATION	DATE DESIG	INST RATING
CDR	H.A. PETRICH	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 72	SPECIAL
CDR	T.W. GRIMES	PLANE COMMANDER	SEP 73	SPECIAL
LCDR	C.H. STILWELL	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 71	SPECIAL
LCDR	G.H. KATZMANN	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 73	SPECIAL
LCDR	J.M. CALLAWAY	PLANE COMMANDER	NOV 72	SPECIAL
LCDR	R.E. NEWELL	PLANE COMMANDER	JAN 72	SPECIAL
LCDR	C.A. PUNDT	PLANE COMMANDER	APR 72	SPECIAL
LT	T.B. MEZGER	PLANE COMMANDER	SEP 71	SPECIAL
LT	J.A. SLATTERY	THIRD PILOT	DEC 73	STANDARD
LT	J.B. WHITE	PLANE COMMANDER	OCT 72	STANDARD
LT	R.W. BELL	PLANE COMMANDER	DEC 72	STANDARD
LT	R.G. ADAMS	PLANE COMMANDER	DEC 72	SPECIAL
LT	L.E. BROWN	PLANE COMMANDER	JAN 72	SPECIAL
LT	B.G.S. POWELL	PLANE COMMANDER	NOV 72	STANDARD
LTJG	R.L. RASMUSSEN	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 73	STANDARD
LTJG	R.T. POPE	PLANE COMMANDER	JUL 73	STANDARD
LTJG	A.M. SVATEK	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 73	STANDARD
LTJG	T.L. PATRICK	PLANE COMMANDER	OCT 73	STANDARD
LTJG	J.A. STAMETS	PLANE COMMANDER	OCT 73	STANDARD
LTJG	J.D. JORGENSEN	THIRD PILOT	MAR 73	STANDARD
LTJG	F.C. SHERRARD	THIRD PILOT	MAR 73	STANDARD
LTJG	G.L. WOODY	SECOND PILOT	NOV 73	STANDARD
LTJG	P.E. OBERDORFER	SECOND PILOT	NOV 73	STANDARD
ENS	D.J. RIZY	THIRD PILOT	SEP 73	STANDARD
ENS	M.S. LINDSAY	THIRD PILOT	DEC 73	STANDARD

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

ENS V.W. NIBBS	ASSISTANT OPERATIONS OFFICER
ENS C.S. GRAYBILL	ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CWO-2 D.M. ROBY	ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE OFFICER
CWO-2 R.E. ANDERSON	MAINTENANCE CONTROL OFFICER