

FLEET TACTICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY

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

VRC-40:15  
5750  
Ser 260

21 APR 1970

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

- Encl:
- (1) 1969 Chronology
  - (2) Detachments 1969
  - (3) Basic Narrative
  - (4) 22 Copies of "Well Done"
  - (5) 1 VRC-40 FAMILYGRAM
  - (6) Biographies and Pictures of Commanding Officers
  - (7) Photo of Squadron Aircraft (8x10)
  - (8) 15 News Clippings of VRC-40 Events

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded herewith. These enclosures comprise the squadron command history for the calendar year 1969.

G. WITHERS

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



## 1969 CHRONOLOGY

1. 28 MARCH - 10 JULY Detachment 18 involving 3 pilots and 4 crewmen deployed for 4 months aboard the USS Wasp (CVS-18) in the North Atlantic.
2. 29 MARCH - 20 APRIL VRC-40 provided logistic support to 4 carriers at the same time. During this period, the squadron flew 308 missions carrying over 880 passengers, over 29,800 pounds of mail and nearly 48,000 pounds of cargo.
3. 3 JULY VRC-40 Change of Command. Commander C. WITHERS relieved Commander M. M. JOHNSTON.
4. 1-6 SEPTEMBER Record of 6 carriers supported at one time by VRC-40. In a 6 day period, the squadron transported over 200 passengers along with 23,000 pounds of mail and cargo.
5. 2 SEPTEMBER - 5 DECEMBER Detachment 10 involving 3 pilots and 4 crewmen deployed for 3 months aboard the USS Yorktown in the North Atlantic/European Area.
6. 7 SEPTEMBER The ruler of Bahrain, His Highness Shaikh Issa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah was transported from the USS Independence (CVA-62) to the Naval Air Facility, Washington.
7. 10 SEPTEMBER - 8 OCTOBER Detachment 62 involving 2 pilots and 3 crewmen were embarked on the USS Independence for a NATO cruise.
8. 1 OCTOBER Annual Inspection of RPS Distributed Publications by Commander, Fleet Air Norfolk, Grade: Outstanding.
9. 8 OCTOBER VRC-40 initiated a delivery using ADDS (Air Deployment Delivery System). This "first" constituted dropping a needed part to the USS Hugh Purvis (DD-709) while 250 miles at sea.
10. 8 OCTOBER - 24 DECEMBER VRC-40 furnished a total of 4 Plane Commanders to Vietnam for COD support to 7th fleet carriers in South East Asia.
11. 24 OCTOBER ENS. [REDACTED] reported into VRC-40, marking the first time the squadron has had a wave on board.

DETACHMENTS 1969

<u>DATE</u>	<u>No. of AC</u>	<u>Based</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Mission</u>
8-17 JANUARY	2	JACKSONVILLE	AMERICA	COD
12-17 JANUARY	1	JACKSONVILLE	AMERICA	COD
13-19 JANUARY	1	CORPUS CHRISTI	ESSEX	COD
25-29 JANUARY	1	CORPUS CHRISTI	ESSEX	COD
17-20 FEBRUARY	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
7-13 MARCH	2	JACKSONVILLE	KENEDY	COD
10-12 MARCH	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
17-19 MARCH	1	CORPUS CHRISTI	LEXINGTON	COD
24-29 MARCH	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
14-16 APRIL	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
21-25 APRIL	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
6-10 MAY	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
13-15 MAY	1	CORPUS CHRISTI	LEXINGTON	COD
21-28 MAY	1	JACKSONVILLE	SARATOGA	COD
2-4 JUNE	1	PENSACOLA	LEXINGTON	COD
6-15 JUNE	2	ROOSEVELT ROADS	SARATOGA	COD
18-30 JUNE	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
23-30 JUNE	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
5-16 JULY	2	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
16-25 JULY	2	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
27-29 JULY	1	JACKSONVILLE	SHANGRI LA	COD
27 JULY-4 AUGUST	2	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
4-18 AUGUST	1	GUANTANAMO	ROOSEVELT	COD
5-8 AUGUST	3	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
14-19 AUGUST	1	JACKSONVILLE	FORRESTAL	COD
16-28 AUGUST	1	GUANTANAMO	ROOSEVELT	COD
26 AUGUST-16 SEPTEMBER	1	GUANTANAMO	FORRESTAL	COD
1-16 SEPTEMBER	1	ROOSEVELT ROADS	ROOSEVELT	COD
2 SEPTEMBER-5 DECEMBER	1	NORTH ATLANTIC	YORKTOWN	COD
5-6 SEPTEMBER	2	QUONSET PT.	INTREPID	COD/CARQUALS
10 SEPTEMBER-8 OCTOBER	1	NATO CRUISE/EUR	INDEPENDENCE	COD
14-25 SEPTEMBER	1	ROOSEVELT ROADS	FORRESTAL	COD
14-28 SEPTEMBER	1	GUANTANAMO	ROOSEVELT	COD
22-27 SEPTEMBER	1	CORPUS CHRISTI	WASP	COD
27 SEPTEMBER-4 OCTOBER	2	PENSACOLA	WASP	COD/CARQUALS
12-20 OCTOBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	ROOSEVELT	COD
26 OCTOBER-2 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
26-31 OCTOBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDY/FORRESTAL	COD
26 OCTOBER-6 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	FORRESTAL	COD
2-7 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	FORRESTAL	COD
3-13 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	ROOSEVELT	COD
6-14 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
12-21 NOVEMBER	2	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
14-18 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	SHANGRI LA	COD
19-20 NOVEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDEPENDENCE	COD
2-13 DECEMBER	2	JACKSONVILLE	WASP	COD
4-13 DECEMBER	1	JACKSONVILLE	INDY/WASP	COD
19-20 DECEMBER	1	BERMUDA	KENNEDY	COD

## BASIC NARRATIVE

### 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, and the administrative control of Commander Fleet Air Norfolk. Commander C. Withers, relieved Commander M.M. Johnston on 3 July 1969.

b. VRC-40 is assigned seven (7) C-1A aircraft with 35 officers and 164 enlisted men. Thirty-two (32) officers are pilots and twenty-seven (27) men are designated aircrewmembers. The squadron is assigned the 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 the unusual task of Carrier-Onboard-Delivery (COD) operations and paratroop operations for Navy Sea Air Land (SEAL) Teams and Marine Special Recon Forces (Pathfinders). 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 Fleet 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 on a timely basis. 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. Some of the many noteworthy personnel transported in 1969 were the Ruler of Bahrain, the Asst. Sec. of Defense, Dr. Selin, VAdm. P. Masterton, and VAdm. R. L. Townsend. 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 also maintains a weapons replenishment capability for ships at sea.

### 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 1969, VRC-40 aircraft deployed 47 times to assist in operations along the Atlantic coast, the Caribbean 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 Caribbean area for one and two week periods.

Our longest detachment of the year involved three pilots and four crewmen who were deployed for four months aboard the USS WASP (CVS-18) in the North Atlantic/European Area. VRC-40 supplied COD support to Seventh Fleet carriers in South East Asia during 1969 by sending four plane commanders to Vietnam for periods of 30 to 45 days.

#### SPECIAL TOPICS

a. Since its commissioning in 1960, VRC-40 has transported 4,306,812 pounds of cargo and mail with 68,989 passengers in 57,269 hours of flight time. With the addition of 6145 flight hours and 975 carrier landings in 1969, VRC-40 passed the mark of 11,500 arrested carrier landings.

#### CONCLUSIONS

a. VRC-40 has once again in 1969 accomplished its motto of "Service to the Fleet with Safety, Dependability and Courtesy".