



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

VRC-40  
1974  
B

VRC-40/15/wlm  
5750  
Ser 666  
31 JAN 1975

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-I

1. In accordance with reference {a}, enclosure {1} is forwarded. Enclosure {1} comprises the Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY history for calendar year 1974.

  
T. W. GRIMES

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History  
COMNAVAIRLANT  
COMTAC SUPWING ONE

## B A S I C   H I S T O R Y

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. 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.

Commander Horst A. Petrich served as Commanding Officer of VRC-40 until 22 July 1974 when he was relieved by Commander Thomas W. Grimes. July also signalled completion of the first full year VRC-40 has worked 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., the first Commodore of TACSUPWING ONE, is the 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 sixth consecutive year of accident free flying. Since November of 1968, VRC-40 has logged 33,834 flight hours without an accident. Since its commissioning in 1960, no passenger has been injured while flying with "CODFISH AIRLINES".

1974 saw the VRC-40 aircrews operate from seven different aircraft carriers staging out of six different bases. On January 30th VRC-40 was called upon to perform a MEDEVAC mission off the coast near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. A litter patient was carried from the USS FORRESTAL {CVA-59} to a hospital on the shore to recover from accidental gunshot wounds. A parts mission was flown to

St. Croix in the U. S. Virgin Islands to support a Polaris submarine exercise. During the month of September and early October one VRC 40 COD deployed with the USS AMERICA {CVA-66} on a very successful North Atlantic cruise. Other operational highlights included several training/recruiting flights made in support of the NAVAIRLANT hometown recruiting program and local paradrop missions in support of Navy Seal teams and Marine jumpers. By the time 1974 drew to a close, VRC-40 had made 2,590 flights while transporting 4441 passengers {96 VIPs} and 163,571 pounds of mail and cargo and had grabbed a wire 904 times.

VRC-40's administrative, operational and maintenance activities were carried out by an average onboard count of 101 enlisted and 26 officers including 24 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 visited by various groups including a troop of Boy Scouts from as far away as Braxton County, West Virginia.

1974 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.

ACCIDENT FREE FLIGHT HOURS

1968	{NOV-DEC}	-	989.3
1969		-	6006.0
1970		-	5344.6
1971		-	5653.5
1972		-	4913.5
1973		-	<u>6101.1</u>
			29008.0

<u>1974</u>	<u>SQUADRON PILOTS</u>	<u>CVA IN-PORT SUPPORT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
JAN	310.6	98.5	409.1
FEB	121.2	122.8	244.0
MAR	153.8	182.4	336.2
APR	343.3	197.7	541.0
MAY	281.6	208.7	490.3
JUN	381.1	83.5	464.6
JUL	260.7	47.6	308.3
AUG	373.6	45.3	418.9
SEP	294.7	99.1	393.8
OCT	361.7	110.7	472.4
NOV	350.7	42.0	392.7
DEC	<u>355.1</u>	<u>00.0</u>	<u>355.1</u>
TOTAL	3588.1	1238.3	4826.4

	29008.0
+	<u>4826.4</u>
	33834.4

ORIGINAL

110

ROUTINE

\*\*\*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED E F T O \*\*\*\*\*

RECALL

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FM COMIAC SUPWING ONE NORFOLK VA

TO ZEN/FLEIAC SUPPRON FOUR ZERO

INFO TAC SUPWING ONE

ZEN/COMNAV AIRLANT NORFOLK VA

ZEN/COMNAV SAFECEN NORFOLK VA

ZEN/NAS NORFOLK VA

BT

UNCLAS E F T O//NO3750//

AVIATION SAFETY MILESTONE

1. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT OF ANOTHER MAJOR FLIGHT SAFETY MILESTONE, SIX CONSECUTIVE ACCIDENT FREE YEARS. YOUR IMPRESSIVE SAFETY RECORD SERVES AS A MODEL FOR OTHER SQUADRONS IN THE COMMUNITY, AND HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SUPWING ONE SAFETY EFFORTS.

2. THE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE OF YOUR PERSONNEL AND THEIR METICULOUS ATTENTION TO THE MYRIAD DETAILS OF FLIGHT AND MAINTENANCE SAFETY IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR EXCELLENT RECORD. YOUR CONSISTENTLY IMPECCABLE SAFETY PRACTICES ARE PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY CONSIDERING THE AGE OF YOUR AIRCRAFT, YOUR REQUIREMENTS AS C-1A RAG AND THE NECESSITY OF DELIVERING THE GOODS IN ANY WEATHER. THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF YOUR SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN YOUR INJURY FREE PASSENGER SERVICE, AN ENVIABLE GOAL FOR ANY AIRLINE.

3. TO THE OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN OF VRC-40, CONGRATULATIONS ON AN OUTSTANDING JOB. PRESS ON. CAPT HOWARD.

BT

#7493

NNNN

R/O	ACT	INFO	INT
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ANNEX B

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>AVE. PILOTS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>SQUADRON PILOT FLT. HRS</u>	<u>CVA IN-PORT SUPPORT</u>
JAN	23	232	310.6	98.5
FEB	24	117	121.2	122.8
MAR	24	153	153.8	182.4
APR	25	259	343.3	197.7
MAY	26	238	281.6	208.7
JUN	25	221	381.1	83.5
JUL	26	168	260.7	47.6
AUG	26	279	373.6	45.3
SEP	25	189	294.7	99.1
OCT	23	268	361.7	110.7
NOV	24	232	350.7	42.0
DEC	24	234	355.1	00.0
	<u>24.5</u>	<u>2590</u>	<u>3588.1</u>	<u>1238.3</u>

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CV LANDINGS</u>	<u>NO. PAX</u>	<u>VIPS</u>	<u>MAIL AND CARGO-LBS</u>
JAN	48	445	16	29528
FEB	11	182	5	6555
MAR	5	154	2	4781
APR	193	487	23	13413
MAY	123	334	3	18862
JUN	41	320	0	5858
JUL	36	404	12	15062
AUG	111	573	9	30933
SEP	27	192	0	2332
OCT	118	322	14	6559
NOV	51	563	8	16940
DEC	140	465	4	12748
	<u>904</u>	<u>4441</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>163571</u>

ANNEX C

Enclosure {1}

COD SUPPORT 1974

<u>DATES</u>	<u>UNIT SUPPORTED</u>	<u>STAGING POINT</u>	<u>REMARKS*</u>
JAN 03-16	CVA-59	JACKSONVILLE	4 A/C
08-11	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
18	CV-62	NORFOLK	
30	CVA-59	NORFOLK	MEDEVAC
FEB 01-11	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
MAR 31-03	APR LSO NIGHT QUAL	CECIL FIELD	
APR 17-28	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
MAY 21-03	JUN CV-62	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
28-12	JUN CV-60	GUANTANAMO BAY	2 A/C
28-12	JUN CVT-16	GUANTANAMO BAY	
JUN 04-14	CV-62	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
11-24	CVT-16	GUANTANAMO BAY	
11-26	CV-60	GUANTANAMO BAY	2 A/C
24-26	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	
JUL 07-12	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
09-19	CV-60	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
14-19	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
AUG 02	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
05-10	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
08-16	CV-60	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
11-16	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
19-23	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
20-31	CV-60	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
26-31	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
SEP 06-11	OCT CVA-66	NORTH ATLANTIC	
09-13	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
15-20	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
OCT 06-11	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	3 A/C
07-11	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
11-12	CVA-66	NORFOLK	
13-18	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
18-21	-----	ST CROIX	PARTS LOAD
20-25	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
29-09	NOV CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
NOV 03-08	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
10-15	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
11-22	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
13-16	CVA-67	NORFOLK	
19-22	CVA-42	NORFOLK	2 A/C
DEC 02-06	CVT-16	PENSACOLA	2 A/C
02-09	CVA-42	JACKSONVILLE	2 A/C
03-06	CVA-67	NORFOLK	2 A/C
04-06	CVA-59	NORFOLK	2 A/C
08-13	CVT-16	CORPUS CHRISTI	2 A/C
09-18	CVA-59	NORFOLK	
10-13	CVA-67	NORFOLK	

\*SINGLE AIRCRAFT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

ANNEX D

Enclosure {1}

OFFICER ROSTER (AS OF 31 DEC 74)

<u>RANK/ NAME</u>	<u>P/C DESIGNATION</u>	<u>DATE DESIG</u>	<u>INST RATING</u>
CDR T. W. GRIMES	PLANE COMMANDER	SEP 73	SPECIAL
CDR [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	JUL 74	SPECIAL
LCDR [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 74	SPECIAL
LCDR [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 74	SPECIAL
LCDR [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	JAN 72	SPECIAL
LCDR [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	APR 74	SPECIAL
LT [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	NOV 74	STANDARD
LT [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	JUL 73	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 73	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	AUG 73	SPECIAL
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	OCT 73	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	OCT 73	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	FEB 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	JUL 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	JUN 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	PLANE COMMANDER	SEP 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	SECOND PILOT	SEP 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	SECOND PILOT	SEP 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	THIRD PILOT	SEP 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	SECOND PILOT	SEP 74	STANDARD
LTJG [REDACTED]	THIRD PILOT	MAY 74	STANDARD
ENS [REDACTED]	THIRD PILOT	AUG 74	STANDARD
ENS [REDACTED]	THIRD PILOT	SEP 74	STANDARD
ENS [REDACTED]	THIRD PILOT	DEC 74	STANDARD

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

ENS [REDACTED] ESO/LEGAL OFFICER

ANNEX E

Enclosure {1}