

1975



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

VRC-40/15/wlm
5750
Ser 109
26 February 1976

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-G

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded. Enclosure (1) comprises the Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY history for calendar year 1975.

J. E. Roth
J. E. ROTH

Copy to:
Director of Naval History
COMNAVAIRLANT
COMTACSUPWING ONE

B A S I C H I S T O R Y

In Nineteen Hundred Seventy-five, A.D., the year of the U. S. Navy Bicentennial, Fleet Tactical Support Squadron FORTY (hereafter referred to as VRC-4.0) completed another year of exceptionally outstanding service and support to the aircraft carriers and various other units of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Through a demanding year of operational commitments, VRC-4.0 continued to maintain its reliable and professional service to the fleet. This was accomplished in spite of dwindling force strength, limited availability of funds and material, and an inventory of eight aircraft all of which are rapidly approaching obsolescence.

VRC-4.0 maintained an average personnel strength throughout the year of 25 officers and 95 enlisted. Commander Thomas W. Grimes served as Commanding Officer until 1 July, when he was relieved by Commander James E. Roth. Commander Fleet Tactical Support Wing ONE, VRC-4.0's reporting senior, was Captain A. W. Howard until 15 August at which time he was relieved by Captain G. R. Olson.

Throughout the year, VRC-4.0 continued its primary mission of supporting the aircraft carriers by amassing 1892.2 flight hours of carrier support operations, 1212 CV landings while carrying a total of 4628 passengers without accident or injury. In accomplishing all assigned missions, the squadron operated from six different staging areas, a list of which is contained in Annex D along with inclusive dates and carriers supported. The squadron also provided jump platforms for U. S. Navy SEAL teams and U. S. Marine Parachutists for a total of 59.7 hours of paradrop operations.

Operational highlights of the year are as follows:

11 March - airlift of the National Emergency Airborne Command Post Operations Team TWO to USS J. F. KENNEDY (CV-67).

11 March - LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] made the 177,000th arrested landing onboard the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62).

May - Support of Exercises AGATE PUNCH and SOLID SHIELD.

21 May - Transport of personnel and actors to USS LEXINGTON (CVT-16) for filming the movie Battle of Midway.

22 May - Transport of high-ranking Russian Naval Officers to USS LEXINGTON for purposes of viewing carrier qualifications for student Naval Aviators.

17 August to 26 September - One plane detachment deployed on NATO cruise with USS NIMITZ (CVN-68).

23 and 24 August - Airlift of the Secretary of the Navy's

Enclosure (1)

Guest Cruise to USS F. D. ROOSEVELT (CV-42).

14 November - Emergency Drug transport from Greenville, North Carolina to Norfolk Naval Hospital.

20 November - VRC-4.0 marked its seventh year of accident-free flight operations. The squadron closed-out the year with 36,063.1 consecutive hours of accident-free flight operations.

Maintaining effective public relations with the civilian community, VRC-4.0 sponsored tours of the squadron spaces and aircraft for scouting groups, school classes, NJROTC units and other diverse groups. Especially noteworthy was VRC-4.0 hosting the March meeting of the Virginia Chapter of THE 99's, the international organization of licensed women pilots. Perhaps the most meaningful and moving event of the year for squadron personnel was the retirement ceremony in honor of Aviation Boatswain's Mate Master Chief [REDACTED] which occurred 1 December. Master Chief [REDACTED] had begun his career in Naval Aviation in the same aircraft hangar (LP-4, NAS Norfolk) that he was assigned to when he retired after thirty years of service. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Award during the ceremony.

A C C I D E N T F R E E F L I G H T H O U R S

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1968 (NOV-DEC) - | 989.3 |
| 1969 | 6006.0 |
| 1970 | 5344.6 |
| 1971 | 5653.5 |
| 1972 | 4913.5 |
| 1973 | 6101.1 |
| 1974 | <u>4826.4</u> |
| | 33834.4 |

A C C I D E N T F R E E

| <u>1975</u> | <u>HOURS</u> | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| JAN | 313.3 | |
| FEB | 336.1 | |
| MAR | 264.1 | |
| APR | 375.1 | TOTAL: 38063.1 |
| MAY | 460.5 | |
| JUNE | 418.7 | |
| JUL | 183.9 | |
| AUG | 371.5 | |
| SEP | 455.5 | |
| OCT | 343.7 | |
| NOV | 341.2 | |
| DEC | <u>365.1</u> | |
| TOTAL 1975 | 4228.7 | |

O P E R A T I O N A L S T A T I S T I C S

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>AVE. PILOTS</u> | <u>SORTIES</u> | <u>CV</u> | |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | | | <u>OPS</u> | <u>PILOT FLIGHT HOURS</u> |
| JAN | 24 | 218 | 122.6 | 313.3 |
| FEB | 24 | 231 | 192.6 | 336.1 |
| MAR | 23 | 199 | 148.5 | 264.1 |
| APR | 23 | 207 | 215.5 | 375.7 |
| MAY | 23 | 310 | 226.5 | 460.5 |
| JUNE | 24 | 311 | 222.0 | 418.7 |
| JULY | 25 | 148 | 56.8 | 183.9 |
| AUG | 26 | 285 | 132.8 | 371.5 |
| SEPT | 26 | 335 | 221.2 | 455.5 |
| OCT | 25 | 251 | 148.2 | 343.7 |
| NOV | 25 | 192 | 51.5 | 341.2 |
| DEC | 25 | 272 | 154.0 | 365.1 |
| | <u>24</u> | <u>2959</u> | <u>1892.2</u> | <u>4229.3</u> |

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>CV</u> | <u>NO. PAX</u> | <u>VIPS</u> | <u>MAIL AND</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | <u>LANDINGS</u> | | | <u>CARGO - LBS</u> |
| JAN | 75 | 456 | 2 | 19,158 |
| FEB | 68 | 711 | 11 | 27,981 |
| MAR | 58 | 500 | 38 | 4,386 |
| APR | 70 | 486 | 26 | 33,255 |
| MAY | 196 | 804 | 39 | 26,207 |
| JUN | 167 | 632 | 25 | 20,216 |
| JUL | 41 | 134 | 5 | 850 |
| AUG | 106 | 114 | 11 | 22,399 |
| SEP | 161 | 248 | 32 | 23,249 |
| OCT | 146 | 339 | 5 | 6,591 |
| NOV | 38 | 78 | 3 | 996 |
| DEC | 86 | 126 | 1 | 5,305 |
| | <u>1212</u> | <u>4628</u> | <u>198</u> | <u>231,593#</u> |

CARRIER - O... - BOARD DELIVERY SUPPORT

| <u>DATES</u> | <u>UNIT SUPPORTED</u> | <u>STAGING POINT</u> | <u>REMARKS</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| JANUARY | | | |
| 8 - 15 | CV 59 | NORFOLK | |
| 10-5 FEB | CV 67 | GUANTANAMO BAY | 2-3 A/C |
| 19-25 | CVT 16 | CORPUS CHRISTI | 2 |
| 19-30 | CV 59 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 26-31 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| FEB | | | |
| 2-12 | CV 59 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 17-21 | CVT 16 | CORPUS CHRISTI | 2 |
| 18-28 | CV 67 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 22-27 | CV 62 | NORFOLK | |
| MAR | | | |
| 5-13 | CV 67 | NORFOLK | |
| 9-14 | CV 62 | ROOSEVELT ROADS | 2 |
| 17-19 | CV 62 | JACKSONVILLE | 1 |
| 20-29 | CV 67 | NORFOLK | |
| APR | | | |
| 6-11 | CVT-16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| 6-18 | CV 67 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 20-29 | CV 67 | NORFOLK | |
| 27-3 MAY | CVT 16 | CORPUS CHRISTI | 2 |
| MAY | | | |
| 3-12 | CV 67 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 8-14 | CV 68 | NORFOLK | |
| 14-24 | CV 60 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 18-24 | CVT 16 | CORPUS | 2 |

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|---|
| 25-30 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| 27-31 | CV 60 | NORFOLK | |
| 28-31 | CV 67 | NORFOLK | |
| JUN | | | |
| 1-2 | CV 60 | NORFOLK | |
| 1-6 | CV 67 | NORFOLK | |
| 3-9 | CVN 68 | JACKSONVILLE | 1 |
| 11-20 | CV 60 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 12-30 | CVN 68 | NORFOLK | |
| 15-27 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| 28-30 | CV 62 | NORFOLK | |
| JULY | | | |
| 1-16 | CVN 68 | NORFOLK | |
| 2 | CV 62 | NORFOLK | |
| 13-19 | CVT 16 | CORPUS | 2 |
| 18-14 AUG | CVN 68 | GUANTANAMO BAY | 2 |
| 20-26 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| AUG | | | |
| 16-27 | CV 62 | NORFOLK | |
| 17-18 | CVN 68 | NORFOLK | |
| 17-23 | CVT 16 | CORPUS | 2 |
| 17-20 SEP | CVN 68 | NORTH ATLANTIC | 1 |
| 18-30 | CV 42 | JACKSONVILLE | 1 |
| 24-29 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| SEP | | | |
| 21-23 | CVN-68 | NORFOLK | |
| 4-16 | CV 62 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 20-4 OCT | CV 62/CV 60 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |

| | | | |
|----------|--------|----------------|---|
| 21 | CV 59 | NORFOLK | |
| 21-26 | CVT 16 | CORPUS | 2 |
| 27-29 | CV 66 | NORFOLK | |
| 28-4 OCT | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| OCT | | | |
| 14-25 | CV 60 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 16-23 | CV 66 | NORFOLK | |
| 22-29 | CV 59 | NORFOLK | |
| 26-31 | CVT 16 | CORPUS | 2 |
| NOV | | | |
| 2-7 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |
| 18-27 | CV 66 | GUANTANAMO BAY | 1 |
| 25-31 | CV 60 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| DEC | | | |
| 1-5 | CVT 16 | CORPUS | 2 |
| 1-15 | CV 66 | NORFOLK | |
| 1-18 | CV 60 | JACKSONVILLE | 2 |
| 6-12 | CVT 16 | PENSACOLA | 2 |

ANNEX C

O F F I C E R R O S T E R (AS OF 31 DEC 75)

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>P/C DESIGNATION</u> | <u>DATE DESIG</u> | <u>INST RATING</u> |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| CDR | J. E. ROTH | PLANE COMMANDER | JUL 74 | SPECIAL |
| CDR | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | AUG 74 | SPECIAL |
| LCDR | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | AUG 74 | SPECIAL |
| LCDR | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | OCT 75 | SPECIAL |
| LCDR | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | SEP 75 | SPECIAL |
| LCDR | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | JUL 75 | SPECIAL |
| LCDR | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | MAY 74 | SPECIAL |
| LT | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | OCT 75 | SPECIAL |
| LT | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | MAR 74 | STANDARD |
| LT | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | JUL 74 | STANDARD |
| LT | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | JUN 74 | STANDARD |
| LT | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | SEP 74 | STANDARD |
| LT | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | MAY 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | MAY 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | OCT 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | OCT 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | SECOND PILOT | APR 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | SECOND PILOT | OCT 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | PLANE COMMANDER | OCT 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | SECOND PILOT | OCT 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | THIRD PILOT | MAY 75 | STANDARD |
| LTJG | [REDACTED] | THIRD PILOT | AUG 75 | STANDARD |
| ENS | [REDACTED] | THIRD PILOT | DEC 75 | STANDARD |
| ENS | [REDACTED] | THIRD PILOT | DEC 75 | STANDARD |
| ENS | [REDACTED] | NEWLY REPORTED | | |