

1991



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FLEET LOGISTICS SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY  
NAVAL AIR STATION  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511-5330

5750  
Ser VRC40-14/087

25 FEB 1992

From: Commanding Officer, VRC-40  
To: Director of Naval History (Op-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC

Subj: 1991 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.1E

Encl: (1) 1991 Command History  
(2) Commanding Officer's Photo

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R D Littlefield".

R. D. LITTLEFIELD



Logged

## 1991 COMMAND HISTORY

### VRC-40

#### 1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

a. Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Forty (VRC-40) is assigned joint tasks of carrier on Board Delivery (COD) and air logistics support services to the Navy's Atlantic Fleet. VRC-40 currently operates the C-2A "Greyhound".

The Grumman C-2A carries the largest cargo payload of any carrier based COD aircraft and is the mainstay of the carrier battle group logistics support effort. The great fuel endurance and cruising speeds of the C2-A enable the VRC-40 "Rawhides" to provide service to Fleet Aircraft Carriers throughout the Atlantic and Caribbean. Unlike most squadrons, VRC-40 does not deploy as a unit. One- or two-plane detachments are either embarked with the Aircraft Carrier or launched from a forward land base to provide the most flexible and speedy delivery of high-priority personnel, cargo and mail.

b. VRC-40 is homeported at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA.

c. VRC-40's immediate senior command is Commander, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing Twelve (CAEWW-12) also located at Naval Air Station, Norfolk.

d. VRC-40's Commanding Officer from 24 May 1991 to the Present is Commander Robert D. Littlefield:

e. Type and Tailcode of Aircraft

Side Number	Tail Number	Date Received/Transfer
40	162169	JAN 91 (TRANSFER TO VR-24)
41	162157	MAR 87
42	162152	JUL 87
43	162153	APR 91
44	162151	DEC 87
45	162178	FEB 90
46	162168	SEP 80
	162142	APR 91 (TRANSFER TO NADEP)
	162155	JUN 91 (TRANSFER TO NADEP)

2. CHRONOLOGY OF DETACHMENTS

01 JAN - 01 MAY	USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (DESERT SHIELD/STORM)	
17 JAN - 25 JAN	KEY WEST	AVT-16
24 JAN - 01 FEB	MAYPORT	CV-59
05 FEB - 15 FEB	KEY WEST	CV-59
21 FEB - 25 FEB	KEY WEST	AVT-16
01 MAR - 08 MAR	CORPUS CHRISTI/PENSACOLA	AVT-16
24 MAR - 26 MAR	BERMUDA	CV-60, CV-67
27 MAR - 02 APR	KEY WEST	CV-59
11 APR - 03 MAY	JACKSONVILLE	CV-59
14 APR - 15 APR	BERMUDA	CV-66

23 APR - 04 MAY	CORPUS CHRISTI	CVN-69
01 JUN - 03 JUN	BERMUDA	CV-59
06 JUN - 30 JUN	ROOSEVELT ROADS	CVN-69
21 JUN - 26 JUN	BERMUDA	CVN-70
26 JUL - 06 AUG	ROOSEVELT ROADS	CVN-69
18 AUG - 24 AUG	KEY WEST	CVN-69
18 AUG - 07 SEP	MAYPORT	CV-60
29 AUG - 06 OCT	OPERATION NORTHSTAR	CV-66
30 AUG - 11 SEP	ROOSEVELT ROADS	CV-63
03 SEP - 07 SEP	MAYPORT	CV-60
13 SEP - 20 SEP	KEY WEST	CV-60
28 SEP - 30 SEP	BERMUDA	CVN-69
06 OCT - 10 OCT	JACKSONVILLE	CV-67
06 OCT - 08 OCT	BERMUDA	CV-66
05 NOV - 15 NOV	JACKSONVILLE	CV-60
18 NOV - 26 NOV	ROOSEVELT ROADS	CV-60
01 DEC - 03 DEC	BERMUDA	CV-66
03 DEC - 15 DEC	JACKSONVILLE	CV-67
17 DEC - 19 DEC	BERMUDA	CV-59

### 3. NARRATIVE

1991 proved to be an outstanding year for VRC-40, in which the squadron enjoyed accolades for outstanding performance operationally, administratively and materially. Constantly meeting the unique challenges entailed in logistics support to the Atlantic Fleet kept the squadron in the limelight. The Distinguished Visitor Program was enhanced by the Operations Department's decision to have turning back-up aircraft either here at NAS Norfolk or at Andrews AFB, and an airborne back-up at the ship. In addition, an extra Aircrew was available at Base Operations to brief the passengers and to answer questions. Many favorable comments were returned by our Capstone visitors who found flying with VRC-40 to be refreshingly accommodating. With two aircraft undergoing major re-work at NADEP North Island, the squadron still maintained a high operational tempo with the remaining six GREYHOUNDS, logging 3290 mishap-free flight hours and 976 carrier arrested landings. The squadron boarding rate was 96%. In 1991 VRC-40 transported 8,225 passengers including 835 VIPs, 751,695 pounds of cargo and 282,389 pounds of U.S. Mail.

#### JANUARY

Detachment Delta departed 31 December 1990 aboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT to provide logistics support during the Gulf War. In addition, the squadron sent aircraft to Key West and Mayport serving USS LEXINGTON and USS FORRESTAL, respectively. A Class C ground mishap occurred at Sondrestrom AFB during the transfer of Aircraft 162169 to VR-24 when the aircraft slid across an ice-covered ramp area and impacted a hangar.

## FEBRUARY

Detachments to Key West supported the USS LEXINGTON and the USS FORRESTAL.

## MARCH

Based out of NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Pensacola, VRC-40 provided COD for the CNATRA Carrier Qualifications aboard LEXINGTON. On March 8th Lt [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], AMH1 [REDACTED] and AD2 [REDACTED] made the last arrested landing and took the last catapult off of AVT-16, ending an era in Naval Aviation. On March 12th RADM Paul W. Parcells, COMTACWINGS awarded the squadron with the Silver Anchor for excellence in retention of personnel. While continuing full time logistics efforts in the Gulf, the squadron was also tasked with heavy off-loads as SARATOGA and JOHN F. KENNEDY returned from the war. On the 27th, Ms. Whitney Houston flew with the RAWHIDES to SARATOGA for a special concert performance. The Virginian-Pilot/Ledger Star also donated thousands of newspapers to the ships. Working from NAS Bermuda, two C-2s moved 152 passengers and 14,444 pounds of cargo and mail in just two days.

## APRIL

Detachments to Jacksonville, Bermuda and Corpus Christi served FORRESTAL, AMERICA and EISENHOWER, respectively. VRC-40's participation in the annual Azalea Festival Airshow at NAS Norfolk included a static display and a Simulated Carrier Landing Game that raised money for MWR.

## MAY

All three local TV networks were on hand to cover the return of Detachment Delta. VRC-40 simultaneously provided 100% availability to over 9 aircraft carriers and associated support groups in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, and Atlantic. Based out of Fujairah, U.A.E., Muharraq, Bahrain and Hurghada, U.A.R. the detachment completed 100% of all assigned missions and provided over one-third of all combat carrier logistic support, moving 870 passengers, 250,000 lbs of cargo and 160,000 lbs of mail. On the 24th, in ceremonies at SP-2 aboard NAS Norfolk, CDR Stephen R. Silverio was relieved by CDR Robert D. "Buzz" Littlefield. RADM Paul W. Parcells was the Honored Guest.

## JUNE

On the first of the month VRC-40 showed it's concern for the environment and the community by participating in "Clean the Bay Day 1991".

Volunteers removed 521 pounds of trash from a one mile stretch of shoreline on the Lafayette river. Aircraft detached to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico in support of the USS EISENHOWER and to NAS Bermuda to make the last log runs from CONUS to the USS FORRESTAL as she departed to the Mediterranean. Many Distinguished visitors were aboard, including the Governor of Bermuda. Amid all this activity, VRC-40 sailors still managed to pursue their career goals and 24 sailors were advanced in June.

#### JULY

The squadron continued to support the USS EISENHOWER from Roosevelt Roads during the battle group phase of that carrier's workups.

#### AUGUST

The focus was on Safety this month. On the 7th the Naval Safety Center conducted a survey and judged the squadron SAT, adjective comment OUTSTANDING. The squadron was commended by TACWINGS for having accumulated over 36,500 flight hours in 8 years of class A mishap free flying. In addition, the RAWHIDES received grades of OUTSTANDING on the annual NAVOSH inspection and the COMNAVBASE safety inspection. Also in August approval came for installation of a ramp actuator hydraulic priority valve which will allow paradrop of personnel and support equipment from the C-2A. Detachments supported the USS EISENHOWER from NAS Key West and the USS SARATOGA from NAS Mayport. On the 29th two planes departed to participate in operation NORTHSTAR with the USS AMERICA. VIP and logistics flights were conducted from Shearwater and St. Johns in Canada, NAS Keflavik, Iceland, Bodo, Norway, Prestwick, U.K., Mildenhall, U.K., and NAF Lajes, Azores. Heavy seas and low visibility did not stop the RAWHIDES from delivering Ambassadors, Defense Department personnel and NATO Commanders to and from the USS AMERICA throughout the exercise.

#### SEPTEMBER

Detachments supported the USS KITTY HAWK from Roosevelt Roads, the USS SARATOGA from Mayport and Key West, and the USS EISENHOWER from Bermuda. Despite reduced manpower due to these ongoing operations, the entire squadron relocated from SP-2 to LP-13 in four days. The new squadron logo was formally approved. On the 21st a VRC-40 C-2A was one of the most popular static displays at the NAS OCEANA Airshow.

#### OCTOBER

For the second year in a row the RAWHIDES were CAEWW-12 Golden Anchor winners, but this year received only Honorable Mention from TACWINGS. Detachments supported the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY from NAS Jacksonville and the USS AMERICA from NAS Bermuda.

## NOVEMBER

On the first of the month the RAWHIDES flew a vital part to NAS South Weymouth, MA to rescue a stranded HH-1N from the USS NASSAU. While on detachment in Jacksonville supporting the USS SARATOGA, the COD was tasked to fly SAR off the Florida Coast in search of a capsized commercial fishing vessel. With the assistance of the C-2 aircrew, survivors were sighted. Once the ship's SAR helicopter had lifted the fishermen onto the carrier, they were flown off by COD for emergency medical attention. The semi-annual corrosion inspection resulted in Corrosion Control receiving a grade of SAT, CAT II. This is a noteworthy achievement because the inspected aircraft were on detachment until two days prior to the inspection. In addition, the aircraft were concurrently being prepared for turnaround detachments during the actual inspection and were ready to fly as the inspection ended. The Corrosion Control program, Technical Publication Library, Maintenance Training Improvement Program (MTIP), IMRL program, and Maintenance Administration received zero discrepancies during the inspection.

## DECEMBER

The operational tempo at the squadron continued throughout the Holiday season. In support of the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY out of NAS Jacksonville, VRC-40 transported five Flag Officers representing all branches of U.S. Military for an exhibition of carrier operations. From NAS Bermuda the squadron supported the USS AMERICA on her departure to, and the USS FORRESTAL on her return from the Mediterranean. During this month a special static line and roller assembly were installed in aircraft 162151 to allow personnel and cargo paradrops. Continuing our mission of service to the civilian community VRC-40 hosted a group of middle school students involved in D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness and Resistance Education) Program and also volunteered to carry a sick pygmy whale from the Virginia Marine Science Museum to Marineland in St. Augustine, Florida.

## ACCOLADES

USS FORESTAL 021355Z APR 91: "Appreciate superb flexibility and outstanding responsiveness of all VRC-40 personnel."

COMCARAIRWING ONE 161903Z APR 91: "The immediate response and rapid delivery of an S-3 vertical stabilizer to USS AMERICA (CV 66) on 15 APR 91 was absolutely astounding. Thanks to your tireless efforts, the World Famous MAULERS of VS-32 are ready for a victorious return from Operation Desert Storm in full force. A well earned 'Bravo Zulu' to the VRC-40 RAWHIDES."

COMUSNAVCENTREAR PEARL HARBOR HI 131943Z MAY 91: "I commend each and every member of VRC-40 Det Delta for their superb performance during Operation Desert Storm. Det Delta's dedication to duty and commitment to excellence were directly responsible for the unprecedented successes of COMUSNAVLOGSUPFOR during the Gulf War. Their extraordinary efforts resulted in the transfer of over 430,000 pounds of priority cargo and mail, and nearly 1000 passengers in support of four Carrier Battle Groups at the very height of Operation Desert Storm hostilities. VRC-40 Det Delta's accomplishments reflect great pride in themselves, their squadron, and their community. I share that pride and extend to all the RAWHIDES my heartfelt gratitude for a job WELL DONE. BRAVO ZULU."

COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL AIR RESERVE NORFOLK 05 June 1991  
"I want to thank you and all of VRC-40 for your support during the 1991 International Azalea Festival Airshow. The aircraft you supplied for static display greatly contributed to the overall success of the airshow..."

USS KITTY HAWK 072048Z SEP 91: "Appreciate hustle of RAWHIDE 42 in providing vital PAX services on 6 Sept. This crew's professionalism turned a difficult situation into a success. Thanks."

USS AMERICA 202122Z SEP 91: "Thanks from the crews of the USA Battle Group to the many logistics professionals who 'made it happen' for us. Our high state of material readiness, success in NORTHSTAR 91, and continued high morale is a direct result of your team efforts. You moved the 'bombs, bullets, black oil' and lots of mail, spare parts, FFV, and (yes) DV's too. USA salutes each of you for a job 'Well Done'."

COMNAVAIREASTLANT ltr of 20 Sep 91: "I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the truly outstanding performance you and your detachment displayed during Operation NORTHSTAR 91. The VRC-40 detachment contributions have had a positive impact on the success on this major NATO exercise. Your efforts and demonstrated "can do" attitude are the fiber of the Naval Service. These achievements should justifiably be a source of great personal pride. It was an honor to serve with you."

USS AMERICA 111834Z OCT 91: "The valiant VRC-40 Det NORTH STAR...performed in a thoroughly outstanding manner throughout...Always available and able to serve the ship's logistical needs in addition to numerous battle group agendas. The best COD Det I have seen to date. I want to extend my personal gratitude for a job extremely WELL DONE. BRAVO ZULU."

COMCAEWWING TWELVE 081843Z OCT 91: "I take great pleasure in congratulating...the RAWHIDES of VRC-40 (Small Shore) for their selections as COMCAEWWING TWELVE FY91 Golden Anchor winners. The ability of the RAWHIDES to keep the full range of retention programs active throughout the year in spite of tremendous operational schedules...can not be understated. Keep up the great work; Well Done to all."

FLELOGSUPPRON THREE ZERO 232300Z OCT 91: "The PROVIDERS of VRC-30 extend their sincerest gratitude to the RAWHIDES of VRC-40 for their superb support and assistance to our Detachment Bravo during the period 07 OCT 91 to 22 OCT 91.

Were it not for your efforts in maintenance support, troubleshooting, and supply assistance...our detachment would have been seriously hampered...Particularly noteworthy was the tenacity of the RAWHIDE Maintenance Department...The RAWHIDES hospitality and gracious attitude were a significant factor in the successful beginning for Det Bravo. To all hands BRAVO ZULU - and Thanks."

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY letter of 8 OCT 91  
"Your folks have been working Kennedy CV-67 for the past few days - mostly DV's - some regular folks, too. Comments from one and all have been totally complementary! 'Well done' to your men from maintainer to pilot..."

COMMANDING OFFICER LHA-4 letter of 16 January 1992  
"Please extend my personal appreciation to the 'Rawhides' of VRC-40 for their responsiveness, initiative, and professionalism in support of NASSAU."

DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (LOGISTICS) letter of 9 January 1992 ref. flight of 10 December 1991.  
"Your crew was superb. Every detail was taken care of, including having a second C-2 on standby just in case there was a problem. Upon arrival in Jacksonville, your crew did a truly professional job of briefing us, suiting us up, and helping us embark the C-2. The flights, both to and from KENNEDY, were great."

CVW-8 aircraft USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT cruise  
Desert Storm

<u>VF-41</u>	<u>F-14A</u>		
100	162703	101	162689
102	160918	103	160407
104	160387	105	161852
106	160394	107	160903
111	160898		

notes: 100, 101 in overall gray scheme, others in TPS.

<u>VF-84</u>	<u>F-14A</u>		
200	162688	201	162692
202	160391	204	160908
207	160902	210	160405
211	161164	212	160926
214	161137		

notes: 200,201 started cruise in gloss gray scheme with black tails, were repainted in one-tone dull gray in hangar bay enroute.

-several acft (numbers?) had black tails applied post war and prior to fly off.

-211,212,214 TARPS equipped.

<u>VFA-15</u>	<u>F/A-18A</u>		
300	163113	301	163119
302	163124	303	163126
304	163121	305	163120
306	163122	307	163125
310	163101	311	163143

notes: 304/163121 lost 25 Jan 91, non-combat. pilot recovered.

-163135/AJ 304 replacement acft from VFA-132 during war.

<u>VFA-87</u>	<u>F/A-18A</u>		
400	163117	401	163096
402	163095	403	163094
404	163100	405	163105
406	163099	407	163102
410	163106	411	163107

notes: 401/163096 lost 5 Feb 91 (non-combat) with Lt BJ Dwyer. (CVW-8 LSO).

-163103/AJ 412 replacement aircraft near end of war.

<u>VA-65</u>	<u>A-6E</u>		
500	161675	501	155718
502	157001	503	155620
504	149957	506	161231
510	161682	511	159314
512	159175		

notes: 503 had desert camo applied. Removed by 9 Feb.

-511 transferred to VA-35 for return to CONUS 3/91. 161659/AJ 505 received in exchange.

<u>VA-36</u>	<u>A-6E</u>		
530	161660	531	155632
532	155716	533	161667
534	159176	535	155703
540	158538	541	158538
542	159574		

notes: 533 had desert camo applied. Removed by 9 Feb.

-155632/531 lost 2 Feb 91 near Falayka Is to enemy fire. crew lost.

-158538 transferred to VA-35 for return to CONUS following end of war. 158051/AJ 530 acquired from VA-35 in exchange. 161660 renumbered to "second" 540, 155600/AJ536 acquired from VA-95/Whidbey Is during war as replacement for 531.

<u>VAW-124</u>	<u>E-2C</u>		
600	161780	601	161552
602	161781	603	161782
604	161783		

<u>HS-9</u>	<u>SH-3H</u>		
610	149725	611	149735
612	149899	614	151541
615	148991	616	148983

<u>VAQ-141</u>	<u>EA-6B</u>		
620	163405	621	163527
622	163528	623	163529
624	163530		

<u>VS-24</u>	<u>S-3B</u>		
700	160125	701	159743
702	159729	705	159761
707	159753		

notes: 701 in gloss gray/white scheme, others in TPS. 701 had red rudder painted out prior to war.

VRC-40 det D C-2B  
AJ 46 162168

THE GREAT NOSE ART CONTEST:

Near the end of the war VF-41 painted up 101 with noseart. CAG liked it enough to authorize the other squadrons to paint one apiece on a not-to-interfere with ops basis. By the end of the March port call in Dubai, about everybody had complied. (except the two F-18 squadrons, which never did it.). VA-65 had applied the same Garfield markings to two aircraft before CAG's edict.... they removed it from 501 by the end of March. The nose art lasted officially until the first port call in the Med, (Haifa) when it was to have been removed (late May). It appears as if VAW-124 was able to hide theirs, as it reappeared for fly off to Norfolk!

VF-41 101 Queen of Spades  
VF-84 201 Cat Snatch Fever  
VA-65 500/501 The Big Stick  
VA-36 536 Heart Less  
VAW-124 601 Miss B.Havin ← won nose art contest.  
VAQ-141 621 Eve of Destruction/Deception Lass  
VS-24 701 Eye of the Storm

SHIA CO/XO/CAG/ADM FROST  
were judges.

-Final note: 536 recieved red road runner tail markings when it had its nose art painted. By fly off, all VA-36 aircraft were so painted. It also appears as if VF-84 applied black tails to all of their aircraft for fly off. ( I wasn't on the ship that late)