



1993 ✓

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FLEET LOGISTICS SUPPORT SQUADRON FORTY
9216 FOURTH AVE.
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2298

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

Subj: 1993 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1993 Command History
(2) Commanding Officer's Photo

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


R. W. HAMILTON

1993 COMMAND HISTORY

VRC-40

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Forty (VRC-40) is assigned the joint tasks of Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) and Naval Special Warfare support services to the Navy's SECOND and SIXTH Fleets. VRC-40 performs these missions in the Grumman C-2A "Greyhound" aircraft.

(1) The Grumman C-2A carries the largest cargo payload of any fixed wing carrier aircraft and is the mainstay of the carrier battle group logistics support effort. The optimum fuel efficiency and cruising speeds of the C-2A enable the VRC-40 "Rawhides" to provide service to Carrier Battle Groups throughout the vast SECOND and SIXTH Fleet operating areas. Unlike most fleet squadrons, VRC-40 does not deploy as a unit; instead, a two-plane, self-sustaining detachment is assigned to each deploying Carrier Battle Group. The detachment operates while embarked aboard the aircraft carrier or from forward land base sites, providing the most flexible and expeditious delivery of high-priority personnel, cargo, and mail. Additionally, VRC-40 deploys a one or two plane detachment in support of routine SECOND Fleet carrier exercises as required.

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

c. VRC-40's immediate senior commander is Commander, Airborne Early Warning Wing U. S. Atlantic Fleet (COMAEWWINGLANT), also located at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA.

d. VRC-40's Commanding Officer from 4 September 1992 to 13 September 1993 was Commander Linda V. Hutton, USN. The Commanding Officer from 13 September 1993 to the present is Commander Randall W. Hamilton, USN.

e. Aircraft Assigned:

Side Number	Tail Number	Date Received/Transfer
40	162166	JAN 94
41	162144	JUN 92
42	162152	JUL 87 (SDLM)
43	162153	APR 91 (SDLM)
44	162151	DEC 87

45	162178	FEB 90
46	162168	SEP 88
47	162155	OCT 90
24	162143	NOV 92
22	162169	JAN 93
23	162174	JAN 93
25	162145	MAR 93
N/A	162160	SDLM

2. **NARRATIVE**

a. 1993 was an outstanding year for VRC-40. The squadron's ongoing commitment to the SECOND and SIXTH fleets, and as ambassadors of the Naval Aviation community resulted in many accolades and further enhanced their unequalled reputation of safe, courteous service to the fleet. The Distinguished Visitor program continued to be a large part of their operating schedule.

b. Several community service leaders from various cities became "Honorary Tailhookers" after completing flights in the C-2A "Greyhounds". The professional and courteous service that was given to the passengers left many positive impressions of the RAWHIDES and the U.S. Navy.

c. Various Fleet Exercises, CAPSTONE visits, Special Warfare paradrops, and numerous detachments were an inclusive part of flight operations throughout the year.

d. A Change of Command took place in September 1993, when Commander Linda V. Hutton was relieved by Commander Randall W. Hamilton. As a result of the RAWHIDE'S tradition of excellence, guest speaker Admiral Henry Mauz, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, presented VRC-40 with the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for 1992.

e. The squadron continued to maintain a high operational tempo, with ten operational Greyhounds, and three others undergoing rework at NADEP. The Rawhides had flown 18,200 flight hours in 1993 and 43,767 flight hours since the last Class-A mishap.

3. **CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR CY 93**

a. January: The RAWHIDES started the year by supporting the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CV 71) in the local VACAPES operating area. The Distinguished Visitors list included the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Several Special Warfare exercises were

expertly completed. Two paradrops with SDV and three CRRC drops with SDV-8 were performed, and a Medivac exercise concluded the month.

b. February: Local VACAPES area support continued for the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT as well as VACAPES support for the USS AMERICA (CV 66) and the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) beginning in the second week of February. The USS CONSTELLATION continued south into the Puerto Rico operating area, and a detachment working out of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico provided support until the end of the month. The RAWHIDES concluded the month by transporting a CAPSTONE orientation group to the USS AMERICA.

c. March: The RAWHIDES continued to support the USS AMERICA in the local VACAPES area as well as providing a detachment to follow the USS CONSTELLATION to the Jacksonville operating area, and then continuing south to the Puerto Rico operating area. Once again, VRC-40 provided valuable logistics support from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico throughout the month. USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT tasking began on March 12 with the transportation of 96 White House Press Corps personnel to the carrier for the Presidential visit. On March 14, the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT left for a six-month deployment with VRC-40 Det 2 providing logistics support.

d. April: VRC-40 welcomed home Det 1 on April 6 after the completion of the RAWHIDE's first six-month deployment with the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). The middle of the month saw VRC-40 supporting the USS AMERICA in the Cherry Point operating area, tasked with the transportation of approximately 19 members of the Kentucky Community Leaders Group, and a Senate/Congressional Committee to the USS AMERICA. VRC-40 participated in the annual Azalea Festival Airshow at NAS Norfolk by providing an aircraft platform for the Special Warfare paradrop exhibition. A static display aircraft was also provided. At the same time, an aircraft with paradrop capabilities was provided for the Eglin AFB Airshow in Valparaiso, FL. VRC-40 also received the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for 1992.

e. May: The RAWHIDES continued to support the USS AMERICA as she sailed south into the Puerto Rico operating area. A detachment provided logistics support from Roosevelt Roads, PR. The remaining squadron personnel were busy supporting the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY and its CAPSTONE support on May 12 and 13, providing service to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CV 73) in the local VACAPES area as well as supporting the USS CONSTELLATION in the Jacksonville operating area. The middle of the month saw VRC-40 providing aircraft for static displays at the Corpus Christi and Amarillo, TX airshows. At the end of the month, a detachment was aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY when she sailed to

New York, providing a static display aircraft for FLEET WEEK. During this same period, VRC-40 provided transportation for the Secretary of the Navy Guest Cruise to the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

f. June: Support for the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY during FLEET WEEK continued. On June 5, the House Armed Services Committee was flown aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. June 3 found the RAWHIDES flying ten aircraft simultaneously - eight in the local area, as well as two in the Mediterranean. On June 4, several White House Staff members were flown aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. By mid-month, VRC-40 was providing local VACAPES area support to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, and a detachment was sent to Mayport, FL as the USS SARATOGA (CV 60) was operating in the Jacksonville area. On June 24, a group of Georgia Community leaders were transported to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON.

g. July: The month began with support being provided to the USS AMERICA operating in the VACAPES and Cherry Point operating areas. On July 16, community leaders from Illinois were flown to the USS AMERICA. The pace of activities picked up as the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON began operating in the local VACAPES area, and the USS SARATOGA began exercises in the Jacksonville operating area. A detachment was sent to Mayport to provide support for the USS SARATOGA. The annual Greyhound/Hawkeye Picnic and Ball was held on July 22 and 23. White House Staff members were flown to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON on July 24. VRC-40 provided support for VA-75's AMB transport on July 27 and 30. The month concluded with the Ukrainian Minister of Defense Staff being flown to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON.

h. August: A detachment was established in Mayport, FL to support the USS SARATOGA through the middle of the month. The USS GEORGE WASHINGTON was supported locally in the VACAPES area. Tennessee community leaders were flown aboard the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON on August 25. One aircraft participated in the Reading, PA airshow from August 27-29. The month ended with a flurry of activity as six aircraft were flown out of the local area due to threatening weather conditions caused by Hurricane Emily.

i. September: On the first of the month a detachment reported to Mayport, FL in support of the USS SARATOGA. The RAWHIDES welcomed Det 2 as they returned from a six-month deployment with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT on September 6. The Change of Command took place on September 13, when CDR R.W. Hamilton relieved CDR L.V. Hutton as Commanding Officer of the RAWHIDES. The end of the month was occupied with local operations in support of the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON.

j. October: From October 1-3, VRC-40 provided static display aircraft for the Cecil Field, FL airshow. Once again, a detachment reported to Mayport, FL in support of the USS SARATOGA. After several days in Mayport, the detachment proceeded south to Roosevelt Roads, PR in support of the USS SARATOGA during exercises in the Puerto Rico operating area. The RAWHIDES transported 30 CAPSTONE members to the USS SARATOGA on October 6. The entire month was punctuated by local VACAPES support of the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

k. November: With the USS SARATOGA still operating in the Puerto Rico operating area, the detachment continued to provide support from Roosevelt Roads. The USS SARATOGA returned to Jacksonville on November 3 and the detachment proceeded on to Norfolk November 4. At home, VRC-40 was supporting the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON in the local VACAPES operating area. Toward mid-month, the USS SARATOGA resumed working in the Cherry Point operating area.

l. December: On December 2 and 3 a crew departed for Savannah to speak to the NROTC unit at Savannah State College. At the same time, the USS SARATOGA continued to function in the Cherry Point operating area for Fleet Exercises. On December 8, ADM Mauz was flown to the USS SARATOGA. The tempo of operations increased as the USS EISENHOWER (CV 69), USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, and USS SARATOGA were all being supported at once out of Norfolk. RADM Allen was transported to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON and Peter Jennings, along with a camera crew from ABC News, was flown to the USS SARATOGA on December 9. On December 10, a group of Missouri community leaders was flown to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, and on December 13, a Congressional caucus was transported to the USS SARATOGA. All ships were in port by December 20, allowing the personnel of VRC-40 to relax during the Christmas Holidays after a year of arduous but rewarding work.

4. ACCOLADES

a. RADM James A. Lair, 22 FEB 93: "On 19 FEB 93, RAWHIDE 45, piloted by LT [REDACTED], delivered the 1,000,000th pound of cargo to "Big John". In addition, you have transported over 3,700 passengers. This averages 3.5 tons of cargo and 26 passengers for each day we have been deployed. The professionalism, hard work, and aggressive "We deliver on time, all the time" attitude makes VRC-40 Det 1 second to none. Please pass on to each member of the detachment the sincere appreciation for a superb job well done. Of note, this significant accomplishment was completed without a single safety incident. The JFK Battle Group salutes you".

b. Robert L. Keller, Sunshine Aero Industries Incorporated, Crestview, FL 12 MAR 93: "It is with great pleasure that I write to thank you for the most welcome cooperation provided by your personnel to us in the most recent tests at Eglin AFB. LCDR [REDACTED] and AT1 [REDACTED] were most helpful and courteous, which ensured a very successful completion to the test. Please convey our appreciation to them. It is professionals like them that justify our confidence in our military system".

c. CAPT E. F. CAFFREY, COMCAEWING TWELVE, NORFOLK, VA 8 APR 93 to LCDR [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] I want to be one of the first to welcome back the RAWHIDES of VRC-40 Det 1 at the conclusion of your successful deployment on the JFK. Breaking new ground, you have been the first COD's to complete a major deployment attached to a Carrier Battle Group. The statistics speak for themselves: over five thousand passengers transferred, 1.3 million pounds of cargo (half of which was mail) and over one thousand "safe" flights in support of the Battle Group".

(1) "The superb performance of the detachment has been exemplary. You have blazed a new trail for the entire Greyhound community to follow. Each and every detachment member from the junior Plane Captain to the Det OINC can be justly proud of VRC-40's Det 1 accomplishments. Well done. Welcome home".

d. RADM JOHNSON, CTF SIX ZERO 22 APR 93: "Heartiest congratulations to the officers and sailors of VRC-40 Det 2 on the significant contribution you have all had in VRC-40 winning the 1992 CNO Safety Award. The outstanding support you have provided the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group has us all convinced that you are not only winners in safety, but winners across the board. You have met every challenge head on with optimum regard for safety. Well done and thanks!"

e. COMFAIRCARIB, ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO 27 APR 93: "Thanks to all embarked in USS AMERICA for hosting Distinguished Visitors from Puerto Rico. The exceptional hospitality and professionalism demonstrated by all ensured that our visitors left with a lasting positive impression of the U.S. Navy, and the importance of carrier aviation and fleet training. Thanks also to the VRC-40 RAWHIDES for your continued outstanding support."

f. COMMANDING OFFICER, USS AMERICA 16 MAY 93: "Thanks a million to the VRC-40 Det Roosevelt Roads professionals who supported the USS AMERICA Battle Group during advance phase training and OCEAN VENTURE 93. By moving mail, critical cargo, routine passengers, and DV's, your NRR Det ensured the AMERICA team enjoyed the highest levels of morale and readiness. A special thanks goes to the maintenance crews who guaranteed the

highest level of C-2 readiness ever observed. VRC-40 CARRIES THE FREIGHT! Support of America's flagship is greatly appreciated".

g. COMMANDING OFFICER, USS AMERICA 17 MAY 93: "BRAVO ZULU - as AMERICA returns from a highly successful COMPUTEX/OV-93 Exercise, I want to personally thank you, as well as the officers and personnel assigned to VRC-40 Det Puerto Rico for their superb, dedicated, and totally professional support. From 12 APR to 17 MAY, they were ready, willing, and able to meet the ship's logistical requirements in addition to numerous, emergent battle group agendas; as documented by the movement of 675 passengers, 22,444 lbs. of mail and 26,500 lbs. of cargo. On several occasions, they were tasked on short notice by the embarked staff, airwing, and ships in company, and always met the challenge. The commitment to excellence that permeates the RAWHIDES of VRC-40 was always evident by the safe and professional manner in which your aircrew performed their duties. They ran the best COD Det I have seen to date. Please pass a "well done" and Bravo Zulu to all hands".

h. CAPT TIM BEARD, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY 8 JUN 93: "BRAVO ZULU - The officers and crew of JOHN F. KENNEDY congratulate and extend our warmest appreciation to all participants for a safe and highly successful fleet carrier qualification period. The superb teamwork and professionalism displayed by your squadron maintenance, flight deck personnel and aircrew resulted in the most successful CQ we can remember. Together, we completed 1200 traps in 4 1/2 days, qualified 34 new FLT pilots, refreshed 20 CVW-8 aircrews, and afforded every LSO and instructor valuable training. Operating at times with adverse weather and wind conditions, your preparation, perseverance, and flexibility allowed us to complete a very aggressive schedule. You were responsive to dynamic weather-induced changes and made every effort a success".

i. William L. Cathcart, Vice President and General Manager, WTOC, Savannah, GA 3 JUL 93: "Thanks to you and your command for making it possible for us to spend an incredible 22 hours at sea on the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON. Anyone who would not be impressed by such an experience is clinically dead".

(1) "The feeling of the trap was definite, the catapult, amazing! Can't really say I'd enjoy having that much pressure on my chest all the time. I cannot relate to what your pilots and folks in the (planes) must experience in each and every launch".

(2) "The two airmen assigned to our flights went out of their way to be patient with us and to show sincere interest in our well-being. We were just a group of (extremely fortunate) business people from Savannah and we were treated like visiting

dignitaries. We really appreciated that treatment, we certainly didn't take it for granted, and it made all the difference in the lasting impressions we took with us of today's Navy".

(3) "Thank you again for the safe, efficient manner in which your crew people handled the assignment and got us on and off that floating deck. It was a real treat to have you personally greet us Thursday morning and brief us on your part of our unfolding experience".

j. RADM JOHNSON, COMCARGRU EIGHT, 5 SEP 93: "BRAVO ZULU! As MED 2-93 draws to a close, I want to recognize the outstanding service VRC-40 Det 2 provided TRBATGRU. From the Adriatic to the North Red Sea, the COD's played a critical role in the logistics support which made high levels of readiness and (endurance) a reality during a cruise of exceptionally demanding OPTEMPO. RAWHIDE aircraft hauled a hefty 1.4 million pounds of cargo and mail. There is no overemphasizing the positive impact that continuous mail delivery had on Battle Group morale. When DV's had to be moved, the RAWHIDES met the challenge. Despite all this activity, the RAWHIDES also managed to participate in a valuable tactical exercise with SEALS and an SSN. The men and women of Det 2 should take great pride in their performance. They were integral members of the Battle Group team, and they played a major role in the overall success enjoyed by every unit in the Battle Group".