

*After factory training the new Vertical Replenishment group spent several months at Ream Field, near San Diego, CA becoming more proficient in flying the UH-46A helicopter. They made several short cruises on both the USS Mars (AFS-1) and the USS Sacramento (AOE-1) experimenting with ship replenishment exercises. The new group was not issued cargo handling equipment so at first they had to develop cables and test rigs to attach the cargo to the helicopters. After a few months cargo handling equipment was provided by the research group in Bayonne, New Jersey.*