

# **VERT-REP**

( some history )

**LCDR James E. Waldron;**

Helo designator 679, arrived at HU-1 Sept 1963. Trained as one of the first Vert-Rep pilots. Assigned as O-in-C of Vert-Rep (HC-1), departed aboard USS MARS during December 1964 from Yokosuka. This detachment stationed at HC-1 Det Atsugi. Mr. Waldron, May-14-1965 became O-in-C of HC-1 Det Atsugi, and September 1, 1967, assigned as first Executive Officer of HC-7.

## **HC-1 1966 Command Report**

HC-1 Det 49 on USS Sacramento (AOE-1) deployed 21-Nov-1966

The "Vert Rep" detachments consist of 5 officers, 20 enlisted men/crewmen and 2 UH-46A/D helicopters. The officer-in-charge is either a LCDR or senior LT. The senior enlisted man is a chief petty officer. The primary mission is underway and ashore vertical replenishment of all types of stores, except fuel. The secondary mission is search and rescue, gun fire support medical evacuation, and VIP transportation. The detachments operate from specially built support ships (AOE, AFS) which are capable of operating ~ or 3 UH-46 type aircraft.

## **HC-1 1967 Command Report**

The "VERT REP" detachments consist of 5 officers, 20 enlisted men/aircrewmen and 2 UH-46A/D helicopters. The officer in charge is either a Lieutenant Commander or senior Lieutenant. The senior 'enlisted man is a Chief Petty Officer. The primary mission is underway and ashore vertical replenishment of all types of stores, except fuel. The secondary mission is search and rescue, gun fire support, medical evacuation, and VIP transportation. The detachments operate from specially built support ships (AOE, AFS) which are capable of operating 2 or 3 UH-46 type aircraft.

Added – HC-1 helicopter airlifts a disassembled A-4 Sykhawk over the ocean off the east coast of Japan to the Japan Aircraft Company (Nippi) at Sugita for repair

work. The new method of transport has saved CFWP's repair activity over \$300,000 this year, In addition to reducing the out-of-service for each aircraft by about 16 days. (Atsugi "Skywriter" – August 11, 1967)

The functions as outlined previously were handled by HC-1 and by the various detachments of HC-1 until 1 Sep 1967. After 1 Sep 1967 HC-1 became responsible for the detachments assigned to the Pacific Fleet Attack Carriers, as previously outlined, with the function of HC-1 becoming search and rescue, medical evacuations, cargo and mail delivery, VIP transportations, and plane guard.

After 1 Sept 1967 the "VERT REP" detachments, as previously outlined, became the responsibility of HC-3, NAS Imperial Beach, California. CDR H. L. CASSANI, USN, (helo designator 1077) assumed the command of HELSUPPRON THREE, which is charged with the responsibility of Vertical Replenishment operations aboard ships home-ported in the Continental United States.

After 1 Sept 1967 , CDR Lloyd L. PARTHEMER, USN, (helo designator 3271) assumed the command of HELSUPPRON SEVEN, stationed aboard NAS Atsugi, Japan, which is charged with the responsibility of SAR (Search and Rescue) and Vertical Replenishment on ships home-ported in the West Pacific.

## **HC-7 1967 Command Report (excerpts)** **(only report with detailed info.)**

2-Sep-1967 Det 102 departed aboard USS Mars, home ported at Yokosuka . (one day after establishment of HC-7). Month and a half later, returning to Atsugi, Mars replenished f 153 ships, over 1500 tons, the helos replenished 79 of the ships, lifting 970 tons. 165.4 hours of flight time, 911 lifts. During a Special Op. ( 11-Oct) at Vung Tau, the helos lifted 70 tons of equipment, which were used to establish LORAN stations in Gulf of Siam. The helos vertreped the 70 tons to the beach. The crews recovered a package of explosives which hung up in a tree by its parachute. Also used the helo to tow a forklift tractor out of a creek.

Det 102 rescued five persons during operation off the coast of South Vietnam.

Additionally: DET 102 assisted in the off loading of the aground USS CLARKE COUNTY from 21-Nov to 1-Dec-1967. Off loading tons of ammunition. Detachment lost one H-46 due to engine failure. All rescued.

## **HC-7 1968 Command Report (excerpts)**

Detachment 102 - USS Mars Vertrep Det. Two UH-46's with 18 maintenance personnel. Approximate rotation of personnel for the Detachment was forty days deployed and twenty days at Atsugi. Rotor blades and longitudinal trim actuator's for the UH46's were very difficult to obtain. HC-7 full flights totaled 5,567 during 6,923 hours.

### **SPECIAL CUBI-SANGLEY AUGMENTATION FLIGHTS**

Feb 1968, Cubi Pt runway closed for two months. Cubi aircraft were transferred to NS Sangley Point. HC-7 sent LT John COOK, LT Charles RUSSELL and seven enlisted men to transfer cargo between the two points. From USS Sacramento, H-46 151903 arrived in January, at Det 103 for checks and ready at end of month. Between 1-Feb and 18-March the crew flew 120 hours, six days a week to carry 10,000 lbs of cargo and passengers per day.

### **SPECIAL SALVAGE OPS, 23-April to 10 MAY 1968**

January 1968, a P-3 Orion crashed in mile high mountains 50 miles east of Iwakuni. WINTER conditions, H-46 crews removed the entire aircraft (66,000 lbs) 35 missions, located at 5,700 foot elevation.

HC-7 H-46 Det 102 – Flies non-flyable UH-F Queen aircraft from Camp Zama to ALF Kisarazu. (Atsugi “Skywriter” – July 26, 1968)

## **HC-7 1969 Command Report – NO report exists**

USS Niagara Falls, changed home port to Sasebo, Japan, the beginning of HC-7 Detachment 112. (from; service history of USS Niagara Falls)

“Acrobatic Aircrewmen Feed Fleet” (Atsugi “Skywriter” – June 6, 1969)

“Helo, Crash Crew Join to Move Wrecked Plane” (Atsugi “Skywriter”– June 27, 1969)

## **HC-7 1970 Command Report (excerpts)**

HC-7 Det 102 (USS MARS) – Vert-Rep detachment that deployed with two H-46's and 17-18 maintenance personnel. This det was transferred to HC-3 on 27-April-1970.

HC-7 Det 112 (USS NIAGARA FALLS)– Vert-Rep detachment that deployed with two H-46's and 17-18 maintenance personnel. This det was transferred to HC-3 on 6-Sept-1970. Enroute from Japan to State Side, USS Niagara Falls locates and rescues the 42-foot adrift sailboat GALILEE, which had been the object of an intense search.. Also - **THE SPY** - John Anthony Walker served aboard USS Niagara Falls, in the radio room.