

Navy C-40 Fleet Deliveries Complete



A U.S. Navy C-40 prepares to land at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay at Marine Corps Base Hawaii on July 26. U.S. Marine Corps/Sgt. Jesus Sepulveda Torres

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – The Navy’s C-40 fleet has undergone some major changes in the last few months – adding two airplanes, one squadron and completing its current planned aircraft procurements, according to a Naval Air Systems Command release.

The Tactical Airlift Program Office (PMA-207) took delivery of the Navy’s 16th aircraft in June and 17th aircraft on Sept. 26. The Navy’s latest C-40A will be assigned to U.S. Naval Reserve Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 57.

These last two deliveries have allowed the C-40 fleet to realign and expand its horizons.

“The C-40 plays an important role in the Navy Unique Fleet Essential Airlift (NUFEA) fleet,” said Capt. Steve Nassau, PMA-207’s program manager. “These extremely flexible logistics support aircraft are an integral part of every type of maritime mission, from humanitarian assistance to long-range, high priority deliveries.”

The sixth Navy C-40 squadron was established in September. VR-51, nicknamed the Windjammers and deploying from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, received two C-40 aircraft from the fleet. The squadron will be fully operational in October, following receipt of its “safe for flight” certification.

“The ... certification is an entire program overview in which the government ensures that all contractor, aircrew and government operating procedures are in place and functioning

correctly,” said Darwin Lazo, PMA-207’s medium-lift deputy assistant program manager for logistics. “It is the final certification for a new squadron.”

VR-51 will soon begin entering the VR deployment rotation.

“There is always a C-40 deployed to U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command and U.S. Pacific Command to meet mission requirements,” said Donna Elliott, PMA-207’s medium-lift IPTL.

Over the past year, the C-40 fleet logged 24,374 hours of flight time, completed 1,555 missions, transported 95,746 passengers and 20 million tons of cargo. In doing so, the aircraft has maintained a 90% readiness rate and has played a vital role in providing military transport not available with contract or commercial carriers. The C-40, a commercial derivative of the Boeing 737-700C, is the mainstay of the Navy’s medium-lift capability.