

FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON
EIGHT



WELCOME ABOARD

MISSION

Fleet Composite Squadron EIGHT (VC-8) is based at the U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The mission of the squadron is to provide aircraft and target drone services in support of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range. The squadron is under the operational control of the Commander, Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range and administrative control of the Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean. We operate a wide variety of target-drones and aircraft. Ryan Firbee drones (BQM-34A) are maintained and operated by a civilian contractor (Ryan), but are launched from our DP-2E aircraft and are recovered by our RH-3A helicopters. As the drones proceed down range, our P-2H aircraft monitor the missiles fired by the ships with their Airborne Data Link (ADL) gear. In addition, Beech AQM-37A supersonic targets are launched by our A-4C Skyhawks, and US-2C aircraft tow targets for AA exercises. Finally, high speed intercepts and target tracking are performed by the F8K Crusader, and A4-C Skyhawk.

BILLETS, WATCHES, ETC. Your assignment to a specific billet will not be determined until you report for duty. Billet assignments are usually made with regard to rank/rate, experience, and needs of the squadron.

LT's and below stand SDO/ODO watches. First Class and selected Second Class Petty Officers stand ASDO watches. Second Class also stand the Barracks Master-at-arms. E-4 and below are in one of four duty sections, however, the frequency and type of actual watches assigned is dependent upon the individual's rate and/or job assignment.

PRIOR TO ARRIVING

There are a number of things you should be thinking about. If you are an aviator in a flight status, have your yearly requirements for the Dilbert Dunker, swimming, night vision, oxygen, low pressure chamber and ejection trainer completed prior to leaving the States. Roosevelt Roads, although the largest naval base in the world in terms of size, has no facilities for fulfilling these requirements.

All officers, and married personnel with four years of service have been assigned a sponsor. Keep your sponsor advised of your address in the States. He is your representative here on base, and will consider your interests as regards housing, furniture, telephone service, electricity, etc. Inform your sponsor of your airline reservations as soon as possible, so that he will have ample opportunity to make arrangements to meet you and your family.

ARRIVAL

The majority of our personnel arrive in Puerto Rico at the San Juan International Airport. Vehicular transportation to Roosevelt Roads can be obtained by means of a Publico taxi. The approximate charge for the Publico ride from San Juan to Roosevelt Roads is fifteen dollars, but this is easily reimbursed. If no taxi's are available, then you may want to check with either the Navy San Juan OOD for possible transportation, or call Roosevelt Roads at 863-2000 and ask for ext. 4280 (Squadron Duty Officer) or ext. 4278 (Assistant Squadron Duty Officer). Should you arrive via MAC at Ramey AFB and no one from the squadron meets you, check with

Ramey Operations for VC-8 or Roosy Roads Station aircraft which may be inbound or already there to meet you. If they have no information, check with Naval Air Traffic Coordinating (Petty) Officer at Ramey who will either arrange a flight or vehicular transportation into San Juan where transportation to Roosevelt Roads may be obtained.

On arrival into Roosevelt Roads via vehicular transportation, you will be taken to meet your sponsor. If arriving by aircraft, your sponsor will meet you at Naval Station Operations. In the unlikely event that there is a complete mix-up in arrangements, contact the Squadron Duty Officer. Dial the long distance operator and ask for 863-2000, and ask for the VC-8 Squadron Duty Officer (4280). Remember, keep the squadron and/or your sponsor advised of your time of arrival, airline name, flight number, and wheter or not you will be accompanied by your dependents.

Your sponsor's name is:

Fleet Composite Squadron EIGHT (VC-8)
FPO New York 09551

HOUSING

Depending upon availability of Government housing and your eligibility, entry approval for your dependents may be granted. The delay for assignment of government quarters for some personnel varies. Even though your name does not go on a waiting list for housing until you report aboard, submission of a housing application does assist the Housing Officer in planning for your assignment to quarters. In some cases, Commanding Officer, NAVSTA ROOSRDS has been granting entry approval without government quarters being immediately available. MAKE CERTAIN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS ARE AVAILABLE. Entry approval constitutes authority to transport your dependents and ship personal effects at government expense, wheter or not quarters are available.

To be eligible for dependents travel and housing, you must be in pay grade E-4 (with over 4 years service) or above. This latter requirement has been established by the Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads. If you do not meet both of these requirements, it is suggested that you DO NOT bring your dependents with you, as civilian accomodations are inadequate and very expensive. If you are eligible and desire that your dependents accompany you, your present command should submit a request (letter or message) for entry approval to the Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, in your behalf. Insure that VC-8 receives an information copy of your request. If and when entry approval is granted, it will then be necessary to submit DD Form 884 to the Chief of Naval Personnel for transportation of your dependents to Puerto Rico. Your Personnel/Administrative Officer and BUPERS INST. 1300.26 series will give you all the assistance and information you need.

Bachelor Officers and Officers unaccompanied by dependents are billeted in a large modern BOQ or a two-man unit with cooking facilities. Single enlisted men and those unaccompanied by dependents are quartered in a modern three story barracks. Bachelor Officers at present are permitted to draw BAQ and reside off-station. Should you receive concurrent travel and a government housing assignment, your sponsor will make your home ready

for your arrival. He will obtain the keys to your quarters, secure sufficient food, linen, silverware, dishes, pots and pans, etc. to sustain you and your family until you can go to the commissary and your household effects arrive. Incidentally, you will be required to reimburse him for the food and rental of the household kit.

CAPEHART

Married Officer and Enlisted Capehart housing was constructed in 1960 and have two, three, or four bedrooms. Some junior married officers are assigned temporary housing in the older Puerca Point quarters, just as junior enlisted personnel are temporarily billeted in rehabilitated Algodones housing until permanent Capehart quarters are available. At this time there is a large influx of personnel in the medical profession, because of the establishment of a new Naval Hospital at Roosevelt Roads. This has created a housing shortage, and Puerca Point has absorbed the overflow making the temporary housing more than temporary. However, many of the older Puerca Point houses have been refurbished and have received newer furniture, in addition, Puerca still provides the best view and offers comfortable seclusion.

For enlisted personnel the influx is not as great and their stay at the Algodones Apts. should be limited to a few weeks with a subsequent move to enlisted Capehart.

Personnel are advised to bring their own furniture, since furniture is provided on an "as available" basis. Equipment and furnishings which should be brought are those needed in an average unfurnished rental house. In other words, if you have furniture, bring it, if you don't, Housing can probably supply you.

Capehart houses have two bathrooms, some two bathtubs and some with one bathtub and a walk-in shower. There is adequate closet storage space and there is a small outside storage room for garden tools, etc. Three bedroom homes have utility porches with plenty of room for appliances (washer, dryer, freezer, etc.). Other houses have large kitchens to accommodate these items. Puerca has two and three bedroom houses. Each has one bath with bathtub, large kitchen space, and utility porch for appliances.

APPLIANCES

Washers, dryers, and freezers are not furnished but can be purchased at the exchange at substantial savings over stateside prices. If you have them, bring them. However, they should be in good working condition due to the nonavailability of parts and skilled labor. If you have Kenmore appliances or others sold by Sears you might check with them on their repair policy. There is a large Sears store on the island. Refrigerators and stoves are furnished but if you have a refrigerator or freezer, bring it- it will come in handy.

Although we have a cool sea breeze that keeps the temperature down, air conditioners are desirable for two reasons. First, they keep the humidity down and keep items safe from mildew and tarnish. Secondly, the windows must be closed to keep small gnats, called mimis, out of the house.

A mimi is so small that it can come through a window screen. Its size, however, is not indicative of its power; it gives welts like mosquito bites. Air Conditioners are also sold in the exchange. Public works installs 115 volt A/C for \$20.00 and 220 volt A/C for \$60.00. The reason for this is because windows are glass or metal jalousies and must be removed to install the A/C. Although people install the 115 volt A/C themselves, the 220 volt A/C often requires new installation of electrical receptacles to carry the load.

HOUSEHOLD ODDS AND ENDS

Bedroom lamps should be brought along with garden tools, lawnmowers, radios, and TV sets. Magazines, catalogs, and other reading subscriptions should be maintained. For the windows, most people use bamboo or matchsticks drapes; others make their own after they arrive. Sheets, pillows, pillow slips, and spreads are not provided, so bring your own along.

CLOTHING

Heavy clothing is not needed, except for occasional trips back to the states. Most of the wives wear shorts around the house and light dresses elsewhere. Formals are seldom worn. Most of the time the men wear sport shirts and slacks, summer suits, or tropical whites. The women wear light cocktail dresses when "dressing up". Beach wear is in order for the beaches, the pool, and some of the parties. The Navy Exchange has a very limited selection of light dresses and summer clothing. It is suggested that you shop around before your departure, although Penney's, Sears and other stores are available in San Juan. Service Dress White uniforms and long sleeved shirts for officers and CPO's are not carried by the local exchange. Service dress Khaki is seldom worn. Officers and CPO's most frequently wear tropical Khaki long and tropical white long, white "A" and "B". The station clothing and small stores carries the usual line of military clothing.

PETS

Pets are allowed, but pose a number of problems that should be considered. All shots must be up-to-date as rabies is a problem. Pets, if allowed to run loose, collect a large number of ticks which are prevalent in this area. Station regulations require that pets be properly controlled, yet do not allow for the building of fences.

Horses are a favorite down here. Seventy-five families own their own horses. The stables are provided by the station. While the families provide for their upkeep.

SCHOOLS

Schooling here is considered to be of high quality. The school year begins around the first of September and ends the first part of June. Transportation to all schools is provided by the station from officers and enlisted housing (except Puerca). The primary school is located adjacent to enlisted housing. Spanish is a required subject and there is a high school band. To further your own education, Inter-American University provides courses under tuition aid where you pay 25% and the Navy 75%. See your education officer for further information if you are

interested. For Protestant and Catholic families, religious training is provided for grades one to eight at Sunday School with Christian Doctrine Classes for the high school student.

RECREATION

There is ample opportunity for enjoyment of all water sports. Many families own sailboats, motorboats. VC-8 itself has a small party boat which it lends out to members of the squadron. Instruction is provided if you want to learn to sail, skin-dive, etc. Bas intra-mural sports form a large part of the athletic activity here. VC-8 football team (1970) went on to the semi-finals in Norfolk, after capturing its berth from teams on base, and in other parts of the Caribbean. Other sports are also represented, such as volley-ball, basketball, baseball, etc. The gymnasium too, is new and provides facilities for basketball, weight-lifting, squash, and handball. A pool is also adjacent to it.

CARS

Cars are a necessity due to the large size of the base (20 minutes from Exchange to Puerca, 10 minutes from Capehart to Exchange). Mechanical work on cars is expensive and sometimes inadequate, so have all repairs and preventive maintenance accomplished before leaving the states. Cars are also expensive here, often selling 10% higher than in the states. You therefore might make money selling your car when you leave Puerto Rico. However, the sea air and rough roads are extremely damaging and cars, and their appearance are hard to keep up.

If you decide to ship your car make sure you ship it as early as possible. It normally takes 3 to 6 weeks for the cars to arrive from the States. Also make sure your car has enough Anti-freeze to withstand -29°F. Get all the details from the Personal Property Office.

This brochure should answer most of your major questions; however, should you have any other specific questions, please address them to your sponsor at the address indicated above.

Again we say welcome aboard; we are looking forward to your arrival.

