

FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON EIGHT
FPO NEW YORK 09551

5 June 1972

LT Peter J. LUMIANSKI
3600 Sandhurst Dr.
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Dear Lieutenant LUMIANSKI,

I have just received a copy of your orders to Fleet Composite Squadron EIGHT (VC-8). Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to what we feel is the Navy's finest and most diversified Fleet Composite Squadron.

Based aboard Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, VC-8's mission is to provide aircraft and target services to units of the Atlantic Fleet deployed to the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range. Ours is a squadron with an average of 30 Officers and 240 enlisted men assigned. Our aircraft inventory includes A-4 Skyhawks utilized for jet tracking, target towing and intercept missions; P-2E/H Neptune Patrol Bombers utilized for airborne launch of the Ryan Firebee (BQM target drone); US-2C Trackers utilized for target tow, prop tracking and SAR missions; and the H-3 Sea King Helicopters utilized for target recovery and SAR.

Housing must be available for entry approval of dependents. The waiting list for base housing for officers is presently about 16 weeks. You may gain entry approval and then you have the option of receiving TLA and living off-base, renting off-base without TLA, or staying in the BOQ with your family. Check with your local personnel office for information concerning entry approval.

Private housing is expensive (\$175.00 to \$225.00 per month) and is about 20 minutes from the base. Base housing here is most adequate with furniture provided, if desired. A refrigerator and range are also provided but some of us have found an extra refrigerator to be an asset. Appliances, including air conditioners, are available in the Exchange at moderate prices. Also departing personnel are a source for used air conditioners.

Naval Station Roosevelt Roads is located near Ceiba, Puerto Rico and is about an hour and a half drive from San Juan. Recreational facilities, particularly those relating to waterborne sports, are plentiful. Local entertainment outside of San Juan leaves a little to be desired. The Squadron, however, sponsors many activities which I believe will make your tour quite enjoyable.

Since Roosevelt Roads is an extremely large station its facilities are widely separated. Therefore, at least one reliable automobile is a necessity. A small car such as a Volkswagen is desirable because of the relatively

narrow highways and due to the corrosive air and rough roads, a not-new car in good condition is preferable. Many of our officers buy motorcycles or motorbikes for an additional means of transportation. New and used motorcycles and bikes are available. Minor repairs and service can be obtained at the Navy Exchange, however, major repairs are very expensive here and should be accomplished prior to arrival.

I have enclosed a book that will explain many of the facilities available in the area. LT Kenneth N. ANDERSON has been designated as your sponsor and will answer any questions you may have and will prepare for your arrival.

I would appreciate hearing from you concerning your plans, prior experience and duty preference. Should you want to call our autovon number is 431-3371, then ask for Roosevelt Roads extension 4280 or 4265; our local telephone number is area code 809, 863-2000, extension 4280. Mr. ANDERSON's home phone is extension 4986 should you care to call after normal working hours.

Again I extend to you a most hearty welcome aboard, we are looking forward to your joining the Flying Red Tails. I believe you will find this squadron a rewarding assignment.

Sincerely,


F. G. SPELLMAN

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