

## ANTARCTICA McMurdo – Vostok Flights LC-130F & LC-130R 'Hercules'

This exhibit covers the period, from the first LC-130 flight to Vostok in 1964 to 1979 as regular flights ceased in 1980 because of increased US, Soviet and other countries research activity at Dome C. The majority of documented flight covers are concerned with goodwill visits or activities related to the US Exchange scientists at Vostok. Included are identified covers from 3 of the 4 LC-130F [148318, 148319, 138320] and 2 of the LC-130R [159130, 160741]. Other covers do not indicate which of the aircraft was used on the flight. Documenting the Vostok flights by servicing collector requests was a low priority for the crew, few were done and examples are not common.

The primary mission of the LC-130 is supporting the scientific community in Antarctica by transporting cargo and personnel from McMurdo Station to other US Antarctic Stations, field camps and to Bases of other countries.

Letter from McMurdo Station 9 December 76 [Envelope on reverse of sheet]

We are always flying to  
The South Pole, Russian Bases, and others  
with supplies for scientists.

The Air Development Squadron, which in 1969, became the Antarctic Development Squadron VXE-6 used four of these 4-engine turboprop aircraft – LC-130F. These were supplemented and replaced from 1973 by five LC-130R. These aircraft have a length of 29.7m; wingspan 40.4m; range of 2265km and a maximum cargo capacity of 30,000kg. The skis were retractable enabling wheeled landings on suitable surfaces. For the flights to Vostok at over 11,000 feet altitude, minimum cargo was involved and usually the aircraft engines remained on while the plane was on the icefield.

Vostok 12 1 64 [day of first LC-130 flight]



The **First Flight** from the United States **McMurdo Station** to the Soviet **Vostok Station** took place on **January 12, 1964**. This flight is regarded as one of the milestones of the **Air Development Squadron [VX-6]** that became the **Antarctic Development Squadron [VXE-6]** in January 1969.

This was one of a series of 5 flights of the Hercules LC-130F aircraft that occurred between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January. These flights delivered men and equipment for the construction of a large automatic **cosmic ray counter system** to study the ray bombardment of the earth. A similar massive antenna had been erected at the South Pole. Nine experienced Seabee construction workers were involved. They had completed their work and returned to McMurdo on January 20, 1964.



Vostok 12.1.64 - US Navy 17038 [McMurdo] JAN 13 1964 – signed by 4 of crew of Hercules LC-130 Operation Deep Freeze task Force 43 cachet with McMurdo Sound cachet on reverse.

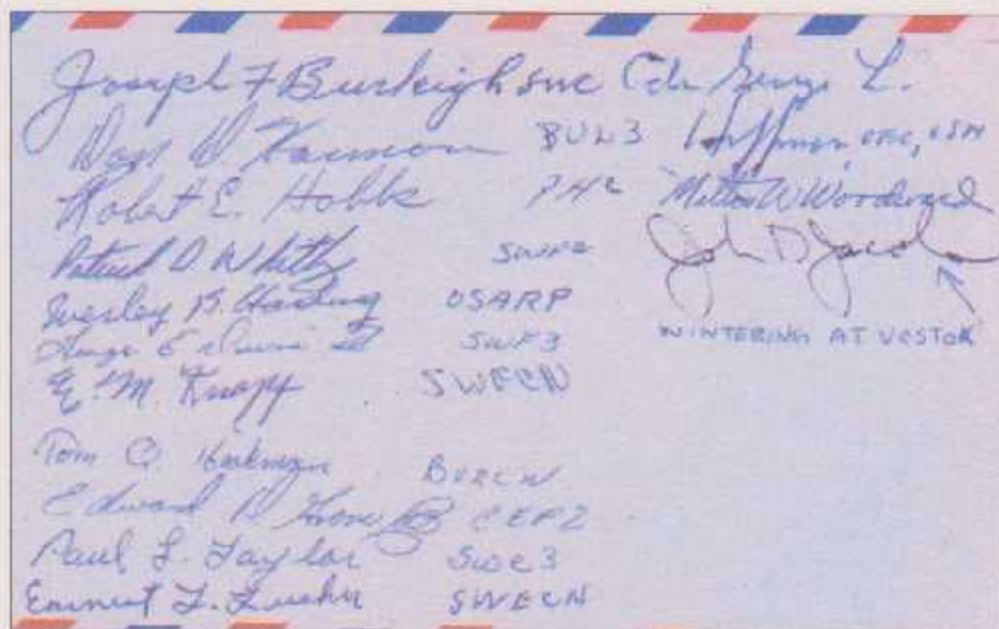


John Jacobs, a 25-year-old graduate student in physics from the University of Alaska was the first American Exchange Scientist to winter over at Vostok. He arrived on the first flight on January 12, 1964. He carried out observations on ionospheric scattering and low frequency radio emissions. He flew to Mirnyy and left Antarctica aboard the M/S Estonia in January 1965.



Vostok 13.1.64 – US Navy 17038 McMurdo JAN 24 1964.  
Addressed to London and sent by Joseph Burleigh

The cover is signed on the back by Flight Crew, Construction workers and John Jacobs.



1965-1966 Season

US VX-6 Flights to Vostok Station

The Antarctic Report of December 1966 reports that:

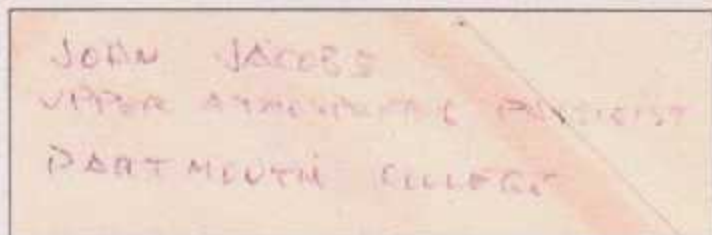
"U.S. Exchange scientist for the 1966 winter, John Taylor of the Institute for Telecommunication Science and Astronomy, was flown to the USSR station, Vostok, on December 12<sup>th</sup>. To assist him in setting up his program for the coming year, two other upper atmosphere scientists, Dr V P Hessler, University of Alaska and My John Jacobs for the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and Astronomy, accompanied Mt Taylor to Vostok."

Dr Hessler and Mr Jacobs finished their part in the establishment of the upper atmosphere program and were flown back to McMurdo Station January 28, 1966.



Vostok 25.1.66 - US Navy 17038 - McMurdo JAN 31 1966

Upper cover inscribed "John Jacobs Upper Atmosphere Physicist Dartmouth College" on reverse



Reverse [enhanced]

1967-1968 Season

US VX-6 Flights to Vostok Station

Rear Admiral J L Abbott, who commanded the US naval presence in Antarctica between 1967 and 1969, visited Vostok Station on a goodwill visit **December 8, 1967.**

**ANTARCTIC FLIGHT**

From	Vostok Station
To	McMurdo Station
Date	8 December, 1967
Plane Type	C-130 # 148318
Plts Sgnt	E W Van Reeth Cmdr, USN



Vostok 8 12 67 with Special Cachet for 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vostok Station

Carried on the return flight

The Air Development Squadron [VX-6] became the Antarctic Development Squadron [VXE-6] in January 1969.



Vostok 10.1.69

*"Flown from McMurdo to Vostok Station and return in LC-130R Buno 159917, the only such flight of the 1968-69 Deep Freeze season. Commander Eugene W. van Reeth, USN, pilot."*

180108 GMT ДЕК 70

ОТ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯ ЮСАРП В АНТАРКТИКЕ

НА СТ ВОСТОК

МИРНЫЙ ПЕРЕДАЙТЕ НА СТ ВОСТОК

1 ПОЛЕТ САМОЛЕТА СО СТ МАК МЕРДО ВА СТ ВОСТОК ЗАПЛАНИРОВАН НА 23  
ДЕКАБРЯ.

2 СПИСОК ПАССАЖИРОВ БУДЕТ ПЕРЕДАН. ЭТОТ СПИСОК ВКЛЮЧАЕТ ДР СЕРГЕЙ  
МЯГКОВА СОВЕТСКОГО ОБМЕННОГО УЧЕНОГО ЗИМОВАВШЕГО В МАКМЕРДО В 1970 Г.  
И МР ДЕЙЛ ВЕЙНСА ОБМЕННОГО УЧЕНОГО ЮСАРП КОТОРЫЙ БУДЕТ ЗИМОВАТЬ НА  
СТ ВОСТОК В 1971 Г.

3 ДР СЕРГЕЙ МЯГКОВ ДОСТАВИТ 100 КГ ОБРАЗЦОВ ГОРНЫХ ПОРОД ДЛЯ ДОСТАВ-  
КИ В ЛЕНИНГРАД.

4 БУДЕМ ОЧЕНЬ ВАМ БЛАГОДАРНЫ ЕСЛИ ВЫ ПРИГОТОВИТЕ РИОМЕТРИЧЕСКИЕ  
ЛЕНИТЫ / КАРТЫ / ИОНОСФЕРНЫЕ ДАННЫЕ, ДАННЫЕ ПО МИКРОПУЛЬСАЦИЯМ И ОНЧ

-2-

ДЛЯ ОТПРАВКИ ЭТИМ РЕЙСОМ В МАК МЕРДО.

5 ПОЖАЛУЙСТА СООБЩИТЕ НАМ ВЕС ГРУЗА НА ОБРАТНЫЙ РЕЙС =

8124

December 1970. From USARP representative Antarctic to Vostok via Mirnyy for action.

- 1 **McMurdo flight to Vostok is scheduled for December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**
- 2 A passenger list will follow. This includes Dr Sergey Myagkov, the USSR exchange scientist at **McMurdo** for the 1970 winter, and Mr Dale Vance, the USA exchange scientist for **Vostok** for the 1971 winter.
- 3 Dr Sergey Myagkov will bring 100kg of rock specimens for shipment to Leningrad.
- 4 We would greatly appreciate your preparation of the riometer charts, ionosphere transient data, micro-pulsation and VLF data for shipment on this flight back to McMurdo.
- 5 Please advise us of weight of backload cargo

210059 GMT ДЕК 1970

ОТ ШЕСТОГО ДИВИЗИОНА ТРАНСП САМОЛ АНТАРКТИКЕ

НР 03760

МИРНЫЙ / ПЕРЕДАЙТЕ СТ ВОСТОК

1. ЛЦ - I30 Р БОРТ 155917 КОМАНДИР НОРДХИЛЛ, ПРИМЕРНОЕ ВРЕМЯ ВЫЛЕТА ИЗ МАК МЕРДО 230130 GMT ПРИМЕРНОЕ ВРЕМЯ ПРИБЫТИЯ НА ВОСТОК 230400 ПРИМЕРНОЕ ВРЕМЯ ВЫЛЕТА С ВОСТОКА 230630, ПРИМЕРНОЕ ВРЕМЯ ПРИБЫТИЯ В МАК МЕРДО 230900 GMT ТЧК

2. КОНТР АДМИРАЛ УЭЛЧ, ВМФША, КОМАНДУЮЩИЙ СИЛАМИ ПОДДЕРЖКИ В АНТАРКТИКЕ = КАПИТАН Х.В. СВИНБЕРН, НАЧАЛЬНИК СОСТАВА = МР К. ШЕПЕРД, НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ФОНД = МР Д. ВЕЙНС, ОБМЕННЫЙ УЧЕНЫЙ ЮСАРИ = МР С. МЯГКОВ, ОБМЕННЫЙ УЧЕНЫЙ СССР = КАПИТАН Е.В. ВАН РЕИТ, КОМАНДУЮЩИЙ СИЛАМИ ПОДДЕРЖКИ СПЕЦИАЛЬНЫМИ ВОСПОМОГАТЕЛЬНЫМИ ДЕЙСТВИЯМИ = КОМАНДОР В. МАТТОКС, НАЧАЛЬНИК СТАНЦИИ ЗИМОВОЧНОЙ ЧАСТИ ЭКСПЕДИЦИИ ТЧК ТАКЖЕ ТРОЕ ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНЫХ ПАССАЖИРОВ И 10 ЧЕЛОВЕК КОМАНДЫ =

**December 1970. From Antarctic VXE to Mirnyy pass Vostok. Flight Advisory.**

- 1 **L-130 Buono 155917** pilot Cdr Nordhill, estimated time of departure **McMurdo** 23<sup>rd</sup> 013hrs, estimated time of arrival **Vostok** 23<sup>rd</sup> 0400 hrs, estimated time of departure **Vostok** 23<sup>rd</sup> 0630hrs, estimated time of arrival **McMurdo** 23<sup>rd</sup> 0900hrs.
- 2 **Rear Admiral D F Welch** USN Commander Naval Support Forces Antarctica, Captain H W Swinburne Chief of Staff, Mr C Sheperd National Science Foundation, Mr D Vance **USARP exchange scientist**, Mr S Myagkov USSR exchange scientist, Captain E W van Reeth Commander Antarctic Support activities, Commander E G Mattox Officer-in-Charge winter over detachment plus 3 additional passengers and 10 crew members aboard.



1972-1973 Season

US VXE-6 Flights to Vostok Station

During Deep Freeze 73, the Antarctic Development Squadron Six VXE-6 used a special cachet to record flights



First Flight December 11, 1972 McMurdo to Vostok VXE-6 cachet



January 22, 1973 McMurdo to Vostok VXE-6 cachet Vostok 16.12.72 "Flight for Peace"



Vostok to McMurdo 14 DEC 73 LC-130 #159130. "Flight for Peace" US Navy 17038 McMurdo DEC 27 1973



Vostok 15 12 73 – US Navy 17038 McMurdo 15 DEC 1973 with Vostok Station leader cachet. Reverse is annotated.

*Carried McMurdo to Vostok Dec 14 '73  
Mailed at Vostok & delivered at McMurdo Dec 15, 73*



Vostok 15 12 73

McMurdo [US navy 17038] 15 DEC 1973

Vostok cachet

Address stamps of Peter G Astakhov who was the Soviet Exchange Scientist 1967 winter at McMurdo and South Pole Stations and head of Vostok Station 1973

Annotated:

*"Carried to Vostok from McMurdo, Mailed at Vostok to McMurdo for re-delivery."*

[McMurdo - Vostok - McMurdo flight]

*"Signed by four of the winter-over 1973 members at Vostok Station. Also by 1973 Winter over Soviet Exchange Scientist at McMurdo Station."*

Lower signature is that of Dr Leonid Zhdanov Soviet Exchange scientist at McMurdo 1973 winter.



USARP cachet with McMurdo Station cachet on reverse. Vostok 15.12.73 U S Navy - McMurdo DEC 18 1973 "Dr L A Zhdanov USSR McMurdo Antarctic 15/XII-1973" [signed]

Dr Leonid Zhdanov, hydro-meteorologist, was with SAE-18 and was the Soviet exchange scientist at McMurdo Station for the winter of 1973 where he conducted investigations into the atmospheric processes above Antarctica



McMurdo to Vostok JAN 2, 1974 LC-130 # 159130 US Navy 17038 McMurdo 4 JAN 1974 "Congressmen on Board"

1973-1974 Season

US VXE-6 Flights to Vostok Station

Robert B Flint [Junior] was a USARP scientist on high latitude geophysical and geomagnetic phenomena. He wintered as exchange scientist at Vostok Station with SAE-19 where he conducted observations on VLF [very low frequency] and ELF [extremely low frequency] emissions. He had previously wintered in 1964 at Byrd Station where he was involved in whistler recordings. In 1966 he was Scientific Station Leader at Plateau Station – he was part of the design team for this 'portable' research station.

He records, in prelude to "Among the Magi" by M P Sponholz: "The year at Plateau was not so harmonious as my previous year at Byrd, nor as a later year I spent with the Russians at Vostok Station."



Local Post carried by Robert B Flint Jr from McMurdo base to Vostok Station – signed by crews  
 "Carried to Vostok first flight of season and returned on last flight" [Written by Flint]

Has Local Post cancellation DEC 14 1973 and FEB 06 1974 with Vostok 5.2.74

Signed & Stamped "RECD FEB 06 1974 - 7.05PM"

Flint also designed a special Antarctic Label and also a Local Post Antarctica cancellation

Robert Flint designed a cachet for his use at Vostok based on a design created by his first cousin for the cachet of Plateau Station where he was Station Leader in 1966. This cachet is known in grey; both with and without Flint's signature, but most are impressed in red. It was used later without the reference to SAE-19 removed.

Flint cachet in grey on reverse of Flown Cover  
 [reduced]



1975-1976 Season

US VXE-6 Flights to Vostok Station



McMurdo Station to Vostok JAN 18 1976, Deep Freeze 76. Scott Base 26 JA 76

1976-1977 Season

US VXE-6 Flights to Vostok Station



Flown from McMurdo to Vostok 12-28-76. US Navy 17038 McMurdo FEB 14 1977.



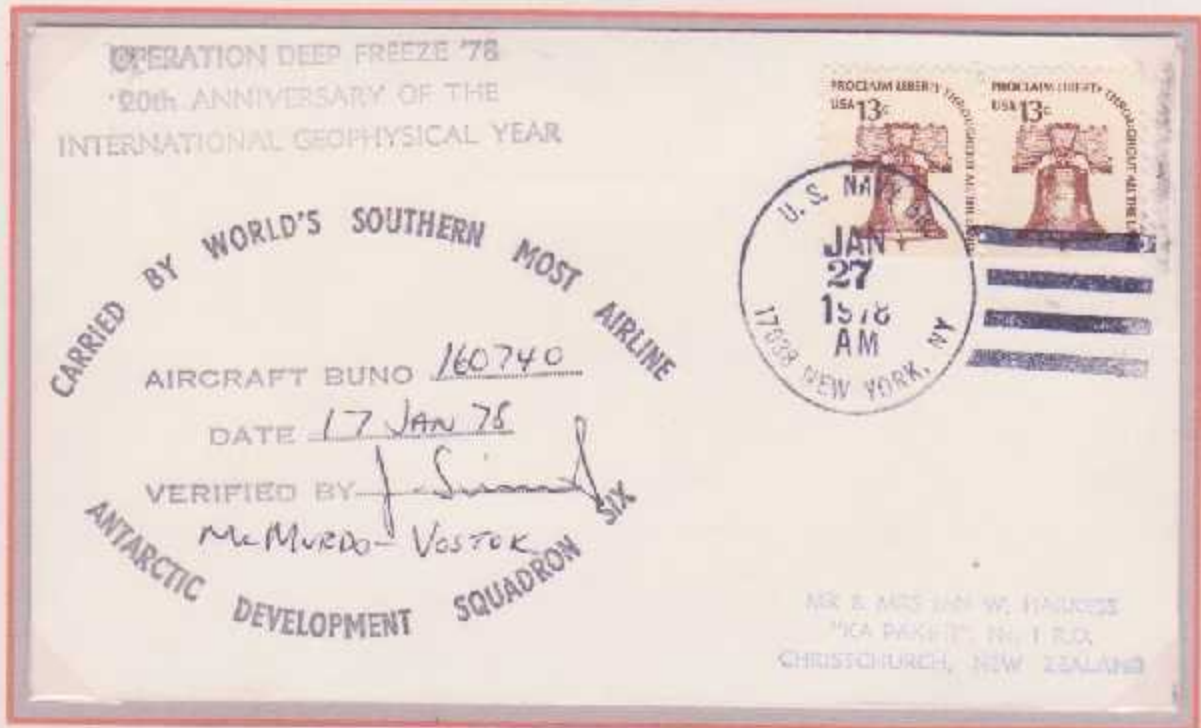
Flown from McMurdo to Vostock 22 JAN 77. US Navy 17038 - McMurdo JAN 30 1977



Flown from McMurdo to Vostock 22 JAN 77. US Navy 17038 - McMurdo JAN 30 1977

1977-1978 Season

US VXE-6 Flights to Vostok Station



McMurdo - Vostok 17 JAN 78 Aircraft # 160740, US Navy 17038 McMurdo JAN 27 1978

1978-1979 Season

US VXE-6 Flights to Vostok Station



McMurdo to Vostok 22 JAN 79 aircraft # 160741. US Navy 17038 McMurdo JAN 30 1979