

1947 and 1948 Photographs from VP-MS-10, Coco Solo, Canal Zone

1. VP-MS-10 group photo Officers and Enlisted.
2. PBM-CA-6 in flight. Interesting coincidence: Pilot Lt. Sparks, Radio/Radar Stephens, fast forward to 1990. Sparks' Grand Daughter meets Stephens' Son and marries. Produce Grand Son.
3. VP-MS-10 group, Enlisted only.
4. Planes at anchor on Tender operation at Cheroqui Bay, Republic of Panama.
5. PBM in flight.
6. PBM in flight.
7. X-MAS 1947, closest to camera to out, Bob Stangler, Harold Stem, Roger Cross and Howard Stephens. We were ferrying 2 PBMs from Coco Solo O&R to the States with both planes carrying passengers going on leave. The other plane lost an engine and after jettisoning everything of significant weight(no personal gear) held altitude at about 2500ft, proceeded to Goat Island, Jamaica. The pane that I was on landed and took on the passengers of the other plane and proceeded on to Jax. My memory is not clear about the other plane, but I think that the tender, Timberlier, AVP 54 brought an engine and they changed it on the water. I'll question Stangler about it and let you know.
8. That's the plane mentioned in photo 7.
9. Jamaican fishermen. We traded cigarettes for oranges.
- 10.Waiting for the passengers from the disabled plane. Can't remember how the transfer took place but the photo shows what appears to be a sizeable boat approaching the plane. My memory is blank here. I'll question Stangler.
- 11.CA-6 on the ramp at San Juan, P. R. tender operation.
- 12.Same operation
- 13.Same operation
- 14.Mr. Fix It. Can't remember his name but do recall that we considered him a real expert on the engines. Look carefully under the pilots side window and you will be able to read the name Sparks. Confirms my story on photo 2.

15. Guantanamo Bay---1940's model troop carrier. We thought maybe we would like to have another vehicle so a couple guys went over to the Naval Base and found a Jeep that "wasn't being used". We kept it for the duration of our Temp Duty. We left it for the relief crew. Don't know how it ended.
16. I can't remember any of these names.
17. Our ramp mascot.
18. Naval Base where someone "loaned" us a Jeep.
19. ASR Office. We carried so many VIP's to Jax that we thought it appropriate to post a "Passenger Check In" sign.
20. Bob Stangler. Being from Scarsdale, N.Y. it's most likely the first fish he had ever caught.
21. This is Rojas our Cuban concierge. He took care of the grounds and was a good handy man and good guy. We took good care of him.
22. Roger at the GITMO laundry mat.
23. Beaching crew. That's me leaning on the wheel. Nothing to do, just hanging out.
24. View of the Sea Plane ramp from the top of the outdoor theater.
25. Reverse of 24.
26. That's the land based field and runway above the Sea Plane ramp.
27. A visiting PBM. I have no idea of who it was and where they were from.
28. CA-6
29. PBY on final for the runway.
30. Looks like CA-6 again.
31. July 4th diving exhibition at our pool across the street from our barracks at Coco Solo, CZ.
32. Typical intersection in Colon, Panama.
33. No memory of this photo. Must be part of an ASW operation.
34. Pilot cockpit.
35. May 1947, in front of the barracks at Coco Solo. LtoR, Howard Stephens, Bob Stangler and Roger Cross. Roger Cross was from Omaha, Nebraska and on a two year enlistment. I think he was on his way to be separated on the X-MAS 1947 trip. I have tried several times over the years to locate him but no success.

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