

HẢI QUÂN

VOL. I NO. 3

The U.S. Navyman In the Republic of Vietnam

DECEMBER 30, 1970



**Last of Combat River
Craft Turned Over**

(See Pages 6+7)

North Vietnam

A Look At The Other Side

(Seventh in a series written by the Armed Forces Information Service and adapted from U.S. Department of State "Background Notes." Ed.)

THE PARIS MEETINGS

The only official U.S. contact with representatives of North Vietnam is at the Paris meetings. Hanoi and its southern agents (the Viet Cong) have from the outset demanded that the United States and its allies withdraw their forces from South Vietnam unconditionally, and that the United States "get rid of" the elected, legal government of South Vietnam. The Saigon government and the United States have proposed mutual withdrawal of all non-South Vietnamese forces and free elections—in which all parties, including Communist, can participate—under international supervision to determine South Vietnam's political future. To date, all U.S. efforts to get serious negotiations underway at Paris have failed.

ECONOMY

Although only about 15 percent of its land area is arable, 75 percent of North Vietnam's labor force is employed in agriculture; industry employs less than 10 percent. The gross national product is about \$1.6 billion; GNP per capita is about \$90.

INDUSTRY; RESOURCES

Industrial development proceeded at a fairly rapid pace until 1964; then it slowed down considerably, due largely to Hanoi's commitment of manpower and material to the war in the South. The U.S. bombing campaign also contributed substantially to the halt in economic development by forcing the regime to devote human and material resources to air defense and repair of bomb-damaged defense installations, communications facilities, and supply networks. Economic reconstruction has proceeded slowly since the bombing halt.

Food processing is North Vietnam's most important industry in terms of value of output. Rice, sugar, fish, and tea are the principal processed foods. Most North Vietnamese industry is in an embryonic stage of development. However, there is a large textile plant at Nam Dinh and a steel complex at Thai Nguyen, both of which were severely bombed. North Vietnam's principal mineral resources, in order of importance, are coal, iron, apatite, and chromite. The major industrial crop is timber.

AGRICULTURE; TRADE

Agriculture is concentrated in the heavily populated Red River delta, where an elaborate system of dikes, dams, and reservoirs allows extensive irrigation during dry periods.

Much of the land is double-cropped. Rice is the principal crop; corn, sweet potatoes, and manioc are also grown. Despite government efforts to promote "technological revolution," North Vietnamese agriculture is largely unmechanized. Draft power is still provided by oxen and water buffalo, and irrigation is accomplished with manual pumps.

North Vietnam has historically been a rice-deficit area. During the French colonial period the rice-rich Mekong delta in the South made up much of the food shortage in the North, but with the partition of Vietnam in 1954 rice inputs from this source stopped. The Hanoi government has made strong but thus far unsuccessful efforts to attain self-sufficiency in food grain production.

In recent years, because of inherent inefficiencies, bad weather, natural disasters, and increased attention on the part of the administration to the war in the South, rice shortages have reached critical proportions. At one point in 1968 the monthly "rice ration" of an average North Vietnamese was composed of only 30 percent rice, the remainder being wheat products, corn, and manioc. North Vietnam was forced to rely on massive imports of wheat and other food grains from the Soviet Union and China in order to maintain even bare subsistence levels.

Most of the farmers are organized into "voluntary" cooperatives whose affairs are managed by local party chapters. The Government claims that more than 90 percent of all farmers and 95 percent of the arable land belong to cooperatives. The planning function is monopolized by the central government.

North Vietnam has never enjoyed a foreign trade surplus. Deficits have been financed through aid from Communist countries, with whom North Vietnam conducts nearly all its trade. Recently North Vietnam has been trying to expand its trade contacts with Western nations, especially the Scandinavian countries, and Japan. Its principal exports are coal, wood products, apatite, and handicrafts; its imports run the gamut from petroleum products, vehicles, and industrial equipment to feed and raw textiles. The Government had not published trade statistics since 1963.

HÀI QUÂN

More Z-Grams
Summarized
For Reference

Following are more of the Chief of Naval Operations Z-Grams that have been condensed for quick reference purposes. It is recommended that a study of the full text of any Z-Gram be made before any action is taken on the particular subject covered by the missive.

Z-38 enjoins commanding officers to abstain from scheduling operations and evolutions during normal holiday routine periods.

Z-39 officially extends the operating hours of Navy commissary stores at 25 locations in order to better serve their patrons.

Z-40 allows the Navyman at the remote station the option of a cash or check payday. Where check cashing facilities are readily available and where payroll and check preparation are mechanized the check paydays will continue.

Z-41 initiates a command excellence forum wherein outstanding commanding officers present some of the secrets of their success which will hopefully be distilled and disseminated down through the fleet.

Z-42 outlines procedures and policies in conjunction with requests for sea duty by junior officers saying that every consideration will be extended to insure as far as possible the choice of duty by career minded personnel.

Z-43 directs disbursing offices to process and pay travel, per diem and other claims in 10 days or less where possible. Responsibility for submitting properly prepared claims rests with the individual requesting service in order to speed the processing of his claim. It also recognizes and lauds those offices now paying claims in under 10 days.

Z-44 has quarterdeck qualified junior officers turning over their duties to senior petty officers except for special occasions.

Z-45 provides guidance and suggestions for local commanders on assistance to and recognition of families and dependents of Navymen captured or missing

Personal Property
Packing Service

Going home soon?

You can take your personal property to building 1120 at Tan Son Nhut for packing and crating between the hours of 0830-1145 and 1300-1630 Monday through Saturday. You must have seven copies of your orders if you're going to the States plus a copy for each box of gear that you have. If you are going anywhere but the States you'll need eleven copies of the orders. If you are a Navy Captain or above, or the civilian equivalent, or a female person, the packing people will come to your quarters for your gear if you call 924-2304 for information and guidance.

Concern For God And Man

by LT M. V. Summers, CHC, USNR
NAF Cam Ranh Bay



in action.

Z-46 lists requirements and changes in reporting procedures of ship's 3M MDSCS sub-systems.

Z-47 states that, in ships being deactivated, command and department head responsibilities be turned over to younger officers at the earliest practicable moment.

Z-48 outlines the duties and responsibilities of the new office, designated P (for people), in BuPers that will deal with matters concerning conditions of service and personal affairs.

Z-49 indicates that a maximum of 60 days from submission to date of approval in processing recommendations for awards be observed.

Z-50 establishes the policy of a 30 day cold iron status for ships returning from extended deployments where ever possible.

Z-51 gives the criteria and procedures relative to the new insignia for small craft masters who have served in Vietnam.

Z-52 is a personal note from Admiral Zumwalt to all flag officers, commanders, commanding officers and officers in charge dealing with the dissemination of his policies and philosophies.

COVER



Vietnamese Seaman Le Van Cu prepares to tie up his PBR following a river interdiction patrol earlier this year. With the last of the river craft turned over to the Vietnamese Navy Seaman Cu probably has his own boat now and is continuing the fight against the enemies of his country with but a single American advisor aboard his craft.

HÀI QUÂN

Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
Rear Admiral Philip S. McManus

Public Affairs Officer

Lieutenant (junior grade) Stephen Lang

Editor JOC Bud Hoffman

Staff Writers JO3 Joe Hudspeth

JOSN Robert L. Joffee

Photographers PH1 Bob Swan

PHAN Bart Bragg

Material intended for publication should be received prior to Wednesday of each publication week.

Address: COMNAVSUPPACT, Saigon

Box 123

FPO San Francisco, Calif.

96621 (In-Country)

Telephone: Nha Be 261

HÀI QUÂN is published bi-weekly by the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon for Navy personnel in the Republic of Vietnam in accordance with NAVEXOS P-35 and is printed with appropriated funds by S.P. Service Centre Ltd., Part., in Bangkok, Thailand. American Forces Press Service material may be reproduced provided credit is given. Other syndicated material may not be reproduced. Circulation 8,000.

THE LAST AMERICAN COMBAT RIVER PATROL



PO 2.C. Kenneth L. Hodgkins keeps a close watch at his M-60 machinegun during one of the last river patrols made under the American flag in Vietnam. (U.S. Navy photo by PO 3.C. Don Gaylien)

The U.S. Navy has forged ahead to a new milestone in the history of its involvement in the Vietnam war by taking a step backward.

The landmark was passed when the U.S. Navy's River Assault Squadron (RAS) 15, the last American-manned riverine unit in Vietnam, left the Song Ong Doc naval base after being relieved by Vietnamese River Interdiction Division 43.

With this action in late November, the U.S. Navy stepped back and reverted to its former non-combatant role, except for its air assets and SEALS/UDT, of providing advice and logistics support for the Vietnamese Navy.

The last elements of RAS-15, eight assorted armored river assault craft, were stationed at the mouth of the Ong Doc River, 175 miles southwest of

Saigon.

The men of RAS-15 cast off their boats from Song Ong Doc for the last time at 4 a.m. on Nov. 26 and threaded their way through a maze of waterways to Dong Tam, more than 130 air miles to the northeast.

They arrived there two days later to begin repainting and repairing their craft for turnover to the Vietnamese Navy.

The first U.S. Navy personnel



RAS-15 sailors check out a suspicious civilian craft in the Song Ong Doc area of the delta during one of their last patrols.

to be assigned to duty in Vietnam were advisors who arrived in August 1950. As the war expanded the U.S. Navy was asked to provide more concrete aid to help turn the tide against the communist invaders from the North.

The relatively large "monitors," inspired by the ironclad river craft of the Civil War, were thought of as the "battleships" of the riverine forces. Heavily-laden with armor and weaponry, they were used as inland naval gunfire support ships, easily able to spew out a virtual wall of hot lead at the enemy.

Besides the monitors were other special-purpose boats, such as the "tango" (armored transport) boats with their mini-flightdecks for helicopters; there also were the "destroyers" of the riverine assault forces, the "alpha" (armored support patrol) boats to escort and protect the slower "tango" boats during troop transports.

And there were floating, air-conditioned, command and communications centers called "charlie" boats.

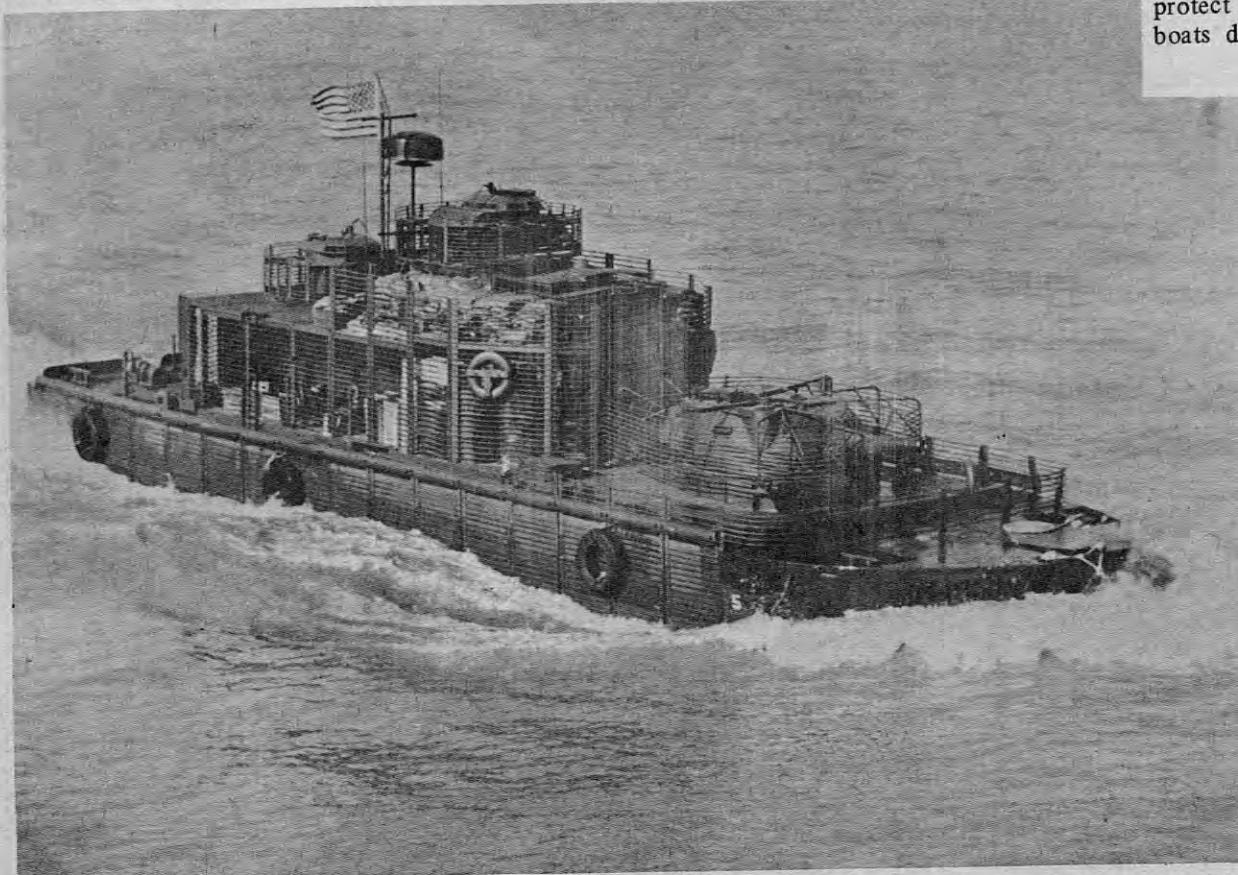
In effect, the Brown Water Navy's fleet, cruising the rivers instead of the oceans, had nearly everything the massive blue water fleets had, only in miniature.

The last river assault craft to fight under the American Flag on the rivers of Vietnam were those eight river assault craft of RAS-15, based in the southwestern part of the delta at Song Ong Doc.

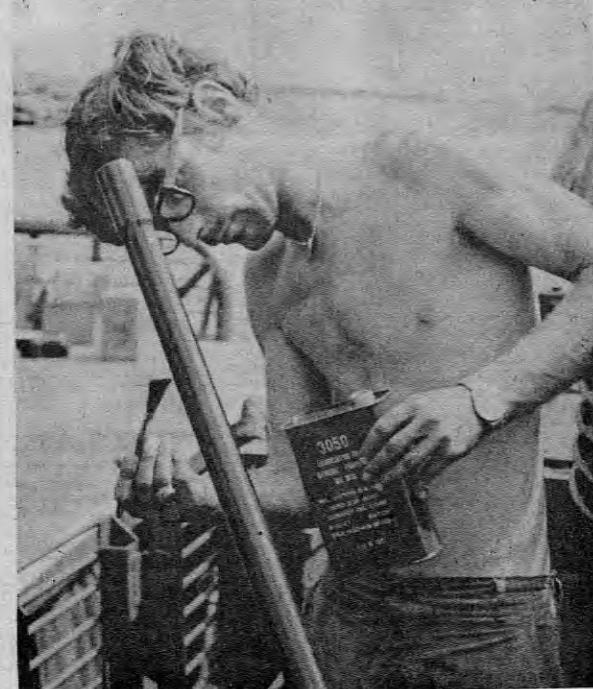
Commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Kennedy J. Rhea, RAS-15 conducted patrols, stood nighttime waterborne guardpost duties and inserted troops for sweeps of the area.

Lt. (j.g.) Joel D. Bean, a patrol officer for this last American river group, said "This is the end of a proud Navy unit, the likes of which will probably never be seen again."

Story and Photos by JO3 Don Gaylien



A monitor, the "battleship" of the Brown Water Navy fleet, churns down a delta river in search of enemy targets.



PO 3.C. Richard W. Leahy brushes oil on the barrel of a .50 caliber machine gun in preparation for turning over his craft to the Vietnamese Navy.

Tra Cu Mail Boat Hauls More Than Mail

They call it the "mailboat," but more than that it is a vital link connecting isolated Vietnamese civilian and military inhabitants of this remote advanced tactical support base with the outside world.

The river assault craft serves as a multi-purpose shuttle boat which has several names and means different things to the different people who depend on it.

The combination mailboat, liberty launch, water taxi, and "sodawagon" is provided by Vietnamese River Interdiction Division 44, based at Tra Cu, to travel along 27 miles of the winding Vam Co Dong River between Tra Cu, 25 miles west of Saigon, and Ben Luc 20 miles southwest of Saigon.

The mailboat, as its name implies is primarily used to carry mail to and from American Naval advisors in Tra Cu. Chief Petty Officer Garland R. Sluder, of Candler, N.C. is often nominated to make the run.

To him it truly is a mailboat because he personally carries the outgoing mail from Tra Cu and brings the incoming mail back to anxiously awaiting advisors.

The mailboat is something altogether different for the jubilant Vietnamese Navy officers and men on their way to enjoy a few days off. To them the boat is more of a "liberty launch" as they head for Ben Luc to visit family and friends or to go on into Saigon.

To thirsty Tra Cu sailors, eagerly awaiting a resupply of sparkling drinks, the mailboat is sometimes jokingly referred to as the "sodawagon."

Cases of empty soda and beer bottles are stacked on the decks of the boat for the trip to Ben Luc city where sailors will claim their deposit, purchase more drinks, and then load the thirst-quenchers on the afternoon boat returning to Tra Cu.

One of the most important functions the mailboat serves is that of water taxi for families of Vietnamese Navymen at Tra Cu.

The routes between the Navy base and the nearest major markets frequently lead through enemy areas and the local inhabitants would rather not brave the long, lonely journey to buy necessities and to sell their own wares.

When they need to venture to the city on shopping trips the Vam Co Dong River is their lifeline. It is the job of Vietnamese RID-44, made up of former U.S. Navy riverine combat craft recently turned over to them, to keep that river open and safe for commerce.

Chief Sluder said it all started as strictly a mail run. "But now look," he said, indicating the crowd accompanying him on the journey, "there are all kinds of people aboard this patrol boat and they all have different but equally important reasons for needing the ride." (NFM)



Chief Garland Sluder, his mail bag slung over his shoulder, talks with a Saigon-bound Vietnamese Officer on the Tra Cu mailboat.

Story and Photos by JO3 Don Gaylien

Sailors gather around empty bottles they will turn in for deposits at Ben Luc to buy more thirst quenching beverages for their shipmates at Tra Cu.



A young lady unfurls her umbrella against the light spray from the mailboat and gazes across the river dreaming perhaps of the many wondrous things she will do, see and buy in the big city.



Red and gold will be the only combat colors flying over river war-craft from this day on.

YRBM-17 Becomes HQ-9610

On Tuesday, December 22, the U.S. Navy's YRBM-17 was formally turned over to the Vietnamese Navy at a ceremony at Naval Support Activity Detachment Dong Tam.

The YRBM-17 had been in a state of almost total disrepair until a few months ago when it was decided that the floating barracks should become part of the Vietnamese assets. A crew of 33 men and four officers was assigned the task of restoring the "17" to like-new shape.

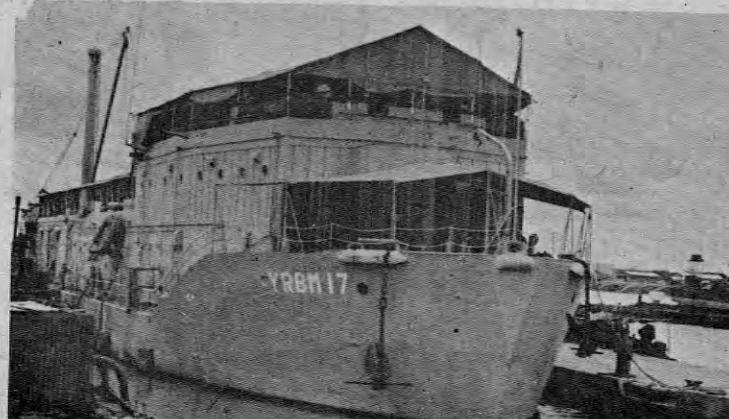
Due to a mine explosion, the ship was in poor shape, there were virtually no systems aboard in operational order. No living support facilities such as a galley, bedding, and electricity were to be had at ready use. The YRBM-17 at the ceremony looked like and performed as though it had just been commissioned for the first time at a Bremerton shipyard.

Credit for the quick and thorough reconditioning goes to Lieutenant George C. Meiers, Jr., of Virginia Beach, Va., and his hard working crew of 33 men. Lt Meiers arrived at Dong Tam in September and saw his crew meet the turnover dead

line on December 22nd.

The YRBM-17 is now the HQ 9610, a new and different type of support vessel added to the Vietnamese Navy, now the world's seventh largest fighting fleet.

The senior officer present at the turn over ceremony was Rear Admiral Philip S. McManus, Commander Naval Support Activity Saigon. In a brief speech he praised the American repair team for its quick and complete overhaul of the YRBM-17 and expressed hope that the Vietnamese Navy will utilize the unit to its fullest capabilities.



YRBM-17 as she looked before LT Meiers and his 33-man crew refurbished her.

RIVPATFLOT FIVE ENDS COMBAT RIVER OPERATIONS

River Patrol Flotilla 5 is to be officially disestablished tomorrow, December 31, 1970. Since November 1968, the flotilla has been training Vietnamese Navymen to man its boats, and gradually turning over craft to them under the ACTOV program. The flotilla's part in this program was completed in mid-November when its last two river divisions were transferred to the Vietnamese Navy at Moc Hoa.

RIVPATFLOT 5 was established at Binh Thuy September 1, 1968 to exercise administrative control over all of the 31-foot, fiberglass-hulled river patrol boats serving in Vietnam. At one time the flotilla had under its command 27 river patrol

divisions, each consisting of 10 boats and approximately 50 men.

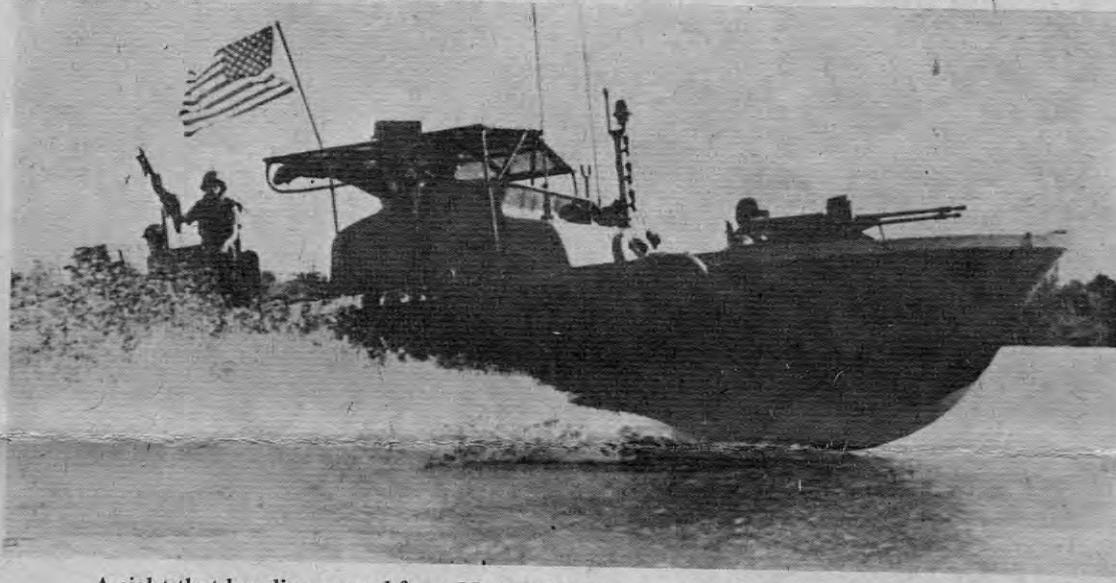
The predecessor to the flotilla command, River Squadron 5, started as a subordinate command of the Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force to direct the operations of river patrol boats which began patrolling inland waterways of the Republic of Vietnam in April 1966.

In February 1967, the command structure was changed, placing the river patrol units under the administrative control of the commander of U.S. naval forces in Vietnam. This was further changed in September 1968 when River Patrol Flotilla 5 was formed under the naval

forces command to administer the river squadrons and divisions.

These units at one time were patrolling rivers and canals in Military Regions 1, 3 and 4. Their mission of interdicting enemy supply lines on the inland waterways included checking the identification of river boatmen, inspecting suspicious craft and manning night time waterborne guardposts.

During 1968, at the height of river patrol boat operations, men of the flotilla earned one Medal of Honor, three Navy Crosses, three Legions of Merit, 22 Silver Stars, 239 Bronze Stars, 272 Navy Commendation Medals, 75 Navy Achievement Medals and 616 Purple Hearts.



A sight that has disappeared from Vietnam's waterways: a PBR flying the stars and stripes.

Lt Meiers also voiced his appreciation to the crew for its performance and thanked them for making his brief tenure as officer in charge a memorable one before his retirement after 26 years of naval service.

The new OIC, Lieutenant Tran Minh Tue, made a short statement to the assembled Vietnamese crewmen present and said the efforts of the 10 remaining U.S. Naval Advisors will be greatly appreciated.

The U.S. and Vietnamese crewmen, along with the guests enjoyed a steak fry and lobster dinner on the HQ 9610's fantail marking an end of hard work and the beginning of useful service of one of the world's largest Christmas presents.



The new officer in charge of the now HQ 9610, Lt Tran Minh Tue signs the papers making the turnover of YRBM-17 complete. Lt Meiers looks on. (Photo by Cal Williams)

All Turned Over To The VNN Now



The U.S. Navy turned over to the Vietnamese Navy the last of its small coastal and river combat craft today. This turnover completes a 25-month program designed to withdraw American sailors from coastal and river combat operations.

In a simple ceremony aboard a single river patrol boat moored at the Vietnamese Navy headquarters pier Vice Admiral Jerome H. King Jr. and Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon exchanged signatures on documents officially transferring the last 124 American small combat craft to the Vietnamese Navy.

Adm. King is the commander of U.S. naval forces in Vietnam and Adm. Chon is the chief of naval operations for Vietnam.

As the national anthems of both nations rang out over the Saigon River, the American flag was lowered and replaced by the Vietnamese colors on the lone craft which represented all those included in the final turnover.

Since November 1968, the U.S. Navy has been training Vietnamese sailors to replace Americans and then gradually turning over the craft to them under its ACTOV program.

Today's ceremony marked the end of small combat craft transfers and brought to 649 the number of boats changing hands under the program.

This number includes 293 river patrol boats, 223 river assault craft, 107 Swift boats and 26 Coast Guard patrol boats. They are valued at just over \$100 million.

The Republic of Vietnam fleet now stands at nearly 1,700 coastal, river and ocean craft, and has a personnel strength of nearly 40,000 men.

With the combat craft turnover came the official end of America's coastal patrol force and also its unique Brown Water Navy.

The United States' coastal patrol efforts here began October 30, 1965 when two 50-foot Swift boats began anti-infiltration operations along the Gulf of Thailand coast of southwestern Vietnam.

These fast, shallow-draft, aluminum-hulled craft continued to arrive in Vietnam and by mid-1968 were patrolling most of the Republic's 1,100-mile coastline.

The Brown Water Navy was started in September 1966, when River Assault Flotilla 1 was formed to interdict communist supply lines and assault enemy positions along rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta. Its name came from the caramel-colored waterways the boats patrolled.

This was the first river combat unit commissioned by the U.S. Navy specifically to fight on inland waterways since river gunboats of both the North and the South cruised the Mississippi during the Civil War.

River Assault Squadron 15 was the last unit of the Brown Water Navy to patrol in Vietnam under the Stars and Stripes. Its last eight river assault craft left the Song Ong Doc area November 26 for a meandering delta transit to Dong Tam to prepare for turning over.

At the height of Brown Water Navy operations American sailors covered the entire delta region—from the Rung Sat Special Zone on the outskirts of Saigon to the tip of the Republic, and from the South China Sea coast to the Cambodian border.

Vietnamese Navymen in taking over the American craft have also gradually taken over the same general operating areas to continue interdiction patrols and attacks on communist strongholds.

Most Americans who formerly manned these craft have been transferred to other commands in Vietnam or been reassigned outside Vietnam under normal rotation procedures. Some, however, will be remaining with the river units as advisors to the Vietnamese units which have replaced them.

From its peak strength of some 36,000 men in 1968, the U.S. Navy has reduced its forces in Vietnam to a current level of less than 17,000.

The only combat units of the U.S. Navy remaining in Vietnam are Light Helicopter Attack Squadron 3, which flies the UH-1 gunship, and Light Attack Squadron 4, with its OV-10 Bronco counter-insurgency fixed-wing aircraft. These air squadrons were commissioned specifically to support the Brown Water Navy and continue to provide air support to allied forces in the Mekong Delta.

Other American naval personnel still in Vietnam are assigned to duties concerned mainly with turning over remaining assets and responsibilities to the Vietnamese Navy. These include mostly logistics, maintenance and staff personnel.



It's All Turned Over To The



The U.S. Navy turned over to the Viet river combat craft today. This turnover withdraw American sailors from coastal and

In a simple ceremony aboard a single riv headquarters pier Vice Admiral Jerome H exchanged signatures on documents offici combat craft to the Vietnamese Navy.

Adm. King is the commander of U.S. n chief of naval operations for Vietnam.

As the national anthems of both nations flag was lowered and replaced by the represented all those included in the final t

Since November 1968, the U.S. Navy h Americans and then gradually turning over

Today's ceremony marked the end of 649 the number of boats changing hands ur

This number includes 293 river patrol l and 26 Coast Guard patrol boats. They are

The Republic of Vietnam fleet now st craft, and has a personnel strength of nearly

With the combat craft turnover came force and also its unique Brown Water Navy

The United States' coastal patrol effort foot Swift boats began anti-infiltration o southwestern Vietnam.

These fast, shallow-draft, aluminum-hu by mid-1968 were patrolling most of the R

The Brown Water Navy was started Flotilla 1 was formed to interdict comm along rivers and canals of the Mekong D waterways the boats patrolled.

This was the first river combat unit c fight on inland waterways since river gunt the Mississippi during the Civil War.

River Assault Squadron 15 was the la Vietnam under the Stars and Stripes. Its Doc area November 26 for a meanderin turning over.

At the height of Brown Water Navy c delta region--from the Rung Sat Special the Republic, and from the South China Se

Vietnamese Navymen in taking over over the same general operating areas to communist strongholds.

Most Americans who formerly manne commands in Vietnam or been reassig procedures. Some, however, will be rem Vietnamese units which have replaced th

From its peak strength of some 36,000 forces in Vietnam to a current level of less

The only combat units of the U.S. Na Attack Squadron 3, which flies the UH- its OV-10 Bronco counter-insurgency fi commissioned specifically to support the support to allied forces in the Mekong Del

Other American naval personnel still mainly with turning over remaining asset These include mostly logistics, maintenanc



VNN Now

namese Navy the last of its small coastal and completes a 25-month program designed to river combat operations.

er patrol boat moored at the Vietnamese Navy

King Jr. and Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon

ally transferring the last 124 American small

aval forces in Vietnam and Adm. Chon is the

rang out over the Saigon River, the American Vietnamese colors on the lone craft which turnover.

as been training Vietnamese sailors to replace the craft to them under its ACTOV program.

small combat craft transfers and brought to

der the program.

boats, 223 river assault craft, 107 Swift boats

valued at just over \$100 million.

ands at nearly 1,700 coastal, river and ocean

40,000 men.

the official end of America's coastal patrol

s here began October 30, 1965 when two 50- operations along the Gulf of Thailand coast of

llied craft continued to arrive in Vietnam and public's 1,100-mile coastline.

in September 1966, when River Assault unist supply lines and assault enemy positions

elta. Its name came from the caramelcolored

ommissioned by the U.S. Navy specifically to oots of both the North and the South cruised

st unit of the Brown Water Navy to patrol in last eight river assault craft left the Song Ong g delta transit to Dong Tam to prepare for

operations American sailors covered the entire Zone on the outskirts of Saigon to the tip of a coast to the Cambodian border.

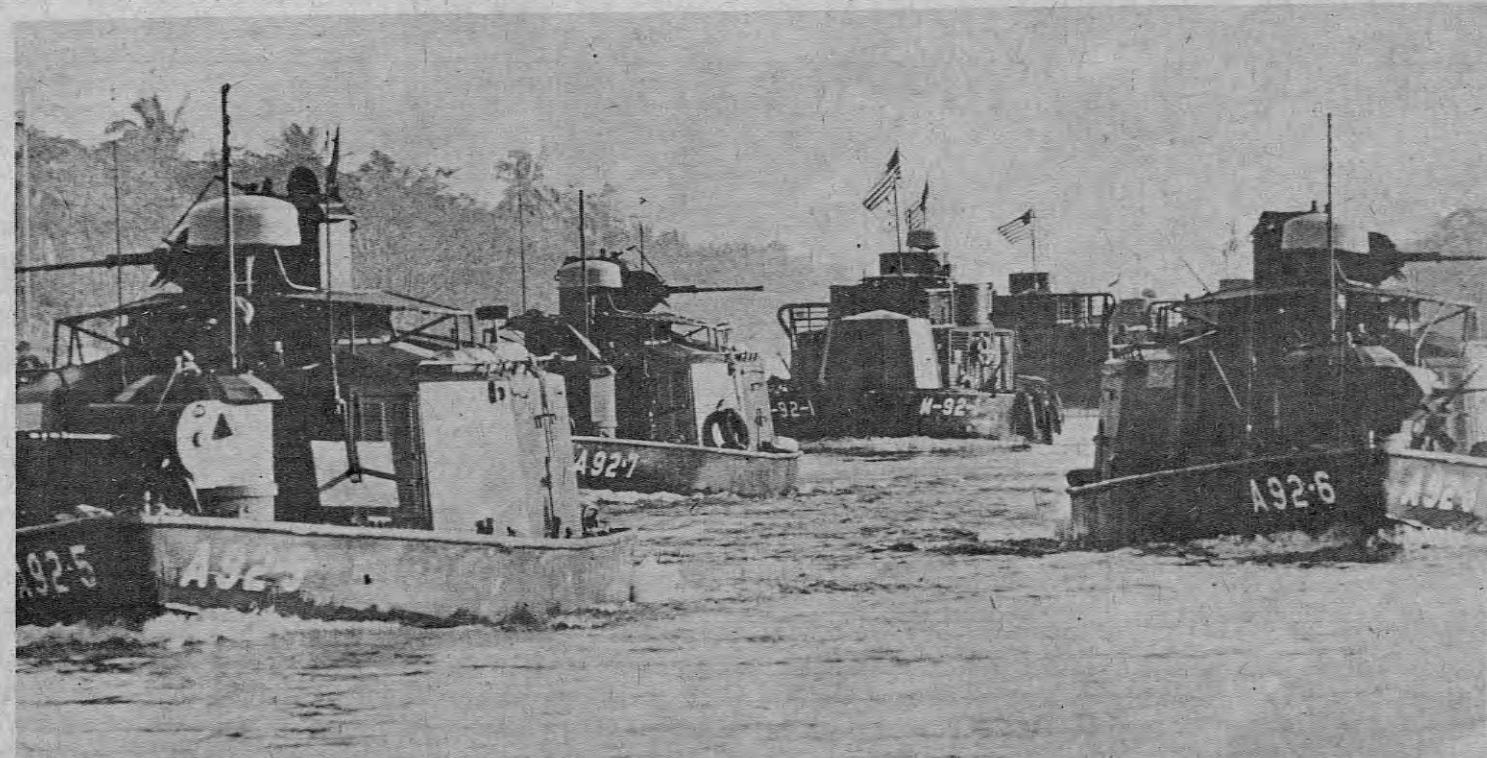
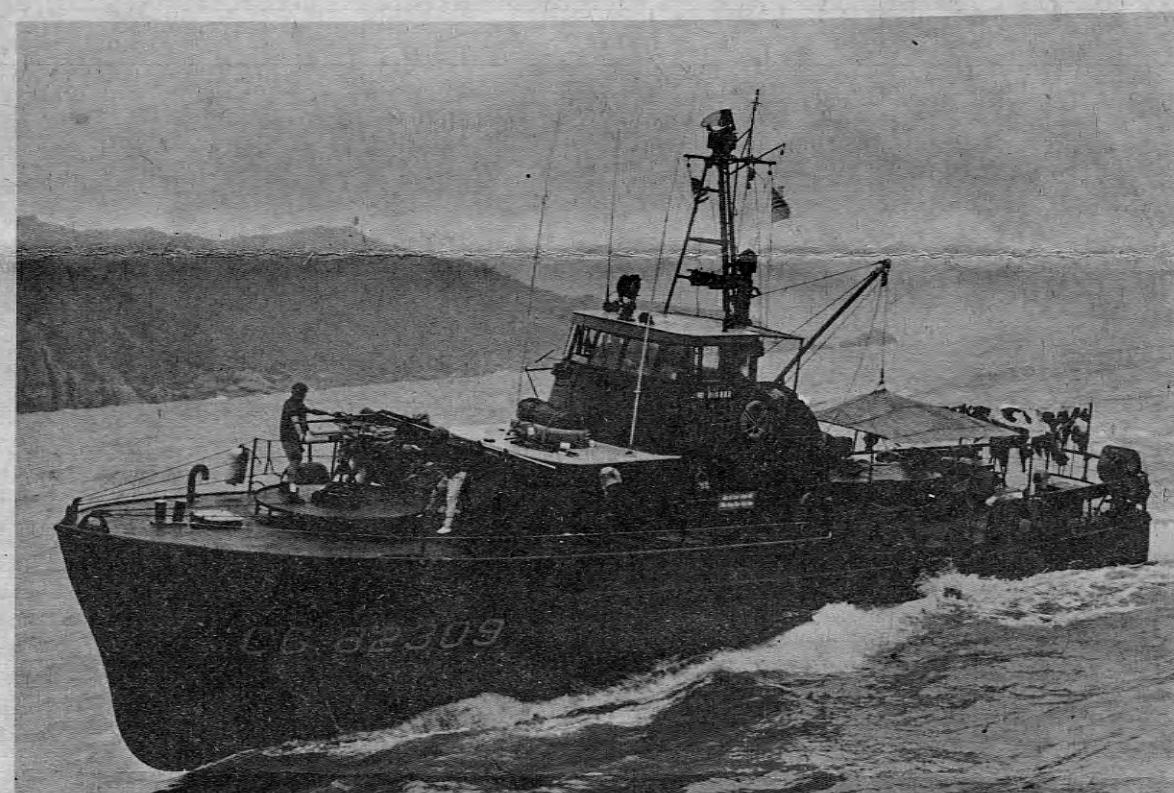
the American craft have also gradually taken continue interdiction patrols and attacks on

d these craft have been transferred to other ed outside Vietnam under normal rotation aining with the river units as advisors to the em.

0 men in 1968, the U.S. Navy has reduced its than 17,000.

vy remaining in Vietnam are Light Helicopter gunship, and Light Attack Squadron 4, with ed-wing aircraft. These air squadrons were Brown Water Navy and continue to provide air a.

in Vietnam are assigned to duties concerned s and responsibilities to the Vietnamese Navy. e and staff personnel.



Air Carriers Schedule Leave Flights

Major scheduled and charter airlines have enthusiastically responded to the liberalized leave policy issued by the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. The traveling Navyman can fly either charter or regularly scheduled airlines and can choose between the sometimes risky military standby, the more definite confirmed round trip reservation, or the low-cost charter methods of buying his ticket.

The exact cost of his ticket will depend upon where he wants to go and how sure he wants to be of getting there in a reasonable period of time.

Presently, two charter systems are participating. United Servicemen's Club and Trans International Airways have combined to offer round trips to Oakland, Chicago, and New York at \$369, \$442, and \$479 respectively. Pan American is acting as their Saigon representative.

Flights are presently scheduled for January 6, 13, 19, 26, and February 1, but more may be added. Tickets are available at the Pan Am military ticket office on a cash basis, but checks and national credit cards may be used in some cases. Information may be obtained by calling 922-3283.

The USO-World Airways system is offering round trip charter flights to Oakland for \$350. Tickets and information are available from USO offices in DaNang, Cam Ranh Bay, Can Tho, and Saigon. The USO-World service is scheduling flights for January 3, 5, 10, 12, 16, 18,

23, 25, 29, 31, and February 5, 7, 11, 13, 18, 20, 24, and 26. Ticket sales are on a cash basis with \$100 required for a reservation. The remainder will be paid prior to flight. Representatives for the carriers have advised that flights are filling up rapidly.

A third way to travel is on scheduled service offered by Pan Am and Northwest Orient-Air Vietnam. Pan Am has a scheduled flight leaving daily at 12:50 p.m. with military standby available. Details of the combined Northwest Orient-Air Vietnam service are incomplete, pending Civil Aeronautics Board approval, but may involve flying Air Vietnam from a major airport in-country and connecting with scheduled Northwest Orient flights in either Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila or Tokyo. Sample round trip fares are

expected to be: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle or Portland \$484; Washington, \$634; Chicago, \$597; and \$643 for New York. The fares guarantee confirmed reservations both ways. Information may be obtained by calling 924-4358.

Whichever transportation the Navyman chooses, he must have in his possession a confirmed return ticket before he will be permitted to leave country. Civilian clothing is authorized on charter flights, but military uniform is necessary for scheduled flights.

Military Assistance Command Vietnam also advises that travelers must be in possession of ID card, ID tags, immunization record and DD form 1580 with combat leave checked. Also, leave orders must be kept in the man's possession at all times.

FSA Entitlement Expanded

President Nixon has signed three bills which create entitlement to Family Separation Allowance (FSA) in three separate situations where it was not previously payable. This action ends extensive effort to correct known inequities in the law and demonstrates congressional concern for members of the uniformed services. This legislation which was vigorously supported by the Department of Defense is another significant step toward improvement in the conditions in the service. The three new situations where FSA

will now be payable are:

FSA will be paid to a member even though the member does not maintain a residence or household for his dependents subject to his management or control, if otherwise qualified.

FSA will be paid to a member who resides in government quarters, if otherwise qualified.

FSA will be paid on behalf of all members who are in a missing in action/prisoner of war status.

Implementing directives will be separately announced in the near future.

7th Fleet Music Makers Tour MR 1



Young and old alike gather around the United States Navy's Seventh Fleet Band when it played recently for patients at the Happy Haven Leprosarium near Da Nang. The band, presently making appearances in Military Region I, was the first professional entertainment group ever to perform at the United World Mission sponsored leprosarium. (Photo by PH1 R. J. Sylvester)

Football Wager Costs Ride Around Quarters



Army Major Ronald P. Conkel pays off a bet he made with Vice Adm. Jerome H. King, Jr., commander of U.S. naval forces in Vietnam, on the outcome of the Army - Navy football game. Maj. Conkel, the only Army man permanently attached to the admiral's staff, made the bet in an inter-office memorandum to the admiral. The memo said, in part: "You are hereby challenged to a wager on the ball game. The loser will rent a pedi-cab and ride the winner once around the admiral's quarters." The Army lost in Philadelphia and the Navy rides in Saigon. (Photo by PO 2.C. Marty Rust)

How To Write A Proper Check

Checks written on your military banking facility (MBF) account and checks you write on any stateside account are dollar instruments and come under the command currency control procedures outlined in MACV Dir. 37-6. It is very important that the "Payee" or "Pay To" line on each check you write for delivery in the Republic of Vietnam be filled out correctly.

First, you are required to insure that the "Pay To" line is filled in prior to signing your signature on the check. You are specifically prohibited from issuing or accepting checks or other dollar instruments made out to "cash" or to "bearer" or with the "Pay To" line left blank. If you leave the "Pay To" line blank or make it out to "cash" or "bearer" and the instrument gets into the blackmarket, you are held personally responsible.

If you use a check to pay a personal debt to a friend, you must use the "dual payee" statement; that is, it may only be made payable to an MBF and your friend. For example, Pay to: American Express Co. MBF for payment to John X. Doe. Note: (Be sure the MBF available to your friend is the one on the Pay To line. It could be Bank of America or Chase Manhattan.)

The "dual payee" statement also applies if you go to your MBF and write a check for cash: Pay to Chase Manhattan MBF for payment to (yourself). Assuming of course you have a balance in your account.

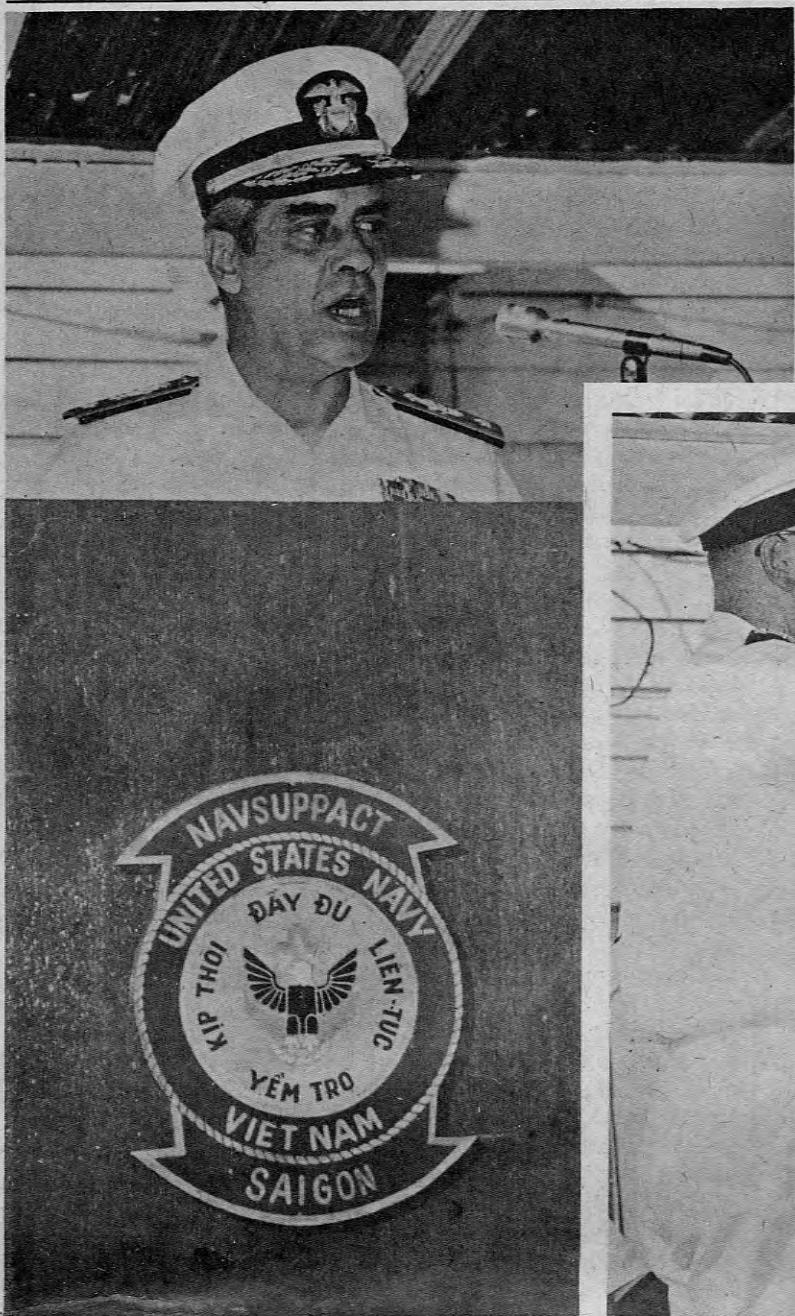
The "dual Payee" statement does not apply to checks written to the Post/Base Exchange or to Officer, NCO, or Enlisted clubs. However, be sure to write in the name of the non-appropriated fund activity. It also does not apply to checks written for delivery outside the RVN.

All persons should be aware that GVN customs police do frequently conduct raids at private residences and the offices of suspected money changers. Checks or the evidence of illicit currency transactions will normally be the basis for the levy of a fine of up to four times the amount of the illegal currency transactions. Also, jail sentences of up to 5 years can be imposed. This action by GVN will not stop further judicial or adverse administrative action by U.S. Government authorities.

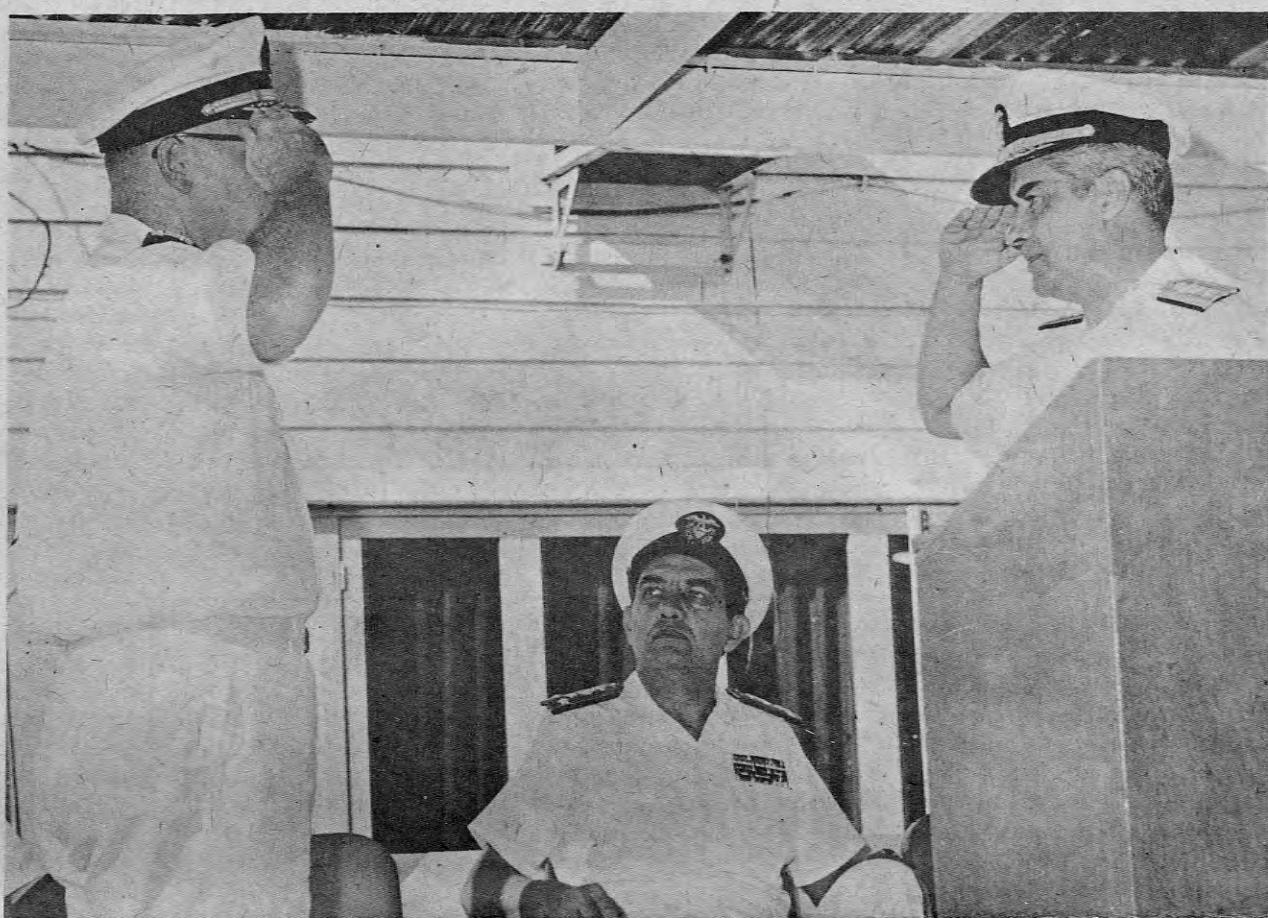
Always remember your check has value, keep it in a safe place when not with you. Lost or stolen checks, if negotiated, will find their way back into your account.

If your check bounces, you will be charged \$2.00 plus bank expenses. A bad credit rating will follow you out of country, so protect your financial capabilities carefully.

THE COMNAVSUPPACT CHANGE OF COMMAND IN PICTURES

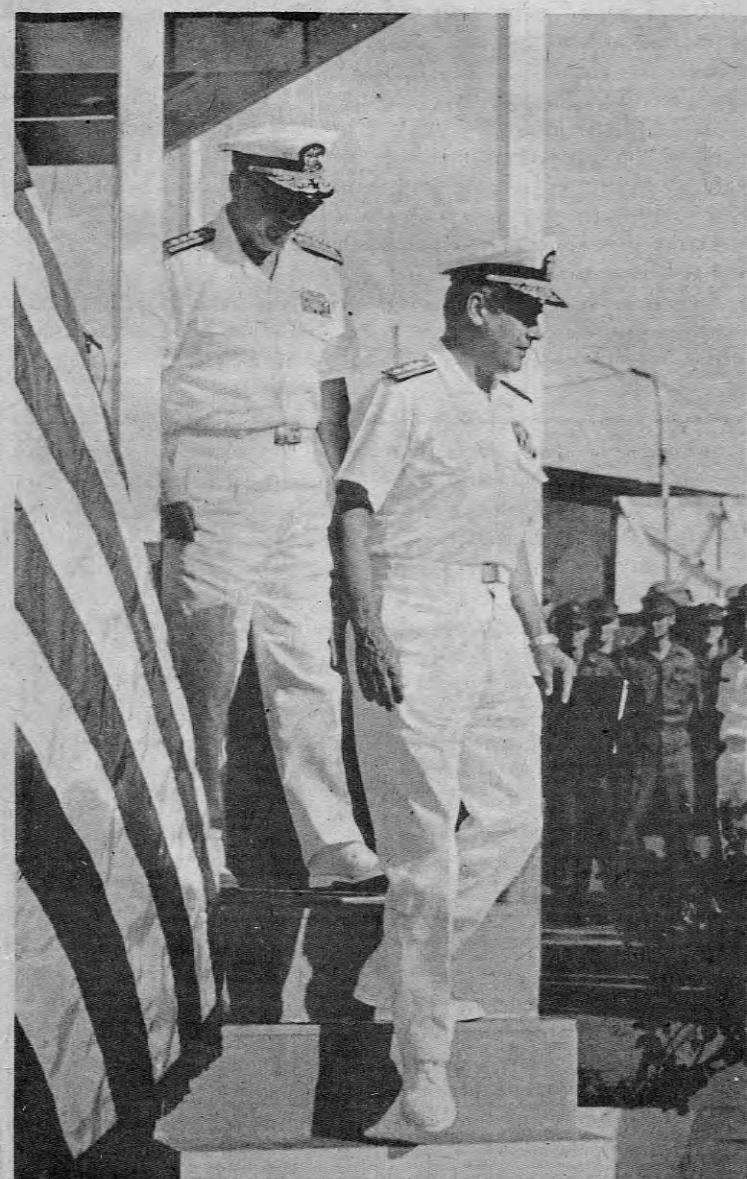


Rear Admiral Philip S. McManus reads his orders directing him to take command of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon.



"I believe you, Sir!" With this tradition-steeped phrase RADM McManus assumes command of NAVSUPPACT from Rear Admiral Robert E. Adamson, Jr. as Vice Admiral Jerome H. King, Jr., commander of naval forces in Vietnam, witnesses the occasion.

by JOC Bud Hoffman and PH2 Cal Williams



RADMs McManus and Adamson depart the podium following the change of command ceremonies.



SM2 Allan D. Brandsma of Gillette, Wyo. hands RADM Adamson his personal flag.

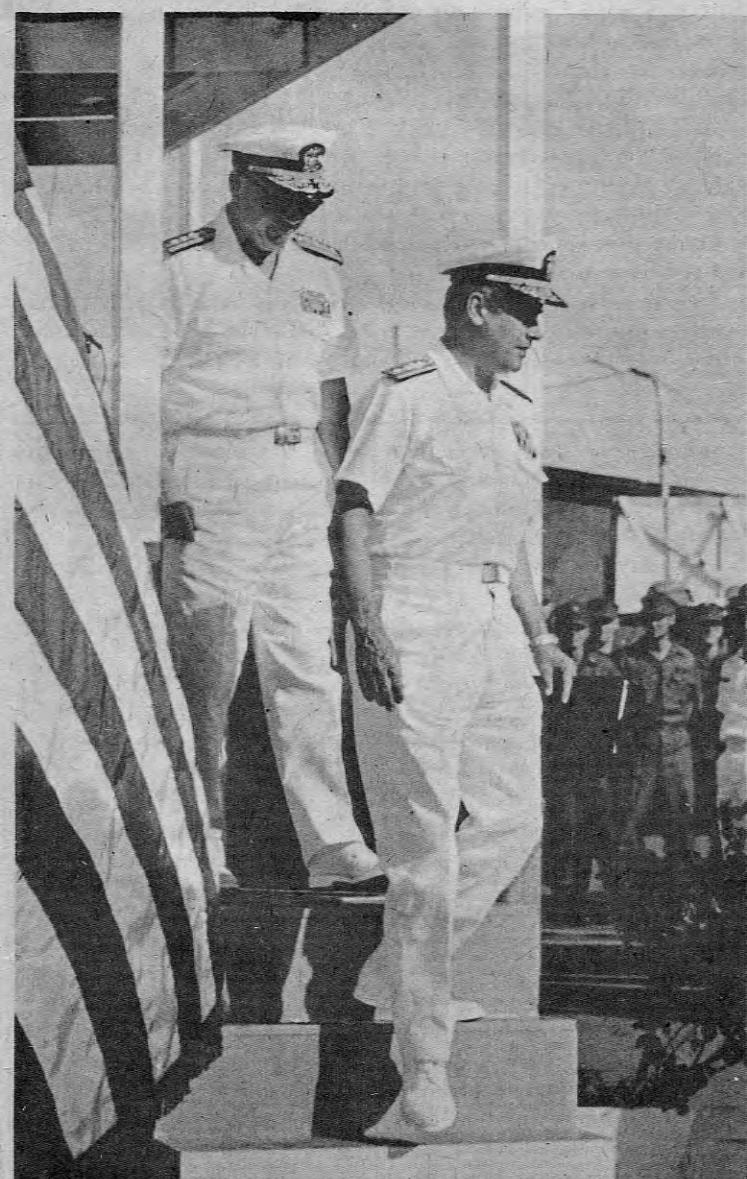
THE COMNAVSUPPACT CHANGE OF COMMAND IN PICTURES



Rear Admiral Philip S. McManus reads his orders directing him to take command of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon.

"I believe you, Sir!" With this tradition-steeped phrase RADM McManus assumes command of NAVSUPPACT from Rear Admiral Robert E. Adamson, Jr. as Vice Admiral Jerome H. King, Jr., commander of naval forces in Vietnam, witnesses the occasion.

by JOC Bud Hoffman and PH2 Cal Williams



RADMs McManus and Adamson depart the podium following the change of command ceremonies.



SM2 Allan D. Brandsma of Gillette, Wyo. hands RADM Adamson his personal flag.

From the Desk of the SEA

Putting In Your Papers

The phrase "putting in your papers" should be a familiar one to all Navy men and women wearing four or more hash marks on their sleeve. The "paper" is an application form (NAVPERS 630) and the whole process to which the phrase refers is the application for transfer to the Fleet Reserve.

Although Fleet Reserve transfers are everyday occurrences, the processing of the forms and the policies concerning their approval or disapproval, and finally, the establishment of a transfer date, may not be so familiar to all hands. Here's what happens to a Fleet Reserve Transfer Application when it reaches the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BuPers).

It is first sent to the Favorable Separation Section (B222). A copy of the NAVPERS 630 form is also routed to the applicant's rating control officer and detailer. The detailer will provide information to the Favorable Separation Section about the applicant's relief as well as any other comments.

The application is then referred to BuPers' Enlisted Services and Records Division (E3) which is responsible for computing service for transfer to the Fleet Reserve, setting the transfer date, and issuing the authorization for transfer. Applications requiring special processing or that are from personnel who may be ineligible for transfer on the date they requested are processed in the Favorable Separation Section.

Some applications are returned to commands because errors were made or the individual submitted it too late for the date he wanted or perhaps he had insufficient obligated service. It is well to remember that applications should not be submitted more than 12 months prior to the requested Fleet Reserve date. The best time to submit for transfer is during the first half

of the year before the date you want.

To avoid hardships and missed employment opportunities, thoughtful consideration should be given to choosing the date of application. Ideally, the date should coincide with tour completion date (TCD). However, authorization for a date within three months of TCD may be approved if it would provide increased benefits or be more convenient for the applicant.

For a date more than three months after the present TCD, it may be necessary to complete present tour, plus one year on board the next duty station. The only exception to this rule is made for men who become

by MCPO Delbert D. Black

eligible for the first time—with 19 years, six months with constructive time. Then the Fleet Reserve date may be authorized up to six months after TCD. In no case, however, will a member's tour completion date be adjusted for a period longer than six months.

It may seem that Fleet Reserve transfers come about only after a series of obstacles have been hurdled and specific conditions have been met. But these requirements are necessary to maintain a degree of stability within the enlisted distribution system.

The Chief of Naval Personnel has expressed a desire to give all career Navymen the opportunity to transfer to the Fleet Reserve "when eligible and as requested." You can be assured that everyone in the Bureau is working toward this end. (NAVNEWS)

THE SEA LAWYER

by George T. Nickolas, SK 2, USN, (Ret.)

I have been asked by many of the readers of this column for additional information on the Uniformed Services Health Benefits program as it is today, including care in Uniformed Services facilities and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services, better known as CHAMPUS.

First, let us set forth who are eligible and qualify under the program. All personnel of the Uniformed Services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and of the Environmental Science Services Administration (formerly the Coast and Geodetic Survey).

Who else is eligible for medical benefits?

1. Dependents of members who are serving on active duty (or active duty for training) pursuant to a call or order that does not specify a period of 30 days or less.

2. Retired members entitled to retired, retainer, or equivalent pay.

3. Dependents of deceased active duty and deceased retired members. These are defined as the Wife; Unremarried Widow; Husband, if he is a dependent for more than one-half of his support on an active duty or retired member; Unremarried Widower; if he was dependent on the active duty or retired member at the time of her death for more than one-half of his support because of a mental or physical incapacity; Unmarried Legitimate Child, including an adopted or legitimate stepchild, under the age of 21 years regardless of whether or not they are dependent on the active duty or retired member, 21 or over, but incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that existed before the age of 21, and is (or was at the time of the member's death) dependent on the member for more than one-half of his support, or under 23, enrolled in a full time course of study in an approved institution of higher learning, and is (or was at the time of the member's death) dependent on the member for more than one-half of his support.

4. Dependent parents or parents-in-law are not eligible for civilian care, but may receive space-available care in Uniformed Service facilities. They must be (or must have been at the time of member's death) dependent on the member for more than one-half of their support and residing in a dwelling provided or maintained by the member.

How does the status of entitlement change? Change can happen in the following ways:

a. When a member's active duty period ends (for any reason other than retirement with pay or death) or he is officially placed in a desertion status, his dependents lose eligibility for care in both civilian facilities and Uniformed Services facilities as of the date the member's active duty status ceases.

b. If a retired member ceases to be entitled to retired, retainer, or equivalent pay for any reason other than death, he and his dependents are no longer eligible for medical care in either Uniformed Services or civilian facilities.

c. The dependents of a military prisoner under a sentence to a punitive discharge remain eligible for care in either Uniformed Services or civilian facilities until midnight of the day the discharge is accomplished.

In the next issue we will discuss changes in status of dependents and attaining age 65.

If you have any questions on retirement benefits or veterans benefits, just write to: George T. Nickolas: The Sea Lawyer: U.S. Army Weapons Command; ATTN: AMSWE-PPC; Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

Private donations, which are tax deductible, may be sent to the Helping Hand Foundation, 414 Jackson Square, San Francisco, Calif. 94111.



Catholic novice sisters of the Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) convent in Da Nang help YN1 Jose L. Quenga of Piti, Guam, unload 26 mattress and spring sets donated by the U.S. Naval Support Facility.

Gov't Seeks Vets For Customs Work

If you enjoy long plane flights, meeting new people and visiting foreign countries, then consider a position with the U.S. Government as a Security Officer in the Customs Service.

As an armed Security Officer, you will be on guard to detect

and prevent criminal acts aboard U.S. flag air carriers. You will experience considerable air travel, possible arduous exertion as you protect passengers, crew members and aircraft, irregular, unscheduled tours and possible risk will test your mettle. You will rotate between

extended periods of flight duty and ground assignments during which you will have the opportunity to broaden the scope of your experience in such activities as predeparture inspections of passengers, security work in connection with arriving international

passengers, and the prevention of smuggling. In doing this work you will become a full member of the customs team.

Security Officers are hired at grades GS-4, GS-5, and GS-7, depending on qualifications. If you are assigned to the New York and Newark metropolitan areas special salary rates are in effect. Due to the nature of air security officers, long air flights provide ample opportunity for paid overtime.

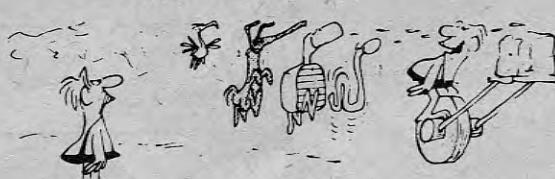
In addition to overtime, accommodations in foreign countries will be paid on an actual expense basis not to exceed \$40 per day. Should you be selected for assignment at a post of duty more than 50 miles from your home, travel and transportation costs for you and your family to that duty post will be paid.

To qualify, you must be a male, at least 21 years of age and have had two to three years

of progressively responsible experience. Applicants must obtain an eligible rating in the Junior Federal Assistant Examination or the Federal Service Entrance Examination. Candidates must be in excellent physical condition, ready to pass a rigid medical examination. Eyesight requirements include distant visual acuity of 20/70 or better in one eye and 20/40 in the other, with correction to 20/20. In addition, applicants must successfully undergo a personal background investigation, a psychological examination, and an oral interview. Appointments will depend on satisfactory completion of a four week training course at Washington, D.C.

For more details on a position as a Customs Security Officer and for information concerning appropriate exams, contact your education office.

FUN



FEATURES

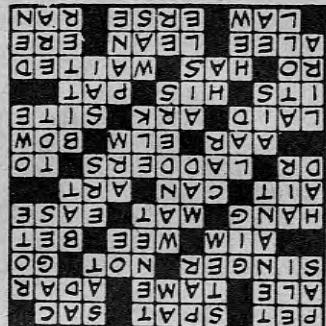


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1-Fondle
4-Quarrel
8-Algonquian Indian
11-Beverage
12-Domesticate
13-Hebrew month
15-Warbler
17-Negative
19-Proceed
20-Goal
21-Tiny
22-Wager
23-Suspend
25-Small rug
26-Comfort
27-River island
28-Container
29-Skill
30-Physician (abbr.)
31-Climbing devices
33-Preposition
35-Swiss river
36-Shade tree
37-Nod
38-Placed
40-Wooden vessel
41-Location
42-Possessive pronoun
43-Pronoun
44-Stroke
45-Artificial language
46-Possesses
47-Lingered
50-Toward shelter
52-Thin
54-Before
55-Ordinance
56-Gaelic
57-Hurried

DOWN
1-Dance step
2-Man's name
3-Occupant
4-Stalk
5-Equality
6-Part of "to be"

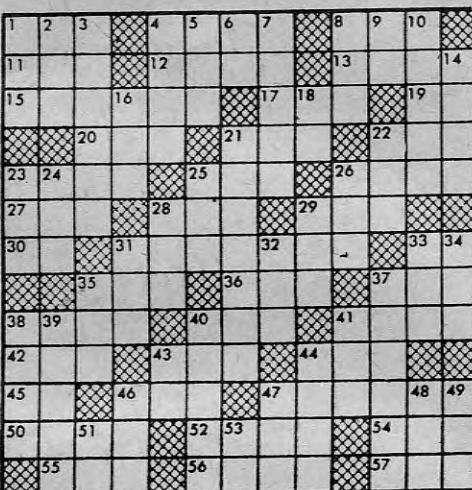


WASTE COSTS MONEY...

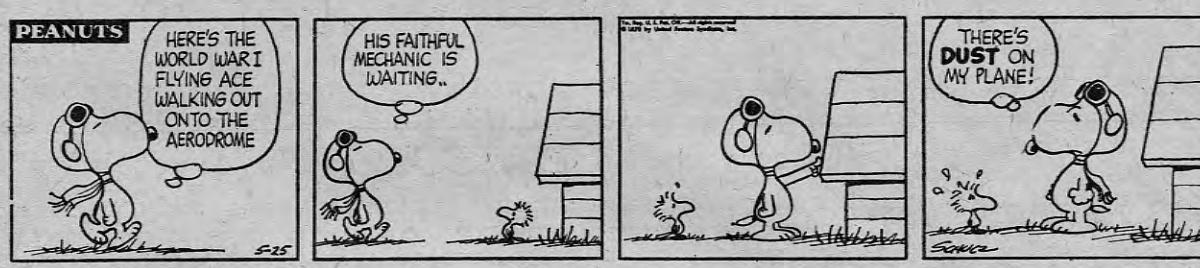
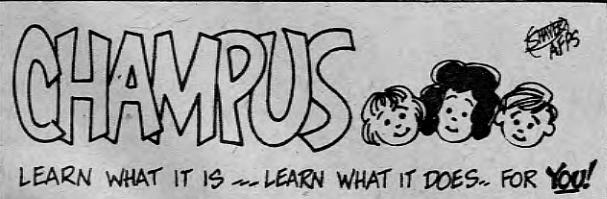


7-Doctrine
8-Posed for portrait
9-Paid notice
10-Enclosures for animals
14-Repetition
16-Two-wheeled carriage
18-Faroe Islands
whirlwind
21-Roams
22-Flying mammal
23-Possessed
24-Ventilate
25-Insane
26-Bitter vetch
28-Vehicle
29-Limb
31-Young boy
32-Antlered animal
33-Small child
34-Be in debt

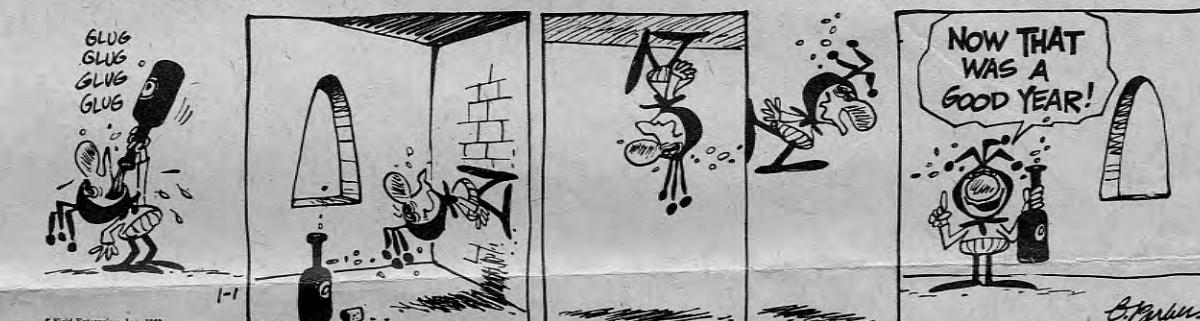
43-Exclamation
44-Sheet of glass
46-Cut
47-Existed
48-Period of time
49-Lair
51-Babylonian deity
53-Teutonic deity



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 5
For Use in Authorized Service Newspapers Only



THE WIZARD OF ID



THE WIZARD OF ID



B. C.

I HEREBY RESOLVE TO
OVERCOME MY FEAR OF WATER.



B. C.

I RESOLVE TO STOP BEATING SNAKES.



by Johnny hart

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

hart

GUAM GIVES GIFTS TO MY THO ORPHANS

An American Navymen's concern for the orphans of South Vietnam resulted in a gift of 2,000 pounds of usable clothing, food, and medicine from his home town in Guam for an orphanage at My Tho, a delta city about 30 miles south of Saigon.

HM3 Henry Guererro of Talofofo, Guam visits the orphanages of My Tho on Medical Civic Action Project teams. One orphanage, a Protestant sponsored activity, has a number of children living in foster homes under their program. A Catholic orphanage has all ages of children, from newborn to school-age. They also care for homeless aged and provide jobs for deaf-mute women there. These women sew delicately embroidered items for sale on order. Proceeds go toward paying their own

expenses at the home.

It was on a MEDCAP visit that Guererro became aware of a great need of this particular orphanage for more supplies and help in caring for the large number of its helpless, particularly the infants.

He wrote a letter home to the teen club of the Catholic church in Talofofo, Guam. They gave it to Father Timothy, priest of St. Michael's Church, who read it during a service.

The entire parish responded by collecting and boxing the requested items under a special "Project Orphans." In two weeks they gathered 2,000 pounds.

The U.S. Navy and Air Force air-lifted the supplies to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam. Thus they arrived postage free.

The goods were trucked to Dong Tam, a Naval Support Activity support base in the



A box of canned food is delivered to the My Tho orphanage with help of EM3 Ken Spouse of Lynchburg, Va. and a boy from the orphanage. (Photo by Cal Williams)

Mekong Delta. A working party of 9 men and officers drove the supplies to My Tho on

Thursday Dec. 10.

At the orphanage the men unloaded the boxes and were served refreshments after working in the heat. Sisters Emily and Josephine showed a few men who had not visited before the different wings housing children and the elderly.

The nursery was full of infants who had been left at the gate by parents unknown. Their conditions ranged from alert and healthy to barely alive. Those that survive will be part of a large family, they will grow up going to the orphanage's school across the street and become useful citizens.

Said Guererro, "Seeing those babies really made me want to do something to help. So I wrote home to St. Michael's church and the entire town helped out. We have a box of hard candy we're saving for a little Christmas party which they otherwise would not have."

Officers and men of Dong Tam contribute their time in gathering surplus supplies and personal donations. They gather up broken pieces of lumber around the base and sift through trash heaps for any usable items.

Chaplain H.T. Hiers gave this story. "One of the men wanted to buy a small camera, less

than \$10, to give to the orphanage so they might save money on the required ID photos the Sisters keep on file of every person in the orphanage. It turned out the cost of processing the film on their own would be more than their present method of having a local photographer do all the work. But at least it shows the men are interested in helping the Sisters. Any aid is welcome considering they get by on the equivalent of \$400 per year for their operation."

The men who visited the orphanage and delivered the donations were; SH2 Jeff Morrison, Amarillo, Tex., SN Rick Gargano, Corning, N.Y., SKSN Ken Spouse, Lynchburg, Va., EM3 William Yeaman, Choctaw, Okla., SF2 James Hewitt, Cleveland, Tenn., SN Denny Perz, Hammond, Ind., BT1 James Johnson, Plymouth, Mich. and HM3 Henry D. Guererro.

Also participating were Chaplain H.T. Hiers, Lieutenant Roy Smith and Lieutenant (junior grade) Edward Frey.

Any person interested in giving usable items to the My Tho orphanage may address them to Chaplain H.T. Hiers, Dong Tam, FPO In-Country 96648.



Boys and girls of the My Tho Catholic orphanage gather around one of the men of NSAD Dong Tam. Any man carrying a camera like Seaman Denny Perz of Hammond, Ind., was the center of attraction. (Photo by Cal Williams)

Blue Eagles Decorated After Five Years Service In Vietnam

By PO I.C. BOB WILLIAMS

The U.S. Navy's Western Pacific Detachment of Oceanographic Development Squadron 8 has been decorated by the Republic of Vietnam for its nearly five years of service in Vietnam as a flying radio and television network.

The Chuong-My Medal First Class, the highest Republic of Vietnam award given to foreign military units, was presented to Lt. Cmdr. John W. Desjardin, office-in-charge of the detachment, who accepted it on behalf of the men in his unit.

Presenting the award at the Ministry of Information in Saigon, on behalf of the President of the Republic, was Ngo Khac Tinh, the minister

of information.

A citation accompanying the medal praised the detachment for having "performed an outstanding service for the Vietnamese people and giving them confidence in their government in the struggle against communist aggression..."

From Feb. 7, 1966 to Sept. 30, 1970, the "Blue Eagles" (nickname of the detachment, the planes and the crewmen) brought television and radio to areas of Vietnam that ground stations could not reach.

The aircraft, with its special electronic equipment, served as airborne transmitters to relay Republic of Vietnam Government radio and television broadcasts throughout the

country.

They also brought American radio and TV entertainment to U.S. military men stationed in Vietnam.

After ground stations were completed last September, the detachment began redeploying to its homebase, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland.

Through their achievements, the citation said, the detachment "made a great contribution to the anti-communist struggle and reconstruction program of the people of the Republic of Vietnam."

In January 1969, the Blue Eagles received the Vietnamese Government's Psychological Warfare Award First Class.

