



NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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NEWPORT, R.I., Dec. 3 -- Navy Captain Charles O. Borgstrom, Jr., was promoted to his present rank and left the faculty of the Naval War College here two days ago to take command of the Navy's unique and only helicopter attack squadron.

The Arlington, Mass. native, now residing in East Greenwich, R.I., will soon command Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three (HA(L)-3 in Vietnam.

Arising from the peculiar nature of guerilla warfare in Vietnam, HA(L)-3 plays a major role in the Allied campaign to deny the Viet Cong use of the all-important waterways of the Delta.

The "Seawolves" of HA(L)-3 came into being through formal commissioning on April 1, 1967, a year after the first River Patrol Boats went into action on the treacherous Delta waterways.

It soon became apparent that quick-reaction close air support would be needed for such river operations. At first Army gunships provided assistance, but later the need for precise communications and unity of command led to the decision to form a Navy helicopter unit responsible to the River Patrol Force.

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From four detachments with eight helicopters and crews based in large urban centers along the coast or on the larger rivers, the squadron has grown to its present nine detachments, which fan out over the entire Delta to deny the enemy refuge.

Capt. Borgstrom came to the Naval War College last Fall from a combat tour in the Vietnam area where he was Air Officer of the amphibious assault ship Valley Forge (LPH-8) for one year.

At the college, the Navy's senior graduate level educational institution, Capt. Borgstrom attended the resident School of Naval Warfare for senior naval officers. He became a member of the faculty in June of this year after graduation.

Capt. Borgstrom has compiled over 5,000 hours of flight time in all types of aircraft and earned a number of awards during a 24-year Navy career.

He entered the Navy under a minority enlistment and spent almost two years as an enlisted man before becoming a Naval Aviation Cadet in January, 1949. Upon receiving his wings and commission in 1950, he was assigned to Advanced Training Unit Ten.

The Naval Aviator subsequently received lighter-than-air (LTA) training at the Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N.J., and served in LTA Squadrons One and Three.

He was a test pilot with the Chief of Naval Airship Training and Experimentation for three years, and became a qualified helicopter pilot in 1958. Duties with helicopter squadrons were with HS-6, as executive officer of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four, and as commanding officer of Helicopter Combat

Support Squadron Five. The latter two squadrons provide the helicopters and trained crews for HA(L)-3.

Among his other assignments, Capt. Borgstrom was assigned to the Antarctic Support Squadron VX-6 and participated in Deepfreeze 65 and 66 in Antarctica. Mount Borgstrom in the Antarctic was named after him for service during this period.

During his career he also served a two year tour of duty on the Commander Fleet Air Caribbean Staff in Puerto Rico, completed Aviation Safety School at the University of Southern California, and earned a degree in International Relations at the U.S. Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

Included among his awards are the Navy Unit Commendation, Antarctic Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Vietnam Service, Republic of Vietnam Campaign, and two Navy Commendation Medals. He also wears the National Defense Service Medal with a second award star.

Capt. Borgstrom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Borgstrom, Sr., of 70 Fountain Road, Arlington, Mass. He is married to the former Betty Locke, also of Arlington. They have four daughters and presently reside at 183 Hemlock Drive in East Greenwich, R.I.