

COURTESY OF
G. N. ELL DET #9 70-71

HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT) SQUADRON THREE
HA(L)-3

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1970

WOLFGRAM



CAPTAIN M. J. TWITE, JR.
COMMANDING OFFICER

The WOLFGRAM is a publication of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, HA(L)-3. It is published in accordance with NAVSO P1035 in order to keep HA(L)-3 personnel abreast of current policies, missions and activities of the Squadron.

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FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

"The dominant factor these past two months has been the critical shortage of helicopters, both gunship and combat support types. We can see daylight at the end of this dark tunnel but our recent effectiveness has been seriously hampered. There is no way around it, without sufficient helicopters the maintenance force cannot keep up with Detachment demands.

Arrangements have been made to allow us to use another model gunship (the UH-1C) in addition to our present UH-1B. This allows much more flexibility in Army supply (the U.S. Army provides our gunships) and should relieve some of the problem. On a longer term basis, we are negotiating to acquire a much newer and more powerful model. This latter model will also be compatible with the type flown by the Vietnamese Air Force and, in the months ahead when we are much more alone in-country, supply problems should be thereby greatly diminished. Replacement combat support helicopters from Navy resources has been arranged by allowing assignment of the UH-1K. This model is identical to our on-hand UH-1L's. The different designation is due to the original purpose for which they were procured, in this case the UH-1K was intended as a search and rescue vehicle.

On the personnel side of things, Christmas is a short time off. We are making arrangements for those officers and men, who would normally have been detached the last two weeks in December and the first week in January to detach early and be home for Christmas. This places an additional load on those who remain but I don't believe a man here begrudges the arrangement.

A major administrative problem in the squadron is the processing of awards. The rate at which Seawolves collect medals and citations is fantastic. The point in mentioning this is to note the continuing outstanding performance which generates the problem and to say that I'm proud that we have it. The war may be slacking off for some here in Vietnam, but not for the Seawolves."



M. J. TWITE, Jr.
Captain, U.S. Navy

DETACHMENT ONE
(SOLID ANCHOR)

Happy Halloween to all from "Commando" SCHMITT's Commandos. Det 1 has demonstrated outstanding initiative in observing holidays and is suppassed by none. Thanks to a dangerous SEAL team mission, Det 1 has it's very own Jack-O-Lantern.

Things are Helter-skelter at Solid Anchor. Seawolf International Airport is nearing completion with rumors of full VNFAA facilities in the near future.

On the social calendar, "Wolf Den" plans to hold Open House in early December to highlight the Yule-Tide season. The head SEABEE, LTJG Charlie "Carpenter" COLLINS, will be Master of Ceremonies. Charlie logs both flight time and carpenter time and no one has gotten more hours yet.

Commander "Uncle Art" SCHMITT recently returned from a rumored secret mission. After a long interrogation, it was divulged that Hong Kong had been the target. The Commander hasn't told any stories, so we'll assume that all information regarding the trip is classified Naval Intelligence.

All great things must come to an end. Such was the case with FTL's LTJG Ray WIKSTROM, LTJG Rich LAMBERT, LTJG Mike SULDO, and LTJG Ted DOOLIN. Det 1 is slowly recovering from the loss of possibly some of the finest young Naval Aviators in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula.

LTJG SULDO is very short and is anticipating becoming a married man in December. It's rumored to be "the" social function of the year in Kissimmee, Florida. Lots of luck in your new partnership and at HC-6. We'll miss "Suds", alias Seawolf 10.

"Sleezy Rider" (LTJG WIKSTROM) left babbling "Reno, Reno" and was anticipating checking into HS-7. We pity the "O" Club at Quonset having to listen to Ray's war stories.

LTJG "Max Gross" Rich LAMBERT left us in early October, Rich is now on the "Brown Water" Navy speaking tour before reporting to HS-4, Imperial Beach, and is thoroughly enjoying inserting a few war stories of his own.

LTJG Ted DOOLIN is back at beautiful downtown Binh Thuy after R&R in Australia. Ted left many broken hearts among the local populace. On with the People to People Program! Applause, Applause!

Back from a second trip to Hawaii, LTJG Mike "Muscles" LAGOW, has yet another movie of "Mike Jr. at the beach". The proud papa now has documented evidence of the future Dick BUTKUS destined for stardom at the Naval Academy.

New AHAC's LT Jim PETROVICH and LTJG Carl NELSON, are rapidly becoming the most feared in the Delta. Well, at least the co-pilots are nervous.

LCDR Scott "Flash" GORDON is closing out a devastating career at Det 1.

He is on his way to Det 7 to lead those young men to bigger and brighter things. Good Luck at Det 7 Scotty.

The hottest news at Solid Anchor is Det 1's volleyball team. After a long deliberation, co-captains were selected. ATN3 OLBY and AO3 SMALE are the lucky pair. The two were selected because of their machine-like teamwork. What OLBY lacks in speed, SMALE more than compensates for with his two left hands.

AN ELTMAN has been following ADJ3 CHRISTENSON around like a shadow the past few weeks. Since "Chris" is the grey beard gunner on the Det, ELTMAN figures he'll learn to be almost as good by osmosis.

LTJG Terry "Beast" WALDBEESER is rapidly acquiring a flight-time hog reputation since his recent designation as FTL. It's rumored that Beast has had calling cards printed for all out-posts in the Delta saying "Have Gunship, Will Travel".

AMS1 WHITE and AMSC REYNA are now spreading the good word about Det 1 Warriors in Binh Thuy. Thanks WHITE and Chief REYNA for doing such a fine job on our personal - response program.

AN LOCKE and AE2 DOBSON are busy breaking in the new gunners of Det 1. Although it's not really a part of the program, LOCKE's many tales of heroism and those marvelous twin-60's are the most painful part of the training lectures. DOBSON, now back from leave, can add a couth lecture to the new men.

Since the last Wolfgram, Det 1 has had a large turnover in its personnel. We welcome our new OINC, LCDR Duane STEINER. LCDR STEINER reports aboard with a B.S. in War, being a recent graduate of the War College.

Also Det 1 says welcome aboard to new co-pilots, LT Rudy "Overspeed" DEATLEY, LT Don "Curly" THOMSON, LTJG Al "Wisemen" GEORGE, LTJG Earl "Duke" SHAUT, and LTJG Ken "Pecker" WOOD. The new crewmen are, AO1 STARK; new POIC, AOAN WOODRUFF, AN MELENDEZ, and AN KLAIVON. We're now probably the youngest, yet still the most handsome detachment in the Delta.

And in closing, a passing word from Commander SCHMITT, our former Det OINC who left us in November.

"After six long hard months I take my leave from Det 1. The association I have had with the outstanding officers and men of the detachment will be a long and lasting memory."

"The people back home can be proud of these men who have worked so hard to make this Det the best in the Delta."

"I would like to thank Det 3 and Det 6 for the fine relationship and the many professional OPS we pulled together."

"I will never forget the experiences I have had with this Det. Thanks guys for your support and hard work." Love, "Uncle Art"

Bye Uncle Art, we wish the best to you at your new squadron, HS-10.

DETACHMENT TWO
(NHA BE)

"Hang my heart and split my spleen, Happy Halloween!" Detachment TWO will take time out from trick or treating the local VC to chronicle the happenings of the last two months. The Rung Sat Special Zone, known by the French as "The Forest of the Assassins", is our home in Vietnam. The Seawolves work out of the Logistical Support Base at Nha Be. Our missions include cover for the Long Tau shipping channel connecting Saigon with the South China Sea, rapid reaction support for the Vietnamese villages and outposts in the Rung Sat, and close air support for the land and waterborne stationed here. The detachment operates with a wide variety of allied personnel: Vietnamese RF companies with U.S. Marine advisors, U.S. SEAL teams, Vietnamese PRU's, and elements of our "Brown Water Navy". As one might expect, our flying is extremely diversified.

The two months that have elapsed since our last publication have been characterized by the appearance of new faces and the departure of familiar ones, increased training and qualifications, well earned leaves and R&R's, the presentation of numerous awards, and of course the continued struggle against VC and NVA guerrillas. The detachment said farewell to CDR ARTUSO, our OINC for the past six months. "The Godfather" will return to Binh Thuy to assume the responsibilities of Operations Officer. CDR ARTUSO turned over the reins to CDR BRIGGS in a Hail and Farewell party in their honor. CDR BRIGGS reported aboard from Postgraduate School at Monterey, California. The detachment extends to him a hearty "Welcome Aboard".

The detachment was honored by a visit by Captain TWITE on 28 October. Seventeen medals and one letter of commendation were presented at an award's ceremony on that date. CDR ARTUSO received his first Strike/Flight Air Medal. LT Clint DAVIE received a Single Action Air Medal for a heroic night emergency medical evacuation of a seriously wounded SEAL. ADJAN James WALL returned to the detachment after a month's recuperation period. Airman WALL was wounded in a firefight at the beginning of October. Captain TWITE presented him a Purple Heart and his first Strike/Flight Air Medal. "The Texas Scrapper" refused recuperation leave in Japan so that he could rejoin the detachment as soon as possible. All hands were relieved at his return. LT DAVIE, AMS3 Fred MEEKS and AN WALL were each awarded a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry in a Vietnamese ceremony at Tac Ong Hghia. The medals recognized the bravery and professionalism of these Seawolves during their support of a Vietnamese PRU unit engaged with a sizeable VC force. Navy Commendation Medals were presented to LTJG Charlie FOWINKLE, ADJ1 Red FAIRBANKS, AMS3 Fred MEEKS, and AMS3 Steve DONNELL for their heroism in support of both U.S. SEAL teams and Vietnamese RF Companies. First Strike/Flight Air Medals were awarded to LT GOODRICH, LT GILBERT, LT MOSS, LTJG PETERSON, LTJG VOSSETEIG, LTJG LOVERING, LTJG LOWE, AE2 PETERS, AE3 PRYBYLSKI, and ATAN MILLER. AE3 PRYBYLSKI received a Letter of Commandation in recognition of his action during a helicopter accident at Binh Thuy. Well Done to all hands for the efforts that went into the earning of these awards.

Routine occurrences round out this month's news. LT Roger EK claimed, "There's no way I can go back to Binh Thuy," but Rog is presently "back" having returned to Binh Thuy 23 October. We'll miss Roger's melodic renditions of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep", but his performance is recorded on tape for posterity's (and blackmail's) sake. Roger's "think tank" is sure to be occupied by LT Bill GILBERT, the det's expert on everything. Rumors are circulating that the Cubi Point Officer's Club christened their CARQUAL sled "The Dilbert Dunker" in his honor after he attended survival school there. LT Bob GOODRICH is a budding orthodontist since accompanying a MEDCAP team on their rounds through the Rung Sat.

Qualifications and training have continued at a steady tempo. LTJG's Dave RUCKER, Jim NELLIS, Gordie PETERSON, and Charlie FOWINKLE all made fire team leader. Jim has returned to Binh Thuy for a billet in the Personnel section of Admin. He shoved off from Nha Be on 10 October after an enjoyable R&R in Hawaii with his wife. LTJG Craig "Somnolence Actual" VOSSETEIG made aircraft commander in September and will soon be the detachment's test pilot. Dog lovers throughout the Delta will be pleased to have access to Craig's supply of tick powder. Craig cornered the market after discovering three ticks in his beard one morning. LTJG RUCKER bids farewell to the Wolves 1 December. He has orders to HC-6. Our det was fortunate to receive three hard chargers from Binh Thuy. LT Tom MOSS, LTJG Duke LOVERING, and LTJG Gary LOWE checked in to the det last month. Tom has already endeared himself to our Marine advisors on base with his vivid portrayals of the Wild Man of Borneo.

The det greeted the return of its world travelers recently. ADJ1 Red FAIRBANKS and ADR3 Larry ROGERS were sorely missed while they were on their 30 day extension leave. Petty Officer ROGERS was injured by a .50 cal hang-fire sustained while supporting a PRU unit in contact, but he has recovered quickly. AMS3 MEEKS, AMS3 DONNELL, and ADJAN SLAWKO all enjoyed their R&R in "The Land Down Under". Petty Officers MEEKS, DONNELL, and PRYBYLSKI completed their tour 1 November. Both MEEKS and DONNELL will be discharged upon their return to CONUS, but PRYBYLSKI will report to VA-165. Another recent departure saw ADJ3 Randy LINDBERG proclaim, "Civilian line is mighty fine" as he returned to receive his discharge in the States. AE2 PETERS qualified as first gunner in October. Working towards that goal are AO2 HUBER, ATAN MILLER, and AEAN "Grumpy" GRINSTAD. The detachment is rebuilding the core of hard working crewmen and gunners. All the men have earned a vote of thanks for the many long hours they put in on the job. Their performance has consistently been outstanding. The outline of the men silhouetted against a rising or setting sun while working on the aircraft is a familiar sight.

Det TWO would like to express its thanks to its "Rent a Helo" detachment to the west. Please try harder though; there were cigarette butts in the ashtrays last month!

DETACHMENT THREE
(CA MAU)

Greetings from Ca Mau and Det 3. The last two months have been interesting. A rather subdued adjective to describe the events which have transpired. Det 3 has, at one time or another, been without any aircraft, one aircraft, and even - believe it or not - two aircraft, with which to carry out its mission. We have seen a 40% turn-over of personnel, a consistently random shuffling of aircraft to other Dets, and general confusion as to whom we really serve.

LCDR FIELD returned to the promised land to help anchor the Ops team, and LT Tom HEINZELMAN was elected to fill his shoes as OINC. LTJG Bill "Wee Willie" WHEAT got so short that he's gone, and should be joining HC-5 shortly. LTJG Jim THOMSON and LTJG "Buzz" SMITH both made AHAC, and enjoyed (is there any other way) R&R. Buzz, however, mixed in a wedding ring with his R&R and keeps saying "it's great", etc., ad infinitum. The bachelors just sigh and shake their heads, throwing in an occasional taunt for appearances.

Anyone for a quiz?... Which det stood outside the Binh Thuy gate for 2½ hours on MPC conversion day, looking like embarrassed POW's when the Head Beagle strolled by? One guess! That was around the time when Bill WHEAT and our top .50 man, AN "Deadrock" LIVINGSTONE were reluctantly returned to the U.S. of A.

LTJG Bob "Snoopy" BARATKO was recalled to Binh Thuy and shortly thereafter contracted hepatitis. A bad break for a really heads up FTL. All of Det 3 wishes you a speedy recovery, Bob, and feels fortunate to have had you with us. We also welcomed aboard LT Melvin "Baldy" HOWELL, LT Tom "Baldy" PADON, LTJG Mark "I can get it for you wholesale" MIZEL, LTJG Rick FRENCH (transferred from Det 5), AE3 PAGAN (another ex-Det 5er), AN SZYMANSKI, and lastly AN "Baldy", or "Beetle" BAILEY. Notice the abundance of Baldy's? Well, that's another story, seems there was a celebration, the occasion being irrelevant to the story. During the height of the festivities an unidentified member of the Army bet that the "Wolves" wouldn't have the nerve to shave their heads, as one of his sergeants had. Really showed 'em, didn't you Tom H., and Tom P.? "Beetle" BAILEY did it for free!

Rick FRENCH made the scene in his custom tailored beard, and sent the U.S. Army into convulsions. The problem has been resolved (we think) and the beard and Rick have stayed on. LTJG Mike "Suds" SULDO was originally to transfer to Det 3, but with great determination, managed to get a Purple Heart and a rest at Third Surg. No matter what others say, it's not that bad here, Suds. That really hurt - didn't it?

Det 3 has been the "Avis Rent-A-Det" of the Delta. The only place we haven't staged is the U Minh forest, and that is almost as secure as some of the sites. And there was the night everyone was worried about Charlie hitting Ca Mau, Det 4 scrambled from Ben Luc to Ca Mau: reaction time 1.8 hours, and they didn't wait to pack any traveling bags. The word

"scramble" seems to do that to Seawolves. LTJG Tom HAYES (S/W 48) kept asking "Where's your Volleyball court?" Well Tom, it's a cinch you didn't get spoiled while you were visiting us. Understand your gunners really enjoyed staging at old Song Ong Doc! Security is not their forte.

LTJG Dennis "Pops" ANDERSON made FTL just in time to make this edition of the Wolfgram, and dissipated most of his short-timer, hand-wringing attitude. AE3 CONNOR left for ComCivPac and in doing so, deprived us of our top 60 gunner. AOAN "Boy-San" NELSON and AN "Ski" (what else) SZYMANSKI each qualified for a door, bring up the force to five qualified gunners. Help!

DETACHMENT FOUR (BEN LUC)

Greetings from the boredom capitol of South Vietnam, beautiful, exotic(?) Ben Luc. Det 4 wishes to expend its best regards to those dets who have not had the opportunity to be visited by our specially trained crew of migrant mercenaries and itinerant airplane drivers.

Det 4, under the new management of LCDR CALDWELL, has passed all the competition in the local rent-a-plane field, and has extended its AO to cover from Tay Ninh to Solid Anchor, and can strike with equal facility in any direction creating confusion among enemy and friendly troops alike.

The new Seawolf 45 is firmly in command now and can be seen daily exercising his control on the volleyball court.

LT Pete NAVONE has found his way to the Giant Slingshot from Confusion Central and is on the verge of supplanting Tom RIBOLLA as the world famous Seawolf 45. Tom will be going to the Pandemonum Palace to become ASO. Those of us who know and love him feel he would be a greater asset as Awards Officer. He has been heard to say, "I know how you can get an Air Medal, cheap."

LTJG Dave "Weird Harold" BLACK has managed to cheat Binh Thuy out of its just deserts and will get to spend his entire tour here on Det with his aircraft.

By the time this Wolfgram hits the streets (after being read) LTJG Tom "Slick" HAYES will be no more than a fading memory as he takes off to join other famous and well known Seawolves in HS-8.

Denny ROWLEY has gone to Hong Kong where he became engaged and, much to the glee of all who know him, hasn't been the same since. Only the inimitable full body pressed against his mattress identifies him as the same "Big Kid".

Our bevy of faithful copilots boasts such members as Jim "Cheap Charlie" CHURCH, complete with "lip Beard" and the only operating water purification plant and modern sculpture.

Gary KITCHEN, ace spiker of the Det volleyball team, and flying fool, is so busy piling up flight time that he hasn't had time to wonder whether his AHAC papers or flight booking will arrive first.

Bob GANNON, the local recorder of historical events, such as flights, has been crying for relief from all his clerical work which takes every waking moment between 2 and 4 PM every third Thursday.

AMS1 Bill RUDDICK and his band of merry men are as busy as ever with their hobby of restoring antique helicopters to operating condition.

"Goldy" GOLDBIN has returned to Det 4 after a brief trip to the world where he was recuperating from a wound in the foot. There has been no permanent damage, but his tap dancing is still a little off beat.

"Goose" ENNIS was seen (that is, we think it was him) for the first time in a complete uniform on the occasion of a visit from his father who is working in Vinh Long.

Norm HAYNES has become the recipient of the RICHARD MACE MEMORIAL AWARD for excellence in anti-aircraft fire. LTJG Bob "Bullet Magnet" GANNON was once again the official judge.

George LEDUC has single handedly devised a new weapon - a minigun that shoots backwards. We have not yet found a tactical use for the weapon, but it may be valuable to us if we can get the VC to capture it.

The twinkle toes twins of big time sports at Ben Luc, ATAN Mike MURPHY and ADR3 Zorro ZERAGOZA have been dominating championship play on the local courts as well as flying in their off hours.

AN Jim COPELAND has taken over the cherished spot of "newbie" and all the attendant duties that go with that position.

On the distaff side, our Mama San, sweetheart of the Delta that she is, continues in her never ending efforts to make Vietnam a true home away from home.

Thus I bid one and all a fond farewell as I return to my demanding duties
of fighting this war and trying to remain awakezzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz...

DETACHMENT FIVE
(CHAU DOC)

Direct from Chau Doc, right out of the mind of a courageous door gunner with a sprained back comes a few inspirations of happiness.

Departures, arrivals, and missing in Chau Doc include: CDR MUNRO; LT Ben FRANKLIN; LTJG's Frank ISSI, Dick KRULIS and gunners ROGOSKI, FANELLO, LA CHAPPELLE, TROXEL, ZURFLUH, HILLIS; LTJG's PERKINS, SCHMID, TROUP and LT BARR, the first six departing - the last eight arriving and all missing in Chau Doc at one time or another. In charge of condensing, collating, and controlling this cream of the crop of newbies is Newbie Actual LCDR KEHRLI (that's KEHRLI as in CURLY).

As for action in our illustrious A.O. - November has been R&R month for our three VC. Aside from the fact that we've had one or no birds for ninety percent of the period 21 OCT to 21 NOV, inclusive --- things have been jumping. We've scrubbed the flight deck, painted the ammo cans, and drained sumps on the bird we had --- when we had it!

As the waters of the Bassac River continued to rise they brought a flood of new Seawolves to Det 5. Our new gunners are AN James "Frenchie" LACHAPPELLE, soon to be advanced to ABH3 and AE2 Bill TROXEL. One of our new pilots is LT Lew MADDEN, on his second tour in RVN, who has taken charge of our aircraft maintenance. LT Dick BARR is also on his second tour in Vietnam; his previous tour was also in HA(L)-3. Dick is our new Assistant OINC. LTJG J.W. (Jaybird) PERKINS and LTJG Paul SCHMID complete the lineup of new arrivals.

To gain all this fine talent we have had to part with a few "Old Hands". LT Lou BURNS departed for Point Mugu. LTJG Pat MCGOVERN is in route to HS-11. LTJG Rick FRENCH completed his latest film production and is off to Pensacola, Florida. LT Ben FRANKLIN was recalled to Binh Thuy where his many talents are being used. AO3 PAGAN left us to fly Sealords at Binh Thuy and ADJ2 LANG was transferred to Det 8 to gun.

Our thanks to the "Oldees" for an outstanding contribution to Det 5 and our best wishes to each one for success in his new assignment.

DETACHMENT SIX
(OFF SONG ONG LOC)

Being the victims of urban renewal, Det 6 has once again packed its bags and moved back to the GARRETT COUNTY (its home of 8 months ago). The GARRETT COUNTY will be the new home for both living and flight operations, and we would like to thank the officers and men for their quick reception to a rather sudden move. You might say that we just literally dropped in on them. It has been an opportunity for old timers, LCDR Vic BECK (66 Emetrious) and LTJG Bob (Flamboyant) FLYNN to renew some old friendships and create some new animosities.

Once again Det 6, proving themselves to be innovators, has come up with a HA(L)-3 first - its very own Det plaque.

Following our fearless leader, LCDR Dick DANIELS, LTJG's Bob GODDARD, Bob FLYNN, and AT1 George (Pappy) VALDESPINO, ADJ3 Hank SEEMAN, have all entered Doc VASQUEZ's Optimology Ward; after knocking down bookcases, hat racks and numerous other immovable objects, the problem finally came to light as the A.M. positively identified LCDR Dick DANIELS' pupils as a section of Northwest Arizona. We wish all a speedy recovery.

In the department of Hail and Farewell, we welcome aboard LT Bob, the Super Scrambler, PEARSON; LTJG Paul, Here's the way it really happened, WATTERS; LTJG John, the Magnet, FARR; and LTJG Bob, "I didn't know that", TURUNEN. New gunners are ADJAN STEELE and AMS3 Ray HERNE.

A fond farewell goes to LTJG's John DICKINSON and Bob WOLFE, and AN Jonnie Red CUMMINS and AMS3 Dan STOKES. We wish fair winds and following seas at their new duty stations.

DETACHMENT SEVEN
(DONG TAM)

Det 7 is finally and firmly established in Dong Tam. We have managed to establish good relations with our area advisors and the people aboard the APL 30. LCDR PEEPLES, Det OINC, is getting short now. He'll be leaving for the world early in November. LT Howie CLARK left for Pensacola the first of the month. Howie will be instructing at HT-8 and attending classes at the University of West Florida. His timely exit came just before our move from Ben Luc, but LT Norm HICKS was on hand to take over as Ass't OINC and keep things under control. The Dynamic Di We Duo was not broken up for long before LT Chet HARRISON arrived on the scene. Now the Duo soars through the skies of South Vietnam once again. LTJG Denny HOLMES, destined for HS-2, made his exit late in October.

The Great Organizer, LTJG Tim ZEMER, came through with a burst of energy never before seen in the Delta as the Det completed its move to Dong Tam. Tim still has his energy in the form of a "Let's get it all done now" attitude. LTJG Terry ANDERSON and LTJG John WARNER are planning to produce a Det film sometime in the future. At least they have already purchased their blank film. LTJG Kirk "Leroy" TODD is kept busy these days checking with everyone to make sure they know their names.

Anyone in the area that would like to see our new spaces, just stop in. We'll be glad to show you around.

DETACHMENT EIGHT
(RACH GIA)

Greetings from the beautiful seaside resort of Rach Gia, home away from home for all Det 8 Seafarers. Significant happenings in the past two months include an extensive turnover of personnel along with numerous advancements and achievements.

LT Marty REED and LTJG Jim CURTIS were called back to Binh Thuy after successfully competing the Det 8 course in advanced helicopter ballistics (better known as, "how to avoid them there flying objects"). LTJG John MONROE is back in CONUS with HS-8, much to his delight.

John BAZAN advanced to ADJ1 and consequently was transferred to that great R&R center, Det 2. ADJ3 Dave FARLEY is now training gunners for the Sealords, Delta Taxi Service Supreme.

New arrivals to our illustrious group include Dale JORDAN, now a full Lieutenant, and LTJG's O.C. FOWER and Tom PARRETT. All three are vigorously studying navigational maps in order to prevent their pilots from becoming, shall we say, disorientated. ADJAN Harvey BREEN is finding that a great deal of training is necessary to become a proficient gunner.

Clear the skies and batten down the hatches for we have two new Attack Helicopter Aircraft Commanders (AHAC) in LTJG's Rick FENN and Jim FARRAR, the former also being a newly designated test pilot. LTJG Kevin DELANEY is now roaming over Kien Giang Province as a full fledged Fire Team Leader (FTL). Mike MADRID made ATN3 and Second Gunner, while AEL Russ UNDERWOOD became a First Gunner. ADR3 Cliff WEST and AN Tom JACKSON have qualified as Second Gunners. AMH3 "Lash" L'HEUREUX would feel left out if it wasn't mentioned that he had a great time in the Philippines.

LCDR WEBER and his crew wish all Det 8 dependents a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

DETACHMENT NINE
(YRBM-21 - PHOUC XUYEN - MOC HOA - BEN LUC)

The nomadic warriors of Det 9 have at last settled - once more. We're nestled aboard YRBM-21, precisely where we started from. Known locally as Nguyen's Intra-Delta Transfer Company, Family Moving Service and Cumshaw Inc., Det 9 was staging from ATSB Phouc Xuyen until the mosquitoes mysteriously departed and left the place bearable. Everyone knows that one must suffer somewhat to fight a good war, so off we went to Jules Verne City - Moc Hoa. The Army had been kind enough to construct a cute little bunker adjacent to the runway, so we had immediate occupancy. Thence came forty days and forty nights of rain. We solemnly watched the inch-by-inch progress of the water. Slowly it crept into the revetments, lapped its way into the rocket CONEXs, slithered into the fuel pits, and finally, with utter disregard for 18 stoic airdales, charged into our bunker. Alas, our fate was sealed (when we had to use a boat to get to the aircraft). Next, a somewhat half-hearted move to

Ben Luc occupied our efforts. In spite of Det 7's help, the move was not to be permanent. So, now we're back in our big grey home on the Mekong.

In the midst of this subdued pandemonium, LT Terry CAMPBELL relieved LCDR Hugh WYNN. A couple of weeks later LT CAMPBELL was relieved by LCDR Dick STRAND as our new guiding light. After six and a half years at Lakehurst, New Jersey, Mr. STRAND is adapting to the nomadic existence of Det 9. LT CAMPBELL, alias "Straw Boss" and LTJG Mitch "but I don't really check the skids for hand grenades" BROWN went to Hawaii together for R&R. They had the same flight date and had reservations at the same hotel. NOTE: The author's editorial comment of the above situation was struck by the OINC. LTJG Jack HOGAN is too busy yelling "I'm next, I'm next" to hear much of anything lately. He can be found slithering about the flight deck like a lizard soaking up the sun. LTJG Tim WRIGHT and LTJG Ed DYER are both looking forward to a Fire Team Leader exam, but neither can study enough. Mr. WRIGHT has developed a serious case of Hong Kong channel fever, the symptoms of which are known to us all. a wicked smile, a trembling about the wallet, and some miscellaneous mutterings. Mr. DYER is trying to shake the post-JEST school blues. In an attempt to tell us about Olongapo he said, "Golly, gee whiz, they don't have anything that neat-even in Omaha." LTJG Bob MANGENE, our own right-wing fanatic and wine taster, had a few bad moments this month. Left with the maintenance responsibilities, he battled a host of problems. Understandably upset, he attacked aircraft 323 with his survival knife to deal it a fatal blow - but his knife wasn't sharp enough to scratch the plexiglass. LTJG Tom (War Story Acutal) DAVIS is slaving over the logbooks. Our newest pilot, LT Skip SOPER, is surprised at the lull in activity here. We've explained that both VC in our area are on in-country R&R at Vung Tau. Last, and probably least, LT "Gentle" Ben FRANKLIN, a Det 9 trained warrior, broke away from rubber-stamping award submissions long enough to help us as a team fire team leader.

Det 9's question of the month: What LCDR in HA(L)-3 has "Dickie Poo" stenciled on his helmet bag? Stand by for next month's clue.

Now that Det 9 (the Allied Van Lines of Northern IV Corps) has finally settled back at YRBM-21, we can all try to sort out our gear which has been shuffled, moved and misplaced during our 37 moves in the last two months. Our POINC, AS1 Bill SIMPSON, got back from Hawaii. What a difference a week makes. He looks 15 years younger and smiles a whole lot more now. Must be due to the fresh air and sunshine. AE2 "but nobody is really from Guam" ROSARIO and AMS2 Harold OREM are really living high on the hog. As the two most highly touted poker players since Bart and Bret Maverick, they're really making a killing on our sweet and lovable NSA types. After making third, ADJ3 John PERRY celebrated by going to JEST school. He survived Olongapo and has many fond memories of the place. Det 9 has a new mascot now. We acquired an ugly monkey called Luke. The unofficial monkey keeper is AO3 Buzz LANDY. They make a good team - the only trouble is telling one from the other. Our old newbie, ADJ3 GUPTAITIS, is coming on strong now. As soon as Gup finds the gear he dropped into the Vam Co Tay River from 800 feet he'll be in great shape. Our new SAOD (Senior Airman on Det) is AMSAN Gary ELY. He isn't letting this important post go to his head. As a matter of fact, he's much too busy training our newbie, AEAN SOLOMON. All you can hear from the flight deck is "now this is a helicopter; this is a gun; this is a bullet..."



(ANOTHER SAFETYWOLF PLAGIARISM)

HOW CUM?

SAFETY

Did you ever see a bird have an accident?

Some birds make pretty weird landings. That's DESIGN ERROR.

Birds get smashed by hail, thunderstorms, etc., but that's WEATHER FACTORS.

A bird with a broken wing can't fly, but that has to be a MAINTENANCE FAILURE.

And of course the mother bird may push the youngster out of the nest too soon. Call that SUPERVISORY ERROR.

What I mean is the plain, old garden variety BIRD ERROR accident. Like a bird fails to pay attention to what he's doing and flies right into a tree trunk. Or he gets so engrossed in looking at something that he quits flapping his wings and goes crashing to the ground.

Why is it then that this lowly creature, who can't read, can't reason and can't benefit from other birds' experience and who knows only what instinct and his mama taught him, goes through life without having accidents?

And why is it that us thinking, reasoning, superior, intelligent human critters do?

ADMIN

As was aptly prophesied in the last edition of the Wolfgram, the Administrative Department has made one more of its superb turnovers.

Welcome aboards and hearty farewells go to following officers and men.

LT ARENDAS took over as Personnel Officer from LT HARRISON and he hasn't been seen since. Someone mentioned that he's in the Philippines going to one of those Navy Schools? LT HARRISON reported to Det 7 and we understand he's doing quite a job there.

LTJG NELLIS came to us from Det 2 and is serving as Asst. Personnel Officer. He's marking time until his DEROS date in December when he'll be going to HC-6 in Norfolk.

LTJG TROIANO took over the reins of the Public Affairs Office from LTJG MIZEL who went to Det 3. Mr. TROIANO is still wondering whose affairs he should make public.

LTJG GASH is the new First Lieutenant but this change was tricky. LTJG SHAUT went happily off to Det 1. LTJG HINMAN took over but was soon relieved by Mr. GASH who had returned from emergency leave in CONUS. But then Mr. HINMAN wasn't going to Det right away so he was made BOQ Officer, taking over from LTJG LENTNER who had relieved LTJG THOMSON (he went to Det 1). Now Mr. LENTNER needed a job, so he became Special Services Officer, but Mr. HINMAN is now at Det 6 and LTJG LENTNER is both Special Services and BOQ Officer. And Operations think they have problems.

LT FRANKLIN relieved LTJG FELLNER as Awards Officer. Mr. FELLNER went to HC-4 at Lakehurst and Mr. FRANKLIN came to us from Det 5, just stopping by until December when he leaves for HC-6.

LTJG WOOD went down to Det 1, and LTJG BEHM took over his duties as Classified Material Control Officer/Postal Officer/Assistant Awards Officer.

LTJG ZIEGLER was with us for a short time as ESO Officer but recently departed for Det 2. LTJG FARR, the old ESO Officer, went off to Det 6 where he recently was involved in that well-publicized urban renewal project.

CDR STRANGE, after serving as the Administrative Officer, will be departing in December for recruiting duty in New York. LCDR ROY will take over as the Administrative Officer.

A few more changes include: the arrival of YN2 FANT from Legal and the departures of YN1 GRINDSTAFF and YN1 LA BRAKE. After leave GRINDSTAFF will report to VF 162 Miramar, California, and LA BRAKE was to report to the USS ENTERPRISE (CVAN-65) wherever she may be, but he decided to report to COMFAIR, NAS, Miramar, California, also. Take it YN's don't like sea duty.

To all who have left us, we wish good luck and clear sailing in the future and thanks for a job well done.

PERSONNEL

Since our last Wolfram entry, LT Chet HARRISON went to Det 7. Chet was relieved by LT Wayne ARRENDAS as Personnel Officer. Wayne comes to HA(L)-3 from NAS Glynco, Georgia. On the 27th of October, Wayne went to Cubi Point, Philippines, for Career Counseling School. Wayne's assistant in Personnel is LTJG Jim NELLIS, who is already feeling the strain but continues to hold up under the load. Jim, just came back to the squadron from Det 2. With his fiery red beard he repeatedly helps uphold the colorful image of the Personnel Department.

Another big changeover took place in the Educational Services Office. LTJG John FARR on his way to Det 6 handed the reins of office to LTJG Bill ZIEGLER. As ESO Bill leaps around the office with a sword in one hand and pencil in the other still contemplating which is the mightier. As of this writing Bill now knows which is the more influential as well as mighty. Bill comes to the squadron from HT-8.

LTJG Don THOMPSON turned his job over to LTJG Russ LENTNER as Special Services Officer; Don is now down at Seawolf Det 1. Russ came to HA(L)-3 from the Training Command at HT-8. On any given day Russ can be found charging around the squadron, notes in hand muttering about plaques, funds and equipment.

Another change in personnel occurred recently when PN2 FARIS relieved PN2 HOPKEY as ESO Yeoman. HOPKEY is now industriously banging away at the typewriter in the Legal Department. Two more newbies here in Personnel are PN1 CUMMINGS and PN3 PURSEL. With typewriter clacking away and the waiving of pens and swords, a flashing red beard, muttered phrases and the beautiful music of Andre Kostelanitz in the background we leave the Personnel Department for another two months.

OPERATIONS

Since our last report many old names have been erased from the blackboard in Operations and new ones have been added. Sealord Airlines has expanded considerably with the addition of three new "K" models.

LCDR Jim CALDWELL, who was Assistant Operations Officer, has left us to take charge of Det 4. Our loss was also our gain as we now have LT Harry ISHIGURO to keep the ball rolling. LT Dick BARR and his faithful assistant, LT Skip SOPER, have now been separated, as they went to Det 5 and Det 9, respectively.

LCDR FIELDS has assumed the duties of Training Officer as LCDR Dick STRAND reported to Det 9 as OINC. LTJG FEOLA has departed for Imperial Beach, along with LTJG Bill BELTZ, to enjoy some of the finer things in life.

LTJG Ray WAITS has had a considerably large load lifted from his shoulders as LTJG Mike REID has stepped in to help him on the schedule board and LTJG David CONNELL has relieved him as Survival Officer.

LTJG Jay PERKINS who just returned from R&R in the Philippines is now attached to Det 5. LT Bob ROLGERS, who comes to us from the Pensacola SAR unit, is in charge of Logs and Records, with LTJG Sam DENNARD as his hard riding, fast talking side kick and assistant.

LT Marty REED, our Assistant Training Officer, has orders for a Naval Air Station in Nevada. He is being relieved by LTJG Spencer ROBBINS who came to us from NAS Jacksonville, by way of St Louis where he managed to get engaged before departing the U.S.

LTJG Rick LAUSTEN, whose main job consists of keeping the J.Q.'s lounge squared away, has LTJG Joe LOVE to help him now in the Air Intelligence Department. LTJG Terry OGLE has left the Navigation Board and reported to Det 8. He says he'd rather see the Delta first hand.

We would like to say so long to AMS3 BRYANE who is now living at home as a civilian, and a welcome aboard to ATN3 STROBEL as he prepares for the radio watch. AN MATHAE has reported back to OPS after a short tour in the Medical Department. AN CHICK is still with us but he has heard how departed ATN2 EVANS has switched from rotor head to stove pipe as he is now stationed at Miramar. The short timer at the radio watch is YN3 SAUNDERS, who will be departing this month.

From all of us here in Operations who will get you where you want to go in the Delta, we say, see you next issue.

LINE DIVISION

It's that time of the month again when all the world is quietly awaiting news of the world famous Seawolf/Sealord helicopter service station. Of course we do function in conjunction with the repair department.

Just a few weeks ago we acquired a new service manager. Welcome aboard AMSC Bill SCHIEBER. You are here with us because our old 4.0 service manager's contract expired. Farewell, ADRC Billy BARTON.

Since our last newsletter we have been training the Sealord air crewmen as gunners with great success. Our head Beagle is getting short, and his replacement has raised a few eyebrows and caused us to order a case of Geritol. Farewell to (Bird Dog) BRANNON and welcome aboard to D.P NEAL.

The line has a high volume turnover of personnel due to our training of Det Plane Captains so all we can say is that the newbies come and the newbies go.

Welcome aboard to our new Assistant Division Officer, LTJG Tom PHILLIPS, who's predecessor LTJG (Sergeant Bilko) PARRETT, was called into combat at Det 8.

Another first this month, LTJG Ram HAWLEY has received the DFC and now walks around with his head in cloud 9.

So in closing we say "You Call, We Haul", when a Sealord is up.

ORDNANCE

We have acquired a couple of newbies since last count. Welcome aboard to AO2 MCPHERON, AO3 GRUENBURG, AO2 HAYNES, AO2 SCHIEB and AO1 STARK, who didn't stay long as he moved on to Det 1.

AOSC PATCH has been working on a mount for a door mounted mini-gun. Chief PATCH and AO3 CHESTER have been evaluating the new gunmount. We want to welcome our new Branch Officer, LTJG CURTIS, who came to us from Det 8 and wish our old Branch Officer, LTJG HALLAUER, good luck at his new duty station, Imperial Beach, California.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

It's that time again, the Wolfgram is out. There have been a few changes in Q/A. AZ3 EMLING relieved AN SCHMIDT as Tech. Librarian. Chief REYNA returned from Det 1 to join us. ADJ1 PERINOVIC and AMS1 WILCOX joined us from A/C Division. Chief HEROLD our former Career Counselor (you are invited to stop in at anytime for a re-up lecture) is being indoctrinated to relieve Chief HUFFMAN who is being transferred in DEC. He will be reporting to HS-5 at Quonset Point, R.I., land of striper fishing and duck hunting. We are also losing AMS2 TRUTTMAN in DEC. which, since his R&R in Hawaii, will not be much of a loss. It seems he is still on cloud 9.

LT JOPLIN is soon going to earn his combat pay. Mr JOPLIN will be going to Det 8 where he and his gunship can "do their thing," whatever that is. Relieving him is LT EK, who comes from Det 2.

We are sorry to be losing a fine leader, however his relief is of equal talent.

Until the next time, that's all from your friendly Q/A Division.

MAINT. CONTROL

During this period several personnel shifts have taken place. LT Mike SMITH took his Freedom Flight to the land of the big P.X. and fun duty in the high country around Fallon, Nevada.

LCDR Jim LONG arrived to take the helm in Maintenance Control and lead us on to greater glory.

AZC K.E. McDANIEL arrived to start his tour and get our paper work squared away.

Airman M. F. SUSTENDAL came to us from OPS. His promotion to AZ3 allowed us to sweep him up.

Chief WICKS left to run the Power Plants shift of nights and Chief PRINCE has taken over the Production Control desk.

MAINT-ADMIN

Time to expound on a few thoughts to the outside world. Having both the Maintenance Officer and the Assistant Maintenance Officer here at one time has been a great boast to the Department since this doesn't always happen. LCDR ADEN has been swamped with Department administrative duties of a various nature, to the point where he is talking to himself. Of course having been of R&R and rejuvenated, he has been very enthused with his job. Hope you hold out, Mel! CDR "Jim" CARSON has taken on a new look with a phone attached to his ear. Been calling anyone lately? You bet he has! He is tasked to find any stray "gunships" in-country and if there is a loose one he'll sniff it out. The recent lack of aircraft has left the Department staggered but we'll be up and at it again. Don't give up yet!

Chief RICHAU, our office manager, appears to have gotten side tracked from paper work. Jeeps and air conditioners are occupying a lot of his time. However both are very essential so we don't mind. Does it really take that much time? Our latest addition, AZ3 GRIFFIN, just smiles and talks to himself and could care less how much work is assigned to him so long as we let him be a third class. Polish that crow and keep up the good job.

MATERIAL CONTROL

At the beginning of October a new procedure was instituted by Material Control concerning DX (direct exchange) items - avionics black boxes, tail rotor hubs, etc. AK1 DICKINSON showed his carpentry ability by building a store room in the rear of the Tool Room space to contain all DX RFI units. All DX type items are now ordered and received through Material Control, plus turn-in of repairable units, thereby placing control of these type items in one area for the benefit of all concerned. Hopefully this will be an interim measure prior to the establishment of a rotatable pool by FASU IMA on Army DX items. Overall credit for system goes to LT CORNELL, the Material Control boss.

One new arrival from the States is AKAH CARTNER, who will be working on the night shift under the watchful eye of AK3 BROOKS.

PARA-LOFT

Hi from Para-loft. Things haven't changed around here very much, We're still issueing flight gear left and right.

Two of our riggers are leaving soon, they say they hate to leave us, but the good ole USA is calling. PR1 HUBBARD is going to have a go at shore duty at Cecil Field, Florida. PR2 ORR is saying good bye also, but he's not sure yet where he'll be going.

The latest rating period was good to PR3 WOODBURY. He's walking around with a new crow on his arm - all his hats seem to be smaller.

Our new man in the shop is PR3 SMITH who comes to us from VP-8.

AT SHOP

Somewhere someone said that no news was good news but we're not sure we believe it. No one I've talked to around the shop seems to know when the last Wolfgram was published so I'm sure there's been a large turnover of personnel since the last one.

Our new AT shop is headed up by Chief MATOTT from, as he puts it, "Delightful Piney Point, Maryland". Aside from his regular duties as Shop Supervisor he has consented to be manager of and play for our famous football team. Our team incidentally is undefeated and untied. In fact we haven't scheduled our first game yet.

Outside of being plagued with an intermittent air conditioning system we've had a complete stereophonic system courtesy of Jim NORTHCUTT, an AT3 we truly regret will be leaving us shortly for the "Humdrum" life in the states. Back again for a second tour with HA(L)-3 is Rod WILLSON, an AT3 who really enjoys the sunny climate. It must remind him of southern California. A former History teacher and now AT3, John H. KENNEDY has joined our staff of hard workers. He's soon to be AT2 as are Wes RUSSELL, and Bill RUSSO. It seems that the old shop will have quite a few second class petty officers since Dave LIDDLE and Tom JOHNSTON made AT2 on the first of November. This added to our previous AT2's, Jim TAYLOR and Jim McQUEEN, should give us a well qualified crew to aid in the counter insurgency effort for Mom, Apple pie, and the girl(s) we may have left behind. As in all shops we have a Texas type Texan in the person of AT1 Richard A. WALLER who heads up our night check group of agile workers. Alas all news is not so good as our newly promoted AT3 Jeff HEIGER transferred to Corrosion Control and was replaced by ATAN J.W. TALBERT, who was glad to end his efforts in fighting corrosion. Old-timers like "Jeff" FLYNN and Doug EPPLER are used to the rains over here, but imagine the surprise of two newcomers, AT3's Dean KOUTAVAS and Hal HOBBS when just after arriving, they found a short rain made the short walk from the hangar to the barracks a wading good time complete with appropriate water fights. All was peaceful until someone hooked up an emergency water pump complete with fire hose to pump out the barracks. A good time was had by all. I believe it was about this time AT3 Boyd KEEFER lost interest in the correspondence courses he was working on, OCEANOGRAPHY. Our newest arrival who missed all the fun is AT1 Don NEILL, who directs the efforts of our mid-check working the wee hours of the morning. He may have to wait a long time for a party like that.

AE SHOP

The AE shop reports very few changes since the last Wolfgram. We have received two new men, AE2 Jim FANNIN and AE2 William TROXEL. Soon, they both will be going out to a Detachment.

We have six people that will be advanced in rate: Strant COLWELL, Frank GREEN, Richard ROGNE, and Perry HEARD will be advanced to Second Class in January, and Robert MOORE, the electrician in the Battery Locker will Third Class in December.

Two of our men, AE3 Perry HEARD and AE3 Edward SMITH are getting short. We hate to see them leave since they are our most experienced electricians, but we wish them well.

AIR FRAMES

Air Frames ranks were further depleted by the transfer this month of AMS3 KOPF to the world, and the loan of AMS1 WILCOX to Quality Assurance. LTJG SCHILLING has taken the reins as Branch Officer from LTJG JORDAN who went to Det 8.

The professionalism that continues to be exhibited by the personnel of the Air Frames Branch is again worthy of note. We make mistakes but we continue to learn from them and strive for zero defects. We function as a team or we can not function at all, I can do nothing - WE can do anything.

POWER PLANTS

Newbees, Newbees, and more Newbees, that's all we see anymore and it sure is a good feeling for all of those who are SHORT!

Among our newbees is our Branch Officer LTJG John BARNES. In the shop we now have ADJ1 WOLF, ADJ2 ZURFLOH, ADR2 HOSFORD and ADJ3 SESSLER. with us to help with our big "Engine Change" problem!

To all pilots we'd just like to say "Keep an eye on oil consumption, your engine RED LINE and most of all F.O.D."

CHECK CREW

Welcome aboard to the newbees joining the C/C branch; ADJ1 Rene RUIZ (who will be putting on the Chief's Hat this coming April), ADJ1 Joe MONDAY, ADJ1 Howard HUDSON, AMS2 Frank GAZAREK, AMS3 George McQUISTON, ADJ3 Donald NUTTING and AE3 Victor COFFIN.

The loss of our Division Officer (to Det 4) LT NAVONE, will be felt by all. "Good Luck" on your new assignment Mr. NAVONE. Welcome aboard to our new Division Officer LT WOODROOF.

Welcome back to ADJ2 Jim FREEMAN, AM3 Rick COOPER, and AMAN Chris OLSON after spending 30 beautiful days in the land of the big P.X.

