

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1971

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.

HISTORY FILE

INDEX

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

DET ONE	1
DET TWO	3
DET THREE	4
DET FOUR	5
DET FIVE	5
DET SIX	7
DET SEVEN	8
DET EIGHT	9
DET NINE	10
ADMIN	11
OPS	14
SAFETY	16
MEDICAL	16
MAINT. CONTROL	18
MATERIAL CONTROL	18
AO SHOP	20
AIR FRAMES	20
POWER PLANTS	22
AE SHOP	24
Q.A.	24
AT SHOP	25
LINE	25
PARALOFT	26
MAP	27

A SPECIAL THANKS TO LTJG DAVE QUICK WHO CONTRIBUTED THE FINE CARTOONS FOR
THIS ISSUE.

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

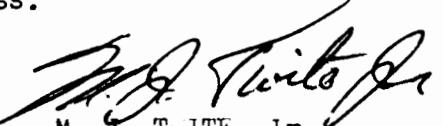
This is my last opportunity to write for the WOLFGRAM and I have asked that this issue be dated and published coincident with my 14 April Change of Command. It seems fitting to summarize the activities of the past year thereby putting things in perspective.

HA(L)-3 is an exceptionally large command. During the past year I have seen about 140 officer/pilots leave and be replaced by 140 others. In the same manner about 410 enlisted man have been rotated thru the squadron. These 1100 people have each contributed of their individual talents in order to allow this command to fly over 33,000 combat flight hours during the past year. This is six times more flight time than the average flown by other air units in the Pacific Fleet, non-combat units included. Compared with all the other helicopter units in the Pacific Fleet we flew 48% of all the helicopter hours with 24% of the assets. And this was done without the many benefits which naturally accrue to a more standard Navy unit, without a Navy Department developed NATOPS program, and without a Navy Replacement Air Group for support.

During the past year we have played a significant role in the initial Cambodian Intervention, the U-Minh Forest Campaign, and now again in Cambodia. During this time we have modified our deployment in response to varying enemy threat and modified our procedures to accomodate the turnover of surface forces to the Vietnamese. We have been plagued by stabilizer bar and thrust plug failures, by engine failures, and by wide-spread fuel contamination. It's tempting to try to guess how much more could have been done without our problems but even in retrospect, it is difficult to see how we could have done more.

HA(L)-3 is an exceptional squadron due primarily to the exceptional personal qualities of the men who man it. Of course, the unique attack mission (for a helicopter squadron) combined with the combat environment are not duplicated elsewhere in the Navy, but these circumstances merely set the stage. The thing that makes the squadron outstanding is the motivation of its personnel. I have commented many times that our single biggest problem is the deleterious effect of the very short one-year tour. Lack of continuity in every command function takes a heavy toll in effectiveness. But I have also commented many times that our single biggest asset is the CAN DO and CAN DO MORE spirit of our people. This more than compensates. I leave the squadron with the deepest admiration and respect for the personnel who have served with me.

I salute every man with whom I have been privileged to serve and wish those who remain continued success.


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

DETACHMENT ONE

(SOLID ANCHOR)

Greetings from Det 1 stationed at beautiful Solid Anchor.

Since the last Wolfgram a change has taken place, LCDR STEINER left and our new OINC, LCLR (Boss) LONG has taken over as our guiding light. He is hard to figure out though. He seems to just wander around saying "Nine aets and I had to get this one!" Cheer up boss, you'll soon become a weird one like the rest of us and then you'll feel at home!

All great things must come to an end. Such was the case with FTL LTJC Carl NELSON "Wide Track" was transferred to Det 6. Good luck Carl and oh yes, enjoy Anchorage.

Charlie (Grump Actual) COLLINS has left for 2 weeks leave in Hong Kong, look out Hong Kong Hyatt and you stewardesses for "Here Comes the Grump!"

Our fearless FTL Jim (Petro) PETROVICH has returned from two weeks leave in Hawaii. He just smiles and acts a little more human now. With Petro back things are getting deep in the hooch so everything is back to normal.

Al (Big Al the Kiddies Pal) GEORGE and Earl (Redbeard) SHAUT are the new AHAC's - finally. They are rapidly becoming the most feared in the Delta, well, at least they seem to make the co-pilots nervous!

Don (CocaCola Inc.) THOMSON took his R&R in Australia. He went over to see about a toupee for his rapidly balding and shiny head. He's said that if he can't find one, he'll have to resort to combing his eyebrows back up over his head!

A01 STARK went on a well deserved leave to Hawaii. He even shaved his beard for the occasion. Have fun Fredie!

With STARK gone the E's are in mass confusion as to who is going to take over. AN ELTMAN couldn't because everyone is still trying to teach him how to put words together to form a sentence. ADJ2 HOSFORD couldn't because he's the quiet one of the group. ADJ2 SMALE couldn't because he's too busy sunning his bod. A02 SCHIEB couldn't because he's too busy smoking his pipe and figuring out ways to save his money. ADJ3 MELENDEZ can't because he's too busy eating his tamales. AOAN KNAVON can't for he's too busy telling himself how beautiful his beard is. This leaves A02 DOBSON, but unfortunately he ruined his chances when one of his old friends from the Ordnance Dept. paid him a visit. Your guess is as good as anyones as to who should take over. We need you STARK!

Det 1 says welcome aboard to the new co-pilots, LTJC Chuck (Peaches) TAYLOR, LT W. G. HARRIS, and LTJC Wayne BROWN. The new crew men are ALJ2 KEITH and ATR2 COAN. Also, Chaplin WILLIAMS has moved into our hooch with us. Nice to have you Willie.

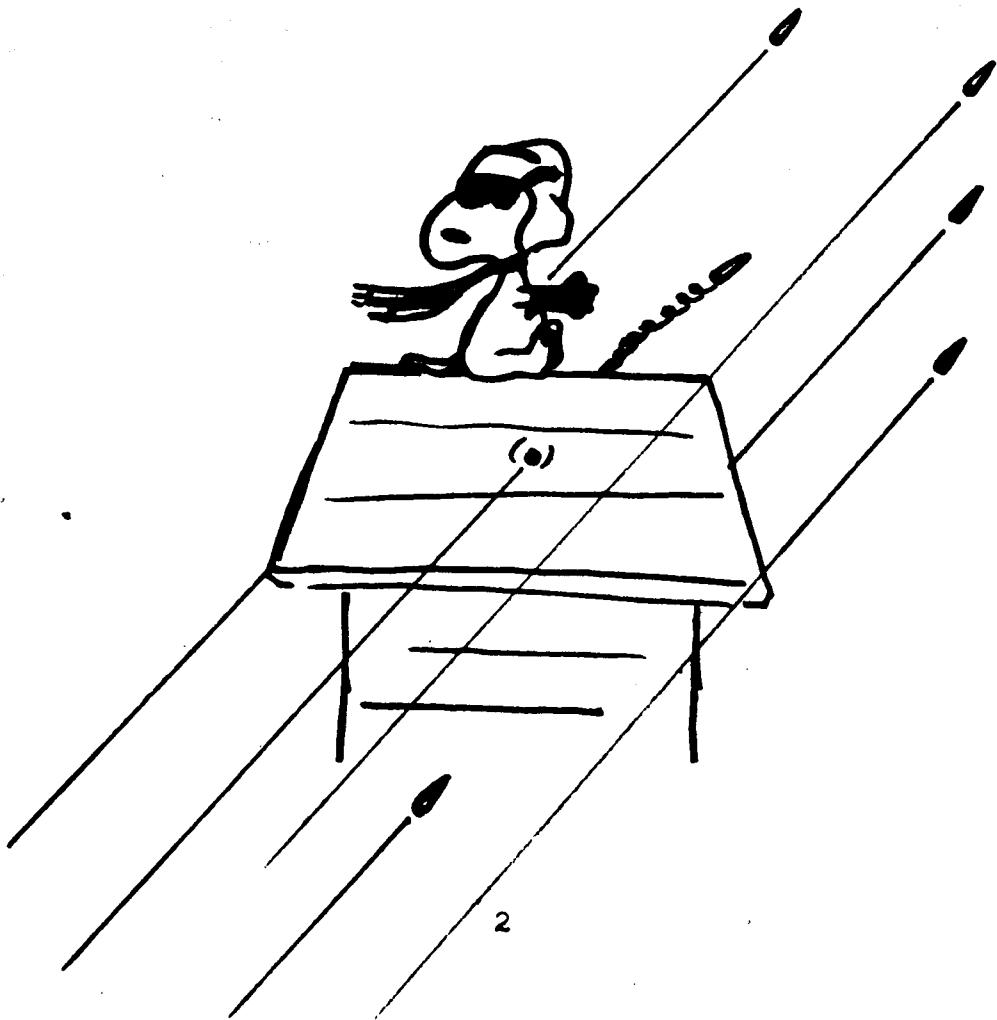
I bid one and all a fond farewell as I must return to my job of fighting this war and trying to remain awakezzzzzzzz.

SNOOPY

FROM OUT OF THE SKY, FIRING LIKE HELL,
CAME THE SEAWOLF WHO IS KNOWN SO WELL,
SNOOPY'S HIS NAME, JUST ONE OF THE PACK
OF HELO SQUADRON THREE LIGHT ATTACK.

WHENEVER THERE'S TROUBLE, BIG OR SMALL,
SNOOPY WILL COME IF YOU SHOULD CALL,
HE DOES HIS JOB, AND HE DOES IT WELL,
HE GETS HIS KICKS BLOWING CHARLIE TO HELL.

SO THINK TWICE CHARLIE, BEFORE YOU TRY,
AND IF YOU DON'T, BE READY TO DIE,
'CAUSE SNOOPYS ONLY ONE OF A MIGHTY PACK,
IN HELO SQUADRON THREE LIGHT ATTACK.



DETACHMENT TWO

(NHA BE)

During the last few months Det 2 has been continuing it's fight for law and order in the Run Sat Special Zone. Det 2 has seen it's share of activity working with the Marines, Regional Forces, and PRU's. The bulk of our time, however, has been spent guarding the vital shipping on the Long Tau shipping channel. In this Wolfgram we would like to wish a fond farewell to our OINC CDR Stanley BRIGGS. His Nov-Feb stay at Det 2 seemed quite short, and we were sorry to see an officer of his caliber leave us. CDR BRIGGS is to be OPS Officer at Binh Thuy for the remainder of his tour. The fact that we are sorry to see CDR BRIGGS go does not lessen the hearty welcome we extend to LCDR Ronald RUCKS, our new OINC. LCDR RUCKS comes to us from HT-8.

The last of the oldtimers, LTJG Craig VOSSETEIG, left for home 4 March. Craig said he never counted the days until going home, but somehow he always knew. He said someone else counted for him.

Since the last Wolfgram, LT Bob GOODRICH made AHAC in Jan., and FTL in Feb. Bob apologizes for the repetition in his pictures taken on leave, but he says his shutter kept clicking involuntarily on the beaches of Syuney. LT Bill GILBERT, our detachment expert ("Expert on what?", you ask. "Expert on everything!", Bill says) made FTL in Jan. a few hours before getting on the plane for 2 weeks leave in CONUS. From his reactions on his return, we don't think he was too pleased to be back at Nha Be.

LT Tom MOSS will be making FTL shortly. We've heard Tom complain, on occasion, that all his flying cuts into the time he is able to spend on getting his B.A. in Graffitti. Next Tuesday Tom will be giving a lecture entitled "Graffitti Dynamics in American Culture", in the SEABEE bunker at 1930H. LTJG Earle "Duke" LOVERING and LTJG Gary LOWE just returned from a week of leave in Hong Kong. Duke bought even more stereo equipment. Luckily there was still enough space in his room so that he could keep his bed. He is now doing all the sound tracks for MGM. Gary keeps mumbling something about his H.K. tailor, who told him his right shoulder is lower than his left. Both Gary and Duke made FTL in March.

LTJG Dave QUICK, or "Weird Dave", as we call him here, has amazed us all with his proficiency as dog control officer. Dave and LTJG Bill ZIEGLER both made AHAC in March. Bill is no longer a newbee, but has been confused with our newest on Det, LTJG Bill SIGLER. We requested Bill SIGLER be assigned to Det. 2 to answer any question about the regular Navy or Naval Academy Traditions. We would also like to extend a welcome aboard to two officers who came to us in the middle of Jan., LTJG Russ LENTNER, the squadron's adept Special Services Officer, and LT Lynn NELSEN, who spent his last tour as a test pilot at Pax River. Lynn made AHAC in Feb., and naturally qualified as Det test pilot.

We would like to extend our congratulations to ADJ1 Alton WOLFE, AB2 Karl PETERS, AEAN Barry GRINSTEAD and AEAN Phil BOGUE on their recent field waiver advancements. Karl PETERS is as pleased about his orders to Naples as GRINSTEAD is distraught about his broken leg. Both GRINSTEAD and AO3 Jim

WALL have had their extensions approved. AE2 Jim FANNIN is still going through the readjustment phase of returning to VN from 2 weeks leave in CONUS. AO2 Rick HUBER keeps saying that he should have joined the Air Force while AO3 Tony BEVELLOT "The Shadow of Det 2" doesn't say anything. AMS2 "Dead Eye Dick" HAUK and AMH3 John HOOD both made CC in Feb. Ray WOLFE and AMH3 Bob McCLUSKEY both made 2nd Gun. Bob McCLUSKEY promised to send autographed 8 by 10 color glossies to all his fans in South Philly.

DETACHMENT THREE

(CA MAU)

Yes, Binh Thuy there is a Det 3! After a four month campout our new "Wolfden" has been completed. It has electric lights, air conditioning, a refer, and a new hotplate - now if we can just get that generator. Mike O'CONNOR, our colorful, controversial OINC and inspirational leader continues to vision this Det as the best in the Delta, and if we are not now we will soon be because we scream louder! Thanks to all who have given a hand or lent an ear.

Since the last issue a number of personnel have come and gone. Quotes from Mel "Safetywolf" HOWELL can now be read daily in the POD. Our former A-OINC. has returned to Binh Thuy, but not without numerous contributions. Thanks "P.Wolf" and good luck! Wayne ARENDAS and Gary ROME have recently joined the ranks having served their time in Binh Thuy. Both look with great anticipation at their new challenge. In January Sam DENNARD moved to Ca Mau. After a couple of months he suggested a 97 mile estension cord be run from Binh Thuy. Then the Det would not require a generator. He was immediately sent to Nha Be for a little R&R after that idea - but two weeks? Jack CASSIDY also made the move in January - all the way from the States. He is daily practicing his dart game and doing high dives from his rack. Tim PFAHLER, however, is currently winning in the latter category although you best not be downwind.

Tom PADON recently returned from R&R/leave with a fresh outlook and new designation as FTL. Walking a little heavier now and with a slight port list is Rick FENN. He also seems to be growing considerably shorter. Must be all that good Ca Mau air. "Choo-Choo" Mike CANNIS is currently working on a best seller. It will be entitled "Vacation in Beautiful Ca Mau on Less Than 10¢ a Day". Special agent Mark MIZEL in his mild, mannered way is now wanted in four provinces. It is a good thing he is working under an alias or he might be forced to defect to Israel. A number of new "E's" have moved in recently. "Wheels" WHEELER our new P-OINC joined us in January along with "Tiny Tim" CARMODY, "Reb" FREEMAN, who saw the light, and "Mac" McINTYRE came down in February. We lost "Ski" SZYMANSKI in March. He left for Binh Thuy Airframes - our loss their gain. "Woody" WOODWARD replaced him at the .50 cal. "Mexican Power" now prevails in our AO as VILLARREAL and "Beetle" BAILEY find a new love in their door mounted mini-gun. "Tony" NELSON is still riding his .50, his camera, and his Gin cards. He is a sure winner in all but one - you guessed it!

Thanks to crews of Dets 4,5 and 6 who have helped us out when our aircraft have been down. A special thanks to the Binh Thuy guards who

helped us during TNT. Now we know what "Chiefs" are good for! Last but not least, four more honorary "Wolves" must be mentioned: "Titterwolf", "Ralphwolf", "Smileywolf", and "Pegwolf", sometimes known as "Saluterwolf".

DETACHMENT FOUR

(BEN LUC)

Well, here's the latest word from the Roving Guns of Det 4. We've picked up a few more converts to the detachment way of life since the last Wolfgram. In our all-star line up are LT "Buck" CARLTON (the man who has made the Ben Luc Tower the cornerstone of civilization that it is today), Paul "Shroeder" GASH (a former Binh Thuy resident who has seen the light), "Fletch" MILLER and "Freak" WORTHINGTON, two up and coming gunners who will undoubtedly become legends among the ranks of the wily VC and the dreaded NVA, and last but not least CPO Bill SCHILLER who lately has had to double as one of the Indians as well as the Chief.

The Det has really been doing some hustling lately getting ready for the impending move to Phu Loi (a large Army base north of Saigon that the Navy has charged us with squaring away). In spite of the Cobras and UH-1H's on the base, the local Army people seemed to really take notice when our BRAVO's pulled up; especially when the dirt bowl around the Post Exchange went IFR.

Looks like we're ready to do a job with our new set of AHAC's and FTL "Grunch" KITCHEN, C Vernon (he'll answer to anything now) BABSON, and Bob GANNON (who is also a shiny new Test Pilot). Of course we still have our hard-core FIFTY-gunners in "Goose" ENNIS, "Little John" MEDEIROS, and "Hong Kong" GOLDBIN, as well as "Toad" COPELAND.

LCDR Caldwell was replaced by LCDR Harry ISHIGURO. We sure hated to see "Boss" Caldwell go, but heartily welcome our new "Boss" ISHIGURO. It's our understanding that they just swapped jobs.

Well I haven't said anything about good old Mike HOLLIS (who has the dubious honor of writing these things), or "Philly-Dog" VIDEON, or Pete NAVONE (the leader of many Smokey-the-Bear raids on campfires in our new AO), But that's the breaks.

DETACHMENT FIVE

(CHAU DOC)

HAVE GUNSHIPS, WILL TRAVEL, call DET FIVE. These are the cards that we all now carry. New arrivals to our DET, when they finally track us down, soon learn to keep a bag packed at all times. The first few months of this year have found us moving our official home once as well as taking frequent sabbaticals to such garden spots as Ca Mau, Solid Anchor, Bac Lieu, and Soc Trang and spending more than our share of time in Maintenance Control in Binh Thuy.

We're finally settled, more or less, at the Chau Doc OP Base near My Duc. It's a far cry from the plush conditions on the YRBM-16 but we've found it does have it's advantages. Unlike being on the barge, being stationed here on shore has given our men more than adequate opportunity to carry out the People to People program. And though we miss the convenience of the ship's store, we've discovered that the Army Exchange across the street is sufficient to provide our everyday essentials.

LTJG Dave CONNELL has joined us after four months in Operations. Already he's a AHAC and expects to make FTL as soon as he learns his way around the mountains. LCDR Lynn C. KEHRLI, our boss, received a speeding ticket while driving a jeep around Binh Thuy. They ignored his driving record and gave him his FTL papers anyway. LCDR KEHRLI's return to the states for leave has spared LT Dick BARR from Binh Thuy (or Binh Thuy from Dick) for a few more days and left "Deadeye" Dick basking in the glory of "OINC for a Day". He's destined for the Tactics Officer's job upon his return. LT Lew MADDEN when not leading his fire team, spends most of his waking hours arguing - with anybody about anything. His most recent topic concerns crosswinds and everybody thinks Lew's wrong this time. LTJG Doug "Gunner" DUNN returned from Hong Kong happily engaged only to find he had became our new Maintenance Officer. He's also a brand new FTL. LTJG Jay PERKINS, when not in the rack or at the poker table, can usually be found in front of a mirror lifting weights. He just can't wait for tomorrow. LTJG Paul SCHMID can usually be seen listening to tapes from his wife or recording ones to send back to her. Lately though, he's spent a lot of time thinking of an answer to the inevitable inquiry as to why the "uneventful" describing his stay in the Philippines in the last Wolfgram was in quotation marks. LTJG Dave TROUP returned from his own "uneventful" trip to the P.I. to find he had been dethroned as champ of table-top hockey. As the 1st LT of our just finished hootch he can usually be found hiding under the bed at the mention of the words "stopped up toilet". LTJG Tom HALWACHS spends most of his time griping about how little flight time he gets, but now that he's Logs & Records, he's at last in a position to do something about it. But Actual Instrument Time at 9:00 in the morning?

ADJ1 Jim PERINOVIC has been dubbed "Paranoia" by his charges. He's our new POINC and is enjoying his new power so much that he's already put in for an extension ADJ2 Glenn SURFLUH has been keeping a closer watch on his twin-60 door box since one of the local canine populace mistook it for a fire hydrant. Speaking of fire hydrants, AN Tom GANTT, after a wild evening on the beer barge, mistook AN HAMMER's bunk for one. AE2 Bill TROXEL has learned to avoid special close-out bargains at the Ship's Store after getting a watch at half price. Not only was it half price, but as he found out later, it only had one hand. About all we hear anymore from ABH3 "Frenchy" LaCHAPELLE, AN J.J. BRENNAN, and AN Rick "Barney" HAMMER is how short they are. Frenchy managed a trip to the P.I. to break up his last couple months. AN BRENNAN has issued a solemn warning to all E-5's and above, with an emphasis on officers with Montana plates, to avoid Georgia after he's got his patrol car. ADJAN Merv "Injun" HILLIS, whose war cries alone should be enough to scare Charlie to death has been earning new feathers for his headdress each day with his fine gunning.

Our faithful mutt, JATO, a refugee from our old home on the YRBM-16, after living a somewhat sheltered life, is learning the hard way that there are other dogs in the world.

As of this writing LCDR KEHRILLI has been relieved by LCDR Olen "C" WOODROOF as OINC. Welcome aboard. LCDR KEHRILLI had to return to the States on extended emergency leave. We wish him fair winds and following seas.

That's all for now. Until next time, so long from The Travelin' Man's Det.

DETACHMENT SIX

USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (AGP 838)

Greetings from the Gulf of Thailand, Det 6 is now located aboard the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY, after having moved from the USS CALIFORNIA, and the USS WINDHAM COUNTY. The moves were like a scene out of Laurel and Hardy, but after the first one we were like old pro's on the second move.

Det 6 is now the RAG for the Delta sending birds to Det 1 and Det 3, but we love the experience; "What's it all about Alfie?"

This month saw some of our people leave Det 6, LT Bob PEARSON no longer ricochets down the passageways yelling "scramble, scramble", as his talents are now back in Binh Thuy, keep your six o'clock covered Bob. LT Dave SPEIDEL left us in March after an outstanding job as FTL and joining COMCIVPAC, after a short stint at NAF Johnsville. LTJG Bob "I'm short, guys" GODLARD left for HC-6 after a bang-up job as FTL, and is looking forward to flying an aircraft with two rotors and two engines. Petty Officer Homer "Tip" TIPTON also left Det 6 after a terrific job as gunner, good luck "Tip" but don't get caught making "Shine".

Some "newbees" to Det 6: LTJG John "Flash" BARNES from his four months in Binh Thuy, and our new POINC AMH "Mac" McCACKEN, a former SERE interrogator at Whidby Island, Washington.

LTJG BARNES, LT SPEIDEL and Petty Officers FOSTER and STEELY went for an early morning swim when their engine went to sleep. They all got dry and warm using a few belts of Barneys "Moonshine" from Tenn.

LTJG Paul "War Story Actual" WATTERS just returned from leave in CONUS with a grin he couldn't shake for a week, and a stomach that still shakes. LT Dave SPEIDEL returned from leave in Australia, and LTJG Bob GODLARD from Hong Kong. They both returned with the same silly grins, it must have been good gouge that was passed along as LT Bob PEARSON kept saying "it was beautiful" on his return from Hong Kong. In turn Petty Officer THAMMELL just scrambled to Hong Kong (he even shaved his beard) for this share of the goodies, and a chance to have some the finer things in life.

Petty Officers PURINGTON and THAMMELL did a fabulous job of shooting when Det 1 and Det 3 happened upon an attempted overrun of an outpost by the 31st CP, good work guys. The word is out that AN HERNE has lost his appetite, we'll believe it when we see some results, like a small flight suit?

LTJG HIRSH and C. V. CHRISTENSEN returned from J.E.T. School, after a rather shakey start from Binh Thuy. C. V. CHRISTENSEN proved himself to be a first rate survival expert, he didn't cut himself with the bolo, and that's survival. Even with the survival training LTJG HIRSH still missed two arrests at the "Cat Shot" bar at Cubic, despite the encouragement of the fans.

LTJG John "The Fat Kid" RAINT has been working out daily on the tank deck trying to build up his endurance for Hong Kong. His real "weight room" continues to be the wardroom, where he really excels.

Recently Chaplain McLAUGHLIN hitched a ride out to the HUNTERDON COUNTY and while enroute was initiated an honorary Det 6 Seawolf when the fire team was scrambled while airborne, and placed a strike in support of beleagured Army units. One memorable quote of the Chaplin's on discussing the safety record of HA(L)-3 pilots was "relative to the records of the old Kamakazi pilots, yours are extraordinary".

Thats about it from Det 6, if anything comes up on the HUNTERDON COUNTY we'll "get hot" and send out an "H" gram.

DETACHMENT SEVEN

(DONG TAM)

Since the last Wolfgram there have been many changes at Det 7. LCDR C. V. CHRISTENSEN has assumed the duties of OINC after the departure of LCDR GORDON to the land of the roundeyes. The XO duties have been taken over by LT Joe SULLIVAN who also became AHAC not long ago. Big Joe has some notable collateral duties too; he's currently threatening to take Radio Saigon's claim to being the biggest mouth of the south.

The whole world stopped last month as LTJG J. B. WARNER became our newest AHAC. LTJG Tom "Kraut" SCHILLING will shortly assume the prestigious job of Det Maintenance Officer. Tom is probably the only pilot to ever be continually under the influence of battle fatigue and not know it. We don't mind, it's just that he keeps trying to hook a plow up to the tail rotor. He replaces LTJG Kirk TOLI who likes Binh Thuy so much that he decided to move there permanently. We are sure Kirk will find everlasting peace there as a test pilot. LT Chet HAMILTON, departing XO, has also moved to scenic Binh Thuy and took his place in the maze at Operations. Our newest FTL is LTJG R. T. ZIEMER. Brother, ZIEMER has something else to celebrate too; he's getting married shortly after DEMOS. Good luck R.T.! LTJG Dave BULL and AZ3 BOGLE recently returned from a playfully strenuous ordeal at P.I. survival school somewhere near the Oasis Hotel. Both returned thoroughly exhausted and quite satisfied with the training. Rick BOGLE was so shook up by the whole thing that he had to return to Binh Thuy for the remainder of his tour. LTJG Mike REHM, who fits nicely into Logs and Records - and bar stools - and LTJG Denny BEHM are among our newest additions. Denny brings vital experience to us as HA(L)-3 Awards Officer. We are all hoping for many more medals and ribbons with him pulling the strings for us. Mike shows tremendous promise. His most notable accomplishment to date is getting the fire team lost on a night NAV problem. LTJG Terry WILSON returned to Binh Thuy recently and immmediately became the Admiral's chopping block. Terry drives Sealordis now in his spare time. Hey Terry, don't forget we like mail in Dong Tam too.

ADJ3 CARR, "The Kid" is now back from his especially lengthly skiing trip to the states. The Kid reports that he too has fallen in love and decided to get married. Good Luck Kid! Our newest gunners are ADJAN Fred WHITLOCK and ADRL "Frenchy" St. JACQUES. Both fit nicely into the detachment mutual harrassment routine. "Frenchy" is currently challenging J.B. WARNER for the Det B.S. trophy. AOC Jim OSTERBERG is still in control of the enlisted men and seems to be getting things done efficiently despite his inability to speak coherently. Have another coffee chief! Congratulations to AN ROSS for finally learning how to be a first gunner. John's biggest problem is his trigger finger. We are all confident that in another few days he'll fill Vietnam full of enough lead to sink it. A02 Mike BELL has recently qualified on the .50 which would be fine if he could only shoot more than one round at a time. The bar girls in Ben Xe Moi claim that Mike has this problem in other things too. We are all stunned at the prospect of losing AN Terry MIZE from the Det. Terry wholdheartedly supports our people to people program with everything he has. Right Co Em? AMH2 John ORTH decided to rejoin the living again and got a good shave and hair cut. John is our training P. O. and does a fine job. Before John cleaned himself up it was a real toss up between him and AN FRYE in the indian look-alike contest. At the last count, however, FRYE was easily the winner as he modeled his brand new head band and shiny bowie knife for the troops. No, you're not cleared to grease the mothers FYRE.

DETACHMENT EIGHT

(RACH GIA)

It's that time again when all the latest happenings of Detachment 8 are immortalized in the bi-monthly chronical of HA(L)-3.

Several changes of personnel have taken place since the last addition. LTJG Paul TROIANO arrived in early January and soon after learned that our heavy gunships to "lose turns" on take off, especially if the co-pilot is thrashing around in the map case instead of monitoring the gages. LTJG Gary FINDLAY departed for a job in Binh Thuy Operations and not long after to the states. LT Frank MIXNER, our new Asst OINC, arrived shortly there after and was put to work the first night. Was the fire team really scrambled three times that night? LTJG Spence ROBBINS came to us in February, shortly after adding a new chapter to the NATOPS Manual: "How to recover from mechanically induced accrobatics". ADJ2 Rex LANG departed for a few days in Binh Thuy before getting his freedom bird home. Two new gunners on Det are AT3 "Rusty" HAWKINS and A03 "Mac" MCPHERSON, both of who have earned their seats and are doing a fine job.

Jim JOPLIN put on his LIEUTENANT COMMANDER leaves and also took his R&R. When a man comes back from seeing his wife in Hawaii, little more need be said, but that was a new grin on our OINC's face. LTJG Jim FARRAR took his R&R to Sydney and gives us all a long dissertation on his amorous adventures. He confirmed the often stated theory that the "Aussi" women really know how to treat a man. Jim is in Binh Thuy now, working as Awards Officer. LT O.C. FOWLER and LTJG Terry OGLE have amassed some unusual monthly flight time. No one is sure how they manage it. LT Dale JORDAN became the only AHAC on the Det toward the end of February and picked up some impressive flight time also.

ADJ3 CARR, "The Kid" is now back from his especially lengthly skiing trip to the states. The Kid reports that he too has fallen in love and decided to get married. Good Luck Kid! Our newest gunners are AJAN Fred WHITLOCK and ADRL "Frenchy" St. JACQUES. Both fit nicely into the detachment mutual harrassment routine. "Frenchy" is currently challenging J.B. WARNER for the Det B.S. trophy. AOC Jim OSTERBERG is still in control of the enlisted men and seems to be getting things done efficiently despite his inability to speak coherently. Have another coffee chief! Congratulations to AN ROSS for finally learning how to be a first gunner. John's biggest problem is his trigger finger. We are all confident that in another few days he'll fill Vietnam full of enough lead to sink it. AO2 Mike BELL has recently qualified on the .50 which would be fine if he could only shoot more than one round at a time. The bar girls in Ben Xe Moi claim that Mike has this problem in other things too. We are all stunned at the prospect of losing AN Terry MIZE from the Det. Terry wholdheartedly supports our people to people program with everything he has. Right Co Em? AMH2 John ORTH decided to rejoin the living again and got a good shave and hair cut. John is our training P. O. and does a fine job. Before John cleaned himself up it was a real toss up between him and AN FRYE in the indian look-alike contest. At the last count, however, FRYE was easily the winner as he modeled his brand new head band and shiny bowie knife for the troops. No, you're not cleared to grease the mothers FYRE.

DETACHMENT EIGHT

(RACH GIA)

It's that time again when all the latest happenings of Detachment 8 are immortalized in the bi-monthly chronical of HA(L)-3.

Several changes of personnel have taken place since the last addition. LTJG Paul TROIANO arrived in early January and soon after learned that our heavy gunships to "lose turns" on take off, especially if the co-pilot is thrashing around in the map case instead of monitoring the gages. LTJG Gary FINDLAY departed for a job in Binh Thuy Operations and not long after to the states. LT Frank MIXNER, our new Asst OINC, arrived shortly there after and was put to work the first night. Was the fire team really scrambled three times that night? LTJG Spence ROBBINS came to us in February, shortly after adding a new chapter to the NATOPS Manual: "How to recover from mechanically induced accrobatics". ADJ2 Rex LANG departed for a few days in Binh Thuy before getting his freedom bird home. Two new gunners on Det are AT3 "Rusty" HAWKINS and AO3 "Mac" MCPHERSON, both of who have earned their seats and are doing a fine job.

Jim JOPLIN put on his LIEUTENANT COMMANDER leaves and also took his R&R. When a man comes back from seeing his wife in Hawaii, little more need be said, but that was a new grin on our OINC's face. LTJG Jim FARRAR took his R&R to Sydney and gives us all a long dissertation on his amorous adventures. He confirmed the often stated theory that the "Aussi" women really know how to treat a man. Jim is in Binh Thuy now, working as Awards Officer. LT O.C. FOWLER and LTJG Terry OGLE have amassed some unusual monthly flight time. No one is sure how they manage it. LT Dale JORDAN became the only AHAC on the Det toward the end of February and picked up some impressive flight time also.

Our two hour plus scramble to Solid Anchor had to be one of the high-lights for this the mobile Detachment of the Delta. This only happened after we did our thing in such places as: Rach Gia, Bac Lieu, Nha Be, Chi Land, Ca Mau, and other places too numerous to mention. POIC "Wild Bill" ~~SIMPSON~~ returned from the world raring to go...back! ADJ3 Luke ~~PLUCKY~~ left for Conus(What can you say!) AO2 Buzz ~~LANLY~~ went to Hong Kong and returned with a new wardrobe and a grin from ear to ear mumbling 18 days and a wakeup 'till Hawaii. ADJ2 "Gup" ~~GUPTAIL~~ returned from JEST with stories of the 3 F's: Fields, Flowers, Fauna??? Gary "Chicken Legs" ~~ELY~~ just returned from the world also, carrying out Z-gram 70 to the fullest. AE2 "Barabbas" ~~ROSARIO~~ went home to Guam, inhaled a pineapple and now it's hanging over his belt! AMS2 "Brownie" ~~OREM~~???

Our old newbies AEAN "Cherry Barry" ~~SOLOMON~~ and AEAN "Kid" ~~ALBERTINE~~ are doing pretty good for newbies; ~~SOLOMON~~ was medevaced to 3rd Surg to get his finger removed from his M-60 while at the same time ~~ALBERTINE~~ was getting his removed from his mouth.

ADMINISTRATION

The Admin Department has made several changes since the last issue. Number one on the list was that our head honcho, LCDR Bill ROY was relieved by LCDR Dick DANIELS. LCDR ROY departed for separation. We all wish him the best of luck as he pursues his way in the civilian world. LCDR DANIELS left his happy job as OINC of Det Six to take over as Admin Officer. He has quickly grasped hold of the constantly changing world of Admin. One factor that may attribute to this great feat is the fact that he served as Asst. Admin. Officer before leaving for Detachment.

The hearts of all of us are heavy as we had to say farewell to our office supervisor, YNC Jerry JACKSON. He departed HA(L)-3 but won't be going too far as he will be working for COMNAVFORV in Saigon during his six month extension. His relief is YNC "Sy" ARMFIELD who comes to us from COMSTRIKE FORCE SOUTH in Naples, Italy. CHIEF ARMFIELD has quite a task but we are all sure that he is well capable of handling all that may arise.

LTJG Paul TROIANO, our friendly MR. PAO left us for Det Eight. His replacement is the forever smiling LTJG Joel "Toby" TOBLASON, who really has his hands full trying to get both the Wolfgram and the Admin softball team organized. We sure hope things go better for him with the Wolfgram than they have for the ball team.

LTJG Denny BEHM, our awards officer, finally got his chance to go out and fight the war. He left us for Detachment Seven although he wasn't gone for more than a few days before he returned. Maybe he just can't stay away from Awards. His replacement is LTJG Jim FARRAR. Jim has been busy day and night trying to get awards brought up to date before the arrival of our new skipper. All he keeps saying is "It won't be like this in a few more weeks."

We would like to say welcome aboard to our newbie, YNSN Brian BELL, who came to us from EPCOCONUK and has been given the chance to show us his ability at typing awards. LUCKY GUY!?" YN2 Reo FANT has been up to his neck trying to get fitness reports out. He is anxiously awaiting his 30 day leave period back home and thinks he is getting short. Don't worry Reo, You'll be back.

The old usals are still here. LT Ray JOHNSTON is still hanging in there as Asst. Admin Officer and is anxiously awaiting his chance to go out to Det. We don't see that much of Mr. JOHNSTON since he is gone most of the time, out flying somewhere. YN2 Tom LONG is still in seventh heaven after returning from his 30 day leave back in the world. For some reason he is the first one to rip open the mail at night. It could be he is looking for a notice from Bupers extending the one year early out.

YN3 Chuch MARTINEZ is another one who is looking forward to a trip to the world. He will be leaving shortly to a 30 day vacation back in Colorado. For some reason he double checks all the mail that Tom opens. Maybe he is looking for the same notice. YN3 Bob HINSHAW has also returned to us from 30 days back home. He looks like he is still trying to recuperate from the New Years Eve Party he had. The office must be getting to him already though because someone said they saw him put in a chit for three days in-country R&R.

YN3 Gray "Rocket" RUFF is another one of the crew that has returned from 30 days leave. Upon his return he immediately wanted to know where all his comic books were. He said that during the whole time he was home all he kept thinking about was whether or not spider man got back together with his girlfriend.

YNSN Dave BAKER also went home for a while but his was only for two weeks leave. Upon his return he found a helper waiting in YNSN Brian BELL, and between the two of them they have done the impossible, brought the awards typing just about up to date. Keep up the good work Dave and we'll put you in for the Navy Comm when you leave here.

PC3 Jack CORNETT and SN BAARDSGAARD are still keeping the mail room well under control. Both Terry and Jack are now starting to count the days since they have reached the two digit figures. Jack has a slight problem though since he never did get past the one digit numbers. Terry also has his chin in for a little in-country R&R and all he talks about is going to China Beach and doing a little fishing. We all sure hope he catches something.

Well, that is about it from the Blackshoe Department for this issue. To all that have left we say farewell and good luck, and to all that have arrived welcome aboard. Till next time we say "ROGER, OVER AND OUT".

HERES THE WORLD-FAMOUS FTL ABOUT TO LIFT OFF ON ANOTHER RUNG SAT PATROL.

PITCH PULL! EVERY BODY SET AFT?

GRRRR!
GROWL!

THESE GUNNERS ARE AN AGGRESSIVE LOT!

OPERATIONS

HA(L)-3 Operations has become a corporation. The company charter was filed in the state of New Jersey and we are now enjoying the benefits and loopholes afforded us as the DELTA TAXI SERVICE, INC. CLR "Godfather" ARTUSO is chairman of the Board, President, and Vice President. Right after the Army banned their slot machine operations, the Godfather went to Hong Kong. Ostensibly it was for his R&R trip, but he really went to see Angelo and Vito about setting up a steak-house franchise (with slot machines) all through the Delta.

Harry ISHIGURO pinned on his oak leaves and spent most of the last few months telling newbies Arne BARDEN, Ron BECKER, and Bill BONNER to get their "stuff" together. In spite of his promotion, Harry is still very much the entertainer, whether it be dramatic readings of the SOI callsigns or falling on his head when taking his shoes off. He is now performing at Det Four.

Sam DENNARD, Mike REID, Dave CONNELL, Spence ROBBINS and Joe LOVE have all left for Det. Sam forgot to say good-bye to his Mamasan and she spent several days sitting at the foot of his empty rack crying and meaning as only a forgotten Mamasan can do. She was last seen boarding a sampan express for Ca Mau. Rick LAUSTEN, as always, is still trying to keep track of all the confidential gear and is, as always, convinced that the pilots are losing it on purpose. Rick is toying with the idea of blackmail as a result of his photo coverage of the last OINC meeting. Stand forewarned whoever you are! After carrying on heavy correspondence with the Hawaiian hotels and cultivating his mustache, Bob RODGERS departed for leave in the islands.

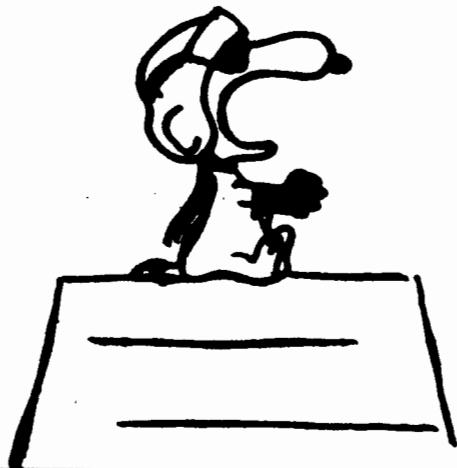
Gary FINDLAY came to OPs from Det Eight. Everyone has high hopes that he'll start a branch of the reknown Findlay's Bar like the one located in Rach Gia. Greg RHODES came in from Det Five to teach the aircrew training department the elements of water-borne helicopters and to try and balance his checkbook. He is still singing the praises of the Australian frontiers. Terry ANDERSON came in from Det Seven to take on the Admiral's Staff, harass the Schedule's Officer and work on his tan. Then they all followed Dick KRULIS, Bob FLYNN, and Tim WRIGHT back to the land of the big PX.

The "E's" have completed their New Year's project: teaching all the JO's how to play cribbage. Ray JOSLIN's girl is asking for a Hawaiian wedding, but we think she may lose out to OPIE. "Mac" McCONNELL is still working on his own brand of personal response programs, while Duane FREAUFL has been named honorary mayor of Ben Xe Mor. Bud SANEBORN is moonlighting as life-guard at the Eaton Compound pool when he isn't washing Rick's crying towels. Tex MORGAN is acheiving some sort of notoriety as the author/artist of the Chicken-Hawk Grams and Leroy STROBEL is still relocating assets.

A hearty welcome aboard to super newbies LT George ALEXANDER, who is Air Crew Training Officer, to Comm Yoeman Rick SHELLGREN, to YN1 SHEPARD, and LT Chet HARRISON, and a farewell to Iron Mike, CLR ARTUSO who is returning to the States (Would you believe Hawaii!)

CLEAR!

COMING HOT!



HERE'S THE WORLD-FAMOUS
FTL HOVER CHECK COMPLETED
ON THE ROLL!

WHOP WHOP
WHOP!



BUMP!
BUMP!
BUMP!

THUD!
THUD!
THUD!

WHOP!
WHOP!
WHOP!

HMMH! PRETTY
SMOOTH FOR
A "BRAVO"!



SAFETY/NATOPS/TACTICS

Quite a turnover in personnel here ... LCDR REDMAN, LT RIBOLLA and LTJG WALDBEESER have all departed for the World. LT HOWELL is the new SafetyWolf, with LTJG WOOD the new SafetyCub. LCDR CAMPBELL is wearing two hats now, both NATOPS and Tactics. Maybe he will now have twice as much to say??

This month's Save of the Month Award went to LTJG DYER, for spotting a small crack in the trunnion bearing race of A/C 317. Further investigation revealed that the race was completely split, with eight additional cracks found in normally inaccessible areas. The rotor blades could have separated in flight, resulting in disaster. The keen eye of a very professional aviator enabled him to spot this discrepancy. Well done, Ed!

NATOPS/Tactics has been busy during this period, turning out check rides for 19 new FTL's and 27 new HAC/AHAC's.

MEDICAL

The first few months of the New Year have kept the Medical Department jumping. Our Lord and Leader Doctor "Gill" VASQUEZ has kept himself busy with his work at the Can Tho Orphanage, going on Medcaps, and keeping the squadron physically fit and mentally alert. He took a short trip to the Phillipines to try his hand at jungle survival. Must have been nice living, because he said he really enjoyed himself. He also spent a few days at Det 4 with one day stops at Dets 2 and 6.

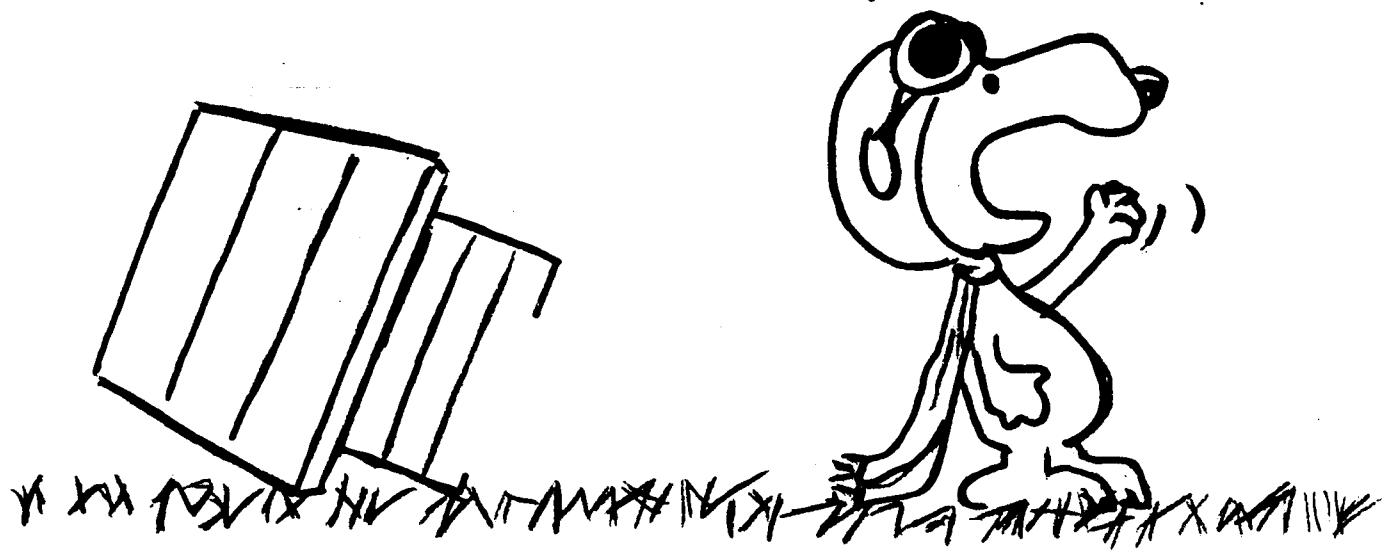
We've added another man to our little group of mercenaries. HM2 Richard GUERIN checked aboard from NAS Jacksonville. He's an Aviation Medical Tech, and presently has the job of keeping our Record Office running smoothly.

HM2 MULLINS continues fighting his never ending battle to keep the pilots and crewman up to date on their physicals. He started the New Year off in style with R&R in Taipei. From the stories he tells, it sounds like a wonderful way for a New Year to begin. HM3 FARROW tells us he's the best Navy X-ray man in the Delta. Course he's the only one, but what can you say? He keep's yelling this funny little word lately, "Short", but we can't figure out exactly why. Maybe he's trying to tell us something.

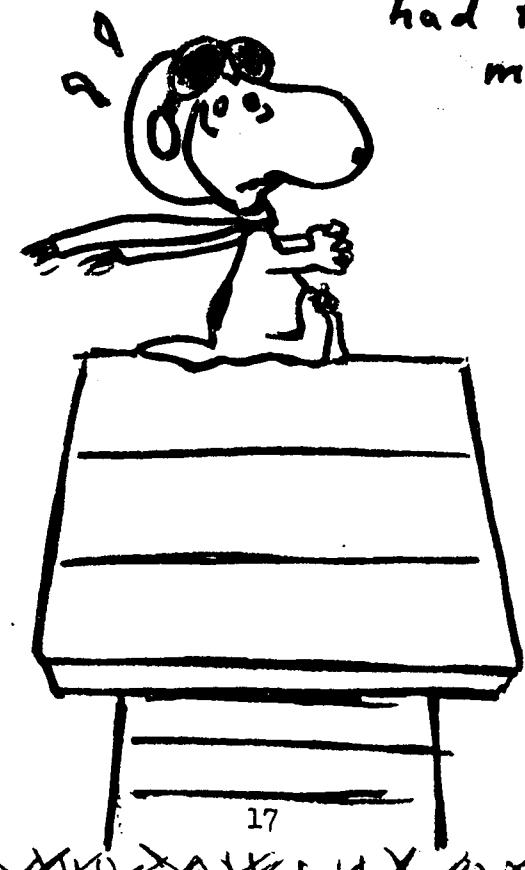
HN MAYWORTH just returned from the P,I. He said he really liked jungle living too. HM3 GRAY and HM3 HALL have lead an uneventful life for the past two months, but hope to have some good scoops on them next time.

Guess that's all from the DOC's for now. May all your Medical Problems be small.

"DAMN CHINOOKS!"



"I've always heard War is Hell,
but I didn't know I
had to fly without
my supper dish!"



MAINTENANCE/MATERIAL CONTROL

Here is the latest from the AZ Flying Book Section. Congratulations will be in store for AZ3 TURNER who will be advanced to AZ2 the first of May.

The latest addition to the office is AZ2 Bill BENNETT who is doing exceptionally well in learning the rather unique system involved in HA(L)-3's Logs & Records section.

Another smiling addition is AZC McDANIAL who has moved from the Maintenance Admin to the Analysis section to relieve ADRL BEDWEIL who caught the beautiful FREEDOM Bird on 6 March, so long BED.

LT McGEE still controls with a hand of steel. While LT JOYCE relieved LT MEARS as our foremost expert in the Oil Analysis Program. All in all everything seems to be running as smoothly as could be expected under existing circumstances.

As far as Maintenance Control, the high morale section of HA(L)-3, there are a lot of changes being made. Chief PRINCE is preparing for his trip to the World. Airman WASHBURN is finally getting his wish to go to the AT Shop, AMSC KIRK has deserted Maint. Control for the less hazardous duty of Air Frames. New men assigned to take up the vacant spots are; AMS1 EDDINS, AE3 CRANE and ADJAN RISER. We want to wish to these courageous men all the luck in the world, they'll need it.

MATERIAL CONTROL

A big turnover of personnel in Material Control during the months of Jan. and Feb. Chief STEWART and AK3 Lynn AKIN left in Feb. and Chief TURNER and AK3 Morgan BROOKS left for CONUS on 8 March. All four of these gentlemen have been mainstays of the division and will be sorely missed.

New arrivals are ADJ1 Lee JORDON, who will replace Chief STEWART as Tool Room Supervisor and AN Roger MCKINNY, who will work in Material. AK1 George DICKENSON will fill the bill as acting Division CFO until the arrival of AKC SLANGS latter in the month. New things in the wind are first - an expanded program for the repair of Seawolf parts by FASU which should help to reduce time lost due to supply delay. And second, a new procedure for rotating torque wrenches which should solve many det. problems in this area. Still no aviators watches - apparently ASO in their infinite wisdom - has negotiated a new contract and no orders will be filled until this contract is in effect. Also the issue of greens is suspended due to the warehouse fire which NSAD had in February. Hopefully both of these problem areas will clear up before the end of the month.

In the interim keep those orders and messages coming in, it makes us feel wanted.



AO SHOP

The AO Shop, or more commonly known as "The Devestators" have been quite busy lately (a little more than usual that is!). Besides the usual check of aircraft and everyday gripes we have been installing bomb racks of four of our world famous Sealords. This, we are proud to mention also includes the wiring of the aircraft for this system. As a point interest we'll add that believe it or not, they work.

We are proud to mention the strengthening of our shop personnel with the new arrivals of AO1 DORAN, who came to us from FATUELANT and has assumed responsibility of being day check supervisor, and AOAN WEBB, joining us from NATTC, Jacksonville, Fla. We are all hoping that he made Third Class on the last exam. Our third new arrival isn't really new at all, but finally realized that the good life was really at Binh Thuy rather than Det 4. Right, AO3 HAYNES?

We are sorry to say, or maybe secretly happy to say that by the time this paper is released AO2 HUGHES, AO3 PARKS and AO3 WILEY will have departed. They all spent 18 months in HA(L)-3 and will be a great loss to the shop. However, we'd like to wish VA-46 the best of luck because they're all headed that way.

We would also like to add that everyone else is nearing the 100 day mark and are beginning to feel "Short", so expect to see some new faces around the shop in May and June. However, one old face will be here forever, AO3 GRAFF extended!

AIR FRAMES

Since Air Frames missed the last Wolfgram, many changes in personnel have taken place. Branch Officer LTJG Tom SCHILLING left Binh Thuy for Det. 7. His replacement, LTJG Ian REFO, alias "Night Turn" headed to Det 9. AMS3 ARNOLD finally left for the States after a short involuntary extention. Rumor control has it that ARNOLD has aspirations to be a Major League pitcher. AMS2 "Red-eye" RAINWATER finally got back from his extended extention leave. CHIEF HOPKINS is so short that he is getting hard to find around the shop. After a year at the helm of the Air Frames Shop, CHIEF HOPKINS says he can handle anything the Navy can give him. AMH1 SOLWAY made Chief on March 1.

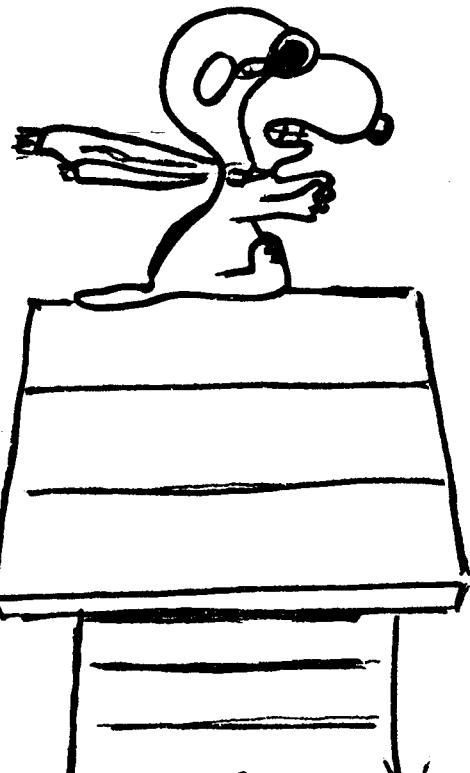
After his initiation to the exalted status of CPO, SOLWAY took over the shop. AMS1 HAYDEN has been transferred to Maintenance Control, where we desperately need a friend.

New arrivals include AMS1 PERINE, AMH3 SALVATORE, and AMH3 COLLE. They all seem to have adapted well to the nice climate.

February 20th Air Frames and Power Plants finally got to stage their party. Power Plants, led by their "All-Navy" coach sneaked by in the volleyball game. Later, after all the steaks and beer had been consumed, everyone had a chance to "Bathe" in the beer tub.

Well, that's all from Air Frames. Hope everyone had a Happy Valentines Day!

"If this damn gun jams one more time I'll heave it over the side!"



XXXXXXXXXXXXXX



"Does this mean I've flunked my AHAC check?"

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

POWER PLANTS

Power Plants Shop held their beer party on the 20th of Feb. - although it was a combined affair with Airframes Shop, all went off well. The party turnout was very good with 90% attending and the other 10% heading for the town (just like brown baggers). There were games played - especially volleyball. Power Plants waxed Airframes three straight, but Airframes did manage to score as much as 8 points once, and that was against the second string who were well on their way with the "Suds"! The party finally ended with just about everyone being dumped into the beer tub (brrr).

We've lost quite a few people lately to the World, and it looks like an all "Newbee" Maint. effort now, except for Chief JONES, who's here for his second time around. He spent his earlier tour here during 67-68 (a good year we hear, especially the Tet).

Jack CRANEY is now on his extention, after 30 days back in the World. We've decided he is our very own "Mario Andretti" of the Mekong. Ask him about the "Big One" that didn't let him get away!

Butch CHAMBERLAIN is short-short-short, in fact he's just about next, everytime you start to talk to him he looks at his watch.

Did you hear ADJ3 "Yokohama Joe" JACOBSON has been running a "Osoga" noodle stand in his cubicle. Stop in sometime if you know how to handle Chop Sticks. His cube mate ADJ2 COSNER also wants to express his thanks to whoever it was that returned his shaving kit he absentmindedly forgot in the head one night - "Must have been one of Jake's satisfied customers" says Cos.

Anybody hear about ROSADO's knock down, hook and jab fight with a "Cyclo" driver awhile ago? Seems the driver didn't like the idea of an intoxicated "Pineapple" latching on to one of his tires with his bare teeth no less!

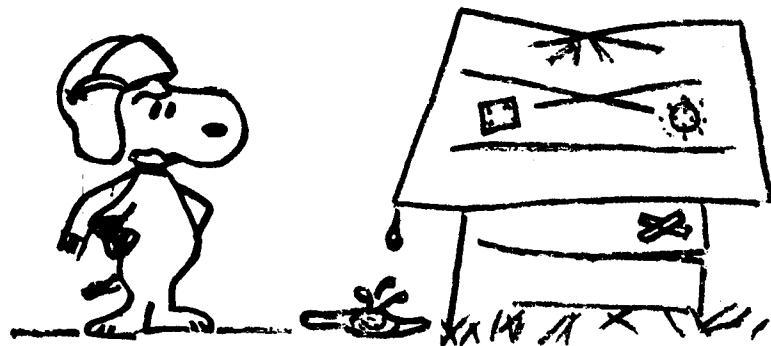
ADJ2 Pete PETERSON, soon to be ADJ1, really know's how to pull liberty - with just 500 piasters only! Can you imagine that?

New man in shop - ADR3 BROTHERTON, after spending 7 months in the Tool Crib, he can finally define what tools are what, now all we have to do is show him how they are utilized.

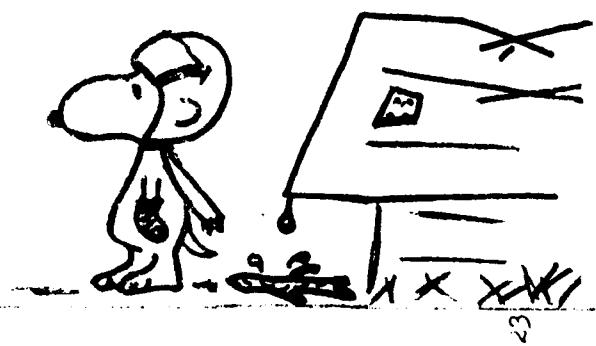
As for the "O's part of Power Plants Branch, there has been a turnover in power at least once a month, after all a man can stand only so much (shop note!)." LTJG "Barney" BARNES was relieved by short timer LTJG DYER, alias "Deadwood of Det 9". Barney set up house keeping at Det 6 and rumor has it that he took his first salt water bath early one morning in Feb. and was last seen floating around on his back in the Gulf of Thailand giving the international distress signal with his outstretched hand to some H-46 overhead. Power Plants sends, "Keep swiming Barney!"

About the time everyone in the shop figured out that they had a new "O" (LTJG DYER) they also found out he had checked out, the last anyone heard from him was when he ran through the hangar yelling, "What time is it?" Well lets hope he made it to the World OK and good luck to him in HM-12.

HERE'S THE WORLD-FAMOUS
FTL, WITH HIS ENTIRE
FIRE TEAM DOWN BECAUSE
OF MECHANICAL PROBLEMS.



I'VE CALLED THE PEOPLE
AT DET 4, I HOPE THEY
CAN BRING A "BIRD" OVER SO
WE CAN AT LEAST KEEP THE
CHANNEL COVERED.



AH! HERE
THEY COME
NOW!



AE SHOP

Don't repeat this but it has been rumored that the HA(L)-3 electricians have been recommended for the Plastic Cross, the well known medal given by the Vietnamese Red Cross for life saving. It seems that three officers had to be rescued at an AV/Weps party after they fell into icy and troubled waters. My source says that each decoration will be pinned on by Commander STARBUCK, one of the three officers present at the party.

I hope the awards come through. These men are the most deserving humans I have ever known. They work three shifts, keeping the shop open 24 hours a day. This is amazing when you consider the three shifts. Well, here it is.

At 7.30 in the morning you will see a white haired old man, AE1 WELLS, leading his "Melting Pot" in for the first shift. Melting pot? You had better believe it babes. It's consists of a Polock, a Greaser, a fatman, a blond, a judo expert, a duck, and a FRIS. They are, in that order; AE2 KRAWCZYNSKI, AE3 MUSEO, AE2 PROFFITT, AE3 MAHR, AE3 MOORE, AE3 SCHABEL, and AE1 FRISBIE. FRISBIE isn't a toy to be thrown back and forth between people. I'm not sure what he is, but he's so short it doesn't really matter.

If this group makes it through the day without electrocuting themselves, they are replaced by Night Check. Those fearless men working with the night breeze whipping through their hair and the bugs sticking between their teeth. This is, in my opinion, the closest knit group in the world. Kind of reminds me of Slydrey Whiplash and his gang; AE1 GARVER played by Whiplash, the gang; AE2 VAUGHN played by Lurch, AE3 MAGUIRE played by Charles Atlas, AE3 MURRAY played by Babysan John, AE3 ARMSTRONG played by a laughing hyena. These men are kind and gentle except for MAGUIRE when Connie's letters fail to make it.

The last crew, the misfits, come on at 11.15 (2315H for those over four), just in time for chow, after a nourishing meal at the cafeteria they are ready to turn and burn, just like their stomachs are doing. The boss; AE1 BARNEY is backed by AE2 UNDERWOOD, AE2 COLWELL, and AE3 HARDY. They finish up what is left by the other two shifts and work off daily gripes. They are a hard working crew and take second to none.

There it is. The men that sweat out the electrical functions of the wonderful Bell aircraft. Yes, they sweat, because there is no doubt in my military mind that the AE Shop is the hottest in the U.S. Navy. The air conditioner has been broken for months but no one cares except Jesus.

Until we meet again, don't worry about it cause everything ain't going to be alright no how.

QA DIVISION

Well its that time of the month again. Since our last Wolfgram, Q.A. has seen two of our men depart Binh Thuy for greener pastures. AM31 HICKS to NATC Pax River, AM3C BOYER to VA-86 Cecil Field, Florida. We wish them well in the land of the big P.X. Also with these we inherited some fine talent with the gain of ADJ1 SWEITZER and MYNTTI and for metalsmiths we gained AM31 RAY.

With the new men Q.A. is finally back up to allowances. Also Tech Rep John HEBLER is back and this time time will be with us until June. He states that our Engine problems are going to Fini. We sure hope so at any rate. Guess that's about it from here. Remember if you want a little more horse-power at no extra cost "Keep that engine clean".

AT SHOP

Since Jim NORTHCUTT left with the Rock Python he sported, the pet scene has changed from a reptilian house to an aviary. Hal HOBBS recently purchased a parrot from one of the budding Horatio Algers of the native population. One can get a clear picture of this bird by imagining the label of Corby's whiskey. Unfortunately, the parrot never makes any exciting noises. This, coupled with tendency to walk rather than fly, lends us to believe he is a little slow. We do not even know if he is a he.

People receiving orders since the last Wolfgram are; Chief MATTOT, VP-49, ATN3 HEIGER, HC-6, ATN3 RUSSO, North Island, and ATN3 WILSON, Lemore, Calif. WILSON is still hoping to extend if he can get Vietnam for a second time.

Eight people have received advancements in rate lately, either by examination of field promotion. By test, making Second Class were: Bill RUSSO, Tom JOHNSON, and John KENNEDY, Doug EPPLER, Boyd KEEFER, and Hal HOBBS are being "Ho Chi" advanced. Those advanced to Third Class were John TALBERT and Jeff HEIGER. The field promotions do not actually go into effect until May 1, but they have been confirmed. Congratulations to all!

LINE

Well here we are again, time is passing right along, faces are changing and everybody is getting shorter. We would like to welcome our new additions to the line: ATR2 RUSSEL, AMS2 THALMAN, ADJ3 HIXON, ADJ3 KERR, AE3 MARTIN and ADJ3 MILLER.

We have also acquired a new Division Officer, LT COMKERN, who in turn has acquired a new addition to his family, a seven pound, fourteen ounce baby boy, their first. Bring on the cigars.

AMSC GALLINEAU has replaced MASC LCHRISTER as Line Chief and immediately set about endearing himself with the men by shifting from an 8 on/16 off work day to a 12 on/12 off work day.

Our number ONE Sealord ATL GREGORY departed for the World, with never a backward glance and AMH1 McCICKEN will be taking his place.

ABH1 BOOKER is head honcho of Day Check with the Night Crew being driven be "Where's my jeep" SJOBERG and "Gramps" CLARY.

Now in all fairness to the war effort, Det applicants will be considered for the Sealord Program after serving a nominal qualification period on the line. "Sin Loi".

PARALOFT

Buenos dias, from the halls of life vests, helmets, and survival radios. As this new Wolfgram period rolls around, many changes can be witnessed in the Loft.

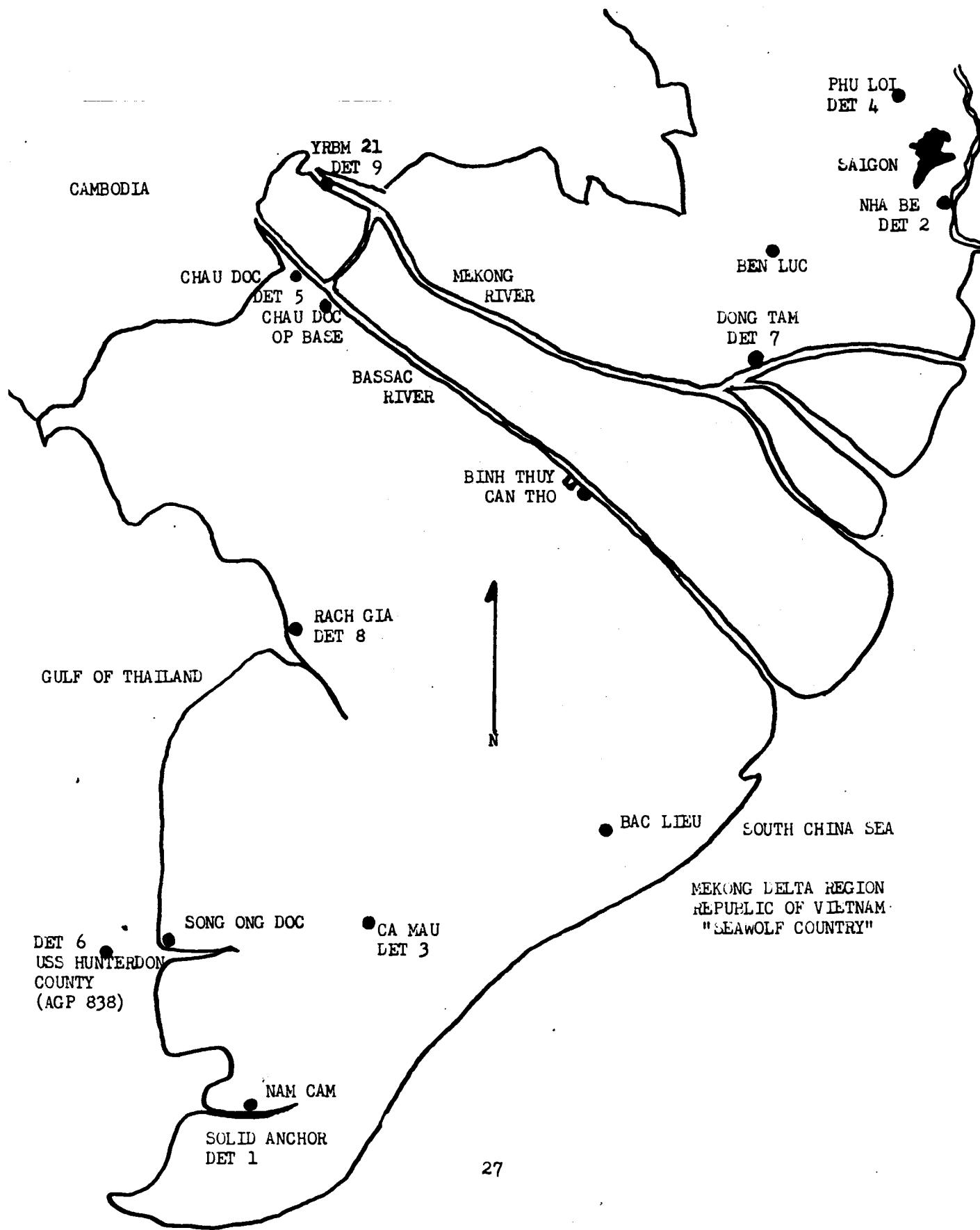
PR1 NIX, the new Loft honcho, still walks in a daze refusing to believe he is in Vietnam for a year. Our newbee boss has found consolation in many new friends and their coffee mess. He's been keeping himself busy by working as a shore patrol on his off hours to keep all of us on the straight and narrow.

PR3 SMITH alias "KING RAT", was advanced to Second Class by the Bureau and Field Waiver Board. Smitty has gone to the jungles of the Phillipines and JEST school this month to acquire first hand information to pass on new flying personnel when they attend ground school. We breathlessly await his return to see how he feels about the training in the P.I.

PR3 "Woody" WOODBURY is beginning to grin. When this Gram was being written he had already begun to flaunt his short timers ribbon around. Woody, a reserve, is being separated from active duty and returned to his parents, friends, university and Naval Reserve Board in Olathia, kansas.

PR3 WHITE Ain't Too Short ... But with 5 and a wake up and an 11 month early out, it seems incredible that he had the time to write this last Wolfgram of his career. I've finally come to the realization of what is meant by "a day in Nam is an eternity".

AN LOCKE, our newest newbee, found himself in the Loft after 8 months of Det life. LOCKE came to us just in time for him to depart on his 30-day extension leave. We're all looking forward to his return from the world and resumption of war stories and tales of the great Det life.



TONY NELSON