

HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT) SQUADRON THREE

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY
HEADQUARTERS, BINH THUY
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
14 APRIL 1971

BENEDICTION

LT EDWARD J. McMAHON
CHAPLAIN CORPS, U.S. NAVY

May we all pray together, please.

Almightly God, Our Father and Father of all men, a new prayer has arisen in the Delta! It is a prayer of hope in you and in all men of good will.

I have heard it from MACV compounds on the lips of 4 or 5 American soldiers. I have heard it over the radio in a language still new to me I have heard it from the bunkers at KIEN AN and in the SEAL Hootch at HAI YEN. I have heard it from blue jackets, broken in body but never in spirit, prayed in an Alabaman or New York accent. It comes from the hearts of free men. This new prayer of hope takes two forms, either "We have wounded, please send in a Seabord", or simply "Here come the Wolves"!

Father, bless these good men who fill the skies with freedom and hope.

Bless those who are no longer with us but who will remain always an indelible memory in the hearts of all.

Bless our officers and crews who have shared moments of death, tragedy, and glory.

Bless their families and loved ones too for they too have served.

Bless our Skipper who was with us always, on the Good Fridays as well as the Easter Sundays. To him, we say "Thank You" and "Well Done, Sir".

Bless our new Commanding Officer and, if possible, grant him an even greater future than the glorious past.

And finally, dear Father, remind us always of the great enterprise we are about - that as Your Son died to make men holy, may we strive to keep men free.

This we pray through Christ Jesus, Our Lord, Amen.