

HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT)  
SQUADRON THREE  
CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



HEADQUARTERS  
BINH THUY  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 1971  
10:30 AM

PROGRAM

HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT) SQUADRON THREE  
CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Wednesday, 14 April 1971

10:30 A. M.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Republic of Vietnam and United States  
of America National Anthems

INVOCATION

Lieutenant Commander Harold G. WILLIAMS, Jr.  
Chaplain Corps, U. S. Navy

REMARKS

Distinguished Guest Speaker

FAREWELL REMARKS

Captain Martin J. TWITE, U. S. Navy

CAPT TWITE reads his orders

CAPT BORGSTROM reads his orders

CAPT BORGSTROM relieves CAPT TWITE

REMARKS

Captain Charles O. BORGSTROM, Jr., U. S. Navy

BENEDICTION

Lieutenant Edward J. McMAHON  
Chaplain Corps, U. S. Navy

RECEPTION

## **HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT) SQUADRON THREE HISTORY**

Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, (HA(L)-3), the only ready reaction armed helicopter squadron ever commissioned in the U. S. Navy was established on 1 April 1967 to provide close air support for the Navy's Game Warden forces in operations in South Vietnam. HA(L)-3 arose from the peculiar nature of guerilla warfare in Vietnam and has played a major role in the allied campaign to deny the Viet Cong use of the all important waterways of the Delta.

HA(L)-3 pilots, flying heavily armed UH-1B helicopters, nicknamed "Seawolves" team up with RVN Navy River Patrol Boats (PBR's) in the III and IV Corps area. The primary mission of the Seawolves is to provide ready reaction close air support to the RVN Brown Water Navy. In addition, the Seawolves give air support for landing craft, provide armed reconnaissance and support to special mission groups such as the U. S. Navy's Sea, Air, Land Forces (SEAL Teams), fly medical evacuations and participate in the psychological warfare program. Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE maintains nine fire teams dispersed throughout the III and IV Corps area in order to minimize reaction time in countering enemy action in each area of operation.

Two crews of four men each are assigned to each Seawolf helicopter, enabling a continuous ready reaction posture within each detachment. Our UH-1B helicopters are presently configured to carry ordnance consisting of fourteen 2.75 inch high-explosive rockets, approximately 6,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition fired from two mini guns and two door-mounted M-60D machine guns. On most lead aircraft, a .50 caliber machine gun with 700 rounds is used in lieu of one M-60 door gun. Recently studies were completed to equip the trail aircraft with a door-mounted mini gun in lieu of one pylon mounted mini gun and one door mounted M-60.

HA(L)-3's support aircraft, nicknamed "Sealord", have been taking a more active role in supporting the Seawolves of the Delta. Working with a team of Seawolves, the Sealords provide the means of inserting quick reaction Seal Teams into fire zones after the Seawolves have swept the area. Recently studies were completed on the feasibility of mounting external stores on the Sealord aircraft, the UH-1L and the recently acquired HH-1K. With pylons, the Sealords will be capable of utilizing two 500 pound FAE (Fuel Air Explosives) or two nineteen shot 2.75 inch rocket pods.

As of 1 April 1971, personnel assigned to Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE have been presented 4 Navy Crosses, 30 Silver Stars, 1 Legion of Merit, 5 Navy and Marine Corps Medals, 201 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 75 Bronze Stars, 13,372 Air Medals, 355 Navy Commendation Medals, 174 Navy Achievement Medals, 144 Purple Hearts, and 90 Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry since the squadron was established on 1 April 1967. The Presidential Unit Citation has been presented to 6 Detachments, the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 2 Detachments, and the squadron has been awarded 1 Navy Unit Commendation. The Squadron has an allowance of 144 officers and 446 enlisted personnel.



CAPTAIN MARTIN J. TWITE, JR.  
UNITED STATES NAVY

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**Biography of Commanding Officer**  
**Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE**  
**Captain Martin J. TWITE, Jr., U. S. Navy**

Captain Martin J. TWITE entered the Naval Service via the Navy V-5 program in April 1946. He entered flight training as an Aviation Midshipmen and was designated a Naval Aviator in November 1949. He joined VP-42 at San Diego as a Midshipmen and was commissioned in July 1950 while enroute to Korea. Subsequent tours of duty include Guided Missle Unit No. 4 as Sparrow III Officer and Fleet Air Wings Atlantic Staff as Aide and Flag Lieutenant.

In January 1957, Captain TWITE was ordered to Stanford University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in June 1958. Upon completion of General Line School at Monterey in 1959, he commenced helicopter transition training at Pensacola and was ordered to the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey where he earned a MS in Engineering Electronics after specializing in digital computers. He applied his computer training at his next duty station, the Naval Command System Support Activity (NAVCOSSACT), Washington, D. C.

Captain TWITE served as Executive Officer of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SEVEN (HS-7) briefly before that squadron was decommissioned in May 1966. He was then ordered to Newport, Rhode Island, where he completed the School of Naval Warfare at the Naval War College before assuming command of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron THREE (HS-3). After HS-3 he reported to the U. S. S. GUAM (LPH-9) as Executive Officer. Captain TWITE took command of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE on 14 April 1970. Captain TWITE is ordered to Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain TWITE is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. TWITE, Sr. of DAWSON, Minnesota. He is married to the former Mary Anne MOORE of Falls Church, Virginia. They and their four children reside at 1505 Adam Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia.



CAPTAIN CHARLES O. BORGSTROM, JR.  
UNITED STATES NAVY

**Biography of New Commanding Officer  
Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE  
Captain Charles O. BORGSTROM, Jr., U. S. Navy**

Captain BORGSTROM was born in Boston on 23 June 1929 and was married to the former Betty LOCKE of Arlington, Massachusetts on 25 November 1951. They have four daughters, Karen, Kathy, Carole and Christine and presently reside at 183 Hemlock Drive, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

Entering the Navy in March 1947, under a minority enlistment, Captain BORGSTROM spent almost two years as an enlisted man before entering flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet in January 1949. Upon receiving his wings and commission in 1950, he reported to his first squadron, ATU-10. In October, 1950, he was ordered to NAS Lakehurst, New Jersey for lighter-than-air (LTA) training which he completed in January 1951. Captain BORGSTROM's first LTA squadron was ZP-1, and he was there until February, 1954. During this period he also served aboard USS VALCOUR (AVP-55) and USS GREENWICH BAY (AVP-40), and qualified as Officer of the Deck, Underway. Captain BORGSTROM attended the Aviation Ordnance School in Jacksonville, Florida. From June 1954 to June 1957 he was a Test/Project Pilot with the Chief of Naval Airship Training and Experimentation (CNATE). In July 1957 he attended the General Line School and in July, 1958, after completing Line School, Captain BORGSTROM reported to Pensacola, Florida and was designated a qualified helicopter pilot. He then reported to HS-6 at San Diego, California. His primary duties in HS-6 were ASW and Aviation Safety Officer. After completing Aviation School Safety at the University of Southern California in December 1960, Captain BORGSTROM reported to ZP-3. In October 1961, he was transferred to Commander Fleet Air Caribbean Staff, Puerto Rico. There he spent almost two years as the Aviation Safety Officer. Next he attended the U. S. Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and received a degree in International Relations. In March 1965, he reported to VX-6 at NAS Quonset Point, Rhode, Island. At VX-6 Captain BORGSTROM had duties as the Aviation Safety and Operations Officer during DEEPFREEZE 65 and 66 in Antarctica. Mount BORGSTROM, in Antarctica, was named after him for his service during this period. Captain BORGSTROM was then assigned to HC-4 as the Executive Officer. In August 1967 he was ordered to organize and commission Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FIVE (HC-5) at NAS Imperial Beach, California and was its Commanding Officer until 13 September 1968. At that time he was detached to proceed to the USS VALLEY FORGE (LPH-8) as the Air Officer. He completed a combat tour on board in the Vietnam area, and was ordered to the Senior Course at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island in October 1969. Upon graduation from the Senior Course he became a member of the faculty until receiving orders as Commanding Officer of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE in the Republic of Vietnam.

Captain BORGSTROM was promoted to his present rank on 1 December 1970. Included among his awards are the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Antarctica Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Nation Defense Service Medal with a second award star, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign, and two Navy Commendation Medals. He has over 5000 hours of flight time in all types of aircraft.

