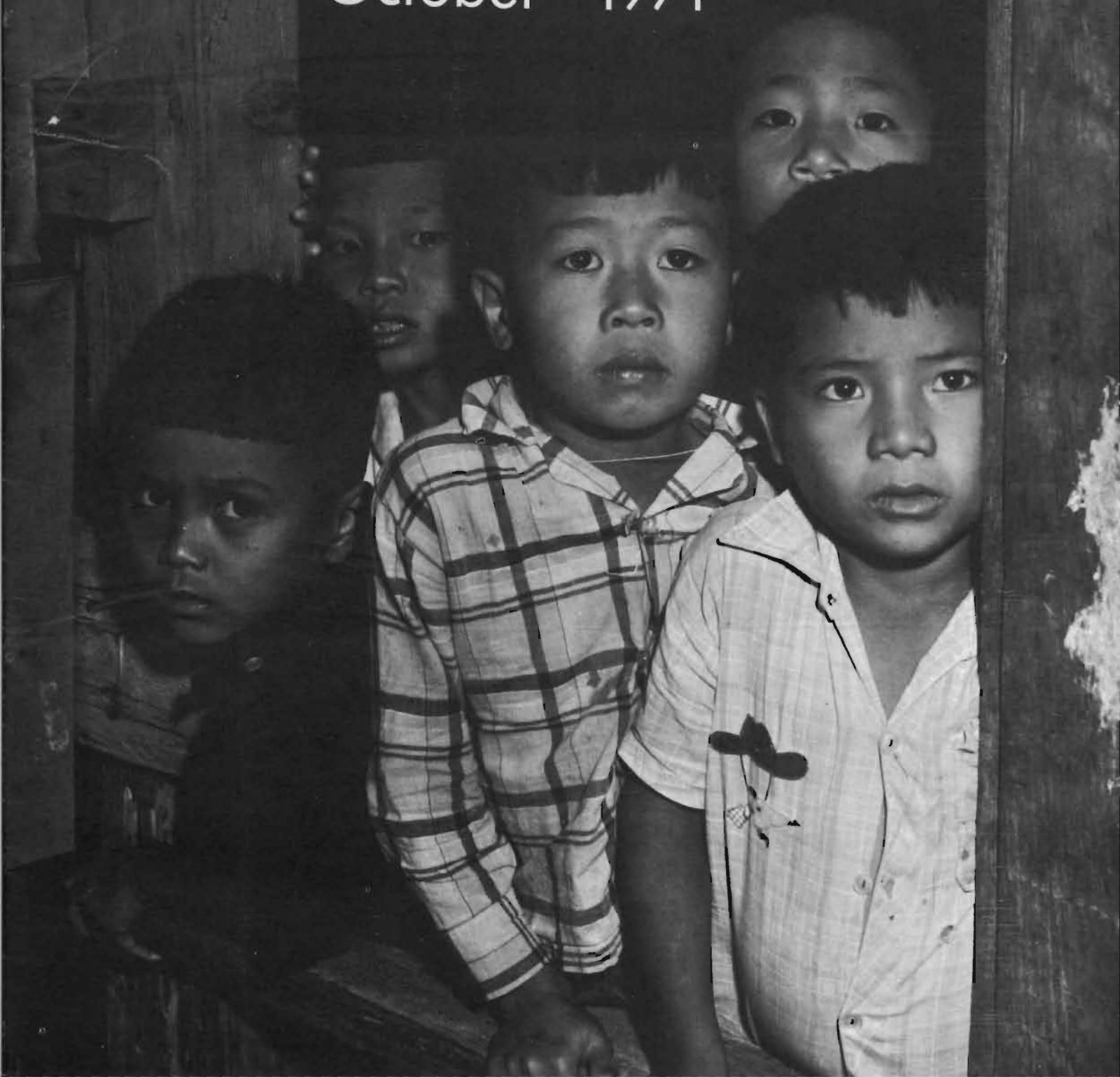


the Landpiper

FAMILYGRAM

October 1971



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SANDPIPER FAMILYGRAM

OCTOBER 1971 VOL. 3, NO. 9

U. S. NAVAL AIR FACILITY
CAM RANH BAY
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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Executive Officer
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Photographic Officer
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SP4 W. N. Robinson (1st RR)



FRONT



BACK

The front cover is the work of PH2 George King, newly arrived at NAF, and points up the theme of this issue—the orphans of Cam Ranh. The back cover, another of the scenic panoramas of Cam Ranh Bay, is the work of PH1 Gerald Olson, now departed for his next assignment.

STAMP OUT WORRY!



When was the last time you wrote a letter home? A week ago? A month? The longer you delay, the more the worry mounts at home. Take a minute or two now to drop a line to your loved ones. It may save you the embarrassment of giving an official explanation after your commander receives a query from your home.

An Ugly Animal

Striking, from behind in whispers is the most vicious animal known to mankind, the "rumor."

Like a killer plague, a rumor grows and spreads its infectious germs. Uncontrollable. Unlike a plague, a rumor has no vaccination. Science will never cure the rumor, but it's not up to science to do so. It's up to you.

No one knows where, how or when a rumor has been started. And no one understands why. To some it may be a game . . . but to the target of the rumor it can prove to be deadly.

Rumors are lies . . . perhaps started out of anger, jealousy or even spite. These lies roll from tongue to tongue like a human telegraph . . . only the lie never remains the same. It is gossip glorified, (if that's at all possible, the glorification of gossip). Rumors are no jokes, they are monsters which can ruin an individual's



reputation, cost him or her his job and in extreme cases drive a person to mental instability . . . even suicide.

In the military services it can destroy morale and compromise security.

It's an ugly animal.

There's one thing worse than starting a rumor, that's listening to one. And there's one thing worse than listening to a rumor, that's believing one.

Tid-bits of news are interesting, but before you tell someone else check it out for accuracy and truth.

Call it an ecology movement to clear the air if you want, or just think of it as killing a rabid dog . . . stop rumors. (AFPS Editorial by SP4 Barbara Mitchell from The Star & Missile, Ft. MacArthur, Calif.)

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Comments

From The Captain

Civic action projects in Vietnam have been among the most gratifying and rewarding accomplishments of this tragic war. As our part of the program we are fortunate to have been designated sponsors for two wonderful orphanages. In recent years Navy personnel helped make many good things happen for the orphans and I suppose this is because we all quickly relate to the plight of needy children and instinctively want to help.

This issue of the "Sandpiper" is dedicated to the children of the Tan Binh and Cam Ranh City Christian Orphanages. We want all of our readers to know these youngsters as we have come to know them and help them in any way you can. The pictures in this and past issues of the familygram speak for themselves, but let me add a few words of my own.

I am sure it comes as no surprise that the majority of these orphans are not pure Vietnamese. Some are, of course, but generally they are all of the beautiful shades from black through white. It's "GI Joe" all over again and just like after the big war, Joe is going home and leaving many of his problems behind. I suppose that is the history of the world, but it's still a little tough to swallow. As the Navy withdraws from Vietnam, it's natural to ask - who takes care of the kids?

For several years we have been helping to care for these orphans, and rightly so, since we have helped create the problem. Now we are packing up and leaving and one wonders who will fix the generator, carry the water, conduct the MEDCAP, provide the food, pay the operating expenses? I could go on and on but it boils down to this--these orphanages are going to need money and lots of it for a long time to come. A hundred and fifty kids will have some real important needs to satisfy in the coming years and you know what their priority will be for funding in a nation struggling for survival.

The answer for their dilemma of course is to establish a fund for the two orphanages, and that is exactly what we are now trying to do. Last June we asked for permission to start a voluntary withholding program for those among us who wanted to donate something each payday to support these children. I am hopeful that we will get approval of this program since a gift by monthly allotment is the easiest and most efficient way to make a generous contribution. But approval is slow in coming and we just have to move ahead and help these people now. So as you approach Thanksgiving Day and give thanks to God for all His blessings, you might want to write a check for the kids in your favorite orphanage. Remember what it takes to raise a youngster at home, then give a generous contribution, not until it hurts, but until you feel good about giving.



B. E. Goehring
B. E. GOEHRING
Captain, U. S. Navy

NOTE:

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
OVERSEAS ACCOUNT - MISSION 1217
ATTN: CAM RANH CITY CHRISTIAN
ORPHANAGE, CAM RANH BAY,
VIETNAM

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96243
ATTN: TAN BINH ORPHANAGE,
CAM RANH BAY, VIETNAM

THEY NEED
YOUR HELP.

News Makers

EX-ROOMMATES MEET ON VIETNAM BALLFIELD

NAF's Lt. Andy Curtin (l.) and Army 1 Lt. Dennis Ragosa were surprised when they ran into each other in the course of their duties in the Cam Ranh area. Why surprised? The two men, both special services officers for their respective commands, are 1968 graduates of Marquette University and were roommates for one year.

They were stationed here for two months before discovering the coincidence.



VIETNAMESE CNO

VISITS NAF

RAcm Chon (c.), CNO of the Vietnamese Navy, arrives at NAF with his staff. Admiral Chon stopped at NAF on his way to the Logistic Support Base, Cam Ranh Bay ("Market Time"), which has been turned-over to the Vietnamese Navy.

NAFERS DIG IN FOR BEER AND CHOW AT A RECENT BASE-WIDE PARTY.





NAF Awards

REENLISTMENT-- AE2 Richard Garoutte is reenlisted into the Navy by Capt. B. E. Goehring, NAF commanding officer.

OTHER NAVAL AIR FACILITY REENLISTMENTS



DC1 Robert Gephart



JO1 Bill Holloway



ABH2 Michael Hall



COOK OF THE MONTH-- CS3 Terry Hansen displays the plaque he was awarded after being selected Cook of the Month.



AIRCREW WINGS--AMS2 Edward Coia is congratulated by Capt. B. E. Goehring (r.) upon receiving his aircrew wings.



RAdm. R. E. Riera, Commander
Fleet Air Western Pacific



THE ADMIRAL presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Capt. B. E. Goehring, NAF commanding officer.

A VIEW OF



AN ADMIRAL'S INSPECTION

News Makers



Crazy Cat

Happenings

by WO1 Robert C. Michener (USA), Army Reporter



SP4 ARTHUR J. HULTER
SOLDIER OF THE MONTH



A RECENT 1ST RR
AWARDS CEREMONY



LTC ANTONIO GONZALEZ

MAJ GONZALEZ PINS ON SILVER OAK LEAF

Ex-MAJ Antonio Gonzalez, commanding officer of the 1st Radio Research Co. (Aviation) aboard NAF, has pinned on the silver oak leaf of lieutenant colonel. Presiding at the presentation ceremony at higher headquarters in Long Thanh was LTC Richards, commanding officer of the 224th Aviation Battalion (Radio Research).

LTC Gonzalez, who has commanded the "Crazy Cats" since March, has taken a firm stand on the drug problem. He has stated that all measures will be taken to help any man that has a drug problem and is willing to take advantage of the assistance available to him.

Another program spearheaded by the combined efforts of LTC Gonzalez along with CW2 Les Howell has been appropriately titled "Rap Session". In this program leaders of the company meet face-to-face with those seeking answers to their questions about current policy.

LTC Gonzalez continues to open his door at any hour to those who would like the more personal guidance and help of the commander. Practically every commanding officer in the Army has a formal hour for receiving those with problems or grievances, but few host such a policy--as LTC Gonzalez does--24 hours a day.



AT LEFT--AZ1s "Chuck" Suggs (l.) and Dave Berquist chart maintenance trends.

Maintenance Control:

A Sign of Changing Times

Not so many years ago, aircraft maintenance was a relatively easy task and the word, "maintenance", called forth images of nuts, bolts and greasy hands. But today maintenance of aircraft is an ever more complicated and technical field. It requires stringent control and a huge volume of paperwork.

NAF's Maintenance Control Division, nerve center of the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, is responsible for the overall management of the maintenance production effort.

The division, under Division Officer Lt. John Senappe, is made up of four branches: Maintenance Administration, Production Control, Logs and Records, and Data Analysis. The men assigned to these branches work together to ensure proper coordination and monitoring of the department's workload. They also prepare and maintain departmental records and reports.

Routine assignments may vary from initiating a work order for one of the work centers to isolating a maintenance problem through analysis of maintenance data.



ABOVE--AZ2 Dick Bergeron (l.) and Lt. John Senappe review aircraft log books. AT LEFT--AZ2 Russell Robertson (l.) and AZAN Gilbert Gonzalez check statistics on the maintenance information display board.



Story by JO1 Bill Holloway
Photos by PH2 George King

BELOW--PN2 Jim Berry and Trieu Nguyen Ty, civilian personnel administrative assistant, prepare the Vietnamese employee payroll. AT RIGHT--PN2 Berry pays a Vietnamese worker as Nguyen Thi Tuu, civilian personnel secretary, looks on.



Civilian Personnel:

Making Life Better at NAF

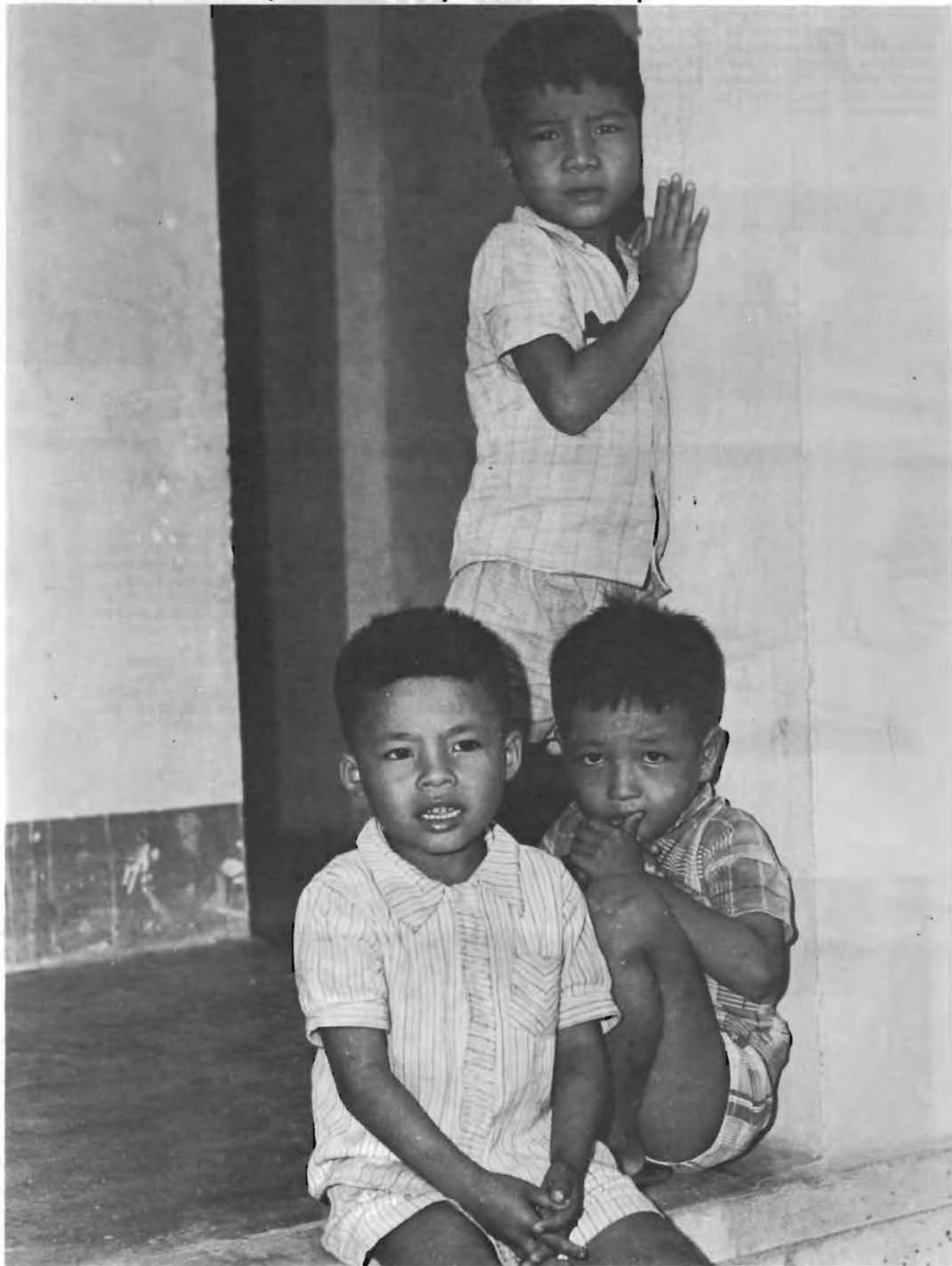
As any sailor on NAF will tell you, life would be a lot harder were it not for the 170 Vietnamese civilian workers aboard the base. These hard-working local employees log over 9,180 hours a week performing non-operational tasks, freeing military personnel for more specialized functions.

Vietnamese employees can be found throughout the base--in the galley, the laundry, the exchange and in Public Works. They work hand-in-hand with the G. I. to make NAF a better place on which to live and work.



VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES perform necessary tasks throughout the base, including the laundry (left) and the galley (right).

"Project Cindy" Sees Many Kinds of Help





by JO1 Bill Holloway

Children can touch the hearts of the hardest of men, and the men of NAF have lost their hearts to children at two local orphanages.

The Tan Binh Orphanage and School was founded by NAF sailors after a baby girl, called Cindy by the men who found her abandoned in a ditch, died following a valiant struggle for life. Since that time, NAFers have supported the orphans of Tan Binh and have dubbed the effort "Project Cindy". In the ensuing years, "Project Cindy" has expanded to include the support of another group of Vietnamese children at the Cam Ranh City Christian Orphanage.

Support of the kids takes many forms for the GI who wants to help. Some give money, food or clothes and solicit help from their friends and relatives back home.

One sailor, for example, wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Conroy of Omaha, Neb., who immediately grew interested in the plight of the orphans in the Cam Ranh area. The Conroys organized drives for food, clothing and vitamins which soon came rolling in to the grateful kids.

But for the Conroy's, that was not enough.

(Continued on page 12)



FOSTER PARENTS--Mr. and Mrs. Harold Conroy look at photos of their orphans and LCdr. E. W. Baller, who is the go-between in the adoption proceedings. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CONROY FAMILY)



AT LEFT--LCdr. E. W. Baller with "Ruth" and "Joseph" who will soon join their new family in Omaha, Neb. ABOVE--NAFers helped build a school for these orphans.



A WET LESSON--AZ2 Chuck Kilpatrick gives this boy a swimming lesson.

"Project Cindy" ---

(Continued from page 11)

They felt they had to do more and decided to adopt an orphan for their own. They wrote Capt. Joseph Gallagher, former NAF commanding officer. He requested the aid of LCdr. E. W. Baller, NAF administrative officer, who willingly agreed.

Since that time, the Conroy's have decided to adopt two youngsters with LCdr. Baller acting as proxy. The officer hopes to have the children, Nguyen The Thanh Huong ("Ruth"), 1 1/2; and Hoang Minh Son ("Joseph") 2, home with the Conroy's by Christmas.

In addition to the Conroy's, many civic, religious and fraternal organizations, such as the Cubi Point NAS CPO Wives' Club in the Philippines, have provided much-needed money, food, clothes and other items for the orphans.

Another project, started through the efforts of AZ2 "Chuck" Kilpatrick, is the orphan's swimming project. In this effort, eight boys from each orphanage are being taught to swim at the NAF pool.

The men of NAF are proud of their support of the orphans and if there's anything sad about leaving Vietnam, it's having to tell the little ones good-by.



PRESENTATION--Capt. B. E. Goehring (the tall one) congratulates a youngster on earning his Swimming Qualification Card.



DEMONSTRATING A STROKE--Showing the orphans in the foreground a swimming stroke at the NAF pool are (l.-r.) SP4 Bruce MacDougall, AZ2 Chuck Kilpatrick and PNSN Tom Curphey. All are certified swimming instructors.

NAF Sports

INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	W-L	AVG.	POINTS
ARMY EM	4-1	17.4	7.8
ADMIN	5-2	10.0	14.3
SUPPLY	4-2	13.5	4.0
WEAPONS	4-2	12.3	9.8
P. WORKS	3-3	6.7	18.0
ARMY "O"	2-5	6.0	25.5
AMD	0-7	---	---



THE LINES CONVERGE...ADMIN VS. SUPPLY.



PRESSURE ON THE QUARTERBACK...ADMIN VS. SUPPLY.



GRABBING THE FLAG...ARMY VS. ADMIN.



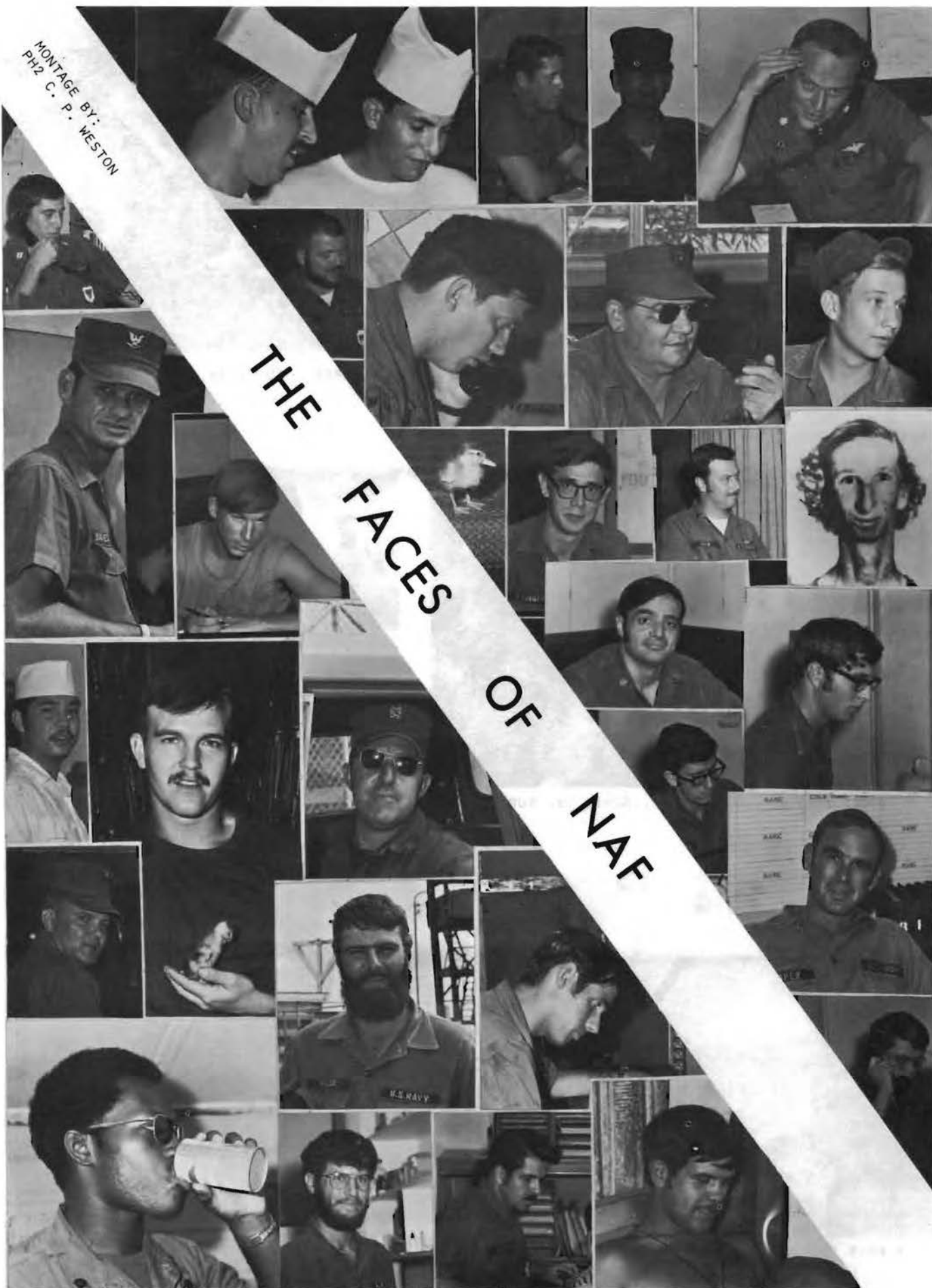
A PASS INTERCEPTION...ARMY VS. ADMIN.

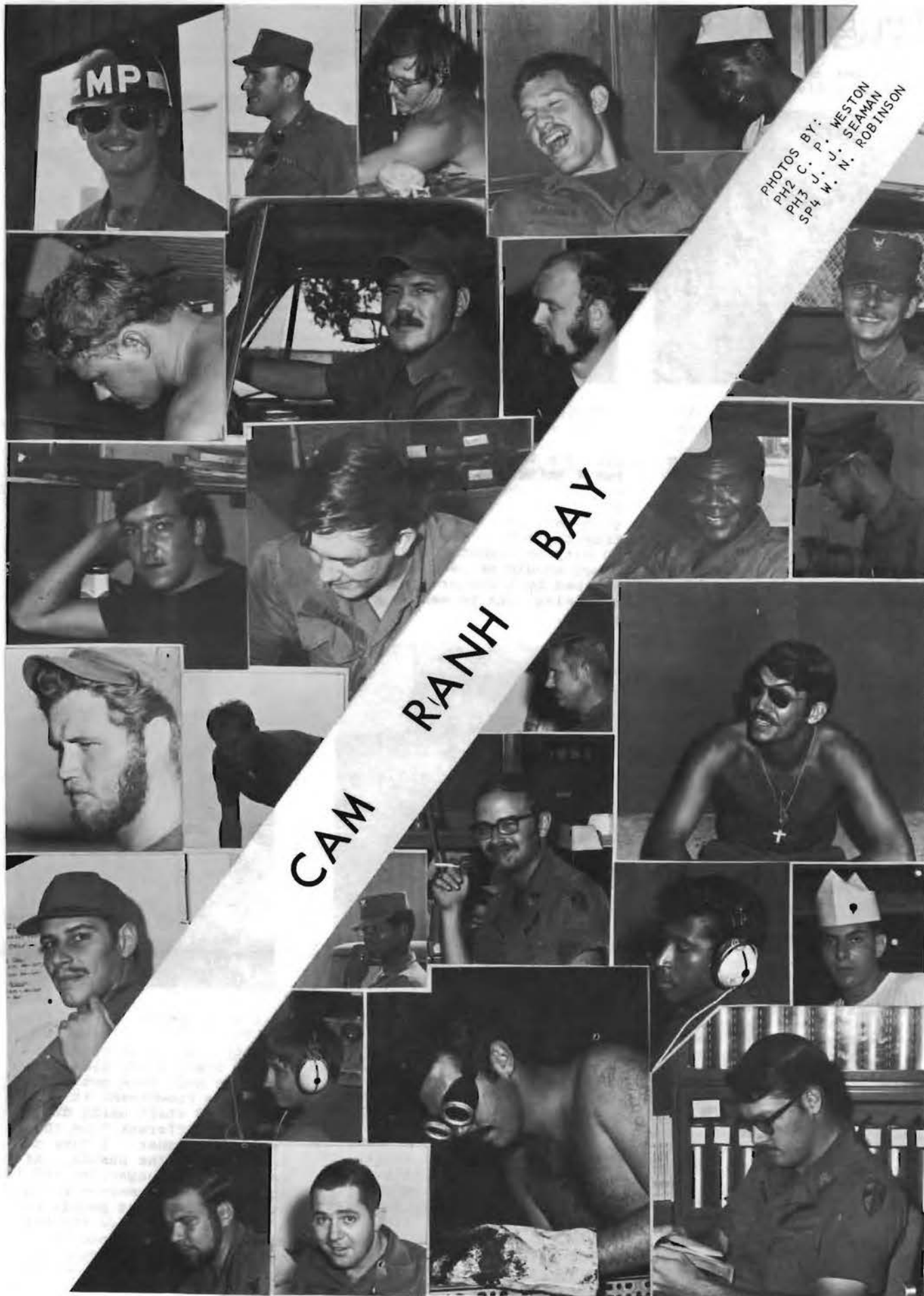


UNDER PRESSURE, HE GOT IT AWAY...SUPPLY VS. ADMIN.

MONTAGE BY:
PH2 C. P. WESTON

THE FACES OF NAF





PHOTOS BY:
 PH2 C. P. WESTON
 PH3 J. J. SEAMAN
 SP4 W. N. ROBINSON

CAM RANH BAY

drug abuse

Interviews and Photos by
JO1 Bill Holloway

A ROVING REPORTER ASKS THE QUESTION: "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE AMNESTY (EXEMPTION) PROGRAM AND HOW DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE IMPROVED? AND NAFERS ANSWER.



HM1 JIM WALLS, MEDICAL-- At this time, I believe the Amnesty Program is suitable to the times. Had this program been initiated much sooner, its statistical rating would be much higher. I also think that if a person is told that he is under investigation for drugs, they should still have the right of amnesty for one offense--a "Chieu Hoi" situation.



PH2 GEORGE KING, PHOTO LAB-- I don't know enough about it to say what can be done to improve it. I'm very hard on drugs, but I think the program is good for those who get hooked on drugs accidentally. But these guys who use drugs just because they can't face reality, I have no pity or sympathy for them. Drugs should be used as prescribed by a doctor--to relieve suffering, not to make a person suffer.



PN3 RANDY NEEDLES, PERSONNEL-- I don't know all the details of the program, but they ought to give the guys that are under investigation a chance to turn themselves in. The Amnesty Program is working O. K. but I don't believe in this FRAT test too much. I have seen too many guys miss their DEROS flight because of a mistake on it. I also think they could come out with more drug literature. They haven't hit the majority of the people.



ADR1 RAY KINNEY, QUALITY ASSURANCE--I think it's O. K. for the first-time user. However, I don't believe they can cure him completely if he has been using drugs for a long time. If that is the case I don't think they should keep him in the service. It's no place for him, period. If he knows he's under investigation why should he have a chance to turn himself in for amnesty? He could have turned himself in before. And if a man is selling or pushing he should not have a chance for amnesty.



AX1 G. H. LIMBAUGH, AVIONICS-- I don't know that much about it, but I think it's a good idea. I have a feeling that after the Amnesty Program is over with, a drug user is going to be in a heap of trouble. I, for one, don't want a drug addict in my shop because he will end up hurting himself or someone else. I think the drug abuser ought to take advantage of the program. I think this mandatory "golden flow" test is an infringement on my civil rights.



WO-1 D. M. SMITH, WEAPONS/SECURITY OFFICER-- I think the Amnesty Program is good. A lot of these young kids that get sent over here get involved with a crowd--and it is a crowd--and start using drugs. They are different from the hard-core pusher. I have no sympathy for the pusher. After a man is caught, he should not be granted amnesty because by this time, most people have a basic knowledge of the program and have a chance to turn themselves in earlier.



AMHAN ROBERT WALSH, AIRFRAMES--
The guys I know who use drugs or have used drugs don't trust the program. The more emphasis the command puts on the amnesty idea the better. If they'd send out corpsmen to talk to addicts or users, they'd get better results. I know that there is an Amnesty Program, but I don't know how a person who turns himself in is treated. I have a lot of respect for a man who turns himself in because although he may not be punished, he has labeled himself a drug user. After all, if he didn't want off drugs, he wouldn't turn himself in in the first place.



YN2 LEROY CHRISTIAN, AIR OPS--
It's because there's nothing to do over here--you get bored. The program is trying, but it won't work as long as they send people back where they were before (or to a similar place). He goes back to the same boring atmosphere, same standard routine and he's going to be tempted into doing it all again. The program itself is set up fine. It's just that people won't take advantage of it. You don't find too many "hard core" around here. Most are just experimenters.



AN GUY COLLEY, AIR OPS LINE--
I think a lot of improvements have already been made in the Amnesty Program. I don't think that I should turn away from someone just because he's been on the stuff. And I think a person should be able to turn himself in even if he is being investigated for drugs. That FRAT test should be taken earlier so it could be checked well before somebody's DEROS flight.



PR3 LELAND DAVIS, PARALOFT--
Most drug users don't realize until it's too late that they have a problem. The Amnesty Program helps them. I would not be against a person just because they had been on amnesty. I'd feel better towards him because he realized he had a problem and he did something about it. Also if I were on drugs, I'd go to him for help because he'd know about the program through personal experience. I saw more drugs being used in the States than I have over here.



SK3 HARRY BRINSER, SUPPLY OPS--
Basically it's a good program, probably the best one ever devised to attack the problem. What I like about it is the emphasis on rehabilitation rather than the treating of a drug abuser as a criminal. Primarily the program is oriented against heroin which everyone admits is bad. Even "potheads" say heroin is bad. I read that they're going to retain heroin addicts in Vietnam longer, which is good. I think that they should be kept as long as necessary to make them whole again. The problem is one not only of the military but also of society. I'm glad to see it's being treated as such.



SN CHUCK KELSO, SECURITY--
It's a pretty good deal really. In Vietnam I think it would be better if they got them out completely. I think being here slows their withdrawal from the drug. They also could do a better job informing people about the Amnesty Program. When I went down to Nha Be as a court-martial witness, I took a look at the drug rehabilitation center and it reminded me of a prison, but it's not really like that. They get a chance for liberty, which is a temptation for them to go back on the stuff, but very few abuse the privilege.

PART OF THE NAVY SAILING CLUB FLEET sails around scenic Cam Ranh Bay.



NAF'S New Sailing Club

"If there wasn't a war going on, this would be one of the most beautiful places in the world."

Statements such as this are heard quite frequently around Cam Ranh Bay, and with good reason. Cam Ranh is an area of natural scenic beauty, with its sweeping waterways and towering mountains, unparalleled anywhere in the world. The military in the area has few opportunities to take advantage of that beauty, however, because many areas are off-limits.

One way Cam Ranh Navymen can enjoy the advantages of being stationed here is to join the local Navy Sailing Club. The club, which has 11 sailing craft of six types, is run by sailing enthusiasts from NAF and other U. S. Navy activities in the area.

The boats are operated out of the "Market Time" Marina and are maintained by club members and AMD personnel, with the assistance of the NAF Special Services Division.

What does it take to become a member? Simply, you must become a qualified, card-carrying sailor. AC1 R. McCullough is currently conducting classes in the art of sailing and anyone interested can sign up. Eleven "sailors" have already passed the required written test and of those, eight have completed the final check ride.

In addition to attending classroom lectures, beginners go out for underway training in the club's boats, seeing first-hand the beautiful sailing areas around "Market Time" and Binh Ba Island.

The cost? Just some of your spare time to learn what it's like to be a "real sailor".



A LIGHTNING.



A RHODES-19.

A LIGHTNING UNDER FULL SAIL with some of Cam Ranh's magnificent scenery in the background.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by LCDR E. A. Gates

The time has come to write my final Chaplain's Corner article for the "Sandpiper". I'm not sure whether I should say "Hello" or "Good-by". I will be stationed in San Diego so it is possible that I will see some of you for the first time in the near future. If you live in the San Diego area, please come by and say hello when you are at the Balboa Naval Hospital.

I should say good-by to some people, most of whom live here in Vietnam. These people do not get the familygram in the mail, but you (at home) have heard of many of them through articles, pictures and letters. My hope is that we who are stationed at NAF have made a real contribution to a better way of life for them. We will not forget our friends in Vietnam. You folks back home have done a great job by sending so many packages and generously supporting our efforts. Your work has been an inspiration to all of us.

Just a brief "so long" to the men still here at NAF. Today's travel and communication possibilities cause me to expect to "see you later".

I want to make two requests: First, keep praying and working for the release of the POWs and MIAs; Second, keep writing those letters--the most important event of the day for most people is Mail Call.

May the Lord bless you.



IN CENTER PHOTO, Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Downs, missionairies at the Pleiku Leper Colony, show pictures of patients from the colony to ADJAN Charles Colson (l.), NAF chaplain's assistant. In left and right photos, Rev. and Mrs. Downs minister at the NAF Chapel.



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