



CAN THO STATION CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR

by: Boyd D. Mesecher, MTS/SVN

Earlier this year our Can Tho Station, in the southern Delta region of South Vietnam, celebrated its first anniversary.

Here is the story: early in 1969, John Carter, Supervisor Regional Maintenance Department, Saigon, and a crew of maintenance and supply personnel from Saigon arrived at Can Tho with a minimum of supplies and equipment to set up an aircraft maintenance operation there. The objective in establishing this facility at Can Tho was to provide our customers—U. S. Embassy and CORDS (Combined Operations for Revolutionary Development Support)—with improved service at lower cost by keeping AAM aircraft in Can Tho for longer periods of time and by having the facilities and manpower to keep them airworthy while at Can Tho.

Through the efforts of Mr. Carter and his maintenance and supply people, and with the exceptional cooperation and assistance of the Chief, Air Operations/CORDS and his personnel, the original objectives set for Air America's operation at Can Tho were suc-



Can Tho First Anniversary party in progress. Standing, far left is Frank Conner, Captain/PC-6C/SGN; standing at table is Mr. E.V. Valebia, Mech. 1/c; seated far right is Ted Mauldin, Captain/PC-6C/SGN.

cessfully met for the entire first year. Through the efforts and teamwork of all personnel involved, the Can Tho operation has been developed and expanded to provide these facilities: a supply room equipped with adequate storage space and parts racks in lieu of the original Conex box; provisions for storing and protecting Company tools and employee tool boxes and aircraft handling and maintenance equipment to meet the requirements of overnight service checks.

Early this year, a first anniversary party was held at the Can Tho facility; it exemplified the excellent cooperative and group spirit among all individuals at the Can Tho Station: Embassy, CORDS and Air America personnel alike. At the party, excellent food and refreshments were served to the gratification of all concerned. Judging from the photos at the right, the feast was made up of such tongue-tingling items as roast suckling pig and Schlitz beer.



This pix of the First Anniversary party at Can Tho shows the groaning board laden with what appears to be a pig's head with an apple in his mouth (background), bowls of rice and vegetables, a can of Schlitz beer and a Cola-type drink. Smiling around the board are (l. to r.): Mr. A.L. Christian (CO and AAM personnel Mr. P.B. Duco, Mech. 2/c; Mr. E.T. Rabonza, Mech. 1/c; Mr. M.C. Velasco, Mech. Mr. M.T. Cordetta, Storekeeper 1/c; Mr. M.A. Nicolas, Mech. 1/c; Mr. E.V. Valebia, Mech. 1/c.



Sitting beneath a king-size "Welcome" sign, Air America's Mr. P.B. Duco, Mech. 2/c, appears successfully and skillfully wielding a sizeable meat cleaver as he slices succulent suckling pig head appears at the right side of the groaning board which is also laden with a large pot of vegetables plus several cans of Schlitz beer.