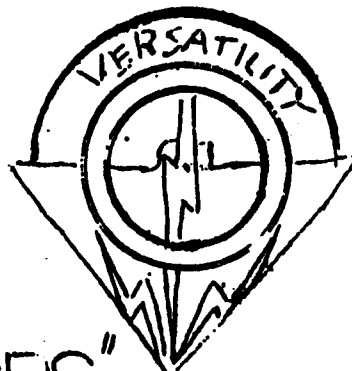


THE FALCON



"ABOVE I CORPS"

VOL 1 NO 14

16TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, CHU LAI, RVN

DECEMBER 22, 1968

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CAPE KENNEDY (ABC) Apollo Eight is well on its way toward the moon traveling at 42,000 miles per hour. NASA officials stated the mission is going well so far. Astronaut James Lovell says the view of Earth is beautiful and said he could see Cape Kennedy and Africa at the same time.

SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA (ABC) Police and FBI agents are moving into a mangrove swamp in Southwestern Florida this morning where it is believed Barbara Jane MacKle's kidnappers are cornered. Barbara Jane was released unharmed last night from a casket-like box that was buried about 18 inches below ground. She had been buried for four days.

WASHINGTON (ABC) White House news secretary George Christian said today President Johnson will spend at least one more day in the hospital to recover from his case of the flu.

EDWARDS AFB, CALIF. (ABC) After 198 flights, the experimental X-15 rocketship has been retired. Bad weather scrapped its last scheduled mission that was supposed to take place at Edwards AFB, Calif. The X-15 reached 67 miles above the Earth, earned astronaut wings for pilots who took it over 50 miles up and went 4,250 miles per hour or nearly seven times the speed of sound.

SAIGON (ABC) United States officials in Saigon say American planes have hit anti-aircraft implacements in the DMZ for the second day in a row. Meanwhile, Peace Talks negotiator Cyrus Vance has flown to Washington to report to President Johnson on the hangup in the talks at Paris, where he left behind a continuing squabble between the South and North Vietnamese according to ABC News.

PORTLAND, OREGON (ABC) Final results of that vote recount in Oregon show Senator Wayne Morse increasing his vote by only 182 votes, still leaving Republican Bob Packwood the winner. Morse says, however, he may ask for a ruling by the Senate on what he calls "illegal voting."

16th CAG Goes Americal

(CHU LAI 16th CAG-IO)

Airpower for the Americal!

United States Army Vietnam general order number 5,498 amended the attachment of the 16th Combat Aviation Group effective Dec. 1, 1968 to the Americal Division.

The "Falcon Group", celebrating its first anniversary December 20, at its new location near Headquarters, Americal Division in Chu Lai, will have attached the 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion which has been operating in direct support of the division. Also attached will be the 335th Transportation Company (AM&S) which provides back up maintenance for Division aircraft.

Colonel William C. Tyrrell, commanding officer of the group stated, "The officers and men of the 16th CAG look forward with enthusiasm to becoming members of the Americal Division's fighting team."

The 16th CAG unit crest bearing the phrase "Born in Battle" and the falcon's head symbolizes its combat aviation capabilities. The mountain peaks represent the three-fold effort of the United States, Republic of Vietnam, and free world military forces to win freedom and secure peace.

The Falcon Group comes from the 1st Aviation Brigade and was based at Marble Mountain Air Facility at DaNang when it was responsible for all non-divisional Army Aviation units in I Corps Tactical Zone.

THE FALCON

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Commanding Officer-

Colonel William C. Tyrrell

Public Information Officer-

1LT Terrence J. Siemer

Editor-

Specialist Five Gerald S. Harris

Associate Editor-

Specialist Four Jace Glowa

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM CO

I wish every member of the 16th Combat Aviation Group a very Merry Christmas, to Jewish personnel a Happy Chanukah, and to all my best wishes for good health, success and happiness in the coming New Year.

No matter what faith you are, the spirit of this holiday season should suffer no loss in Vietnam. You are only five or six days away from family and friends via the mailbox, and can be as close as your telephone when making a MARS call. We receive Christmas cards and packages from home—we will enjoy the traditional Christmas Day dinner. Most of all we may still revere all of the holiday's true significance, since we may worship as we see fit, as free men fighting to keep a nation free.

Let's all pray on this joyous holiday for peace with honor, with the hope that the soldiers of the U.S. Army might successfully end this conflict before another Christmas.

WILLIAM C. TYRRELL
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

CHANGE IN VETERAN BENEFITS

Veterans' college and training benefits liberalized by law change recently enacted by Congress.

-Educational and training entitlements increased from one for one formula to 1½ months of benefits for each month of service. Thus, vet serving 24 months qualifies for 36 months, or four academic school years.

-Widows of totally disabled veterans or those who die from service-connected injuries now entitled to amount of husband's benefits.

-Limitations on benefits remains 36 months with exceptions: Veterans of Korean War, eligible for 36 months of benefits, can now qualify for 12 additional months based on post-Korean service. Also, children of veterans who are veterans themselves and have used benefits based parent's entitlement, now authorized 12 months' additional benefits based on own service.

-Veterans no longer barred from receiving payments from other federally financed programs.

AVIATOR FLIES BEAUCOUP HOURS

Chief Warrant Officer Two Albert C. Cerullo, 23, of Elmont, N.Y. is completing his tour in Vietnam, having flown 1,805 combat hours in 241 flying days.

CW2 Cerullo came to the 176th Assault Helicopter Company on Nov. 19, 1967 and flew his last day on Nov. 9, 1968. He became aircraft commander after slightly more than two months and 200 hours in-country. Mr. Cerullo, "Minuteman 12", has not had an accident charged against his record since he began flying.

That doesn't mean his tour went without incident. He has had two engine failures, one while sitting in a landing zone west of Chu Lai, and one at 1600 feet above ground level. On the second occurrence, Mr. Cerullo landed his UH-1H "Huey" in the only partially clear area available. The only damage done was to the rotor blades by trees in the area which could not be avoided because of the small LZ, no one was injured.

Mr. Cerullo mentioned other exciting moments, like west of LZ Center when his helicopter received 32 hits in a LZ on a combat assault. Twelve of the rounds went through the cockpit. With severed tail rotor control cables, two crewmen and two passengers wounded, Mr. Cerullo took off and returned the crippled aircraft to the nearest hospital. He landed in a nearby rice paddy without further damage. The engine had taken a round, and there were powder burns on the bottom of the aircraft, from enemy weapons, where they were dug in on the LZ.

Mr. Cerullo has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with numerous clusters, and the Purple Heart, with several other valor awards pending.

He plans to continue his training at Hunter Army Air Base, Ga., upon his return to "the world" and hopes to earn the rating of instrument instructor, continuing the realization of his childhood dream to be a professional aviator.
(176th AHC-IO)

178th Change of Command

(CHU LAI-178th ASHC-IO)

Ceremonies at Chu Lai, Vietnam marked the departure of Major Morris M. Jessup, Okanogan, Wash., as Commanding Officer of the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

"Pride," said Major Jessup, "is the hinge on which a unit must stand or fall, and I'm proud to say I served with the 178th ASHC."

Major Jessup assumed duties as commanding officer on June 28, 1968. Perhaps his tour of duty can best be described by the motto inscribed above his office door—"The only difference between superior and outstanding is meticulous attention to detail." This was not only a motto, but the ground rule by which the former CO commanded.

He will now face new challenges as assistant operations officer for the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

The 16th CAG Commander, Colonel William C. Tyrrell attended the ceremony and praised the "Boxcars" enviable record.

He said, "Continue to give the Americal Division the fine support you've provided them in the past."

The command was then turned over to Major Rodney A. Pimental, from Plymouth, Mass.

Major Pimental is not a new-comer to the "Boxcars", he commanded the 400th Transportation Detachment which provides maintenance and avionics support for the 178th. The Major arrived in Vietnam on May 9, 1968, and served with the 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company as service platoon commander, and company maintenance officer.



PAPER STONE OFFERS SOLUTION

(CHU LAI 178th ASHC-IO)

Ireland is the keeper of the "Blarney Stone," Egypt displays the "Pyramids," and today the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company proudly possesses the "Paper Stone."

The "Paper Stone," was "born in battle" to solve a small but distressing problem. Returning from the day's missions, crew chiefs and flight engineers were understandably anxious for a hot meal and shower. Occasionally, flight records and after flight paper work would reflect their great haste.

To cope with this problem, the service platoon of the 178th ASHC searched for a remedy which would not only increase efficiency, but build morale within the platoon itself. A three hundred and fifty pound rock would provide the solution.

At 1800 hours daily, the flight records are individually screened for neatness and accuracy. If mistakes are discovered, the person(s) in error are invited to participate in the "ceremony." After all records are carefully checked, the ceremony begins.

Service platoon leader First Lieutenant Terry Frazier explains, "The crew member reports to the Paper Rock, renders a hand salute, and requests permission to turn the rock 45 degrees."

With a little stress and strain, the movement is completed; much to the delight of the cheering spectators. A hand salute is again given and the crew member is dismissed.

Although the ceremony may not be of

great significance in itself, what is significant is the increased efficiency and neatness reflected in the flight records and reports. In the past two weeks, increased efficiency resulting from this program has made the "Paper Rock" a welcome asset for the Service Platoon.

It's the culmination of small ideas such as this that gives emphasis to the "can do" spirit of the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.



American military personnel throughout the world will dine on traditional roast turkey-with-trimmings on Christmas.

The holiday menu will include assorted nuts, candy and fruit, shrimp cocktail with crackers, roast turkey w/ gravy, cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and glazed sweet potatoes, buttered mixed vegetables or peas, assorted crisp relishes, hot roll with butter, fruitcake, mincemeat pie, pumpkin pie with whipped topping, iced tea with lemon and milk.

Every effort will be made to serve this menu to men assigned to isolated units in Vietnam. Normally this is done by helicopter airlift. In those few instances where units are on patrol during the holiday meal period, this same dinner will be provided upon their return to base camp, usually within 24-48 hours.

The Defense Supply Agency estimates the approximate pounds of major components to be issued for the holiday dinner at: turkey, 3,360,000; shrimp, 504,000; potatoes 945,000; cranberry sauce, 460,719; fruitcake, 420,000; mincemeat, 315,000; pumpkin, 304,584; and candy, 252,000.

According to the Directorate of Food Service, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, the same basic menu will be served all over world with minor changes as local areas dictate. (AFPS)



