

HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT) SQUADRON THREE (HA(L)-3)

WOLFGRAM

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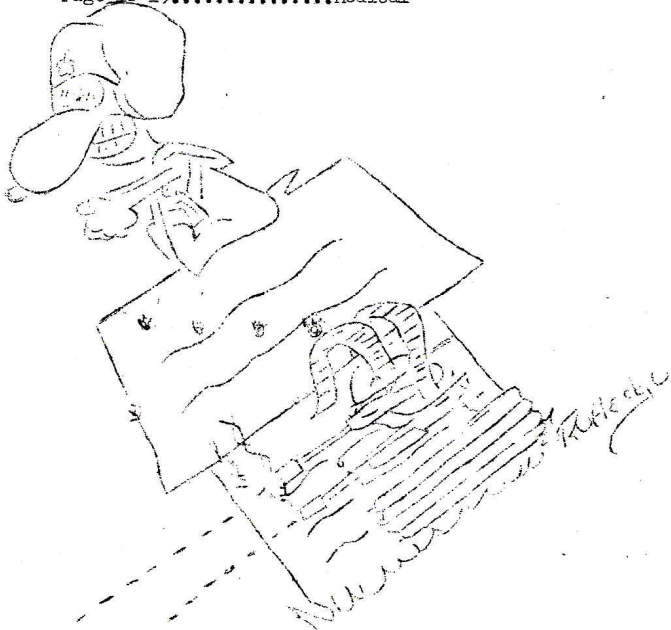


CAPT A. R. NELSON  
COMMANDING OFFICER

The WOLFGRAM is a publication of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE (HA(L)-3). It is published in accordance with NAVSC P1035 in order to keep HA(L)-3 personnel abreast of current policies, missions and activities of the squadron.

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CO'S NOTE  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
CAPT A. H. MUNSON

I would like to take just a moment to point to the outstanding job that the Maintenance Department has done in the past month. Reduced to 19 aircraft by accidents and turn-ins they were able, by spending most of the month on two twelve hour shifts, to keep most of the detachment flying. It was difficult and tiring, but the job had to be done and it was. I hope that we have now passed the crisis and that we will be able to go to less stringent hours with at least a day off during the week.

To all the officers and men of the Maintenance Department from CDR DEY to AMSAA M. G. FORTNEY, I wish to say, and I know the rest of the squadron joins me in "A Job Well Done".

/

DET ONE (USS HARNETT COUNTY)

Ah, yes, the end of another month is near and your scribe on the Lower Bassac must bring his pen out of mothballs again. Well, the monsoon season is in full swing here in the Rice Bowl and "Baby, The Rain Must Fall" (that it does). Actually, the monsoon season is just like our summer rain showers back home and the results are the same. The wet roads make driving treacherous, days at the beach are just ruined, and the guys are in the house all day. So, as you folks back home can see, the exotic tales of the monsoon season are nothing but the exaggeration of some Far Eastern adventurer who got caught in a rainstorm. He should be grateful that he wasn't wearing a Nomex flight suit (which is like swimming with a wool bathing suit).

Now let us go to that portion of our report where we cover the major events that have occurred in our happy little group and try to embarrass everyone.

LTJG Dave MINAHAN actually has done nothing significant so it is best to get him out of the way first. Dave is currently planning a trip to Hong Kong with some of his Vung Tau contemporaries. He doesn't believe that Hong Kong has 30,000 bars and insists there is only one way to find out for sure. The proper authorities have been notified. Congratulations are a must for Dave as he received his Fire Team Lead papers a while back and is doing an excellent job thus far.

LT "Sumo" SOTO, also, recently received his Fire Team Lead papers. "Sumo" has burdened himself lately and is now Det ONE's self-appointed JO Control Officer - Lower Bassac branch office (we hear the front office is up the river). His favorite trick is barging in on his charges and catching them all face down in their Serta perfect sleepers (at 0930 in the morning). Plans are currently being formed by the four intrepid residents of the JO bunkroom to strike down this early morning intruder. Beware Sumo!

LTJG "Wild Willy" WALLLEN recently purchased a Polaroid camera from the finest department store south of Cau Ke's bustling new shopping center, which is, of course, the Harnett County's ships store. When "Wild Willy" (is that an alliteration?) isn't between the sheets he is giving his camera a workout taking pictures of all of us outstanding people and an occasional helo or two. Willy recently spent a night at Vinh Long and became inspired to write a song, "the rockets red glare and the bombs bursting in air", we don't think it has a future, but, good luck, Bill.

Our OinC, LCDR Bill HARTER - I'll say nice things about him because he knows who I am. The skipper of the SWAB (Seawolf Assault Barge) has been in the doldrums lately as we have no petrol for our little boat. Have you ever seen a grown man cry? The last time SWAB and the "Boy from Burlington" toured the area they did it in a rainstorm. Talk about not enough sense to come in out of the rain! And now he wants the SEAL's to raid one of the many service stations that dot the countryside to pick up some gasoline.

LTJG Noel "the Decorator" CAMPBELL has recently adorned the JO bunkroom with pictures of his wife. "The Decorator" occasionally whimpers and often continue right up the ladder to full scale sobbing when looking at these pictures of his wife.

LTJG Dave CRANOR is another new Fire Team Leader as he recently received his papers. The man from suburban Sycamore, Indiana was recently observed walking around the flight deck shaking a rat in his teeth. Otherwise, he appears fairly stable, but it's these little things that worry us. He also is the proud possessor of the cutest little white bathrobe you ever saw.

Our assistant OinC, LCDR Drew JONES has not been with us recently, as he was called back to the States. We hope that Mrs. JONES has a speedy recovery and hope to see Mr. JONES back here with us real soon.

And last of our officer corps and most assuredly not least, is LTJG Chuck "Pretty Boy" BAGLEY. Chuck has been kept constantly on the go as our Fizzies Control Officer. Looks like "Pretty Boy" will hold this months record for flight time with , of course, an equal amount of hours in the rack. Bags recently has been sporting a beautiful new white moustache which has afforded him another nickname, "The Bush".

Now we come to the guys who insist that they really run this outfit. Led by none other than Chief "Gunner" WALSH these outstanding men keep our aircraft flying, keep the officers on their toes, and keep Charles running.

AE2 SEARLE is finally on his way to the Philippines to see his family and is understandably overjoyed. All of the Det personnel have swamped him with orders for that great Philippine delicacy - bahluts. Sure hope he come through.

AMH3 "Buddy" RECORD and AN Bill GIBSON finally have seats on an airplane going to Sydney, but they are leaving six days apart. The good thing about it is that both are museum lovers. RECORD has promised to check all of them out for GIBSON and pass on the best places to go so Gib won't have to weed out the ones that are unacceptable to his refined interests. What a team!

ADR3 Sam ENGAVO is now in the States recovering from a serious ailment. We all wish Sam a rapid recovery.

AN Dan KELLEY returned from Binh Thuy after treatment for a back ailment and appears to be getting back (no pun intended) in shape for his strenuous duties.

ATN3 Lyle NIMMO is anxiously awaiting a seat on a flight to Sydney. Wouldn't it be something if he went with RECORD or GIBSON?

Now we have him! Coming out of the East, shaped like a magnet and going by the name of Tom OLEZESKI. An old face to some and a new face to others. Ski is back for his second tour with DET ONE and has rapidly regained his old touch. Welcome back Ski.

That about concludes this report on the men of the Lower Bassac. It is always best to close with a Dave MINAHAN quote but unfortunately, he hasn't said anything worth printing since Mother's Day. So we'll just close with a see you next month. I'll get face down in one of those aforementioned Serta perfect sleepers and wait for Sumo to strike.

DET TWO (NHA BE)

August was a month of change for the fearless fighters to the north. The men have finally been relocated, permanently we trust, in a different barracks with somewhat less recreation area. NAVSUPPACT Saigon has commenced its infiltration onto the base, bringing with them some startling ideas and renovations. Our Boss, LCDR Ron PENNINGTON, has been resting up for his upcoming odyssey to Hawaii. LCDR Mike "Green Thumb" RETZ has sent for flower seeds to embellish the area surrounding our new, posh, ready room. LT Ed McCASKILL is currently on an extended R&R in Vung Tau and will be taking over the Personnel Office there. The Det already feels the loss of Ed who, shortly before his departure, put his knee board to his ear when the phone rang. LT John CONNOLLY, who recently received an "up" on his Fire Team Lead check, is learning the local tongue which brings a few chuckles when John adds his distinctive accent. LTJG Bryan CUDEBACK put in long, painstaking hours painting an elaborate "Acey Deucey" board and has yet to win a game on it. LTJG Al BILLINGS has been forced to repack some of his more psychedelic raiments, much to his chagrin. LTJG Derek BROWN is rumored to have "downed" his aircraft in order to attend a going away party at the "O" Club. The computer wizards at Cam Ranh Bay sent LTJG Tim HAYES a note of congratulations on his flawless recording of the IFAR cards. The ranks of the detachments aircraft commanders were recently blessed with the addition of LTJG Wil DAVIS. LTJG George "Couth" PIEL claims he has spent more time in Vung Tau on maintenance runs than in Nha Be. Well, George, if you remember to send in the status reports perhaps this will be changed. ADJ2 Larry TAYLOR has not been receiving as many phone calls from the homefront (Niceville, Florida). It's just as well, because it was creating a morale problem among the rest of us. AE2 Gary NOYD claims he is short - six days and seventy-five wake-ups. AMH3 George HEADY placed the finishing touches on his palatial dog house for "Ky", his slightly schizophrenic canine. "Ky" has become a true member of the Det by sleeping all day and staying up all night. AO3 Morriss PENDLETON journeyed to Bangkok during August and returned early. No one has been quite able to ascertain the reason. AE3 Jim EVANS is eagerly awaiting a resumption of his flying in order to get out from under the paperwork and other sundry tasks passed down to him. ADJ3 Bruce BOISSEY set a record for keeping silent for all of three minutes and forty-two seconds. AOAN Glen "Chunky" SMITHEN and AOAN "Pork" GIER are competing in a crash diet. Thus far each has only gained ten pounds. ADJAN "Robbie" ROBINSON was apprehended while attempting to steal TAYLOR's size twelve boots. AOAN Ed WELSH is wondering where all his model paints disappeared. It seems the officers were caught with the model building bug and were unable to find the necessary paints elsewhere. ATNAN Ben SMITH vows that he will get his hair cut on his next off-duty day. That's about it from Nha Be, but, feel free to drop by at any time and sample some luxurious living and fine food.

DET THREE - Not Submitted

DET FOUR (USS GARRETT COUNTY)

Well, the "Outlaws" on the Co Chien River are hastily reviewing their swimming procedures as the monsoons add more and more water to the vast quantity already sloshing around the Delta. The guy that said "when it rains it pours" wasn't just a-whistling dixie.

Our CinC, LCDR Joe PRIESTLEY, a man who is never to be outguessed, has so many irons in the fire no one knows for sure which one is the hottest. Hey, I've got an idea sir, lets start a .....

LCDR Paul FRANKENBERGER is back from the States, again prodding the PBR drivers who were lost without Mr. Franks' jovial wit to keep them from getting slow of mind. We'll miss these blackshoe boat drivers when they move to the plush living in Vinh Long next month.

With a continual smile on his face, LTJG John MOORE feels that Tokyo is just the place for peace and relaxation plus a lot of shopping done on the side. His third honeymoon is scheduled for Hawaii. Who needs anniversaries?

LT Bill BAILES and the rest of the fellows who are trying to maintain a dark native tan are finding it more difficult to catch the sun's good rays dodging their way among the clouds.

Contestants in the "most beautiful moustache" running are now LTJG Bob HAGGERTON, LTJG Paul STEUBE, ATL Art AINSWORTH (who has since withdrawn); AO2 Bob WHEELER, and AMS3 Bob LITTLE. A prize for the winner hasn't been decided on, but a jar of hair remover has been suggested (we think with only jealous motivations, however).

Leading contenders in the marathon sleeping contest are LT Raul VAZQUEZ and LTJG Daryl SPELBRING. We wouldn't want to discount any dark horses this early in the race, however, since some of the newer guys are working diligently to catch up. Expert coaching on how to stay asleep longer is being provided by an expert in this field, LTJG William LOTT, a PBR driver.

In August the 3,000th landing (not to include bouncies of less than fifteen inches) was made aboard the USS Garrett County. Seems that the junior officers hog all the good stuff, letting junior LTJG Jim CARMICHAEL get the honors. Jim claims the flight deck didn't shrink much below its normal 50X50 feet due to the moral support and instruction of LT Bill BAILES who was in the right seat at the time.

ATL Art AINSWORTH has been unofficially declared R&R liaison man to Vung Tau. He claims lying on the sandy beaches of Vung Tau makes him a new man. We want to know how a salty guy can ever be a new man?

AK3 Robby ROBERTSON has gone to Bangkok, we understand as advance reconnaissance man for ADJ3 Dick BAUSKE, the tallest Vietnamese we've ever seen. We suspect the plan is to have Robby leave the impression of being a good guy so the Thais will be totally unprepared for Dick who had already had his R&R cancelled three times and is now really ready to go on a well-deserved vacation. This time it's for sure Dick - we think!

AN Merritt Burl BUSH's identity (that had to be an alias) has finally been discovered. He's motion picture star Michael Pollard who played C. W. Moss in "Bonnie and Clyde" and last month was featured in "Playboy". He's hiding here to avoid taxes our informers tell us.

We've got these same informers spying on AOAN Mac McDONALD, AO3 Bruce HOCK, ADJAN John SADLER, and ADJ3 "Silent Sully" SULLIVAN, all of whom were sure to have been up to something, probably in cahoots operating a hot "sampan ring".

#### DET FIVE (PBR MOBILE BASE II)

DET FIVE has been in business at its new location aboard the Mobile Support Base II, on the upper Mekong River, for about a month now. We have earned the dubious distinction of being further away from everywhere than anyone.

LCDR CALKIN has continued to lead the detachment with his usual efficiency and vitality. It seems though, that with his orders to NAS, Willow Grove already in hand and his departure date rapidly approaching he is spending more and more time just staring off into space and dreaming of the land of 24 hour generators. He also augmented the security watch of the MBII. "Old Binoculars Tom" can be found every day at 1730 carefully scanning the nearby shoreline in search for the elusive foe.

LCDR (our self admitted flight time hog) SCHRADER has spent the month trying to find something to keep busy. However, between the bridge games, whipping the JO's in Dogfight, learning the Admin procedures of the Special Forces, and counting the days until leave, he has managed to accomplish the goal. On a serious side, we all wish to make note of the outstanding example of professional ability demonstrated during our last misfortune.

Congratulations to LT Steve PORCH on his Fire Team Lead designation. He is also to be commended for his recent graduation from the HA(L)-3 Test Pilot School, where he successfully completed the Plane Captain Course. Nice going "Rice Paddy".

LT Jon WALKER is our newest AHAC. Way to go Jon. Now maybe ENS OGLE will let you sit in the right seat. LCDR CALKIN is also glad that Jon received his taperecorder from home. For a while they had to race to Mr. CALKIN's.

At this writing, our bull JG, Len GOZA is suffering through his second Hawaiian tour during his Vietnam assignment. When he returns, the Det will have the misfortune to lose the benefit of his services. Alas, poor Lenny will join the ranks of the Wung Tau Warriors. He will be sorely missed by the Cambodian border guardians, both for his effervescent personality and his abilities as a Naval Aviator.

Congratulations are also in order to our brand new shiny AH2P's: LTJG Tom TURNER and LTJG Steve FRY. "Twinkle Toes TURNER" is on a one meal a day diet. He manages this by sleeping through breakfast and lunch and then having three platefuls of supper. He hasn't lost much weight, but looks well rested. "Cold Showers" FRY sampled the hospitality of the neighboring Special Forces camp the other night. It was very nice of the Green Berets to give him back.



The newest addition to the Det, LTJG Gary SKARR, is still new. He is anxiously awaiting the arrival of a replacement pilot. No one can pronounce the new pilot's name however. It starts with a Z and ends with SKI and has about 20 consonants in between.

ENS Bill OGLE has really found a bonanza of trading sources up here. He not only keeps us supplied with weapons but seems to have a corner on the VC hammock market. He has settled in very well as AHAC and is doing a good job of flying the wing aircraft (when not trying to play SEAL).

AT1 Mike (I'm a sharp dresser!) CONNELLY is sporting a new flight suit that is the pride and joy of the Det. Our leading PO has really done a fine job in leading the men during our transition to our new home.

AE2 Bob (Oh! How my bones ache!) COMA gave us another spectacular month in the art of "gunning". Just wish you could find something to hit. Just keep up the good work while you think about shipping for six.

AMS2 E. J. (If only rocket caps were worth a Purple Heart) GUTHAUSER wishes he was as "lucky" as in his younger days. Just don't let the smokes get to you.

AO2 A. B. (Gee I'm really an EOD man) JENKINS did his usual good job this month. Jink's how about telling us how to swim in a mud puddle?

Three of our gunners will be leaving us in the next few days to fight the great war in Yung Tau. ADJ2 Ken WILLIAMS, AJDAN Gene PAREJKO and AN James PRATER's services will be missed. The officers and men of Det FIVE appreciate the time and effort you put forth and wish you the best of everything in the future.

ATNAN Tony MARRINACCIO is to be congratulated for his fete in connection with our latest misfortune. Keep up the good work Tony and 3rd might be in sight.

AN Starkes PORTER, also known as the "Quiet One" hasn't really said enough to be known. The only way we know he is alive is by his smiling face behind the twin 30's.

ATNAN Stuart (How I wished I passed the test) SEAL is our member to be recognized for the month. "What for", we all want to know. Anyway, tell us another story about the girls back home.

#### DET SIX (DONG TAM)

The denizens of Dong Tam spent the glorious month of August knee deep in mud and IFR in dust. Not that it has rained, but we heard someone comment on the surprising number of fish using the walkways these days.

August was also a good month for awards. In a ceremony presided over by the boss, LCDR CHILDRRESS, with an able assist by LTJG Ed WILSON, the following awards were presented: The Air Medal went to LCDR CHILDRRESS, LT Howie PRICE, LT Jack WILSON, LTJG Johnny HANKEL, LTJG Dick LARSON, ADJ3 Vince PAONE, and AN Carroll CAMPBELL. AN Dan HIGGINS received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for ground action during Tet. ADJ3 Jerry BARTLESON received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action in July. To all of them, a sincere Well Done.

AMS2 Roger McElhiney is back, fat and sassy, from thirty days' leave Stateside. Our "Project Houdini" has been shelved temporarily to devote all possible time to the new Seawolf airfield. LTJG Bob Romanelli has been temporarily relieved of flying duties in order to concentrate the full force of his - uh - talents on its construction. He is doing an outstanding job and we are proud of him. He has depended heavily on the strong backs and capable hands of his assistants, AN Ron Kingrey, John Bundy, and Terry Scott. Recently his ranks were bolstered by AN Deatherage, Nash, Hale, Mundell, Johangen, Russell, Harnet, and Terry who were imported from Vung Tau. We are very grateful for their help.

LCDR Bill Lang and LT Jack Wilson have received their fire team lead papers and LTJG Dick Larson is awaiting the return of his AHAC papers. Congratulations are hereby officially rendered.

LTJG Lud McKay receives the honors for mail hound of the month with eleven million three hundred and twenty thousand four hundred and six, not counting packages and bills. LT Jeff LEWIS is quite pleased with the new computerized IPAR system. It has reduced his work load from three hours a day to a paltry eighteen, not counting flying. He is beginning to talk to himself.

AN Dennis REED and Glenn WILSON have been concentrating on their driving skills and can now make it from the airfield to the living area without missing a single bump. That ain't easy, Fred.

AN Mike O'BRIEN has invented a new language. It consists solely of the words DOO DA. It is simple to master and we are thinking of replacing English with it. Conversation is limited, however.

AC1 Lloyd JOHNSON has perfected a method of stomping old wine bottles into grapes and AC2 Bob HARVEY is experimenting with distilling booze from JP - 4, which is just about enough for one month.

#### DET SEVEN (BINH THUY)

Well, hello out there in Seawolf land. Here we are again after a month of fun and frolic.

High man on our flight time report for this month was, of course Ed "the Man" FUREY. Right behind him was Pete "the Hair-Lip" PETERSON, well known about town. It might appear as though Pete and Ed were in competition for the Log Hog award, but no, dear hearts---- Ed has it hands down. He compiled his record while flying one day out of three-----and they said it couldn't be done!

Pete (Hair-lip) and Tex Richie's Speed and Body Shoppe is working around the clock on a dune buggy. (Where will they find the dunes?) They figure about two months till completion but we have our doubts----James "Beemus" BEEM, the junior partner in the firm has received orders (oh, horror of horrors) to Det 1. He's taken a little

vacation to Taipei to forget and on his return will go down to the old sea in a ship (?) to fight the hated Cong.

Bob SPROSTY has won the name of Ti-ti Mustache with the dark and mysterious fuzz below his nose. (Ti-ti is Vietnamese for small). Good growing Bob. If you hadn't told us about it we'd never have noticed.

Pat BRIDGES has just received the greatest deal of his lifetime. Just as he received his AHAC designation he got orders to participate in a fine observation helicopter program for CTF 117, the Mobile Riverine Force. Pat has researched this project and feels that it is an honor to fly the famous OH23 designed along the lines of the infamous WWII Buzz Bomb. Good luck, Pat.

Our new guy of the month is Tom WARLICK, a recent graduate of the Vung Tau paper factory. Welcome aboard, Tom.

Little John MESERVE is sporting a lovely grin these days. Some how he knocked one of his pearly white teeth out of his little mouth. We hear the fine (?) Army dental corps is going to fix him up with a little Seawolf to fill the gap.

Mike WHITEMORE has been absolutely useless this month as he's spent most of his time with nothing but his upcoming R&R in Hawaii on his mind. He's scheduled to go September 15th but he's been there for the whole month of August in his mind (of course we're being charitable - There has never been any concrete proof that the young man has a mind).

And a note to dear Mrs. Connelly - Please try to get Cactus Jack to a shrink in Hawaii - We hear a little sob every time he passes his old cut up Jeep that the Body Shoppe is turning into a dune buggy. We know it was your first one, Boss, but can't your new Scout make up for it?

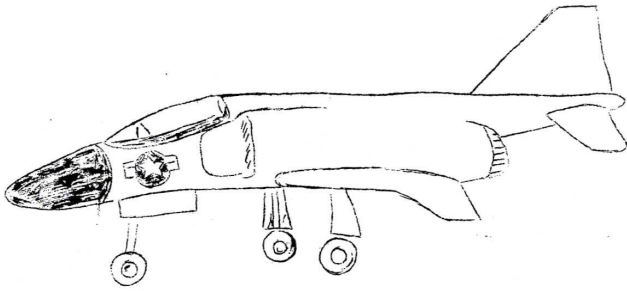
We bid a sad farewell this month to Bob "Mattress Back" SCHOCK who returned to the good old USA and civilian life. Best of luck Bob.

Fred MAHANNAH, our friendly and jovial NCOIC, has had a little help of late in keeping the peace after hours. Several of the Det's soberest (once again we must?) are working in the clubs keeping things quiet - Bob FULLWOOD, Wayne "Flex" DRAPER, Don GREEN, and John KENDALL are all aiding the Establishment in keeping order. Butch TAYLOR has stopped working at the clubs - guess he'd rather be a patron.

Jim HELMS and Don "Hostileman" SMITH have been spending a lot of time delving into the technical specifications of all sorts of expensive stereo gear. Let's be serious fellas - the Midnight Hour won't sound any better with that sensitive gear, will it?

# NEW

DIXIE STATION



IT'S ALL YOURS.

Rod "Grif" Griffith is happy to announce that he's old enough to drink and will buy any man, woman, or child in the area a "free one" to prove it. Gordy DOUGLAS has been trying to get his free drink for days now but all he seems able to get is creamy smooth Dad's Root Beer.

Jim DELORE has now taken a commanding lead in the contest to see who'll replace Steve WRIGHT as our "Pig Pen". Seems that every time Jim gets near a Huey he's just got to get himself dirty rooting around on it and in it.

Mike MOLINA is still his quiet self. We've actually got him to come out of his gunner's Conex once this month to find out what the name of the strange tune "Pancho Villa" Saucedo keeps whistling. He didn't have much luck though. Our Bandido won't tell.

Well, that's it for August folks. Got to go now, cause I think we've got 'em on the run. See you next month with more tales of the Bassac heroes.

#### OPERATIONS CDR HILLE

LCDR Steve TOBEY did an outstanding job, with the able assistance of LTJG Pete MADLEY, substituting for CDR HILLE while he was away on emergency leave. Several projects were completed during the time which will affect operations.

LCDR Diamond Jim BRADY and LTJG Stan ZAJKOWSKI will be leaving shortly for their tours in the Delta. LCDR BRADY will be headed to Det 3 and Mr. ZAJKOWSKI will go to Det 5. LT Jerry "Downs" PRATT, our STAN Officer, has been dashing around the Delta giving "sat" FTL checks - could he be a Santa Claus? Mr. PRATT has also been walking about Ops in a euphoric state. Seems bachelorhood will soon be lost on R&R. Good luck and best wishes to LT and the future Mrs. Pratt.

LT Jim WALKER got his wish to return to Det for a couple of weeks. In his absence he received a change of orders. Instead of going to Norfolk, he will find himself in the high desert country of California. He will be reporting to AIRDEVRON 5, MAF, China Lake. LTJG Pete MADLEY also received a change in orders. Mr. MADLEY is now bound for "sunny" Lakohurst and HC-2.

LTJG Bob "AIG" CATWCART recently returned from the Phillipines where he learned how to build fires from bamboo and eat monkey. He also learned survival in Olongapo.

Chief SWART is all alone in training since losing his boss (LT WALKER) and ADJ3 OLEZESKI to the Delta detachments. CYN3 BRANHAM returned from "The Land of the Great FX" penniless. He says it's a great R&R center. CYN3 ANDERSON is happy since BRANHAM's return makes him next.

# PILOTS

HAL-3



"IT'S ALL YOURS"

In the Operations "front" office PN2 BLECHER, AM KELSEY, and AN HARKSEN continue to do their outstanding work. In fact, the three have given up their coffee breaks and now take tea breaks. AN HARKSEN makes a mean glass of "the green death" - better known as iced tea with lime cool-aid. UGH! AN HARKSEN keeps the Ops department well fed with his care packages. They are greatly appreciated.

Our newest arrival YN1 SHELSTAD checked in from East Coast staff duty and will be with us until December when he takes the reins as ADMIN supervisor.

#### MAINTENANCE CDR DEY

From the Maintenance Officer the reduction of our aircraft inventory in August stretched our capability to the elastic limit. The fluctuations in daily flight hours due to operational commitments make the programming of aircraft P.E.'s difficult at best as the sudden loss of two additional birds (without replacement) eliminated any flexibility we previously had. A quick session with a slip stick reveals the following:

Our average aircraft availability since January has been approximately 70%. Where it really hurt was when we reached 70% of 19 and there just wasn't enough aircraft to go around for all the dets. I think it significant to note that Army gunship company availability for the 1st Cavalry was 61.6% for the period. Running this figure off on the rule we get one det down for an aircraft at all times even when we have 22 aircraft aboard. Extra manhours and cannibalization have kept us above that point.

We have received the first of the three replacements. Many manhours are going into it to bring it up to Seawolf standards. The other replacements are still over the horizon.

#### AIRFRAMES SHOP

AMS1 SHOUN has flown south to join us after a year's tour with NAF Cam Rahn Bay. As fast as we acquired him, however, we will be losing him for 30 days R&R back in the world. AS3 JABLINSKE, from VT-28, Corpus Christi, Texas, has joined the squadron to fill the space left by the departure of AMS1 FITE to the AME shop. Again FITE has gotten travel orders, this time from the AME shop to the Line Division; this is due to the arrival of AME1 GOODEL, an ex-NAS Key West rigger. To FITE we extend a job well done in running the AME shop. AMH3 BECKER has been relieved of the task of supply petty officer and the job has been taken over by AMH3 HAYES. BECKER is now working in his rate. Also to him we extend a well done.

We have not, as yet, found an appropriate name for our shop since AMEC BARGER has taken over as shop chief. We've come up with a few ideas that are undergoing consideration: "Ross's Sheetmetal

Rehabilitation Center", or "Banger's Bangers". If you have any ideas, just drop us a line. Sorry, no collect calls, we are a non-profit organization.

The shop has been extra busy lately with a large amount of battle damage. It seems as though "Charlie" seems to think our helos need air-conditioning. With a slight difference of opinion on our part, the men have seen fit to repair the damage and return the aircraft in real fine condition. A job well done, gentlemen.

The paint shop is experimenting with a new heat-resistant paint in order to keep the down time for painting to a minimum. We wish success with your experiments and hope that it will work.

Airframes wishes to say "welcome aboard" to AMS1 SHOUN, AME1 GOODELL, and AMS1 JABLINSKE. And good luck to AMH3 HAYES and AMS1 FITE on their new jobs.

#### CHECK CREW

The past month has seen our newly formed check crew put forth some rather good workmanship in turning out PE's. We lost Chief McAULLIFE to the Line Division but stepping into the fine job he left is Chief SMITH. Welcome aboard, Chief. We were also glad to see AMH1 BENISH check in; he's known as big Ben to those who know him. AMS1 THOMAS took over our night shift - "just call me curly", he says. We are losing ADJ3 Sam JAMES to Vinh Long; we hate to see you go, Sam. At this time ADJAN LEE is attending the Army's engines school. We all had a good laugh with Big Ben last week - seems he got his sneakers sent to him from home and when he opened them he found they were pickled. They looked like a jar of pig's feet ran over them. ADJ2 MULLER has a most unusual hobby - he digs shore patrol. Presently, we are putting PE's out in six to seven days and we are still trying to get them out in four to five if this goal can be reached. If so, we hope to see the end of 12 hour shifts in the future. Our CDI crews are shaping up rather well - keep up the good work men. Stop by and pay us a visit when you have the time. See you next month.

#### POWER PLANTS

At this writing the mech shop is undergoing a face-lifting beneath the guidance of Chief MORROW. The shop has taken on a new look and his men seem to like their new name, "Morrow's Motor Mounters". We now have a new division officer, LTJG CRULL, who came to us from Det 3. Welcome back, sir.

In the outgoing file we have two short-timers, ADJAN George LYONS and Glen DOONAN; LYONS is leading the pack with 7 days left and close on his heels is DOONAN. Coming back to us is ADJAN BARE who spent quite some time in the hospital. He says he'll take a wrench over a needle any day. ADJ2 "Crash" JORDAN spent a few days in the local



hospital, too; it seems he took a dive from one of our check stands but would have fared better if there had been water underneath him instead of concrete. ADJAN GOOD has gotten good news: his request to go "gunning" has been approved and he's already shining his flight boots. ADJ1 HUNT throw in the towel on smoking after 11 years of puffing. It's sure apparent that he is sticking to it as in the past two months his waistline has increased by leaps and bounds - or is it simply thirty pounds. Well, that's all for now, see you next month.

#### AME SHOP

Sorry, but what you wanted is still on order; however, a few things have shown up. For those of you who have left hints (work-orders) for helmet bags, or knifepockets, please stop by and see us about them.

Dave (Goodie) GOODELL, AME1, reported aboard early this past month. With his arrival, "Barney" FITE beat a hasty retreat to the Line Division.

Dave SANDERS is still with us, getting shorter all the time. He'll soon be celebrating thirty days in the States.

#### LINE DIVISION

Greetings from the Vung Tau Line! A recent revamp of personnel saw ADJC McAULIFFE coming from Check Division to take over the Line. "Roy" HAUN, AMSC, is in a new division now Ground Support Equipment. Ably backing up the new Line Chief is AMS1 FITE. Our Line "carpenter" HAGGETT made the greatest project out of making a fuel sample box, the greatest the world has ever seen.

BASILE is getting "thinner" by the day??? FITE is still trying to convert CARTER's taste to country - western music. We've taken up a collection to buy SOTO a new borot. PAGE is going gunning soon, wonder when??? Mike "mess em up" SHAFENKOCKER is a new addition to our group. He is in the running for animal of the month award after his last encounter with the club. COUSART and BAKINS are still feeling the new Chief out.

"Nuff" for now, all you DETS drop by and coffee up with us anytime.

#### AT SHOP

The tweet shop news is pretty scarce this month. It seems like everyone has "fini'ed" (finished) something this month. Mr. Joe HART has finied wondering whether we are working or not. Now he knows; we'll have to be more careful.

Tom GRAY, our crippled first class, has finied practicing to be a cycle racer. He now sits in the shop playing chess and mumbling "safety first". AT1 HUNT is the only guy in the shop who will "fini"

something one night and have to "fini" it again the next night. "Aussie" Arnold has finally "finied" air crew and gunner's school. Hope he doesn't have any trouble commuting (Put in any chits lately?)

John (quiet man) SPENCER has finied pool tournaments, he doesn't think one win in seven is enough. Better luck next time. Ray "salty" EASTERWOOD "says" he fini gedunk, he's content closing up a certain club every night. "Wiggles" HABERN has definately finied gedunk runs, his slippery fingers cost him too much money.

AN (\$10,000 technician) TERRY has a problem losing things. He finally found the water jug. He's finied American food since he's acquired a taste for Vietnamese chow.

Night check has finied everything, especially work. Clint Dunn is still there, we think. He stays pretty quiet. Jim DUNNIVANT is quiet also, he's busy with photography. We've been thinking of fixing Ed SARTY his own personal mail box so ours won't be so full. Speaking of mail, Terry MARSDEN, who has finied razor blades, still gets more advertisements than any one else.

(Ed. note): We finally got our leader, Chief LAFERTY, back from the world. We wanted to surprise him when he returned but they wouldn't let us move the shop!

#### AE SHOP

First of all we would like to welcome aboard two newly arrived electricians, ARAN G.L. PERERSON and ARAN D.L. COCHRAN. They came to us by way of VP 31, North Island.

Much to the surprise of our unsuspecting AEC LITTLE, we see AEE2 RICHTER and ALAN GRUBES busily at work early in the morning mixing another surprise flavor of Kool-Aid for the shops water jug.

Also we hear that AEE2 ROTHAMEL is actively engaged in the "meet the people" program in downtown Vung Tau.

We would just like to take the time here and now to put this word in for AEE3 Jim THOMPSON, "Hello there, folks!"

Advancement tests were taken this month by the personnel in our shop and we would like to wish each of them lots of luck. So until the next issue of the Wolfgram Monthly, we of the AE shop must get back out on the hanger dock and maintain that image of the hardest working shop in HL(L)-3.

#### ORDNANCE

This month the ordnance shop welcomed aboard A02 Ollie GROSS. This is Ollie's second tour, and he's hoping to go on a dot pretty soon. We would also like to welcome A03 DAILEY.

How come the Grey Fox (LT BATTI) was mumbling something about putting the conex, and armory keys on an 8 foot 2X4, you guys lose a couple?

Speaking of armory, that place has been a bee hive of activity lately. Along with turning in all parts to supply, came the word we were getting some new weapons. The next time most of you see it, it will be a little larger.

Noticed in passing, looks like the ordnance crew likes to play pin ball machines, namely AOC FIELDS, AOC VALENTINE, AOC DAVIS, AOC DOUBLER, AOC POWERS, and, occasionally, AOC YORK gets involved also.

#### QUALITY CONTROL

The large turn-over in squadron personnel was felt last month in the Quality Assurance Branch. Our latest addition to the test pilot field is LTJG T. W. CRULL in from our own Det 3. Checking in from VP-31 NAS North Island is AEC E. W. JOENKS, and NAS Alameda we have AMS1 T. L. HICKS. It was also a time for departure for ANH1 D. D. B. CK who was transferred stateside to HC-3 NAS Imperial Beach.

You may have noticed that QA is getting ready for administrative inspection by our new paint job. If you haven't already had the opportunity, the color could best be described as passionate blue. Now we all know how a baby robin feels while in the shell.

ADJ2 MARKOWICZ has his chit in to go gunning and AE2 BRYAN has his chit in to go home, so maybe next month we will have a couple more bon voyage notices.

Some people are never satisfied. AE2 SEASE, who just returned from 30 days leave in the states, has his chit in for in-country R&R. It looks like he'll have to be awarded a pair of gold-plated roller skates.

ADJ1 HUFFMAN will soon be off to Hawaii on his R&R. We feel sure that Mrs. Huffman will enjoy Hawaii as it's beautiful this time of year.

Chief LOCKEY is thinking of writing a book and calling it "The Trials and Tribulations of a QA Chief", or, "War may be H\_\_\_ but this isn't Paradise".

#### AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CONTROL

During the month of August, the Maintenance Control office saw the loss of two happy, smiling faces and the acquisition of one brand spanking new Maintenance Chief.

Det 7 will be gaining the services of the multi-talented AZ (LEAN) RUT(H)LEDGE. RUTHLEDGE, or gunner Rut, as he now prefers to be called, also moonlight's as the hangar artist.

Also departing our happy office after a brief stay is AZ2 EASLEY, for the greener but slightly peck marked pastures of Vinh Long. Good luck Fella!

ADCS WILSON arrived at our little shangri-la to take the load off the shoulders of Chief E. TON, who will be returning to his old post as Maintenance Admin. Oh ef. We're certain that he will be much happier with his TIMI's, CAMI's, SAMI's and MEMO's, as will his able-bodied assistant AN Ron "Fingertips" McMULLEN. Oh yes, how could I forget? Guess who moved in with us. That's right, good old LCDR J. R. HICE. - - - - - RRRRRRRRRR

I guess he wanted to keep a closer eye on AZ2 POOLE who always manages to find some reason for running over to the Army hangar to check on something or other. Could be that he gets tired of hearing AN's McMULLEN and BOLLINGER bogging him for a day off. By the way, POOLE, how about a day off? ? ? ?

Our able bodied AZ3 OUSLEY is holding down the fort on our night shift. He can probably be seen standing on the catwalk looking for a replacement for his compadre, AZ2 EASLEY. In closing, we at the pulsating nerve center of the Maintenance Department, bid you a fond farewell.

#### MATERIAL

It's that time of the month again when you hear from your "friendly Material Division". AKC GAY's Aviation Seabees are still in the Construction business, building bins to hold the many many ASL items (aircraft parts) being received. Head carpenter DEVERELL and his able assistant CURTIS, are in the final construction phase. AK1 NASH and his office force composed of GUY, PATEREAU, NEAL, BAKER, VANDERHOFF, and BRIGHT have finished painting and arranging the material office, now we can't find anything. LTJG SIDNEY has that look on his face because he can't find his desk. Watch your desk!!! An inventory was conducted by all hands and material was relocated so that the new stock cards could be brought up to date. Before long we will be able to find material.

#### ADMIN

The passage of the month of August brings smiles to the "Mimograph Murders" of Vung Tau's Administrative department. Why not? We all have one less month to go! Some have more reason to smile than others. How was Hawaii CDR BARTLETT? LTJG Mariner "Monstrous Mess-bill" COX is really beaming! Come on Wally, 66 days isn't that short! Wild Wally has been making time fly showing movies at the "Q" and playing with the mess bill - FORTY DOLLARS! LCDR Norm "Rung Sat Raider" ELDER did a fine job filling in for the boss while the Commander was on R&R. Only problem is that he used six tails on his "cat-o-nine" and got whip-lash jerking his head about making sure no one took two breaths in succession! Norm, by the way, joined the beach crew on their daily run and says he can't believe how Jim "Hibernation" SMITH can run! YN1 "Mac" McCURE has had an almost productive month, having learned to use his left arm again. He's been giving the medical department fits by breaking his cast weekly. The cast finally came off yesterday. Medical did another fine job - the arm is as straight as the Mekong River. Oh well, 40% accuracy in government work! YN2 BROWN has been passing out goodies from home again. We'll fatten up YN2 WICKLIN yet! YN2 PARKER has been strangely quiet of late. What's up man? It hasn't been that hot! YN3's KLAUS and LARGADO have taken their advancement exams - good luck fellows, even though the chiefs are fast running out of Indians. Our mail clerk, AN FROUGH finally moved enough mail out of those hidden recesses in the mail room to make his way out. We hear that he found a letter to YN2 JUTKORSKY saying he'd better report to his draft board or action would be taken! Guess that 40% accuracy applies to the mail too! "Ski" donated the use of a refrigerator to the Admin department. He's got so many new friends he doesn't know what to do. But that lock on the ice box is a pretty good start!

No word from the 1st LT this month. Guess he's getting his beauty sleep. At the rate he's going, he ought to be ready for the Miss Universe contest by next summer.

P40

The previously steady stream of Squadron arrivals and departures slowed to a bare trickle this month, marking the end of a major transformation. The "old" wolves are gone, long live the "new wolves".

A word on in-country R&R. It is presently available to Det enlisted men and some deserving J.O.'s (O-1 - O-3). If you are granted a quota, you may spend a maximum of 3 days basking on the Riviera-like beaches of Vung Tau. You will be berthed and messed at no cost in one of two modern villas. Other facilities include free recreation equipment, free movies, and a bar (not free).

Special Services has found new friends in the Army Special Services. As soon as we learn how to master that Army requisition form we'll be in tall cotton.

The arrival of Squadron cigarette lighters is being eagerly awaited. The lighters will be sold at a price of \$.55/one per customer. After a period of 10 days - bulk purchases will be permitted.

As a favor to (a) the postal officer and (b) yourselves, I'd like to remind you to keep us informed of your whereabouts. Any shift of department or detachment personnel should be reported. If not, your letters will wander around by themselves, maybe finding you and maybe not.

The Wolfgram mailing list is up-to-date, as far as we know. If you know someone who is not receiving his copy, drop me a note and the situation will be corrected.

This will be my last month with the Wolfgram. I would like to say that it's been a pleasure and welcome my successor, LTJG Wally "not another job" COX.

#### PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

September finds the Personnel trailer in a variety of changes. To start with, our Courageous Quill, LT COGSWELL is departing for the jungles of the Mekong Delta. We regret to see him go as he has done an outstanding job. His replacement is LT C. E. McCASKILL Jr. from Det 2. Mr. McCASKILL ran into a spree of bad luck. However, he feels, as we do, that his luck is changing - the first step being assigned to Personnel.

The Personnel Office has also seen another change in that our Legal and Educational Services Officer, "Baby Face" MRLICH was shipped out to Det 7. His replacement, LTJG "Perry Mason" HENNESSY is tackling his billet in terrific manner.

CVA-64 WOOD (who we might add is delighted at the set of orders he received) is preparing himself for the long trek back to San Diego. Chief WOOD holds a perfect record in Career Counseling - 8 counsels, 8 rejections.

Chief "Ole Easy" KUNBURGER is holding down the ship. Aside from his professional duties he has acted as Chief Master at Arms of the

Office concerning retiling of the deck, scaling up the leaks and giving considerable thought to moving the trailer - to San Francisco!

PN2 "Aloha" ERICKSON is readily looking forward to RER in Hawaii over the holidays with one of those strange looking femmes on the other side of the globe.

PN2's "You Bic" MORRIS and PADEM are punctually attending spoken Vietnamese classes at 53rd Group. We think PADEM is getting a little secret tutoring from the young curvaceous Daisy. MORRIS just returned from 7 days of relaxing under the blistering sun of Vietnam.

We want to wish a "happy here" to PN2 McCARTHY who just arrived at the time of this writing.

In behalf of the Secretary of the Navy we want to wish a Fabulous Four to PN3 J. L. WYNN who is shipping over in October. Good luck Jim, we always knew you had it in you.

YN3 "Boatswain" Bob HUNT is reportedly getting his request chits for early separation stuck in the mud. Heres a bit of trivia about the "Boats". He and his hair are both getting short. His scalp condition resembles the aftermath of a nuclear blast - FALLOUT!!

SN "Ringo" RYAN is currently making plans to replace John Lennon of that group out of London known to some as the Beatles. RYAN is learning to play the guitar by the touch method. (That method is the ole typewriter-replaces-the-guitar trick.)

SN JAURIGI is thinking about his homeland in which he will miss out on the up coming Olympic Games in Mexico City. JAURIGI would like to enter one of the events but his specialty, eating tamales, is not on the agenda.

Through extensive search of the Genealogical Archives, we found the origin of SN Tom ARMSTRONG's last name. His forefather, Leste Vaygus, constantly played the Slot. Upon his death, his friends included in his eulogy, "and died with an admirable physical virtue, a strong arm." Through the years the name was arranged to ARMSTRONG and SN Tom continues to follow in Mr. Vaygus' footsteps. Tem's reply to this thorough search - One More Nickel!!!

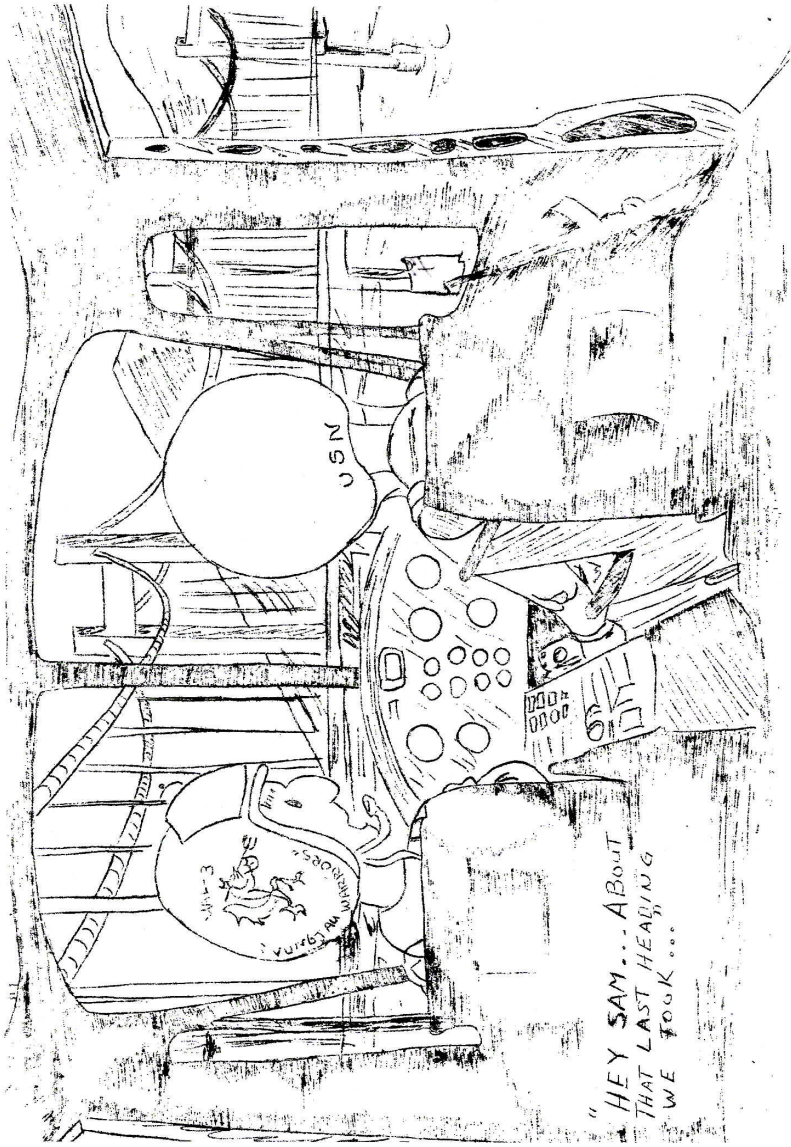
SN McGEE is planning for his continuous sea duty after Vietnam. Listed on his dream sheet was Destroyer, Destroyer, Destroyer. Under Remarks was the caption, "Any destroyer with its homeport on the Atlantic Ocean." States MAC, "Oh say can you SEA...."

#### MEDICAL

The Medical Trailer now sports a bold sign announcing the Vung Tau Detachment of the U.S. Naval Aerospace Medical Institute, for which we thank AM1 FITE for his artistic efforts.

Since his arrival, Dr. SPENCE has initiated his own local Medical Civic Action Program that has resulted in a gradual improvement in the sanitary conditions of the various restaurants most popular with the Seavolves. Dr. SPENCE's popularity with the USAF is somewhat questionable, though, as they have had to add another aircraft on the daily schedule just to transport his personal mail.

HM2 STEPHENSON is considering submitting an article to the Journal of the American Medical Association describing his new (and unique) approach to the treatment of "Neurodermatitis". HM2 FANKHAUSER is



"HEY SAM... ABOUT  
THAT LAST HEADING  
WE TOOK..."

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adapting to the Vietnam way of life but has apparently been disappointed by the lack of combat in the Vung Tau area. HM1 FERRIN has just about conceded in his battle to get an "Outstanding" on Saturday morning inspections and has decided he can more profitably spend his Friday afternoons conducting MEDCAP's among the Vietnamese.

Dr. TAYLOR is now reading this issue of the Welfgram in Pensacola, Florida. His tour with HA(L)-3 was an enjoyable, memorable, and unique experience serving with a Squadron of exceptional men, and he wishes everyone a safe and successful completion of tour and speedy return home.