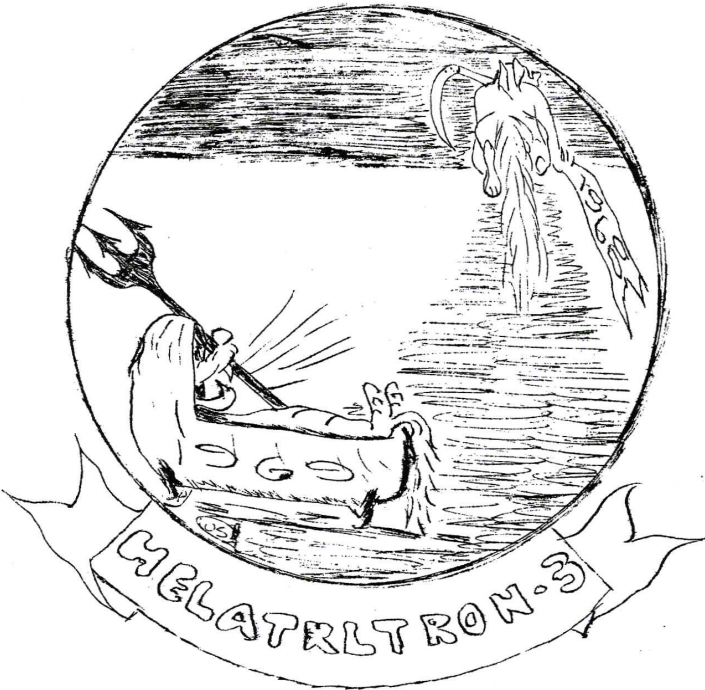


HELICOPTER ATTACK (LIGHT) SQUADRON THREE (HA(L)-3)

WOLFRAM

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CAPT A. H. MUNSON  
COMMANDING OFFICER

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CO'S NOTE  
CAPT MUNSON

As we start down this New Year of 1969, I know we all would rather be home with loved ones. It has been our turn to stand the watch in the Far East and shortly we shall be relieved by the next watch. It is hoped that shortly this watch station may be taken off the watch list. We must remember, though, that as long as we desire to keep a Free World there will always be front lines that have to be guarded against those who would enslave the people of this earth. We of the Armed Forces have dedicated ourselves to this task and may it continue to be an assignment "Well Done".

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DET ONE (USS HUNTERDON COUNTY)

First of all we must apologize to all DET ONE fans for missing a Wolfgram article. It was this contributor's first mistake this fiscal year and he was as dismayed as I'm sure you all were.

Since December 11 DET ONE has been traveling. We went to the Ca Mau Peninsula and then went up to Phu Quoc Island (60 miles off the coast of Vietnam) where we are at present. Phu Quoc is a very beautiful island and was an excellent place to spend Christmas. The beaches are exceptionally nice (palm lined, etc.) and the off duty crew has spent many hours building tans.

This island has led LTJG BRIDGES and LTJG BAGLEY to think that they are already on their round the world sailing junket which is currently planned for a later date. The flights into fantasy that these relatively stable young men go on daily lead a few to question their sanity.

LCDR Don HARTMAN arrived on board near the end of November to start his det training program and is now our full fledged OINC. LCDR HARKER left the Det just recently and will return to Vung Tau after a trip to another island paradise - Hawaii.

LT "Sumo" SOTO recently returned from his R&R to Hawaii and has yet to say anything civil to anyone. We must therefore, only assume that he enjoyed himself.

LT Jim BEEM without a doubt has the most unusual hair style we have seen recently. Some rather exotic disease struck James down and all his hair has departed for places unknown. A shaved head was his only alternative and Mr. Clean now has nothing on Jim.

LT Jerry PRATT is now our assistant OINC having come to us from DET FIVE and Vung Tau. He seems rather happy to get back to detachment life.

Yet another Hawaii returnee is LTJG Noel CAMPBELL. Besides an ear to ear grin Noel also returned from Hawaii with a backboard so he could continue basketball at our new home the HUNTERDON COUNTY.

LTJG Bill WALLER is our new flight time hog and has led the Det for the last couple of months. However, his proposed trip to either Hong Kong or Taipei in January should slow him down some.

New faces in the crews ranks the past couple of months are AMH3 FRYBURGER and AMH3 VALLADARES who arrived to replace AN "Rock" BASILE. BASILE we understand is currently at the bottom of the Australian swimming pool in Vung Tau.

ADJ1 HUNT and AOC WALSH have planned a trip to Australia and anxiously await the flight list to see how many weeks apart their flights are.

ADJ3 KELLY is another R&R returnee having spent his week in Bangkok. Another young man who enjoyed himself immensely and returned with 6 cents in his pocket to prove it.

AOAN Jim McGOWAN presented all members of the detachment with engraved coffee cups for Christmas presents. We of DET ONE would like to thank Mrs. McGOWAN for her excellent gifts.

AOAN Ron McALLISTER still hasn't said anything and he has been here for seven months. Guess everything must be okay with "Old Mac" so far.

Last and most assuredly not least is AE2 SEARLE who has done nothing significant for two months. The above statement is by no means true but you can't be nice all the time.

That concludes the rundown for DET ONE for another month. We bid you all adieu from the isle of Phu Quoc and will write you once again next month when we are back at our home on the Bassac.

DET TWO (NHA BE)

Once again, greetings from Sandy Point, home of the best chow hall in Vietnam. Waistlines attest to that fact. The month of December saw very few changes here at Nha Be. We still await our control tower so we can put our E-W runway in operation. The one big event of the month was the enlisted men's victory over the officers in softball.

Our new Officer-in-Charge, LCDR Dave "Budweiser" BLAIR, has settled into his new position and is fast becoming one of the unbeatables at the Officers' Club shuffleboard.

LCDR Mike "Mad Dog" RETZ spent a frustrating month running between his circular jig saw puzzle and his recording studio. Mike's goal is to tape 365 continuous days of stereo music during his tour. He's four days ahead of schedule at this point.

LTJG Bill WAGNER is beginning to worry about his weight. He now eats only four meals a day and carefully spaces them SIX hours apart.

LT Tom "Picasso" COGSWELL rejoined the det early in December and took up oil painting as a pastime. Although we all make fun of his work, it really isn't half bad. Tom ended the month by having his air model presented to him by Admiral ZUMWALT. But that had its drawbacks, too. He didn't want to have his picture taken with a half-grown mustache, so he shaved it all off.

LT John "Skinhead" CONNOLLY spent most of the month preparing for his big week in Hawaii. He has seldom seen without his nose in "Hawaii on \$5 & \$10 a day". We all hope his wife wasn't shocked when she saw his haircut. John is the only member of the det who washes his "hair" with a washcloth!

New Year's eve found Brian "Pack Rat" CUDEBACK busily preparing his acquired possessions for movement to Vung Tau. Anyone looking in on Brian during this operation would have felt compassion for him. And none of us could understand how a person could cram so much junk in one small room. The next problem is finding a helo big enough to air lift all his gear to Vung Tau.

LTJG Al "The Whisper" BILLINGS received the good news from a friend in the States that he was selected for Lieutenant. So Al had something to celebrate on his weeks leave in Japan.

LTJG Tim HAYES is taking over "Pack Rat" CUDEBACK'S old job of Det Maintenance Officer after a week's schooling in Vung Tau. Tim has also joined the group of "Noise Makers" in the BOQ by his acquisition of 4 speakers, a tape recorder, and a tape cartridge player.

LTJG Wil "Stach" DAVIS received his Fire Team Leader designation from Santa Claus during the month but it was not a gift, it was well earned. The latest addition to the pilot ranks at Sandy Point is LTJG Dick "Blue Bone Man" HENNESSY. Dick tries to keep his weight down by making several trips a day to the Communications Center to pick up messages.

Our celebrity in the det, LTJG George "Buckeye" PIEL, spent the greater part of December answering his numerous letters from Akron. His first priority, naturally, was all the young ladies' correspondence.

We are happy to report that Larry "Swish" TAYLOR did remarkably well on the bases during the latest Officer-Enlisted Softball Game. Unfortunately, his teammates haven't gotten to the phase of instruction that covers what to do with the ball after you've stopped it in the outfield, maybe next month.

Bob "Cunny" ARNOLD earned his nickname in one evening during which the Fire Team had several quick turn arounds and needed the assistance of the off-duty crew

to rearm and refuel. Bob claims to have put together more 50. caliber machine gun ammunition that night than anyone before in DET TWO. What makes it a remarkable feat is the condition Bob was in at the time! Keeping the flex guns in a operating condition in a constant, never ending battle.

Jack "The Comedian" CARTER is strapped with this job and is kept busy everyday. But with Jack on the job we have been able to do the impossible - go through an entire hop without the flex guns jamming up. The story of

The story of "Ralph" might be termed "Mission Impossible". It all started when Glen "Hawkeye" SMITHEN decided to take his puppy "Ralph" to the vet at Saigon for shots and worming. On the way up the crew stopped at the USO for breakfast but were told they couldn't take Ralph in. So "Hawkeye" paid a kid to watch the dog while they ate. You guessed it; both the kid and the dog vanished. This is where the Mission Impossible crew went to work. The next day "Hawkeye" had his crew back on the scene and sure enough, the kid was back. With just a "small" threat, he led the crew to a cage full of dogs. As soon as someone yelled his name, Ralph came running. Without a word, Glen picked up the puppy and walked away and so ended the case of the vanishing puppy.

To grow or not to grow, that is the question confronting Ed "Grape Juice" WELCH. Everytime he gets brave enough to start a mustache and starts sporting a few hairs on his upper lip, he gets discouraged and shaves it off. Let's face it Ed, you weren't meant to be another Clark Gable.

Speaking of mustaches, Ben "Deadeye" SMITH grew one for a month before someone noticed it. Then to top that off, it took a week before anyone noticed that he shaved it off. Mr. Gillette will never get rich of you "Deadeye".

Jim "Beads" ROBINSON spent the month of December acquiring new collateral duties. He now runs the coke mess, is the det's mailman, has just been appointed laundry PO, and by self-proclamation, is now the church PO, whose job it is to see that everyone gets up on Sunday morning for church. Unfortunately, no one ever wakes Robby up on Sunday, so he has yet to perform his holy duty.

The big question in the det this month is what does Jim "Sparkly" EVANS do on his day off. Seems that no one ever sees him unless he's on duty. Rumor has it that Jim is doing undercover research work for his upcoming edition of "Who's Who in Nha Be".

Chuck "Pork" GIER has been busy as a C. B. for the last two weeks. He has taken it upon himself to construct a workshed over the gun cleaning area. This was all well and good but "Pork" picks the craziest hours to work. One morning the Fire Team Leader was woken by some noise outside the ready room at 0200 only to find out that "Pork" was literally "raising the roof" to his new shed.

#### DET THREE (VINH LONG)

It is our wish that those of you back home had a merry and meaningful holiday season. Life went on routinely here, broken for a short time with the gaiety and special mood that Christmas anywhere, fosters. Bob Hope and his troupe did the bit elsewhere in the Delta, and we were a bit disappointed at missing that--- still the month was a good, safe one in which our thoughts turned homeward, remembering holiday seasons past with the hope that we would be spending the next one with you.

And now, Christmas has come and gone, leaving in its wake more tired and hang-over sailors than the experts thought possible. This was the aftermath of an outstanding feast of charcoal-broiled steak, fresh shrimp cocktail, home-style potato salad, barbequed beans, and beaucoup beer--- the fete was complemented by the pre-

sentation of a "scrambled-eggs" hat, shoulder-boards bearing three full stripes, and a beautiful hand-carved model of a Huey gunship to Commander SNYDER. I can personally attest to the success of the party by the fact that someone had to drag this writer out of the rack at noon the day after to write this.

This last month we worked hard on our biggest problem, that of keeping the other dets. from coming in for maintenance during our lunch hour or on Sundays. We almost have this under control except for DET 3A (DET 7 to you outsiders) who see us almost daily for their preflights!---they are in here so much that it is hard to tell where they are stationed. The month has seen few real changes in DET 3.

ADJ3 Bob FERRERA got back from the land of hot water, power steering, and 43 foot tacos, just in time for the Christmas Party.

PN2 Jim WYNN left here to return to Vung Tau to resume his stint as a Vung Tau Warrior. Best of luck to both of them. We had as merry a Christmas as is possible in the wilds of the jungle, we hope you had a cool Yule, and convey our best wishes for a frantic first.

For our OINC, perhaps the months finest hour came when he accepted his surprise gift from the troops at the Christmas get-together. They had guarded the secret jealously for nearly a month and that in itself was somewhat of a feat as our boss is one of those individuals who quietly knows a great deal of what is going on without anyone being aware of it. We honestly think he prized the solid mahogany model of the gunship more than anything else he received---and doubt that there is a person left on base that hasn't been treated to the sight of it yet.

LCDR Diamond Jim BRADY is getting quite short and is soon to leave us. We imagine that by the time this comes out, he will probably be reading it at home; knowing he would enjoy this, we hope so. We had hoped that he could stay until his grand scheme as track control officer could be unfolded but wouldn't want to deprive anyone of their rotation date, even for something as grandiose as that. For the record, it was suggested that we replace the Delta operations wall map with a scale blow-up map of the airfield and environ---we thought an appropriate title was a tactical truck map. At any rate, it could have been developed somewhat like CIC aboard ship with colored pencils and flagged models of trucks, telephone talkers, and a sandbag radio---we can hear it now--- "truck control, this is Greendoor Five departing traffic, proceeding north from line area to chow hall. Ten-four." We wish you a safe trip home, Jim, and a pleasant and satisfying tour of duty in Norfolk.

Also thinning our ranks through his forthcoming departure is LT Ray LAZO, DET THREE's favorite Cuban. His will be a conspicuous absence. We will definitely miss his cherubic, effervescent countenance and of course, his incredible ability to come up with mysterious cases of lobster and steak, spare engines, lumber, O-rings, jeeps, telephones, charcoal and such an assortment of Army good will and favors that it invokes nothing short of admiration. Speaking for all hands in DET THREE, I think it can truly be said that it was a pleasure to have known and served with him. Ray, we wish you godspeed and an enjoyable tour of duty with HC-1. Getting ready for the Christmas season brought forth some unusual talents in some of the det.

LT Bob COOPER, DET THREE'S answer to Christian Dior, displayed such a flair for interior design that we have given thought to requesting a TAD assignment to Paris for PG work in that field. He was primarily responsible for the crepe paper hanging straightly, the tree lights being symmetrically arranged (they just got to be symmetrical!), and the color scheme appearing complementary. We were a bit surprised to find him so talented in this direction. He got rather talented in other

directions later on in the evening of our Christmas dinner, as he and our vocal OINC teamed to bend the Army's ears with some a deux singing. It's amazing how well you can hear two yodeling Naval aviators amidst the noise of holiday revelry-- especially when they are standing on top of the bar.

Although we were unable to get LTJG Dick BARR to play Santa because of what he claims has been his amazing loss of weight over here, he still managed to entertain us following the festivities with his imitation of a skivvy-clad inebriate entering a bar. We all thought you were very, very good at that, Dick, and would like to change your nickname from "PSP" to "snake". He unfortunately was on the flight schedule the next morning but made only one comment, a plea to Jim BRADY not to bounce the aircraft when he landed.

LTJG Randy (Never Again) MILLER sort of missed Christmas eve--flying, he was, but in a different sense of the word. He reports that he may have pulled a few too many g's and overstressed his airframe somewhat. His attire the evening of the dinner (proving that even hippies can look like naval aviators) provoked an admiring comment from our guest, the airfield commander, Col. HANNON: "I didn't think it was possible". Randy merits congratulations upon his recent designation as AHAC. As our secret standardization officer, he comments that he was ready for this his second day in-country (after he'd gotten the feel of things) but went along all this time just to make the "system" look good.

LTJG Joe (Straight Arrow) HART got some more of these presents in the mail the other day. His toy-box is now the envy of all the kids on the block after the addition of a real keen monkey skill game, a Captain Marvel gyroscope (with nylon twirling string) and a Gen Autry Code ring. What! No nylons this time, Joe? We had our hopes really up for something more interesting than last time. Joe's nearing his designation as AH2P and we suspect that we'll be able to congratulate him on this in the next issue. We welcomed our newest Neubie at the first of this month--LTJG Dick REARDON--who comes to us fresh from AMO school and the training command. His first official act as boy-Neubie was to seize the high flight time crown for the month, finishing far and away ahead of all hands. It is a pleasure to have him aboard, especially since it gives everyone a chance to use the pointed end of that old one-liner, "if I had that long to go, I'd slit my throat!"

Incidentally LTJG BARR loses his "Great White Whale" title to Dick--Mr. REARDON admitted that one of the attractions of our det here is that it is known throughout the Delta as a great Oriental reducing salon. Until next month, we will say farewell.

#### DET FOUR (DONG TAM)

We are now just about settled in our new "home" in Dong Tam after a month of digging, finagling and building. It's great to have a place to call? Complete with dust and a sweet smelling six-holer.

LCDR Paul FRANKENBERGER, now known as Colonel GRAVENBERGER, formerly of the Louisiana state police has assumed control of DET FOUR and its motly JOs since LCDR PRIESTLEY is now attached to some secret project out in the middle of the boondocks.

LT Raul VAZQUEZ has moved up to the Assistant Officer-in-Charge job helping to see that DET 4 good guys do stay a little bit good.

LTJG Paul STEUBE is now Operations Officer. He keeps saying over and over again "it won't be like this in Washington, D. C.". Paul is the only one of us



who misses life aboard the boat where he could sleep without that lousy old sun shining in the window before noon.

LTJG Daryle SPILBRING and ATL Art AINSWORTH are still arguing about who is shorter and will get to go home first. Both better go on a diet if anyone is going to believe their stories on the rigorous life in Vietnam.

LTJG Bob "Hag in the Box" HAGGERTON has left us to go to Saigon and some unknown job. We believe he is secretly running the war.

LTJG Bob KRUSE and LTJG Jim CARMICHAEL spent all their time looking at brochures about Hawaii. Hard to believe a place like that could be real with no dust and rice paddies.

LTJG Will FERRELL is looking forward to some new pilots coming so he can pass the job of communications and moral rearmament off on somebody else and eat all the time. At 245 pounds he does look a bit underfed.

ADJ1 Hank BERIONES has returned to Vung Tau. Fort Courage can't get along without Hank.

AO2 Ollie GROSS will soon take over the job of being the hard nosed Senior Petty Officer when Art goes to NAS Memphis. Ollie is a hard worker.

AO3 Bruce HOCK works hard as always keeping our helos flying and shoveling dirt for the bunkers.

ADJAN John "Sadie" SADLER, AN Merrit "C. W." BUSH, AN Jess "Brad" BRADBURY, and AMH3 Stan PIOS have all been busy. Everyone pitched in to build a bunker for the duty crew to stay in and are now moving the hootch the aircrewmen live in. These guys still squeeze in quite a lot of time for having fun and they keep our 'esprit de Corps high, but miss that old Tra Vinh liberty.

Our ground pounders, AN "Jake" JACOBS and "Frid" FRIDALES have been put to good use fixing up Dong Tam. Jake is as eager a man as we have. Frid is now the duty yeoman since he does such a neat job typing (because he never erases his mistakes). Also, we have a new man as of this morning but he got put to work so fast we never got a chance to see who he is so will have to write about him next month.

DET FIVE (YREM-16) Chau Doc - NOT SUBMITTED

DET SIX (DONG TAM)

Christmas in Dong Tam! AH, fairly makes your blood race, eh? Those of us lucky enough to be here are appropriately appreciative of our fortune. And, as Mr. "C" says, "Bah, Humbug". We also had the Ann Margaret show with her guest Bob Hope. Yeah, AMH1 Roger BENISH spent there days painting a "Welcome Raquel Welch" sign. Poor soul, some folks never get the word. One of the major events was the departing for home of our beloved leader, LCDR Hugh CHILDRESS. The place just won't be the same without Mr. "C". Talk about short! He has been cautioned twice this month about flying too slow in the jet airways. He says he's too short to fly any lower. He hasn't had a long conversation in a month and has his packing drill is down to twenty seconds flat.

Next to Christmas day itself, the biggest day of the month was the day of the Bob Hope show followed by the relieving ceremony of LCDR CHILDRESS as Officer-in-Charge. Apparently Mr. Hope heard of the occasion and volunteered to entertain for the event. LCDR CHILDRESS was relieved by LCDR Dennis STREY. Mr. CHILDRESS is off to NAS Dallas where he intends to spend a great deal of time watching the Cowboys on TV and drinking iced tea. He also relates that he is buying a forty

foot cabin cruiser for deep sea fishing in Lake Dallas. Perhaps he is expecting an unusually heavy rainy season. Good Luck, Mr. "C" and take care. We'll be missing you.

The relieving ceremony was also the occasion for a long delayed awards ceremony. Captain MUNSON was on hand to present decorations to a number of the Detachment SIX seawolves. The awards and their recipients were as follows:

AIR MEDAL

LT LEWIS  
LTJG WILSON  
LTJG McKAY  
LTJG ROMANELLI

AMS2 MCELHINEY  
ADJ3 BUNDY  
AN KINGREY  
AN O'BRIEN

VIETNAMESE LETTER OF COMMENDATION

LTJG HANKEL      LTJG LARSON      AMS2 MCELHINEY      ADJ3 BUNDY

ADJ3 Jerry BARTLESON who is stateside on leave, will be presented on his return with the Navy Achievement Medal, the Air Medal, and the Vietnamese letter of commendation. Also stateside on his glorious thirty is AZ3 Dan HIGGINS who has Air Medal awaiting him on his return. ADJ3 Vince PAONE will receive the Vietnamese Letter of Commendation when he tires of New York and decides to come home. AN Ron KINGREY went on R&R this month. That is, he went to Hawaii to meet his childrens' mother. He didn't look as though he had relaxed much. Perhaps he recreated a lot. Also, on R&R, this time to Bangkok, was LTJG Lud Mc... You remember Lud, he's the guy with all the hair. He was quite enthusiastic about the place and recommended the scenic museums and temples highly. Well, that's what he said.

LTJG Bob ROMANELLI joined the ranks of the AHACs during December and mention was made of hiding the aircraft. Now that the new airfield is practically finished, Bob has become almost human again. He has acquired some nice finishing touches in the form of four ducks (under the care of our duck officer, LTJG John "Roscoe" MANN) to pretty up the lake, and a pair of monkeys. The monkeys are currently being trained by Jay WAKELAND and Charlie YELTON to take over the radio watch. They have only to teach them (the monkeys) to make coffee. Don't laugh, you should taste WAKELAND's coffee.

The Admin and Ops people are losing their right arm at the end of the month. PN2 Larry BLECHER has been recalled to Vung Tau. He has been here only a short time, but has proved an invaluable asset to the Detachment. We shall hate to see him go.

Two sets of orders were received this month. LTJG John HANKEL is being sent to the wilds of Pensacola as an instructor at VI-3. It should be interesting to watch him trying to pull pitch on a T-28. The Binh Dai won't be the same without John. LTJG Dick LARSON is going to HS-6 at NAS Imperial Beach. He should make life interesting for the good folks of San Diego.

Two of our new guys received AH2P papers. LT Charlie PITTMAN and LTJG John MANN were the recipients. LCDR Dennis STREY, the new boss, has received AHAC papers and is ready to begin terrorizing the bad guys.

A new game has arrived at Dong Tam. It consists of four Blocks which must be stacked in such a manner that each face will present a different color. The game

is called "Instant Insanity" and aptly named it is. AN Tom OLBY and Chip CHIAPPONE were found whimpering in a corner cutting out paper dolls after only a two hour exposure to the game. AN Lou CELONE tried it and ended up taking a stroll across the ceiling. It's a fiendish little device all right. Ask Bob ROMANELLI, he bet he could do it in ten minutes to the vast amusement of all present. He even had the answer written down.

AN Jim SPIEK has assumed new duties as assistant duck keeper. It's a toss up as to who is keeping whom. They are teaching him to swim. AMS3 POPOVIC, SOTO, CONNORS, VREELAND, and ALWANDER have been kept busy helping Detachment FOUR get set up in their new "mini bunker". My, it certainly is getting busy around here.

A03 Neil McDONALD and AN Terry SCOTT, our living testaments to the dangers of over weight, would like to take this opportunity to extend to you from Detachment SIX the greetings of the season. MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to one and all.

#### DET SEVEN (BINH THUY)

The holiday season came and went at NAS Binh Thuy and it's with welcome hearts that we report its passing. There Christmas cease-fires can be mighty hazardous to one's health.

We anticipate installing a phone extension on the roof of the Det SEVEN "hooch". It seems the "Boss", LCDR Ed FUREY, has been hiding out up there a lot lately under the pretext of sunbathing, at least that's what he says everytime someone can't find him.

Many congratulations are in order at Det SEVEN this month. LTJGs Carl PETERSON, Bob SPROSTY and Tom WARLICK all were selected for LT, each to be promoted at various intervals in the next six months. We wonder if Bob's slight stature can handle the added weight of the "railroad tracks". LT Tom DOYLE is our newest AHAW only trouble is that no one can remember his call sign.

LTJG Chris "Straight Arrow" STONE demonstrated what a virtuous life of no smoking, drinking or cussing can do as he walked off as the high flight-time man of the month, and LTJG Bill CARLO continues to complain of not enough flight time.

LTJG Terry LACKEY returned from test pilots school in Vung Tau rededicated to "keep 'em flyin'." LTJG John "I gotta" system" TITCHENER challenges all comers as he reigns supreme at his three dimensional Tic-Tac-Toe game. All we can do is warn John that Capt QUEEG of the USS CAINE started playing with marbles when he was a JG, too.

LT Tex RICHIE takes particular pains to savor every minute of his last month on det. Tex has been ordered into Vung Tau. We hate to see him go, but we know he'll do as good a job there as he has done for us. Good luck, Tex.

ADRI Fred MAHANNAH the famed POIC of DET SEVEN is in the process of packing his sundry belongings for the big trip back home. Incidentally, we've heard rumors that he is trading his dress blues in for a set of cutoffs and a thinking hat, and heading for the island of Crete to meditate. Needless to say, Fred's pace setting style and enlightened leadership will be missed by his devout followers.

We would also like to welcome AEL BUNN, who will be assuming the duties of our new POIC.

The old recreation trailer has received a new face lifting by the Michelangelo Restoration Society, Binh Thuy Chapter. The drawings were initiated by our Mekong artist AE3 "Binjo" RUTLEDGE with questionable help supplied by AN "Greek" GREEN, AN "Blue Cross" GOOD and ATN2 MARGDEN.

Since we brought the subject up about good ole MARSDEN, alias "Butterfeet". He is out recording expert - being extensively trained in the complicated field of electronics. What he doesn't understand about tape recorders are all those knobs and things.

AOAN GRIFF, the Bassac's Guru has been giving training and lectures in the oriental art of Karate and meditating over the intricacies of his trusty .50 caliber door gun which he claims is his bag.

PN1 ERICKSON and ADJAN DELORE are responsible for the carpentry work on the adjoining patio. (I wonder where they got the wood?)

AO3 "Mighty" BOYD and AMS3 "Goofy" HUGHES seem to be having a little trouble figuring out which side of the aircraft they should be setting on, well, we are sure with a little more practice you'll figure it out.

In summation we would like to pose a question to all HA(L)-3 personnel: DOES THE NAME RUBY BEGONIA MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

OPERATIONS  
CDR HILLE

As the month of December draws to a close of the Operations Department want to express our appreciation to all the folks at home. Seems like a never ending supply of "goodies" arrived in country during the past weeks. This sure did ease the pain of being away from home during the holidays. Thank you, all!

No one departed for the states this month but several of the officers are getting short-short. We did welcome one new member. LT Jack WILSON came to join us from Det SIX and relieved LT Bob CATHCART as "Comm" Officer with a jolly Ho! Ho! Ho! LT WILSON doesn't look like Santa but LT CATHCART insists he is. Mr. CATHCART had been carrying a double burden but now his smile broadens daily with his new-found freedom. Why he even found time for a week in Hong Kong. LT Howie PRICE and LCDR Jack CONNELLY both have their "tickets" home in early January. Nuff said! LT Dave CRANOR spent the holidays in Australia. Surely he also has a smile on his face. We'll know soon, for Mr. CRANOR should be back tomorrow. CDR HILLE had the best Christmas present of all. He and his wife spent their R&R in Hawaii. The Commander is in a much better mood since his return. Why, we've even seen him grin a couple of times. LT Jon WALKER reported in from Det FIVE and has relieved LCDR Dave BLAIR as Safety Officer. Mr. BLAIR left for Det TWO where he is now OINC. We wish him the best. LT WALKER becomes the newest, in a long line of outstanding men, to be accorded an honorary membership in the Operations Department. He has been accorded all the rights and privileges of a full member. (We let him drink our coffee.) The smile on his face is probably due to being accepted into so fine a group, but it might be because his trip to Hawaii to meet his wife is coming up soon.

Chief Eugene JOENKS and A01 Lloyd JOHNSON keep busy training one class after another all the time. They hardly have time to stop off at the club for a cocktail. Roy ANDERSON, Pat COLLRIN, and Bill RYAN all claim that the highlight of the day is that early morning "scenic" trip to the communications station, especially in the last two weeks. It seems that the operations vehicle has been acting up and hasn't been at all willing to make the trip. Our three gleeful friends had found it necessary to wake one or more of the officers, usually commanders, in order to borrow another car. John BRANHAM likes working at the comm station so much, we can't get him to come back. Ken KELSEY and Jim HARKSEN aren't "short" by a long shot, but they already can be heard counting "days to go". They get to talk to people all over (the delta) and they hate to leave their radio, so we don't know why they're counting.

From all of us in Operations to all of you. HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAINTENANCE  
CDR DEY

December was an especially busy month for the Maintenance Department. Seventeen PE inspections were completed and major structural repairs made to three other aircraft. Santa brought us a new aircraft from the Army, Unfortunately, it also included a bag full of discrepancies for us to work off. For the entire Maintenance Department I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

MAINTENANCE CONTROL

Seasons Greetings from the hub of the Maintenance Department. The month of December has brought several new and exciting things.

At the beginning of the month AN McMULLEN (our cluck-typist) received a Christmas tree to start our holiday mood. Chief EATON, our fearless Maintenance Admin leader, keeps mumbling about a Boeing 707, we wonder why?

As of this writing AZ2 POOLE and ADJC BREWER are home on leave. We in Maintenance Control wish them both Happy Holidays.

ADJ3 (Ole' Fred) SALAZAR is currently on in-country R&R. He seems very content just to be in the barracks area and the EM Club next door.

Our Maintenance CPO, ADGS WILSON, has been very calm this month. Occasionally he is found talking to himself, something to the effect of "Now, which aircraft can I switch an "EDF" to this time".

AN BOLLINGER is short. At least he says so. Bill has been working nights and is getting a very good tan in the daytime.

AZ3 OWSLEY dropped out of the office for R&R to Hawaii and has just returned, the only comment from "Dew" is, "WOW!"

LODR (Big Jaw) HICE has been making frequent trips to the Dentist. Since he had his molars removed it's been very quiet in Maintenance Control.

ADJ1 KNIGHT of night check is being transferred downstairs to the working segment of the Maintenance Department. We dislike losing him, and of course his witty remarks.

As we close for the month we wish all our readers best wished in the New Year ahead.

MATERIAL

During this past month LT PATTERSON's charges have been scurrying around as never before decorating their highly original Christmas trees, and making ready Santa's goodie bag so he can give all the good Det boys all the spare parts, intermediate kits, mini-guns, waterless cleaner, and best of all, brand new power packed helicopters, their little hearts desire.

AN BAKER and AKAN GUY are directly responsible for the former, and AKC GAY's storeroom gang, AK3 NUCKOLLS, AKAN NEAL and ANs DEVERBELL and CURTIS the latter. AK3 VANDERHOFF and AKAN PATTERSON will take care of the final Big Deal preparations. Head co-ordinator for this year's show was AK1 "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth" NASH. A little whistle for us, Mike?

A dilemma is facing us however, as we have most sadly lost Chief GAY to the blue water Navy. That "basketball" made you a natural for Santa Claus Chief, and you really left us in the lurch.

Also leaving us this month was AK3 BRIGHT who did such an outstanding job for us. Good luck with your VAW squadron, Gordon.

And for our New Years resolution: guys, all those spare parts we promised you in paragraph 1 are really going to come true!!!

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE

As the month of December is nearing a close, Quality Assurance along with the rest of the squadron prepares to meet the new year with a few changes to our band of renegade maintenance personnel. MARKOWICZ is now enjoying leave in the land of snow and ice, better known as New York, while Chief LOCKEY heads to the much better climate of Hawaii for those few days allotted for R&R. While half of the crew is off frolicking over the world the rest of us are listening to the daily routine of hearing how many days HUFFMAN has left in Vietnam.

Quality Assurance has had two new replacements this month and now we would like to welcome aboard ATL DUNN and ADJ1 ICKE. Like all new trusting souls who come to us, they will soon have their dreams shattered by finding the coffee pot empty most of the time and tons of paperwork to be done. ATL DUNN has come to us from the simple world of the AT shop and has found that he is expected to be not only an AT, but also an electrician, mechanic, and an airframes man all in one. DUNN can be found most nights sitting by himself in some dark corner still trying to find out what happened to him. ADJ1 ICKE is fresh out of Power Plants and now has turned in his wrench and is kept busy at nights between inspecting aircraft and teaching Plane Captain school.

At this point I am supposed to write something witty, but after pondering for hours on the subject and asking everyone in the shop for advice, I guess we will have to close this issue with a simple "have the happiest New Year and see you next month".

#### AIRFRAMES

Seasons greetings from the Airframes shop. Santa has been especially good to us by sending us some more petty officers we really needed. I guess he felt sorry for us and our heavy workload. We even topped Santa's workload this December, and without Rudolfs help.

The new men are AMS2 HICKS, soon to be 1st class as of 16 January, AMH2 BOOSE and A33 SCHEERER. The men have really pitched in and have helped the overall airframes effort.

HICKS comes to us from NAAS, Whiting Field, where he maintained T28B and C type aircraft in the basic training command. HICKS comes from Cleveland, Ohio.

BOOSE comes to us from NAS, Willow Grove, where he maintained F8 and F4 aircraft. His hometown is San Diego, California. Does anyone know where that town is located?

SCHRIER comes to us from NAS, Miramar where he maintained F4 aircraft. His hometown is Salem, New Jersey. Welcome aboard men, now get your tool box and hit it.

The Airframes shop Chief has just had a short vacation as night checks AMS1 SHOUN took over the shop at a peak workload and did a fine job. But, he said he was glad to be second in command again.

That's about it for this month. See you in '69!

#### POWER PLANTS

Not much new has happened to the "Motor Mounters" this month. However, we keep grinding the aircraft out.

ADJ1 ENGH took his R&R this month. He reported things are #1 in Singapore, but the vacation didn't last long enough. ADJ1 BRODERICK is coming along fine in the shop. Only thing is that he's having some trouble staying on the job. Some little problem, yellow pills I think. Chief MORROW has been putting in extra hours maintaining our motto of always open for business.

We'd like to welcome aboard ADJ3 TROUP. He hails from Jacksonville, Florida.

The holiday period is now coming to an end. Hope everyone on the home front had a good season. We did the best possible in lovely Vung Tau.

#### PARALOFT

Greetings from the paraloft. Just a short note this month to let everyone know that we're still here.

We finally got a squawk box in the shop. Now we don't ever have to leave the comfort of air-conditioning. Our intrepid leader PRL CLARK has been busy sewing things lately. He claims they're helmet bags for the aircrewmembers, but it was noticed that on one large bag he made there was a label stating "Ship bag and contents to the US!". The bag was about 5 feet and 10 inches tall, hmmm!

#### CHECK CREW

The past month has kept Check Crew going full force as the checks have been rolling in as high as nine in one week. Under the guidance of our fearless leader, Chief SMITH, we've managed to keep our heads above water.

Speaking of our leader, seems he took R&R in Hawaii with his wife. Since his return he sports a wide grin, but is minus his famous red moustache. He isn't talking, but we all wonder if there was a direct order from the Mrs. to remove the fringe? ADJ2 WILLIAMS returned to CONUS to have a try at civilian life. Hope he makes the transition smoothly. We'd like to welcome aboard AMS1 ROLLWITZ. He's soon to replace his white hat with a Chief's hard hat. Just wait until Chief's initiation!

Our assistant leader AMS1 BRATTEN, better known as the "Happy Zapper", is keeping his eyes open for any new things to stencil with the Seawolf crest. Doors, jeeps, land rovers, books, etc., all seem to sport our crest. Anyone seen any B52s.

AMS3 FILLION is to be congratulated. He just put on his new second

class crew. At this writing ADJAN FRISTAD is on special leave. Hurry back John! ADJ2 AKI is really getting short. Seems he can't even hold a long conversation!

ADJ2 GARRETT has shown great progress in his rate. He has mastered the UH-1B in just four short weeks. A well done from the Chief.

On behalf of IT MESERVE, Chief SMITH and the crew, we hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

#### AT SHOP

The Christmas spirit prevails in the AT Shop now as that time of the year draws near. All the AT's in the squadron wish to thank Mrs. Arlee MOUNT and her good neighbors for the Christmas CARE packages.....now for a couple feet of snow.....

Chief (Lima, Charlie) LAFERTY is still busy with his communications projects and figures he'll be finished by February (when he leaves). Tom (The Great) GRAY is still his usual wonderful, loveable, modest self (guess who writes the Wolfgram). Arlee (MOP) MOUNT is fattening the car for Christmas (the Vietnamese eat cats). Clinton (Rackets) DUNN has moved up in the world to Quality Assurance (airconditioned office, etc.). Ray (Monkey man) EASTERWOOD has had some problems. Seems as though "Louie" the 1st Lt's monkey, likes to sleep with Ray. How do you housebreak a monkey? John (Stereo) SPENCER has run out of projects, so now he can be seen doing nothing. Keep up the good work SPENCER. Jim (Stroker) GILMOUR has moved over to this side of the field, hot showers, flushers, etc. What luxury, huh?

Lyle (Gunner) NIMMO is back in from Det ONE, just for a few days, as he's on his way back to the world. Lots of luck, you'll need it back there. William (Safety Wire) SHULTZ is seen wandering around muddering to himself "150 alligator clips, 100 feet of wire and a bucket of prop wash". And C. R. (Pregnant Willy) WILLIAMS keeps egging SHULTZ on. Watch it Willy, you may be supply PO one of these days. Al SOHLER is working night check but hangs around the shop all day trying to fly. Try growing wings, you'll get your four hours in.

Last, but not least, we welcome aboard the new Av/Arm Division Officer. LT Marvin BOOMGAARDEN who is an ex-AT, but has suddenly developed a keen interest in guns.

See you all next month!

#### AE SHOP

Since the last issue of the Wolfgram we have had several electricians leave us for that dreamland over the "Big Waters", many moons east of here. AE2 McMELLON left us bound for HC-1, Imperial Beach, California, and visions of more rotary wing aircraft. Good Luck Mac!

Also AE3 FARRELL departed our happy haven here in the sun-fun capital of Southeast Asia bound for the east coast happenings of Lakeland, New Jersey and HC-2. Good luck to you too, Jim!

Others in the AE shop have received their orders and are happily awaiting departure from sunny Southeast Asia. Shortest of the short-timers is AE3