



CDR ROBERT W. SPENCER, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER

The Wolfgram is a publication of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE (HA(L)-3). It is published in accordance with NAVSO P-1035 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
CDR ROBERT W. SPENCER

One year ago, a group of officers and men reported to Vung Tau, RVN. Their assignment was to build a squadron of a completely new type; one with a unique mission heretofore unknown in the Naval Establishment. As most of you recall, no facilities or billeting were available.

From this meager beginning, the most effective and well-known offensive squadron in the Republic of Vietnam has evolved. It was made possible as a result of the "blood, sweat, and tears" of every man assigned. We have logged 16,000 flight hours and 11,000 missions in support of Free World Forces during this past year.

Our losses provided us with even greater determination to continue and to get the job done. Our fallen squadron-mates will never be forgotten and the Viet Cong have paid dearly.

As I take my leave, I wish to thank each of you for your loyalty, cooperation, and dedication to duty. This has been and will always remain the most rewarding year of my Naval career. I am extremely proud to have been given the privilege of serving with you.

XO'S NOTE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CDR CONRAD J. JABURG

Well, it looks like the mean ol' XO is finally going to make it back to the land of "milk and honey". For those who haven't heard or seen me leaping about in gleeful anticipation, I'm going to Pensacola to take command of HT-8, Ellyson Field. Be sure and give Terri and me a ring if you're in the area. I'd like to say in parting that the SEAWOLVES are and have been the finest officers and men it has ever been my pleasure to serve with. I look for great things to happen with the attack helicopter concept and HA(L)-3 in particular. I'm very grateful to have been allowed to be a small part of this. Bless all of you and keep your turns up.

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DET ONE (HARNETT COUNTY)

DET ONE, "the guardian of the Lower Bassac", has been going thru an evolution of change during the month of April. Our entire Detachment made a move early in the month from the USS JENNINGS COUNTY to the USS HARNETT COUNTY. The move was a big event which entailed quite a bit of planning for a smooth operation. All did come off without a hitch except for the small matter of a certain large, metal box which had been packed with personal gear of both pilots and crew. It somehow never made it from one ship to the other. After some rapid assessments to the fact that very few of us had a clean change of clothes, the box was tracked down and found at the pier in Binh Thuy.

This month we have gained one pilot and lost two. LT John ABRAMS has reported aboard. John comes to Vietnam from NAS Bermuda, a real contrast to his present billet, "Recognition Pass" ABRAMS as he is now referred to, due to his first few attempts coming aboard the ship, is soon to become DET ONE Maintenance Officer. Welcome aboard, John.

This month also saw the departure of LCDR "Diamond Jim" BRADY who reported to Vung Tau and a new job as Safety Officer.

LT Len WOLTERS DORF, the DET assistant O-in-C also made his departure this month with only a brief stop in Vung Tau on his way home. Len is soon to become a student at the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California. We wish him the best of luck.

LT CHRISTENSEN and ENS MINAHAN have recently returned from a few days leave in Bangkok. Chris returned with an ankle bandaged and on a cane. The story goes he acquired it jumping out of a truck. We believe him!!

We also extend a welcome aboard to AE2 SEARLE who has joined the Squadron and Detachment from his last duty station in the Philippines.

ADJ2 HARRIS is back aboard after his brief tour as a ground pounder. He says he prefers the air arm to the ground arm.

The entire Detachment of pilots and crew all extend to AT1 Bruce MAJOR a healthy and speedy recovery. MAJOR, our former senior petty officer, did an outstanding job for us and we all wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

The most frequently used word on DET ONE is SHORT.

In closing we must mention the results of a combined operation with Vietnamese soldiers, PBR's and SEAWOLVES. The SEAWOLVES located and routed a VC prison camp freeing thirty Vietnamese prisoners. The prisoners, many of whom were in chains, were subsequently brought to the LST, fed, cleaned-up and returned to their respective homes. Some had been in this camp for over two years.

DET TWO (Nha Be)

Due to a series of administrative "oversights" our contribution to last month's "Wolfgram" never saw the whirling press. Consequently, this brief article will endeavor to cover the highlights of the last two months in and around the Rung Sat. There has been a considerable personnel changeover during this period. A new set of stick (cyclic) breakers, LCDR Ron PENNINGTON and LT Ed McCASKILL left the Greater Pensacola area where they had been serving as insurance policies for aspiring young pilots such as "Nuggets" LTJG's Derek BROWN, Dave GOLLAHON and ENS Will DAVIS who have also joined our ranks. LTJG Al BILLINGS tore himself away from the warm California sun (HC-1) to additionally supplement our social roster. These augmentations were necessary because LT Al COPE is headed for Sigonella, Sicily, LTJG Sean LUSCHER for HC-5 and LTJG Dick STOUT for HC-4. We also feel the loss of LT Raleigh SMITH who left our conclave to join the Vung Tau "Warriors" as Assistant Operations Officer.

Bunkers, sampans and an occasional "Charlie" have felt the aggressiveness of our new gunners, ADJ2 TAYLOR, AE2 NOYD and two AMHANS, PEARSON and FARRELL, who arrived to fill the vacancies left by the departures of AMH2 AINSWORTH who managed to get a three month cut for orders to HC-5, ADJ2 SAPPENFIELD who is going to HC-3 and AN LEYDA who is in Vung Tau recuperating from a minor illness. AN BARONICH left Nha Be to "work in his rate" in Vung Tau but found that this plan was not to materialize. The Detachment sorely misses the presence of YN2 CULLINGSWORTH who, while not actually a SEAWOLF, greatly aided the administrative branch and brewed, not incidentally, a great cauldron of coffee.

Bangkok has lured the majority of our men during the last two months. Our "Boss" LCDR Norm ELLER, said upon his return that he didn't care to go again--I believe it (Editor's note.). AE2 HILTON returned vowing he would never play Black Jack again. LTJG Pete SHAY is still there so that speaks for itself.

LTJG Sean LUSCHER, before his departure for CONUS, journeyed to Sidney and came back with endless enthusiastic comments on the flora and fauna of the island continent.

ENS Mal ROBERTS recently rejoined the Detachment saying little about his trip to Japan but acting "rested".

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DET THREE (VINH LONG)

The month of April has passed by quite rapidly, especially for the "short timers" here in DET THREE. The weather has remained beautiful up until the 28th, when we had our first real rain. Man did it come down! With the grass becoming green again, Vinh Long Army Airfield looks even more like an R & R center. It's true, we have had personnel wander in to the hootch asking if we "head up" (that's Army talk) the R & R Center. (Waiting list is now 4 weeks). During the month we did have some of the "unfortunates", who received orders, depart these wonderful surroundings;

LODR WESELESKEY, HS-1,, Just wondering what he'll do with all those pillows? Something must not have agreed with Wes on arrival, spent a week in the hospital....hope he's doing better.

AOC ROBERSON, Air-Crew Training, Vung Tau,, A darn good man for a demanding job.

GOOD LUCK to the guys wherever they go!

The "in guard", headed up by a new arrival, AOC WALSH, has been kept busy giving away pups. She-Wolf, "the lost soul", can't understand how her pups disappear so mysteriously. Maybe we'll have some more...first come, first served. Some of the other new arrivals were PO3 WALUDA, PO3 MEUTE, AN MEUSSNER and AN CHASE...looks like DET THREE got the cream off the top again. ADJ2 LASSITER has been worried lately--his standard answer to the words, Vung Tau, is "why me". Heard a nasty rumor about AMH2 WILLIAMSON and AX3 MAXWELL wanting to go aboard an LST, just happened to hear DET FOUR was looking for some "top guns". AN MEUSSNER and ADJAN CONKLIN sent their heartfelt thanks to the Army for their 4 hour tour of the Delta, traveling from Can Tho to Vinh Long. Twelve (12) minutes for a helicopter, if you get on the right aircraft. The tailor shop has been working overtime to alter the right sleeve of every shirt of AN ANDRES, "The Arm". It seems he used to really strain while cocking his gun--not anymore! Since the Air Crew took over the radio watch in the ready-crew trailers, ADJAN MEUTE has developed a new vocabulary, "I don't know what they're saying, and vice versa". ADJ3 FRAZIER and ADJ3 WILSON are holding classes in ground tactics and escape/evasion procedures, only to help those who don't leave the airfield on liberty. AN CHASE since his arrival has been "investing" in one of the more profitable establishments on the airfield. I wonder what his cut is?

The Vinh Long fans had their big day on 28 April, and it was Navy all the way. The first running of the Go Cart "Indy" Races was held on a closed track around the dispensary and chow hall. Navy's best was "We did it afloat, we'll do it ashore", with a counter slogan by the Army of "It won't happen, Cap'in" and "Did ya ever see a fish go without water?" The cars lined up with MAJ PERCH as the official flagman...ADJ3 MACFARLAND was ready to gun in his "Ferrari 3 (3 hp)....after the flag fell, it was Navy in the lead, all the way, all day. A job well done by "Mac" and his pit crew and all those concerned...to the victors went a bottle of Champagne. Refreshments and food were enjoyed behind the victor's hootch as a finale, courtesy of LTJG CRULL

and helpers.

DET THREE was pleased as the recipient of two (2) old-timers, CDR Chuck SAPP from DET SEVEN and LCDR Chuck OYLER from DET SIX. The other Det's loss is certainly our gain. LCDR Steve TOBEY arrived early in the month, along with LT Ray LAZO. Mr. TOBEY is our prospective CinC. I think it's going to be more difficult to understand Cuban than Vietnamese. LTJG Mike PETERSON, our ex-champion basketball player arrived with his crutches...I think. At least I haven't seen him without a set since his arrival. A warning to the Milton residence, LTJG SIMPSON ("S" also stands for SOUTH), is a-thinking about comin' home--he should do it about the middle of May. LTJG CRULL is hoping that if his AHAC papers don't get lost, he might make it before he leaves in Dec '69. Christmas comes but once a year--in Dec. LT Vince PRZYBYSZEWSKI gets all the mail, from Pensacola anyway. If you write'em, you get'em...is his motto! LTJG MACKKEY grew a mustache for his Honolulu trip, he came back without it, and a smile. We are wondering if there is some significant point to his growing sideburns? LT Ev MILLER took over the light maintenance crew at Vinh Long when LCDR BOUCHARD departed for Vung Tau. He has a good bunch of guys who like to work, so they're open for business, as usual. There is only one "son" left and that's LTJG Pat PATTERSON (Pulver) ...he's too engrossed in work to even talk, in fact, I haven't seen him during the day-light hours for the past few weeks. I have heard his voice over the phone and I have seen a "civilian" moving slowly throughout the area who does look familiar. The "boss" is always the last, with very little to say, except, "32 to go".

DET FOUR (JENNINGS COUNTY)

All SEAWOLVES are cautioned while on patrol to keep a sharp lookout for a fast moving object on the waterways of the Delta. With a stout heart, flowing scarf, and a very large bucket, LT Bill BARNES will soon be seen plying the tranquil waters of the Co Chien in his "Class VC sailing sampan. Rumor has it that Bill will take on all comers in an open regatta to be held at a later date, tide, fair winds, and dry-rot allowing.

A hearty welcome aboard is extended to the newest member of the Det, LT Bill BAILES. Bill comes to us from HT-8, Ellyson Field, Pensacola, Florida, where he held down instructor duties. Two of Bill's former students, LTJG Marv BULSON and LTJG Daryl SPELBRING were on hand to greet him on his arrival.

With a gleam in his eye and a snicker on his lips ENS Jim BEAIRD played turn about and qualified Bill in night LST landings. Word has it that Jim, establishing the proper rapport between student and instructor more than eagerly accepted his new role.

LTJG John (Mumbles) MOORE recently stole the show from the short timers by making the 2000th accident free landing on board the GARRETT COUNTY. The oldsters are trying to discount their failure to grab the goodies by claiming that it was actually the 1998th, 1999th, 2000th, 2001st and 2002nd, and therefore he should be disqualified. A little rough was it, John??!!

Congratulations to LTJG Marv BULSON on receiving his Fire Team Leader papers. Congratulations must also go to LTJG Tom ANZALONE and ENS Jim BEAIRD for making it back from Australia - single.

All the men of DET FOUR want to wish LT Mike LOUY much success in his new assignment as an instructor at VT-2, Whiting Field, Pensacola, Florida. You will be missed, Mike.

Congratulations to ADJ3 BAUSKE, AMS3 WEAVER, ADJ3 PITMAN, ADJ3 SULLIVAN and ADJ3 GARDINER on their recent promotions.

The enlisted men of DET FOUR are praying for HACKMAN to come back. It seems GARDINER grabs HACKMAN's guitar every chance he gets and he doesn't seem to be getting better.

AE2 CAUDILL seems to be the only one so far that has come close to putting hot brass down ENS BEAIRD's neck. With skill like his "Why try harder?"

BAUSKE and SULLIVAN came back from Vung Tau looking worse than when they left. I thought that people went there for rest and relaxation. Welcome back to the Det.! Perhaps now you will appreciate it here.

AMS1 JONES has everyone giving training lectures. I've never seen such enthusiasm displayed by all hands!

The closing words on behalf of GARDINER and PITMAN can be summed up in one word - SHORT.

We of DET FOUR want to give our heartiest thanks to the officers and men of the GARRETT COUNTY who have worked so hard in providing support for us. We wish them smooth sailing to Subic and hope that they enjoy the liberty there.

DET FIVE (HUNTERDON COUNTY/DONG TAM)

This episode of the Wolfgram finds DET FIVE homeless except for a pile of sand with a roof on it. As I'm sure everyone in DET FIVE has told everyone else in the squadron, the HUNTERDON COUNTY has deployed elsewhere for an unknown length of time. So, DET FIVE has been sent to Dong Tam to do their penance for the good living they had enjoyed up until now.

The month of April began on a sweet note with DET FIVE having a Det party in Vung Tau. We had steaks, which we devoured like cavemen, but never did make it to the beach for R & R. Things didn't go exactly as planned for the party, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves; especially, one of our new gunners who just made first class. Next party, CONNELLY should be in charge of the entertainment.

The transportation for our party was furnished by "Wild Bill Ogle". He demonstrated to one and all his masterful driving abilities. Unfortunately, there was no one on the truck to see how he would handle the second mile.

Our retiring OinC LCDR SCHWARTZ just walks around with a sly, satisfied smirk on his face. He can only seem to say a few words such as "short", or "I'm short", or "I'm too short for that". Once in a while he sits on the back porch of our "hootah" with a refreshing cool drink, and greets our distinguished guests in his "skivvies" (just like back home in the mountains).

LT Dick BAYE returned from Australia this month. I hear that he went to Australia and ate at the "Arizona Inn". I wonder, when he goes home to Arizona, will he eat at the Australian Inn.

Our new Fire Team Leader and DET SIX spy, Larry KIER, is going to Australia this month. He says he needs the rest from so much flying. I think that's what he said.

We are thinking of awarding LCDR CALKIN a medal for performance above and beyond the call of duty. He remained in Vung Tau for three days straight, which is no small feat, but in the same flight suit, makes it above and beyond the call.

We would like to congratulate our newest Aircraft Commander, LT Jerry PRATT. Anyone with as much time in country to do as he has, needs all the help he can get.

Our good humor man LT Steve PORCH is still going hither, dither and yon spreading joy. I guess happiness like that just rubs off on everyone.

We would like to welcome our new gunner from Vinh Long, ADJ3 WILLIAMS. We are going to team him up with "Swift Shooting GUTHAUSER". Keep up the good work and soon maybe you can replace an Army mini-gun, or at least a .45 pistol.

This month we are losing some of our old gunners. BROWN and JONES are going back to the real world. BROWN will be going to Georgia and JONES to Florida. Good luck to both of you.

LTJG GOZA had a little engine trouble and landed in a rice paddy. The first people to the rescue were 3 Vietnamese girls with a basket of cold beer.

And last but not least, we would like to congratulate Chief SWART for something.

DET SIX (DONG TAM)

Once again, we bid you a greeting from the dust bowl of the fun capitol of the world. This past month has seen many changes and new experiences. With all of the recent departures and the new arrivals, it is difficult to keep everyone straight. In addition, we have extended the welcome hand of DET SIX to several guests. A few lucky individuals have taken R & R trips this month to those exotic far Eastern cities such as Bangkok, Hong Kong--Vung Tau. This was also a month for advancement among the crew. All in all, it has been an interesting month, but we are looking forward to the coming rains to settle the dust.

With the arrival of April, we had to say farewell to several old hands. LT Nick PRESS was transferred back to Vung Tau where they were desperately in need of his talents. Word of LTJG Larry KIER's love life with the nurses of Dong Tam finally got back to Vung Tau and they felt it was time to send Larry out to sea with DET FIVE. However, LCDR Carlisle CHILDRESS and LT Howie PRICE were glad to see the open bunks in the other "hootch", which with its lowered ceiling is nearly 10° cooler on a hot afternoon. The over-worked maintenance department in Vung Tau received the much needed services of Robert SEAMAN. At the same time, the weapons shop got the services of Dennis CRABTREE.

All of our new people have fit right in with the old group, and are carrying their own weight. LT Jack WILSON, who came to us from the Philippines, has taken over as the personnel officer and is in charge of PAO. LTJG John HANKEL, who came from Midway Island, is still wondering where the nurses quarters are. LTJG Dick LARSON, from HT-8, has made himself right at home -- at Binh Dai, Ben Tre, Go Cong and Cho Lach. He is our new AIO and has been in the field really digging up intelligence for our areas. ENS Ray LAROCHELLE thought for a while he was no longer the junior officer, but Dick LARSON had been promoted just prior to his arrival. Sorry Ray. Benjamin SMITH and James ROBINSON arrived near the middle of the month, both wondering how they were so fortunate.

During the week of the twelfth to the nineteenth, we were pleased to welcome CDR Fred BARTLETT. CDR BARTLETT, as we understand, is to be the new Administrative Officer in Vung Tau. Just before the CDR left we were happy to be of assistance to all of DET FIVE as they moved to Dong Tam for a short stay. They keep muttering something about dust and cold beer.

On Easter Sunday, the men of DET SIX went visiting. LCDR Charles MYERS, LT Bill LLOYD, Dan OAKLEY, Bobby BOONE and Arthur IBARRA took our guest CDR BARTLETT and went to Cho Lach to have dinner with the Province Chief. We understand a good time was had by all, including the pickup crew.

The biggest morale booster is the opportunity to get a few days off for R & R. LCDR Charles OYLER came back from Honolulu after a short reunion with his wife and was immediately transferred to DET THREE. LTJG Mike STOCK had planned a big spending spree in Hong Kong before his return to CONUS but he was unsuccessful. LTJG Dave DICK has recently returned from Bangkok, where he spent a few days visiting his sister. Joe KRZYSIAK took a few days off to lay around the beach at Vung Tau. Rosalio DELOS SANTOS also spent a few days R & R in Vung Tau. One thing you can bet he did was sleep late every morning.

We would like to extend special congratulations to Allan ROPER, Dan OAKLEY, and LCDR MYERS on their birthdays which occurred during this past month.

Congratulations are also in order to all of our new petty officers, Vincent PAONE, Allan ROPER, and Bobby BOONE. They had a wetting down party on the sixteenth and were certainly not anticipating being thrown into the showers a second time. At least the water was warm. Niel MCDONALD and Terry SCOTT are still swapping days off as duty driver. They probably know Dong Tam better than the design engineers. Dennis ROBERTSON has been grounded for a few days with a sprained knee, but he will be back in the air soon. What will Daniel HIGGINS do with his free evenings now that the washing machine is broken? Carroll CAMPBELL and Jerry BARTLESON are rapidly being checked out as door gunners. This month they have shown they have what it takes. From now on it will cost them a case of beer for their mistakes.

That is about all of the news from the "dust bowl" for this month. Next month we shall again present another exciting chapter from the "Days of Our Lives" at Dong Tam, but it will not be from the dust bowl -- it will soon become the mud bowl. The sky is darkening and the rains will soon cool us down.

DET SEVEN (BINH THUY)

DET SEVEN greeted a couple of new warriors this month: LT John MESERVE and LTJG "Pete" PETERSON.

Also, a hearty "welcome aboard" to a new arrival on earth: Peter Michael, a 5 lb. 7 oz. bundle of joy that arrived 5 March; presented to DET SEVEN by Pete and Lee MADLEY.

We also had a changing of the guard here at Binh Thuy. CDR Bill MARTIN was relieved as OinC by LCDR Jack CONNELLY. Bill told us that he was sad to go, but from the grin on his face we're sure he's looking forward to visiting with his wife and kids in Hawaii. When Bill returns to the squadron he'll be

Acting XO for the duration.

DET SEVEN has now won three consecutive softball games from the "black shoes" of RivRon FIVE, across the street, in the world famous "Dust Bowl". Seems the beer really makes the DET SEVEN team smooth.

Promotions this month: to second class: Steve WRIGHT, to third class: Lloyd CONE, Omar CARTER, Dennis WOBBE, Mike MOLINA, Derrick HUGHES and Jim HELMS.

Well that's about it for this month. Young master, Charles, beckons us to do battle. We'll win this battle for the hearts and minds of the people, and soon be home.

OPERATIONS
CDR HIPP/CDR HILLE

Spirits have been high in the Operations Department during the past few weeks, the reason being a large percentage of the personnel are returning to the land of "Milk and Honey" during the month of May. CDR HILLE is assuming the Department helm, as a result CDR HIPP is rarely seen behind the wheel of his sedan of late. It seems people whose days are numbered in "NAM" are even more careful about their driving on the deck than in the air. LCDR BOLTON had his last flight over the sunny Delta the other day. It was said that he wouldn't go below 3000 feet until on the down wind leg of his approach to the landing fields. Mr. "BOLT" would have flown higher but he said he might not have made it down in time for his rotation date. LCDR BRADY has been seen spending many hours in the OPS trailer as he prepares to relieve LCDR JONES as HA(L)-3 Safety Officer. There was another addition to the trailer in the person of LTJG CATHCART, our friendly Aviation Intelligence Officer. Bob tore out the fixtures in the head (bath room), including the bathtub, and made it his office. He has been seen lately making rugs and wallpaper out of his many sectional charts of the Delta. So, anyone in need of interior decorations might give the AIO a call. LTJG Ken OSBORNE departed the first weekend in April for CONUS. Good luck, at HC-2, Ken.

Another new face in the OPS Department is LT Raleigh SMITH, fresh from the war in the Rung Sat area. He has been seen cleaning out desks and, in general, squaring the place away. Mr. SMITH probably has the largest name plate of any of our desk jockeys. And lastly, to balance out the power structure at Home Base, Ensign Willie ORR reported in from the Pacific Bassac (DET SEVEN) to take care of Communications and the BOQ Bar. After spending a week TDY on one of the islands of Hawaii with his Wahine (wife), Mr. ORR is ready for a nice short tour in Cape St. Jacques (Vung Tau).

As for our other warriors - ATL FRANK has been busy trying to find people to fly. A lot of folks are too short for even an Admin hop at altitude. "TEX" ANDERSON, with the OPS truck down for repairs, has been hustling vehicles during the past week for his daily trip to the hill for the Communications traffic.

In closing, we say adios to the departing wolves and a big welcome to the many young wolves reporting aboard. Be sure and stop in for a chat with your friendly OPS personnel when in "Victor Tango".

MAINTENANCE
LCDR HOLLINGWORTH

It was an early Fourth of July for the Vung Tau Warriors this past month....many for the first time heard their first shot fired in anger.... just a reminder to all that "Charlie" can be anyplace any time and protective measures are a must at all times....even in Vung Tau!!!!!! For Maintenance it has been a most difficult month, the many losses of exceptionally fine men returning to the States has crippled our efforts. Our losses, of course, are the gains of other units; my best wishes to all who have departed and to the men that will follow during this month. But all is not as bleak as it may seem. New, fresh, smiling faces are checking in each day, and soon they, too, shall be considered the "backbone men", the irreplaceable individuals, then they too, shall depart and pass the "SEAWOLF" heritage on to others.

I have noticed that the Maintenance Officers are putting on a little weight, thanks to "Grouch" PELOQUIN and the mess stewards (a HA(L)-3 steward is a carpenter, electrician, plumber, cook etc., etc.). BOQ TWENTY ONE will never be the same with the morning, afternoon and evening smell of steak broiling, baked alaska in the oven, "OH, HOW SWEET IT IS". Many thanks to "Al" and his crew for the excellent and rapid job of constructing the ward-room mess.

Gramps "Joe" BOUCHARD has now returned to Vung Tau to assist the Maintenance Department. His Vinh Long crew has also returned and have things well in hand. WELCOME HOME TO THE ENTIRE VINH LONG MAINTENANCE DETACHMENTChief SMITH, (Smitty) has taken over our Hoot Owl shift and much to my surprise he can smile. I was under the impression that Night Check Chiefs had problems smiling. One thing about the Night Crew, when the chips are way down, they come through like champs. CPO losses have been tough on the Department. "Grouch" (the second) STRICKLE has now departed, "Benson" recently of Bensons Bonders has departed. CONGRATULATIONS to our new chiefs, CPO GARRISON and CPO PERKINS. There is some speculation within the Maintenance Department that "Honest HUK" is sending SEAWOLF 302 home in the mail piece by piece. Remember, Chief next Friday....The new sign over the airframes shop should now read "MARTIN'S METAL MAULERS", Chief Martin has now taken over the shop and is doing a mighty fine job. WELCOME ABOARD TO COMMANDER GORDON DEY, (The MO's relief) he comes to us from HS-1 with a world of experience in Helicopter maintenance. The day he arrived in Saigon and the Maintenance Officer was informed, at least six aircraft were immediately ready for test flight to make the trip to Saigon and pick him up. It has been noticed that the Maintenance Officer has assigned two armed guards to CDR DEY, (really would hate to see that guy get hurt).....

AND NOW A FEW SOBER WORDS FROM THE MAINTENANCE OFFICER

To our bosses CDR SPENCER and CDR JABURG, we in maintenance wish to thank you for the support, leadership and guidance that you have given us during your respective tours as Commanding Officer and Executive Officer. We wish you each a most pleasant journey home and hope that your next tours will be enjoyable and profitable. You are the "SEAWOLF" and we hope that we shall continue in the manner that shall make you proud.....

AVIONICS/WEAPONS DIVISION

People are the main news this month in the Avionics and Weapons Division. To the people who advanced in rate, we all extend hearty congratulations. Gentlemen, you have earned it....and you can be justifiably proud of that new crew. The Electronics Shop recently welcomed AT1 Art "Super Electron" AINSWORTH and ATN3 Terry MARSDEN to the division. ATN3 Don WARRICH has assumed the technician duties at the Vinh Long "Troubleshooter" Detachment. As you all know, in a few weeks the monsoon season will be in the Mekong Delta. During this hot season we recommend that a full 90 second warm-up period be allowed for that SEAWOLF Huey radio equipment. Longer operating life will result..let's take care of that old black box compartment. ATN3 GEORGES has just returned from a long tour with the Army at Vinh Long. Gorgeous GEORGES is happy to be back with the Navy. We are happy too, that new coffee pot GEORGES liberated is mighty fine....say GEORGES....are you listening....that's right the boss is Lieutenant Commander not Major HOLLINGWORTH. In the Electric Shop the big news is that AE2 Wayne SEASE is really going to have a baby! The flight surgeon doesn't believe it either, but it's true. SEAWOLF 302 has turned out to be a real problem for the electricians....it's a mighty strange aircraft. When the electricians turn on the battery, the co-pilot lights up and when the rocket firing button is pushed the landing lights wink at the VC. Chief MORGAN swears that the ZIR project on the aircraft was done by an Army Mess Sergeant. Speaking of landing lights; it seems there have been several of them burned out of late. Aircrews are urged to watch the position of the switches when the bird is not generating, a few minutes on battery and there goes your start. Things down in the Ordnance Shop took a marked upward trend with the arrival of Chief McGRATH. Welcome aboard Chief. It is with great pride that we announce from the Ordnance Shop that Chief CASEY's monkey Suzzie has been promoted to "Honorary Lieutenant JayGee" in honor of our Division Officer (No monkey-shines SMITH).... Technically speaking, cleanliness of rocket tubes and contacts continues to be a problem. Machine gun breakage continues at an alarming rate, yet, do you realize that since the SEAWOLVES were commissioned we have put out more than 15 million rounds of 7.62 ammunition. No wonder the guns break....a few busted VC can swear to the above computations. A few days ago the Ordnance Division had the rare opportunity of being entertained by Petty Officer Charlie BROWN. His war stories keep the entire gang spellbound. Besides being interesting everyone was rolling on the deck laughing....That's about the extent of the news for now. In closing we wish y'all a happy monsoon season.....

MATERIAL
LT CALVERT

A sad farewell was bid this month to AK1 Joe MOUNT and AK3 Vern PHELPS, both instrumental in establishing the squadron. We also said goodbye to AN Eugene BURKHART and Dan MEAD, who were recently promoted to AK3.

AK1 Jim CRANK has returned to NAF Cam Ranh Bay for transfer to the USS KITTY HAWK, leaving AK3 Jack COPELAND as head honcho in Material. AKA Bill VANDERHOFF, one of the "new kids on the block" has adjusted nicely by adopting the standard phrase "It's on order!". Gordon BRIGHT, who has just sewn on his AK3 crow, is already running around in circles muttering something that sounds like "ARMYSUPPLYSFUBARSHORT", whatever that means.

LT "Marco Polo" CALVERT has received orders to NAS Twin Cities and will be departing on another trip in June, this time one-way.

That's not all the news, but the rest pertains to business and makes us cry a little. Things have got to get better, 'cause they can't get much worse! War is hell. This is hell, where's the war?

ADMIN DEPARTMENT

Time marches on with continuing fluidity in the arrival and departure of officers and men in Admin. The "Sunshine" department, so called because of the bright, smiling faces of those departing, and the eager, inquisitive faces of those arriving is in the throes, at this writing, of a massive changeover in personnel. It seems every officer desk is occupied by two people, the one whispering hurriedly a brief description of the job, the other attentively listening, perhaps projecting himself a few months into the role of "frenzied whisperer". One chair remains alone and unfilled and that's "THE" chair alongside the skipper's desk. CAPT MUNSON, wherever you may be, a chair awaits you, sir.

The XO is bubbling over with anticipation at the expected return of CDR MARTIN from a week's surfing on the beach at Waikiki. Each day an audible prayer can be heard emanating from the XO's office, wishing CDR MARTIN a safe and speedy return to Vung Tau.

ICDR AYDELOTTE, bless his administrative soul, refuses to leave CDR BARTLETT alone in his urgency to properly turn-over the Admin Officer job.

The ticklish and enigmatic problem of who is to be the new Personnel Officer has been solved. The dartboards came down, the straws were put aside, the conferees conferred, and presto, LT George SPROWLS had the job. Poor George wore a bemused, forlorn expression on his face for several days, but lately appears completely recovered from the surprise. Not much time to worry about things, is there George?

Hurry, Hurry, it's the 1st of May, outdoor typing starts today!!! The 1st of May finds our Transfer Yeoman YN2 Walter FICKLIN a very popular busy man what with the CO, XO and Admin Officer getting transferred. Please see - the Admin Officer will sign the XO's orders - the XO will sign Admin Officer's orders.....

We want to welcome aboard YN2 Sammy PARKER, YN2 Walter JUTKOWSKY, YN3 Pedro LARGADO and YN3 Tom KLAUS. YN1 Mac (McCLURE) was very happy to see and every one of the new men arrive. Jobs for everyone - equal opportunities, etc., etc., etc.

As the island of Vung Tau slowly slips into the South China Sea we want to wish a fond adieu to Chief GREENE who will be enroute to HS-6. Good luck smooth sailing (Ah, sailing what a thought!).

We are still getting quite a few inquiries as to the whereabouts of S.M Ralph". Will the "Real Ralph" please step forward!!!

On a sad note, we in Admin would like to extend our warmest wishes for a happy and gratifying next tour to the "Skipper" and XO. We are grateful to you both for your guidance and leadership in directing us through this interesting of experiences. It has been a privilege and honor serving you, "Skipper".

PAO
LT PRESS

Now, that I'm warmly ensconced in reams of Home Town News Releases/PAO, etc., I would solicit the assistance of all squadron personnel, especially those newsmakers on the Dets, to file any and all PA material with me.

To vivify and sustain a successful PA program requires us all to be participatory. For those at Vung Tau, it might mean a story on an exemplary performance feat or perhaps giving credit to a deserving man for a job well done. The PA prospects on Dets are plentiful. A daring Medevac, a successful port operation, a life-saving feat, a background story on a detachment, or the amplification of a fruitful mission, these and many others can be edited, trimmed and packaged into a good, printable story. PAO doesn't ask for the finished product, if you would send or call in (VT 2355) the "meat" of the story, we'll take it from there. A carbon copy of the released story will be returned to the originator so that you might read and do with it as you will.

LTJG Pat KEELEY, overworked and underpaid as he is slipped away to Hawaii for a meeting with the big shots at PacFlt in an attempt to disentangle the horrendous awards situation. Pat says, "they worked night and day on the problem". In the light of such perseverance, we should all be leaving country as walking, talking war heroes.

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Along more mechanical lines, PAO is appending a Home Town News Release form to each award citation/promotion certificate or any other PA material sent to the Dets for presentation to an individual. If the Det or Dept./Div. will not be having a presentation ceremony shortly (one to two weeks) after receipt of the material, ensure that the News Release forms are promptly filled out and returned to PAO. Forms trickling in, four or five weeks after distribution lose their timeliness and are of NO news value. A prompt and well photographed ceremony (black and white individual, not group shots) is almost assured of getting into print in the hometown papers.

Remember, the PA program depends on the initiative of us all. Whatever ideas or pictures you might have, call us anytime, that's what we're here for (after working hours, leave your message with the duty officer).

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LT TAYLOR

The calamity that befell the Medical Department, at the beginning of April, when the last of its two Corpsmen gleefully waved "Adios, My Friends" from an Eastbound 707, was quickly resolved when HM3 (now HM2) STEPHENSON reported aboard. He lost no time in adjusting to his new duties - no choice - the next day Dr. TAYLOR was given TAD orders to Phu Quoc Island and STEPHENSON had the Dispensary and all of HA(L)-3 Medical responsibilities for the next 12 days.

That cloud of dust seen along the shore of Back Beach, usually late in the afternoon isn't due to any tropical whirlwind in slow motion, but the SEAWOLF Sand-kickers, knocking off a couple of miles of running, and hopefully, a couple of inches from the beer-line before R & R or rotation. This elite group of sleek, slim and racy milers includes Ensigns and Commanders. Others are welcome to join, tune-in, turn-on and drop-out.