

**UNITED STATES SHIP
LEFTWICH
DD-984**



**WESTPAC 1984
LOG NO. 3**



WESTPAC 1984

USS LEFTWICH (DD-984) is the twenty-second SPRUANCE Class Destroyer to be designed and built by Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Homeported in San Diego, LEFTWICH is assigned to Destroyer Squadron SEVEN.

The SPRUANCE Class Destroyer is unique among today's warships in that it is the first major class to be powered strictly by gas turbine engines. LEFTWICH, as her sisters, is powered by four General Electric LM-2500 engines. Designed originally for large aircraft, these engines have been modified for marine use and produce 20,000 horsepower each. Her engines, in conjunction with twin controllable-reversible pitch propellers, are capable of moving LEFTWICH through the water at speeds in excess of 30 knots and give her a degree of maneuverability unequalled by any other warship her size.

Built with future growth in mind, LEFTWICH's design is modular in nature thus allowing for the easy installation of entire subsystems within the ship. This makes LEFTWICH a ship of the future as well as the present. Her modular construction and the consequent ease with which she can accept the installation of new weapons and electronics systems destined. LEFTWICH to be a proving ground for new military technology.

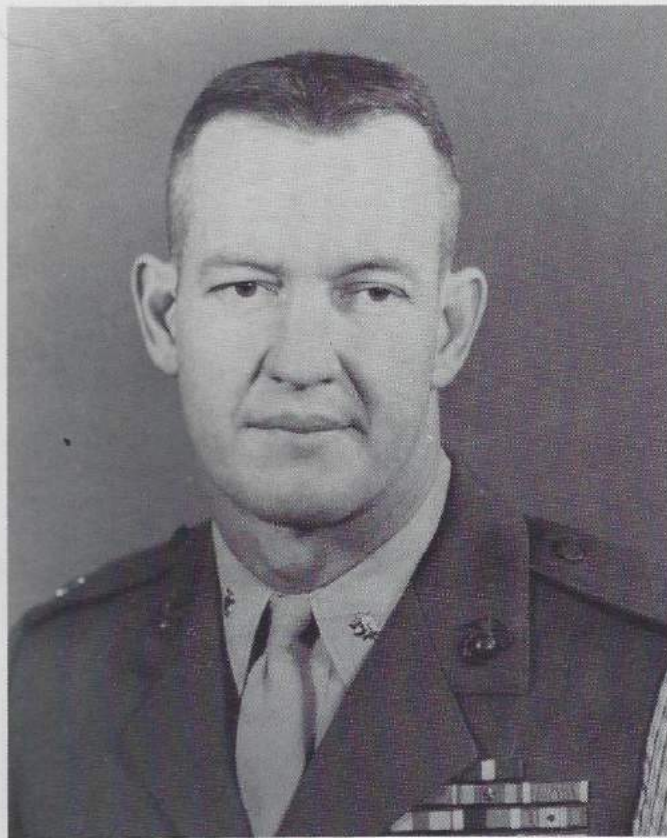
Crew comfort and habitability were also of prime consideration in LEFTWICH's design. Berthing areas are very spacious and considerable care was taken to equip the ship with features uncommon to most destroyers. Such features include a ship's library, crew's lounge, a well equipped gymnasium, and many other items aimed at crew comfort. Enhancing these specifically designed-in comforts is the added benefit of a much reduced required manning level resulting from the incorporation of the

many automated weapons and engineering systems.

As a highly versatile multi-mission destroyer, LEFTWICH is capable of operating independently or in company with amphibious or carrier task forces. Although equipped to handle a wide variety of mission areas, LEFTWICH possesses the most advanced ASW equipment in existence to facilitate her accomplishment of this complex and demanding task. The ship is equipped with a sophisticated sonar, the SQS-53, that is directly integrated with a third generation, digital computer system, the Naval Tactical Data System. In addition to her sonar, LEFTWICH's ASW weapons suite, an Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) and two triple barreled Mark 32 torpedo tubes, also complexes with NTDS. This integrated combat system provides LEFTWICH with an enhanced target information processing capability with NTDS. This integrated combat system provides LEFTWICH with an enhanced target information processing capability and an extremely fast threat reaction time.

LEFTWICH also boasts two 5-inch/54 caliber Mark 45 fully automatic gun mounts controlled by the digital Mark 86 Fire Control System. Also integrated with NTDS, these systems allow LEFTWICH to excel in her secondary mission areas of Naval Gunfire Support, Surface Warfare, and Anti-Air Warfare.

In conclusion, USS LEFTWICH constitutes a destroyer's dream as she incorporates the best of a technology unequalled by any other Navy in the world. Her exceptional propulsion system and fully integrated combat system combine with her modular construction to make LEFTWICH a platform not to be surpassed.



COL W.G. Leftwich, Jr., USMC

Lieutenant Colonel William G. Leftwich, Jr., was born on April 28, 1931 in Memphis, Tenn., and graduated from Central High School in that city. He was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant on June 5, 1953 upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy. As brigade captain in his senior year at the Naval Academy, he was specially commended at graduation for exemplary officer like qualities which contribute "to the development of naval spirit and loyalty within the Brigade."

Upon entering the Marine Corps, he completed The Basic School at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, VA., in January 1954, and later served as a rifle platoon commander with the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C. During 1955-56, he served with the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa. On his return to the United States, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, where he was promoted to captain in July 1957. He then began a three-year assignment at the Naval Academy, serving as a company officer. An excellent athlete himself, he also voluntarily performed collateral duty as assistant varsity tennis coach and battalion football coach.

In 1960, he rejoined the 2nd Marine Division, serving as a company commander until 1962 when he was named aide-de-camp to the Commanding General. In June 1963, he was assigned as aide to the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. He was promoted to major in July 1964. He later completed a course of study in the Vietnamese Language prior to reporting for duty in Vietnam in January 1965 as Assistant Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Brigade.

Joining Task Force Alfa, he participated in 27 major operations against the Viet Cong in the central highlands of Vietnam, and spent more than 300 days in the field. He was wounded in the battle of Hoai An, March 9, 1965 and, besides the Purple Heart, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism. According to his citation, he "... played a major part in all phases of the successful relief of the village of Haoi An, which was under heavy enemy attack by two Viet Cong battalions ... By his own personal example ... he led the attack ... Despite injuries by enemy machine-gun bullets in the back, cheek, and nose, he went to the aid of a mortally wounded comrade ... and delayed his own evacuation until he could call for additional air strikes and brief the task force commander of

the situation."

He returned to the United States in January 1966, served as an instructor at the Basic School, then completed the Command and Staff College in June 1967 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in November 1967 while serving as a systems analyst with the Manpower Management Information Branch, G-1 Division. He later became head of the Systems Analysis Section.

In 1968, LtCol. Leftwich was selected by the Under Secretary of the Navy to be his Special Assistant and Marine Corps Aide. He served in this capacity under the Honorable Charles F. Baird, and Mr. Baird's successor as Under Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John W. Warner.

In April 1970, he began his second tour of duty in Vietnam, serving initially as an infantry battalion commander with the 2nd Battalion, First Marines. On June 30, he assumed duty as Commanding Officer of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

On November 18, 1970, LtCol. Leftwich was killed in a helicopter crash during an emergency extraction of one of his reconnaissance teams. In accordance with his practice of accompanying every emergency extraction called for by his reconnaissance teams, he was serving as senior "extract officer" for such a mission on the day of his death. The team had incurred casualties and requested an emergency extraction from enemy-infested territory in an area beginning to be enveloped by dense fog. The team was extracted under LtCol. Leftwich's personal supervision, then, the helicopter began its ascent, it crashed into a mountainside in enemy territory, killing all aboard.

A partial list of his medals and awards includes: The Navy Cross, the Silver Star (posthumous), the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two gold stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with one gold star, the Purple Heart with two gold stars, and various personal awards from the Republic of Vietnam.

LtCol. Leftwich was survived by his wife, the former Jane Ferrer, and two sons, William G. III, and Scott F. He was also survived by his mother, Mrs. Mattie H. Leftwich of Memphis. His father was deceased.

USS LEFTWICH



DD-984

The Ship's Crest

The colors blue and red are symbolic of loyalty and courage, attributes of Lt. Col. Leftwich who was killed in action in Vietnam. The areas of blue refer to the lowlands or delta areas of Vietnam and the yellow sections rising toward center allude to the highlands. The chevron-like shape, simulating a mountain, stands as a symbol of Lt. Col. Leftwich's courageous effort during an emergency extraction by helicopter from enemy infested territory during which he met his death. The vertical band refers to the numerical designation of the First Marine Division, the organization with which he served. The gold stars allude to the awards of the Legion of Merit, and the silver star in base to the posthumous award of the Silver Star Medal.

The gold cross pattée represents the award of the Navy Cross. The trident and dolphins are symbolic of vigilance and maritime dominance.

SHIP DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

Built by	Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries Pascagoula, Mississippi
Keel Laid	12 November 1976
Christened	27 May 1978
Commissioned	25 August 1979
Sponsor	Mrs. Jane (Leftwich) Michael
Length	563 Feet 4 Inches
Beam	55 Feet
Draft	29 Feet
Displacement	7800 Tons
Complement	OFFICERS — 19 Enlisted — 245
Speed	30+ Knots
Armament	Two 5 inch 54 Cal. Gun MOUNTS MK 112 ASROC Launcher NATO Seasparrow Harpoon
Aircraft	One SH-3 or Two SH-2 Helicopters
Propulsion	Four General Electric LM 2500 Marine Gas Turbine Engines (Total - 80,000 Shaft Horsepower)



COMMANDING OFFICER *Commander James L. Burke*

Commander James Lawrence Burke was graduated from the City University of New York in June 1964 and received his commission from the Officer Candidate School in October of that year.

*Previous assignments in the destroyer force include: Executive Officer, **USS BRADLEY (FF-1041)**; Engineer Officer, **USS RAMSEY (DEG-2)**; Communications and CIC Officer, **USS GARCIA (DE-1040)**; and Operations and Supply Officer, **USS DARBY (DE-218)**. Additionally, he was Commanding Officer, **USS ANTELOPE (PG-86)** from 1971-1973 and served in the Republic of Vietnam as Officer in Charge of a Swift Boat from 1967-1968.*

Other assignments include tours ashore as Director of Training, Fleet Combat Training Center Pacific and Aide and Flag Secretary to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Japan. Commander Burke attended the U.S. Naval Destroyer School and is a graduate of the Command and Staff Course at the Naval War College. His military decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

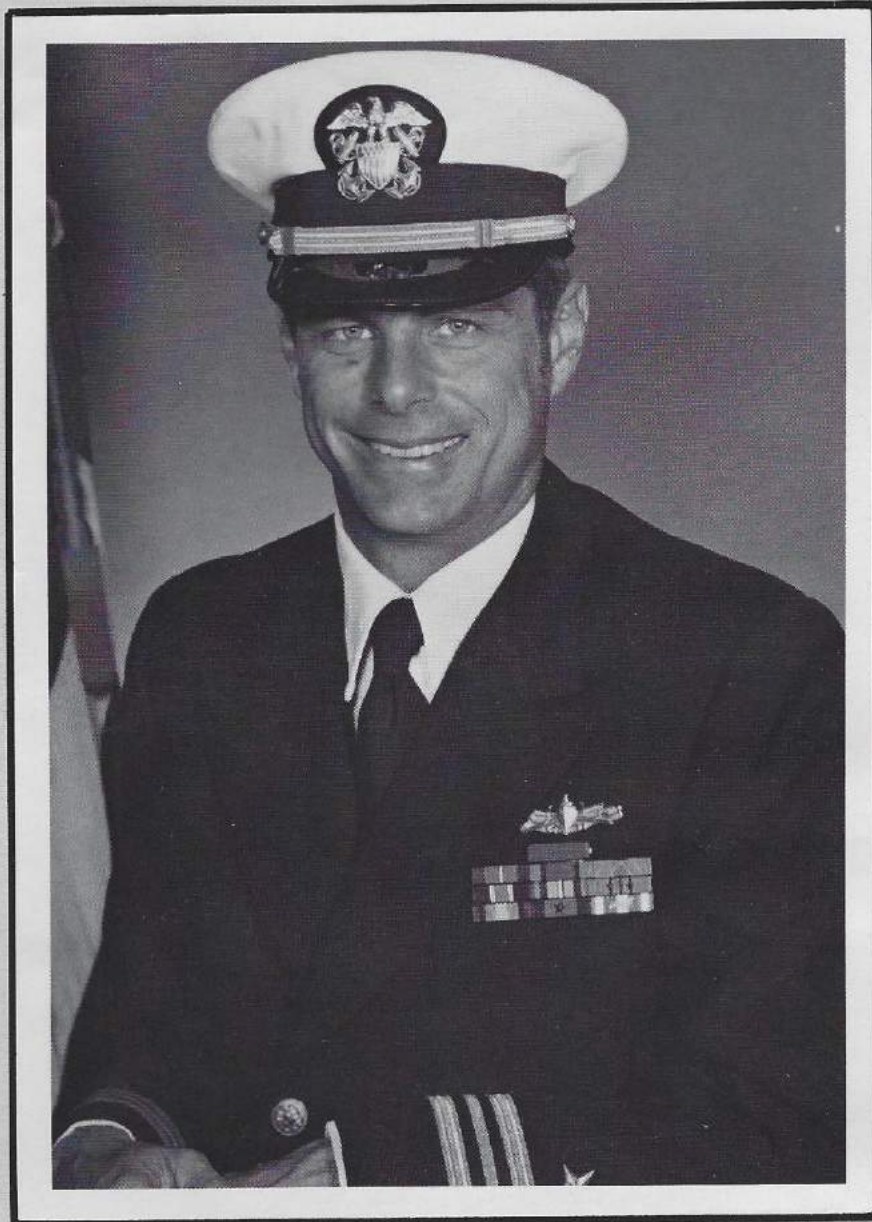
Commander Burke is married to the former Jane Margaret Brodahl of West Covina, California. They and their three sons, Jim Jr., John, and Michael, reside in Fletcher Hills.



COMMANDING OFFICER *Commander Ronald Charles Berning*

Commander Ronald Charles Berning received his commission in June 1968 from the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. Commander Berning's previous sea tours have included: Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer, USS HOLLISTER (DD-788); Operations Officer, Pre-Commissioning Crew, USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD-788); Aide/Flag Lieutenant on the staff of Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE/Cruiser-Destroyer Group ONE; Commanding Officer, USS GAL-LUP (PG-85); and most recently, Executive Officer, USS BRISCOE (DD-977). His shore duty assignments have included being a student at U.S. Naval Destroyer School, Newport, Rhode Island in 1970 and a tour at the U.S. Naval Academy from 1977 to 1979 as a Seamanship/Tactics Instructor and the Power Craft Coordinator, responsible for over 40 training craft. Prior to reporting to USS LEFTWICH (DD-984), Commander Berning served three years in Washington, D.C., on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare) as the Surface Warfare Programs Officer in the Manpower and Training Requirements Division (OP-39). HIS military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Gold Star, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Commander Berning's home of record is Treasure Island, Florida. He is married to Barbara Jean Ray of Alexandria, Virginia. They have two children, Pete and Mary.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER *Commander Richard Markley Smith*

Richard Markley SMITH was born in Santa Monica, California on 27 August 1949, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford SMITH. He graduated from J.H. Francis Polytechnic High School in Sun Valley, California and entered the United States Naval Academy in JUNE 1967.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy on 9 June 1971, CDR SMITH reported to the USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7) where he served as 1st Lieutenant and Main Propulsion Assistant. During that tour, he deployed to the Western Pacific from August 1971 to December 1971 and June 1972 to February 1973. From September 1974 to September 1976 CDR SMITH attended the Naval Post Graduate School at Monterey, California. While CDR SMITH attended the Naval Post Graduate School he received a MS degree in Physical Oceanography. From October 1976 to May 1977 CDR SMITH attended Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School at Newport, Rhode Island. Upon graduation, he reported to the Pre-commissioning Crew of the USS GRIDLEY (CG 21), serving as Engineering Officer until October 1981. In November 1981, CDR SMITH reported to Staff Commander, Training Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Flag Secretary. CDR SMITH assumed duties as Executive Officer, USS LEFTWICH (DD 1984) in April 1984.

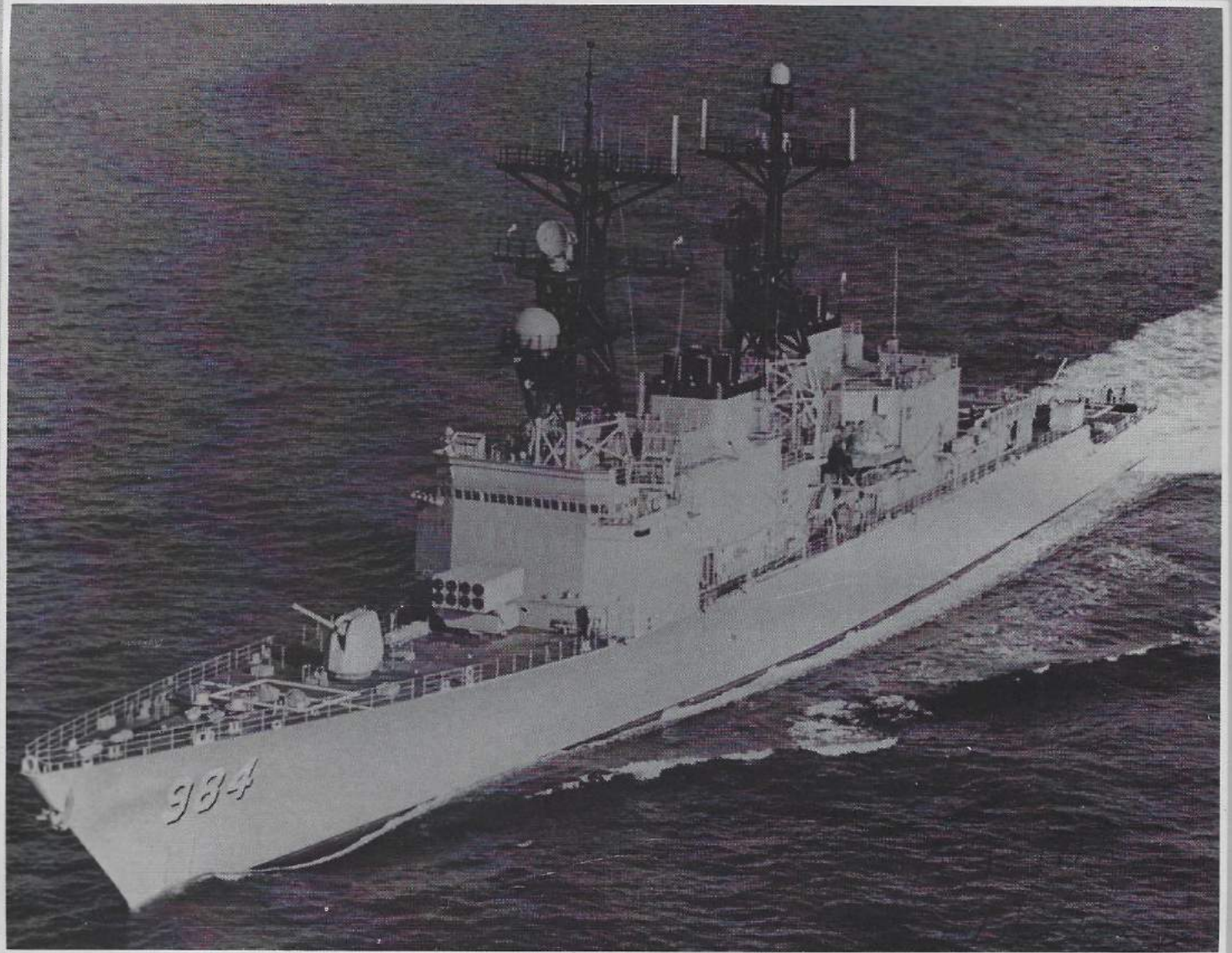
Commander SMITH'S home is Spring Valley, California. He is married to Nancy Lynn MCGOWAN of Covina, California and they have one son, Kellen.

CDR SMITH has earned and is entitled to wear the Combat Action Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Silver Star Award.



*COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON
SEVEN
Capt. Jones*

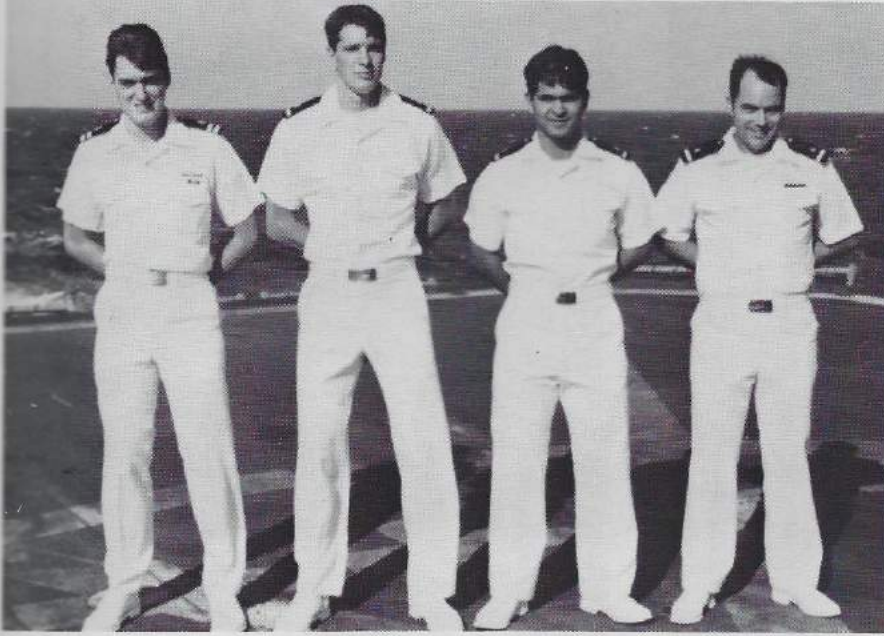




USS LEFTWICH

The Crew...

OFFICERS



Newly reported officers: Lt. Kopp, Ens Cooley, Ens Miranda and Ens Solberg



Charlie Oscar



He ain't nothing but a hound dog!



The originals: Lt. Holst, Lt. Rodriguez, Lt. Pasarilla, Lt. Fairbanks, Lt. Petriel, Lt. Kehoe, Lt. Richter, Lt. Norman, Lt. Mayer and Lt. Mathe



Read between the lines buddy!



XO-MMMMMMMM! GOOOOOD!!!



And they say our birthday area is a mess!



Today's model man!



The one and only Ens Flowers.



A face only a mother could love.



Whose face is this anyway?



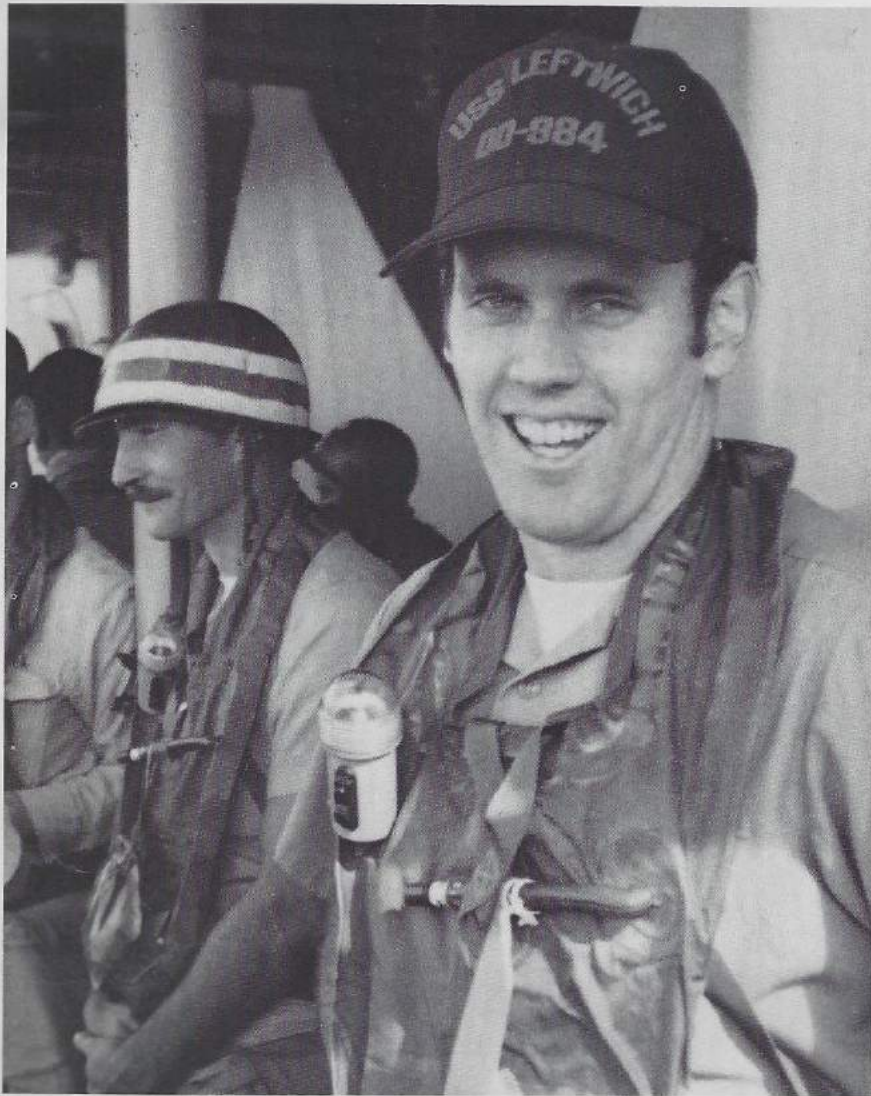
I must shave all 10 hairs before officers call.



Mikey likes it!



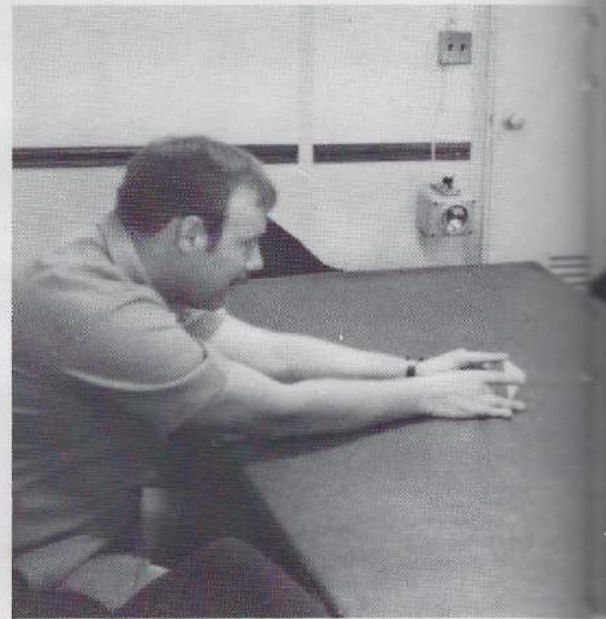
The over-the-hill gang clowning around on the bridge



GQ?



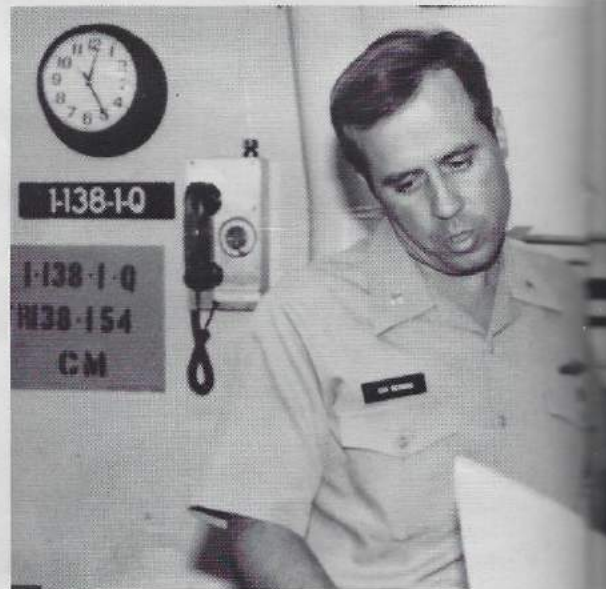
"The Rod"

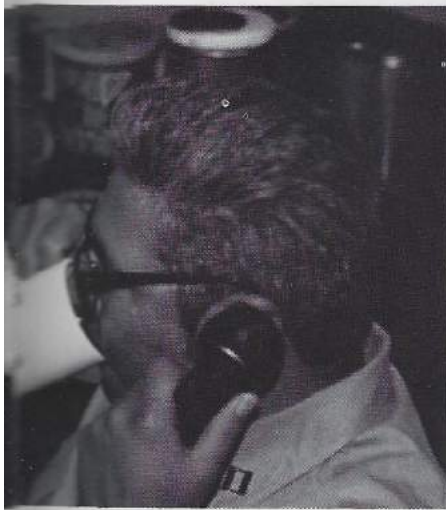


Another confidential wardroom conference



I bet you say that to all the guys.





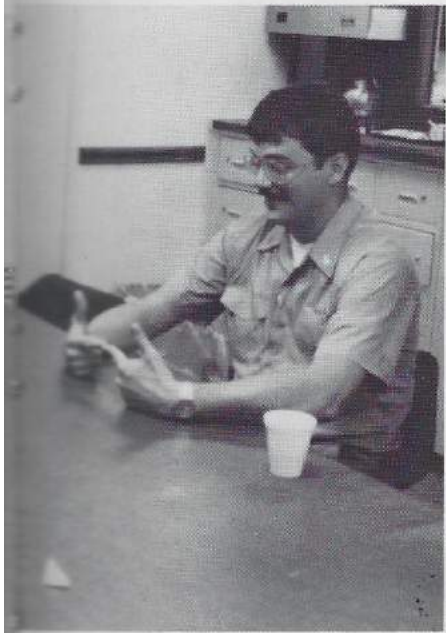
Lt. Rodriguez working hard.



Playgirl, here I come!



Pedaled all the way from the Philippines.



HONG KONG



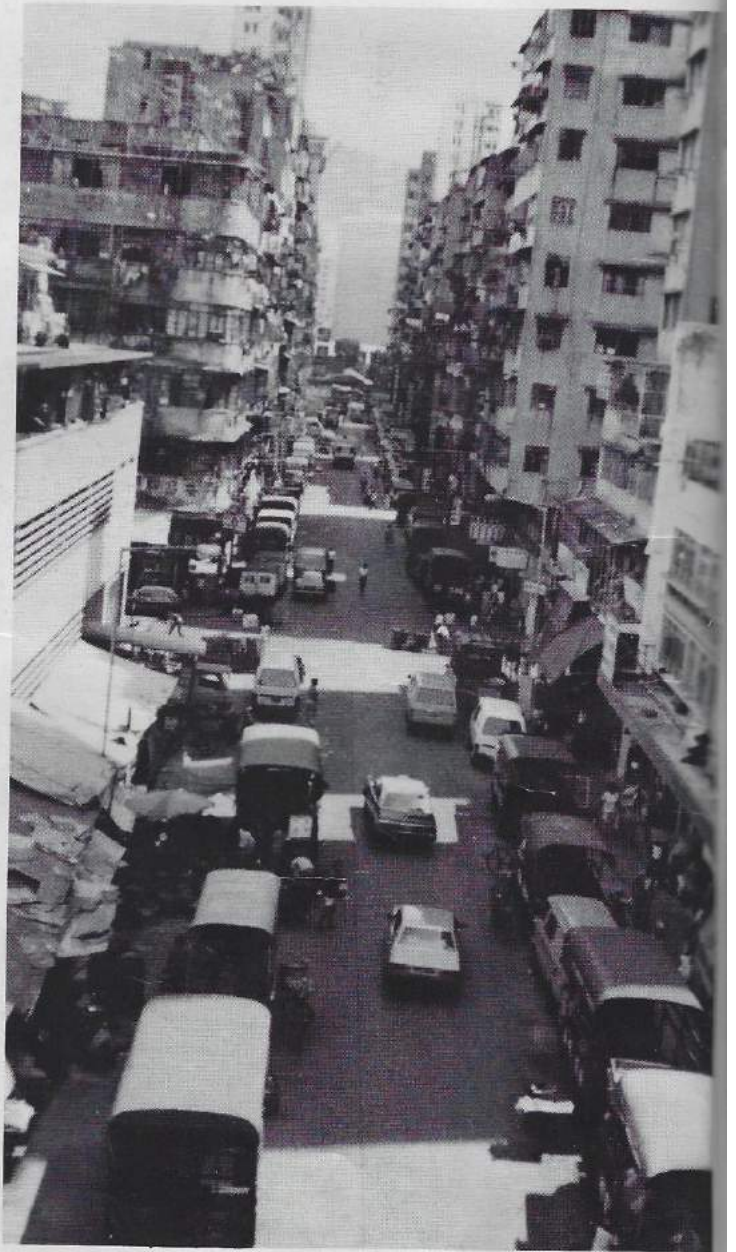
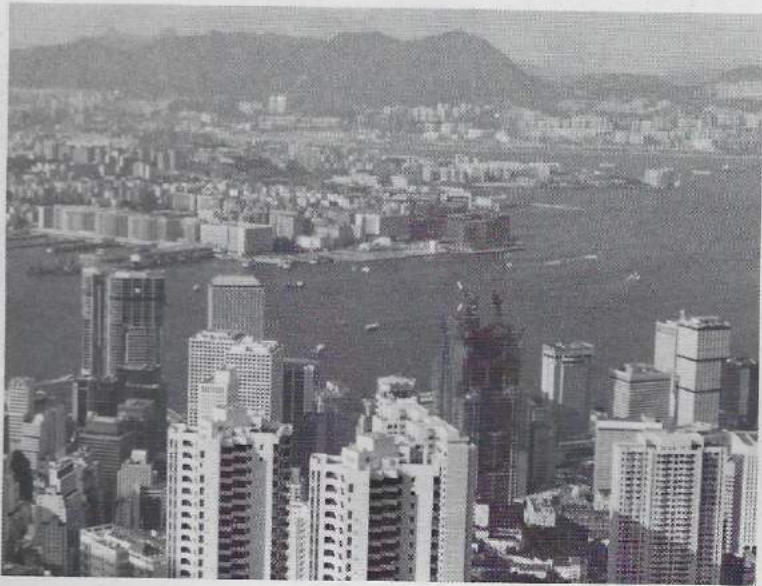
On the way to St. Christopher's home



Mr. Alex Lam, Director of St. Christopher's Home, describes the set-up of the home before the tour.





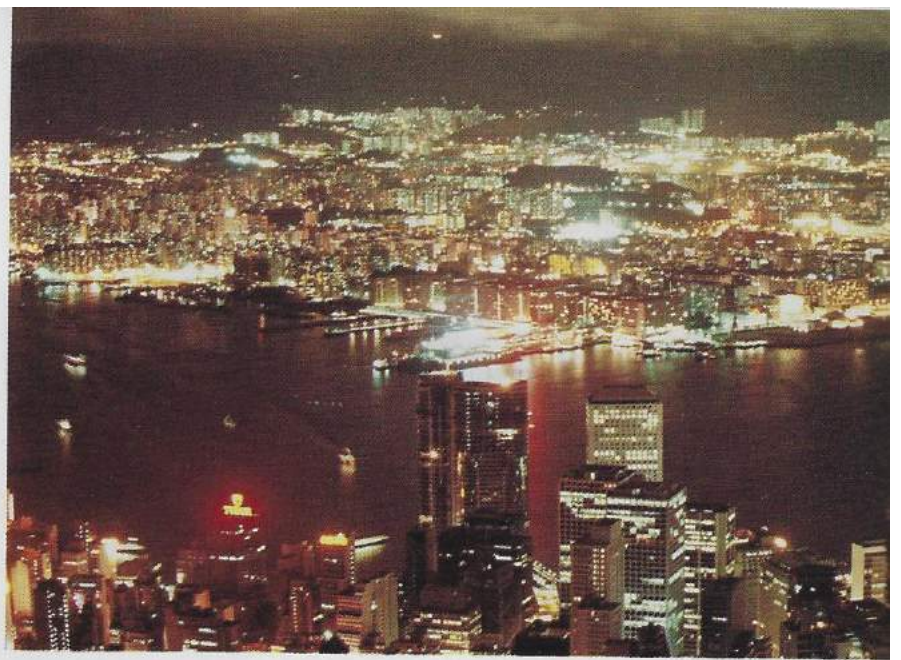




HONG KONG



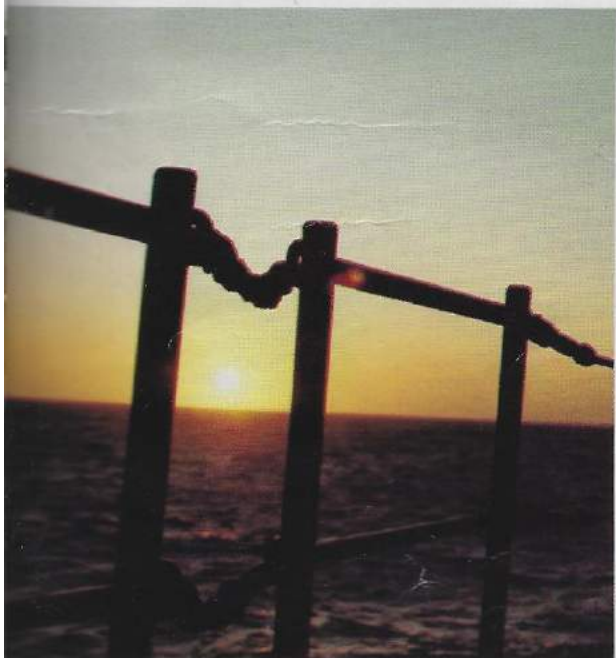
Inside the nursery/infant and toddler compound at St. Christopher's home.



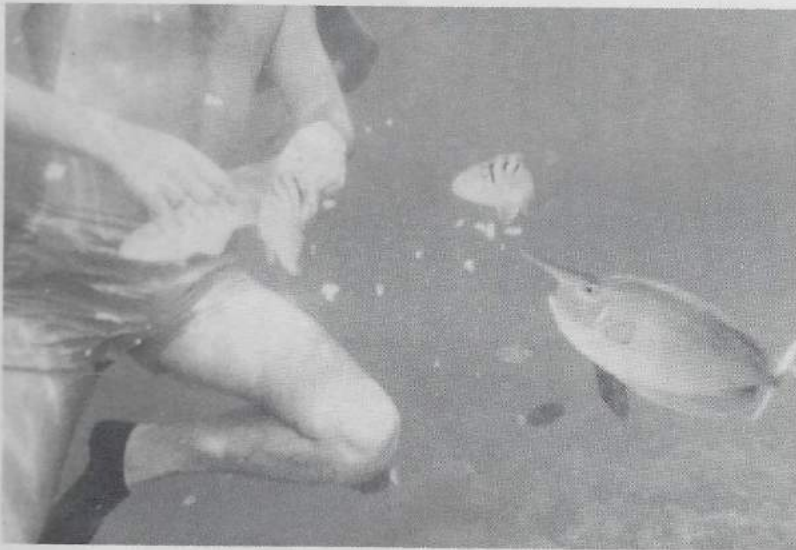
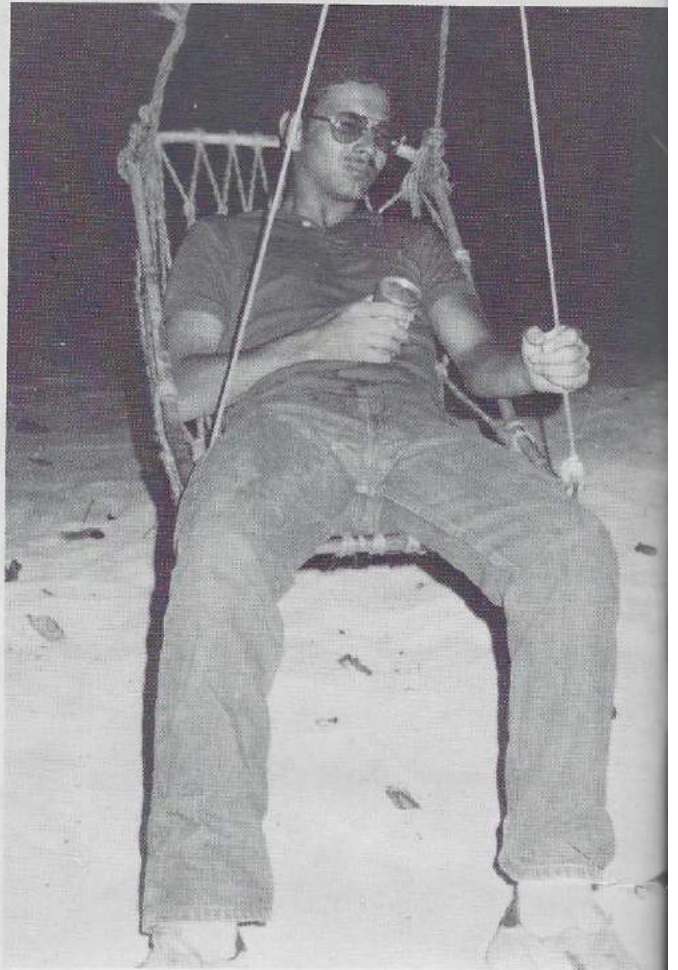
FTG2 Gomes with his family.



SUNSETS



It just doesn't get any better than this.

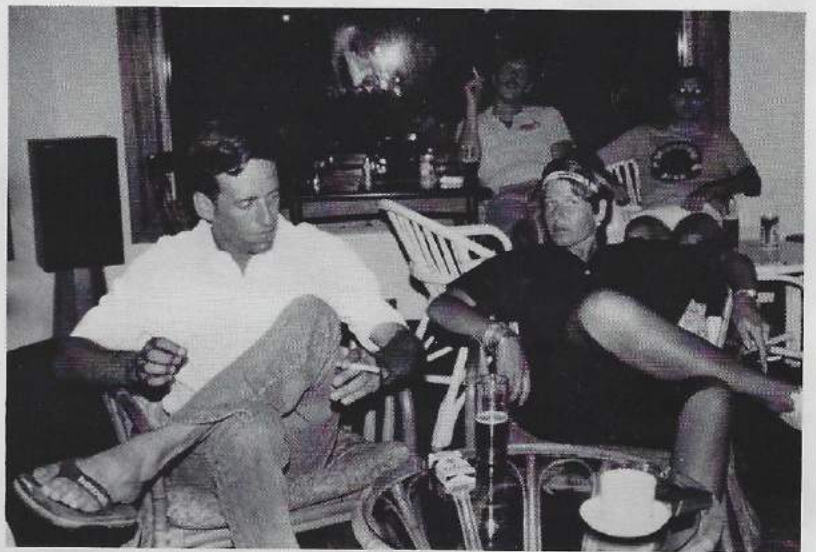


Feeding time





Left: Shakin Shako hanging in there.



MALDIVES

HAWAII





MALDIVES



"Cousteau tryouts"



Hey, look he has a camera



Boy meets girl



Will you lay off. I'm trying to put the move on her.



The short-time patrol making the rounds



PHILIPPINES





Scott (too cool) Starr parties with a native.



If THEY won't dance with us, WE will dance with them.





The OS's terrorize the P.I.



James Mills waves "hi" to the crowd

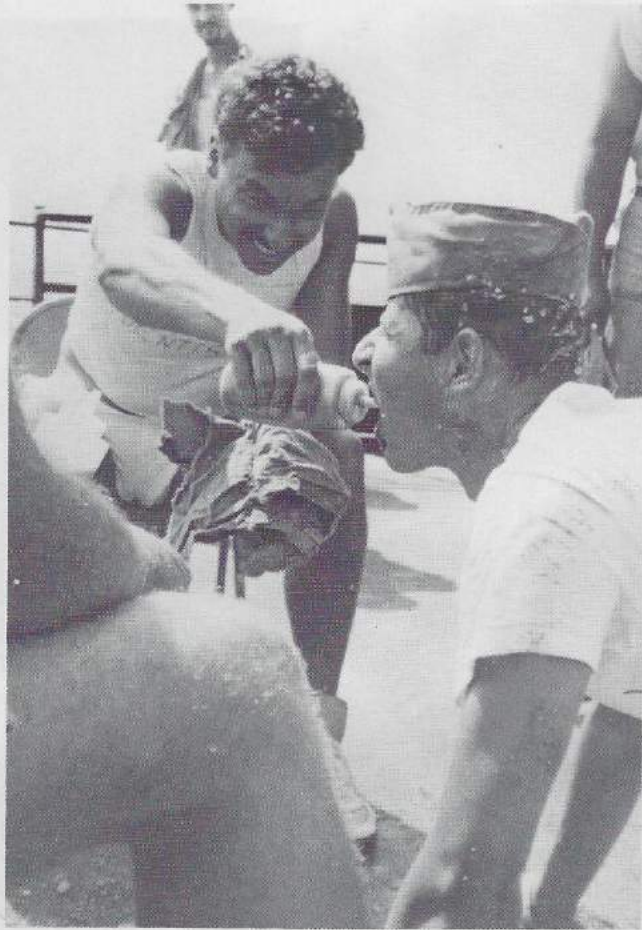


Salute to P.I.



Prom night on skid row

FIRST TIME CROSSING THE LINE



What happened to ETC Pineda's self-control? Squid!



He always says grace before his meals.

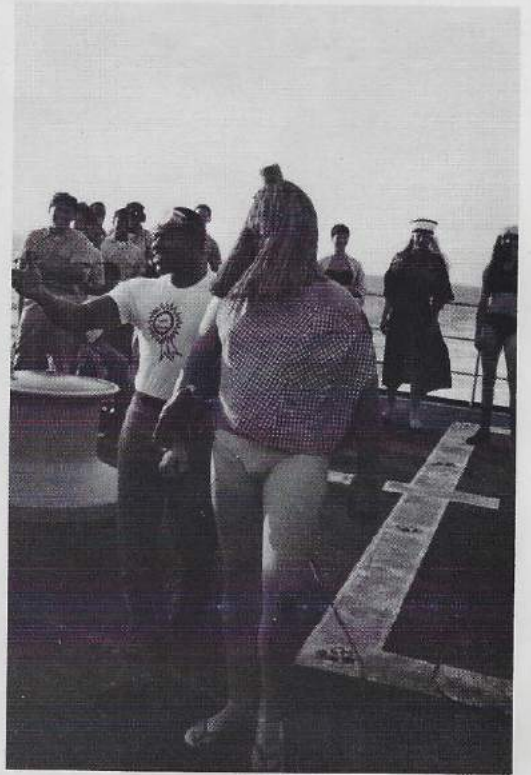


So, you want to be a Shellback!



Who's the guy with the mohawk?

Cousin it? Where have you been all my life?



making advantage of the situation



It's still there!



I've heard of dogs, but look at this guy!



EN2 Woods Leads the PAC RATS



It's still branded on my @#S"



Here she is, Miss America!



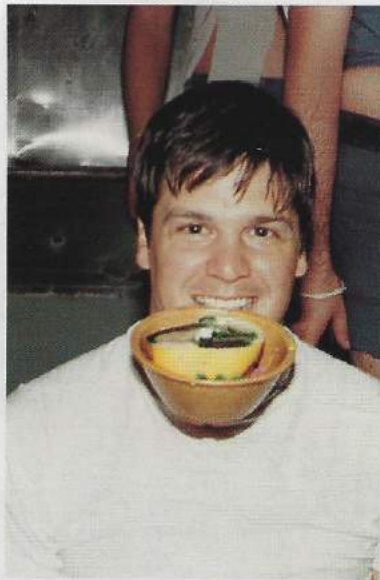
We want real bubbles this time



A gang's beauty - EN3 Burge



...ard of bobbing for apples, but this is ridicu-



Lt Norman wishes for his doggy bag



The dating game refugees!

USS LEFTWICH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

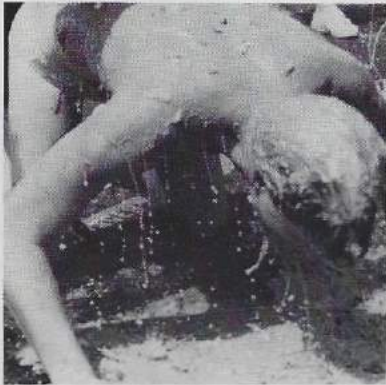


ENS Flowers - Special Olympics winner.



The worst Flipper imitation going today

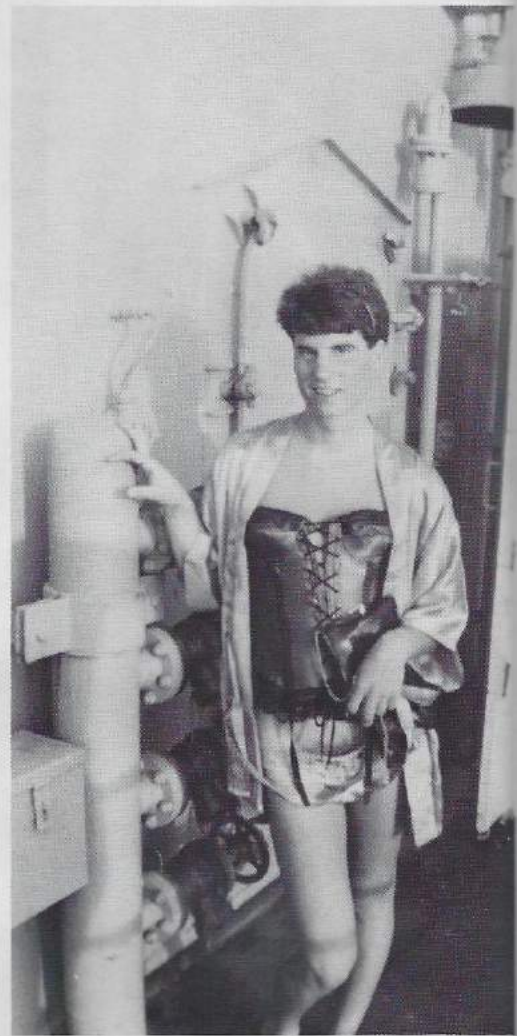
...a definite improvement to the Chow"



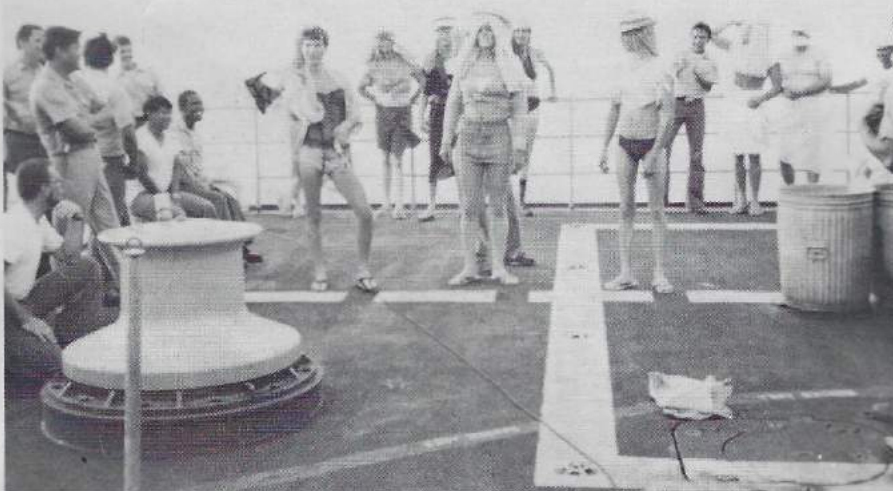
You should have picked door number two



Where have I gone wrong? I thought that I raised HMC Mize right!



Hey! Want a date?



Hey, baby!



Motley crew!



SECOND TIME CROSSING THE LINE

Revenge Of The Nerds

Sheriff Denyko has everything under control.



Can anyone identify this man?



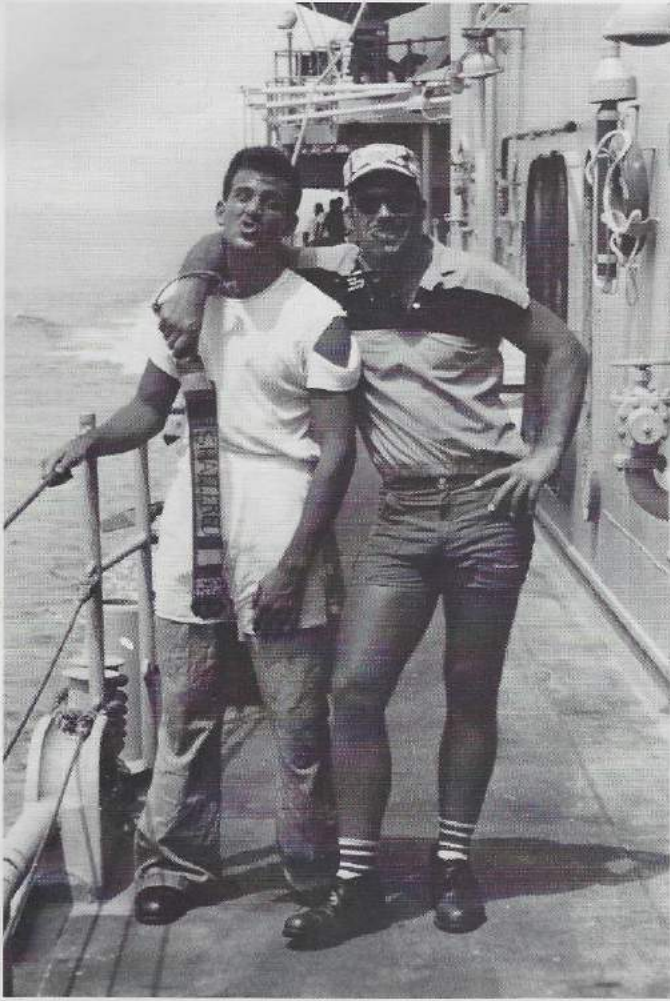
EN2 Woods takes ENS "Spike" Chenoweth for a little walk.



PN3 Eliason showing off before a little wog hunting.



Let it bleed



One spastic dog and his master



Nothing better than a mating ceremony



You guys promised me a fire truck!



This is the pits!



Where's the fire truck?



... of cake, right? WRONG!



If my friends could see me now!



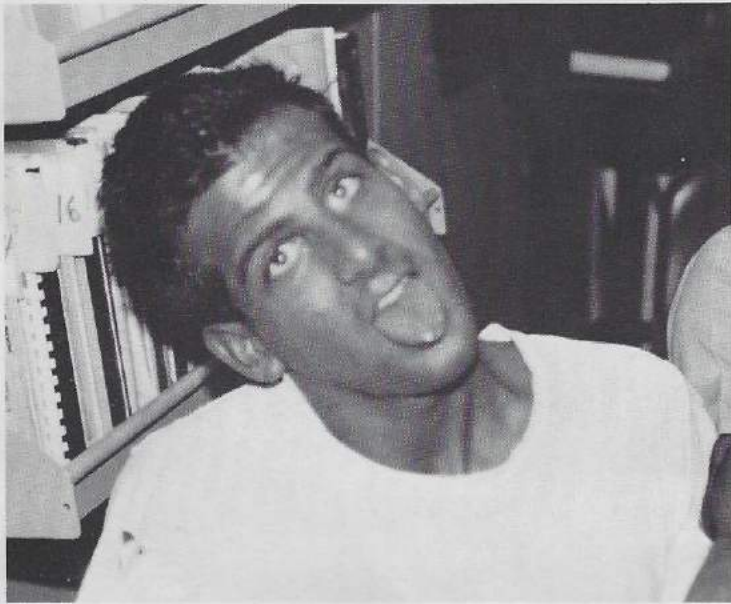
ET2 Noll becomes a fire control radar.



Awaiting Davy Jones' arrival



The face says it all!



Spaz!



I love it! This is great!



Once a dog, always a dog



I had this taste in my mouth before!



Prep the wogs for a little fun.



Come to Uncle Otto!

LEFTWICH



Life was never this grand!!!



Hey, it's cool to be a Shellback.



Wojo on his lunch break.

LEFTWICH BASKETBALL





SPARTAN RUNNERS



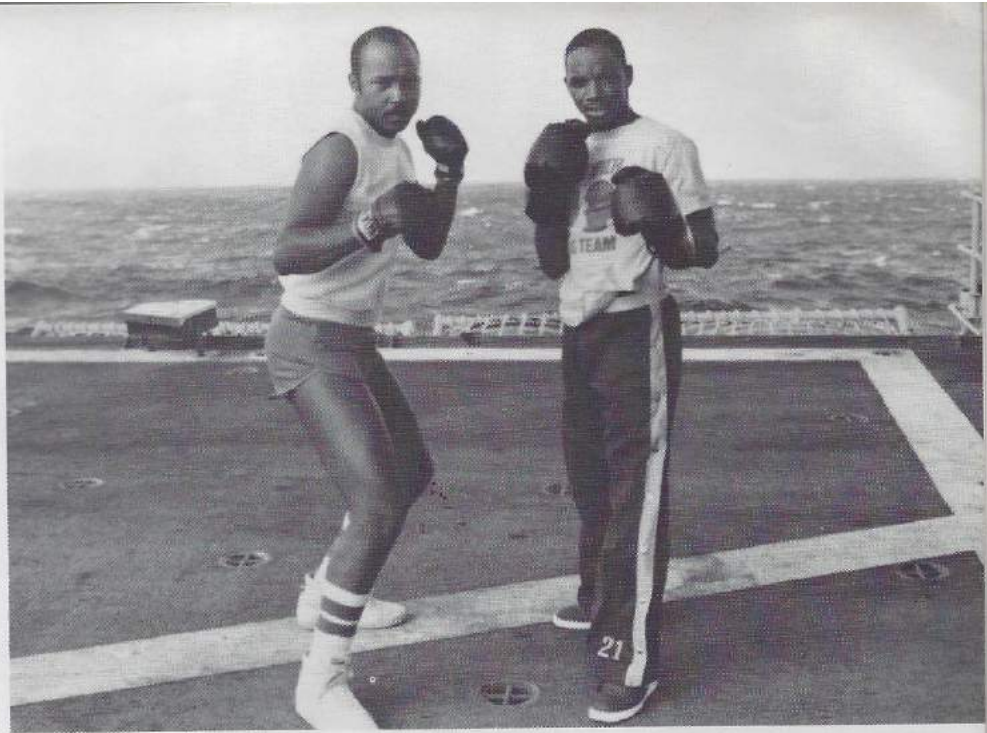


RUNNERS

CHESS



BOXING



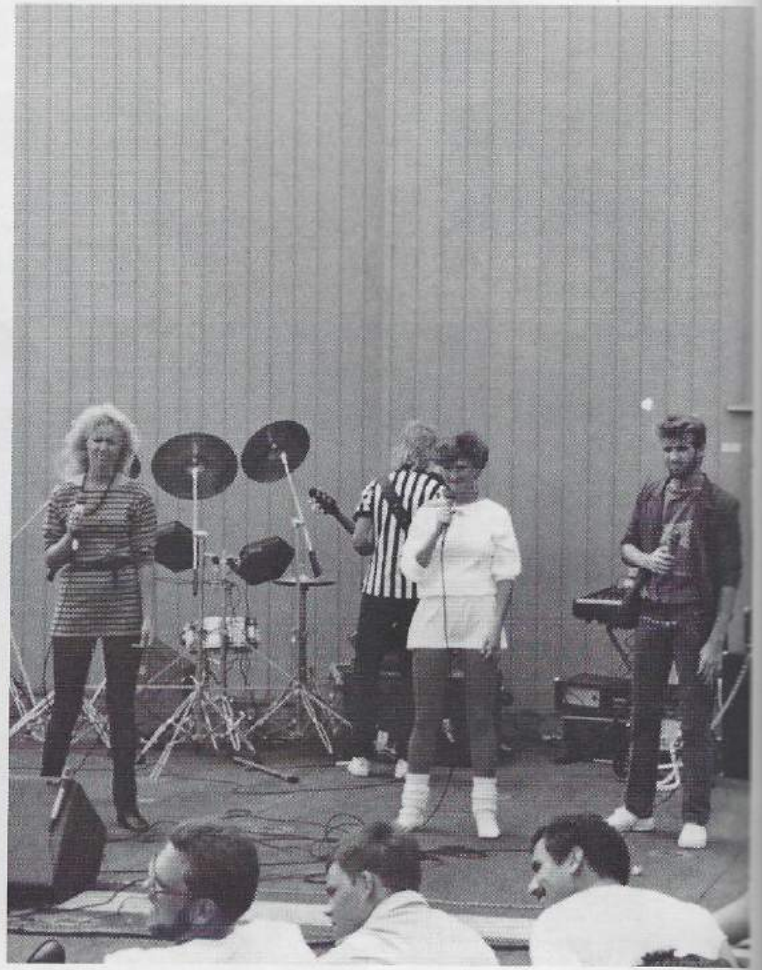
WATER SKIING



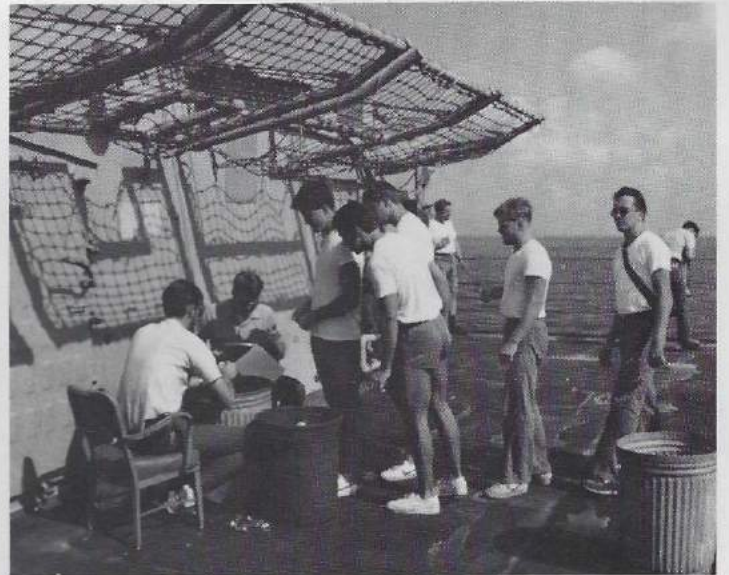


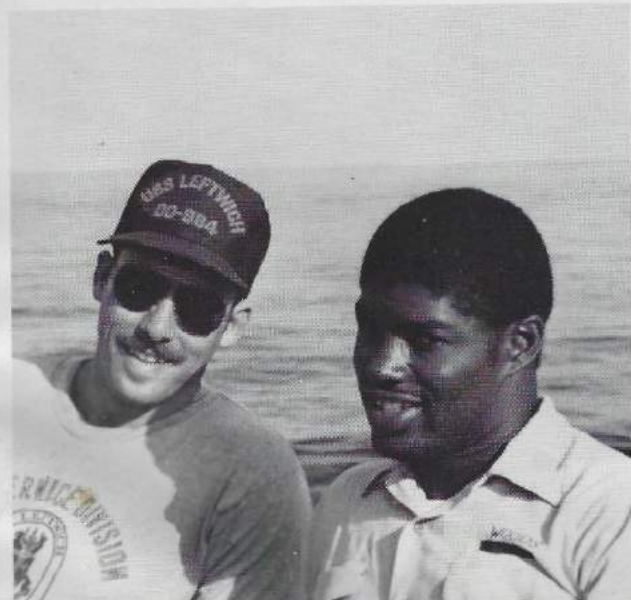
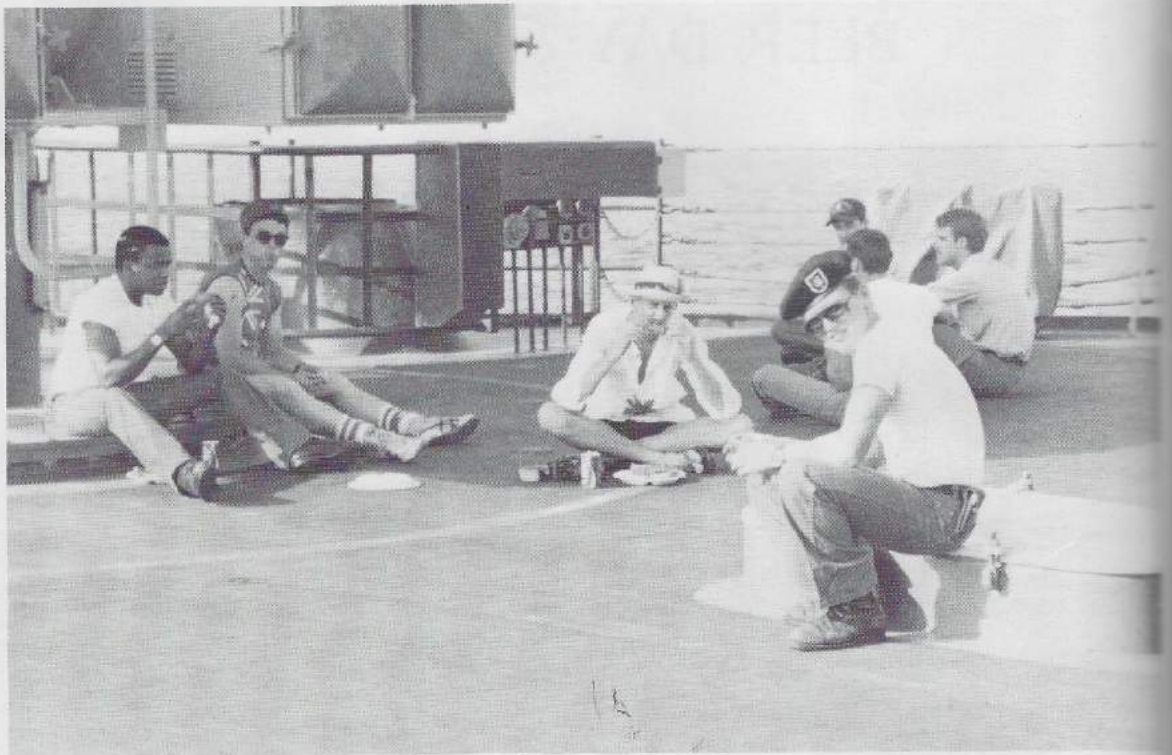
INDIAN OCEAN CONCERT





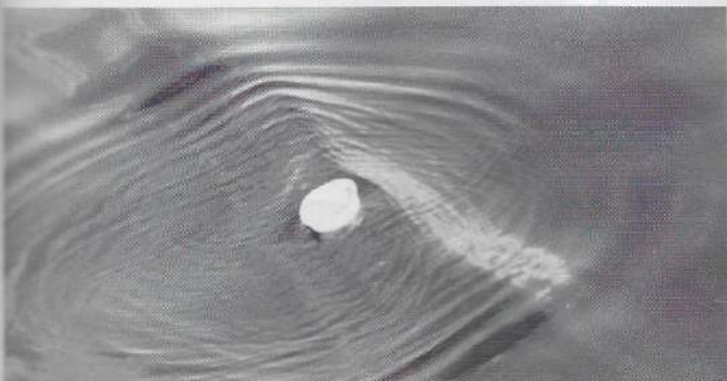
BEER DAY & FANTAIL PICNICS







ET2 Mitchell getting wider.



Swim call!



PACE
CLASS



BEARS



TIGERS





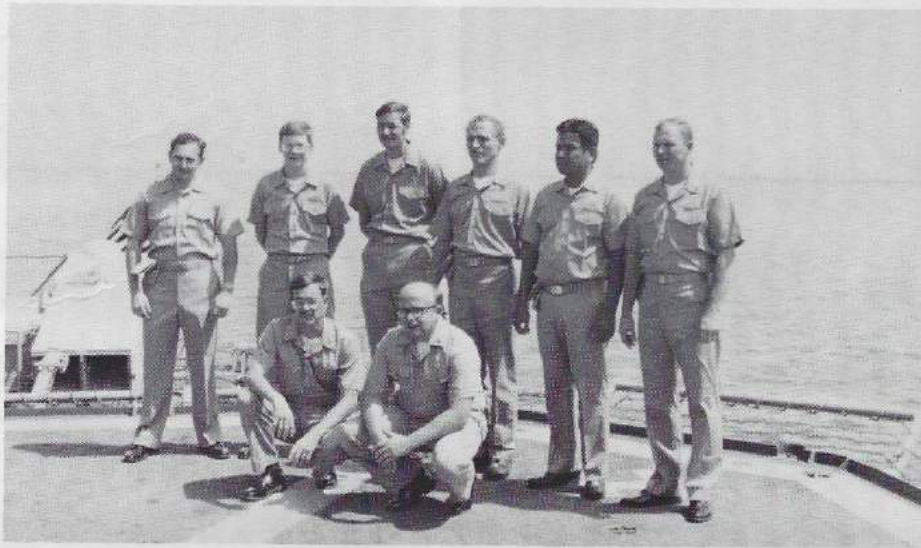
RETURN TO SAN DIEGO







See, didn't I tell you?!!



Chief Petty Officers: MAC Centers, OSC Baumgartner, GSEC Clay, GMGC "Sluggo" Burpo, HTC Anderson, FTGC Johnson, QMC "Butterball" Minerich, ADC Mangose



Chief Petty Officers (left to right): HMC Mize, EMC Hempel, OSCS McGrath, ENC Gungon, FTGE Johnson, GMGC Burpo, MAC Centers, GSE Clay, FTMC Duvall, DSC Gustafason, ADC Mangose, AYC Leigh-Pink, RMC Gogue, ETC Pineda, STGC Strange, ICC Jenkins, QMC Minerich, GMG Jones, HTC Anderson, GSMC Ruuttila.



ETC with a little smile.



The oldest salt on board.

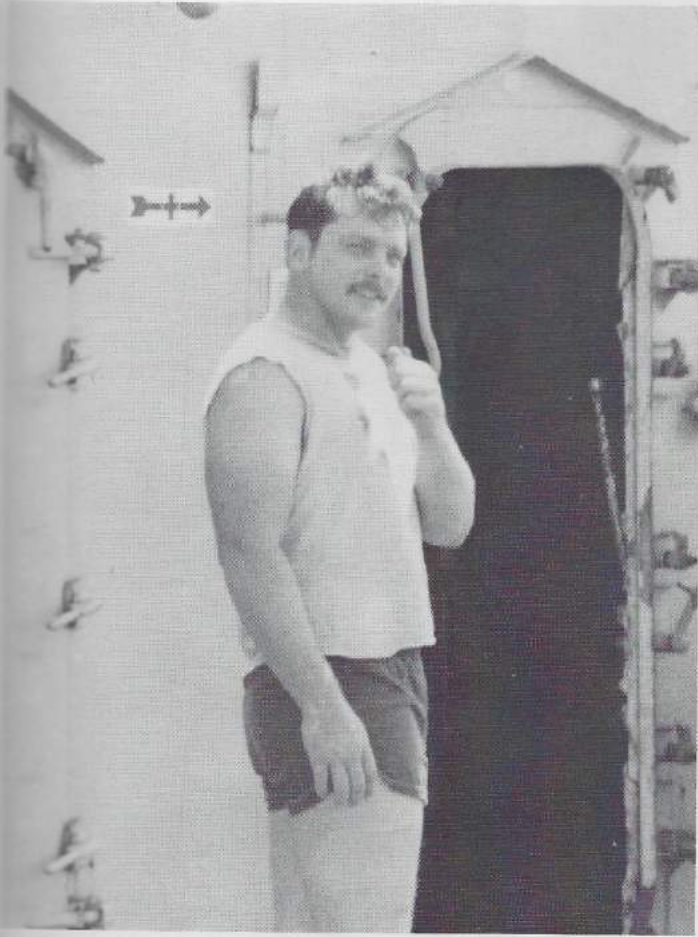


Backwards, as usual!



Go ahead, make my day!

CA DIVISION



Thumbs up for the holiday routine.



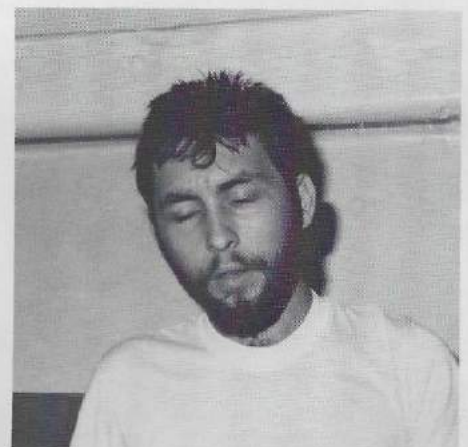
ST's and TM's hard at work as usual.



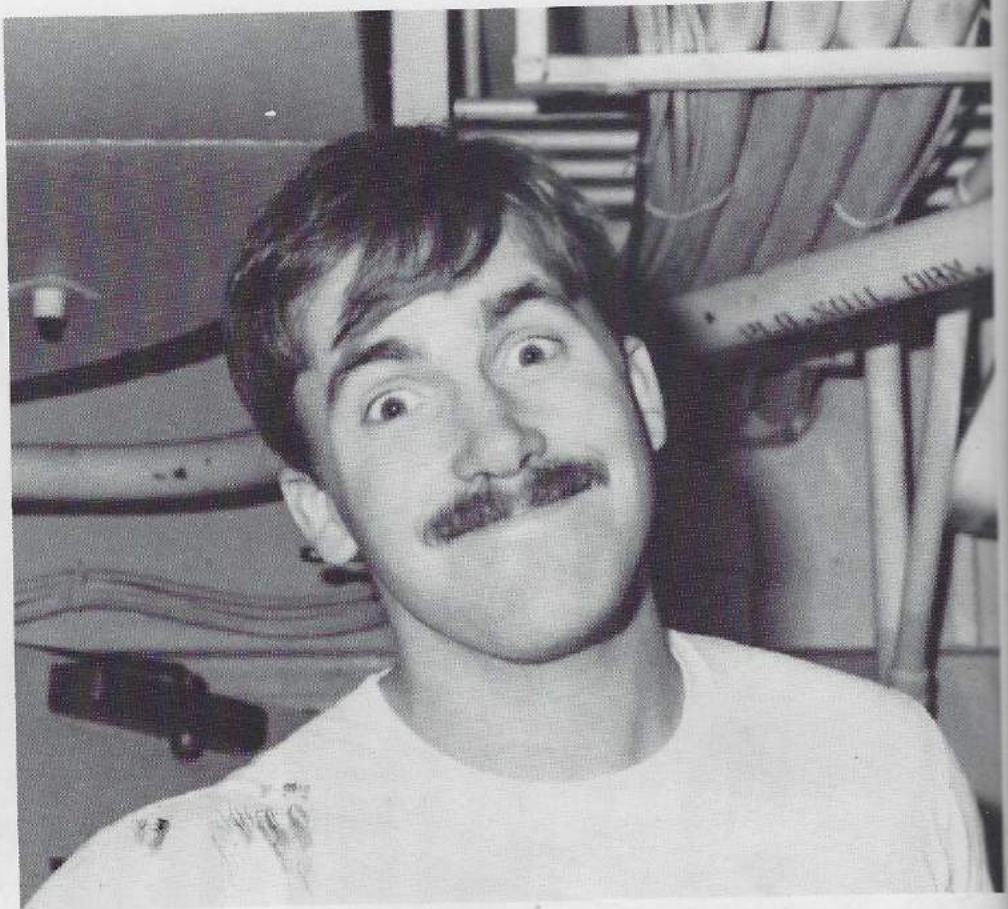
STG3 Fucci ... alias Rocko.



Really chief ... I'm not sleeping!



STG2 Abston, the human fly.



Oh no! Mr. Bill!



I know its under here somewhere.



BEEP!!

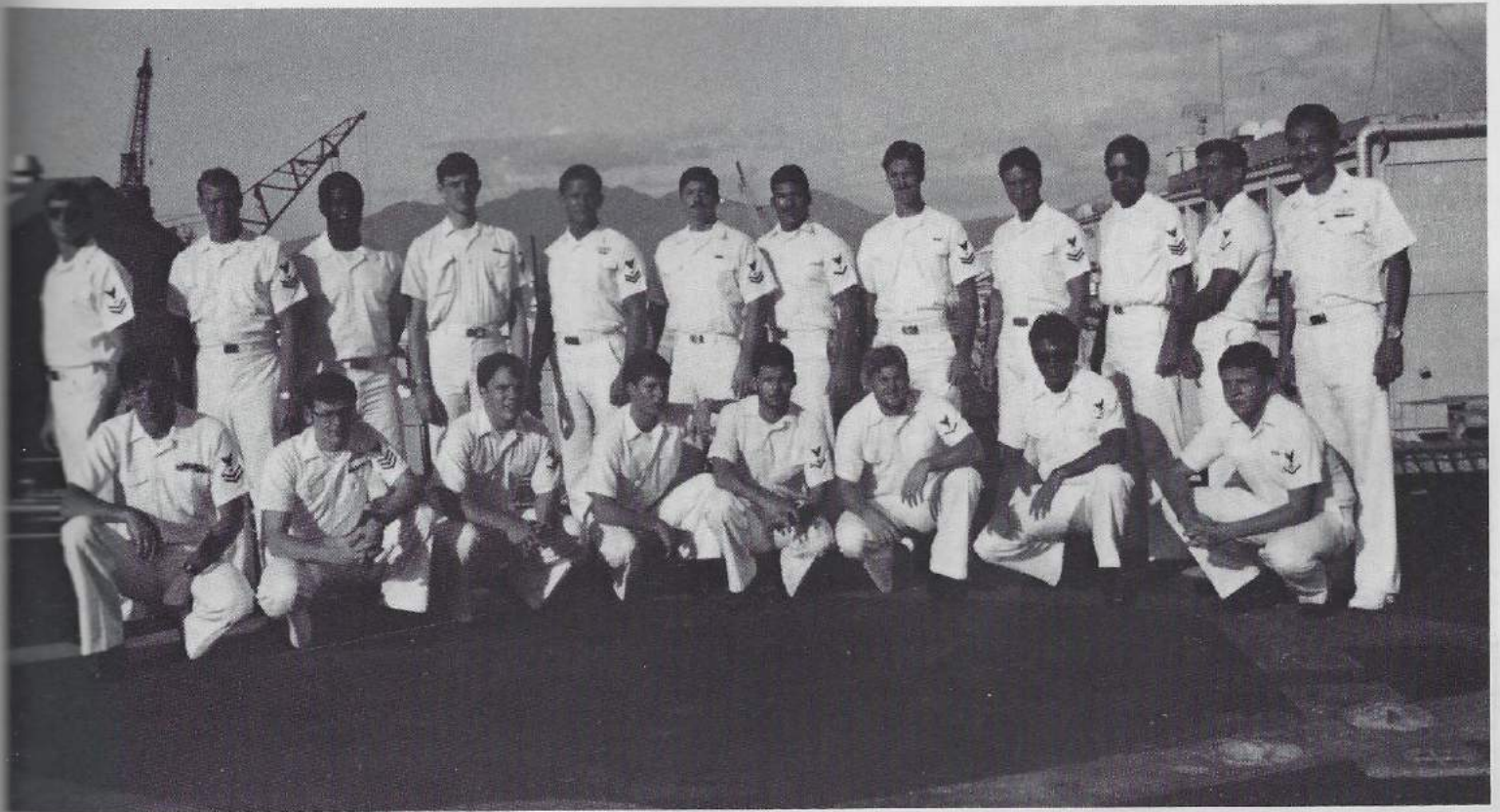


Get off my wood. What wood?

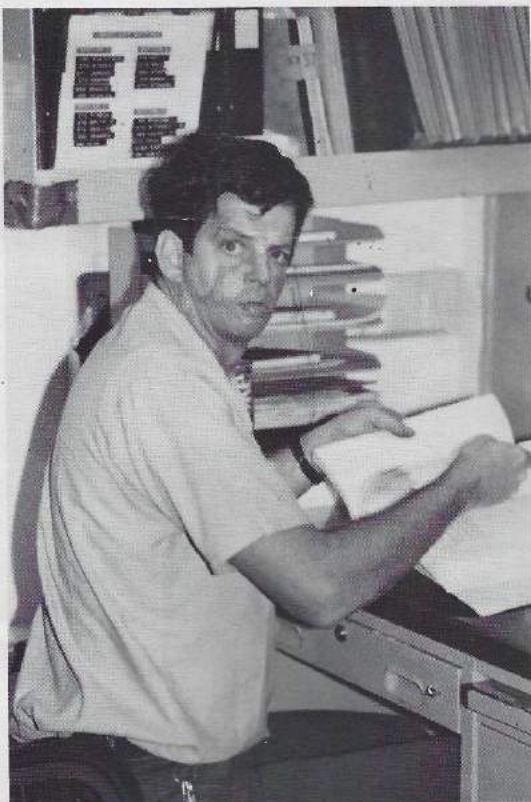


TM2 Swanson.

CE DIVISION



ET2 Ringer, ET2 Morgan, ET3 Holt, ETSN Bartlett, ET2 Smith, DS2 Peoples, ET3 Denyko, ET2 Swallow, DS2 Veiga, ET1 Jerrard, ET2 Noll, ETC Pineda, ET2 Mitchell, DS1 Stephens, DS3 Krader, DS3 Cunningham, DS3 Edwards, ET3 Krug, DS3 Starr, DS3 Lecroy



Of course, this is military reading material.



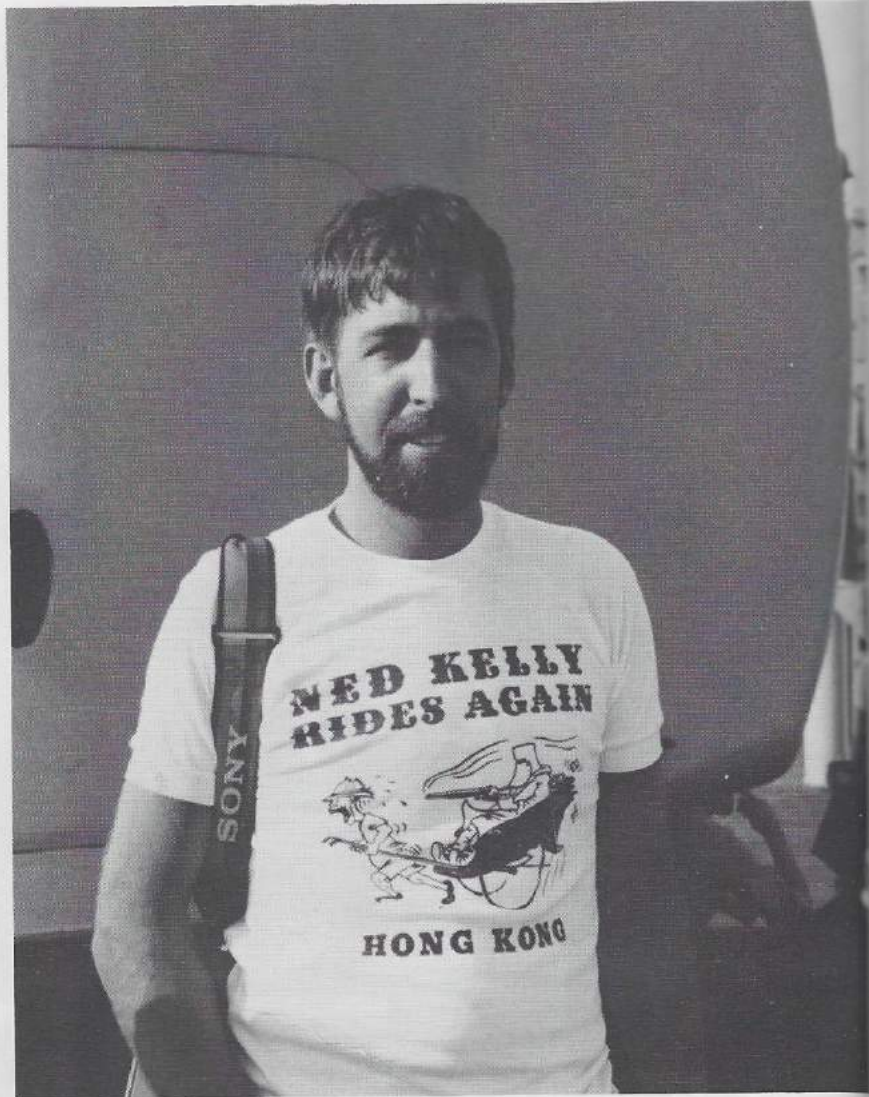
Marshall Morgan making the rounds



Our last plankowner acting like a tourist



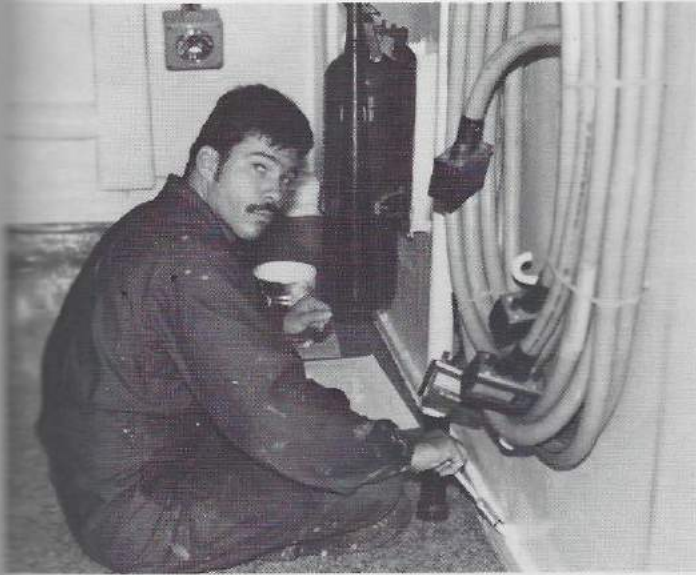
Are you kidding, I'm just faking it!



Rizzo at his best



The dungeon master himself



Career day!



Hey guy!!



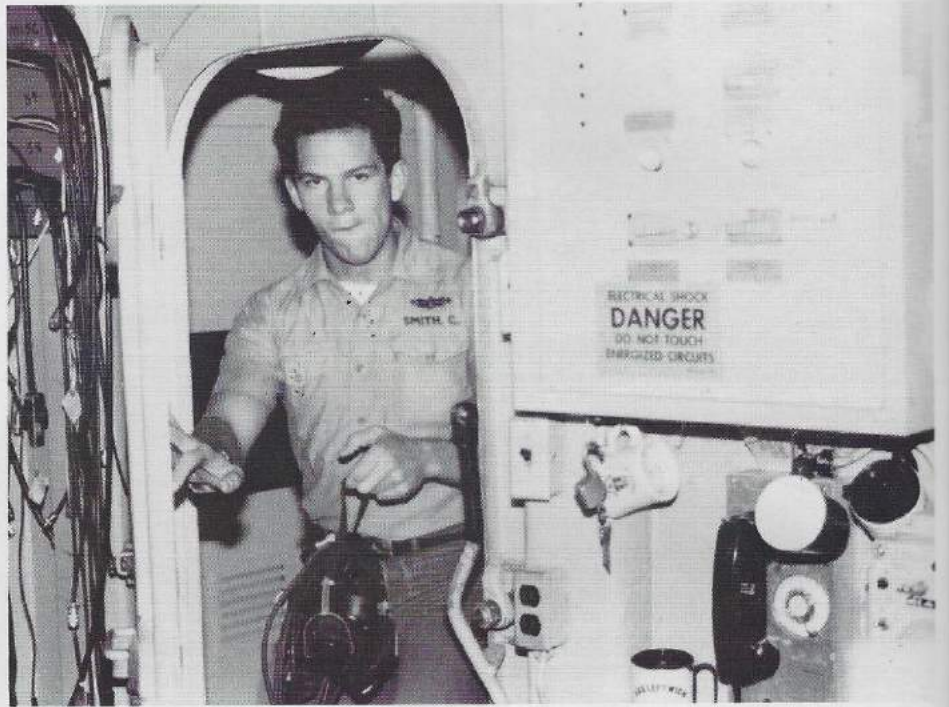
Call the zookeeper!



I am cleaning!



Que Pasa?



Smitty with an excellent response to a G.Q.

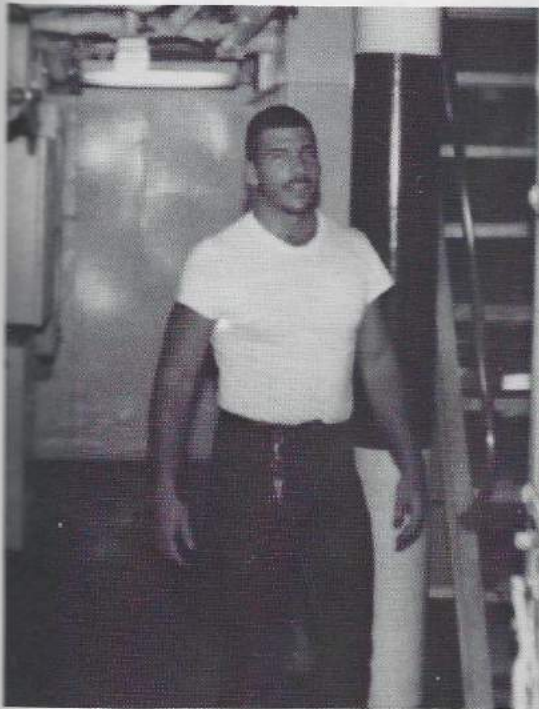


ET2 Swallow, our ace 40 radar tech.

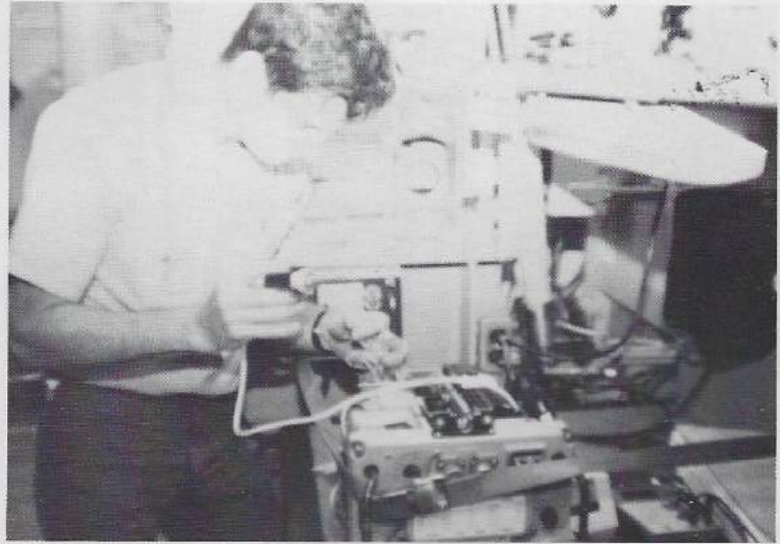


What's the heps? Aces and eights?

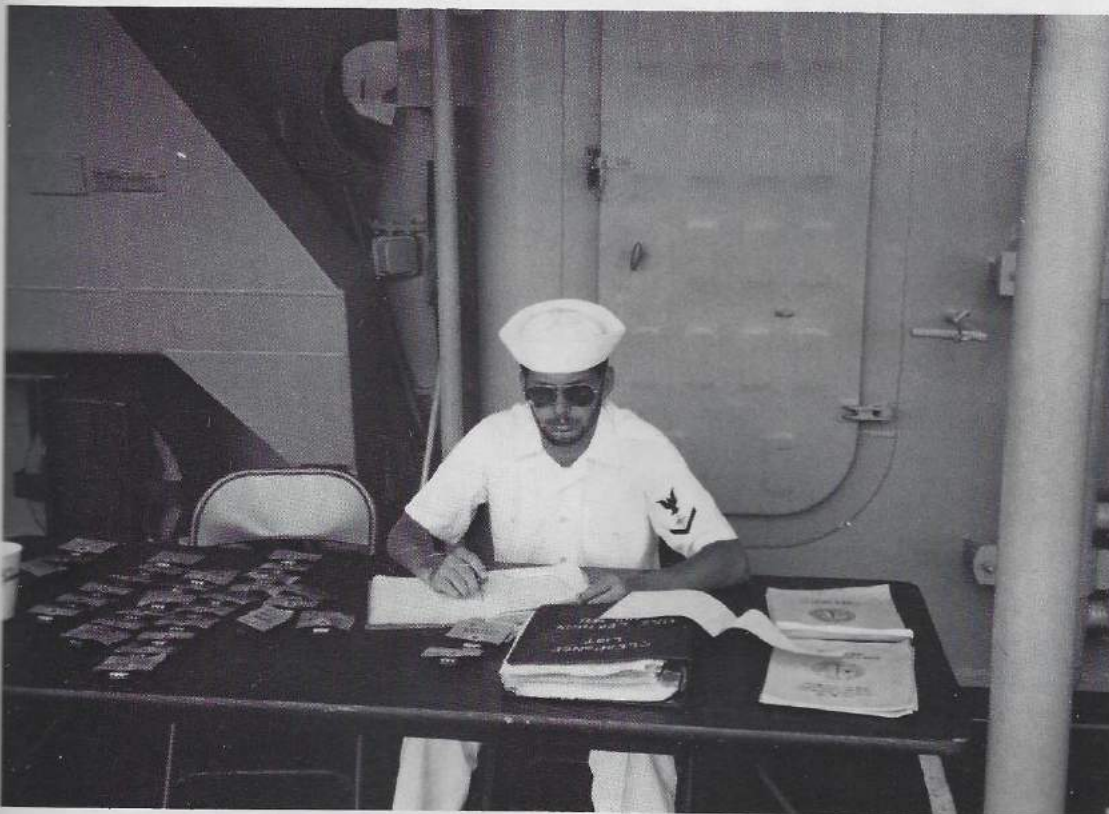
CG DIVISION



This passageway isn't wide enough for the two of us!



ET2 Mitchell using his technical abilities to screw up another AN/SRC-20



DS3 Edwards, a man with a mission



ET2 Ringer in his usual working position

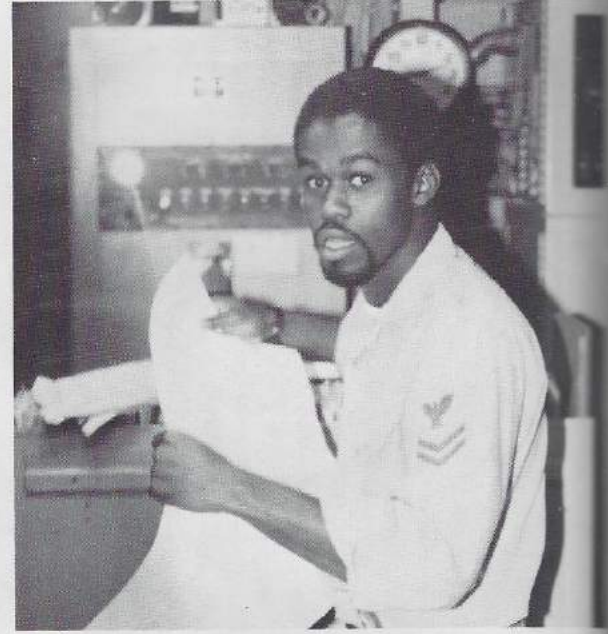
CG DIVISION



A faded memory



The oldest salt alive



Step back fool



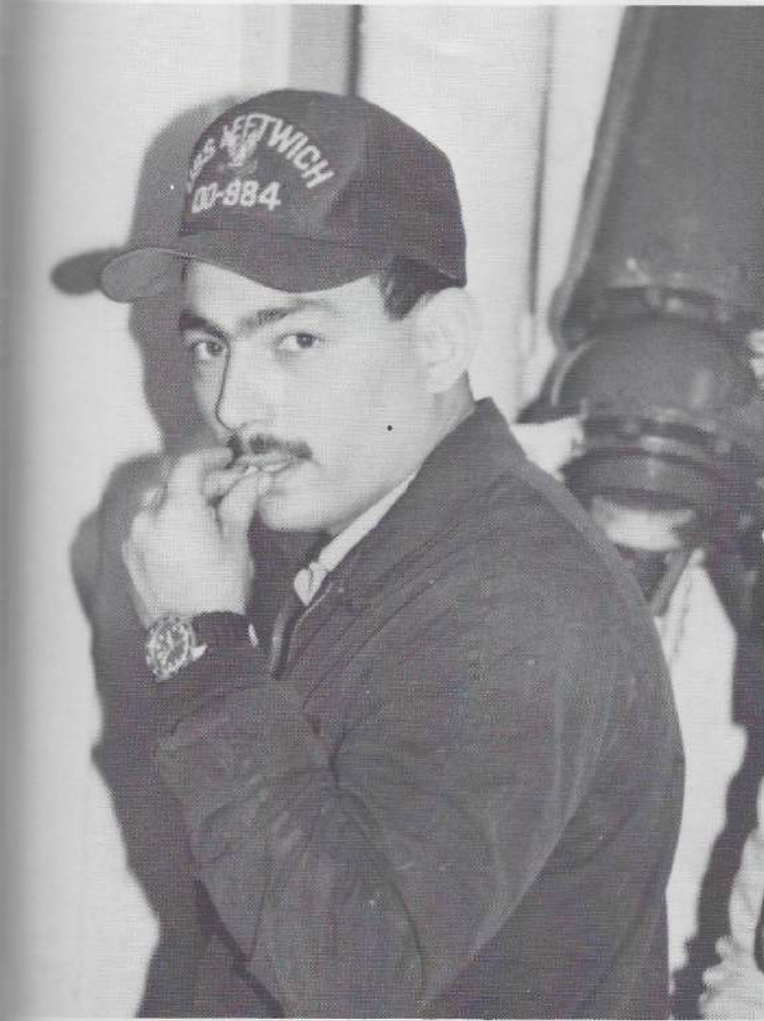
Bagumba raising a little hell with FTGSN Meyer looking on, as Marco bites the bullet.



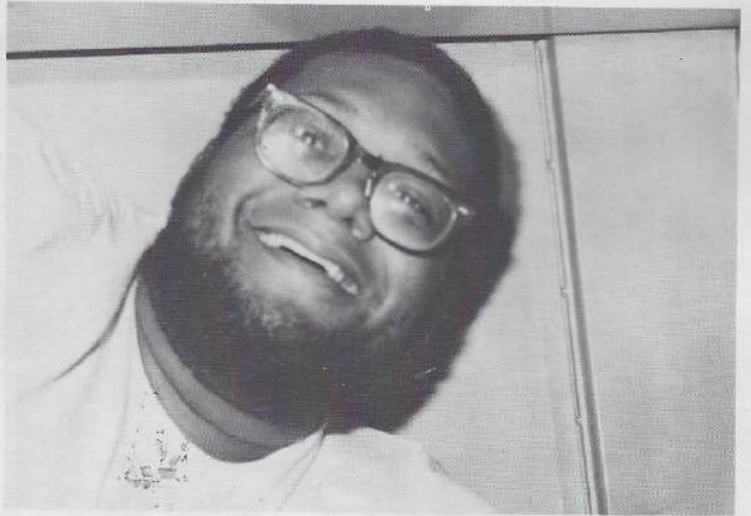
Fric and Frac



Don't sweat me Chief. It will be turned in today.



The bean eating a bean



Mel "the bear" Robinson



Caught skating again

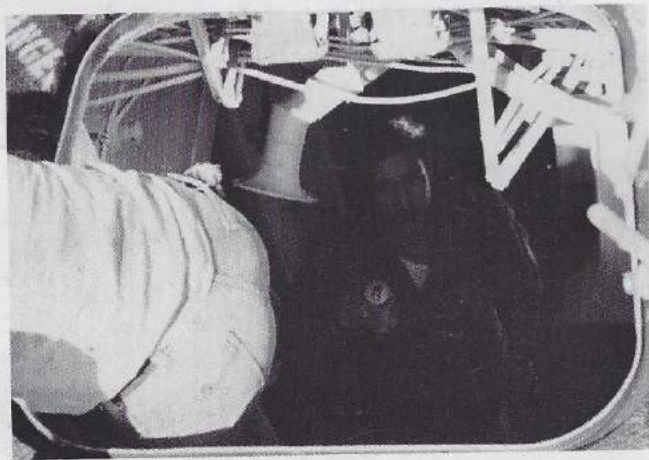


Guess who's sleep walking again!

CM DIVISION



Where did we find this guy?



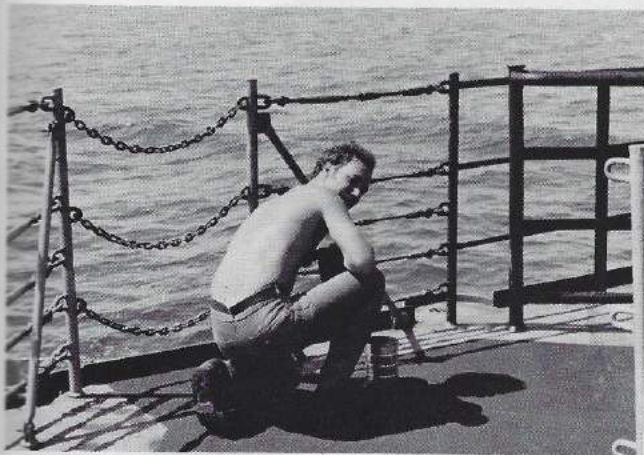
Have a Coke and a smile.



Irony at it's best!



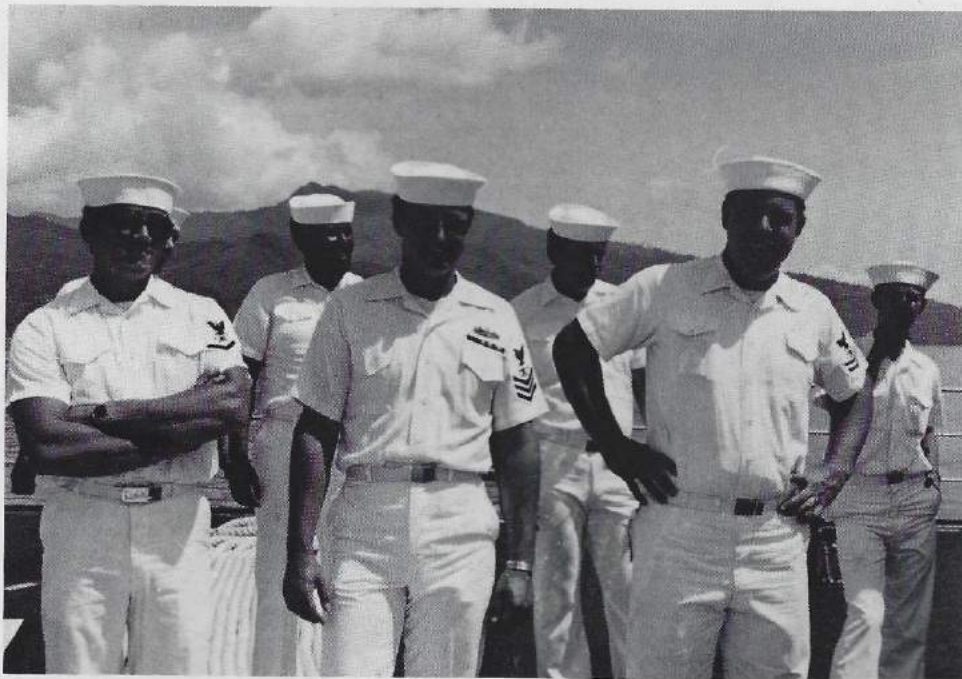
Home, James!



Nature boy



Pretty boy Jerry

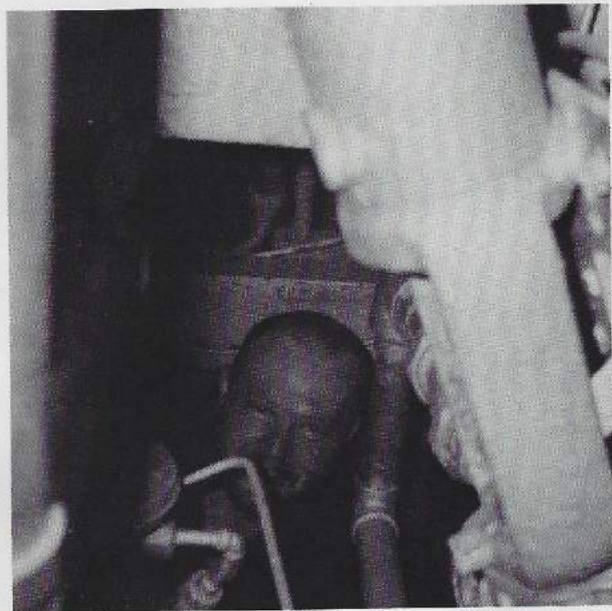


How did we get stuck with all these misfits?

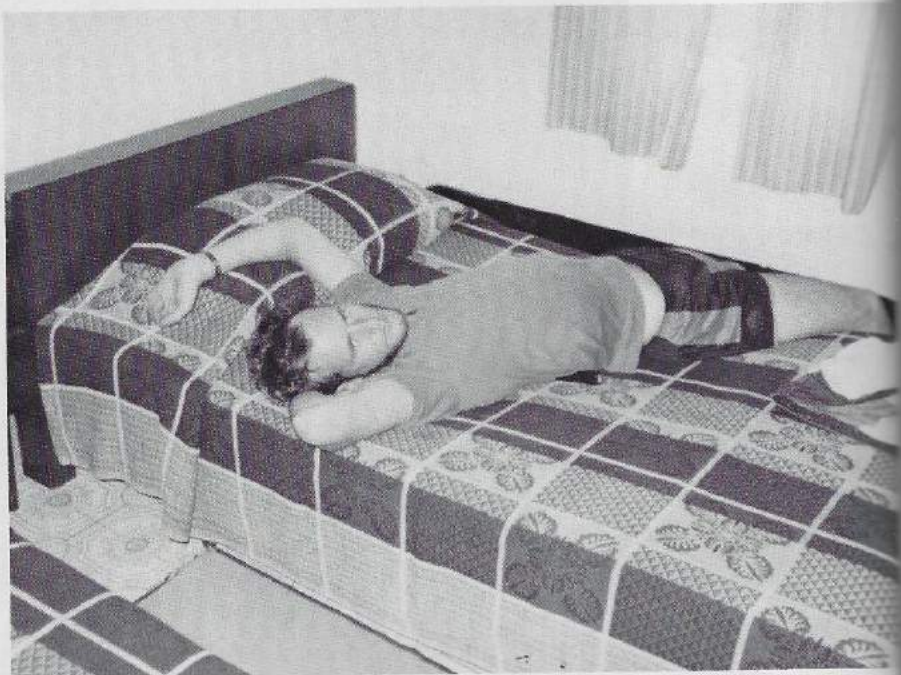
A GANG



HT2 and EN2



EN FN Patton working in the hole

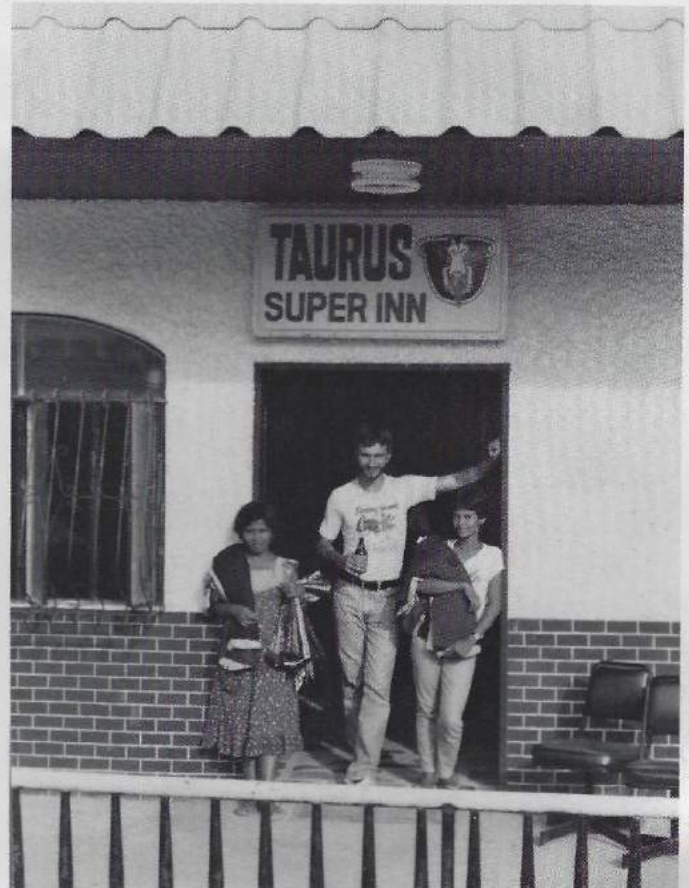
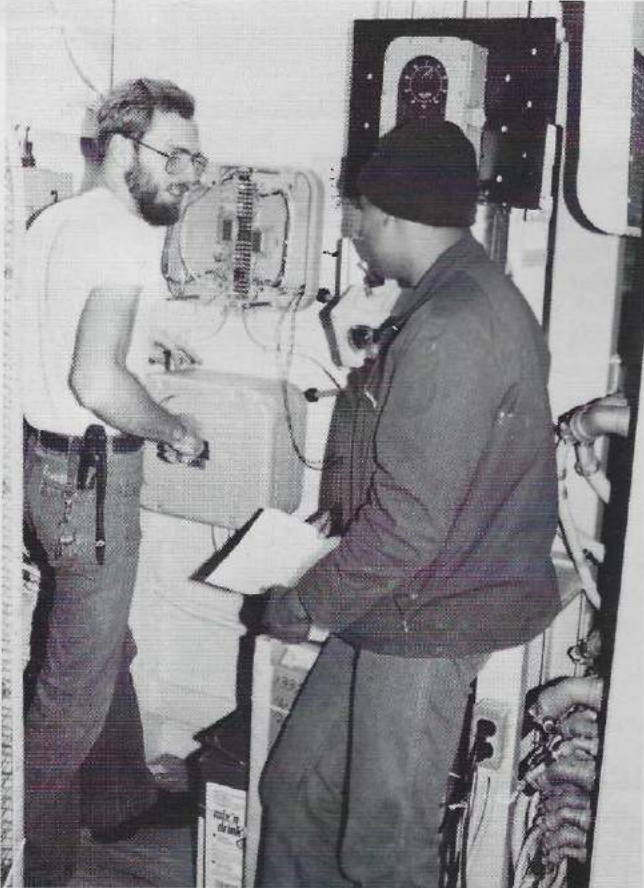
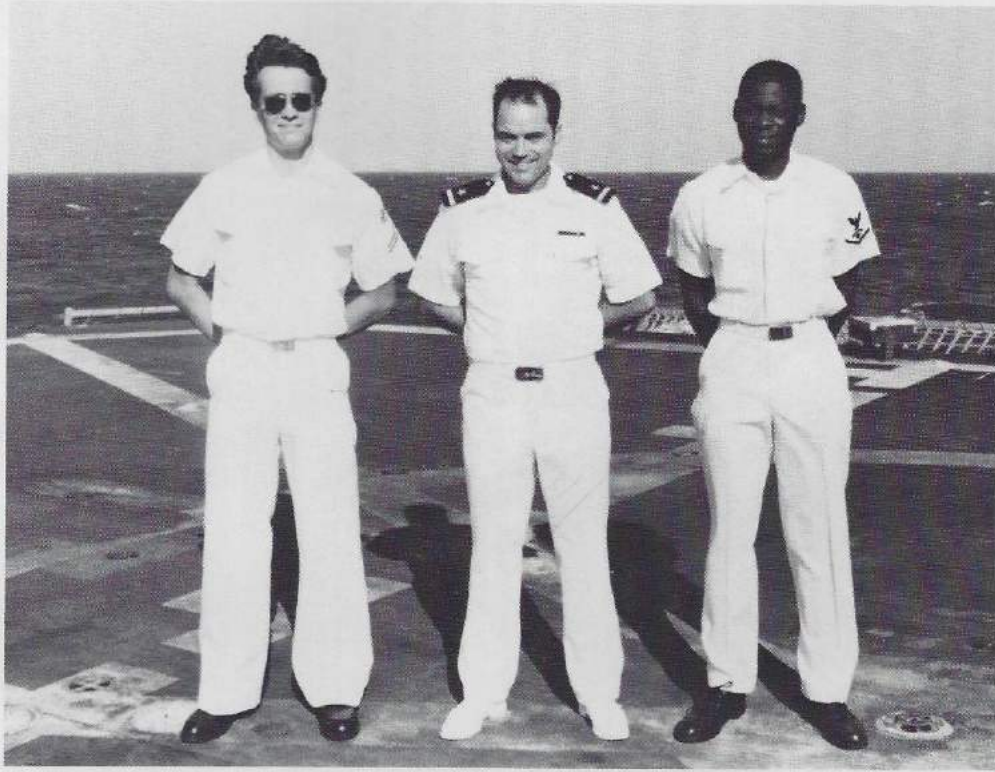


Ah, a real bed at last.

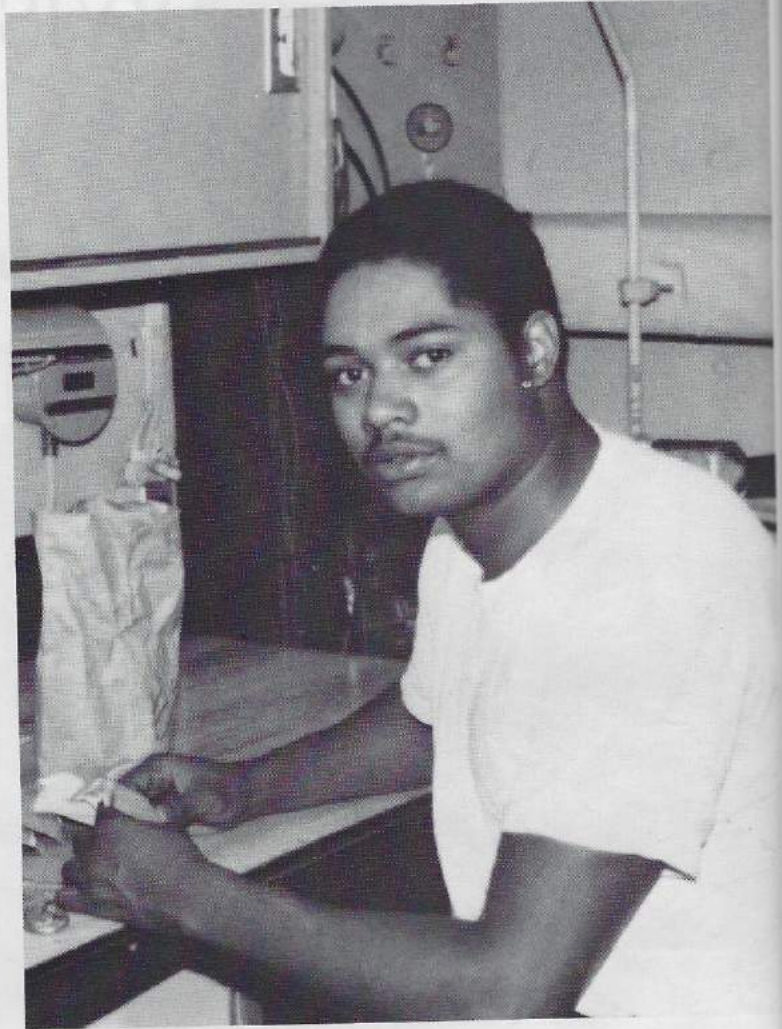


Practice makes perfect!

E DIVISION



I gave at the office!



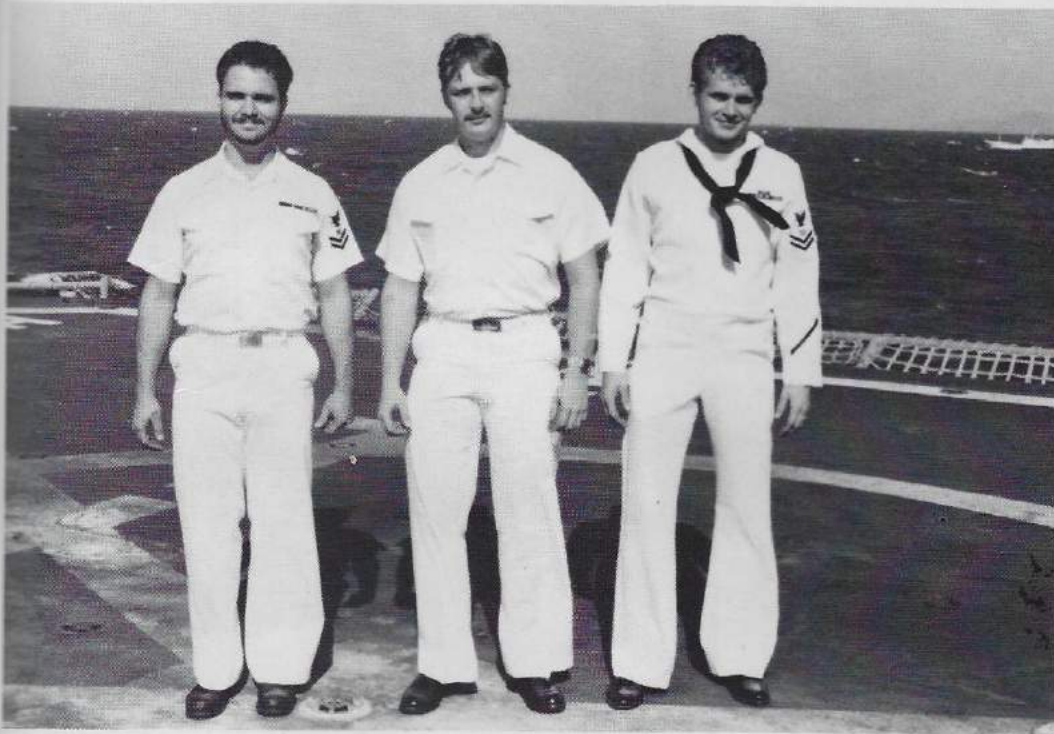
You need what fixed?

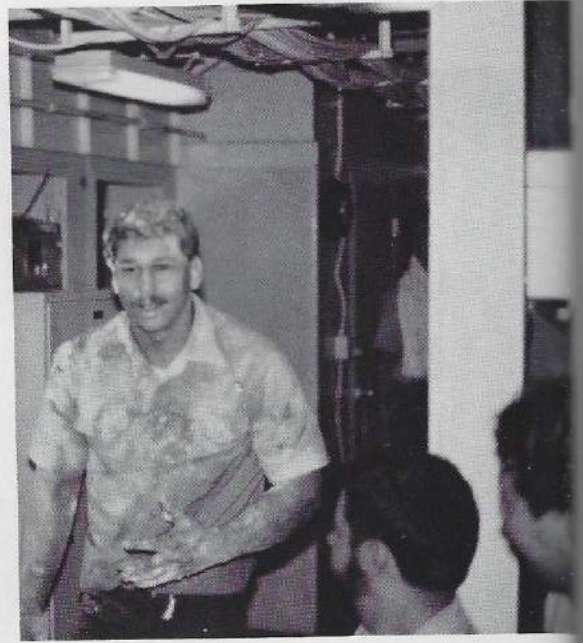


Suave!



R. DIVISION

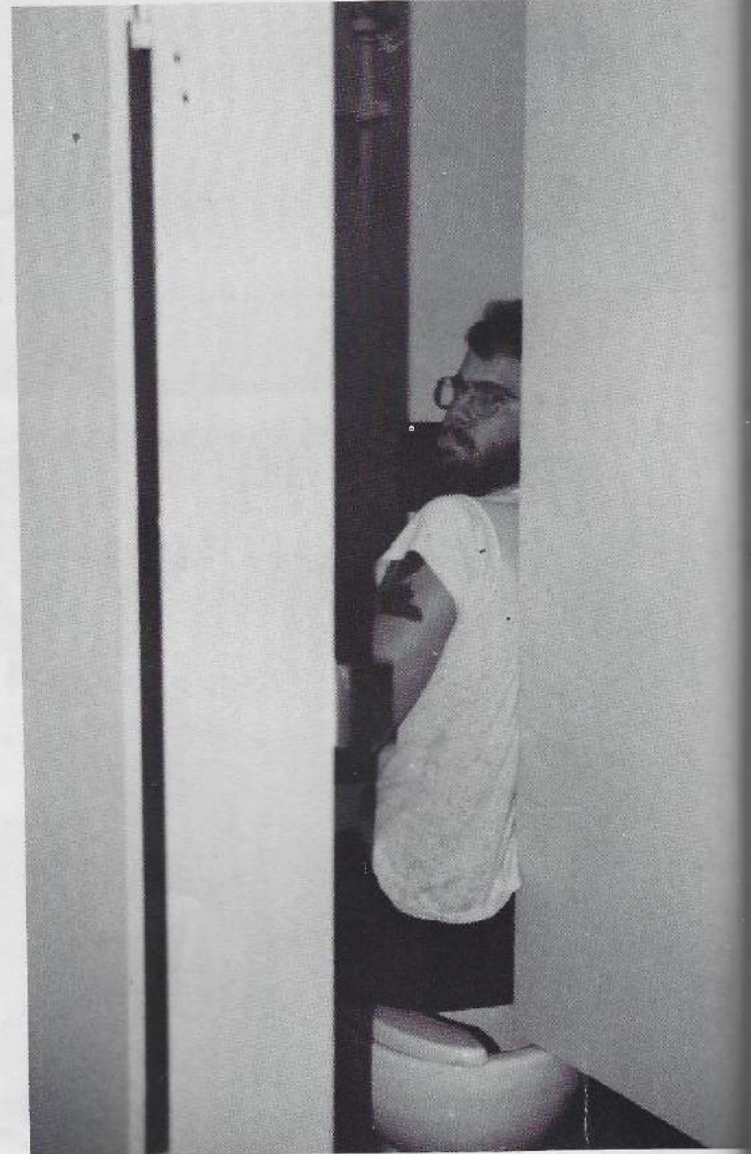




HT2 Wright with a bit of a dandruff problem



HT3 Davis

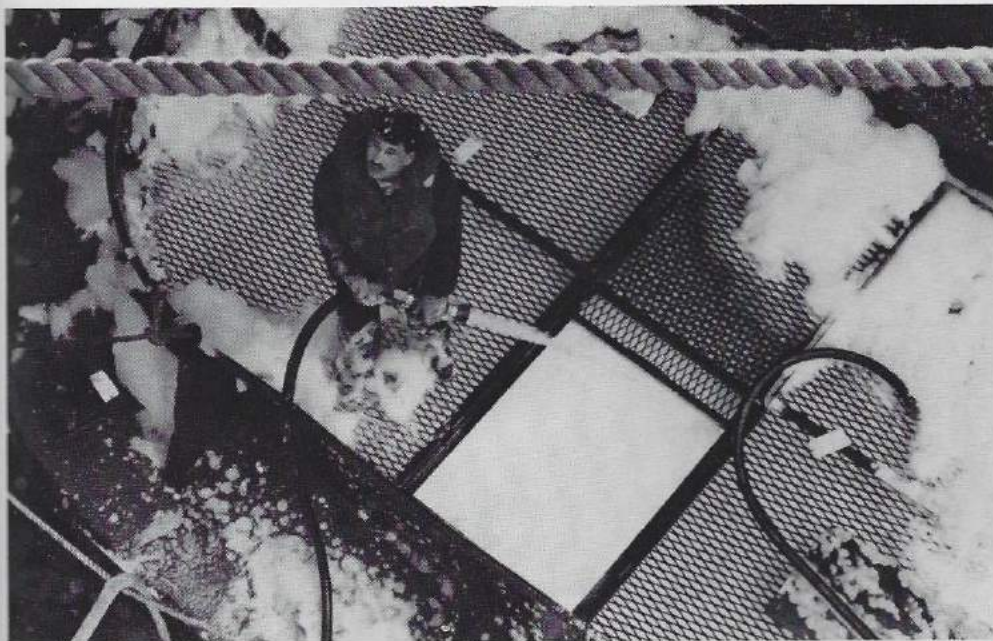


I told you, never disturb my dinner!





Your place or mine?



How much foam you want?

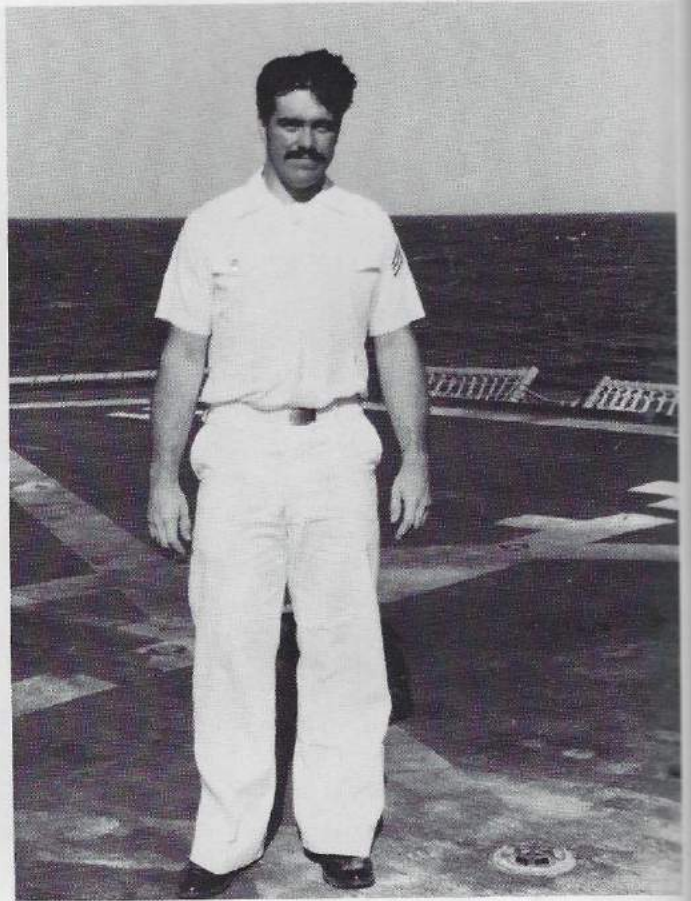
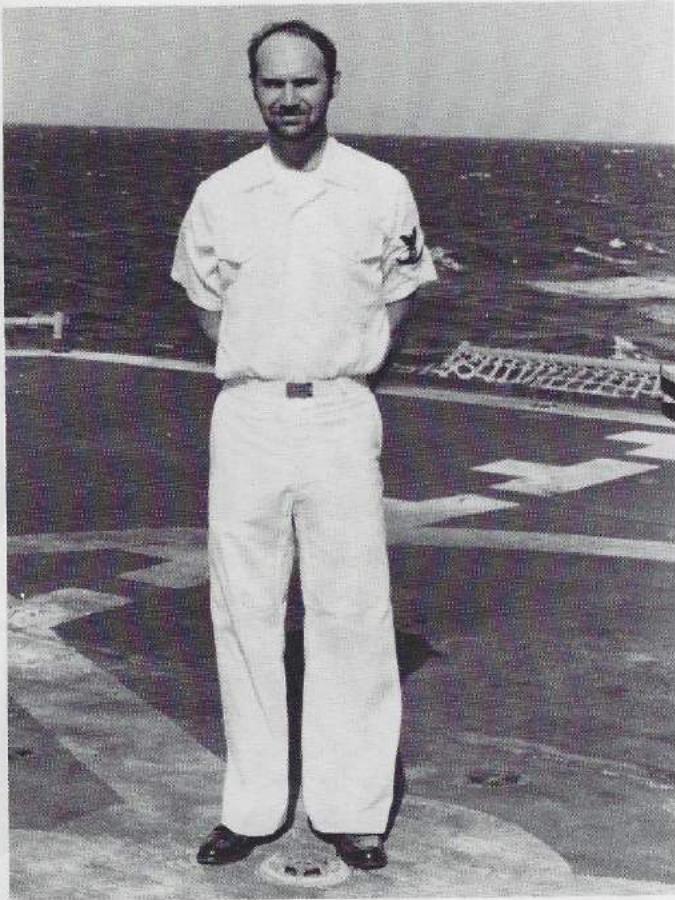


Watch this!

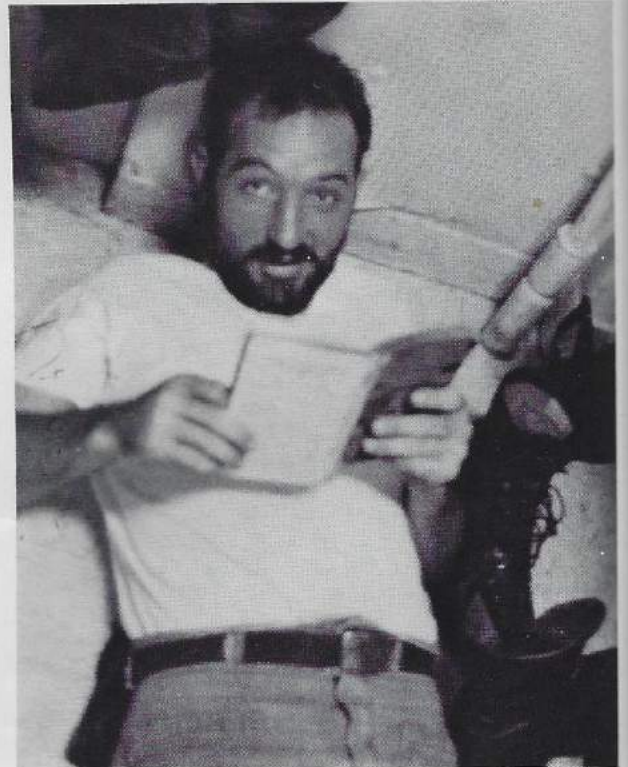
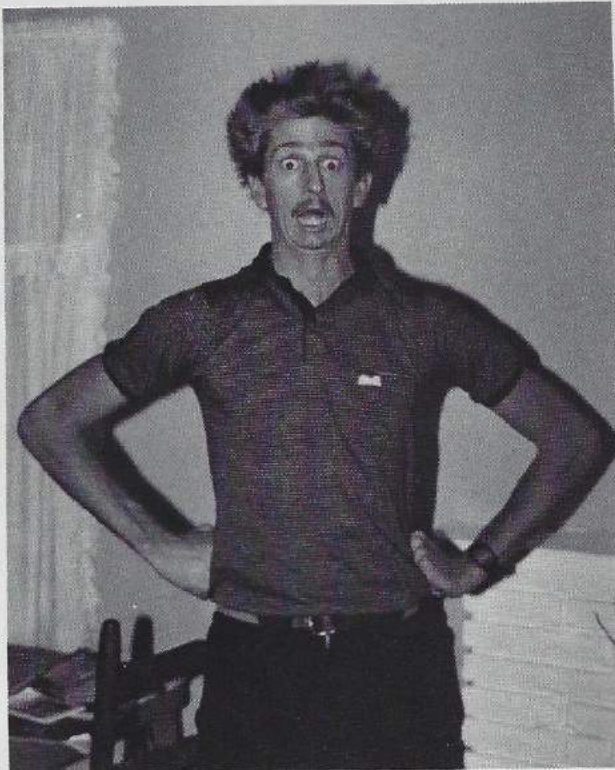


The Rock Brothers

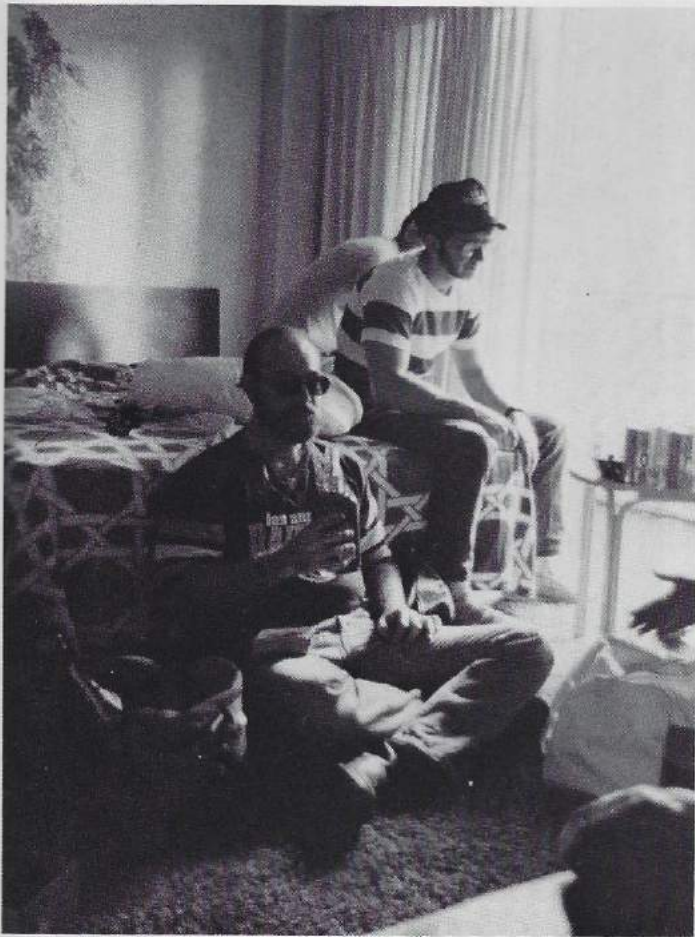




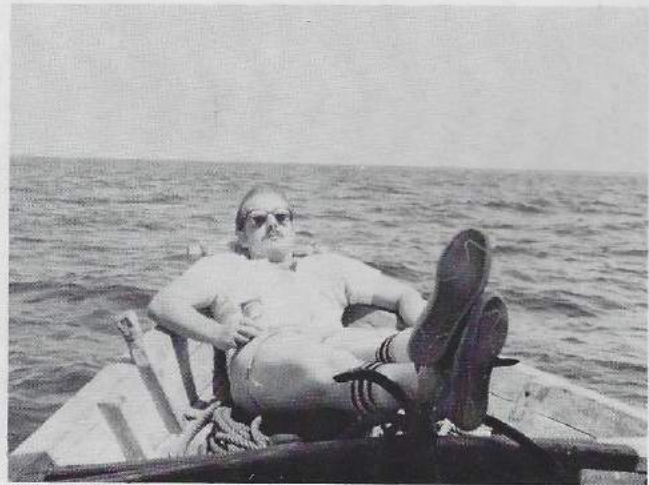
M.P. DIVISION



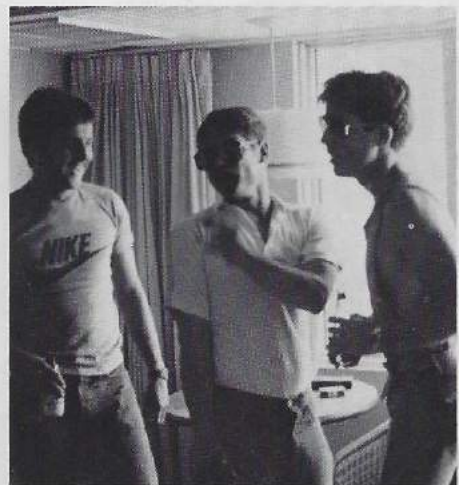
Ben-wa reading "Bill the Galactic Hero"



Buck and Mickey



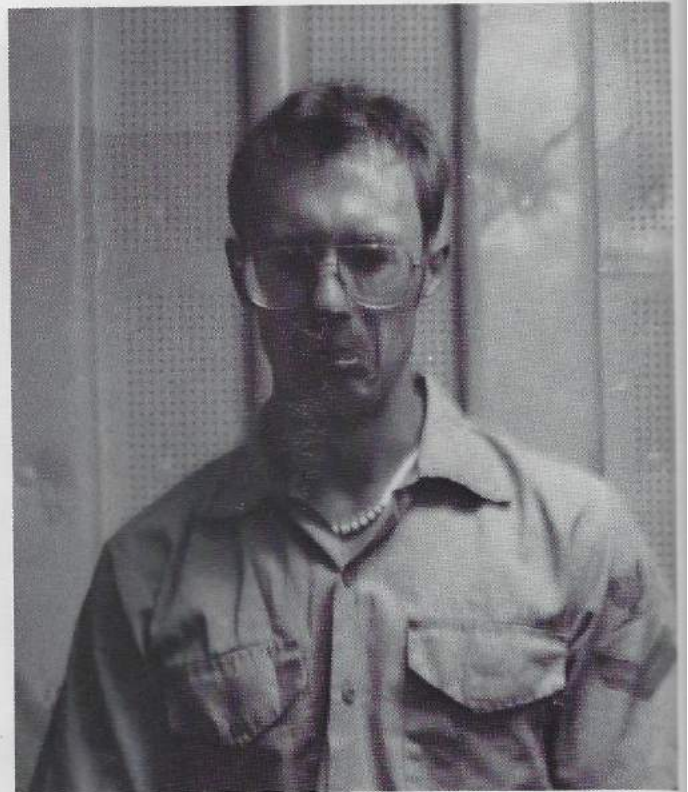
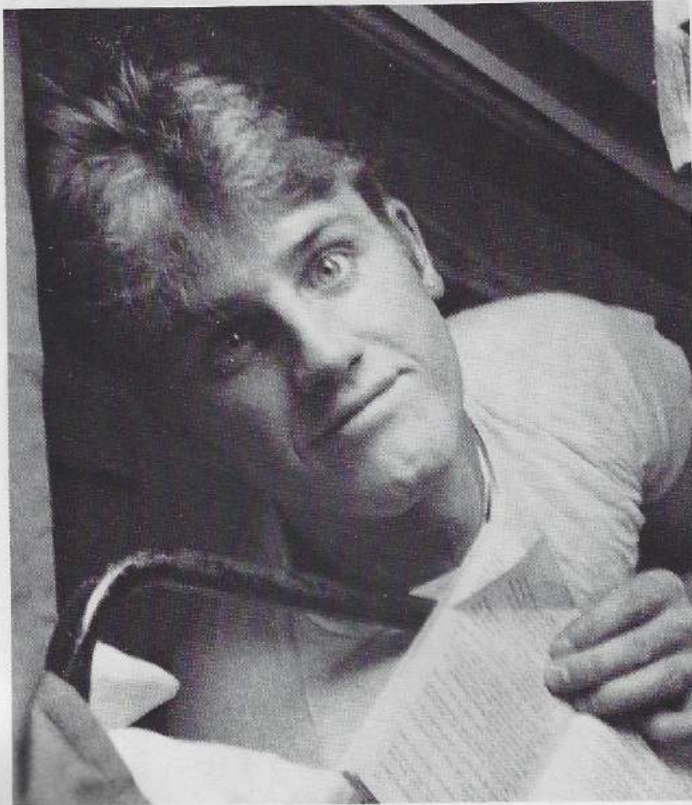
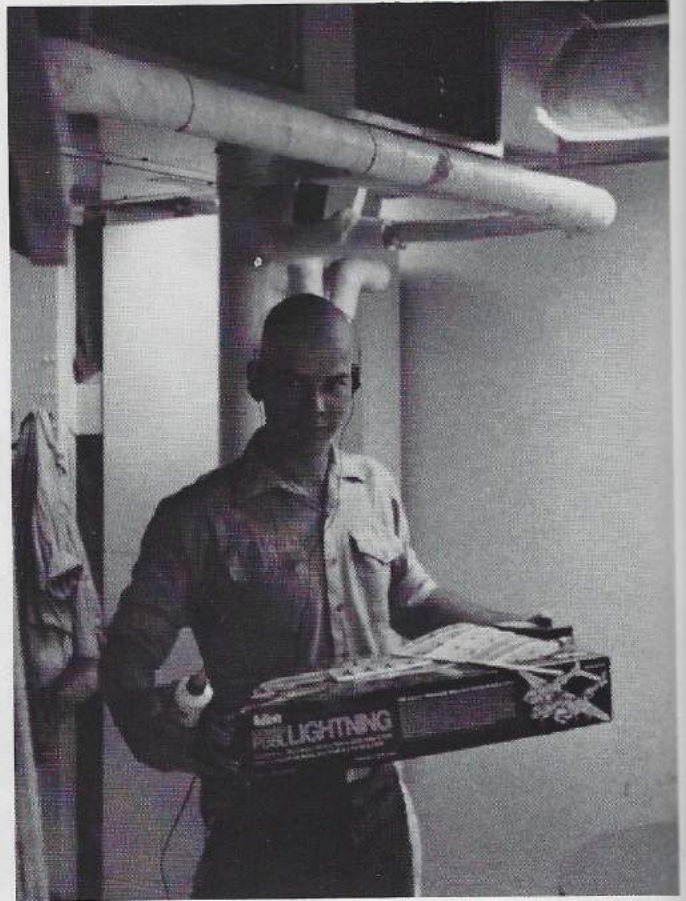
Never travel coach



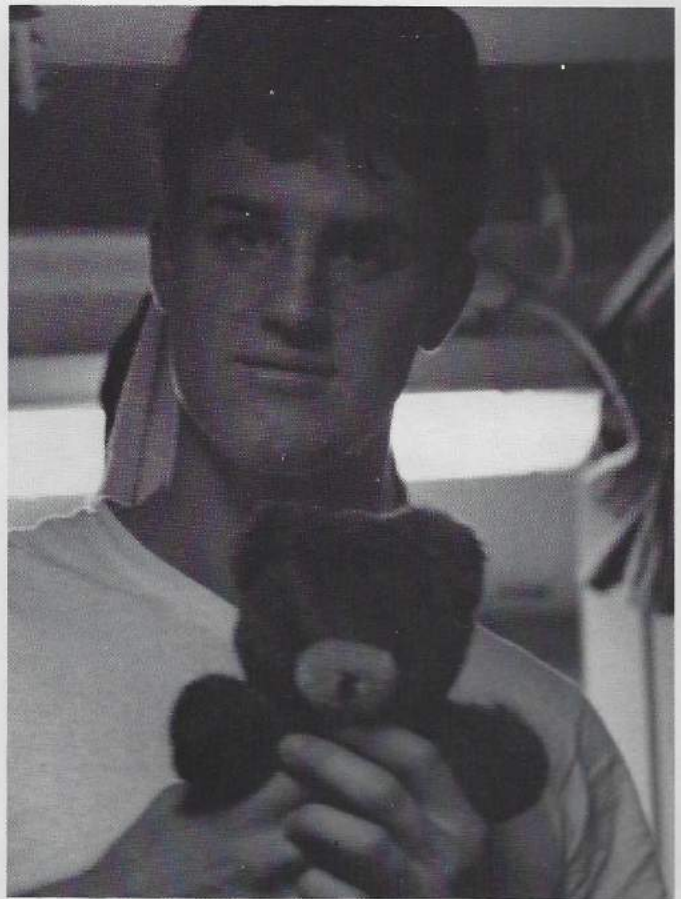
Time to hit the town!



MP morning muster



We can't leave Subic!



Look what I got!

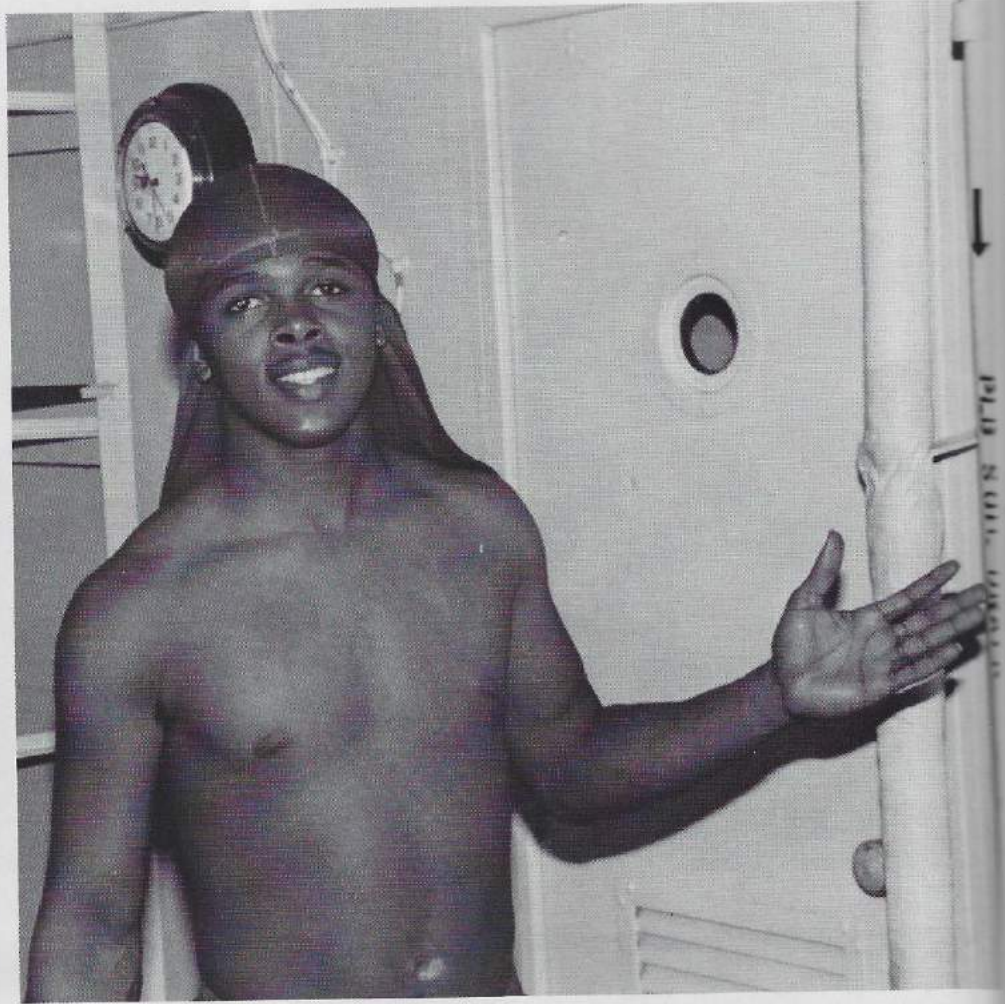
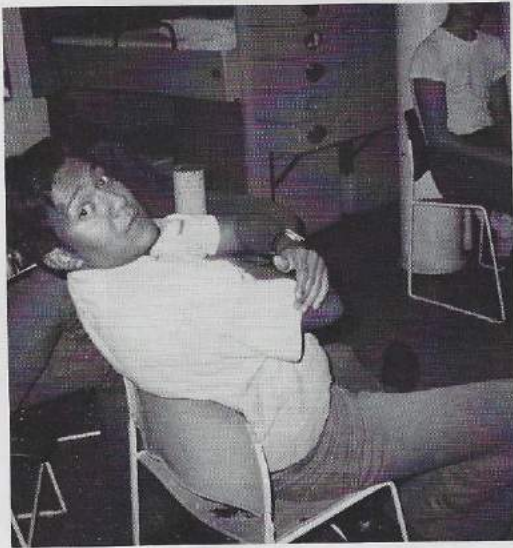


A brief stopover before a hard day at the office

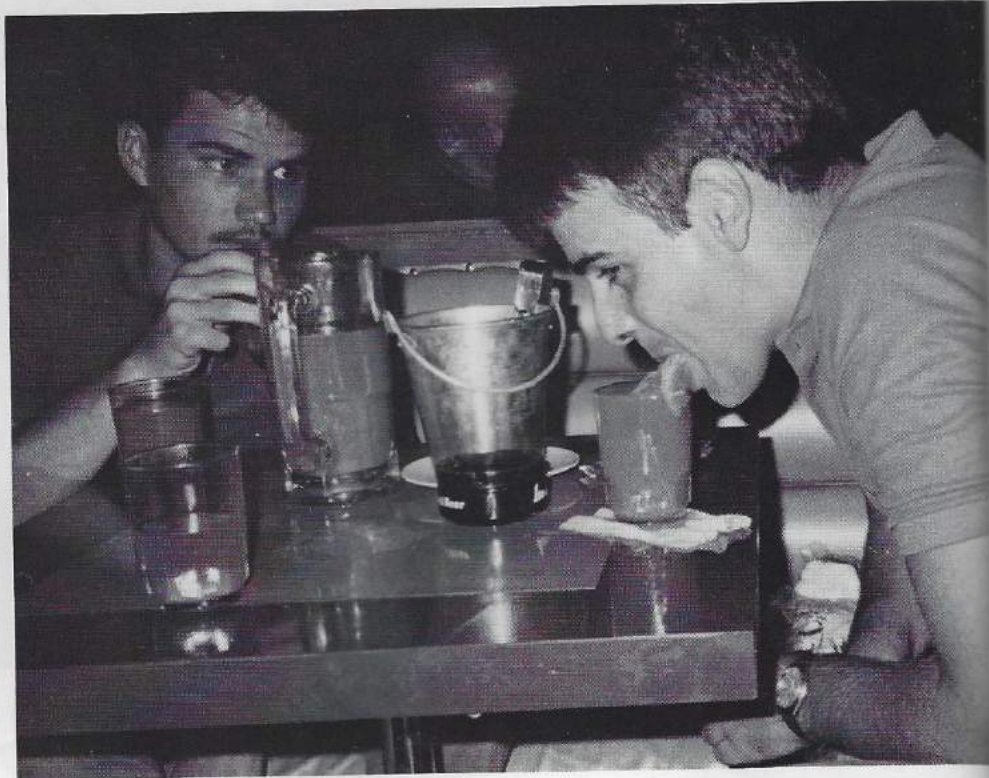
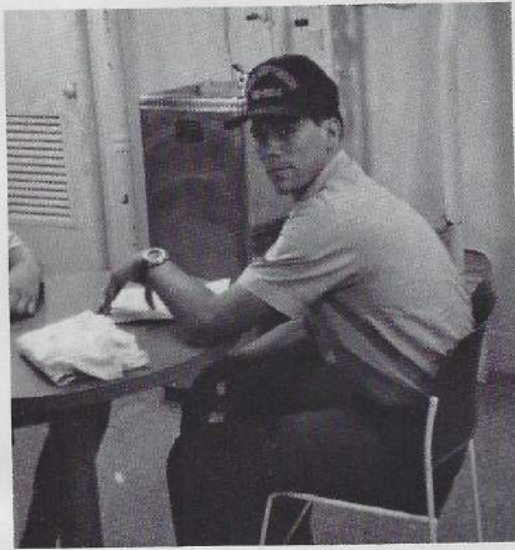


4 more hours left!

NX DIVISION



Shiek Abdul Anderson (Shiek Yerbootie?)





Top of the day



Caught ya!



Devries, ala carte





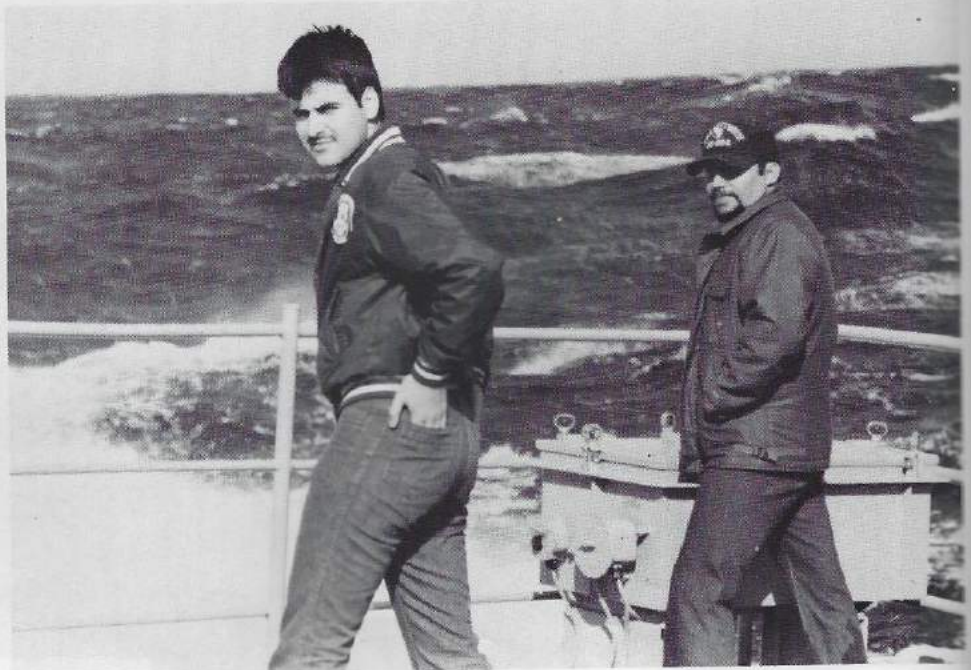
Out for a cruise



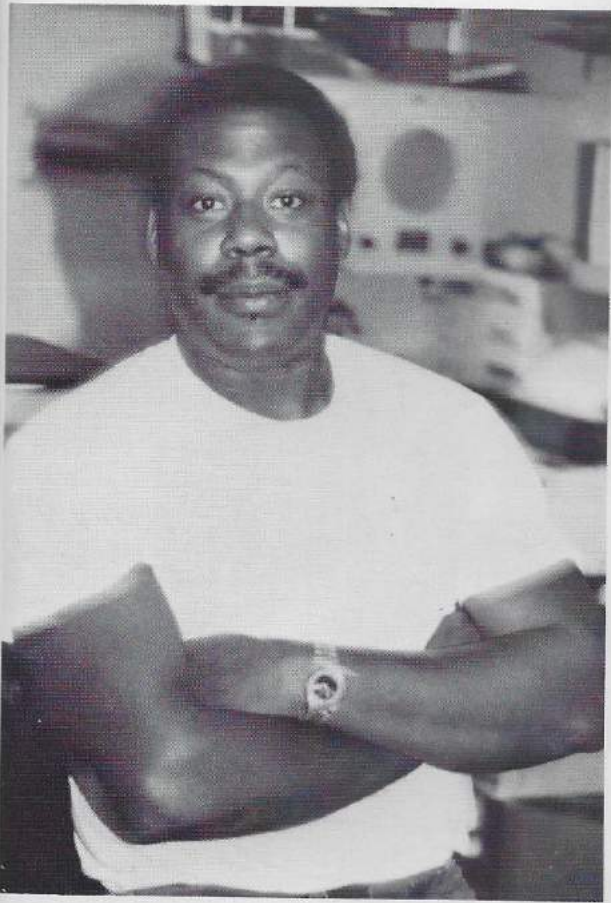
Rap session



Buck catching flies



Fashion smart!

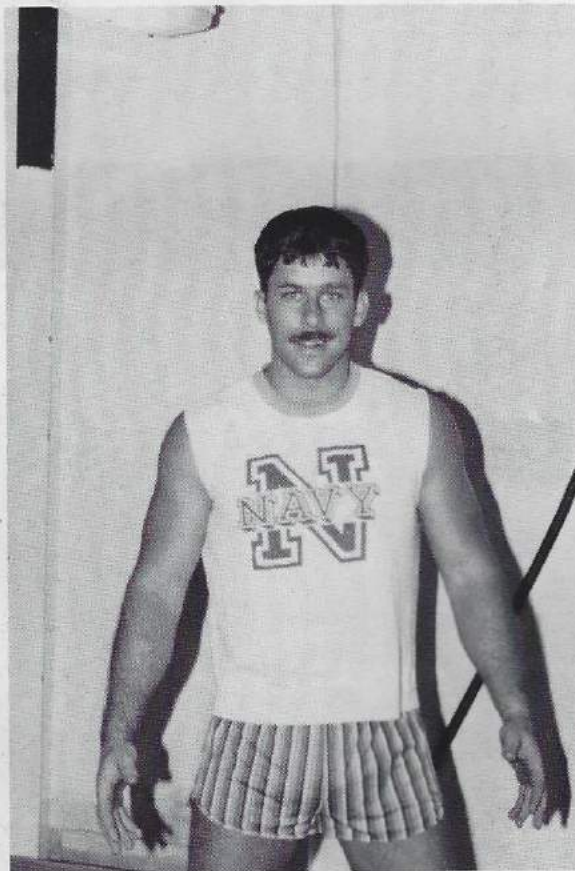


Up, up and away!

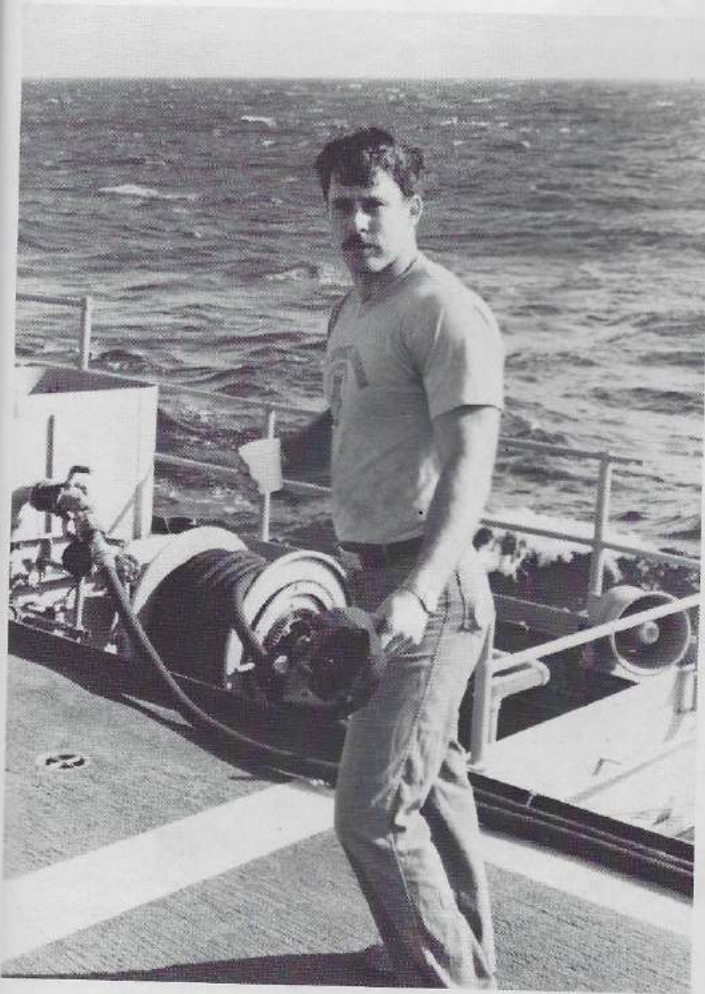
OI



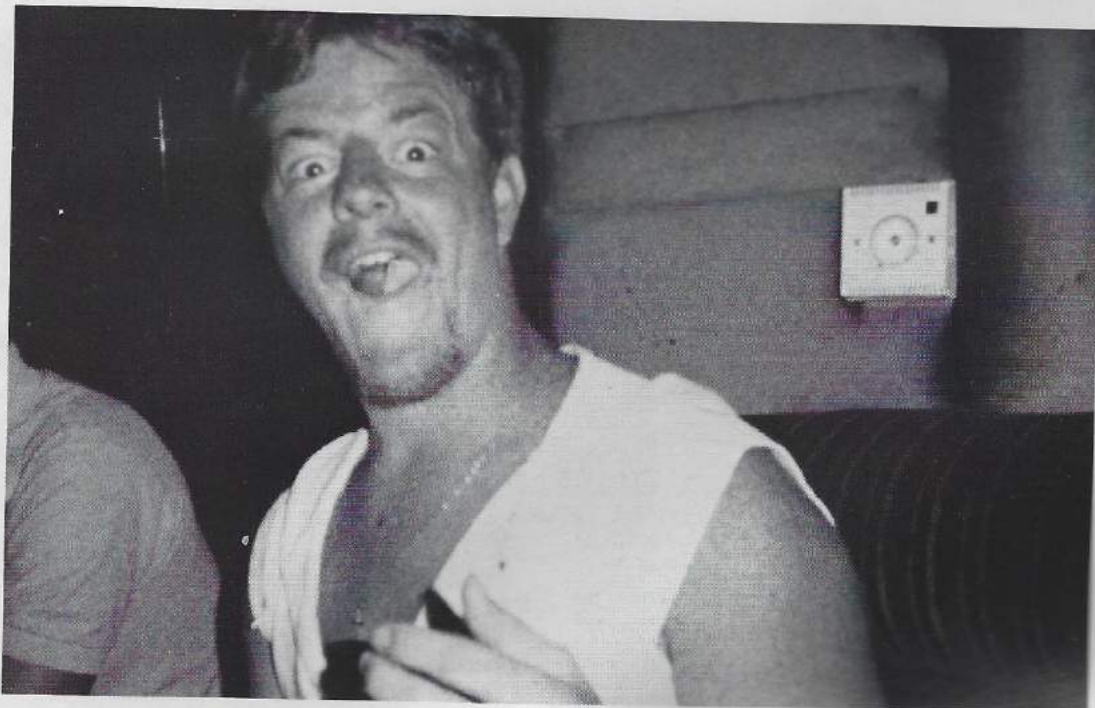
Looks like P.I. revenge to me



Yea! That's right, I'm the quickest draw in the west!



Where is CIC

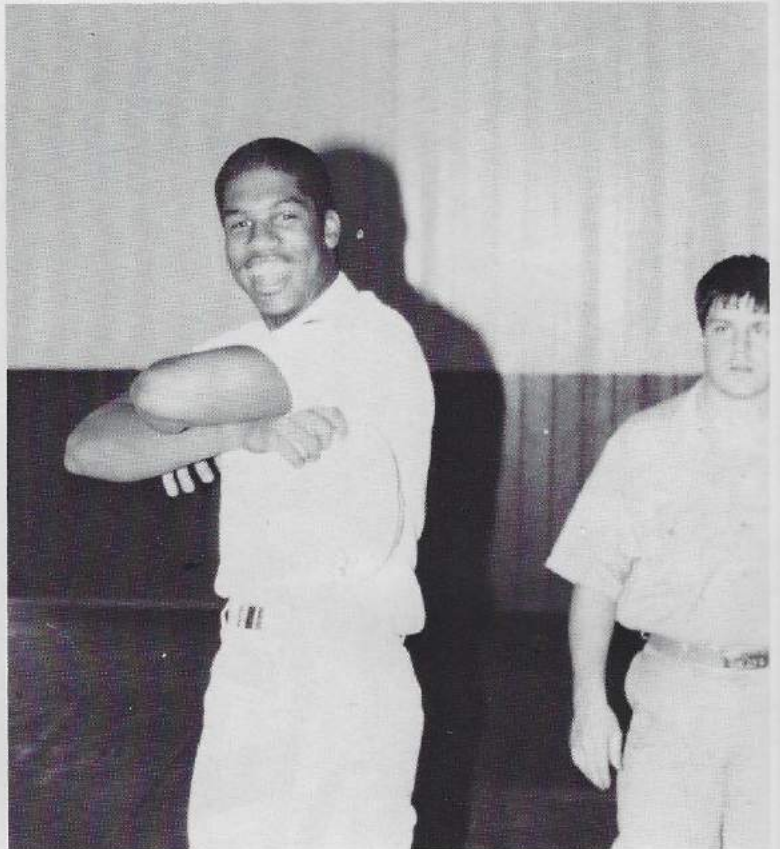


OS3 Jones with a mouthful, as usual

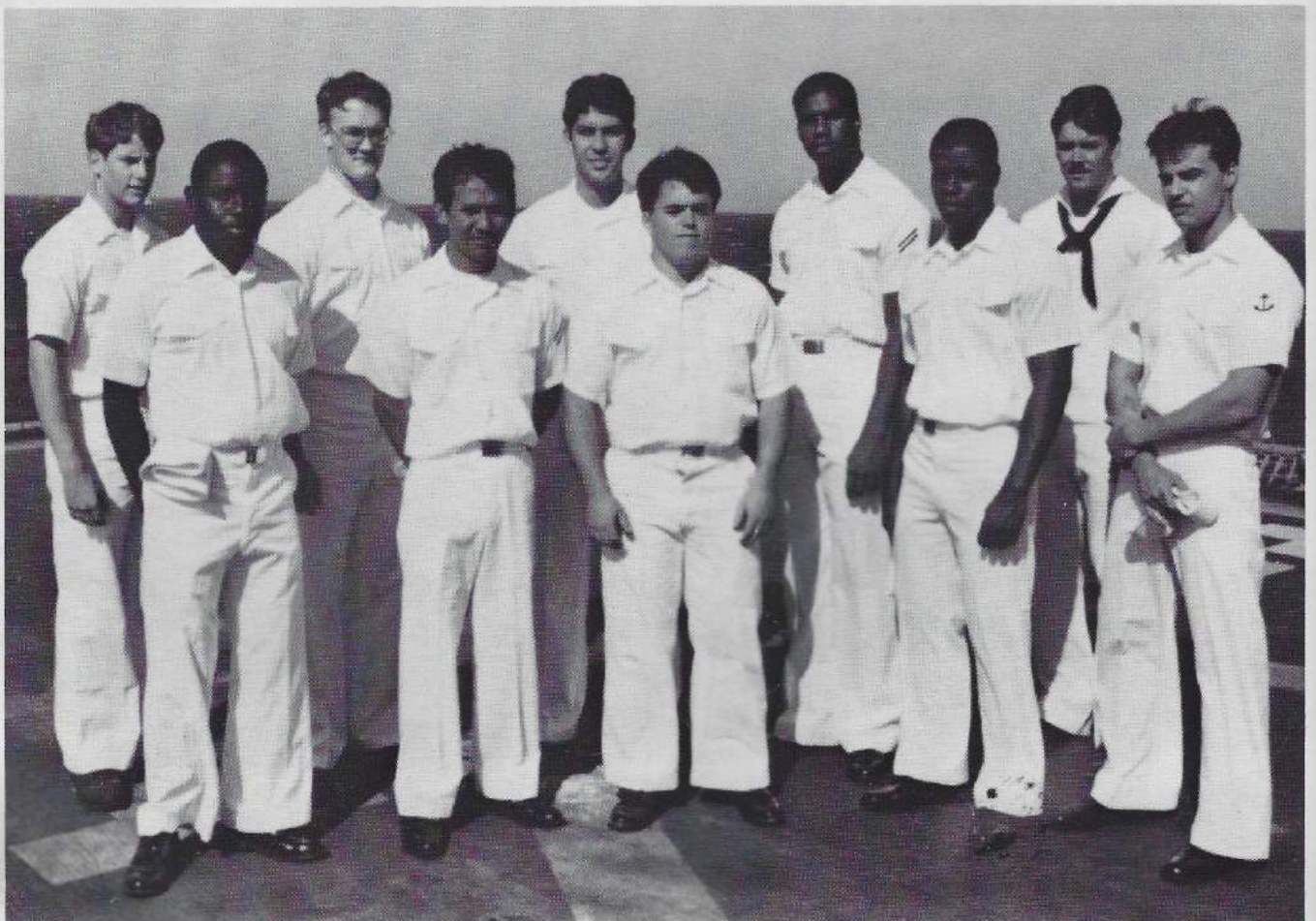
OD



Tell those guys to learn how to drive.



SN Spencer strutting his stuff.





Just another rescue mission



Is it in yet?



SN Stewart taking high ground



Be serious! I don't know how to operate this thing!





Hang loose, bro!

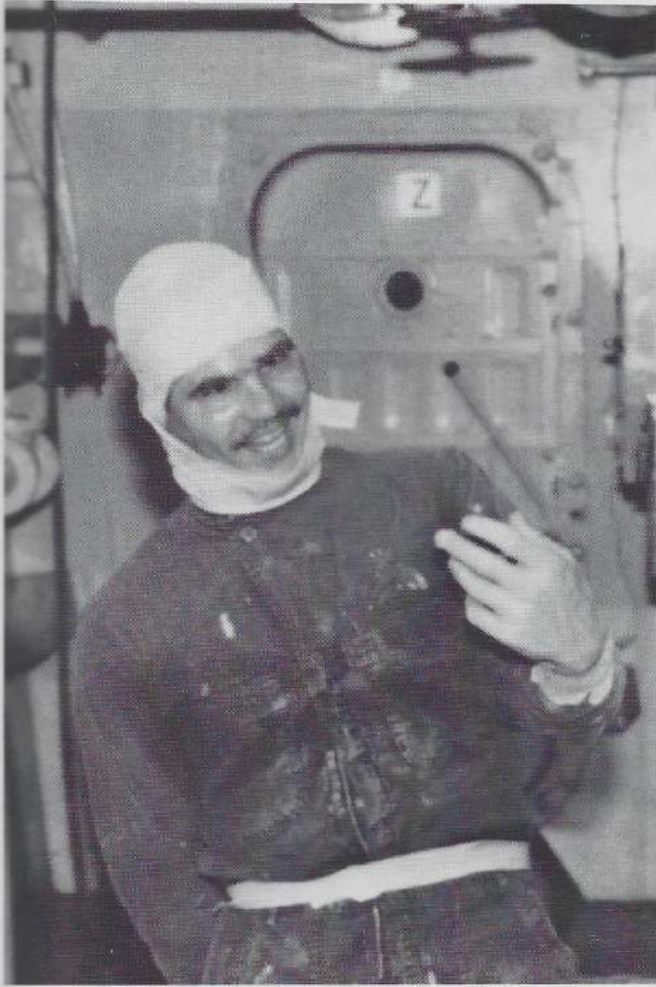


The party animals of O.D. Div.



Copenhagen brother





All those paint fumes make anything amusing.



The human seagull

Spanky really blew it this time!

OC



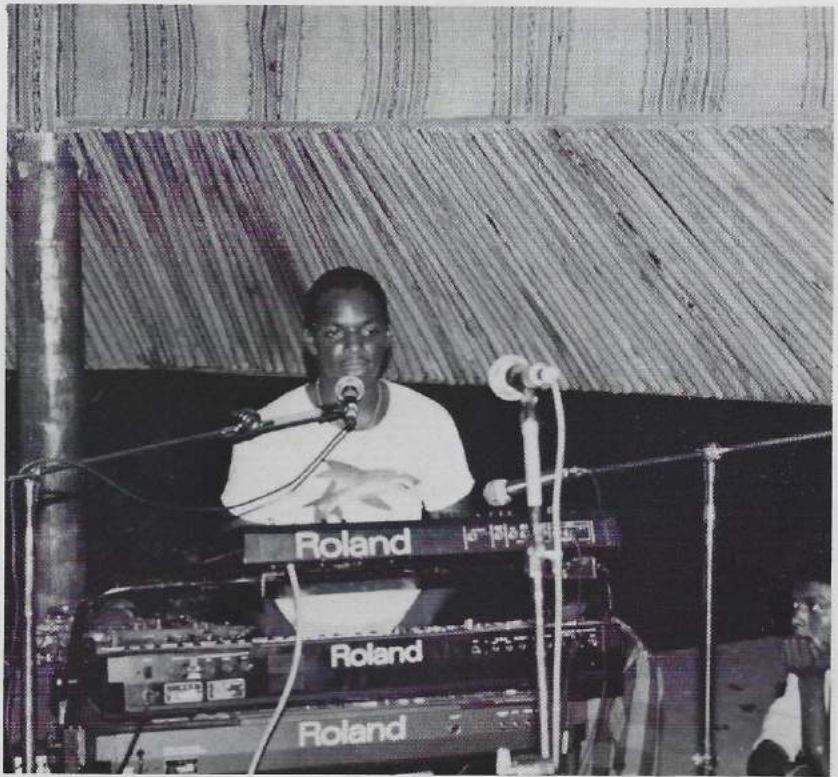
You may have the clearance, but you don't have the need to know.



Their too cheap to give me flags.

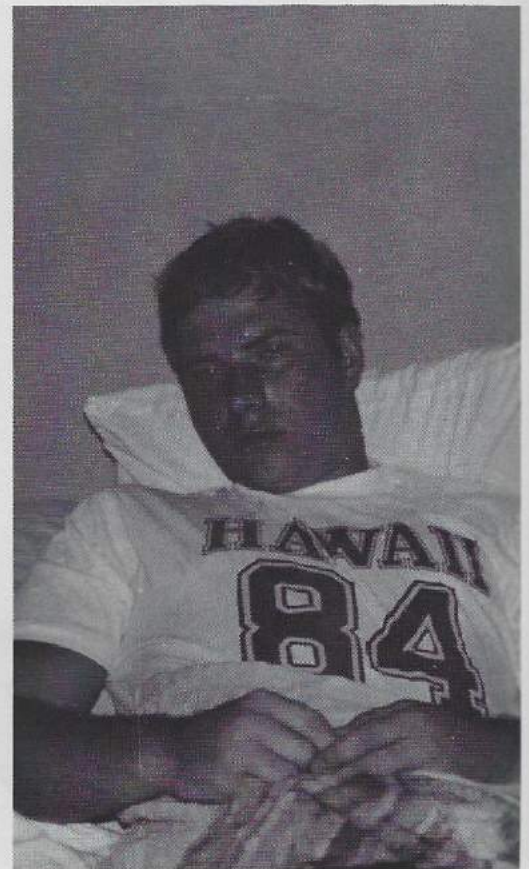
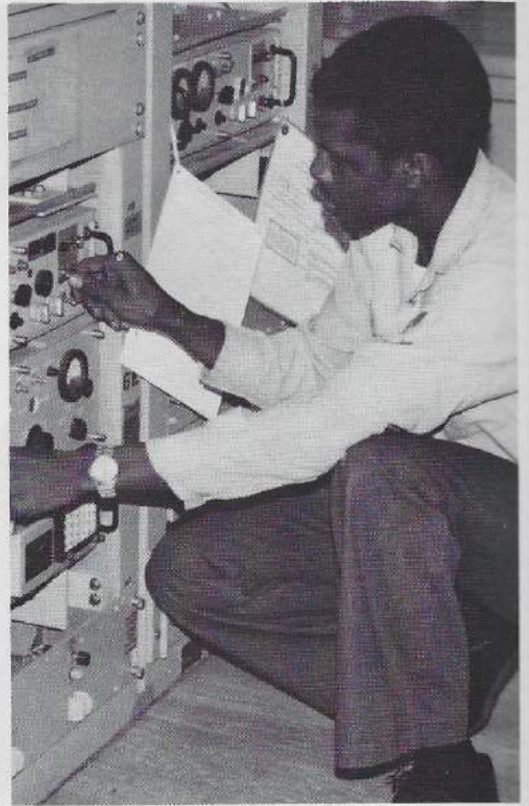


RM2 Hanf impersonating a fly boy.

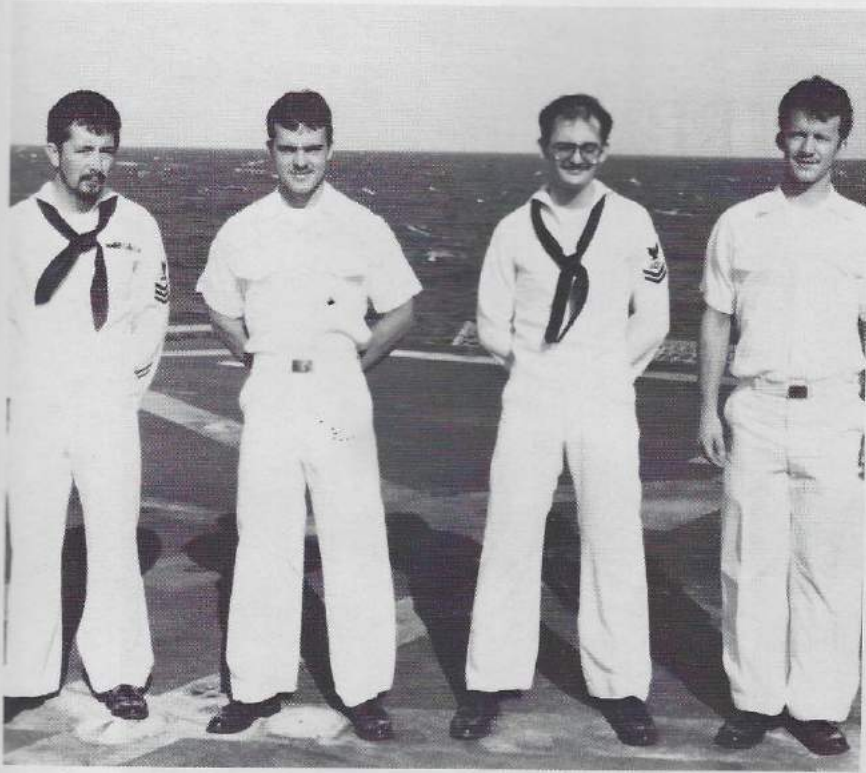


Fame turning out the tunes.

This is a no shitter guys.



Too much to drink will do it every time.

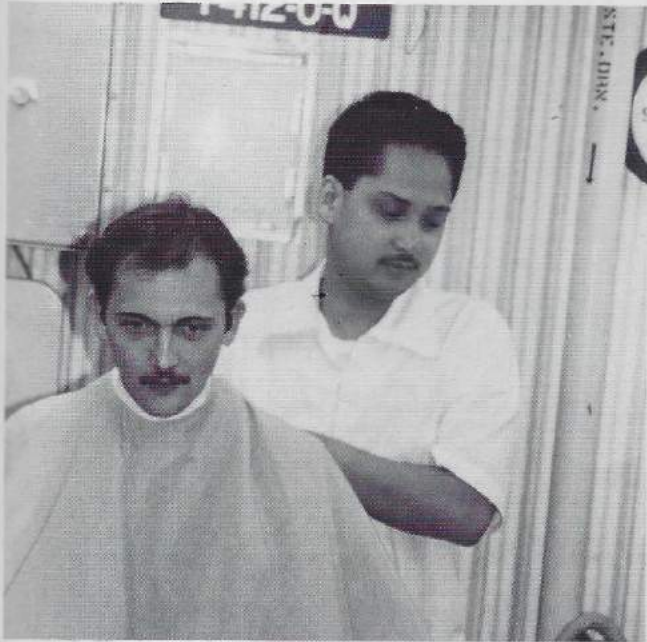


I could have had a V-8.



SUPPLY

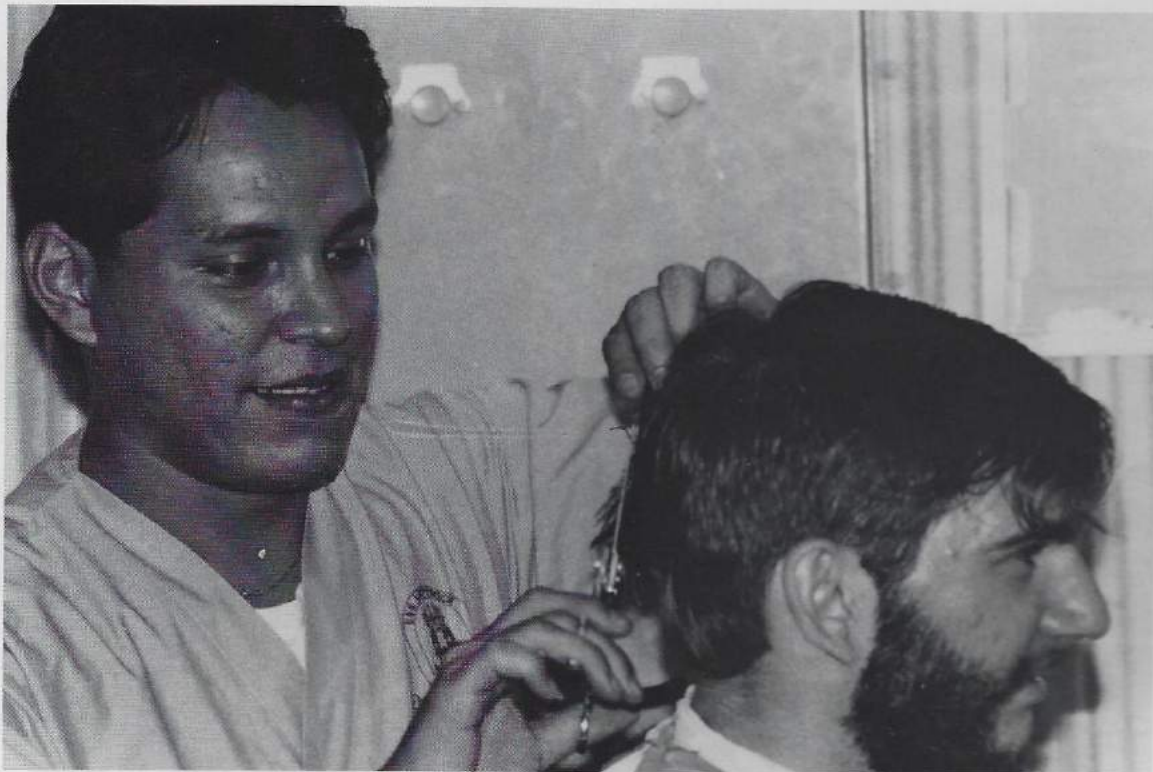




Razor Rod at it again.



Where's my balut!



FLIGHT QUARTER GANG





Ho, ho, ho, MARY FLIGHT OPS.



FLIGHT
HELO DET.





MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD ONBOARD USS LEFTWICH (DD-984) ON 20 AUGUST 1984 EULOGY FOR: LT. GLENN MILLER AND LTJG MARK COOPER

SHOCK, GRIEF, AND DISBELIEF! A PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS GRIP US ALL THIS MORNING. MANY ASK, WHY? OTHERS WONDER WHY THEM? WHY NOW? THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS. IN WAR DEATH IS EXPECTED, BUT IN PEACETIME? THEIRS IS A RIGOROUS AND DEMANDING PROFESSION. NAVAL AVIATION INVOLVES RISK AND DANGER. WE KNOW THAT SOMEHOW IT IS ALWAYS ANOTHER SHIP, ANOTHER HELO DET. DEATH DOES NOT KEEP ITS DISTANCE. IN THE WORDS OF THE PREACHER, IN THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES;

"AGAIN I SAW THAT UNDER THE SUN, THE RACE IS NOT TO THE SWIFT, NOT THE BATTLE TO THE STRONG, NOR BREAD TO THE WISE, NOR RICHES TO THE INTELLIGENT, NOR FAVOR TO THE MEN OF SKILL; BUT TIME AND CHANCE HAPPEN TO THEM ALL. FOR MAN DOES NOT KNOW HIS TIME. LIKE FISH WHICH ARE TAKEN IN AN EVIL NET, AND LIKE BIRDS WHICH ARE CAUGHT IN A SNARE, SO THE SONS OF MEN ARE SNARED AT EVIL TIME, WHEN IT SUDDENLY FALLS UPON THEM." ECCLESIASTES 9:11-12

THIS TIME IT HAPPENED TO LT. MILLER; LTJG COOPER; ON OUR SHIP, TO OUR HELO DET. THEIR DEATHS ARE THEN A PERSONAL MATTER, THEY WERE NOT STRANGERS, BUT ONE OF US. WE WORKED WITH THEM, ATE WITH THEM, TALKED, LAUGHED AND LIVED WITH THEM. WE KNEW THEM BY MORE THEN NAME, THEY WERE ONE OF US, NOW THEY ARE GONE. IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY. HOW INTENSE WAS THAT TIME? ALL TURNED TO, ALL OUR TRAINING, TIME, AND TALENT, INSTINCT AND ENERGY WAS NOT IN VAIN. YOU DID YOUR BEST. AW2 MONTGOMERY STANDS IN OUR MIDST THIS MORNING; A WITNESS TO YOUR WORK, HIS WILL AND GOD'S GRACE.

I KNEW LT. MILLER AND LTJG COOPER BUT A MATTER OF MONTHS. YET, I WAS IMPRESSED BY THEIR DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM, EACH BORE A MATURITY BEYOND THEIR YEARS. AS THEY HAD EARNED THEIR WINGS, SO THEY ALSO EARNED THE RESPECT AND AFFECTION OF OFFICERS AND CREW A LIKE. LT. MILLER IMPRESSED ME AS A QUIET, THOUGHTFUL, DEDICATION AND DELIBERATE OFFICER, WHOSE SHY SMILE WOULD LIGHT UP HIS FACE. SURELY, HIS FATHER CAN BE PROUD TO HAVE HAD SUCH A SON. LTJG COOPER WAS PROUD TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY. HE HOPED FOR A LONG AND LOYAL CAREER IN THE NAVAL SERVICE. BEHIND HIS SELF ASSURANCE AND APPARENT BRAVADO, WAS A SENSITIVE AND SERIOUS INDIVIDUAL WHO CARED DEEPLY ABOUT THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE WORKED, AND THE PROFESSION HE HAD CHOSEN. YOU WHO KNEW THEM BEST, THEIR FELLOW OFFICERS AND CREW, CAN RECALL FAR BETTER THAN I, THE MEASURE OF THESE MEN.

WHAT THEN SHALL BE THEIR LEGACY TO US?

IN THE FACE OF DEATH, LIFE TAKES ON A SUDDEN URGENCY AND INTENSITY. HOW EASY IT IS TO TAKE THE ATTITUDE OF JUST THEY ALL FIND THE COURAGE FOR THE FACING OF THESE DAYS. MAY THE PEACE AND COMFORT OF GOD BE WITH THEM ALL.

HEAR NOW THESE WORDS FROM PAULS LETTER TO THE ROMANS IN THE EIGHTH CHAPTER; "WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? SHALL TRIBULATION OR DISTRESS, OR PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORDS?" "NO, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. FOR I'M SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD." ROMANS 8

AMEN



Cruisebook Committee

LT Norman
ENS Asmus
FTG2 Boldig
RMSN Brown
ET3 Denyko
PN3 Eliason
HT3 Knight
DS3 Lecroy
GSM2 Rattle
TM3 Swanson
BMSN Vinson
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