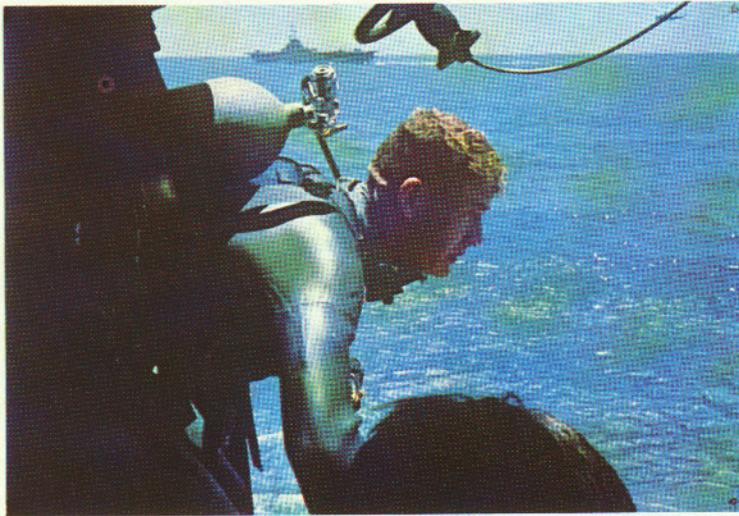
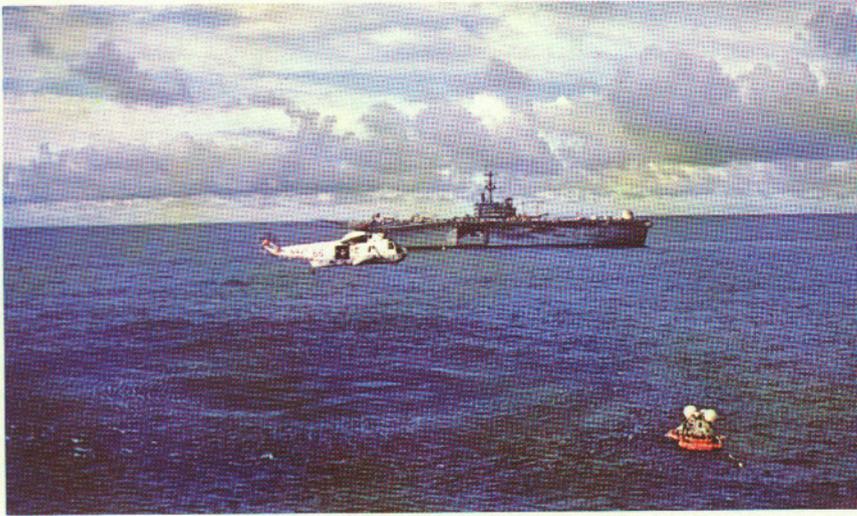


## SUPPORT FORCES



Sea King and Iwo Jima stand by Apollo 13 capsule after its eventful flight, top. UDT swimmer, center, prepares to jump in support of Apollo 10 training. Princeton appears in background. All-Navy crew of Apollo 12, Conrad, Gordon and Bean, bottom photo, wait pickup.

The historic *Apollo 11* flight serves as an example of a typical recovery operation — beginning with flight deck control aboard *Hornet* (CVS-12) announcing, “Flight crews, man your aircraft.” Aircrews of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Four climbed into their SH-3D *Sea Kings* and headed for their assigned positions, one a mile up range and one a mile down range of *Hornet*, with the primary recovery and “Photo One” helicopters circling at 1,000 feet a short distance out. *Apollo 11*’s re-entry was first spotted by the crew of an E-1A of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 111, Det. 12, as a “white burning trail.” As the capsule’s parachutes deployed and it descended to the ocean, HS-4’s #53 moved into position near splashdown. When the capsule was in the water, #53 immediately marked the position with a dye marker as Photo One came to a hover at 40 feet, 100 feet to one side. Swimmer helo #64 approached next and dropped three swimmers of UDT-11 into the water. The swimmers attached and inflated the Navy-designed flotation collar, then deployed sea anchors and life rafts, and made voice contact with the astronauts inside. Helicopter #66 then made a pass and dropped Lt. Hutleburg, officer in charge of the UDT team, and on its next pass, lowered the biological isolation garments to him in a Billy Pugh net. Lt. Hutleburg opened the capsule and passed three of the garments to the astronauts, waited for them to enter the raft for helo-lift to *Hornet*, and then entered the spacecraft to execute decontamination procedures. A fourth B. I. garment was lowered for his use.

Meanwhile, the astronauts arrived on elevator #2 and were lowered to the hangar deck where their Mobile Quarantine Facility awaited them. While television cameras and the eyes of the world followed the astronauts, the Navy’s job continued. The UDT swimmers remained with the capsule,