

MCB-4  
1976

# The European Deployment

## NMCB-4



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# FOCUS on Four



# The European Deployment

Commanding Officer p.3  
Executive Officer p.4  
Master Chief p.5  
The Officers p.6  
Spain p.7  
Alpha p.20  
Bravo p.28  
Charlie p.35  
Headquarters p.41  
Det Sigonella p.52

Det Holy Loch p.63  
Det Diego Garcia p.68  
Milestones p.71  
Det Nea Makri p.73  
Det Souda Bay p.76  
Det La Maddalena p.79  
Det Moron p.81  
Fun & Games p.83  
A lighter look p. 88  
Stragglers p.90



U.S. NAVAL MOBILE  
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FOUR

# Commanding Officer



A previous Ops Officer of FOUR relieves as CO; a previous CO is guest speaker at the Change of Command; and a previous XO returns as COMCBLANT to inspect the battalion.

The history of NMCB FOUR has a way of repeating itself. In the late 50's and early 60's, as an Atlantic Fleet battalion, men of FOUR built many of the buildings and facilities of which Naval Station Rota is so proud today. Now in the 70's, as a Pacific Fleet battalion, the men of FOUR returned to Rota--this time to make use of some of the facilities their predecessors built, such as the Naval Station Chapel, and to continue to add to the facilities "built by FOUR." There is, however, one thing that has been constant over this span of 20 years: the quality of construction provided by NMCB FOUR.

Users of facilities at Naval activities arrive and depart almost as rapidly as the battalions who build the facilities--but the construction itself lives on. A month or two after a building is complete the name of the crew leader or Battalion CO is forgotten. Except in rare instances the number of

days taken to build the facility are forgotten. But the quality of work done continues to live on. Neither the good jobs nor the bad jobs are forgotten. The reputation of the battalion lives on in what it has built.

It gives us a great deal of satisfaction to say that we had detachments in Holy Loch, Scotland; in La Maddalena, Sardinia; and in Nea Makri, Greece; and that we finished all the work assigned to us at these locations on time. But what is more important is the quality of work left at La Maddalena, at Holy Loch, and at Nea Makri, to which the Commanding Officers of the user activities have attested in letters, messages, citations and commendations.

Those detachment sites where work was still underway at turnover time--Sigonella, Souda Bay and Moron--have also received deserved praise for quality work, which is the highest award we could hope for. NMCB FOUR's quality will not only become a monument to the men of the battalion, but it will perform the magic which quality performs the world over. Quality attracts quality. The battalions that follow us have a goal to strive for and an example to follow.

A hallmark is defined as a mark or symbol of genuineness or high quality. We can take pride in the fact that FOUR has left its mark once again in the European area. It is a mark of which we can be proud. Every man in the battalion contributed something to that mark and can call it his own. This book is a pictorial record of our hallmark. The efforts, dedication, patience and professional excellence cannot always be captured in photographs, but their results are here.

Well done!

G.J. Bednar,  
CDR, CEC, USN  
Commanding Officer

# Executive Officer



The end of our 1976 deployment holds different meanings for different people.

Most of us eagerly await the return to our families and friends; some of us, however, would rather stay here in Rota.

Many battalion members are checking out to a new duty station or returning to civilian life--but others will deploy with us to Puerto Rico next April.

Some men can't wait to spend their deployment savings in the U.S., while the rest of us take back our savings in the form of tourist "bargains."

Whatever it is that the end of this

deployment means to you, we can all look back at our common experience on deployment and feel good about our part in it. NMCB FOUR made a substantial contribution to the Navy's mission at seven locations around the world. We produced quality products and did so with class. If there can be any consolation for family separation and the other less attractive features of a deployment, this is it.

I wish each one of you a healthy, safe and happy end of deployment.

*J.B. Clayton*

J.B. Clayton  
CDR, CEC, USN  
Executive Officer

# The MCPOC



This edition of the Focus marks the last word on our recent deployment to the European Theater. One point stressed during our short stay has been quality production; it can be said, without any reservations, that FOUR has done more. Not only quality in projects completed or near completion, but in retention of qualified personnel. FOUR's continued excellent performance will be assured for our next challenging assignments, with the quality of replacements in receipt of orders, waiting for us in homeport. As "Goodbyes" are being said to those leaving, we must remember also to welcome the new additions. (First impressions are lasting impressions, as the old saying goes.)

Accomplishments during the last eight months were the result of teamwork; as it should be, no one man is singled out for praise. Our detachments carried the ball with the same enthusiasm and collected praise from all parts of the world for FOUR. It's a good feeling to be part of a winning team.

To those leaving us, "Well Done"--and the best of everything on your new assignments.

Kenneth Clemons  
UTCM, USN  
MCPOC

# The Officers



LCDR Shelton  
Operations



LCDR Fink  
Chaplain



LT Dempsey  
Alpha Co.  
OIC Air Det



LT Johnson  
Det Sigonella



LT Koiro  
Charlie Co.



LT Klein  
Training



LT Mason  
Dental



LT Norvell  
Medical



LTJG DeTroye  
Det Holy Loch



LTJG Gentry  
Disbursing



LTJG Kopaczewski  
AOIC Det Sig



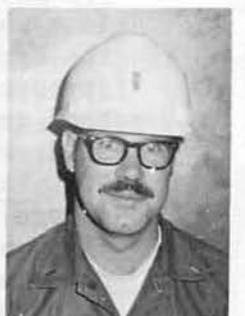
LTJG Kubic  
Bravo Co.  
S-2



LTJG Reichert  
H.Co./Eng.  
PAO



LTJG True  
Det Diego Garcia



LTJG Zayac  
Admin/Pers



ENS Campbell  
MLO



ENS Marchand  
MLO



ENS Rodgers  
Alpha Co.

# Iberian Odyssey

A portfolio of Spain

7





One of Spain's ever-vigilant Guardia Civil.



The exciting running of the bulls in Arcos drew a number of Seabees.



Skyline of the Andalusian city of Sevilla.



The art of flamenco



One of the mysterious marchers  
in Sevilla's Easter procession



The eye of the church is every-  
where in Spain.



Feria time in Sevilla.



Old friends in Rota.



This old wall in Jerez dates back to the Muslim era.



Enjoying sherry in one of Jerez's many "bodegas" or wineries.



Ceiling of El Escorial in Madrid, the old palace of the Spanish kings.



The 15th-century Tower of the Atalaya in Jerez.



Street scene



Dave Goodberry and camera at a reconstructed Egyptian temple in Madrid.



Entrance to the ancient Jewish quarter in Sevilla.



Spanish troops in Madrid



Tom Kruse and Mark Dunlavey on the battalion tour to Madrid.



Learning the culture in Spain comes at an early age.



An elaborate float leaves the Sevilla cathedral on Easter.



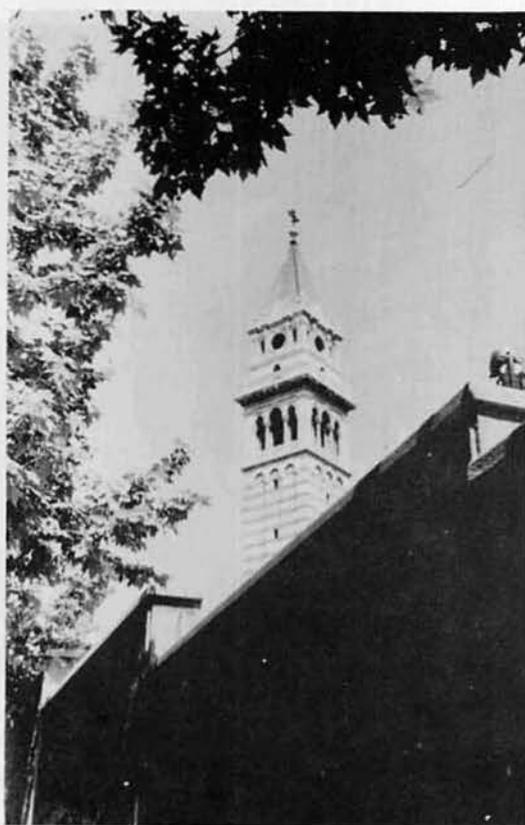
A caseta scene during the Sevilla feria.



The future of Spain as reflected in its youth.



A Roman statue located in the Roman ruins of Italica near Sevilla.



Scene from a window in Madrid.



Senoritas, one of Spain's most beautiful attractions.



The church in Madrid where Francisco Franco is buried.



The Plaza de Santa Maria in Rota is a familiar sight to NMCB-4.



Rota's Feria de la Urrta held in August is the big celebration of the year in Rota.



Fountain in Rota



The beautiful rocky scenery around Arcos de la Frontera.



Young friends in Rota



Stacked casks of sherry in Jerez.



A picador does his job during a bullfight in Puerto.



Rota's lighthouse under a morning fog.

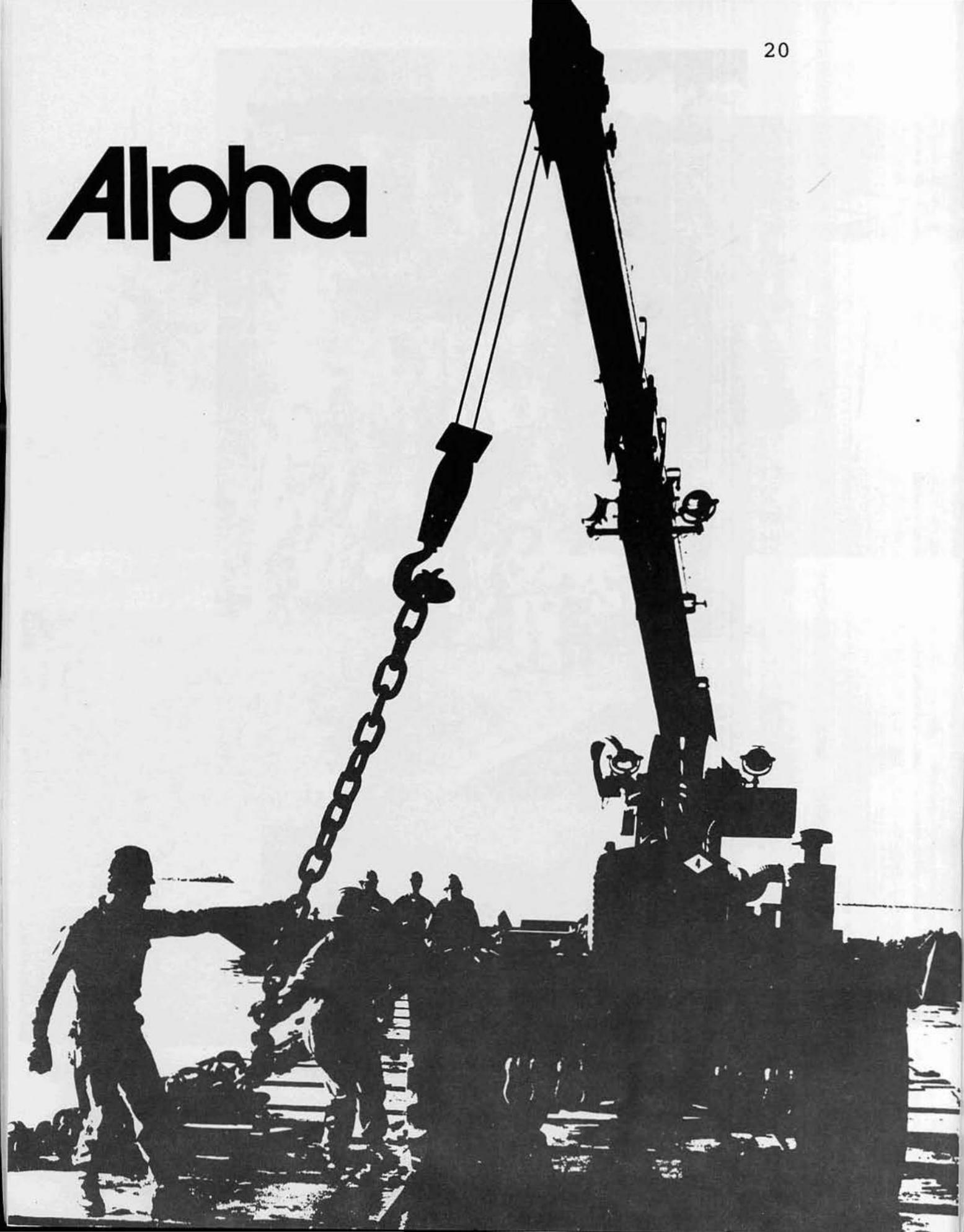


Tourists in Sevilla's shopping district.



The Valley of the Fallen-Madrid.

# Alpha



It all started back in the summer of 75 when personnel assignments were being announced. Illusions of "Costa de la Luz," the summer playground of Europe, started appearing in everyone's daydreams. All through homeport, the phrase, "It sure won't be like this in Rota!" could be heard, and for better or worse, it wasn't.

The reality of it all began back in late February 76 when the Advance Party (Alpha Co. minus five) boarded a "707" at Point Mugu and departed for Spain. After a "thunderous" welcome by NMCB 74 the next 15 days found the Advance Party hard at work, "BEEPing" all the on-site equipment for turnover and finding out just how "great" the liberty was. On 14 March, the Main Body arrived, somewhat touch-and-go, as it seemed that the pilot tried to land each wheel at a different point in time. After receiving a briefing on local customs and security requirements, and hearing all the "lies" the Advance Party had to tell, everyone settled pretty much into a routine.

As it is our middle name, it seems fitting that the construction elements of Alpha Co. should be reviewed first. There were three distinct crews: asphalt, crane and special projects, which worked throughout the entire deployment until they were mostly detailed out to the various detachments, such as Souda Bay, Moron and Sigonella. From the beginning, personnel were shifted from crew to crew and crews from job to job, as flexibility was the key word. This was epitomized by Alpha Co.'s first job, also the first job completed by the battalion, construction of the Live Storage Yard. Nearly all hands participated in this major earthmoving project.

The Asphalt Crew had a number of complex and interesting jobs. These included overlaying and surface treating the Seabee Camp roads, surface

treating the Armory area, overlaying the fire lanes between the BEQ's, paving around the Bravo Co. shops, the NAVSTA Post Office parking lot, the Cal Lab parking lot, and the Silver City Saloon parking lot. Their pride and joy, however, was the Community Center road and parking lot. All work was done in a most professional and timely manner.

Adding to the success of the Asphalt Crew's finished product was the fine site preparation work done by the Special Projects Crew. This crew provided all horizontal support for the other companies' projects throughout the deployment. Some of this crew's major accomplishments were the 'O' Club access road, site preparation for the animal kennels and the ERP building, and the Alpha Co. tracked vehicle crossing (would you believe EO-builders?).

Much in evidence throughout the deployment was the Crane Crew. They always seemed to be either taking things out of the ground or putting them back, or picking things up and setting them down, or just lifting things up. Every major project received much appreciated assistance, most notably the MUSE and ERP projects.

Probably the most rewarding project undertaken during the deployment was the site preparation for the Spanish BEQ. The opportunity to work with and for our local hosts was most interesting. And for a conclusion to a "fun" job, the crew was taken to a nearby bodega (winery) to observe local construction techniques.

Around 25 May, Alpha Co. had its first deployment party, which was a tremendous success. It was held at the Fleet Reserve Association in Rota. There was a great band, and food and drink in large quantities. It was said that a certain company commander was seen drinking a pitcher of beer while being cheered on by numerous onlookers.

All in all, an enjoyable time was had by everyone. The Fourth of July weekend was marked by the Mid-deployment Party and our Nation's 200th Birthday celebration. The highlight was the NAVSTA Bicentennial parade, where the Seabee Float and Queen, driven by Alpha Co., outclassed them all. The second company party, scheduled for mid-October, proved to be equally successful.

Alpha Co. was tasked as the prime contractor on several large projects. The first was the Causeway Connection, a very high priority operational project, which linked a submarine dry-dock with the beach. The Special Projects and Crane Crews worked many long hours along with a detachment of ACB TWO, Bravo and Charlie Companies, in order to accomplish it well ahead of schedule and in a highly professional style. The Pier II Fender System Repair Project was a most complicated and intriguing project for Alpha Co. to be in charge of. The work consisted of pre-fabbing and painting steel H-beams,

disassembling the old wooden fenders, driving new steel piles, and assembling new wales and wooden timbers. This large operation was the principal task of the Crane Crew, ably assisted by Charlie Co., UCT ONE, and an Alpha Co.

Prefab Yard crew. The fact that this project was nearly two months ahead of schedule and proceeding smoothly despite major material deficiencies and an overcrowded working area, pays much tribute to the efforts of the men assigned to the project.

The last job which started off in late August after being on hold for the entire deployment was the TSC Antenna Project at Moron AFB. This job consisted of site preparation, antenna cable burial, and antenna assembly and erection. This project was treated as a detachment from the Main Body, but received its support directly from Alpha Co. Several members of this crew were assigned to a similar project in Adak,

Alaska last deployment; the big difference, however, was the climate. In Alaska it was awfully cold, but for several days in August it was 108 in the shade at Moron.

Whenever the workload allowed and as the battalion started to get an occasional long weekend, company members would visit the surrounding countryside. The old cities of Jerez, Puerto de Santa Maria, Cadiz, and Sevilla were the favorite sightseeing areas. Sightseeing was enjoyable and everything inexpensive by American standards. For longer trips, the "Costa del Sol," Morocco, and Madrid were enjoyed by some. And not to be left out were the tours of the wineries and the Spanish bullfights at the Plaza del Toros, or just a relaxing day at the beach, soaking up the sun.

Throughout the deployment, there was one group whose job didn't seem to vary very much from day to day: the men of the Maintenance Shops. Every time the backlog would start to

diminish, the EO's would find out about it and seemingly cause a grunch of part shortages, old equipment and inadequate facilities, the men of the Heavy, Automotive and Support Shops successfully kept putting equipment back together and getting it on the road again. With field crews reporting all the happenings on the job sites and getting the latest command decisions from Rumor Control (the galley), they were able to keep abreast of what was happening in the battalion. However, this often-forgotten group (except when your vehicle is down or in for PM) best exemplifies the battalion spirit as a whole. The Maintenance men came to Spain with a job to do and they did it well. They now return to Port Hueneme with pride, knowing that they

are turning over the battalion's equipment allowance in better shape than they found it.

A funny thing happened on Sunday, 12 September. COMCBLANT initiated the battalion's mount-out exercise. For the next 48 hours, all members of Alpha Co. turned and burned. Everything the battalion owned and all of its nearly 300 pieces of equipment had to be prepared and moved down to the pier area and staged in its proper loading order.

At the end of the exercise, you couldn't have convinced anyone of the fact that moving, packing, PM-ing and staging was just a drill. This entire evolution was topped off by a big "Bravo Zulu" (outstanding, in Navy lingo) from the Commodore.

The last but not least group in Alpha Co. was made up of those who were in charge of moving people and things around day after day after day: Transportation. From the dispatchers and the Yard Boss with their smiling faces, to the tractor trailer and other truck drivers, they played a most important role in assisting the battalion in getting through each work day. And it was also nice to have a friendly face meet you at the airport when you were coming back from leave. This was done courtesy of the Men of Transportation. The Concrete Batch Plant and TM drivers also fall under Transportation. They are the guys who are responsible for all that green mud that keeps getting poured on the ground. Without a doubt, the support provided to the entire battalion by this group of individuals working in Transportation has just been outstanding.

In closing, Alpha Co. was made up of many distinct groups who had one goal in mind: to get the job done. For the last eight months, this goal has been continu-

ously achieved and every member of the company has distinguished himself by this performance. So when the BEEP has been completed, and everyone is home with their loved ones and friends, this deployment to Rota will just be a sweet memory of the past and another job well done.



Back Row-CMCS Maleport, EOC McGuire, HTC Torbert, LT Dempsey, ENS Rodgers.  
Front Row-E01 Sommerton, EOCN Odell, E02 Underwood, CMC Kellerman



CMC Medley, CMC Kellerman, CM3 Wiggins.



CM1 Evangelista, CMC Mayhew, CM1 Fulton.



MR3 Kruiise, MR1 Sherman, HT3 Kelley, HT3 Mindigo.



CMCN Lastine, CM3 McPherson, CM3 Macasieb, CMCA Beckwith, CM1 Tolentino.



BU2 Williams, E02 Sharp, E03 Sato, EOCN Dobbs



SW3 Coleman, CM3 Winkels



Back Row-CMCN Heineken, CM3 Ryan, CM2 Jernigan, Front Row-CMCN Lindsey, CM2 Harness, CMCN Still





CMC Ingram, CM3 McNeil, CMCN Cadogan, CMCN Hanna, CMCN Dunlavey  
 CMCN Bolin, CMCA Lund, CM2 Mendiola



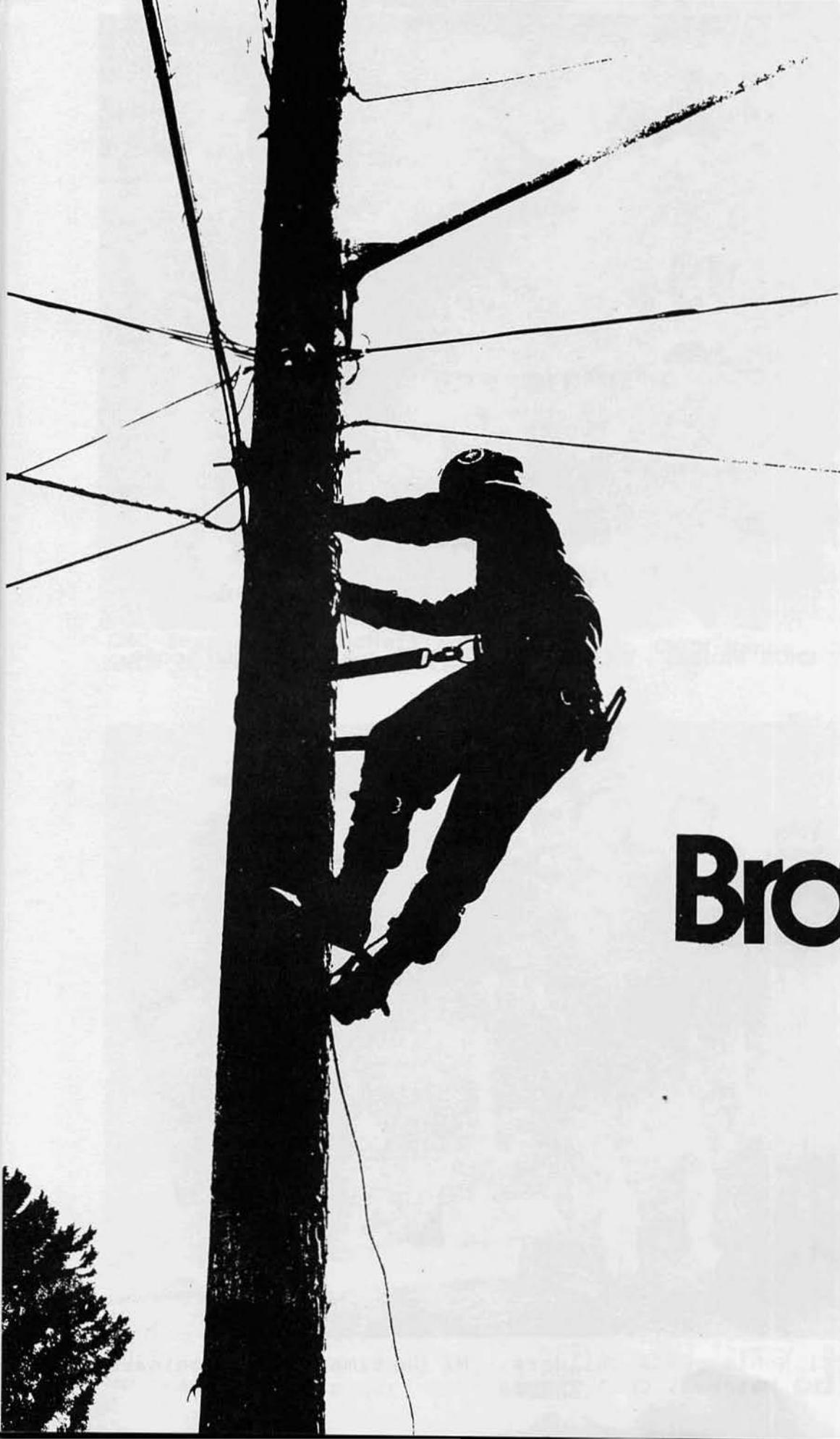
Back Row-EOCA Eddington, EOCN Rector, BU3 Sherry, BUCN Kendal,  
 BUCN Keeler, EOCN Pung, Front Row-EO2 Wiles, BU3 McBain, EOC  
 Morneau, EO1 Rippner, EO3 McConnell



CMCN Hawley, CMCN Whale, CM3 Bollmeyer, CM3 Juarez, CM2 Goode, CMI Kaley



CMCN Best, CE1 Noble, CMCA Childers, CMI Huntimer, CM3 Chouinard  
CM2 Peters, CM2 Watness, CMCA Thomas



**Bravo**

Now that the deployment is finally over, we can look back on our many accomplishments with pride. I'm sure we all either learned something or taught somebody something this deployment. We've made new friends and have seen old ones depart for other places and other jobs. Let's take a minute to reflect upon what we've done this deployment.

In February, our advance party came to Rota; it went to work immediately. We assumed custody of the shops and got our berthing arrangements made for the Main Body.

Our first week was a confusing one to say the least. We checked out tools and got ourselves organized for the work that lurked around the corner.

The jobs we had to do included the Calibration Lab, the Post Office, the Causeway Connection, the Pier II Lighting, the MUSE Cold Iron System, and a variety of camp maintenance projects. Now we can think of all this in terms of "Do you remember...?"

Some of the weirdest things happened during this deployment. For example, there was the day when "Captain Marvel"

and "Mr. Wizard" visited the company to pass out lollipops to all our selectees. Then there was the court-martial of the "Infamous Four": Kid Kubic, Horrible Hank Reik, Stormin' Norman Kolbeck, and Moose Vandermier. (And let's not forget the night "Pickleman & Co." stuffed balloons, wall to wall, in Senior Reik's office.)

For the most part, we left an impression on Spanish culture. After all, it will only take the Spanish people a short time to straighten out their language after talking with us...

After all the fun and games were over, COMCBLANT paid us a visit for a "party"--better known as a mount-out exercise. We spent 48 hours in organized confusion, but fared well.

We had our share of accidents this deployment, though, such as smashed thumbs, skinned knuckles, and the usual assortment of hangovers.

We hope that NMCB FIVE has as smooth a deployment as we did. I know that most of us in Bravo Co. will look back fondly on the Spain deployment.

Adios! And Buena Suerte!

BU2 Mike (Bald Eagle) Rea



SW1 John Hardesty at the steel shop



COMPANY STAFF: Back Row-CEL Sims, CEC Johnson, UT3 Tarisa Front Row-CECS Reik, LTJG Kubic, UTCS Kolbeck



UT MAINTENANCE SHOP: Back Row-UTCA Chilson, UTCN Zipf, UT3 Wilson, UTCN Merriweather, UTCA Alkema, Front Row-UT3 Vreeland, UT2 Farmer, UT2 McMahon, UT3 Broyles



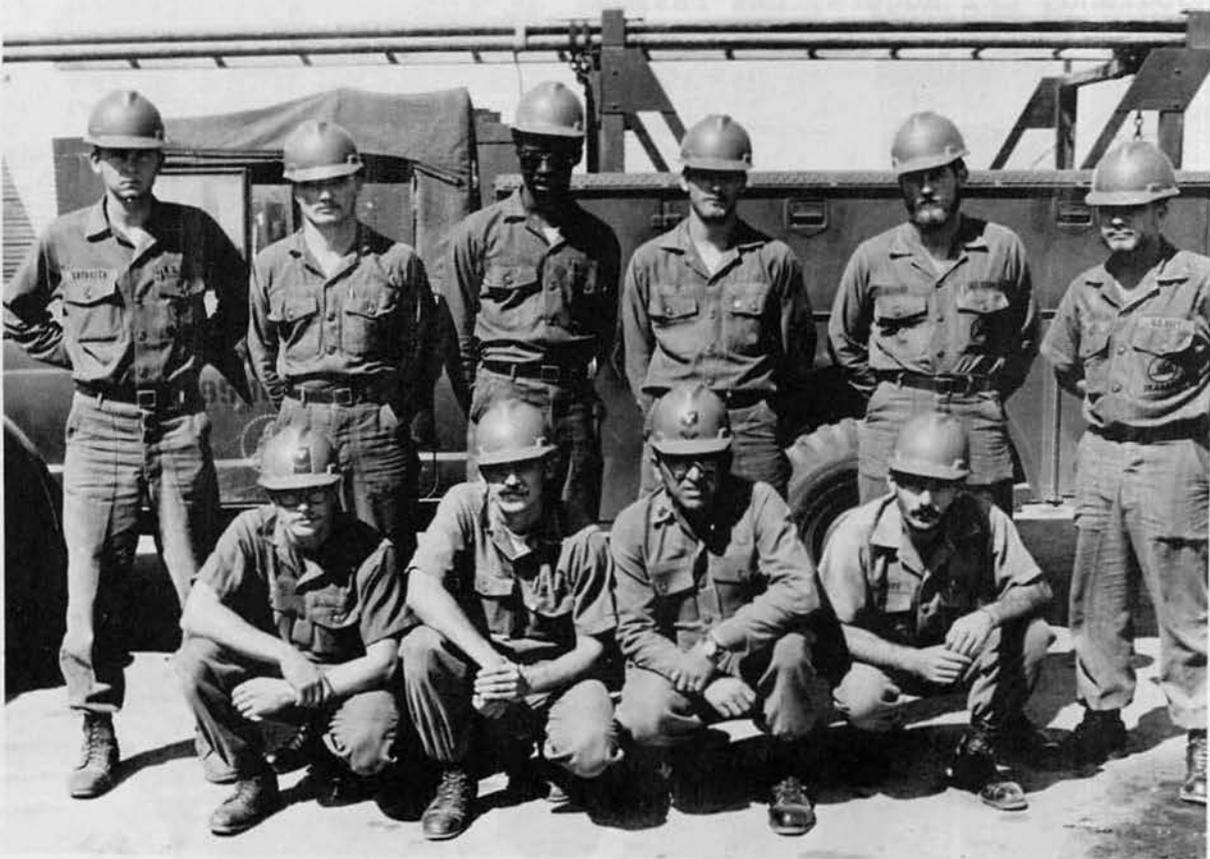
CE CREW: Back Row-CE3 Swope, CECN Higgenbotham, CECN Hamlin, CECN Streeks, CE3 Jackson, Front Row CE2 Corrie, CE2 Mason, CE1 Woodland, CE1 Rogers, CE2 Pasion



CE MAINTENANCE CREW: Back Row-CECN Centers, CE3 Young, Center-CECA Thibault, CE2 Sells, CECN Reling, Front Row-CE1 Badley



BU/SW SHOP: Back Row-BU2 Rea, BU3 Thompson, BUCR Collins, BUCA Braxton, SW3 Tuckey, SW1 Hardesty, Front Row-SW3 Tarin, BU2 Nichols, BU3 Weatherly, BUCN DeTour, SWCN Stabio



UT FIELD CREW: Back Row-UTCN Goodrich, UTCN Covel, UTCN Henderson, UTCN Callison, UTCN Bisset, UTCN Mylles Front Row-UT3 Suhr, UT3 Stillwell, UT1 Ruiz, UTCN Restrepo



A UT crew "digging" their work at the Silver City Saloon.



BU3 Bill Weatherly sees how far he can stretch.



CAPT Marvel inspects BU3 Edwards for clean hands.



The outfitting of the Bee.



UTCN Bob Pegg and UTCA Allan Mylles sing "We're so happy!"



UT3 Dan Suhr, a pipe surgeon.



Bravo Co. awaits the mount-out inspection with M-60's and \*16s.

# Charlie



The Rota deployment found Charlie Co. tasked with a variety of projects. These jobs were met on time, if not earlier, with an outstanding performance at the ERP Storage Project, constructed in only 23 days. A "well done" is extended to SW1 Brimer and his crew, who met this task and saw it through to the end.

A few of Charlie Co. tasks will not be finished before we leave, due to

material delays or other operational commitments; but all personnel did an outstanding job. Some crews were at the following locations: the antenna site, the dog kennels, the housing area sidewalks, and the Calibration Lab. We also assisted on the Causeway Connection Project, the jet test cell, the Community Center roads, and the MUSE Cold

Iron System. And let's not forget the prefab yard at the pier, as the SW's handled this project throughout the entire deployment to support the crew repairing the pier fender system.

Charlie Co. also performed some camp maintenance and volunteer work at the Girl Scout camp. And last but not least, is the Post Office rehab, which will be finished before we leave. (BU2 Fryman's headaches will be over pretty soon...)

All in all, Charlie Co. had a very active deployment. The battalion mount-out exercise found most of us on the Security Force or controlling traffic.

As we look ahead to homeport, we'll be losing a large percentage of our personnel, with many new faces waiting to check in. We hope that Puerto Rico will be a rewarding deployment also.

BU2 Duane Boyer



COMPANY STAFF: Back Row-SW1 Escalante, BUC Mears, LT Koiro, BUC Mackinnon, SW1 Brimer, Front Row-BU3 Nelson, BU3 Hamman, BU1 Hartley, BU1 Mala



Back Row-BU3 Drollinger, BUCN Utley, BU3 Canty, Front Row-BU2 Beard, BU3 Pacheco



Back Row-BUCN Kendal, BUCA Murphy, SWCN Franssen, SWCA Provençal, Front Row-SW2 Farrar, SW3 Campbell, BU3 Sherry



Back Row-SWCN Smith, SWCA Black, SWCA Paris, SWCN Greenhill, SWCN Price, SWCA Beaubien, Front Row-SW2 Hemel, SW2 Garske, SW3 Christensen, SW3 Rippeto, SWCA Goodberry



Back Row-BU3 Escalante, BUCN Page, BUCA Keeler, BU2 Fryman, BU3 Eames



Back Row-BU3 Hightower, BUCA Updegrave, BUCA Harrington, BUCN Laverentz, Front Row-BU2 Kleiner, BU3 McBain, BUCN Hanson, BU3 Stines



BU2 Odell Massey "I think I'm getting too old for this sort of thing".



Welding at the pier

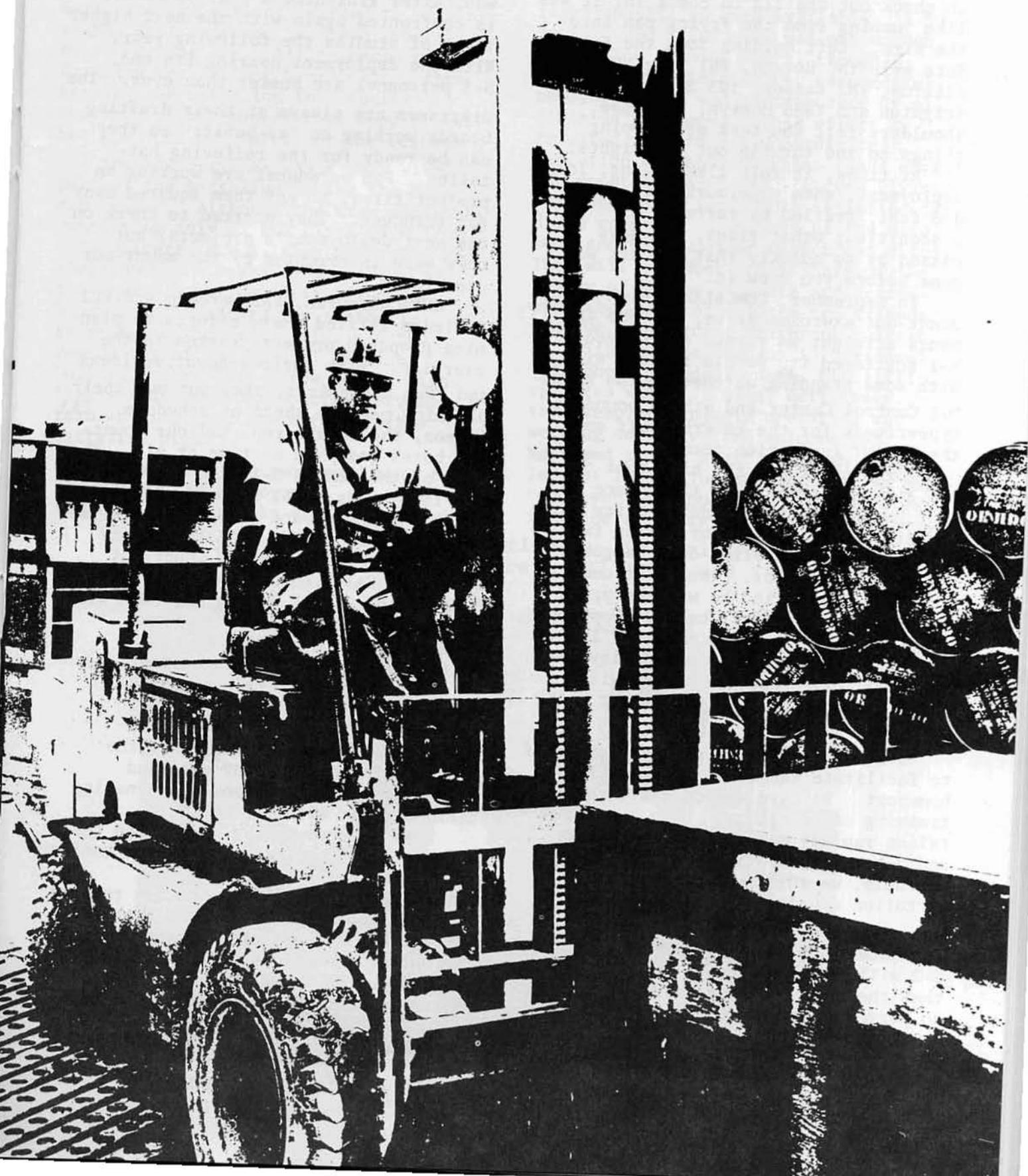


C. Co. workers at Pier II.



Using the oxy-lance torch to cut concrete at the MUSE.

# Headquarters



As usual, when a deployment winds down, the pace in S-1 picks up.

Bailing out early on the Advance Party were LTJG Zayac, PNC Solis, YN1 Fox, PN2 Baylous and YN2 Purdy, who left 23 October. But with 132 personnel to check out and 112 to check in, it was like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Left holding down the fort in Rota were YNC Howard, PN1 Lehr, PN2 Aliifua, YN2 Kasper, YN3 Smith, PNSN Knighton and YNSN Hoskyn, on whose shoulders fell the task of wrapping things up and turning out the lights.

At times, it felt like a long, long deployment, when paperwork flew thick and fast, trailed by torrents of obscenities; other times, the days passed by so quickly that a month was gone before you knew it.

In September, COMCBLANT threw a mount-out exercise at us, and for 48 hours straight we turned and burned. S-1 scattered its people far and wide, with some standing watches in the Mount-Out Control Center and others pounding typewriters for the Embark Staff and the CBLANT inspection team.

For most of us, the highlight of the Rota deployment was the chance to tour Europe--either spending a few days visiting local cities, or taking two weeks off and traveling on a larger scale. For YN1 Fox, though, it came when he was notified he was the proud father of a baby girl, born 24 September, weighing in at 7½ lbs., and 18¼" long.

Generally speaking, our deployment was a good one--but few people will disagree that the best part about being away is coming home...

S-2 has blossomed into a large staff to facilitate the final planning for homeport. We have welcomed all the rate training coordinators. With the battalion rapidly moving towards homeport and a hectic education and training schedule, we must realize that the battalion depends upon training for the success of its next deployment. The dedicated personnel we have added to S-2 will ensure, through training, that the skills the battalion needs to perform its mission in Puerto Rico

are learned. The S-2 Department realized the completion of almost all its goals during this deployment, bringing credit on each individual within the department.

S-3 can be compared to a student who, after finishing a year of school is confronted again with the next higher level of studies the following year. With the deployment nearing its end, S-3 personnel are busier than ever. The draftsmen are always at their drafting boards working on "as-builts" so they can be ready for the relieving battalion. P&E personnel are working on project files, to get them squared away for turnover. They started to check on the next deployment's projects, but they were interrupted by the mount-out exercise.

CE1 Casunuran, EA2 Mercado and BU2 Rutledge shifted their efforts to planning proposed projects tasked in the exercise. With their innovative ideas and "Can Do" spirit, they put out their planning package ahead of schedule. EA3 Larson, the Embark rep, had our mount-out boxes ready in no time at all. The rest of the men in S-3 were scattered to the four winds. EA1 Sammond, EACN Jagd and EACN Barton were assigned full-time to the Embark Staff. JO3 Lepek and EACN Warren worked out of Mount-Out Control. EA3 Mikulus, EACN Martinez, BUCN Mallory, YNSN Moberg and BUCA Williams continued with their normal duties or were assigned to working parties throughout the battalion.

With four weeks left to go, S-3 continues to work on as-builts of projects, as well as planning and estimating work requirements on the projects for next deployment, and some fill-in projects and coordinating field changes with the ROICC.

From Rota, S-3 says "Adios" to the many friends they made, and "Bien Venida" to NMCB FIVE.

The Services Division of S-4 returns to Port Hueneme proudly after both effectively and efficiently supporting the battalion in Rota. The Disbursing Office, headed by DK1 Alonzo and DK1 Desamparo, met all commitments for pay

days, per diem, and travel in a way that enabled customers to leave the Disbursing Office smiling. MSC Howard's galley crew turned out consistently excellent chow for the super appetites of hungry Seabees. The Laundry crew, led by SH2 Baiza and SH3 Alvarez, forced to work at night, kept everyone in fresh greens every working day. All segments of the division worked long hours often, thus keeping the battalion functioning smoothly. They showed that Supply, too, has the "Can Do" spirit of the Seabees.

Special Services was a very vital part of the battalion during the Rota deployment. Although the crew was small consisting only of E01 Closs (A.M.) and EACN Jalbert (P.M.), they performed all their numerous tasks designed to keep the "Bees" happy on their off-duty hours. The theater, the softball tournament, the Arcos trip, and the remodeling of the Special Services building, were only a few of the highlights that kept the Special Services team working, and the morale of the battalion high.

Stores Division personnel were busy throughout the deployment. It wasn't unusual to see trucks and forklifts in

and out of our area most days, nights and weekends. During the early part of the deployment, they were busy setting up procedures to provide efficient and effective battalion support, to include ensuring that correct items in the right quantities were available. A 10-hour, 5 and 6-day week was not enough time. The arduous hours, though, sparkled with initiative, resourcefulness, teamwork and perseverance by all division personnel. This effort resulted in a smooth, coordinated execution of the voluminous tasks during the mount-out exercise. Stores Division personnel will leave Rota satisfied they did a good job in support of the main body and the numerous detachment sites. They will remember their share of the beauty of Europe, picnics and recreation--but most of all the new friends they've made from a different culture.

With all the changes in personnel throughout the deployment, MLO still operates with its usual efficiency, thus keeping projects operating and working smoothly. We welcome ENS Marchand to the staff and wish him lots of luck. To ENS Campbell, we say "Goodbye" and hope that his next crew is twice as crazy as this one has been.

Writers: LT Klein, LTJG Gentry, SKCS Grey, YN2 Purdy and EA2 Mercado



COMPANY STAFF: Back Row-PNC Solis, EAC Fraser, SKC Rogers, Front Row-SWCS Lester, SKCS Grey, LTJG Reichert



PERSONNEL/ESO: Back Row- PN3 Eatham, PNSA Fields, PNSN Knighton, PN2 Alifua Front Row-PN2 Baylouis, PNC Solis, PN1 Lehr



Back Row- SWC Bowman (CODAC), PC2 Sosnovske, EOL Closs, Front Row-EACN Jalbert, PCSN Smith



ADMINISTRATION: YN2 Purdy, YN1 Fox, LTJG Zayac, YNC Howard, YN2 Kasper, YN3 Smith



MEDICAL/DENTAL: Back Row-HM1 Chester, HM2 Farmer, HM3 DeBoer, HM3 Best, DN LeDoux, Front Row-HM1 Crawford, LT Norvell, HMC Washington, LT Mason, DT1 Porter



MAA FORCE: Back Row-BU3 McMorris, BMSN Tabon, BUCN Burns, BUCA Stephens, UTCN Alexander, UTCN Rappun, Front Row-EA3 Satter, BM3 Brassart, SW1 Rodriguez, BMC Andrews, BU2 Higgins, BU3 Binney, EO2 Hernandez



S-2: Back Row-GMG3 Mueller, UTCA Huddleston, ETN2 Brown, YNSN Courdway, Front Row-LT Klein, "Lady", GMG1 Davis, ETR2 Schmoyer



TRAINING COORDINATORS: Back Row-CM2 Villanueva, UT2 Orellano, BU2 Boyer, SW1 White, EAL Bautista, Front Row-UT1 Earls, EOC Young, LTJG Kubic, BUC Gwaltney



OPERATIONS: Back Row-EA3 Mikulus, LTJG Reichert, CE1 Casunuran, EACN Warren, YNSN Moberg, Front Row-EAC Fraser, EA2 Mercado, BUC Quinn (Safety Chief)



ENGINEERING: EA3 Larson, EACN Martinez, EACN Jagd, EAl Sammond, EACN Barton



**SUPPLY OFFICE:** Back Row-SK1 Canonizado, SK3 Solis, SN Bougere, SK2 Cordova, SK1 White, YN3 Robertson, SH1 Majan, Front Row- SK CS Grey, LCDR Valenty, SKC Rogers



**LAUNDRY CREW:** Back Row-BUCN Lerma, PNSA Fields, BUCA Mikulski, BUCA Gudatis, Front Row-SH2 Alvarez, SH2 Baiza, SA Vanzandt



CTR/CSR CREW: Back Row-CMCN Zugell, UTCA Cheney, SKSN Falk, SKSN Adams, UTCA Burkey, SA Harris, Front Row-EOCN Watkins, BU3 Moss, SK1 Parsons, SK1 White, SA Clemons



MLO: UT2 Schwartz, SK2 Flork, ENS Marchand, EACN Krager, BUC Sisson, SA Smith, CE1 Jodway, EOCN Boller



REPAIR PARTS: CM3 Czajkowski, CM2 Westmoreland, SKSN Norman, SK-SN Cortez, SK1 Hansen



DISBURSING: Back Row-DK2 Babasan, DKSN Ramirez, DKSN Bell, DK3 Sheldon, Front Row-DK1 Alonzo, LTJG Gentry, DK1 Desamparo



GALLEY: Back Row-MS2 Carino, MS3 Booze, MS2 Puno, MSSN Moore, MS3 Gillo, MS1 Atienza, MS2 Frasier Front Row-MSC Howard, MS1 Idland, MS1 Wendt, MS1 Liwanag



GALLEY: Back Row-E02 Morris (MAA), MS2 Burgos, MS3 Alcantara, MS1 Delrosario, MSSN Kotch, MSSA Erb, MS1 Tolentino, MS1 Northington, MS2 Guillermo

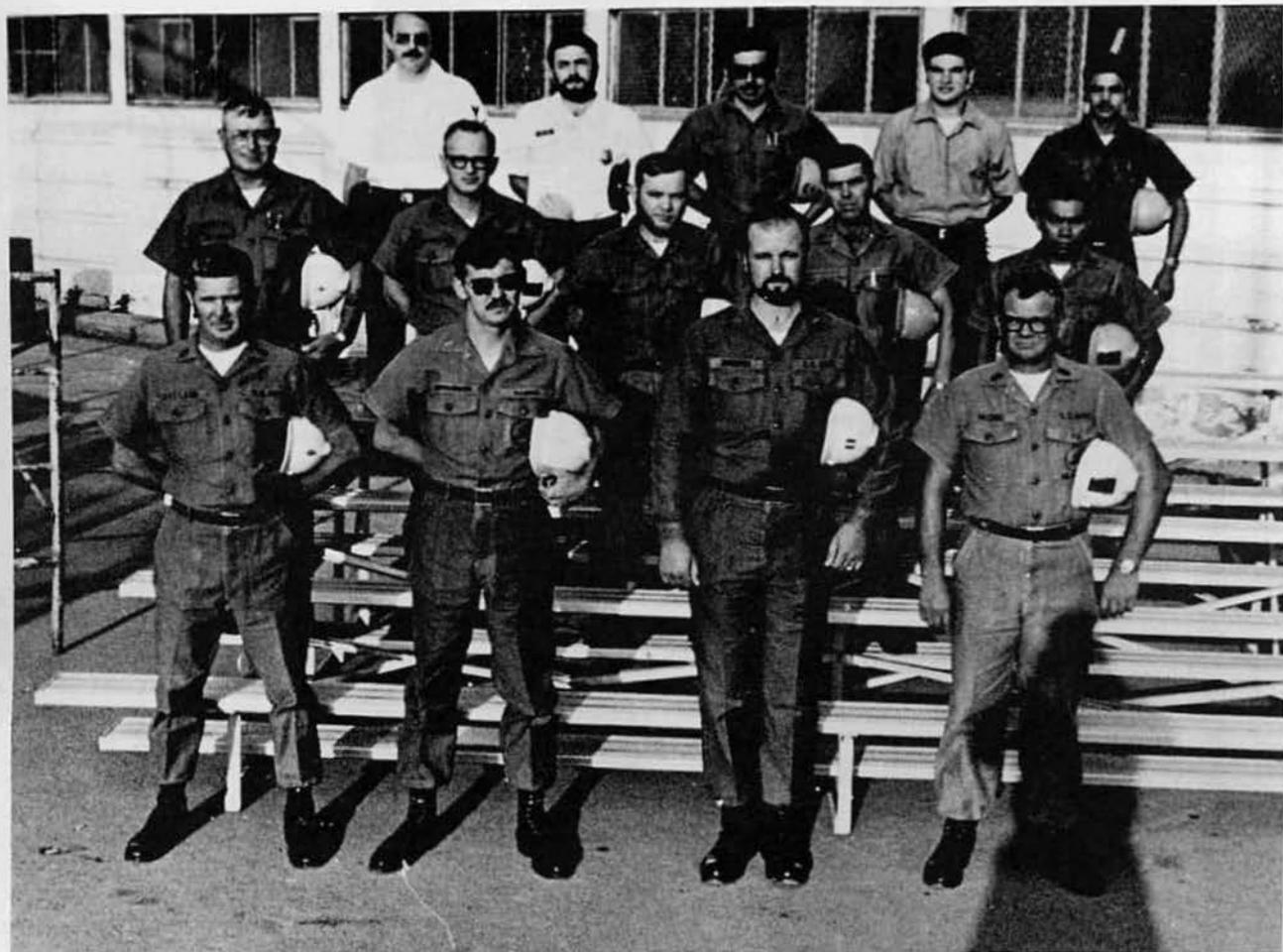
# The Dets



# Det Sigonella



Downtown Catania, near Sigonella



DETACHMENT STAFF: Back Row-HM1 Pope, MA1 Copeland, YN2 Luna, MS3 Grant, PNSN Recasas Middle Row- BUL Swanson, BUC Federico, EOC Cole, EOL Ashcraft, BUL Visaya, Front Row BUCS Holland, LTJG Kopa-  
czewski (AOIC), LT Johnson (OIC), CUCM Nelson

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER, NAF SIGONELLA

NMCB FOUR's tour at Sigonella, Sicily can be described as the "Great Challenge." They met this challenge with expertise and exuberance. Their determination and technical skills proved more than equal to the obstacles they encountered. They constructed a power check pad at the NAF II airfield, completed a handball court, installed an irrigation system at the NAF I Rocky Hollow Golf Course, and nearly completed the base theater. Other important projects included three magazines for the Weapons Department, and a line operations rehab project for VR-24.

Congratulations and well done, NMCB FOUR!

W. A. PLATTE  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
NAF Sigonella, Sicily



LT. M. R. Johnson - OIC  
"Learned many things in the management area and dealing with people, enjoyed the deployment."



LTJG M.A. Kopaczewski, AOIC  
"...Rewarding deployment enjoyed the learning experience."



CUCM K.W. Nelson, S-3  
"The different construction methods were very interesting."



BUCS T.J. HOLLAND - S-3A  
"Money cannot buy the experience of being a member of the Sigonella Det."



BUC R. D. Swanson, NAF II Proj Manager  
"It was a great experience that I'm at a loss for words to describe."



BUC T. J. Federico, NAF I Proj Manager  
"A very interesting and challenging deployment."



EOC L. J. Cole, S-4/MLO/CTR  
"Gained a broader view of another side of construction. The part pertaining to SBU's/SW's/CE's/UT's challenging deployment."

BUI M. E. Thoms,  
Theater Addition Proj Supv,  
3rd Platoon Chief

"It was a different experience for me...gained a lot as a job supervisor."



BUI B. F. Rollins,  
AIMD Proj. Supervisor,  
3rd Platoon Commander

"...Totally new and sometimes enjoyable experience."



EAL C. B. Spain,  
Surveying/Drafting Supv.  
1st Platoon Chief

"Gained experience in how to work with nothing."



EOL T. E. Ashcraft,  
"A" Co Operations Supv.  
S-2/Safety Chief

"...It was worth every drop of sweat and curse word I used."



SWI R. A. White,  
SW Shop Supervisor,

"...Improved my technical knowledge and learned a lot about the history of Sicily."



SWI H. G. Swan,  
SW Supervisor,  
2nd Platoon Chief

"Enjoyed 'operating as a mini-battalion'!"



UT1 A. G. Eisenlord,  
UT Supervisor

"That there is more than one way of doing a job."



CE1 L. A. Wilmot,  
CE Supervisor,  
2nd Platoon Commander

"DET spirit and professional drive under any circumstances can produce quality construction."



CMI R.A. Tanghal,  
"A" Co Maint. Supervisor,  
1st Platoon Commander

"In my entire Naval career it was the most challenging job I have had."



HMI J. Pope - DET Corpman

"Deployment was great, outstanding, enjoyed independent duty."



MA1 R. D. Copeland,  
DET Representative to  
Base Security

"Best SEABEE DET ever...; working with Shore Patrol was challenging..."



FROM SIGONELLA, WITH LOVE

Neither Italian holidays, deadlined vehicles or power shortages kept our hard-working personnel from conducting business or accomplishing routine, emergency, or any other kind of task. During our deployment to sunny Sigonella our accomplishments were worthy of

praise, even though we didn't get the "E" again. Many of our fellow Seabees received either letters of commendation or letters of appreciation. But at least we weren't forgotten; our detachment was praised by COMCBLANT, the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Facility Sigonella, and military dependents (including enlisted women).

It was a worthy deployment and a very satisfying experience. During our daily routine, we came into contact quite often with our fearless leader, LTJG Kopaczewski, who not only is very persistent, but always wanted everything typed (personal letters, memos, you name it...). But we were always cheerful to comply with a thoughtful note (Sicilian song: "Welcome to Al Italia Airlines... Those who do not know how to swim please go to your right side; those who do know how to swim, go to your left side and swim straight ahead. For you non-swimmers, we say to you, once again, thanks for flying Al Italia Airlines...")

YN2 "Superstar" Luna and  
PNSN "Pabo" Recasas



PNSN Conrado Recasas, Sigonella Admin.



AIMD Builder Crew



Reenlistment of det corpsman, HMI Pope.

## EXPERTISE

Throughout the Sigonella deployment, project supervisors from time to time took note of new faces on their projects. By mid-deployment it was common knowledge that those faces belonged to UT's, SW's and CE's. The men of the 2nd Platoon have successfully played an interesting (if not confusing) game of "project jumping."

Project jumping (not akin to claim jumping, by the way) is the little known but fine art of taking six to ten men and twice that many projects; adding material shortages, Italian material, European construction techniques, transportation problems, and tool shortages; then mix well--and still manage somehow to be where you are needed at the right time. That's the way it went.

Glancing back we can see the completion of some fine projects. As the deployment end grew closer, we saw the completion of several more. Those that were turned over to NMCB FIVE should be in good shape.

Under the crew leadership of UT2 Kent Liles, with UT3's Charles Titsworth, Robert Cary, Jesse Erdman, and David Edwards; and UTCN's David Osborn, Clayton Plank, Michael Baird and Paul Baxter, the UT's had a tremendous learning and working experience. They somehow managed to keep their "heads" above water...

The CE's, with CE2 Orville Dana and CE2 John Russell as crew leaders for NAF I and NAF II respectively, discovered a whole new world of electricity--the Italian way. Many times, CE3 Donald Garland, CE3 Knut Lingmann and CE3 Brad Harden, and CECN's Greg Duc and Jim Hogrefe, found themselves running their own projects. Their finished work is a testimony to their fine ability.

SW2 Jim Snow, SW2 Phil McLain, SW2 Larry Potts, SW3 Joe Diaz, SW3 Steve

Walther, SWCN Tom Begrin and SWCN Bill Czirr, enlightened by an Italian pre-engineered AIMD building, proceeded to prove that no task was too tough.

SW1 Herb Swan, SW1 Richard White, UT1 Adrian Eisenlord (and yours truly, CE1 Roy Wilmot) found ourselves scheduling, planning, coordinating, organizing, and lending technical knowledge when and where required. Now that may sound like a lot, but blessed with the caliber of junior petty officers, we (the First Class) have in the 2nd Platoon, it is a pleasure rather than a task.

With just one more look back, we can each see what has been accomplished and know to what degree each of us contributed.

Well done, Seabees!

CE1 Roy Wilmot



Steelworkers Crew



CE Crew

## MUMBLING IN MLO

Today is Monday, as is every day in MLO (Monday...Monday...Monday...etc.)-- just think: six Mondays in one week! The task? Make sensible, organized confusion out of utter confusion.

Here was our staff: EOC Cole (MLO Supervisor), BU2 "Brownie" Brown (our Expeditor), SK2 Mike Parise (records & accounting), Anna Giancola (typist & translator), SW3 Bill Mundell (in the warehouse), E02 "Burger" Boyd (support), CECN Kenny Lewis (CTR), EOCA "Bud" Lemmond (support), plus additional extra bodies from time to time.

With robust energy, sporadic insanity and hard-core determination, we had countless hours of inventories; marking, receiving, issuing many types of European construction materials, as well as one or two items of Stateside types. With the help of Alpha Co., our storage yard was compacted and materials replaced in an orderly fashion. Our first attempt at a pipe rack collapsed. But a special thanks goes to the Rota crew for a lumber storage shed, which protects the wood from all but one of the elements: the ever-present footlocker racketeers. The Rota crew also built a large concrete pad for receiving, which is a welcome addition, and for which we're greatly appreciative for.

We were not without problems. For example, we had to locate, for the ever-efficient crew leaders, such tools as sky hooks, concrete welding rods, and board stretchers. (We overcame this by simply putting them "on order.")

We had inspections to get ready for. (Easily solved by hiding it, dazzling them with brilliance, or buffaloeing them with B.S.)

We often had no forklifts when bags of cement, lime and blocks came in or had to be delivered. (We took care of this one by stenciling "Pettibone R/T" on "Burger" and "Bud" and whoever else we could find.)

Mike Parise had his own special problems. The Base Comptroller's accounts never quite agreed with his balances, but somehow he managed to work it out--although he's not sure how.

One of the last problems we had to contend with were constantly changing priorities. We solved them with calls from above--the difference being if you were taller or shorter than Chief Cole.

As the deployment ends, we look back with feelings of pride in some well done accomplishments. We may not have a finished project; but without us, the projects would not have been finished. We produced and produced and produced--thanks to that individual driving force in each of us (not to mention the ever-present axe handle behind the Chief's desk...).



UT Crew



MLO/CTR Crew

## MEMOIRS FROM "AIR MUD"

In March, many thoughts were turned towards the projects which were now at hand. Meeting rain on the first few days took its toll on the prospective crews. But now it was time to roll; and keeping in mind what good tales had been told, we still smiled.

With leadership and patience, BU1 Rollins and BU2 Coch managed to keep us in the trenches long enough to finally pull us out of what became known as Air Mud. To finish the foundation work we had to shovel by hand in excess of 80 cubic meters of what they said with a smile was "select fill"; but it sure shoveled like clay. Finally, we built ourselves a place to work.

The site moved forward as we covered the work done by UT2 Liles and UTCN Osborn, who had been there right from the start, and who now had an abundance of interior plumbing to complete. People like SW2 Snow, SW3 Diaz and SWCN Czirr got things rolling with the arrival of a new creation: a prototype Butler hut with many features that have left older styles behind. As everyone soon discovered, working out the bugs in this erector set was not quite that easy--but then no one had ever built one before. With help from the BU's, the massive skeleton finally rose and siding and roofing was completed in blazing speed for the rookies we were.

Then things really fell in place with the start of interior walls and finish work by the BU's: BU1 Frank Rollins, BU2 Bob Coch, BU2 Stan Cottrell, BU2 Clyde Davis, BU3 John Rose, BU3 Ed Myers, BU3 Dan Lusby, BU3 Dean Hancock, BU3 Dennis Hall, BUCN Russ Anderson, BUCN Don Burns, BUCN Bart

King, BUCN Gene Walker, BUCN Steven Swanson, BUCN Jim Miller and BUCN Don Spicer. They managed to do things with materials that you wouldn't believe!

And then the CE's, CE2 John Russell, CE3 Brad Harden, and CECN Jim Hogrefe, added the final touches that really made the place well equipped to handle all the needs of those we supported: the Airedales.



CE2 John Russell



CM Crew



EA's and Quality Control Crew

## ON STAGE

Eight months ago began perhaps one of the most challenging and demanding projects ever encountered: the Theater Addition. With an earnest and highly motivated crew, the progress was both amazing and swift. Under the guidance and watchful eye of BU1 Merle Thoms, project supervisor, Sigonella residents watched the daily progress of their theater. Builders, led by BU2 Bob Coch and BU3 Mike Stier, encountered many challenging construction problems. If nothing else was gained from the deployment, at least they know now how to put plaster on...and off...and on...and off...and on. ("No fear guys, the last one is the one.")

If the BU's thought they had problems they must be glad they weren't UT's. That crew was led by UT3 Rupert Cary, and to him, problems were easy. For example, consider running copper water lines. No problem--it's just how do you sweat wrought iron fittings to it? Or how about trying to tie in a new high temperature water line into a decaying existing system? UT3 Cary very stubbornly stated, "I will get it to work"--and he did.

Not to be forgotten are the SW's, led by SW2 Phil McLean. They also were not to be outdone with problems. I can't understand why it took them six months to install the duct for the air conditioner. All we heard were flimsy excuses, like: they didn't order any bolts, nuts, washers, hangers, or gaskets; the manufacturer didn't follow the prints; you moved the air handling unit, etc., etc. Despite all of these problems, progress was made. All that can be said for these guys is an echoing "No sweat!" (Who said that?)

The only rate to make it through the Theater Addition Project with a minimum number of problems were the CE's, led by CE2 Orville Dana. Although CE2 Dana has

left both the project and the Seabees, his mark was left behind. A tribute to his expertise was voiced by LT Pollard, AROICC, NAF Sigonella, in his appreciation of a very dangerous fire hazard discovered by CE2 Dana in the main theater, which consisted of conduit and junction boxes that looked like intricate turnpikes designed by a mad engineer.

Well, that and all the support received from the entire detachment is the unabridged story of the Theater Addition, with contributions by Seabees like BU3 Dennis Blakeley, BU3 Kent Vanostrand, BU3 Larry Ward, BUCN Kim Schmidt, BUCN Bill McCowan, BUCN Tony Simanski, BUCN Ramon Garcia, BUCN Jim Benishek, BUCN Conrad Sucatre, BUCN Jimmy Miller, BUCN Chris Fenwick, UTCN Michael Baird, UTCN Paul Baxter, SW3 Joe Diaz, and SW3 Steven Walther, who will continue to meet problems and solve them.

Seabee ingenuity was widely evident at the Theater Addition; and when NMCB FOUR Det Sigonella departed, we left behind a lot of sweat and pride put into a theater that will serve the residents of Sigonella for years to come. It will be a project where the Seabee "Can Do" spirit will always be present.



Theater Addition Builder Crew



Naval Magazine Builder crew.



BUCN Burnett, BU3 Ireton, BUCN Baier and SW2 Potts.



The Seabee method of obtaining a cold drink.



EO Crew



Dispatch Office; E03 Barnato, E03 Dye



The Det Sigonella flag football team



EOCN Timothy Greer



EACN Jose Tan



Clowning around at the theater site.

A LAST SAY...



As this deployment nears its finish, we in Sigonella's Alpha Co. would like to take this time to extend our thanks to all who have made it possible to go home. It's hard to find the right words to describe our time here in Sigonella. Over the past months, we endured hardships known only to Seabees. But to make a long story short, like us, I will make a quote from our local wise guy, CM2 Fricke: "We have stood as mighty oaks in a fierce gale, and with no visual side effects...effects...effects..."

CM3 Gregory Corzette

# Det Holy Loch

Each morning, as the winds blew and rain seemed to continue endlessly, NMCB FOUR's Holy Loch detachment found itself leaving its large, floating hotel, the submarine tender USS HOLLAND (AS-32), as boats shuttled them ashore to their project work site.

The groundwork was laid by the Holy Loch advance party: LTJG Detroye, BU2 Kleiner, UT2 Pena and CE2 Favorite. These four arrived on 5 March. On 16 March, the 17-man main body arrived on the scene.

Everyone was awestruck the first time they viewed the Hobby Shop project, for it looked more like a giant, two-story, neglected sheep shed. With work schedules well layed-out in advance by the advance party, work began--and it wasn't long before things started to take shape. The men all identified with their work and seemed oblivious both to the weather and to the liberty in the area. BU1 Junkers sparked some renewed enthusiasm when he joined the detachment after its first month as AOIC.

As May faded away, the detachment completed an additional tasking with BU2 Scott in charge: the NAVACTS/PW Service Garage, also known as the Rankin Garage Project. Later that month, we found ourselves recuperating from a weekend bus trip to London. It was a welcome change from our six-day working schedule that was taking the wind out of a few sails. BU3 Oldendahl was added to the ranks, and the total number of Holy Loch people rose to 21.

June continued the six-day work week, and as Holy Loch started to bud with some occasional sunshine, the men of FOUR had the opportunity to see some of the most beautiful scenery the European deployment had to offer

In July, the detachment had the satisfaction of seeing all its ends tied together. The UT's put their new heating and plumbing systems under

pressure. The CE's lit up areas that probably had never seen light before, and the BU's started and finished a paint job that put the final touch on a quality project.

As things began to wind up, the detachment left an anchor crew of seven men to help in setting up the wood-working and auto hobby facilities. The project was turned over on 23 August as the detachment added three new men: BU3 Junkers (as if one wasn't enough), CE3 Elevado and BUCN Menga. They assisted in polishing off another project to provide the Navy Exchange with a service garage for the repair of domestic cars.

As October drew to a close, the winds started to blow again, and the rain clouds moved into their old places. The Holy Loch detachment took its last shuttle boat ashore and headed for Rota, to spend a week in the sun on their way home.

LTJG R.P. DeTroye



Wham!



NMCB-4 Det Holy Loch: Back Row-BU3 Stines, CE2 Favorite, BUCN Bailey, CE3 Novotny, BUCN Saly, CE3 Ekstrom, BUCN Handon, CDR Macdonald, UT3 Wright, UT3 Stillwell, SWCA McDaniel, UT2 Pena, EACN Barton, LTJG DeTroye Front Row-BU2 Kleiner, BU3 McMorris, BU3 McBain, BUCN DeSantis, BUCN Wright, BUCN Laverentz, BU3 Qdendahl, BU1 Junkers



UT2 Jess Pena and OIC, LTJG DeTroye do some inventory and ordering work.



I've been lost in this cave for days!



A Holy Loch crew and civilian friend sample a fresh pot of stew.



BUCN Pat Hansen, patches up an old wall at the garage.



Scoring the rendering



BU2 Robert Scott begins work on his masterpiece sculpture.



Playing Tom Sawyer; BU3 Will McMorris.



The delights of shipboard life!  
UT3 Robert Wright



The mud mixers; BUCN Dave Laverentz and SWCN Dave McDaniel.



"Anywhere around here" UT3  
Richard Stillwell locates a  
new heater



UT2 Jess Pena "1001, 1002, 1003..."



BU1 Lawrence Junkers



BU1N Gary Bailey applies fascia board to the  
Hobby Shop.

# Det Diego Garcia

As I write this, the Diego Garcia Detachment's deployment is almost over.

Perhaps the greatest frustration to many of us has been the problem communicating with our friends and loved ones. Erratic mail delivery has caused unnecessary worry at both ends of the world. We grew used to it, though, and managed to survive the mail droughts.

On the brighter side, there have been good times, too. We've had memorable parties at the Plantation and here in camp.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting our tropical island, let me reassure you that it's not as bad as we make it sound sometimes. Sunsets are often beautiful and occasionally outstanding. SW1 Bishop even left a few shells for the rest of us to find. Night owls who roamed the beach saw a galaxy of stars and listened to the ocean lapping the shore.

Of course, we all look forward to going home, and many of us can rattle off the exact number of days left--but that doesn't mean everyone is sitting around waiting for the plane. Our men in support billets with NMCB 133 are working hard in MLO, the galley, CSR, Engineering, and the Alpha Co. Shops. Those working on our det's project are putting in long hours at the crusher, the crescent scraper, and at the "tide-haul" site. They have used ingenuity, patience and lots of hard work to overcome a multitude of obstacles.

Although we've certainly had our problems, everyone will be able to go home proud of their performance. We're making lots of small rocks out of big ones, and the support people have a good reputation.

We'll come home a little older, a little wiser, and ready to rejoin civilization. I'll never forget the people or the experience.

LTJG TRUE

NMCB FOUR's Diego Garcia Det finally got things going full swing as quotas were announced. Tidehaul spent the entire period working both the reef on low tides and hauling material to the crusher site. CM3 Spires and CM3 Wells kept the rock drills and other equipment up. The hours were long and often the only reward was knowing that the job was completed and done right.

E01 Gilbreath and E02 Ramagos headed Tidehaul as the crew blasted, drilled and hauled day in and day out. The hours fluctuated with each tide period. Near the end of the deployment, nearly 1000 yards of material was brought out each day. The crew consisted of E03's D'Arcangelo, Maxcy, Gonzales, EOCN's Sisk, Musser, Duff, Leonhardt, Blacksher, EOCA's Allen, Johnson and Kazaroff. E02 King fluctuated between Tidehaul and the crescent scraper as did E03 D'arcangelo.

The Crusher Crew found there were many things to be ironed out before the two crushers would work right. With EO's acting as CM's much of the time during

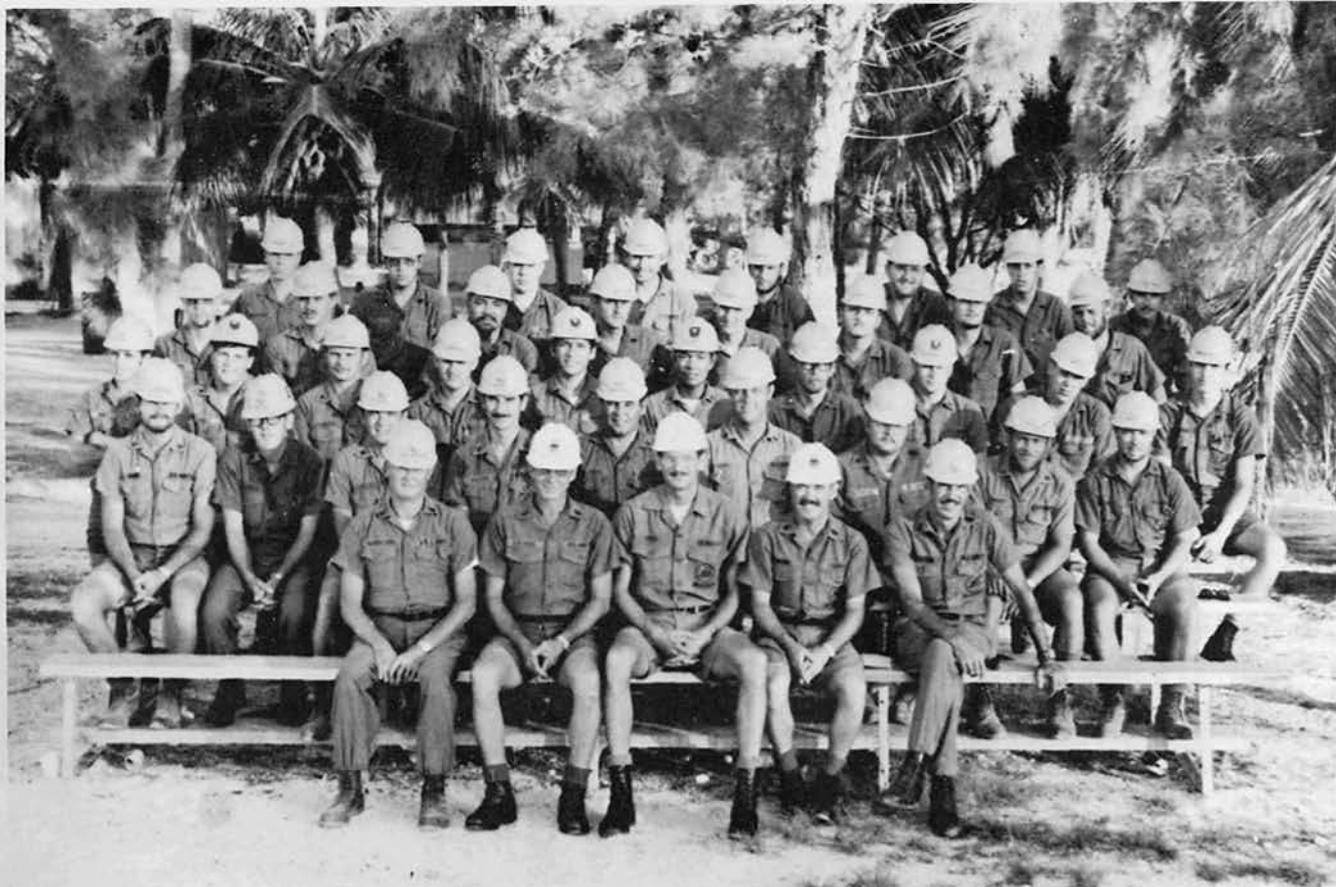
the first few months, the machinery began to function as was hoped. A day crew and a night crew were set up. Although not planned as such, the day crew repaired and prepared the crusher for the night crew. The night crew ran material for several weeks.

A group of various rates and individuals went to augment billets. These included BUC Clolinger, CM2 Jones, EA2 Moore, EACN Kibbe, CM3 Long, CMCN Johnson, BUCN Galarza and SK3 Heredia. Each found his work really cut out for him, as first NMCB FIVE and then NMCB 133 was augmented. Chief Clolinger went to MLO to sort things out, and the CM's headed for Alpha Co. Shops. SK3 Heredia moved into CSR and made himself at home, and BUCN Galarza went first to Camp Maintenance then to MLO. The EA's found work too: EA2 Moore worked at the Soils Lab and EACN Kibbe worked on a survey team.

A great deal has been accomplished by the men of FOUR on Diego Garcia. The work was hard, spirits fluctuated, and the conditions seemed staggering at times. Yet despite these things, the Seabee "Can Do" tradition prevailed.

From Diego Garcia, gem of the Indian Ocean, we bid you farewell and look forward to seeing families and friends in homeport once again.

E03 Joe Metts  
CM3 Dave Redding, CMCN Mark Johnson and EOCN Claude Blacksher



NMCB-4 Det Diego Garcia: 1st Row-EO1 Gilbreath, BUC Clolinger, LTJG True (OIC), EOC Young (AOIC), EO1 Somerton, 2nd Row-EO2 Shaw, CM2 Jones, SW1 Bishop, EA2 Moore, EO2 Ramagos, EO2 King, CM2 Hetrick, EO3 Maxcy, EO3 Metts, 3rd Row-EO3 Guet, CM3 Spires, EO3 Streeter, CM3 Redding, SK3 Heredia, EO3 Gonzales, EO3 Geiter, CM3 Wells, CM3 Long, EOCN Blacksher, 4th Row-EACN Kibbe, EOCN Duff, BUCN Galarza, EOCN Lawson, EOCN Olson, CMCN Johnson, EOCA Musser, EOCA Kazaroff 5th Row-EO3 D'Arcangelo, EOCA Allen, EOCA Johnson, EOCN Veazey, EOCN Karlson, EOCN Linhart, EOCA Wolson, EOCN Sisk

Greetings from Det. Diego, from the beautiful South Seas island, where the sun shines at least part of the time, the rain is warm, the fishing great and the palm trees loaded with coconuts.

Everyone knows the old adage about Seabees accomplishing the impossible. Well, the men of FOUR are doing just that. They were assigned to complete an almost impossible task under unreal working conditions.

The job is harvesting coral from an off-shore

ocean reef, much of the time working in one to two feet of water with breakers coming in, and turning it into a useable product of such quantities large enough to construct a sizeable runway extension, airplane parking apron, and numerous berthing and support facilities. The men of FOUR proved they have what it takes--each man was personally dedicated to job accomplishment and the day-to-day displays of high morale and fellowship supported that fact.

The work was great and the island beautiful. But Diego is not yet the island paradise everyone dreams about--there is still one thing missing. And for that, we'll be glad when this job is done...  
EQCM RUTHERFORD





EO3 Mike D'Arcangelo pushes blasted material from Diego's coral reef.



EOCN Gatlin and EOCN Musser



Home Sweet Home; The Diego Garcia Hilton.



EA2 Mike Moore tests soil samples.



CMCN Mark Johnson and towering MRS tire.



Setting charges in the reef; EOL L.D. Gilbreath



Blowing holes for charge placement.



Det OIC, LTJG True and EO3 Guet discuss work at the crusher site.

# MILESTONES



Twenty-Nine Palms exercise in January 1976.



Main body arrival at Rota, March 1976.



CDR Macdonald and NMCB-74's CO, CDR Leonard after the turnover in March.



Presentation of the Best of Type plaque, Port Hueneme, October 1975,



RADM Marschall presents the Peltier Award, 1/5/76



Lined-up vehicles during the mount-out. Sept. 76



Change of Command, 29 July, 1976.  
CDR Bednar and CDR Macdonald.



The American flag flies at Rota  
on July 4, 1976.

# Det Nea Makri

Greece has been a very unique and worthwhile deployment. Now that our work is done, we packed our bags for a new assignment with the Sigonella Detachment and found even more challenging tasks to do.

We completed our Nea Makri project, putting much sweat and technical finesse into some 86 five-ton air conditioning units. Yet with only six men, the final results were of the highest caliber. To see the fruits of our labors is to see the smiles on the faces of the radiomen

this summer as they worked in their new cool rooms.

Being TAD here gave us the opportunity to see the Acropolis and to walk through the stadium where the first Olympic Games were held.

In closing, I want to personally thank the men of the Nea Makri Det: CE2 Derek Fong, CECN Jay Black, UT3 John Mumme, and UTCN's Mark Steman and Butch Adams, for making this det what it was. It will be fondly remembered by NAVCOMMSTA Greece.

UT2 Knowlton



NMCB-4 DET NEA MAKRI: Back Row-POIC UT2 Gary Knowlton, UT3 Mumme, UTCN Steman, Front Row-CECN Black, CE2 Fong, UTCN Adams



CE2 Derek Fong wires up another unit



Det POIC, UT2 Gary Knowlton, wonders what happened to the job site.



CECN Jay Black works on another of the det's many A/C units.



UTCN's Steman and Adams try to get to the heart of a problem with a little technical assistance from Pappy, a Greek friend.



The entrance to the famous flea market in Athens, near Nea Makri.



An Athens view of the famed hill, Acropolis, built thousands of years ago.

# Det Souda Bay



BU3 Bob Gustafson and BUCA Tom Bawn put up plywood at the handball court project.



"The Miami of the Med Sounds pretty nice."



CM2 Gary Watson's the name, PM schedule's the game.



BU3 Randall Myers



"That power cable must be somewhere!" EOCN Mike Lloyd



EO2 Wisman and EOCN Lloyd dig a comm line trench.



Quitting time at Souda Bay.



BU2 Carl Miller and SW3 John Chaves tie rebar.



The beginning of a wall; BU3 Bob Gustafson.

# Det La Maddalena

The short-lived detachment at La Maddalena on the Italian island of Sardinia, consisted of 19 men. Leaving on 18 May 1976, they busied themselves with construction of a ball field and a gym overhead. By the time the det disbanded and returned to Sigonella and Uta on 16 July, both jobs were completed.

For their work, the battalion received a letter of appreciation from the Commanding Officer, U. S. Navy Support Office, La Maddalena.



CMI Bob Fulton works on a grader at the ballfield site.



EO3 Dye, EOCN Hughes, and EO2 Johnson pose with their pet rock.



Almost done with a cutting job; SW3 Terry Boyum.



UT3 Danny Miles; "one more turn".



Who says MS1 Ray Wandt isn't a Seabee?



EOCN George Hughes and E03 Don Dye

# Det Moron

The NMCB FOUR contingent at Moron Air Base near Rota had one job and one job only--antenna construction. The det's 14 men worked on five antennas for the NAVCOMMSTA there. Four of these were completed by turnover time.



Filling the forms



EA3 Charles Mikulus at the antenna site.



A recent concrete pour at one of Moron's antenna pads.



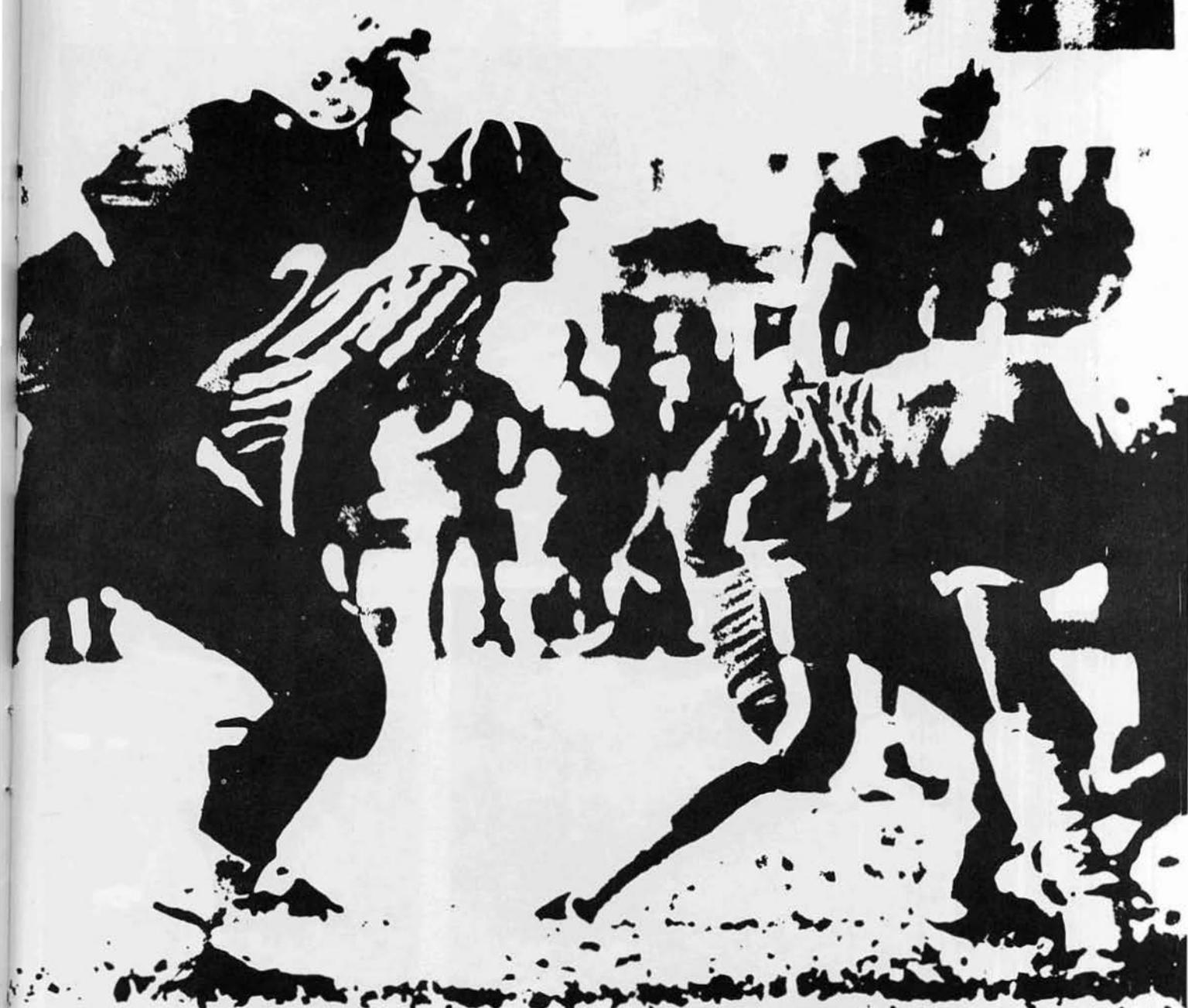
CEC Vandermeiren's crew



EO3 Mike White and EOCA Lance Wrona.



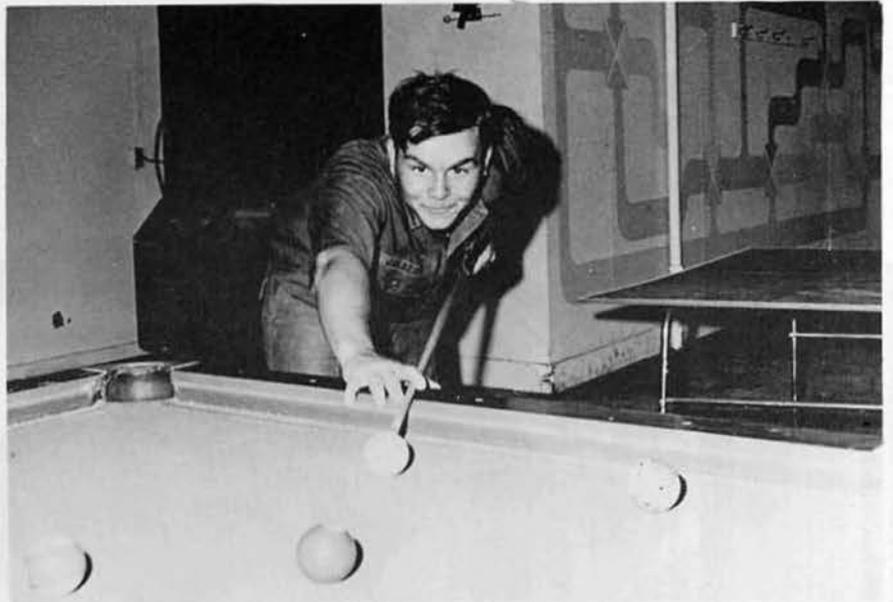
A Moron sunrise over the communications facilities.



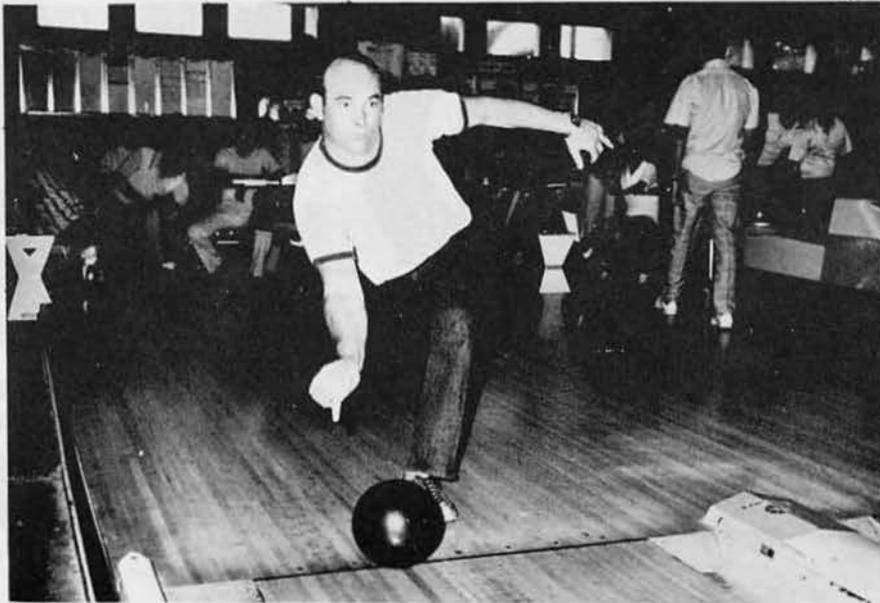
**Fun & Games**



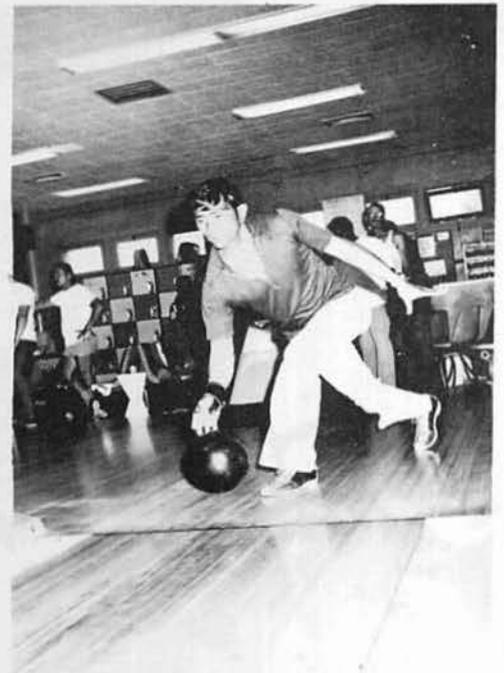
HM2 Farmer, HM3 DeBoer  
and their famed garden



Don Jalbert, also known as "P.M." and his  
famous bank shot.



Chief Howard of the MS bowling team



Marcos Escalante goes for  
a strike



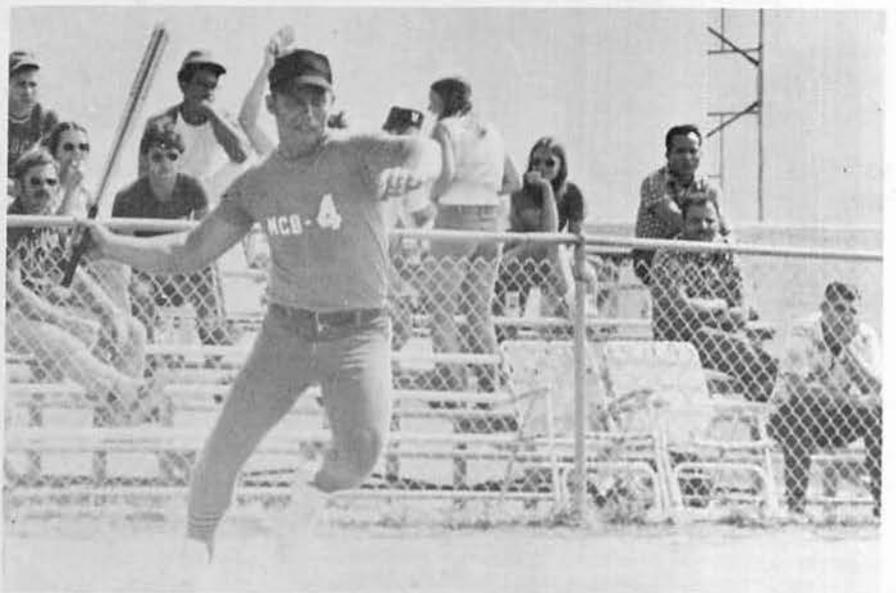
Steve Sheldon awaits the pitch



A fine catch by Bob Rector



Battalion intermural softball



Larry Falk wastes little time after a hit.



Rota's rodeo was a favorite spot for many Seabees.



The NMCB-4 float which participated in the Fourth of July parade at Rota



Horseshoes at the mid-deployment party.



That fateful game against the Rota Women All Stars. Guess who won it.



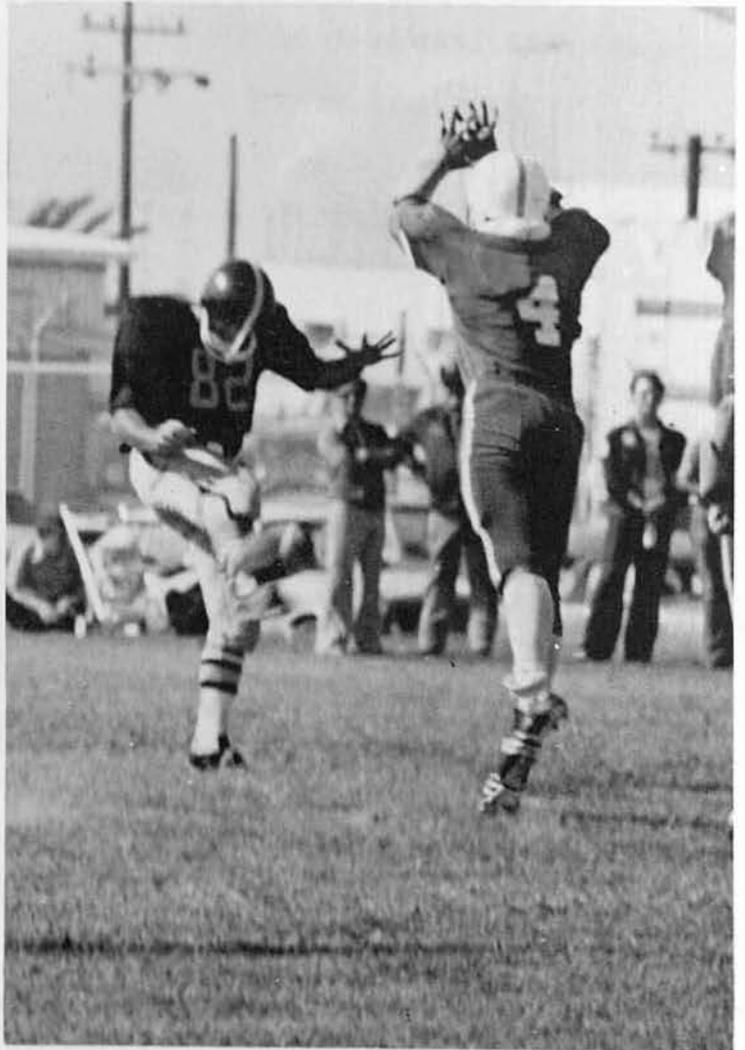
John Warren, a member of the "NAV-BEE" football team made up of NMCB-4 and NAVSTA players.



The NAV-BEE squad ready to move against the VQ-2 team.



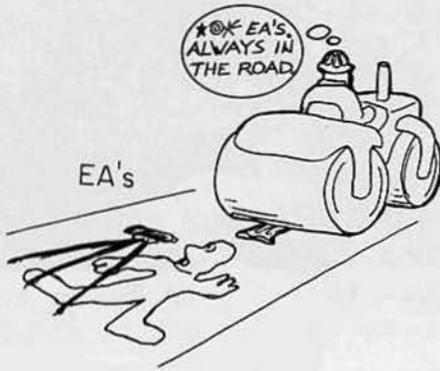
Watch that off-sides now!



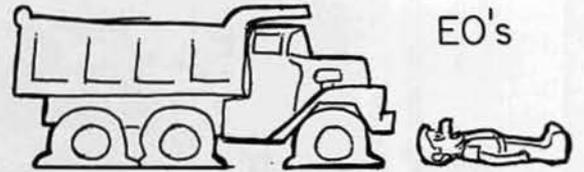
Was it blocked?

# A lighter look

Comics by EACN Doug Jagd & BU2 Mike Rea



"HAVE YOU FOUND THE PROBLEM, YET?"



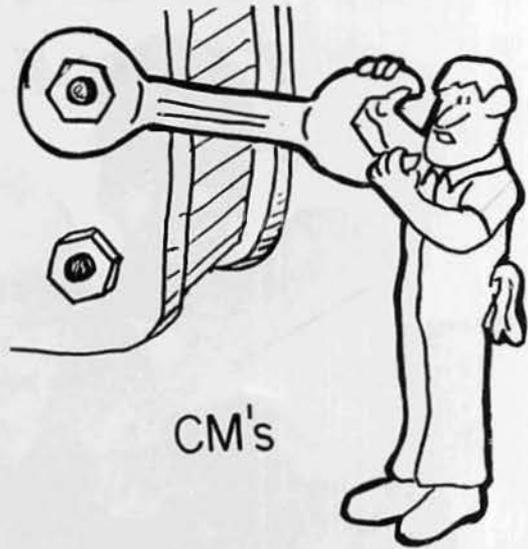
"SOME DAYS IT JUST DOESN'T PAY  
TO GET OUT OF BED."





CE's

"ARE YOU SURE THIS IS JUST  
RIGID CONDUIT?"

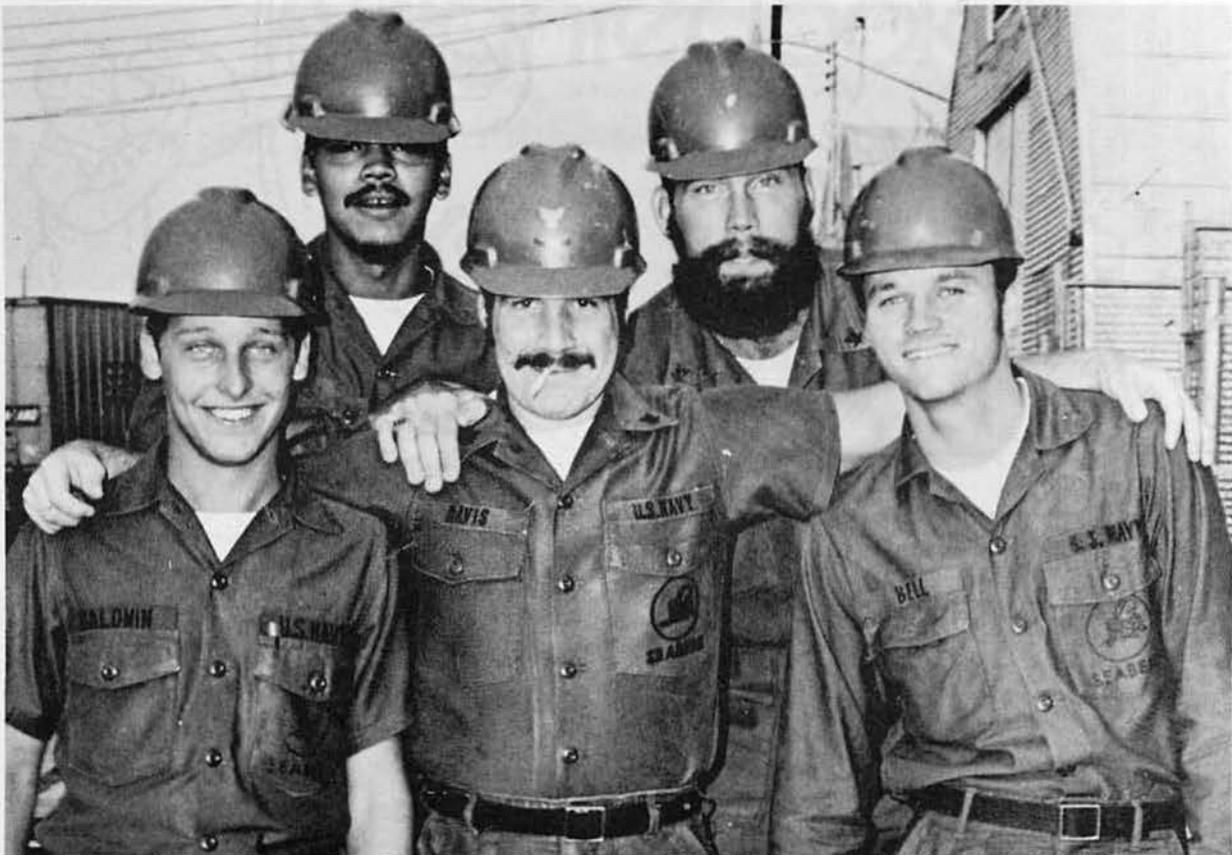


CM's

"WHY DO I ALWAYS GET THE  
HEAVY EQUIPMENT?"



# Better late than never



Back Row-EOCN Metoxen, EO3 Chermack, Front Row-EOCR Baldwin, EO3 Davis, EOCN Bell

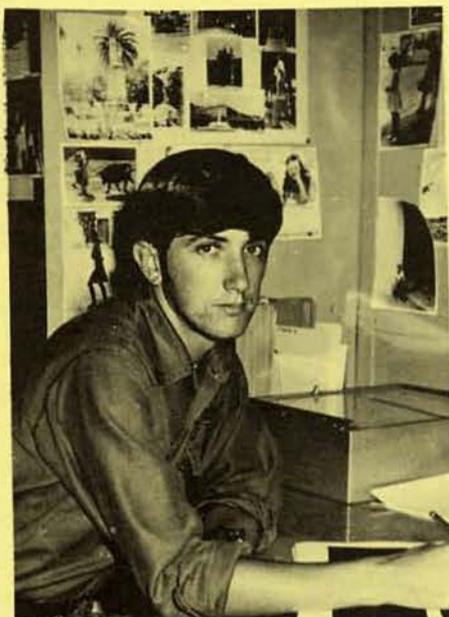


Back Row-CE3 Rosález, CECN Starrett, Front Row-UT3 Miles, UTCA Armstrong, BU3 Edwards

# PAO Staff



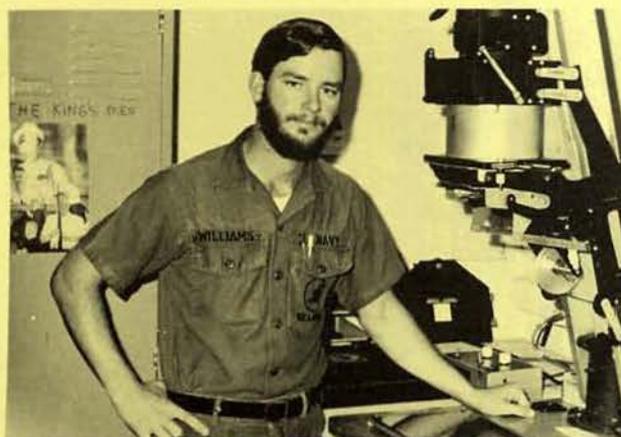
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