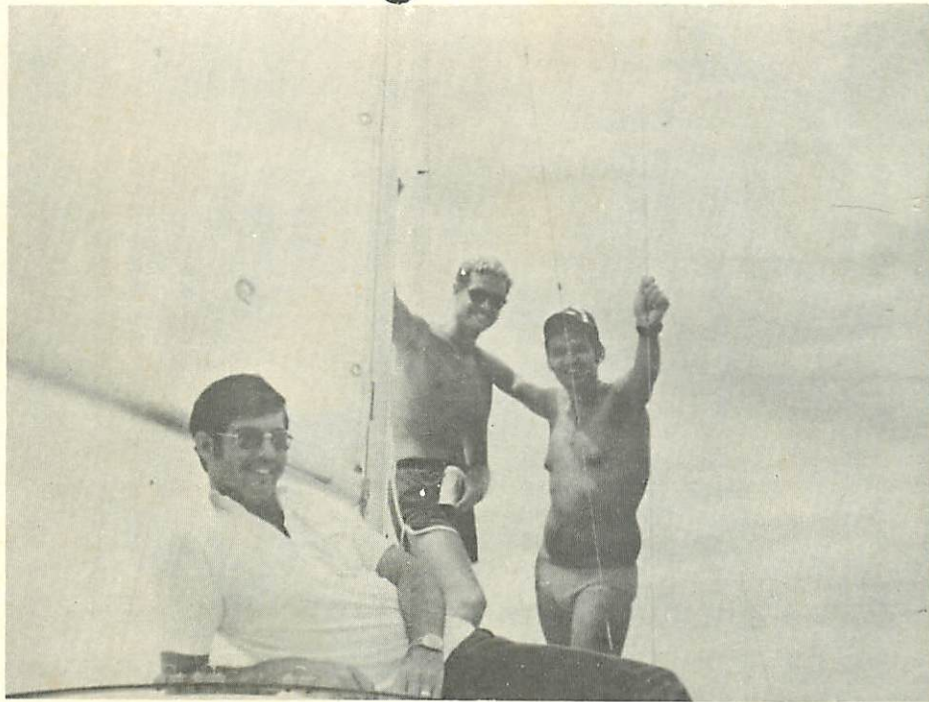


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COCONUT COURIER

Sailing ...



on Diego Garcia

U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION
DIEGO GARCIA BIOT



LCDR C.F. POIKAS CDR D.E. NOLAN RMCS H.D. BROWN
Executive Officer Commanding Officer Senior Chief of
the Command

The COCONUT COURIER is published with appropriated funds in accordance with NAVEXOS (P-35). Opinions stated are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Navy.

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 Photos CT2 T.L. MILLER

All contributions to the COCONUT COURIER in the form of articles, photographs, or art work are strongly encouraged. If you're living here on Diego Garcia, contact LTJG KEIFFER at C-Site (4152) or at home (4499). If you're receiving this familygram at home while your Navyman is serving his tour here, please send your ideas or contributions to COCONUT COURIER, C/O Box 12 NSF, FPO San Francisco, Ca. 96685 - Your input is also important to us.

ON THE COVER . . .

Sailing on the lagoon is just one of the many recreations to take advantage of on Diego Garcia. Story on page 6.



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER . . .

Since our last Courier, Naval Communication Station, Diego Garcia has shouldered even heavier new tasks in this troubled area of the world. As this family-gram goes to the printer, your man in Diego Garcia is once again at the leading edge of the intense effort to protect a precarious peace.

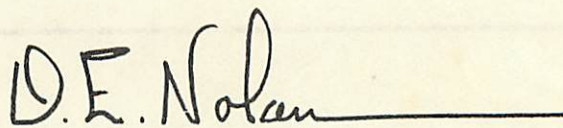
This combined United States Navy/Royal Navy team effort has stretched our resources and demanded even higher levels of performance for much longer periods from our men, but it has - again - proven the tenacity of a sailor.

Please know that your Navyman on Diego Garcia is doing an indispensable job - and doing it well. As we move into 1981, however, there is no sign that he will be called upon to do less. We'll keep working.

As proud as I am of the men with whom I serve, I'm as proud of you at home, either in the United Kingdom or the United States. I know of the sacrifices involved when a loved one is away, especially when he's on isolated duty. The wholehearted support which our families give actively contributes to that high morale which adds so greatly to our achievements.

I am scheduled to relinquish command to Commander Bob Sisson on February 23, 1981. We will not publish another Courier before that time. Please accept, then, my deep appreciation for your understanding, my best wishes for a joyous and prosperous 1981 and my prayer that the Prince Of Peace will smile upon you.

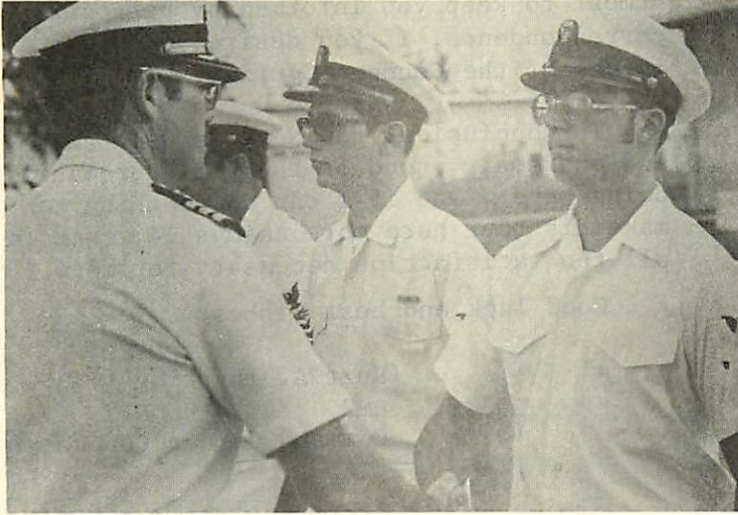
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "D. E. Nolan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

D. E. NOLAN

Commander U. S. Navy

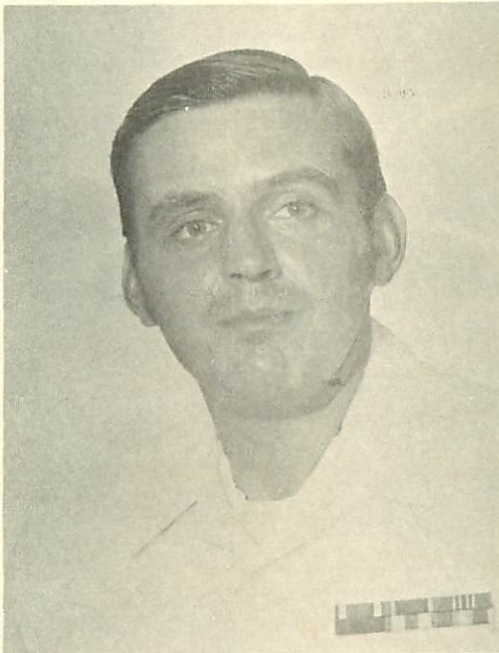
SAILOR/PETTY OFFICER OF THE QUARTER



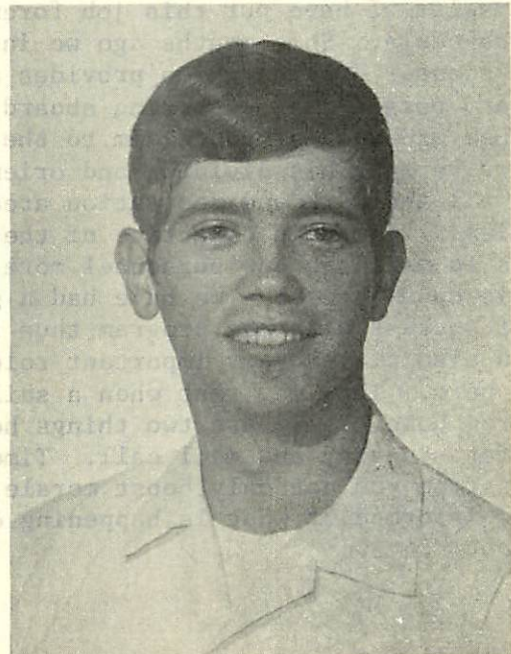
ET3 BRECKENRIDGE
SAILOR OF THE QUARTER
APRIL - JUNE



RM2 BUTLER
PETTY OFFICER OF THE QUARTER
APRIL - JUNE



CTT1 JOST
PETTY OFFICER OF THE QUARTER
JULY - SEPTEMBER



RM2 BOLES
SAILOR OF THE QUARTER
JULY - SEPTEMBER

CAREER COUNSELOR'S CORNER

- by RM2 K. A. THYRRING

Before I begin, let me welcome you to the NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia family. We are truly fortunate to have your man serving with us. I am sure he is enjoying an interesting as well as hardworking tour here on the island.

My job as the Command Career Counselor basically involves assisting NAVCOMMSTA personnel with their career intentions, military as well as civilian. I am also involved with helping personnel with their training courses and preparation for Navy-wide examinations for advancement. But probably my most important function is making calls to the detailers in Washington in an attempt to secure good orders for personnel leaving after their arduous tour here is over.

Fortunately, the detailers are coming to realize what a tour on Diego Garcia is really like and I am happy to report that up to 95% of our men get the orders they ask for. A good set of orders out of Diego Garcia not only helps the retention figures for the island and the Navy, but more importantly, bolsters the morale of the individual.

Here on Diego, we are constantly working toward a "people oriented" system; in essence, doing all we possibly can for the man himself. I have put this job foremost on my schedule. Some months ago we initiated a sponsor program which provides a man for every person just reporting aboard to show them around, introduce him to the other workers in his division and orient him to all the work and recreation areas on the island. The main objective of the program is to make the new personnel more comfortable upon arrival. We have had a great deal of success with the program thus far.

You also play a very important role in morale here. They say that when a sailor is away from home, there are two things he lives for - payday and mail call. Timely letters from you not only boost morale, but keep us informed of what is happening on the homefront.

As part of the NAVCOMMSTA family, I invite your comments and ideas on how we can further serve your loved one. I maintain an "open door" policy at all times and this holds true for you as well. If you have a question or complaint, please write and share your ideas with me. I will do my utmost to keep you informed by personal correspondence, if you desire, and future issues of the Coconut Courier.

In conclusion, the Navy is well aware and extremely proud of the job your man is doing here; and if I can do anything to make his tour here more enjoyable, that is all the satisfaction necessary for me.

Good luck and best wishes.

Kurt A. Thyrring
RM2 USN
Command Career Counselor

SAILING THROUGH YOUR TOUR
. . .ON DIEGO GARCIA

by CTTI R. K. Jost

Hopefully, most people assigned to the island have heard of the Diego Garcia Yacht Club and Sailing Association or at least the MARINA. Both organizations have suffered some rough times but manage to keep plugging along. A shortage of engines for the whalers or "if you aren't qualified on sailboats, you can't check one out" are a few of the deterrents that have also kept people away. Believe me, things are really changing and for the better. Special Services has motors and boats on order and expect delivery within the next few "off-loads". Included in the expected new items are three new Laser class sailboats and three new O'Day Rhodes class day sailers. This will bring the "fleet" at the marina to about 6 - 7 operational Laser class, 6 - 7 Rhodes (19') class, 1 Yamaha class, a few Sunfish class currently being re-worked and 2 San Juan 23' cruisers (only 1 operational at this time).



CTMI C. Kennedy CTTI M. Wickham LTJG Weaver
CTTI K. Kaiser

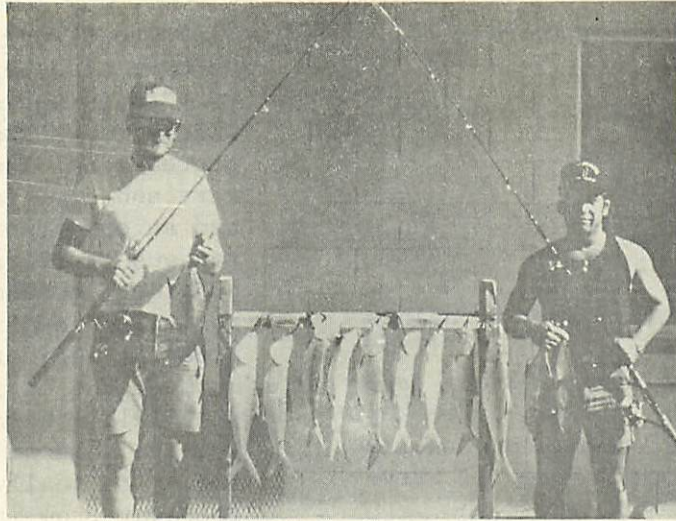
enjoy an afternoon of sailing on the
lagoon.

To constructively utilize our sailboats, we have also begun a sailing class sanctioned through the American Red Cross, which is widely recognized and accepted at other recreational boating facilities, both military and civilian. If some of you haven't had an opportunity to experience the simultaneous thrill and relaxation sailing can provide, its about time you did. Even if you're not qualified, there's usually a group of dedicated recreational sailors down at the marina (especially on weekends) who would like nothing better than to indoctrinate someone new into the world of sailing. Its really one of the best ways to get away from it all for a few hours and enjoy the lagoon, the weather and just kick back.

An example of a day sailing would be for a couple of guys to check out one of the Rhodes day-sailers, grab a cooler of refreshments and "cast-off" for an afternoon of nothing but sailing, sun, fun and conversation that will usually lean away from the topic of D. G. Being able to be lazily sailing along and sight some sea turtles, or view a ray gracefully break water and "fly" several feet before an equally graceful re-entry home.

Or - if a competitive spirit hits you, accept the challenge of the lagoon and the weather, pitted against your skill at making wind and water work for you at peak efficiency, through sail trim, maneuvers and gained experience. On the larger boats, you can get together with a group of people you enjoy being with and not be interrupted, distracted or encroached upon. Even if you let the others do the sailing you can still enjoy a relaxing nap in the cabin or catch a few rays top-side. One aspect of sailing that has recently been applied is for R & R purposes. Three of the NCS people (qualified on the San Juan 23' cruiser) took advantage of a 3 day weekend and took the San Juan over to the Plantation side of the island and anchored off the R & R Center. Sleeping aboard the boat, sailing during the day and visiting the Plantation (with authorization) whenever they felt like they needed to feel terra firma again. Believe me, that was on of the best weekends ever.

I can only encourage you to come out and try sailing. The bottom line is to find some constructive pastime while you're on "The Rock", whether it be sailing, shell-ing, snorkeling, racquetball, biking, basketball, softball, OR - why not try them all at sometime or another. It really makes the TIME PASS. Have a good one !!



CTR1 DONNELLY and CTRC FUENTE
after a day's catch.

TOOTHY CRITTER CORNER

by CTR1 Vincent J. DONNELLY

Welcome to Diego Garcia - Fisherman's Paradise! This article is intended for the new or once-in-a-while fisherman. I won't bore you with fishing stories about the monsters running around the lagoon since we all know the veracity of fishermen, but rather how to catch a few of the basic species of game fish available to each and every one of us.

In this issue I'll concentrate on three plentiful and, for their size, fighters - the mackeral, bonefish and giant trevally (Jack for short).

First the mackeral. I've found that all you really need is a small spinning outfit - preferably with 10 lb. or so line. Next, a size 2, 3, or 4 treble hook tied directly to your line. (No leaders or weights please, we want to catch them, not scare them off). With this basic equipment, you're now fully equipped to start fishing and catching mackeral. There are two popular places to catch these wary critters: first is the C.B. Pier on the ocean side. The other is the small pier on the lagoon side near Harbor Ops and behind "O" Country.

Which one to go to is very simple. Depending on wind conditions and time of year, the minnows hang around one or the other and right now they're around C.B. pier, so that's where we'll start. Best time is first light and, of course, an incoming tide is preferable, but as long as there is a few feet of water and the minnows are swimming around the pier, then the mackeral aren't far off. Now that we have all the ingredients - rig, place, best time and tide and bait (minnows) - the rest is really easy.

Take the rod and reel with the 2 - 4 treble hanging off the end, and throw it into the middle of all that baitfish down there next to the pier and let the hook settle close to the bottom before giving it a firm tug, which (with a little practice) should get you a nice squirming baitfish. Now, quickly throw it out and get ready for some fun. By this time you should be able to see mackeral swimming and chasing the baitfish. Remember to keep the drag fairly loose and set the hook as soon as the mackeral hit the bait. (Freespooling isn't necessary). One more thing to keep in mind: after bringing the mackeral over the railing and on to the pier, be careful handling him when removing the hook. Those spines on his dorsal fin are very painful and contain venom. (Won't kill you, but the pain will last a while and remind you to be more careful in the future).

Now let's go after some bonefish!

Believe it or not, these are the glamor fish that many of the best fishermen in the world pay \$100 - \$200 a day to fish for on the flats in Florida, and many times don't even see one. But here on D. G. they're caught by the dozen each and every day with bait ranging from the ridiculous (chicken, hot dogs) to the absurd (steak, bread). The easy way though is to take that exact same mackeral rig and either throw it to a school of bonies alive or probably even more effective, hook that little bugger through the head and slowly retrieve it close to the bottom and when a bonefish hits it, you're into perhaps the greatest fighting fish, pound-for-pound, in the ocean. Taking as many as a dozen of these in a couple of hours is not unusual here.

Now for the last, and biggest: the giant trevally - commonly called "Jack" by most people here, and called "Ulua" in Hawaii. These monsters can go well over 100 lbs and I know for certain that many have taken fish 60 lbs. plus here. These aren't taken every day. However, a certain percentage of small ones (under 20 lbs.) are taken from C.B. Pier fairly regularly. The really big ones come into the area between the pier and the lagoon when the mullet (their favorite food) are in the area "en masse". We're pretty sure there is a regular cycle when this event occurs but we haven't gotten it completely figured out yet. But keep your eyes open and when you notice the mullet in giant schools, then get out your big rigs (20-40 lb. line) and get down along the shore line. You'll need a fairly large treble hook (2/0 - 4/0) to snag the mullet (it can be done with a large single hook, but is more difficult). I find that a leader of 50-80 lbs. steelon about two feet long works nicely. These Jack are voracious eaters and when they start feeding all you do is throw the mullet where the water is turning white and hang on. They usually swallow the entire mullet right off with the hook half-way down their bellies. Once hooked, get ready to play these giants for at least half-an-hour or longer. Keep the pressure on but try not to get too anxious. You can't "horse" these fish in. So far we've been to two of these feeding frenzies in the last two months and each "run" has lasted about 4 days (evenings), so keep your ears and eyes open and you may be lucky enough to at least once enjoy the thrill of being at the right place at the right time with the right gear. Before closing, I would like to add that since there aren't too many veterans of D.G. fishing (a couple of years- thank goodness) any tips/hints you could provide would be greatly appreciated by all of us who live to fish.



CTRC Fuente with the prize of the day's catch.

WHAT IS THE FLEET HOME TOWN NEWS
CENTER PROGRAM ??????????

- by LTJG L. E. KEIFFER

I'm sure many of you have heard of the Fleet Home Town News Center; you probably filled out an input form when you checked aboard but may not have realized what the service is or when it may be used. Hopefully, this article will answer most of your questions.

The entire thrust of the Fleet Home Town News Center program concentrates on the individual. It provides a means to recognize Navy personnel in the most meaningful area - the home community. Informational in nature, the program is not designed or intended to cite or publicize command activities or service programs, but rather to inform your home town of your accomplishments or significant events that have occurred in your Navy career.

There are many events in each person's service life that constitute newsworthy copy in your home town. Here are some examples of stories solicited by home town editors:

- Awards, such as medals, certificates and letters of commendation. This includes such special recognition as being selected as Sailor/Petty Officer of the Quarter. While most units and Good Conduct Medal awards are not processed, there are exceptions, including "E" Awards and first presentations of the Good Conduct Medal.

- Advancement and promotions.
- Reenlistments.
- Retirements
- Extraordinary performance of duty or participation in unusual emergency situations: e.g., member of a fire-fighting party that extinguishes a fire engulfing a ship or building, saving lives of accident victims by administering emergency first aid, etc.

- Completion of any Navy resident school or TAD training at least four weeks long.

- Off-duty scholastic achievements, such as receipt of an associate, baccalaureate or graduate degree. This does not include single course completions within semester/curricula: e.g., completion of English 101, or Introduction to Psychology, etc.

What do you have to do to get a home town news release? Practically nothing! When you are recognized by the command for such things as Sailor of the Quarter, advancement in rate, etc., the Public Affairs Officer is informed by the command and he will contact you to obtain the necessary information and to have you sign a release. NEWS ITEMS CANNOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT! Once you have signed the release, the Public Affairs Officer takes it from there. Please remember, though, no system is perfect - there's always a chance that you may have been overlooked. If you are not contacted by the Public Affairs Officer within a week after an event that meets the criteria I pointed out above, feel free to call him at 4152 and request a news release.

Who knows, maybe your next promotion will make HEADLINES!



advancements



TWENTY-THREE PETTY OFFICERS FROCKED TO NEXT RANK

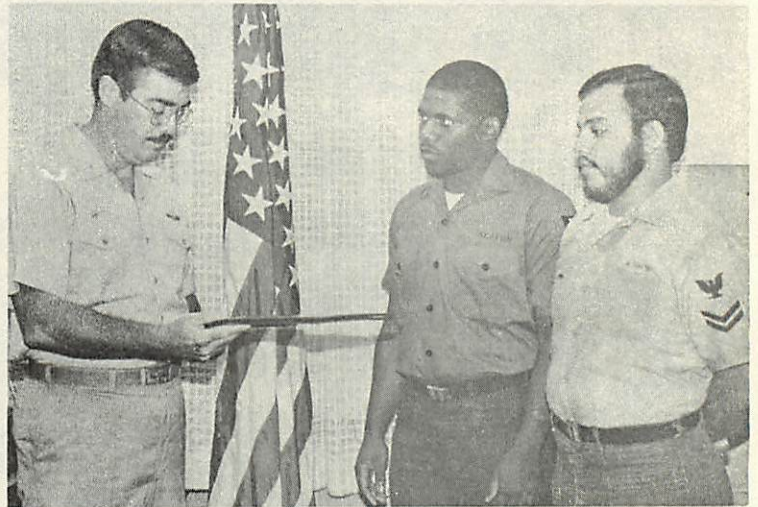
16 JULY 1980

Front row: RMCS H. BROWN (standing in), CTR3 J. WILSON, ET3 W. BRECKENRIDGE, ET2 J. CENTA, CTT2 M. WALLISA, CTM2 G. LANDRY, RM3 D. WADE, RM1 B. McCLEARY, RM3 M. DANIELS, RM2 M. ANDERSON, RM2 S. GILBERT, ET2 P. FLEMING, RM1 I. SIMONDS, Back row: LCDR C. POPIKAS (standing in), RM2 J. CZAPIEWSKI, RM3 F. BURTON, CTR3 D. CHRISMAN, ET3 H. JOHNSON, RM2 M. ADELMAN, RM3 C. CARLSON, RM2 D. SWANSON, RM1 B. BITTLE, RM1 G. DAUE, CTR3 D. KERNAN, CTT2 M. MURPHY, CDR. D. NOLAN (standing in)

more advancements



CTR3 Rodriguez being congratulated on his promotion through the Command Advancement Program.



CTT2 Seaton and CTA2 Alvarado receive promotion to second class petty officer.

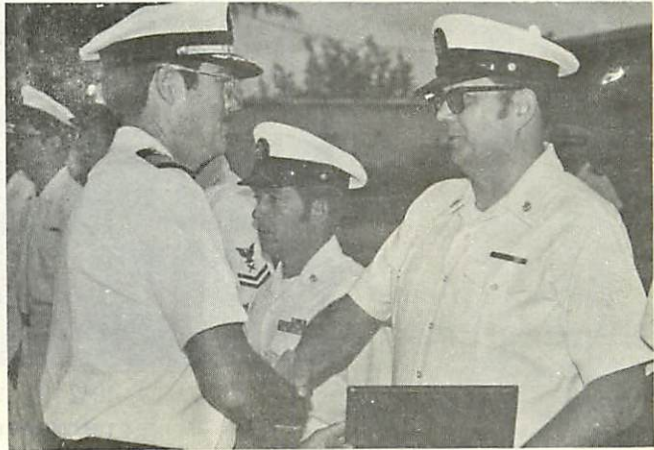


RM1 Bonang receives permanent promotion to RM1 on 16 July.

awards



ETI J. Doyle receiving Letter of Appreciation at personnel inspection 28 May 80.



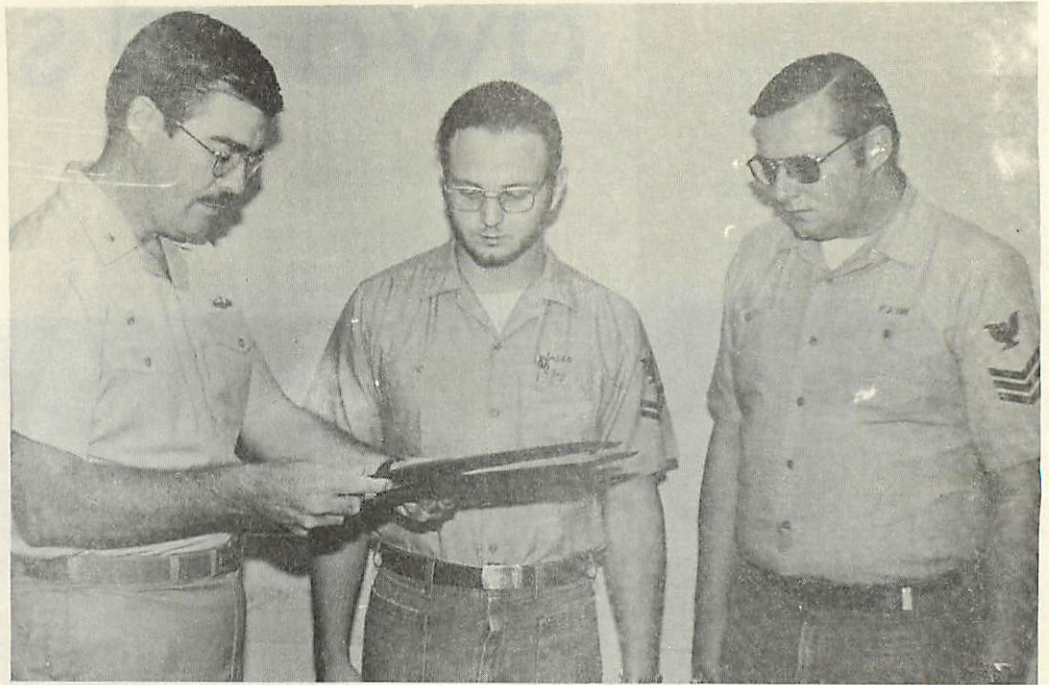
ETC Sorenson receiving Letter of Commendation on 16 July 80.



ENI W. Keirn receiving Good Conduct Medal at personnel inspection 28 May 80.



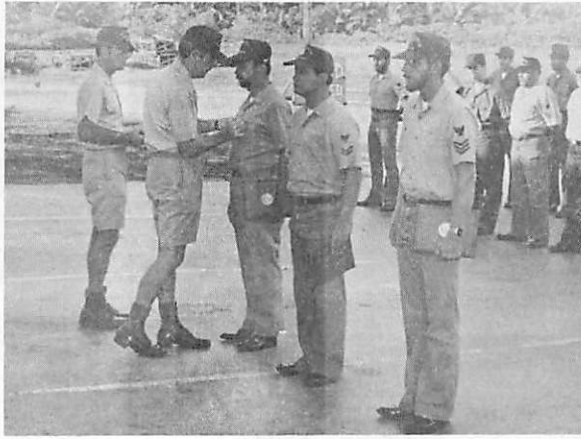
CTRC T. Fuente receiving Letter of Commendation on 16 July 80.



RM2 P. Wasko and RM1 J. Parr receive permanent promotions on 16 May 80.



RM1 Morin receiving permanent promotion on 16 July.



Navy Achievement Medals presented to
RMC R. Walczak, ET2 J. Centa and
ET1 L. Brewster on 20 September 80.



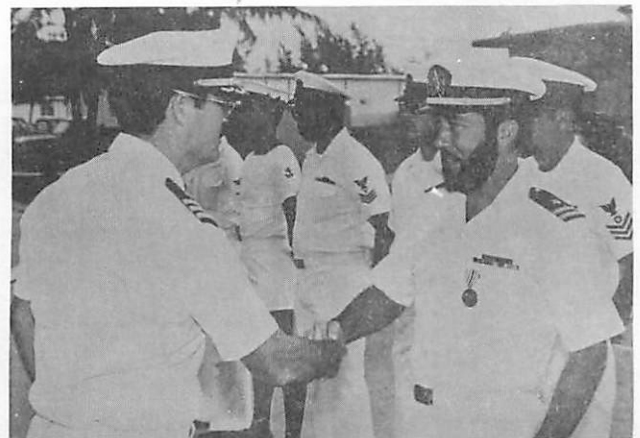
Letter of Commendation presented to
LRO D. Rowe on 28 May 80.



Letter of Commendation presented to
WEMN A. Knott



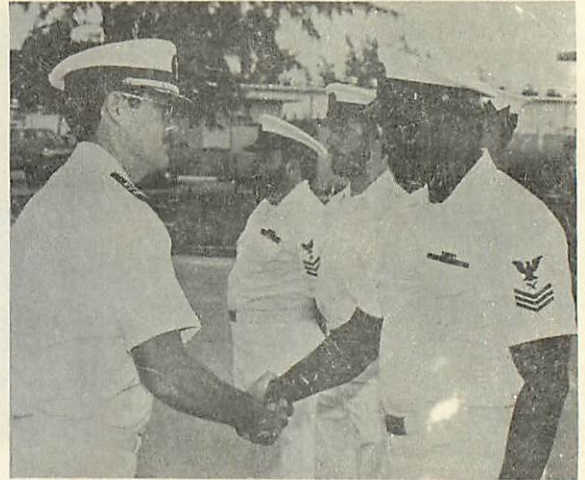
Letter of Appreciation presented to
CTO1 J. Sundwall.



LT D. Guidry is awarded the Joint
Service Commendation Medal on
28 May 80.



Letter of Appreciation being presented to CTM3 Yerman



Letter of Commendation being presented to CTT1 J. Jackson



Letter of Commendation being presented to CTT3 Murphy



Letter of Appreciation being presented to CTT2 Covostsos



Letter of Appreciation being presented to CTT1 Fish

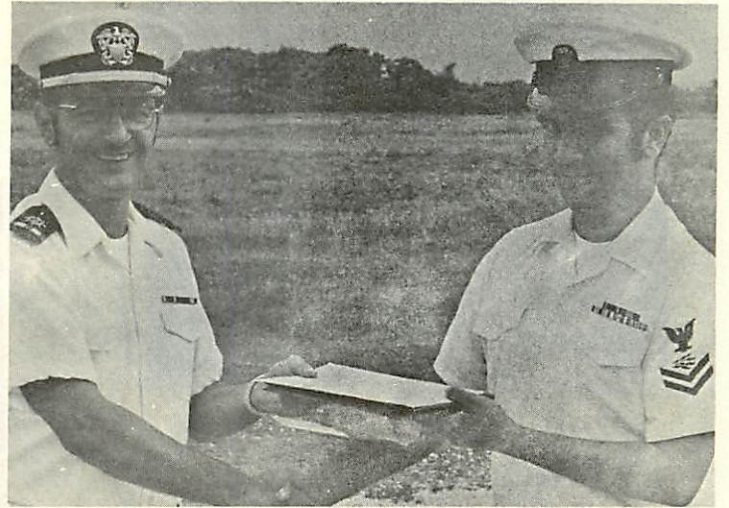


Navy Commendation Medal being awarded to CTT1 R. Jost.

REENLISTMENTS



Reenlistment of CTT1 Hasenbank



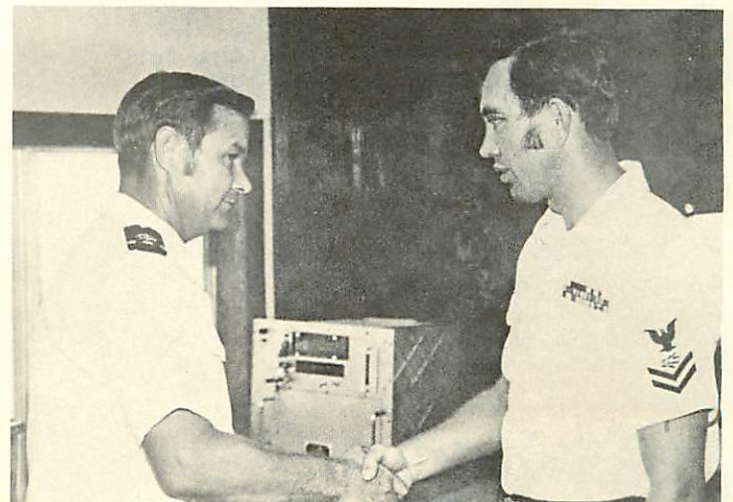
Reenlistment of RM2 M.A. Isakson
for 4 years on 9 June 1980



CTM1 Tecklenburg reenlisting
in the Base Chapel.



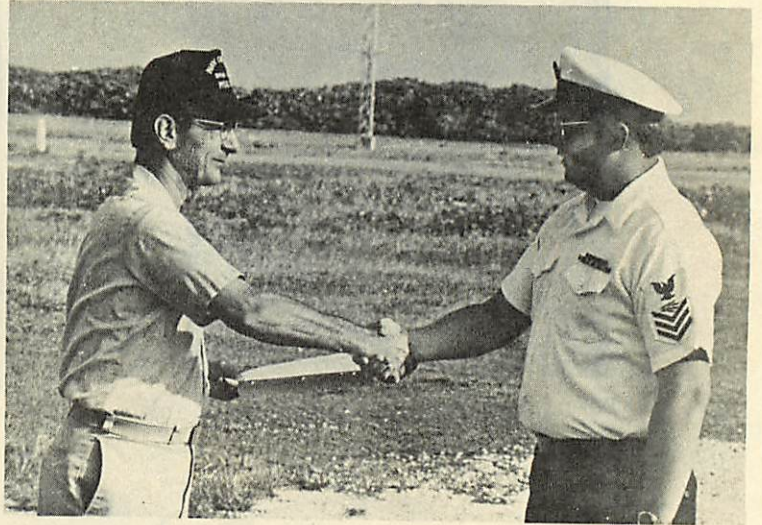
Reenlistment of RM1 Hazel
on 28 Apr 1980



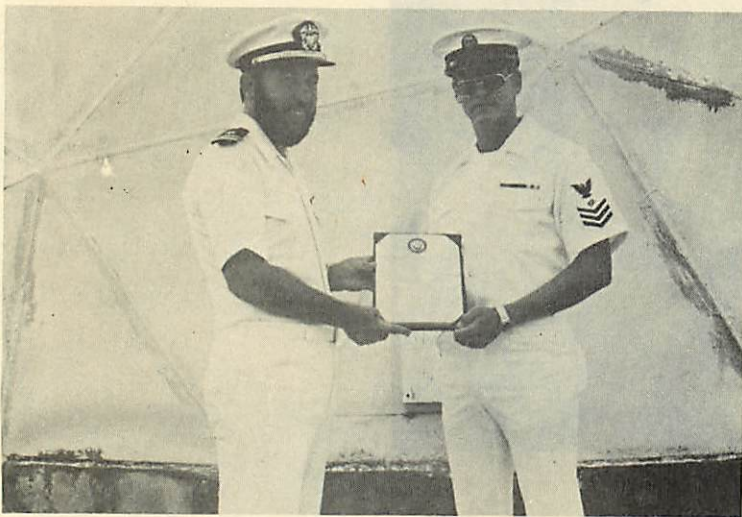
RM2 T. Parks reenlisting
for 4 years on 12 May 1980



RM1 Smith reenlisting for
6 years on 1 Aug 1980



RM1 J.P. Parr reenlisting for
6 years on 28 May 1980..



ET1 R. REED reenlisting for
4 years on 13 June 1980



RM1 B.B. Hill reenlisting
for 4 years on 12 May 1980



One of the local residents - a coconut crab - soaking up the noon-day sun.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Communications Station
FPO San Francisco 96685

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
DOD 516



THIRD CLASS

FAMILYGRAM
