

1 Jan 83

Vol 2 No 2

COCONUT COURIER



PROGRESS

U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION
DIEGO GARCIA BIOT

CO'S COMMENTS



Naval Communications Station (NAVCOMMSTA) Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, consisting of six officers and one hundred and thirty two enlisted men was commissioned on 20 March 1973 under the command of CDR Clyde E. Hamilton, USN. The Royal Naval element was under command of LCDR Carter, RN. The commanding officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty Two was the island commander. In mid 1973 island commander responsibilities and duties were assumed by the CO, NAVCOMMSTA. In May 1974

a Security Group Department was added to the NAVCOMMSTA organization. The most recent change to the island organization was the establishment of the Naval Support Facility (NSF) on 1 October 1977. All NAVCOMMSTA personnel other than those specifically dedicated to communications functions were transferred to and formed the nucleus crew of NSF Diego Garcia.

The original purpose of the austere communications station was to provide a link in the U.S. communications network and to furnish improved communications support in the Indian Ocean for ships and aircraft owned and operated by the United States and the United Kingdom. The NAVCOMMSTA was jointly manned by U.S. and UK personnel until August 1982 when the last British communicator departed our Security Group Department.

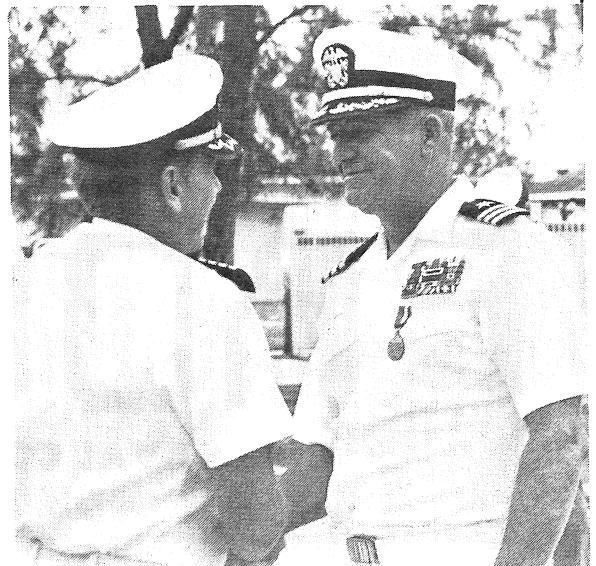
Our first full period ship-shore termination was established with USS La Salle (AGF-3) on 27 May 1973. Today we have ship-shore terminations with USS Enterprise (CVN-65), USS Samuel Gompers (AD-37), USS Stump (DD-978) and USS Bainbridge (CGN-25). Initial naval communications from Diego Garcia were from an Air Transportable Communications Unit (ATCU). The ATCU resembled a modified railroad boxcar jammed full of various transmitters, receivers and associated equipment. A 300 acre Transmitter Facility, a 280 acre Receiver Facility, a 200 acre Security Group Facility, A TSC-54 Satellite Terminal, 3 Fleet Satellite Terminals, an Ascomm van and more than 20 high

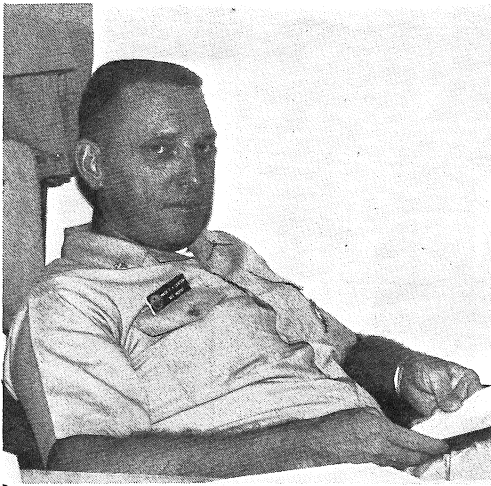
powered transmitters have replaced the meager ATCU assets. In the near future NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia will receive a GSC-39 satellite terminal and a major upgrade of our high frequency capability. Diego Garcia continues to grow--Reindeer Station to Fantasy Island to the Footprint of Freedom.

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All contributions to the COCONUT COURIER in the form of articles, photographs, and artwork are strongly encouraged. If you are living here on Diego Garcia, contact LTJG DOSS at R site PH#4188, for those receiving this newspaper at home, your suggestions are welcome. Please send them to: COCONUT COURIER, c/o LTJG DOSS, NCS Box 12, FPO San Francisco, CA 96685.



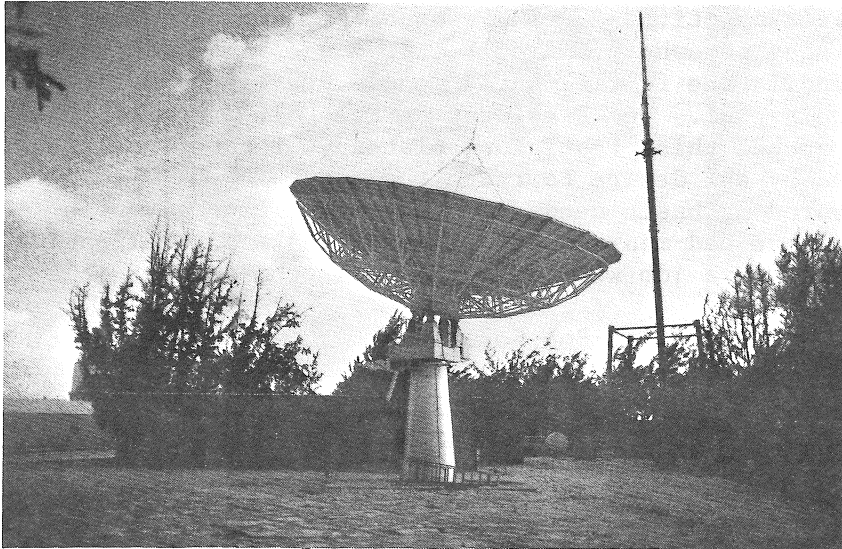


RMCM DAWSON

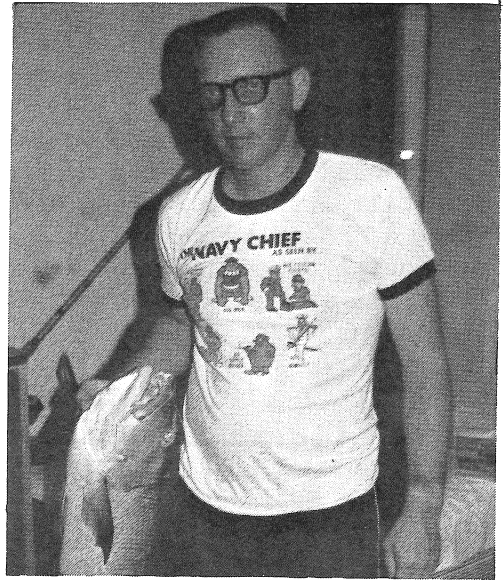
MCPOC DAWSON

This will be my last article for the Coconut Courier. I want to thank each and every one of you for your outstanding support and for super participation in making the COMMSTA better as each day passes. During my tour we have experienced a lot of changes both within COMMSTA and on the island; all for the better. Your involvement with committees, boards and island events has resulted in innumerable improvements for the betterment of morale. For those personnel just reporting aboard, you will have the opportunity to witness several island facility improvements. (i.e. new EDF, ship's store, bank, post office and BEQ's) During the past year, manning has increased, "C" and "R" site buildings have doubled in size, "T" site is

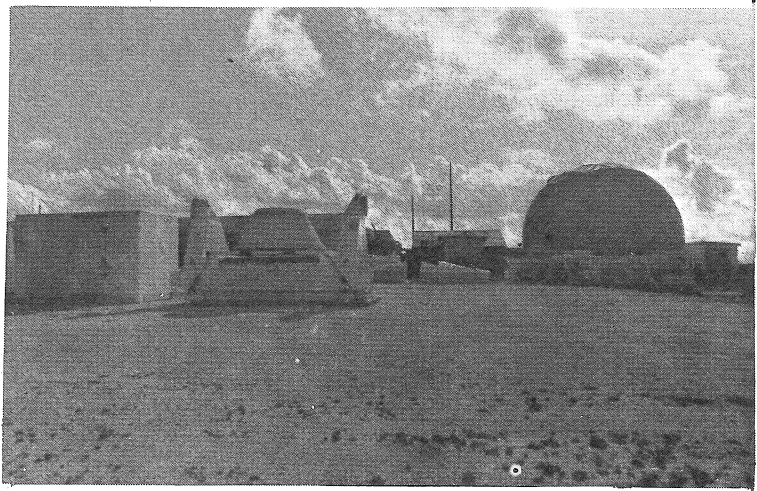
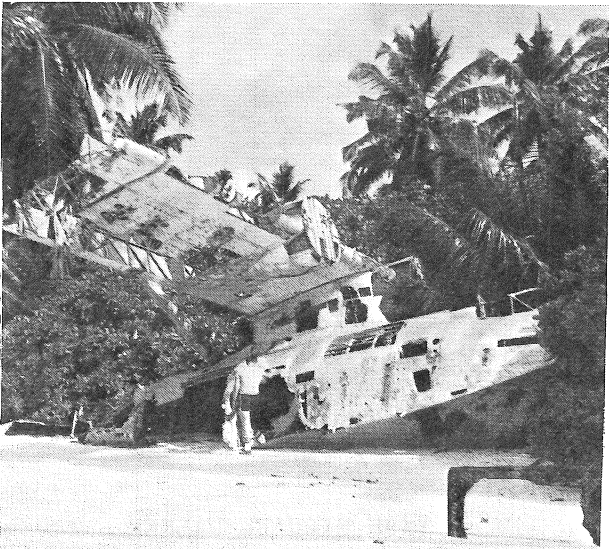
programmed to double next fiscal year and our new satellite earth terminal will go on line in early 83. The fishing is great, island special services programs are super, living conditions have improved and the recent live stateside TV programming tops it off. LT Muller "It does get better". Best of luck to all of you.



COMMERCIAL PHONES AND LIVE TV!



DAY'S CATCH



SATCOMM EXPANDS

FROM THE DESK OF THE CAREER COUNSELOR:

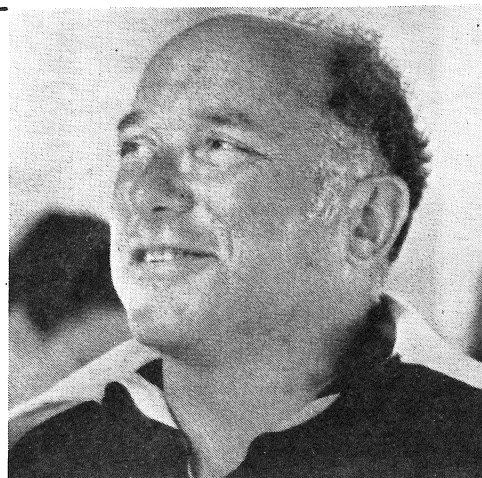
Over the years I have listened to and spoken out concerning the topic "the benefits of the Navy". I wasn't always a careerist. Early on, I was unsure of my future and what was in store for me and my family. I was very skeptical. I guess anxious was the word. There is a specific reason for my adjustment and I'd like to share my thoughts on the subject.

Some experts state there are five needs or goals that every individual strives to achieve. These needs must be met in order. Survival (food and lodging) is paramount and must be achieved first. This need is readily obtainable in the Navy. Once obtained survival needs must be secured for the future. The decision to make the Navy a career satisfies this need. When these primary goals are met they become less important and higher order needs develop and take on new meaning.

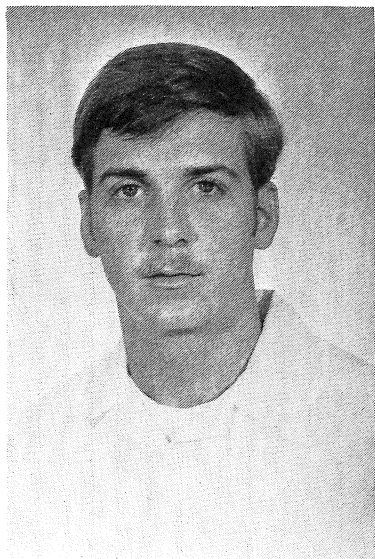
Social acceptance/approval is a necessary item for each of us. It has been my experience that members of each group within the Navy community make every effort to welcome and make a new member comfortable. Next, ego, the need to be respected by others and the development of a positive self-image becomes important. Pride and professionalism comes into play somewhere and self-confidence increases as this need is fulfilled. The last need is the fulfillment of one's perceived potential. Few people have ever achieved this goal. The President of the United States, the CNO and a select few may have reached this prestigious plateau. The rest of us are still struggling along motivated by the desire to reach the top.

The Navy community has secured my basic needs. My shipmates have given me social acceptance and in turn I have had many opportunities to take on challenging tasks and complete them with pride in a job well done. I guess that's what it's all about.

by CTAC Bob Sokolinsky

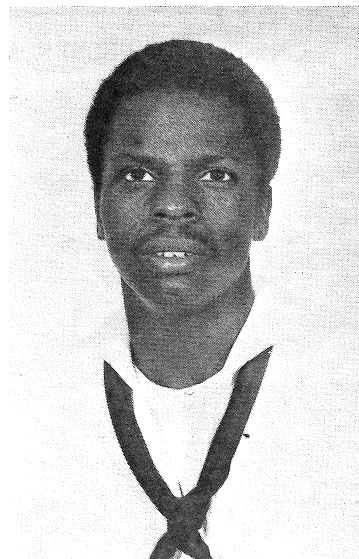


SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



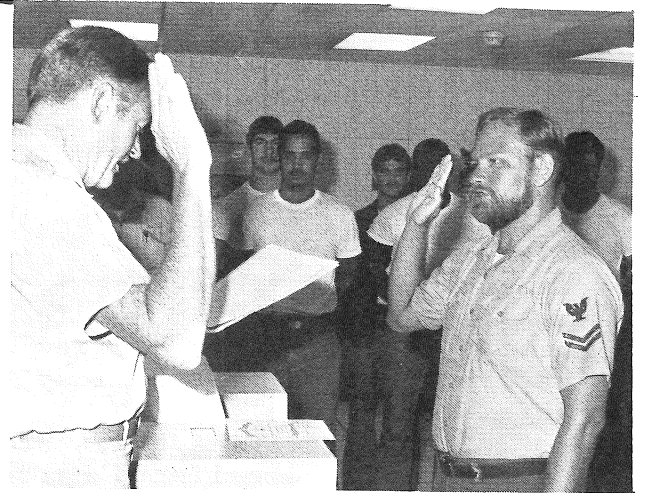
ET2 KARL KOGER

Oct
Dec

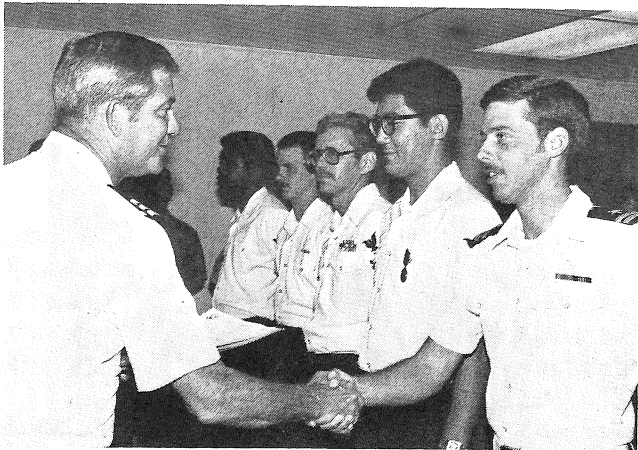


YNSN MICHAEL WALKER

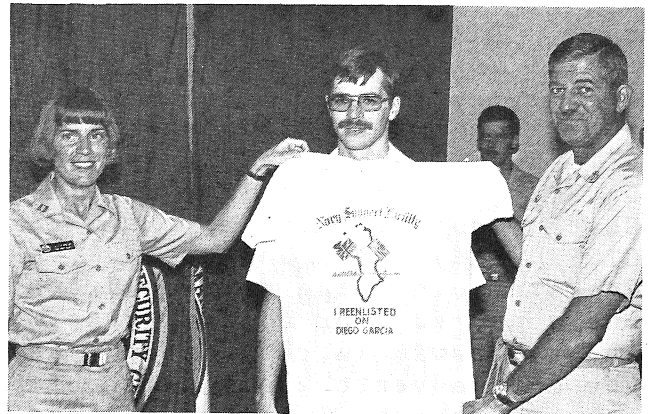
NOW HEAR THIS!



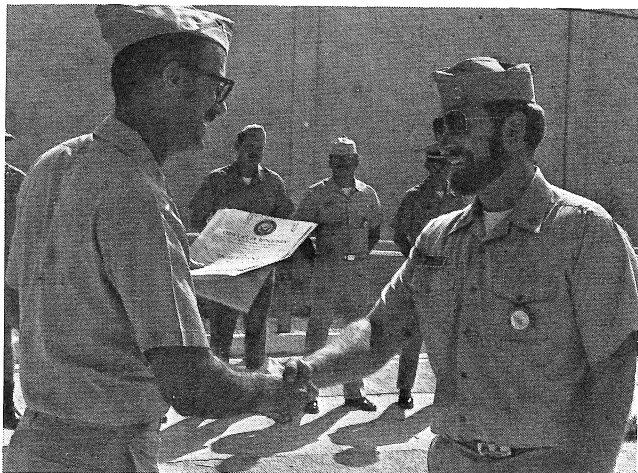
Re-enlistment of RMI Klitzing
by LT Carter



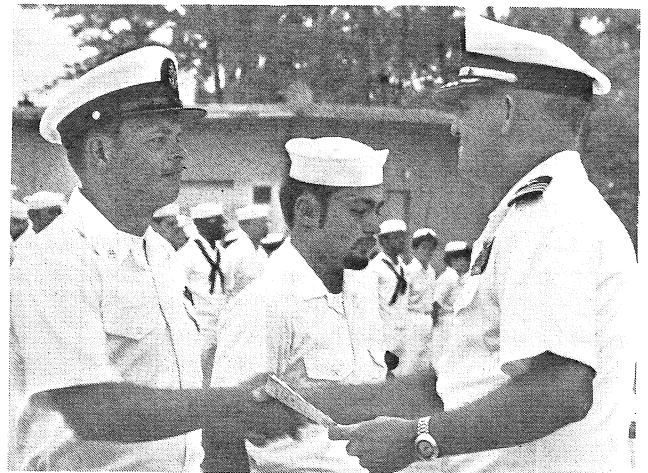
CDR Miller presents Letter of
Appreciation to LT Lange



Re-enlistment of CTMI Straight
with LT Muller and CDR Miller



Re-enlistment of ETC Whittlesey
by CW04 Rivera



CTTC BENOIT RECEIVES
LETTER OF APPRECIATION

32 HOUR BREAK ? by Alexandria M. Dunkle

When standing three section duty what is one to do with a mere thirty-two hour break? Why have a fish fry of course. That's exactly what CTR2 Mary Cavanagh and CT01 Victor Mowery, co-ordinators of the recent event, decided was needed to bring some holiday cheer into section one.

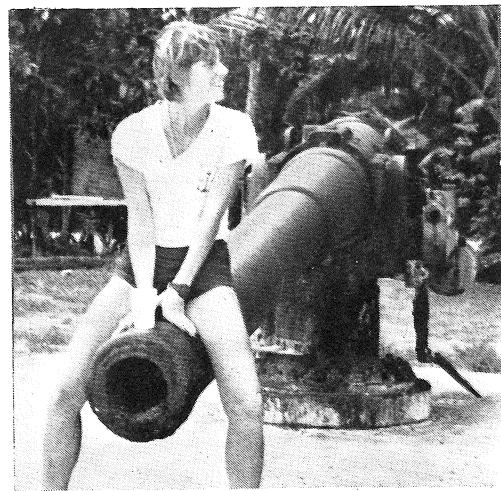
The festivities began at 0900 in front of the enlisted barracks with fish the two organizers had caught on a previous occasion. They marinated it for a short while, then began barbecuing. CTTSN Kevin Gomes, CTRSN Mike Clark and CTRL Larry Paul showed up around 1000 just in time for chow. They all ate barbecued fish played frisbee, then ate some more fish.

Around 1200 CTT3 Bob Zmarzlak CTT2 Lisa Coppola, CTOSN Norman Datko, CTM3 Don Rollins, CTT3 Chuck Johnson, CTTSN Mike Edwards, CTOSN Cindy Maine and CTOSN Ryan Goddard joined the party and every one ventured over to the grass shack to swim in the lagoon. As the more adventuresome swam out to explore the coral reef, the land-lovers stayed ashore to throw frisbees and bury each other in

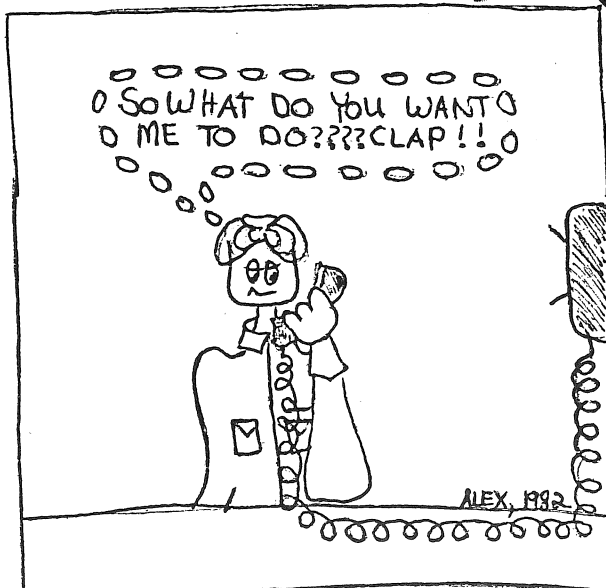
the sand. Trying to keep with the spirit of Christmas several people even had a make shift snowball fight with crushed ice from the soda cooler. CTTSN Kevin Gomes and CTRSN Mike Clark soon tired of this game and decided it was more fun simply to put ice down CTT2 Lisa Coppola's back.

Everyone at the party took alot of pictures, drank alot of beer, and in general had a good time. And that my friend is what some of the watch standers from section one do on their thirty-two hours off.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



DIEGO BLUES



SPORTS

FLASH FROM T SITE

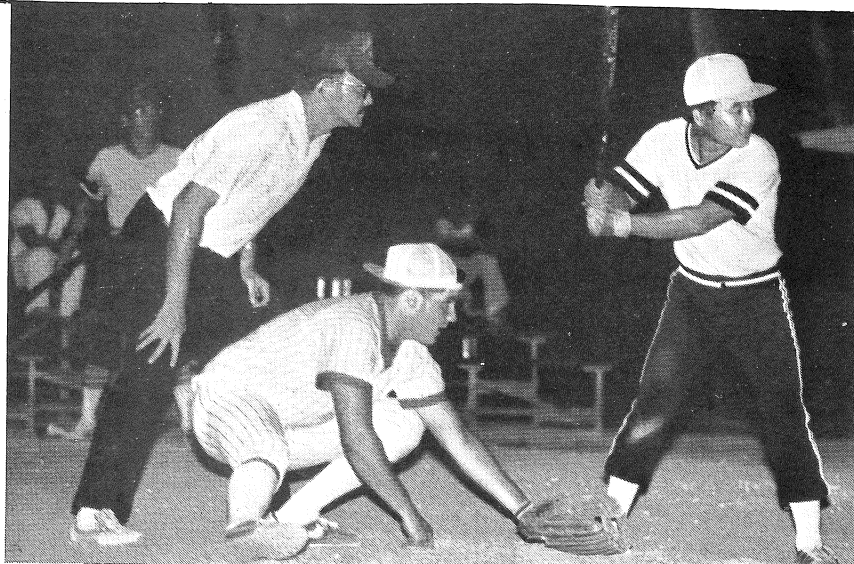
byline "Rhombic boy" alias

ET3 Charles Hoyer

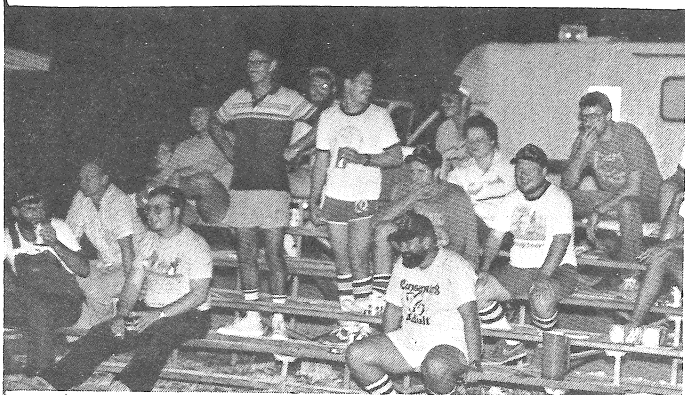
Well sportsfans the fall softball season is over for T site now. Or was that the spring softball season? I always have a hard time telling what season it is here. Anyway what had promised to be a very miserable season for T site's team turned out instead to be simply a miserable season. I will not bore you by telling you that we finished in dead last place in our division. However I will bore you by telling you that it was T site that knocked C site out of the winner's bracket. And, you guessed it, T site was the last COMMSTA team left in the playoffs. We finished in fifth place. No one expected us to go that far. Certainly not us anyway.

Pardon me if I get mushy for a minute. I didn't really mind not winning it all. We simply went out and played our best. Sometimes it was good enough. Sometimes it wasn't. Like when R site beat us 20 to 1. But all in all we had a blast. Remember when Steve Crow threw his bat over the dugout in an over zealous attempt to get a single? And how about the way he runs?! And who can forget the number of routine fly balls Bob Dubell dropped at second base? And I can't forget how mad I got at the umpires for calling my pitches deep.

All in all we had a great time. And we are all looking forward to next season. Look out everyone! T site's on the road and radiating!



ENS MUELLER UMP'S R SITE VS PENTA-OCEAN

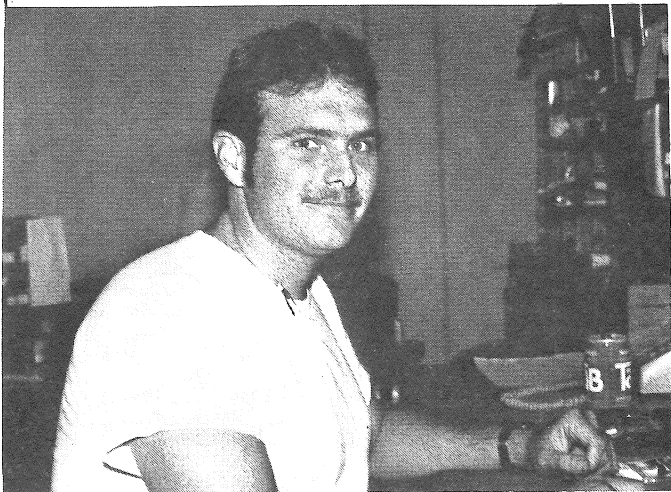


R SITE AND THEIR FANS by RM2 HAYS & RMSA MORALES

On November 12 R site played the USS SERRIA in the semi-finals of the island softball championship. Though R site fought hard they were beaten 12-0. This was the end of a glorious season for Coach Armstrong and his team. R site began the season slowly, but after a 1-4 record the team put it all together and recorded 10 straight victories, to put them in first

place. The last four games of the season saw R site lose 2 games but come on strong to win the last 2 games of the season, to win the blue division championship. R site could not have accomplished this without the faithful support of the R site fans. The fans gave the team an advantage during the season, they were there come rain or shine to root for the team that they believed was the best team overall in their respective division. On behalf of the team I want to say thank you R site fans for your overwhelming support, and also to let you know that last season was just the beginning of many more glorious seasons to come. A well done to the R site softball team and their fans! See you soon.

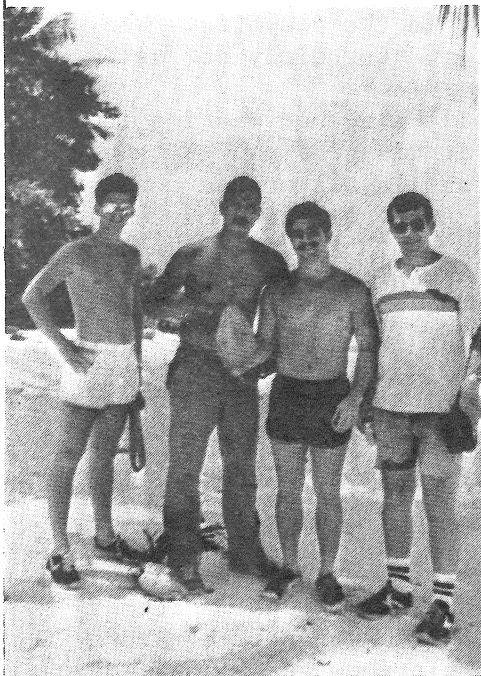
PEOPLE



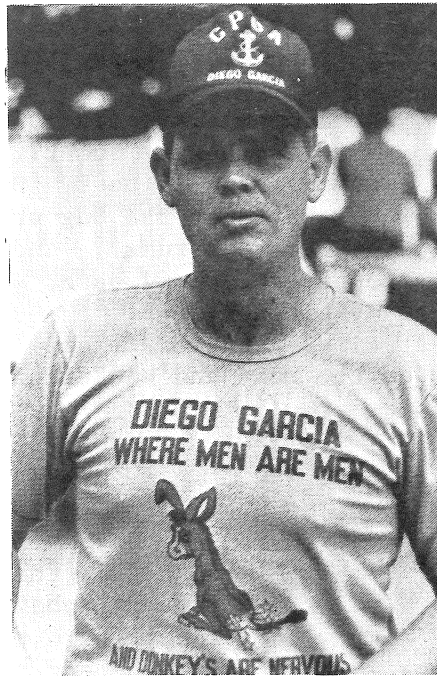
ET3 Mike Trombley



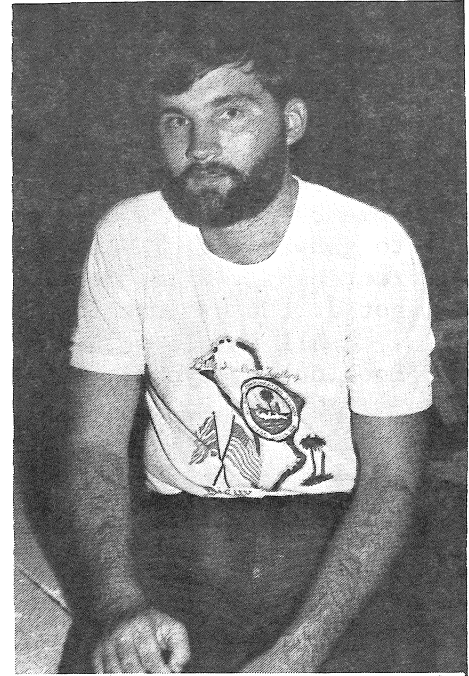
RMSN Daniel Morales



the guys with lunch



ETC Ralph Faulkner



ET1 Bob Stenson

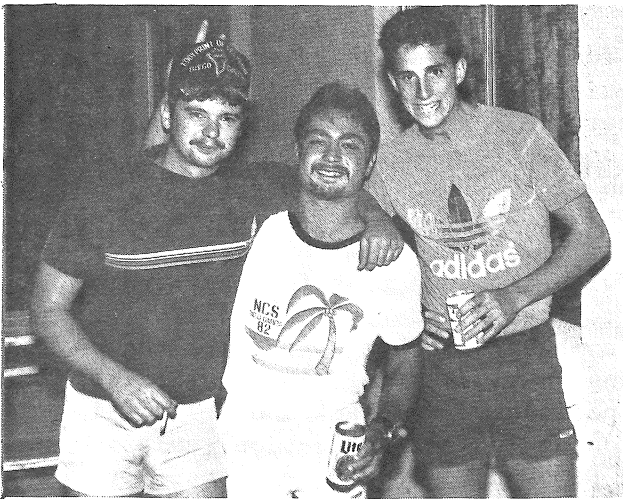


ET2 Vivian Wright

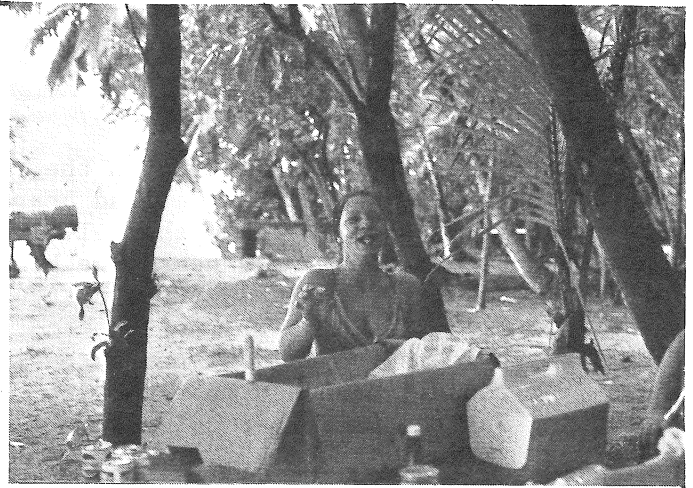


YN3 Darlene Davis

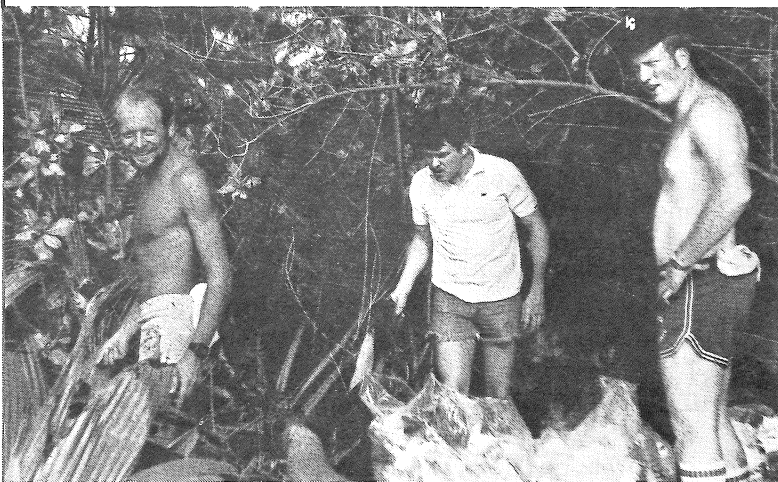




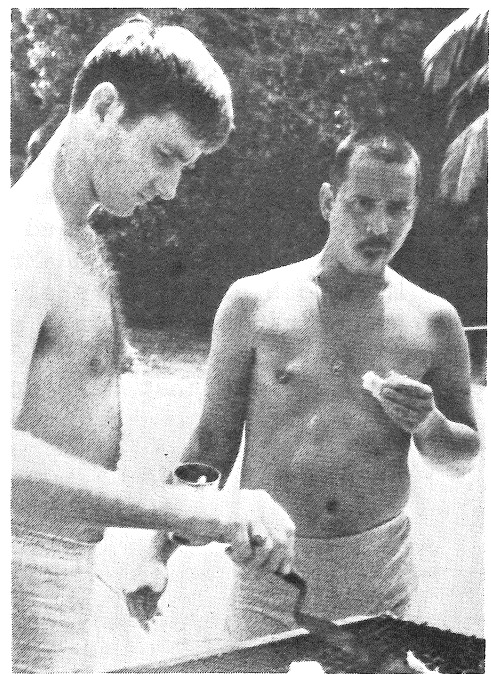
RMSR BOB DUBELL, ET3 SHERMAN WAY
ET3 MARK MAGNUSON



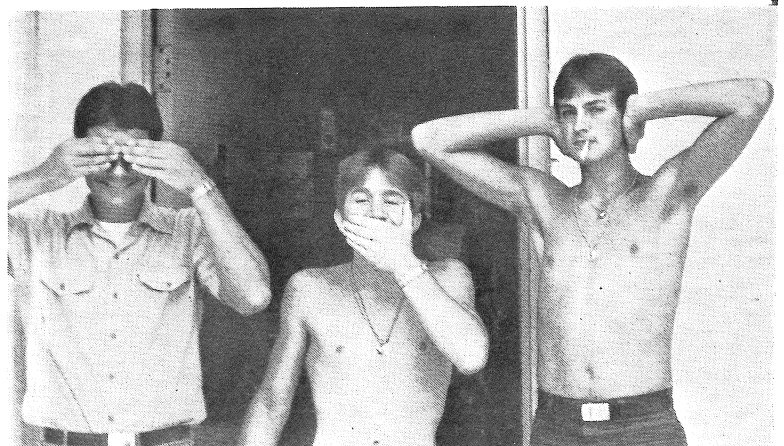
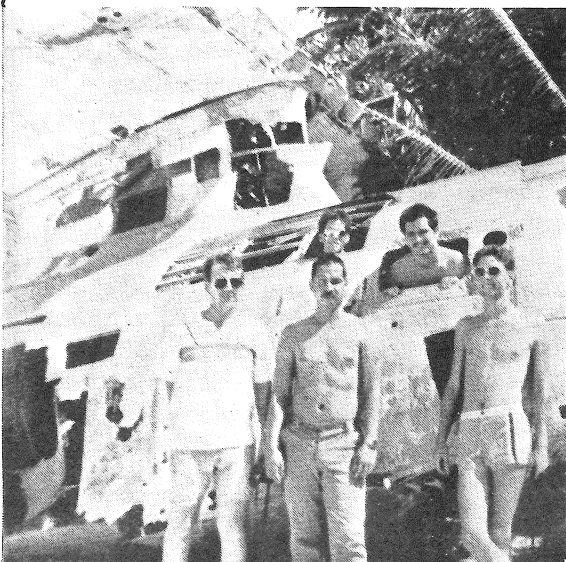
CTT2 JODY ANDERS



CTO3 BOB KING CTT3 JIM THOMPSON CTT3 DAVE YOST



RM2 JAMES BAXTER RM2 JAMES OHLER



CTOSN LINDEMAN CTOSN COTE CTOSN STONE

MAKING PROGRESS

by RMI Joe Maciel

I remember the anticipation as the plane landed on Diego Garcia. I had heard the rumors that have attached themselves to out tropical paradise. I'd heard the horror of "splinterville", the tree crabs that could bite a 2 x 4 in half, the 20 foot shark which roams the lagoon, the torturing heat year round. Last and most thought provoking was the fact that no women existed on Diego Garcia.

In spite of the rumors, I volunteered to come here. Now I was faced with reality as I mused inwardly at the small dogs sniffing my baggage. My sponsor was not there to meet me, and the heat now was very noticeable. Already I was working up a sweat.

Rescued by two fellow 1st class, they drove me into town. Now we couldn't find where to put me. With the knowledge the befalls all 1st class PO's they knew of an opening in the 7's, we just needed permission. A while of searching found Mr. Mueller and Mr. Walden both at the baseball field. With duly authorized permission I settled to a year of pleasure and fun.

It's not the heat that has gotten to



me. Today marks my third month on DG and I continue to enjoy it's slower pace. Of the several reasons for wanting to come here one was to get out of the fast lane of San Diego. Or so I thought.

A 2-2-2-32 is easy enough to adjust to. It's all that time off I've a hard time with. I have thus far mastered sailing the lagoon. Maybe I could try the big time someday, San Diego. I am also improving on windsurfing, tho that takes more patience. My black and white film developing is near perfection, color is next. I'm up to jogging 6 miles every other day or so. My body feels better with the workouts I get at Jazzercise, and weight lifting.

I've also found a place on DG to work for my second degree karate black belt. I've several new shells from Diego beaches and have wanted to try fishing but so far I've no time.

That's par for the physical aspect, and equally weighed by my mental improvements (though they sometimes seem like headaches). I'm near completion of a class at the University of Maryland extension here. I'm acting DAPA, and at work I've dazzled Chief Vorhies into making me OPS chief, DCA coordinator and PQS coordinator.

It bothers me though, that I haven't beat Steve at chess, but I've nine months to go, so maybe by then I'll have figured out a better strategy.

I'm beginning to wander if I won't want to leave Diego Garcia's fast active pace, and get back to San Diego's slow mundane pace. All in all I've got to admit it's all progress for me. Diego Garcia seems to be a well guarded secret back home with all the rumors going around. But don't let anyone kid you, with all the improvements made around here I'm surprised it's not on TWA's flight route as a tourist attraction.

NOW
ALL
HANDS.
MAIL CALL
MAIL CALL
!!!!



25 DIVISION

The "CLASSIC WIZARD" is alive and well in NAVSECGRU Department. 25 Division has recently completed a major hardware and software upgrade with the assistance of forty (40) technical representatives from the NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY of Washington, D. C. As much fun and help that they provided, nevertheless we were glad to see them go so that work could return to normal and we could play with our new toy. Since the last issue many new faces can be seen in 25 Division. A hearty welcome goes out to Petty Officers Danny Underwood, Lisa Coppola, Guy Brace, and John Bispels. 25 Division also welcomes a new "WIZ", LT Duane Lafont. LT Lafont originally hails from the bayous of south Louisiana and comes to Diego Garcia from a tour in Ft. Meade, MD. Lastly, 25 Division bids fair winds and following seas to our ex-"WIZ", LT Michael Lange, and wishes him the best of luck with his new assignment in Direct Support onboard the USS Caron out of Norfolk, VA.

NEW EARTH TERMINAL COMING TO NCS! by ET3 Kevin Keating

Due to the ever increasing roll that satellite communications play in the Defense Communication System satellite communications at NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia will be undergoing some radical changes in the months ahead. These changes will be in the form of the installation of a new earth terminal at R site.

The new earth terminal, a GSC-39, will be replacing a quite old TSC-54 earth terminal. The TSC-54 with it's distinctive 4 feedhorn, cloverleaf shaped antenna dish design, will remain on line up and through testing and acceptance of the new earth terminal. The installation of this multi-million dollar project is expected to begin in January and should be completed in 2 to 3 months time.

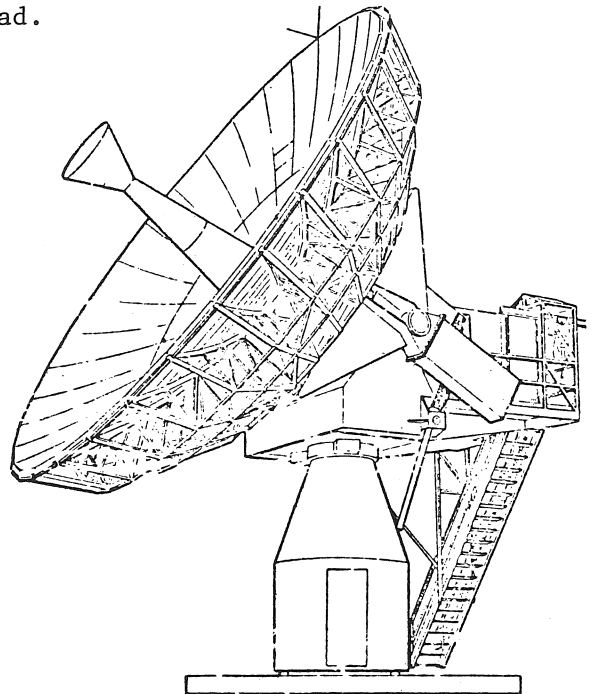
In addition to the earth terminal, roughly 20 racks of new Digital Communication Sub-system (DCSS) Equipment will also be installed. Very basically, the DCSS Digitally conditions and modulates the user circuits from the Tech Control Facility for input to the earth terminal. Though not actually part of the earth terminal, the DCSS must be considered an intergral part

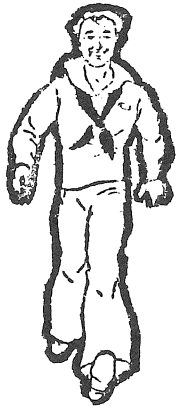
for successful operation of the earth terminal.

Once the GSC-39 is fully operational and has taken over all satellite communications, the TSC-54 will come down and be returned to the U.S. Army.

One would think a terminal as old as this one would be allowed to collect dust somewhere. But this is not to happen. Due to great technical skill past and present, and not to mention alot of NCS Diego Garcia dollars, the Army decided rather than retire it, it is going to continue to maintain it as an operational earth terminal stateside. (BZ guys!)

.....more on the "39" in the months ahead.



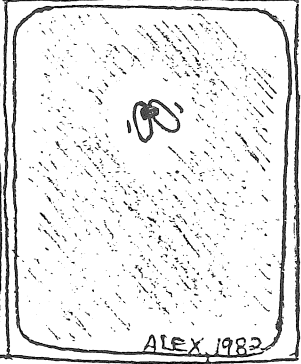
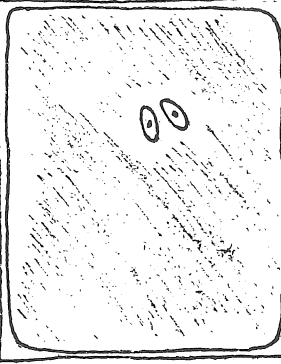
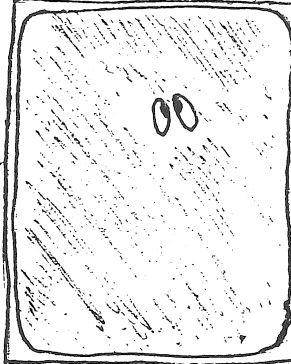


OH DARN, ANOTHER POWER OUTAGE, AND THIS BUILDING IS PITCH BLACK. THATS OK. ILL JUST FEEL MY WAY ALONG THIS WALL TO THE DOOR

AFTER ALL IM AN EMANICIPATED WOMAN IN THE NAVY. A NEW BREED OF FEMALES, ABLE TO ACCEPT ALL CHALANGES THRUST UPON HER

GRRRRRR

MOMMY



D.G. BLUES

HALLOWEEN ON DIEGO by ET1 Robert Stenson

It started innocent enough with a jungle ball game at the R site party grounds. We spent the daylight hours there unaware of the gathering starting in and around Mod 43.

On the eve before All Saints' Day it is said that demons and spirits gather and roam the world. And so it was that some spirits did gather at Mod 43. They were overcome though for there were heroes on the scene also. The Hulk was there, green and all, though it appeared he had been lying around watching TV a bit too much. One of the old Romans was there also and although he had an Oshkosh B'gosh bandanna in place of laurel leaves he did his part to overcome the spirits plaguing the night.

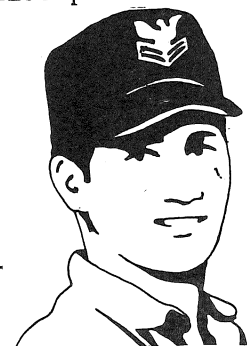
Getting costumes on Diego is a bit rough and most people just came as themselves but even ordinary people may become heroes at times and so it was that by the time the night was over, the spirits were gone.

CATCH 22 by CTOC Sherrod

22 Division is proud to announce the recent selection for promotion of several members of the Naval Security Group Department Communications Division. Those selected for promotion to CT03 include CTOSN's Norman Datko, Ryan Goddard, Walter Mickey

and Rob Stone. 16 years ago when I put on my first crow it was a very proud moment in my life and I am sure that each of the "selectees" can be equally proud. For all the selectees their promotion is a justifiable end to a most rewarding tour on Diego Garcia. Hard work, study and outstanding professional performance and dedication to duty are the norm for the watch personnel assigned to 22 division and the new crows are the result. For those members that are leaving "DG" with their new chevrons we bid you farewell. For those members who have just recently arrived we bid you welcome. For those of you that are at other commands we say "come on down"! You will never experience another duty station that will give you the self-satisfaction you will experience here on Diego Garcia. My experience throughout my Navy career has been for people to develop a "short-time" attitude 4 to 6 months prior to departing a duty station. This is just not true for those people who leave Diego Garcia. The majority leave with a little remorse knowing that they may never experience such a challenge of being given such broad responsibility for junior personnel as they did while on Diego Garcia.

WELL DONE!



"ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS..."

Dear Santa,

We here in 22 Division have a list of the one most wanted thing from all the personnel here on Diego Garcia that we would like to have for Christmas.

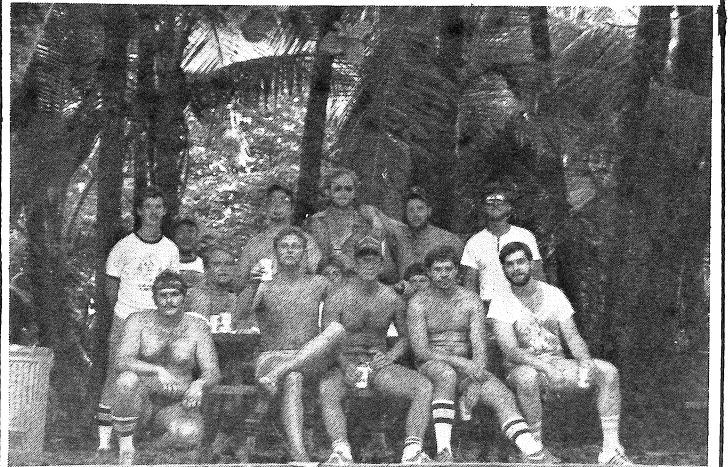
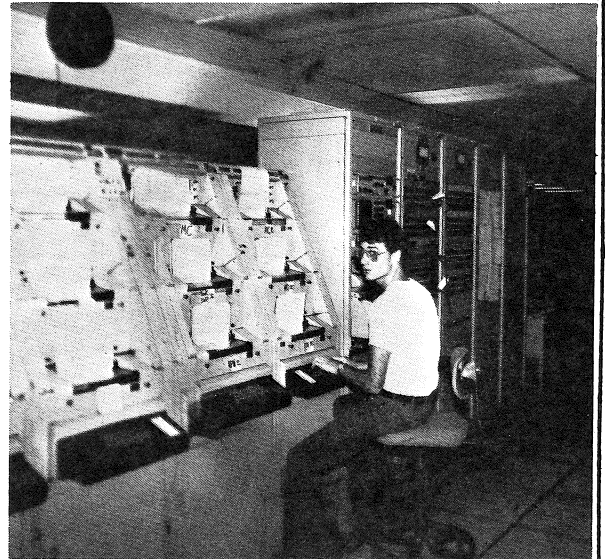
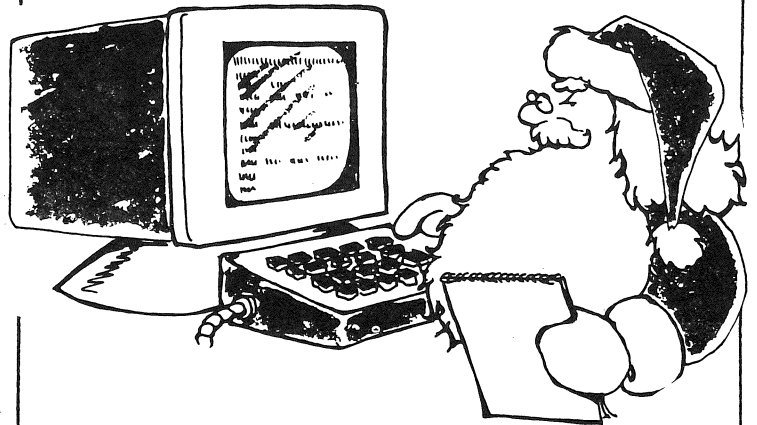
- CTOC SHERROD: A years supply of Big Macs
CTO3 KING: New tires for his bicycle
CTO3 RAINEY: New set of dungarees to replace his old ones
CTO1 MOWERY: A bigger check so he can put more chew in it
CTO3 SESCINSKI: A new stamp pad
CTO3 DATKO: A little Guamanian woman to teach him to speak slowly
CTO3 MICKEY: He would like to play 2nd base for C site next season
CTOSA MAINE: She would like Datko to slow down when he talks
CTOSA DEPASQUALE: Lifetime supply of comic books to read
CTOSN BARKER: The San Diego Chargers to make the play-offs
CTO1 BOONE: Max to extend and come back in his section
CTO2 GUAJARDO: Dennis to come back to DG
CTOSN SHOEMAKER: Like to cancel his extension before he goes crazy
CTOSN AUSTIN: One day soon turn green and rip out of his uniform
CTOSN RUPPENTHAL: To get a good "Going Home Tan"
CTOSN SHEAR: Would like a new poke posit
CTO2 BLISS: To show movies in the club 24 hours a day
CTO3 TROTTER: Give President Regan a back rub
CTO3 STONE: An automatic shoeshine machine
CTOSN LINDEMANN: Learn how to pitch the double-dip sinker ball
CTOSN COTE: A bathtub full of Skoal cans
CTOSA CAMPOS: Learn how to make the moose-mating call

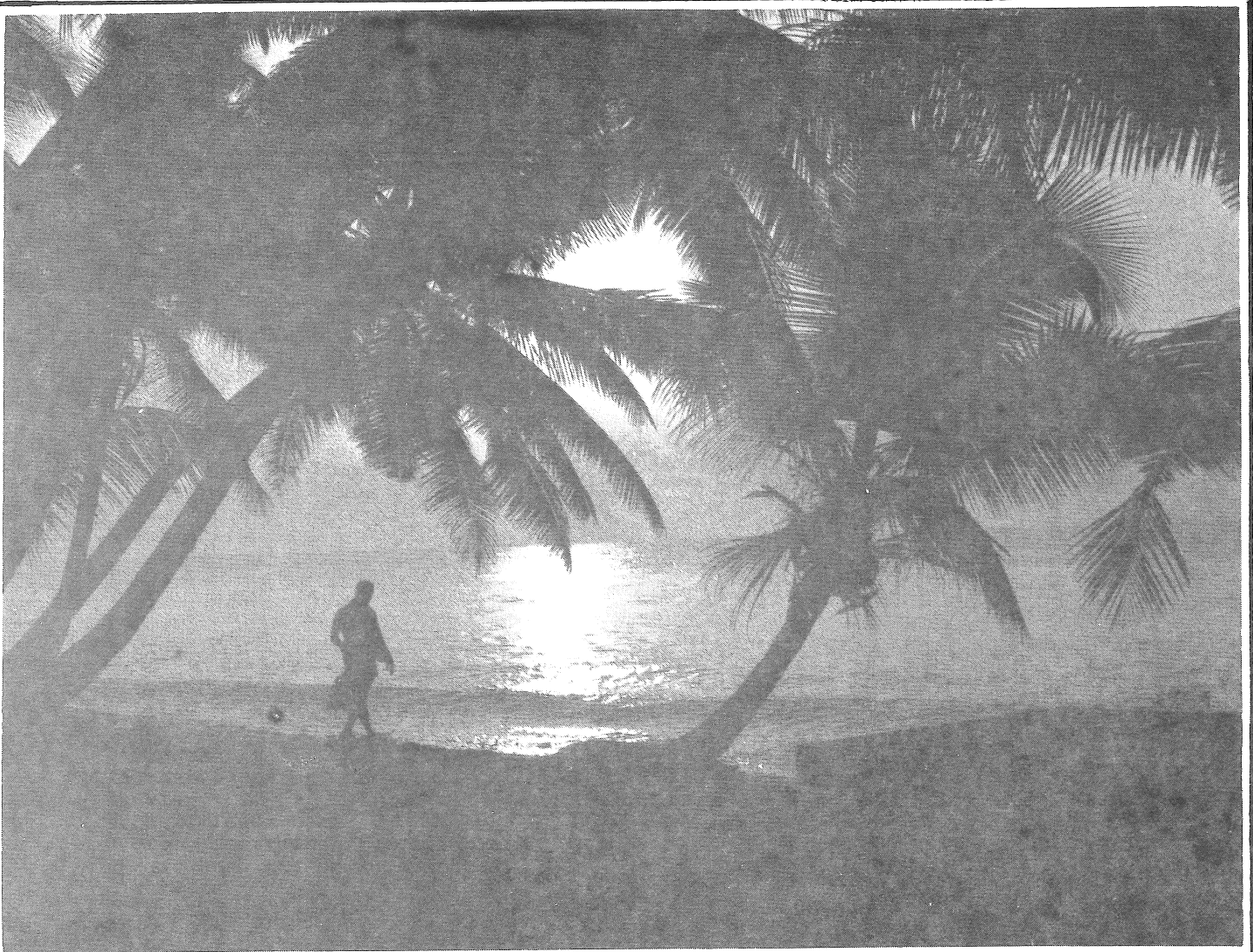
Santa, we hope this isn't too much to ask for. Hopefully we can see you on Christmas; we don't have a chimney so you will have to push the buzzer.

Sincerely yours,
22 Division

P.S. There will be cookies and milk by the Hammer and Bang for you and your reindeer.

*I'm keeping a list,
and checking it twice...*





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

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FAMILYGRAM
