

JULY 83

VOL 2 NO 4



# COCONUT COURIER



**JULY 4, 1983**

**Happy 207th America!**

**U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION  
DIEGO GARCIA BIOT**

# CO's Corner... W.P. Miller

A year on Diego Garcia! What is it like? Water hours, four to eight weeks in an unairconditioned seahut, ten to sixteen weeks in airconditioned seahuts, community showers and heads, no telephone service, national news and sporting events presented two weeks after the fact, four people berthed in an area designated for three (or less), hot food unavailable at work sites, long lines at the ship's store, nonavailability of basic uniform items, coral reef attacks, overcrowded work spaces, three section watch posture and family separation! These were the negative items at the NAVCOMMSTA a year ago; yet "It don't get no better than this!" were the buzz words. It got better. Major



equipment upgrades have been completed at R and C sites, all NAVCOMMSTA personnel are berthed in a brand new "barracks", forty new fresh water wells have been placed into service, a recreation center has been opened at the plantation, worldwide commercial telephone service is available, real-time television is available, a modern air terminal has been opened, a new CPO club has been opened, one mile jogging trail has opened, food service facilities at the clubs have been expanded, and a four section watchbill was recently implemented. In the near future a new enlisted dining facility will be opened, a banking facility will be available, the new power plant will be placed into service, new enlisted and officer quarters will be opened, the coral roads in the downtown area will covered with asphalt, and a number of other improvements will be accomplished which will improve the lifestyle of Fantasy Island residents.

As my tour comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of this command for the superlative assistance, support, and loyalty I received throughout my assignment as Commanding Officer. I hope that this loyalty has been returned to you. Our area of responsibility extends from Australia to the Straits of

Malacca, and from South Africa to the Persian Gulf. NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia is absolutely essential to our operating forces in the Indian Ocean, and your efforts have resulted in an impressive record of superb fleet communications support. NCS Diego Garcia's reputation as an expert in the high frequency environment has been earned by your dedication, your skills, and your willingness to "stick with it". The successful link-up and establishment of a high frequency termination with the USS Carl Vinson at a distance of over 4000 miles attests to your professionalism. This was but one of your many (Continued page 15)

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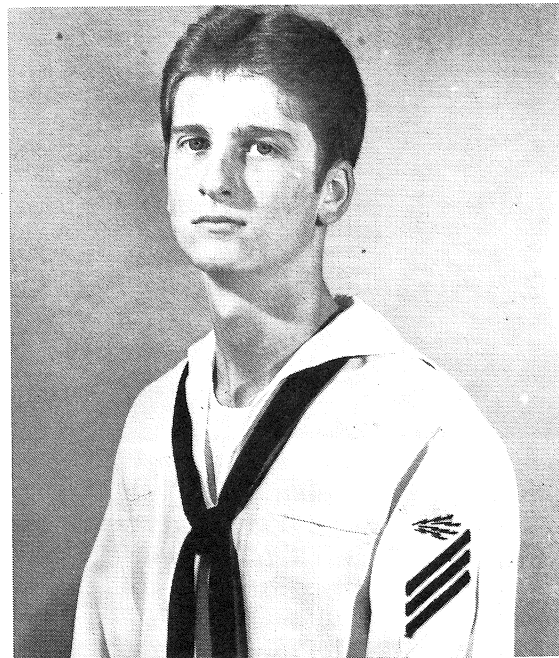
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All contributions to the COCONUT COURIER in the form of articles, photos, and artwork are strongly encouraged. If you are living here on Diego Garcia, contact LT D.Lafont at Ext. 4154. For those receiving the COURIER at home, forward contributions to: COCONUT COURIER c/o LT Lafont Box 12 FPO SFRAN 96685

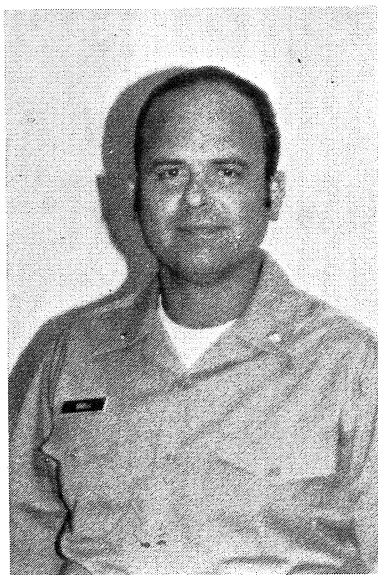


## *Petty Officer and Sailor of the Quarter*



CTT1 Michael Fisher and RMSN Mark Cantrell were recently selected as NAVCOMMSTA Petty Officer and Sailor of the Quarter for the period April-June 1983, in recognition of their superior professional performance and their active involvement in various activities around the command. Petty Officer Fisher, an analyst on the support staff in the Classic Wizard division, hails from the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas area, and is working toward securing a commission through the Limited Duty Officer program. Seaman Cantrell, a native of Hacklesberg, Alabama, works at the R-Site message center, and is an active sportsman who enjoys softball and basketball. Well Done !!!!

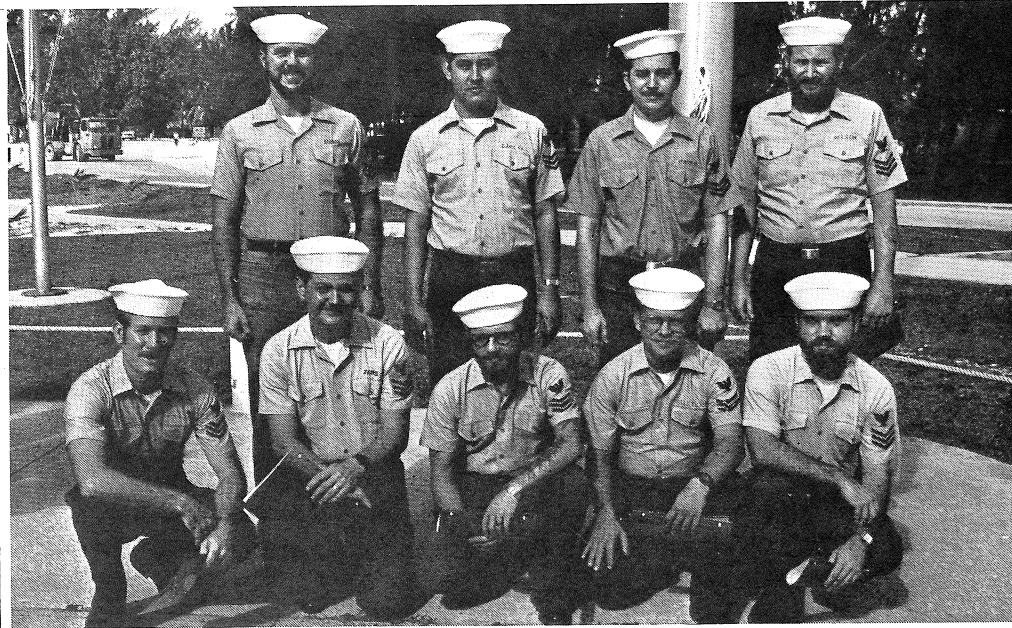
## **XO Comments . . . LCDR S.F. Snell**



It is a sincere pleasure to finally be in place as the Executive Officer of such an outstanding command as NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia. I have looked forward to this assignment for many months, and in the few weeks I have been aboard, I have been most favorably impressed by the high caliber of personnel in the command and the hard work that goes in to fulfilling our mission.

The weeks prior to my arrival were filled with anxious anticipation at the prospect of stepping into an environment totally unlike anything I had experienced in the past. My first impressions of the island centered on two things - the island's incredible natural beauty, and the incredible amount of effort being devoted to upgrade the facilities. Many of my preconceived notions of Diego Garcia were derived from shipmates who had been deployed here in the midst of the Iranian crisis. I immediately discovered that most of those people who were here only a scant 2-3 years ago would hardly recognize the island now. Both operational and personnel

(continued page 15)

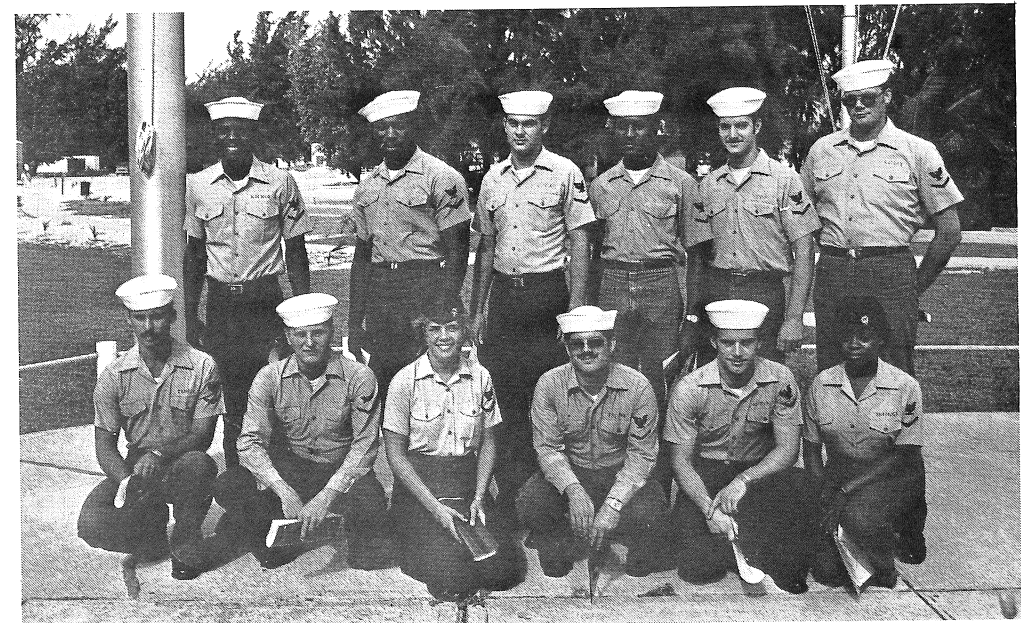


Frocking ceremonies on 10 June advanced 30 NAVCOMMSTA sailors to the petty officer grades. NCS boasted a 95 percent promotion rate from the March 83 examination. Good luck in your continued naval careers!!!!!!

Top: New PO1's

Middle: New PO2's

Bottom: New PO3's



# PROMOTIONS

A PROUD

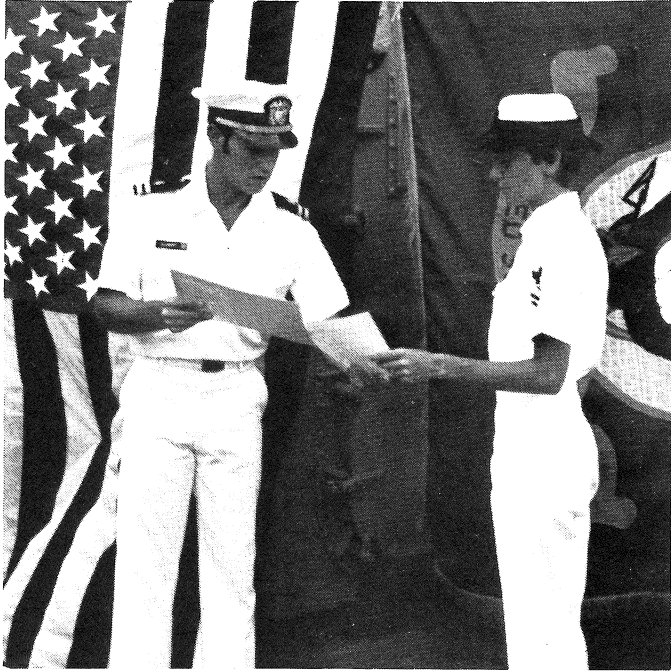
U.S. NAVY

HERITAGE

TO

UPHOLD





CTR2 Cavanagh reenlists on USS Texas

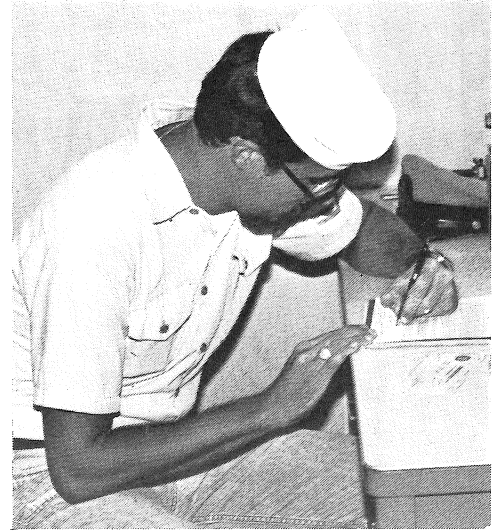
March 1980, she received orders to Ft. George G. Meade and worked at NSOC with A24 Group. After a two year tour there, she attended analysis and reporting school at Goodfellow AFB, Texas before receiving orders to NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia. Petty Officer Cavanagh will be departing in August, once again for NAVCOMMSTA, Rota Spain. Congratulations on your reenlistment Mary, and we wish you continued success in your naval career.

On Thursday, 19 May 1983, a reenlistment ceremony was held on the signal bridge aboard the U.S.S. Texas, CGN-39 during its visit to Diego Garcia, BIOT. Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Second Class Mary E. Cavanagh of 23 Division was reenlisted for a period of six years by Richard M. Gilbert, LT, MC. Being the first female to be reenlisted aboard the nuclear powered cruiser, Petty Officer Cavanagh was presented a certificate from the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Texas, Captain W.D. Address Jr. making her an honorary crew member of the Texas. Petty Officer Cavanagh first enlisted in the U.S. Navy in March of 1977, and attended recruit training in Orlando, Florida. Upon completion of boot camp, she went to Pensacola, Florida for CTR class "A" school and graduated in February 1978. Following "A" school, Petty Officer Cavanagh was ordered to NAVCOMMSTA Rota, Spain where she worked at NCO Mediterranean HFDF Net. In

CTR2 Lucinda L. Bowles



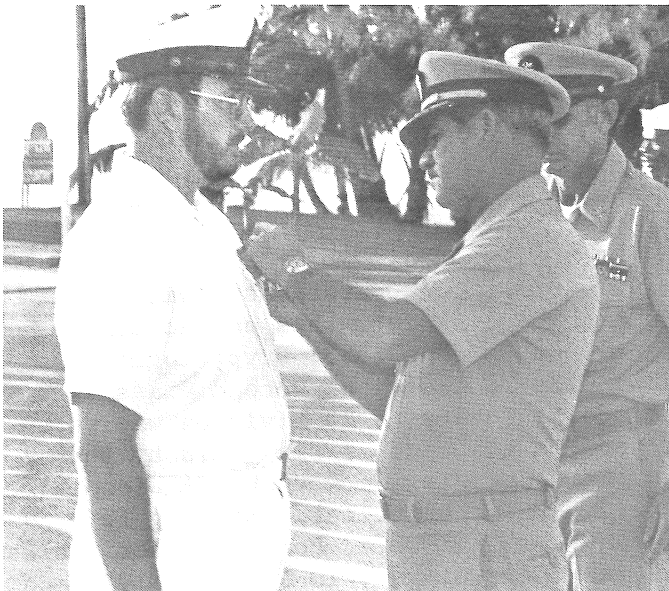
In June, the Operations Division had another reenlistment, this one at Cannon Point. On 24 June 1983, Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Second Class Lucinda L. Bowles of 23 Division was reenlisted for a period of six years by the Commanding Officer of NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia, CDR W. P. Miller. Hailing from Placentia, California, Petty Officer Bowles entered the U.S. Navy in February 1977 and attended recruit training RTC, Orlando Florida. After graduating from boot camp in May, she was sent to Pensacola, Florida for CTR class "A" school. Upon completion of "A" school, she went on to attend "C" school, and then was ordered to duty with NSGA, San Vito Italy. After serving two years there in HFDF, she went on to NSGA Augsburg, Germany and Northwest, Va. Before reporting to NSGD Diego Garcia, she attended two weeks of training at Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland. Congratulations on your reenlistment Lucinda, and best of luck in your continued naval career.



Above: RM2 Hyer is reenlisted in Navy by LTJG Nancy Doss at R-Site.

# NOW HEAR THIS !!

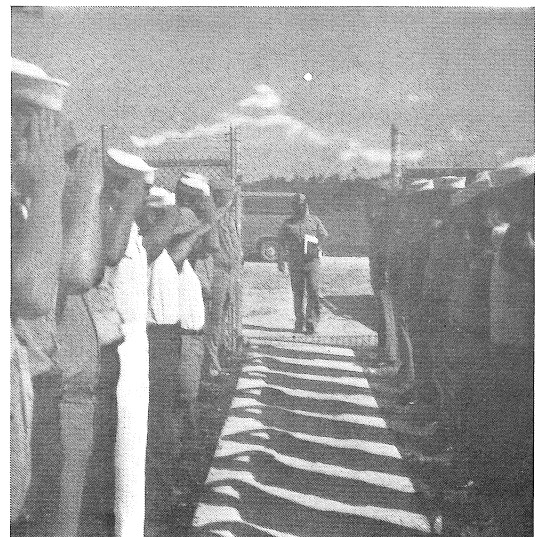
Above right: RM2 Hyer makes it official by signing reenlistment contract.

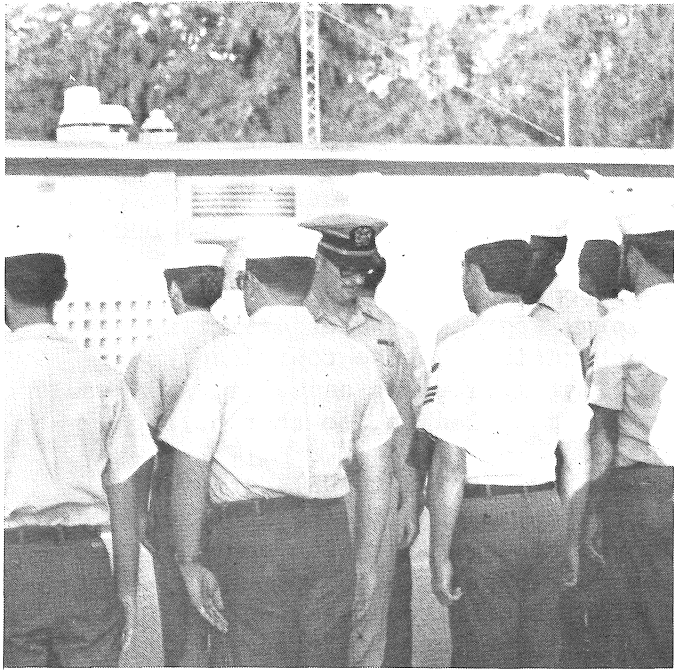


Above: CT01 William Leblanc receives Navy Achievement Medal from CDR Miller at CO's Inspection.

Right Center: CTM1 Russell and CTM1 Therrien are frocked to their present rate.

Right: Newly appointed LCDR McDonald is welcomed aboard at C-Site after the ceremony frocking him to his present rank.





## LCDR ISRAEL INSPECTS NCS

At 0800 on 26 May 1983, NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia was standing by for a very important occasion. The outgoing Executive Officer, LCDR John Israel, was on hand to review the sailors of NCS for the last time. The weather was beautiful, the troops were sharp; the look on the XO's face told the story. Though undoubtedly happy to finally end a tour on Diego Garcia, the departure from such a fine command can never be done easily. Fair winds and following seas, XO.



# Career Planning.....RM1 Gonzales

How many times have you heard Diego Garcia referred to as Type 3 duty? What does this mean and how does this Type 3 duty fit into your Navy career.

The definition given below to Type 3 duty is taken from Chapter 3 of the TRANSMAN:

"Overseas Shore Duty (Sea/Shore Code 3) - Duty performed in overseas land based activities (including Alaska and Hawaii) at locations where the prescribed DOD accompanied tour length is less than 36 months. Duty is credited as sea duty for rotational purposes. For women, Type 3 duty is considered OUTUS.

All ratings in the Navy are required to serve tour lengths of differing duration according to the manning levels of each rating. These tour lengths are also listed in Chapter 3 of the TRANSMAN. The list is revised annually, and should be reviewed by each person to determine their own tour length, so that he/she may in turn plan their future orders accordingly.

For example, determining how much more sea/shore (CONUS/OUTUS) duty you have remaining will help you determine where or what you would like your next assignment to be. This knowledge will enable you to negotiate with your detailer for orders with a clearer understanding of the duty types available.

Chapter 4 of the TRANSMAN provides a listing of other overseas duty (types 3, 4, and 6). Chapter 25 provides a listing of all the Duty Preference Codes by locale, homeport, duty/activity, type, and ship codes. Also, a complete list of school course codes and their locations are available.

You may discover that, while Type 3 duty is demanding due to its isolation, it also enables you to negotiate favorably with the detailer for future orders. Of course, the bottom line is assignments will be in accordance with the needs of the Navy, but there is a genuine effort to match the Navy's needs with those of the servicemember.

You owe it to yourself to find out about the various duty preferences available to you. Contact your Career Counselor.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Notes from the Editor...*

Since taking over as Editor on May 1st, I have been amazed at the variety of activities going on at any moment on the island. There could be pages of material written weekly about the events within NCS. One problem, however, tends to rear its ugly head every now and again to make the compilation of a command newspaper a difficult task indeed. This problem is lack of participation from the command as a whole. It seems that the majority of articles, photographs, cartoons, etc. all originate from a very small minority of NCS. If we are to succeed in making the Courier a publication truly representative of the COMMSTA, it will require active participation from each and every entity in the command. Please feel free to contact me at C-Site, Phone 4154 at any time for information, or to answer questions

The Coconut Courier is intended to depict a true and honest picture of life in and around NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia.

about the paper. For those who contributed to this issue, I want to thank you. Your help is appreciated. Deadline for article submission for the next issue will be 30 September. See you next time.

*Michael Fisher*



**Cigarettes Kill!**



# TRIVIA QUIZ

Submitted by Bill Fleitz

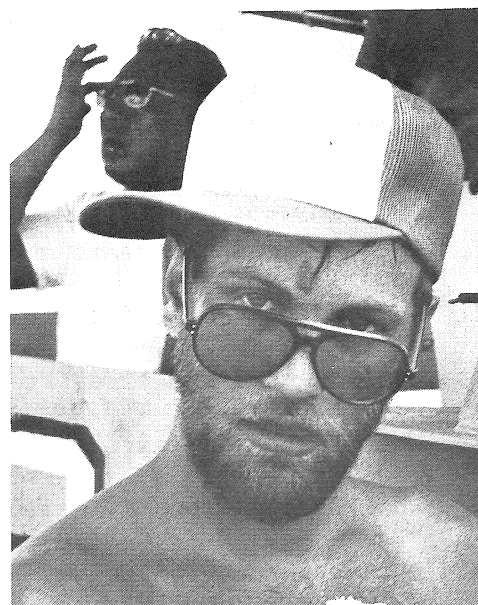
So you think you're good at trivia, huh? Well, if you can answer all of these brainteasers, you are very apt to go through life with the highly enviable title of "TRIVIA EXPERT, EXTRAORDINAIRRE". Good luck!!!!

1. Can you name the teams and the score of the first Super Bowl game? (1967)
2. Name the theme of the Harlem Globetrotters.
3. Can you name the first President to throw out the baseball to open the season?
4. What is the "Amigiri"?
5. What famous group of sailors operated the PT-73?
6. What happened to the USS Tang in October, 1944?
7. You've all heard them called by their last names. Can you give their first names? The TV series? The star who played the part of each? Banacek, Cannon, Ironside, Kojak, McCloud, McMillan, Mannix, and Toma.
8. What is a Geococcyx Californianus?
9. What is "Klaatu Borada Nikto"?
10. Where is the "Cavern" and what is it known for?
11. Who were Cleo and Caesar?
12. Where is Ryman Auditorium, and what is it known for?
13. What name is disc jockey Robert Smith better known by?
14. What is Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin best known for?
15. Besides being the highest scoring letters in the game of Scrabble, the letters Q and Z have something else in common. What is it?
16. What is the Molink?
17. Where would you find the "Shire"?
18. What is Triskaidekaphobia?
19. What is Alexander Hamilton Stephens best known for?
20. Give the cities denoted by the following nicknames: Alamo City, Birthplace of American Liberty, Bison City, Chocolate Capitol of the World, City of Brotherly Love, City of Light, Glass Capitol of the World, Hub of the Universe, Insurance City, Motor City, Pittsburgh of the South, Pretzel City, Railroad City, Rubber Capitol of the World, and Windy City?

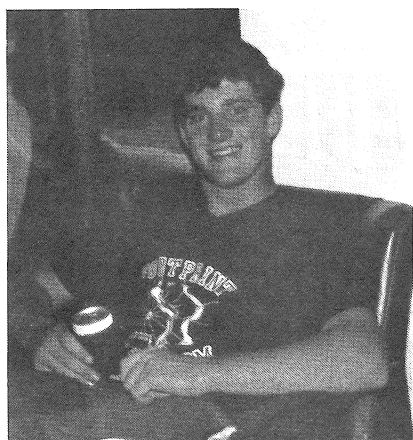
Answers on page 14. Did you get 'em all?????



C-Site Memorial Day Parade Float  
 L to R: CTAC Reindl, CTM3 Begley, CTR1 Hutchinson,  
 CTOSN Maine, CTA2 Stroud, CTR3 Johnson, CTA2 Keller



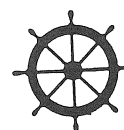
CTT2 Sandlin practices  
 his Chief imitation!!!!!!



CTRSN Cunningham



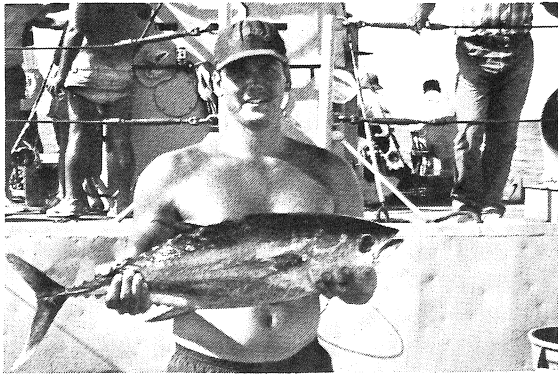
CTO3 Jones



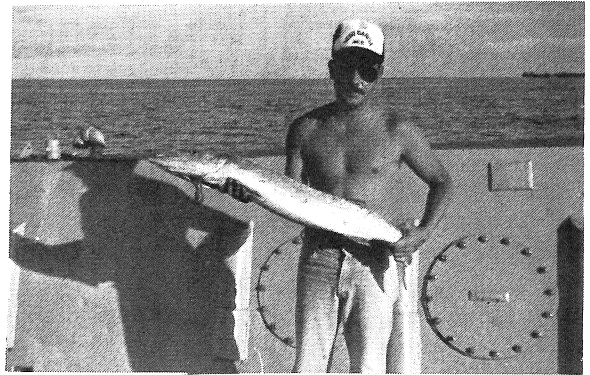
CTM1 Suiter



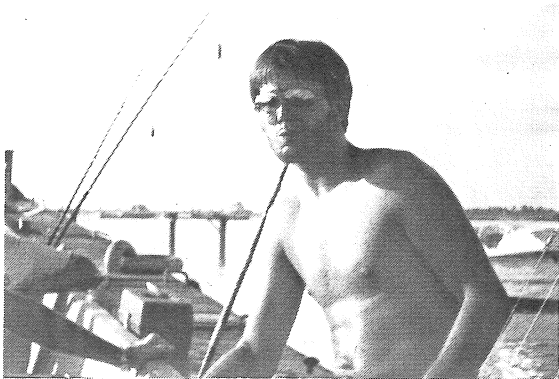
CTT3 Murphy



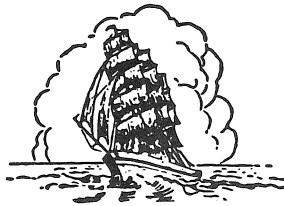
CTM2 Harsh



CTT1 Fisher



CTM2 Hastings

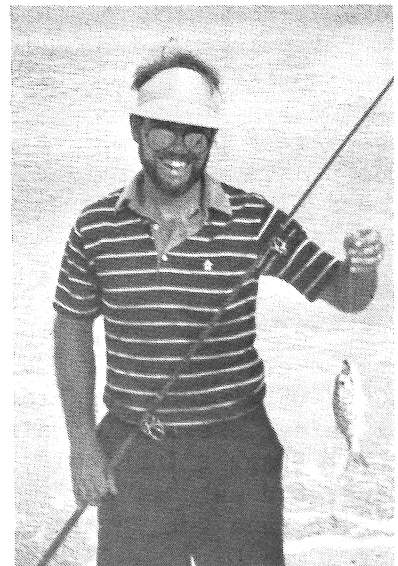


*Fun*

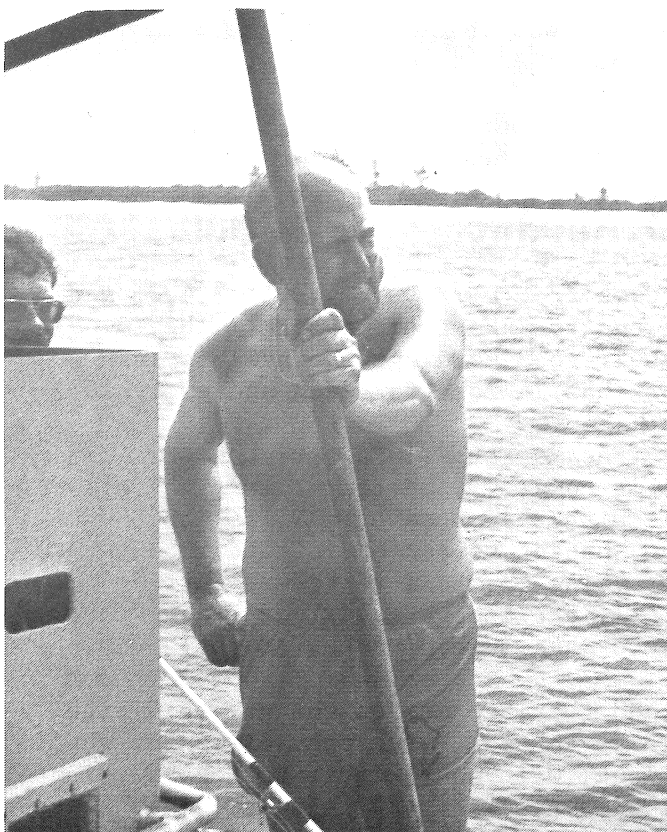
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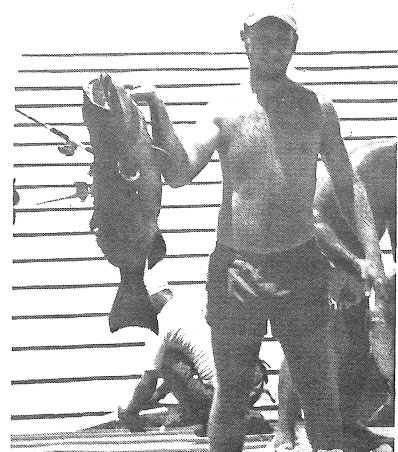
*Sun*



Another whopper!!!!!!  
Greg Brunette  
(He tries hard.....)



Ancient Mariner



CTT2 Carrington  
26 lb. grouper

The Stagger Inn softball team, while not at the top statistically, are definitely emotionally! This team has been taking great pride in the coaching abilities of Randy Summers and Little John Suiter, who play each and every player that shows up at every game. Unlike other teams who believe winning creates team spirit, these two men are proving that personal participation can be equally as rewarding as winning. The "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, as long as you get to play the game" syndrome.

The Stagger Inn now sports a record of 2 wins and 5 losses. We were handed defeat by the following teams: HC DET 1, The Sharks, RBRM, RESALE, and a tough loss the the SEABEES's even with the great efforts of Mick James both on the field and at the plate. We found the losses as easy to handle mentally as the enjoyable THRILL OF DEFEAT celebrations following each loss.

Our first victory came in a game against the NSF Officers, behind the pitching of KIM-SAN Donaldson, who was backed up defensively by Steve Carrington, Mike "Shaver" Scott, Mary Cavanagh, Bernie, and Pat Murphy. Gus "Goose" Cross hit an in-the-park home run along with Lou Eckard's back-to-back home run's (the second being a Grand Slam) to lead the scoring drive. Our second victory came against TERMINAL OPS with well rounded hitting from the entire team as LJS and "Duck" Altman took the spotlight at the plate. There were displays of defensive versatility from The Reverend Bispels, "Kitten" Bryant, Jonn "Crip" Bradley, and "Pink" Hastings. AGONY OF VICTORY celebrations were conducted after each win, creating some feelings of defeat the next morning.

Stagger Inn would like to thank all the people who come to the games to cheer, sing, and support our team. Special thanks goes out to "Rockin Rob" Warren, Bill Fleitz, and the Terminal Ops team for their loyal support. You're all invited to our AGONY OF VICTORY or THRILL OF DEFEAT celebrations which ever the case may be, but remember "WE'RE NOT PROUD, WE'RE STAGGER INN".

(Editors Note: I think that, contrary to your name, your team shows a great deal of pride and class. WELL DONE!!! Keep up the good times. Roll, Stagger Inn, Roll!)

## \*\*\* The Road to T-Site... By B.Rhoades & T. Marcus \*\*\*

It all starts at 0645 each day. They come from all over. BEQ's 3,4,7, and 11. ET's and RM's getting ready to meet the bus to take them to work. They mingle briefly at the Mod 41 picnic table, saying their good mornings and hello's in a grouchy manner, waiting for what the days work has in store for each and every individual.

All of a sudden, as the last person arrives, or shortly after, they all turn. A look of depression on some faces, for here it comes..."The Bus"...half the size of a sardine can and twice the size of a thimble with the sound of a WWII tank on its way to the DPDO. Everyone is on the road now, hoping to get one of the front seats. They know that if they end up in the back, the ride may be a vertebrae jarring, brain shaking, stomach queezing experience. The jolly Khaki covered driver greets them as they enter the bus. A few nag the driver to make sure he takes it easy over the bumps.

The bus is full, everyone is settled, and they are now on the way to T-Site. The folks in front attempt to snooze while those in back brace themselves for what may lie ahead. The road itself is 17 miles long, with many sights to behold. There are coconut trees, scavy, even an occasional coconut crab after a rainy night as they leave town. They pass construction sites with crews just getting to work. Afterwards, its out on the open road where the speed of the bus (Continued page 13)

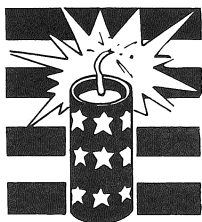
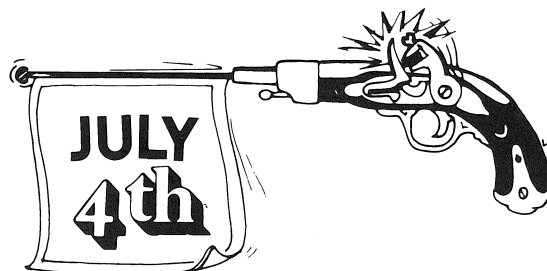
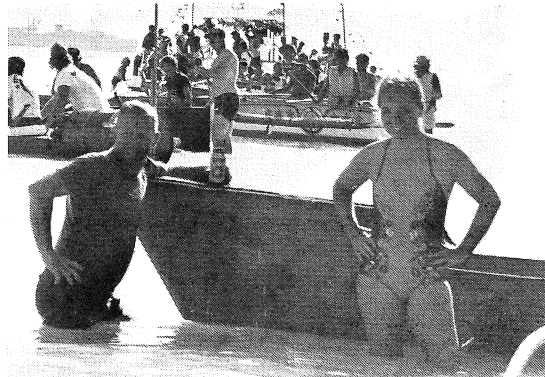
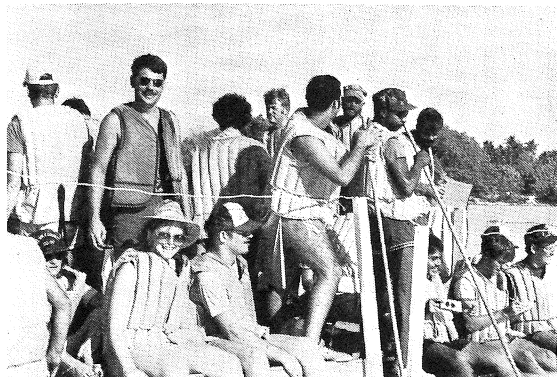
**"We're not  
proud...  
we're  
STAGGER  
INN !!!"**

Article submitted  
by  
D.D.GENSLER

picks up to 45 mph!! The high whine of the engine brings all attention to a standstill when suddenly the acceleration decreases because just ahead lies - THE DONKEY GATE - (which unfortunate individual will have to open it today?). Each person gets a turn - some get more turns than others - it you're not fast, you'll get left behind.

They are now on the last stretch of twisting, winding open road. There are a few donkeys here and there on the side of the road. The driver beeps the horn occasionally to keep them from the bus. Then in no time at all, they come upon the transmitter facility and its associated antenna fields. They made it!! It was a rough 17 miles and 35 minutes. The folks in back are wide awake, while those in front are just waking up. The work day begins, but in the back of everyones mind is the knowledge that this same routine will go on, and on....and on as long as T-Site endures.

\*\*\*\*\*



**AMERICA**

CELEBRATES  
**JULY  
4TH**



# O's & C's Volleyball !!



"You're supposed to hit the ball over the net, Master Chief!!!!!!!!!!!"



"If we told you once, Lafont, we told you 1000 times, no holding the net!"

The Officers and the Chiefs squared off to see who had the best volleyball team. By the end of the afternoon, it wasn't really settled as to who was the best, but the old rumor about Khakis not being able to chew gum and walk at the same time was given a whole new meaning !!!!!

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## TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Green Bay Packers 35 Kansas City Chiefs 10
2. Sweet Georgia Brown
3. William Howard Taft -- April 14, 1910
4. Japanese destroyer which sank PT-109 in 1943 -- CO was John F. Kennedy
5. McHale's Navy
6. US submarine that sank itself with its own torpedo.
7. Tom(George Peppard), Frank(William Conrad), Robert(Raymond Burr), Theo(Telly Savalas), Sam(Dennis Weaver), Stuart(Rock Hudson), Joe(Mike Connors), Dave (Tony Musante).
8. A Road Runner (as in the cartoon series)
9. Words that stop the robot Gort from destroying the Earth (From the 1951 movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still").
10. Liverpool, England. Club where the Beatles were discovered.
11. Early stage name of Sonny and Cher.
12. Nashville, Tennessee. Home of the Grand Ole Opry.
13. Wolfman Jack.
14. First man in space.
15. They are the only two letters that don't appear on the standard phone dial.
16. The hotline between Moscow and Washington, D.C.
17. The land where the Hobbits live (From J.R.R.Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy).
18. Unnatural fear of the number 13.
19. Southern patriot, Vice-President of the Confederacy (1861-1865).
20. San Antonio, Texas; Lexington, Mass.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Hershey, Penn.; Philadelphia, Penn.; Paris, France; Toledo, Ohio; Boston, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; Detroit, Mich.; Birmingham, Ala.; Reading, Penn.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Akron, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.



## C-SITE CORRALS COWBOYS 14-8

Article submitted by CTTC Fleitz/CTTC Blankenship/CTTC Suter/CTRC Paul

It began on a peaceful Wednesday morning. The battle between the C-Siter's and the Khaki Kovered Klowns was about to begin. The C-Site team was fired up, and eagerly awaited the contest that all concerned knew could result in nothing less than a humiliating defeat for the Klowns.

The Khakis were forced to resort to their usual sneaky, underhanded tactics to try and tip the scales in their favor. The morning of the game, some newly appointed LCDR (his name will remain anonymous) managed to come up with a memorandum, signed by the Commanding Officer (of course), which placed the softball fields off-limits to the majority of the C-Site team. The Arctic Cowboy (who was playing CDO that day) was instructed to be on hand, with report chits in hand, to take care of any brave soul who dared defy the order. The C-Siter's were forced to resort to some sneakiness of their own, and "noticed" that the memo carried by the CDO was in error. The original memo stated that the fields were off-limits only after "2200 hours". As natural underdogs, and with nothing going for them but sheer guts, iron determination, and a vastly superior bunch of ballplayers, the team took a bold stand. In a move that will surely be recorded in the history books as an event as earthshaking as Washington crossing the Delaware or the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima, the players linked arms and bravely stepped over the white line. SOLIDARITY would have been proud of them.

Staring adversity in the eye, C-Site took the bull by the horns and showed the Khakis how softball should be played. The final score stood at C-Site 14, Khakis 8. The score would have been much higher, but the C-Siter's decided that they should take it easy on the Geritol Set. Maybe you O's and C's should take the bull by the horns and organize the island's first minor league softball team!!!!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

(Editor's Note: I sure hope that this article doesn't come back to haunt any of you when the time for Chief's initiation rolls around.)

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CO CONTINUED...

solid accomplishments. You the officers, enlisted and civilians of the NAVCOMMSTA make the whole thing work. I am proud to have served with you. The long hours and hard work each of you has contributed attests to your dedication toward carrying out our mission and toward NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia. By your performance, you have shown there are no finer communications and cryptologists in the world. You are "Ready", and your best days lie ahead. It has been a privilege to command NAVCOMMSTA Diego Garcia. I wish you continued success. Goodbye and good luck to each of you.

W. P. MILLER  
CDR USN

XO CONTINUED...

support facilities have undergone dramatic change. It is particularly encouraging to note that both the habitability and personal welfare of our people so far from home remain such high priority considerations.

The command will also undoubtedly undergo considerable change during the coming year. I very much look forward to working with each and every member of the command in facing the challenges we have ahead of us.

S. F. SNELL  
LCDR USN



**THE END!!!**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**Commanding Officer  
U.S. Naval Communications Station  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
DOD 516**



**THIRD CLASS**

**FAMILYGRAM**

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