

AMERICAN FORCES



VIETNAM NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 NO. 10

DECEMBER 1969



Merry
Christmas

and

a

Happy
New
Year

****NEWS

Things have settled into a hectic routine in Network News, following the special Apollo-12 coverage. Congratulations go to Air Force Sgt Hugh Morgan and Army SP5 Bob Lawrence for some outstanding TV coverage of this event. And, in a short sentence, it is impossible to pass along the number of comments on the Apollo set. Graphics out did themselves for this one. We must note though that SP5 Lawrence is still waiting for the scale model of the Apollo that was to adorn the set. Specialist 5 Mike Maxwell came through with a beautiful scratch-built job that was more than adequate.

The lone Army type in Photo is right up there with the rest of 'em, now that he is sporting staff sergeant stripes. Staff sergeant Bender is celebrating with a trip to Hong Kong. Another traveler is "Gunny" Carl Carter, reposing in Tokyo for a week. "Gunny" was a bit disappointed when he learned his assignment to "Stripes" in Tokyo was not coming through. However, that was only monitory, because the next word, and it is definite, is that "Gunny" will be slaving over a hot desk (or something) at the USFJ Press Liaison, Sanno Hotel, in the heart of beautiful downtown Tokyo.

Army SP4 Mike Sullivan has joined the news staff, fresh from a stint with the instructional TV set-up at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He brought with him a lot of talent and is now settled into the routine of the day shift. Mike can be seen daily on the Afternoon News.

Network News Branch has been helped immensely for the past 90 days by two members of the First Cav. Division. Specialist 4 Ron Taylor, in the Photo Lab, and SP4 Mike Newsom in Net. News Service. Now, though, their period of TDY is about over, and they will definitely be missed at AFVN. We wish them all the best, as they return to the Cav. Both will be replaced by other TDY men from the First Cav.

Here it is...chapter two in the continuing story of Chief Antoine and his uniforms. In our last exciting episode, the Chief had just had his brand new Chief Petty Officer uniforms lifted by a slick "slickey-boy" somewhere between Bangkok and Saigon. As we join the Chief, he has just arrived in Saigon from his R&R, wearing jungle fatigues. His first act is to hit the tailor shops on Tu Do street. And, after much barganing, has talked the price of a uniform, fit for a Chief, down to something resembling about \$30.00. Now, it is the big day. With a brand new uniform, Chief Antoine is finally able to venture again from his dingy room at the Plaza Hotel. Erect and proud, he enters a taxi for a short spin around town...his anchor insignia gleaming in the reflected lights of the perimeter spots. Alas for the Chief, there happens to be, on this particular cab, a wayward chunk of jagged metal, which caught a slight crease in the seat of his new Chiefs trousers...caught and hung on, an act which resulted in some parted threads across the seat of the trousers. In other words, he ripped his new trousers.

Undaunted, Chief Antoine hurried to a tailor shop, where, for a modest fee, the tear was repaired. Not wishing to present a rumpled appearance at

the forth coming NCO ball, the Chief gave his new uniform to his maid for pressing. Unfortunately, while pressing the shirt, the maid was distracted. (By what, was never brought up). And, when the Chief got his uniform back, it had been modified somewhat by a dark streak in the back. At least it was out of his sight.

Thus far, Chief Antoine has learned that it is an expensive proposition to be a Navy Chief Petty Officer, after having invested something in the neighborhood of \$1000 for uniforms...uniforms he still doesn't really have.

We leave you with this question. Will Chief Antoine ever get his new tan uniforms? Will(!!!) he ever get to keep one, in one piece, for more than an hour? Next month, more in the life of our dauntless photography chief, CPO Antoine and his uniforms.

****RADIO

November was a highly productive month with the Marine Corps Anniversary and Veteran's Day. Along with some outstanding new ideas from all of the radio "good guys."

New ID carts were produced by Marine Cpl Steve Rutt and SP4 Roger Ashworth with the voices of all radio personnel doing the spots. Spots are being renewed on a bi-monthly basis to give more variety to an otherwise repetitious sound. These will be available to all up-country detachments upon request. A word of praise goes out to all who contributed to the good sound of the Network.

On Nov. 9 a new program of inspirational and gospel music was introduced on AFVN and will be a weekly feature from 0615 to 0630 hours. This program came about in response to the many letters received at Headquarters requesting something special in gospel music.

On Nov. 10 the United States Marines celebrated their 194th Anniversary, and Marine MSgt Jim "Top" Kyser presented a half-hour Marine-day special. Marine Cpl Steve Rutt was the producer of this outstanding salute to our Marine compatriots.

Specialist 5 Pat Sajdak and our own Miss Mai began a new series of Vietnamese lessons that can be heard four times daily for the benefit of those wanting to hear some of the more common Vietnamese words and phrases.

Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, brought about a special tribute to the fighting men from the Civil War to the war in Vietnam. Army SgtMaj Lloyd Eyre wrote and voiced a one-hour special depicting the history and music of the American forces and their conflicts and victories. Specialist 4 Tony Lyons of "Panorama" produced this outstanding presentation.

Speaking of "Panorama" the show had a good share of celebrities featured throughout the month, including the "New Christie Minsrels" and Australian singing star Norm Rowe. The world's greatest living baseball star Joe Dimaggio

was also here visiting the troops in 'Nam, along with baseball greats Ron Swoboda, Jim "Mudcat" Grant, and Milt Pappas.

We welcome to Network Radio SP5 Tom Watson, new host of "Town & Country," who just arrived in country. Tom hails from Nashville, Tennessee.

Specialist 5 Roger O'Connor, SP4 Roger Ashworth and Cpl Steve Rutt will all be enjoying special leaves this month back in the world. Special Christmas programming is being prepared by all three of them before they leave. They happen to make-up three-fourths of the production department, so SP4 Tony Lyons is going to have his hands full for 30 days.

Program director MSgt Raul Rodriguez enjoyed a seven day re-union with his wife in Hawaii this past month.

Comprehensive live coverage of the Apollo-12 moonshot was another special radio news feature with the News department providing outstanding programming under the gun of Air Force Sgt Hugh Morgan.

Well, our permanent R.U. library finally got it's first shot-in-the-arm by SP5 Mike Maxwell. When the job's complete, Mike claims that we will be able to find any show on any subject that is within the walls of our rather cramped library room. A master index is being compiled for the project and should be completed within a month.

***SUPPLY

The month of October reflected the following supply status: Demands received---1283; Demands filled---1147; Demands D/O---136; Requests forwarded ---275; Request received---382; and Requests D/O---606.

Our percentage of fill from stock this month is an outstanding 90%. The following is a repeat of an important item which appeared in the August Newsletter which is not being followed by some of the detachments: "All equipment being turned-in for repair will be accompanied by a properly prepared DA Form 2407. Block 16 should reflect detailed information as to the nature of discrepancies."

Staff sergeant Corsair will continue visiting the detachments on a supply liaison visit during the months to come.

***TELEVISION

Another busy busy month for the TV department. The entire crew was kept fairly busy with the Apollo-12 coverage and the taping of Nashville Vietnam Shows.

Highlighting the list of celebrities visiting here this month were Joe Dimaggio and "Playboy's" March 1969 playmate-of-the-month, blond, vivacious

Kathy McDonald. Would you believe Kathy attracted a larger audience in the studio than Joe did? Well...

Specialist Chuck Hayes returned from R&R to Hong Kong, with a wardrobe of clothes. The clothes, by the way, have been the source of much discussion between Chuck and PO3 Jerome Dingwerth. Commenting on the trip, Chuck asserted, "I immersed myself in the culture."

Two much needed TV engineers arrived in the persons of SP5 Bill Turner and Pfc John Workman. And the Marines have landed; well two of them anyway. Staff sergeant Walt Wasylink and Pfc Douglass Cooper reported for duty. Staff sergeant Wasylink is another addition to the TV engineers and Pfc Cooper will be with the production crew.

Fond farewell to "ace" engineer SP5 Sig Brandl, who will be back in the USA by the time this gets in print. A note of apology to Marine Sgt "Chief" Ahasteen, TV illustrator, for over-looking his promotion last month to his present rank...."buck" sergeant. Sorry 'bout that.

A special note should be made of the fact that SP4 Bob Royer has and is working many long tedious hours putting film spots in the up-country shipments. Although Bob has a tendency to talk to himself quite a bit these days, he insists he's okay, and is "carrying on in fine style."

So as they say in the stock market...buy!

***DET ONE

The harliquins of Vung Chua mountain were busy last month, scurrying around, putting the finishing touches on the troop billets and renovating the office area. The interior of the new quarters boasts masonite walls and partitions, making ten rooms, louvers for the area above the partitions and a bookshelf unit at the head of each new AF style bed. With the EM housing now centralized in the new billets, the quonset was returned to its original function as offices and work area. The TV studio, previously containing program offices and film library, is now used solely for studio purposes.

In addition, construction continued on the retaining wall which creates the land area needed to house the new TV studio-FM building. The wall is approximately 125 feet long and 15 feet high and consists of telephone poles, heavy steel cables with "Deadmen" and 3X10 planks. The building scheduled to be erected in this space is a prefabricated aluminum "Adams Hut." It was obtained in the Delta, then trucked to Saigon, shipped via LST to Qui Nhon and now rests at radio in some 1100 pieces before the trip up the mountain.

Our engineering department has been busy providing increased capabilities with our existing equipment. A studio control room talk back circuit and audio and video console by-pass were added to improve our studio production capability.

Turning to personnel information---SP5 Ralph Carlisle returned from his

delightful and expensive special leave. Commencing on Nov. 8, MSgt Warde, GySgt Monk and SFC Maggart attended the NCO meeting in Saigon. Staff sergeant Robert Parham was assigned from the 173rd MP Bn. in Bong Song. He will be working at radio on local programming.

Perhaps the most exciting events at Det 1 this month was the simulcast coverage of the Apollo-12 mission. The entire staff of the detachment pitched in to provide immediate coverage of the major steps in the mission for our TV audience.

****DET TWO

Radiation is the word from Monkey Mountain these days. Yes, it is the "Million Dollar" sound. True FM stereo is being transmitted from the Danang R&R center (AFVN Det 2). At the tune of 25,000 watts, these wonderful sounds are being radiated over the I Corps area. Special comments and compliments are being paid to the personnel of this detachment, from the young, old, departing and arriving, low rank to upper ranks. Engineer Nicholas spent many, many tireless hours on the FM monster to enable us to bring stereophonic sound on the airwaves on Nov. 10. "Thanks Nick" seems little enough to say.

Since the last Newsletter we have had another change in personnel. We have welcomed on board, Army SSgt Larry J. Carmody. Larry hails from the snow kissed land of Colorado. Larry joins our radio and news staff. Larry is not new to Vietnam. He has been in III Corps Army Information Office for several months. Larry was so happy to get an assignment to AFVN, that he has formally requested a six month extension of duty. Congratulations Larry, and many more fine months to you.

During this past month we have been as busy as "Grand Central Station." There have been visitors, too numerous to mention. Curiosity they say killed the cat, but here on Monkey Mountain, curiosity contributes to the many who wish to see for themselves where the "Voice" of Monkey Mountain originates. If you are in the area stop in and select the tour you desire. They range from the nickle tour right on up.

Detachment two will have to renege on the previous statement of a would-you believe ten foot bar. We do not know who did the measuring, but we have found out that it measures fifteen feet and six inches. All in all it is still one of our morale builders. Since our last invitation to drop in, we have had many visitors from other detachments, as well as mother station in Saigon. A partial list, although definitely not complete has names like; Capts Williams and Johnson, MSgt Repsher, SFC McKenzie, Sgt Vickers, SSgt Garrett, SSgt Heck, and CPO Antoine and his crew of photographers. These are only a few and if we have left your name off, it is purely unintentional.

Alas! We have a true native that has returned. Sergeant Phil Lucas has just returned from the land of the big "PX." Phil has just completed a second extension leave to the states. He is complaining of a sore neck!! Phil has been in Vietnam for so many months now, that I hate to even mention it. Oh, well, "What ever turns you on Luke."

Making arrangements for final departure from the R&R center are SSgt

Schuth and SP5 Kochanek. Bob Schuth will be returning to recruiting duty around Atlanta, Georgia. Keep the recruiting going Bob, we all need replacements. Ed Kochanek is returning for separation from service. These two individuals have been strutting around the station like proud peacocks. No wonder; it must be the weight of the special Vietnamese honor medals they received. Bob and Ed have been envolved in the Vietnamese hour of live television formerly seen on Channel 11, Danang.

A few major changes of personnel assigned became mandatory when our NCOIC SFC Dalton decided that he would take his extension leave to the CONUS. Don departed the detachment on Nov. 6, enroute to Saigon to grab the big bird on the eighth. Our chief engineer, MSgt Bob Wagoner was appointed NCOIC protem. Filling Bob's slot in engineering is big John Deemer. Staff sergeant Deemer returned from duty at the Red Beach transmitters, and is doing a fine job. A favorite comment of our new NCOIC is "I just can't believe there is that much paperwork in any job." Take a cue from this fellow associates; if you think the job of NCOIC is easy---well just take a crack at it. The job looks easy until you are put in the line of fire. Bob is now counting days. No, not days left in Vietnam, but days until the safe return of the NCOIC. I believe at this time, I have heard him muttering something about the 15th.

A highlight of the activities at this detachment, involves our OIC. For that matter, let us say that it was a double highlight. Mrs. Pitts presented her husband a brand new son. Then came the official word that our OIC had been promoted to Captain. The best part of the news on the promotion, it seems, is the fact that it was retroactive to August 1. Wow! What a paycheck. Captain Pitts reported to Saigon for promotion ceremonies. He returned to the detachment really no worse for all of the wear and tear. Congratulations captain on the two memorable occasions.

Our menagerie continues to grow. We not only have the monkey, but three dogs. Our generator people obtained a puppy which really has grown into quite a dog. If that wasn't enough, our sentry dog handlers brought in a tiny baby puppy. At the rate it is going we will soon have our own animal shelter.

The TV staff here has been very busy for several weeks now. The video tape machine and the new studio cameras really have been getting worked overtime. Many very interesting promos and live presentations have been made. "Gunny" Benavente and his able bodied personnel; Sgt Chuck Royal and SP4 Hackett have been burning the candle power. Watch it fellas and do not burn the candle from both ends.

There you have it. Just a few of the events and happenings around our plush seaside resort.

DET THREE

"Change" is the watch-word atop Dragon Mountain these days. Many familiar faces are departing our "Red Dust Hotel" here in the Central Highlands. First to go was our number two man down in the radio transmitter building, SP5 Ron Dufault, who was headed home to Farmington, Connecticut. Right on his heels was newly promoted Army SSgt Steve Pierce, our combination engineer and supply man. Steve was going to see if the Army wouldn't give him an assignment a little closer to his home in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Good luck, Steve!

The engineering section will sorely miss their chief, GySgt Seth Johnson, who will depart for duty with the I&I Staff, Electronic Maintenance Company, 4th Marine Division, Wichita, Kansas. "Gunny" had his hopes up for an assignment to sunny California, so Wichita came as a distinct shock...seems he'd invested a bundle in SCUBA gear and when he finally located Wichita on the map, the ocean wasn't anywhere near there!

Specialist 4 Ken Horst will also be departing our engineering section on Dec. 6. Ken is heading for an assignment with Brooks Medical Center, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. After 12 solid months on top of this hill, what a shock Ken is going to have when he first sees all those pretty nurses...!

We sent a man down off the hill most every day, checking out the local "Jet terminal" for bewildered looking men sporting shinny new AFVN badges. And he was pretty successful---he rounded up five new faces to fill our current and projected vacancies.

First new arrival was Air Force TSgt Bob Batty, who came to us from Det 1. Sergeant Batty is heading up our news department, and sharing time on the daily newscasts with Marine SSgt Bill Buck.

Air Force TSgt John Van Cise will be taking over as chief of the engineering section. Sergeant Van Cise was formerly with the closed circuit TV section at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Private first class Scott Oldham came in from an engineering job at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and has taken over Sgt Pierce's old job as a combination engineer-supply man for the detachment.

Navy ET2 Adam Fetner will be taking SP4 Horst's place in the engineering section. Adam came to us from the nuclear power school in West Milton, New York. (None of us have had the heart to tell him that our power up here on the hill is just old-fashioned generated electricity.)

Our man at the terminal found that ET2 Fetner was not alone, as he was accompanied by SP4 Hank Nevins, the last of our new arrivals. Hank comes to us from Fort Hood, Texas, and is now handling the night shift on our FM board. This is a new experience for him, but he's doing an excellent job.

Amongst the old hands here on the hill, Marine SSgt Bill Buck just received word that his next assignment will be another "hardship" tour---Hawaii. The rest of us really feel for the poor guy, but what can we say...? Fortunately, he won't have to leave the comfort of Det 3 to begin that tour until February 24, 1970.

The pet project of our OIC, Capt Johnson, was our Football Scoreboard, seen on TV every Sunday evening at 2150 hours. It has been a tremendously popular addition to our local programming. In helping us make it a complete success we want to give a well deserved "thank you" to Saigon's Marine Cpl Tom Sinkovitz, who more than once dug out needed scores for us just before

our deadline. By closing out our program each Sunday night with the score of the Slippery Rock team, we've been told that we were instrumental in the formation of a "Slippery Rock Fan Club" at Pleiku Air Base...for whatever it's worth.

We've saved the best for last, as the saying goes. What other detachment can lay claim to being armed with their own mini-gun...? Detachment 3 is justly proud of the accomplishments of our 4,000 round-per-minute "protector." "Gunny" Johnson labored long and lovingly over this "extra-curricular" activity, and the results have been absolutely spectacular! Mounted in the back of our 3/4 ton, the gun is easily transported around the perimeter of our hill. Since our initial evening demonstrations have been from different points on the hill, the "neighborhood delinquents" just aren't sure how many there might be up here. And since it is quickly removed from the truck, by day there is no trace of the weapon for curious eyes to report on. We members of Capt Johnson's "Non-Flying Irregular Defense Group" are really "irregular," but we have fun...!

And with that we've got to run. Once again the neighborhood is in an uproar, so we've got to head for the top of the Mootch where we can sit in a ringside seat and watch the ruckus down in the ravine. At this time of the night it's always colorful, and mighty noisy!

***DET FOUR

This is detachment four to AFVN headquarters. The following is our latest in happenings. As the time has moved, so has Det 4, maybe! Perhaps an explanation of the preceding sentence is necessary.

For those of you who have not heard the news, it seems that the detachment is moving to Cam Rahn Bay, again. We were originally going to move in January, and maybe before that, but now it looks like we're moving again. Everyone has looked over fifty different sites, with fifty different people, and the conclusion is; yes, we're going to move. The only problem now--- no one knows when or to where! Oh well, maybe next year.

At this time, we'd like to take the time to introduce you to our new personnel. Specialist 4's Paul Starnes and Ken Mitchell have joined our AM affiliate at Dong Ba Thin in an engineering capacity. And to our surprise, Paul is not only a top notch engineer, but also a good disc-jockey. As can be ascertained by listening to the D-Bar-T Jamboree on Saturday afternoons.

Our next name should really need no introduction, as it's Navy J01 Dale Pitnam. Saigon thought Dale needed a little vacation, so they sent him up to the playground of AFVN. For those of you who know Dale, it will come as no surprise to discover that the first thing he did upon arriving, was to buy a refrigerator. And after a quick stop at the class six store, we are happy to report that Dale's refer is well stocked.

Other new arrivals include SP4 Bill Hall, who is giving Tom Benientende

a break in FM. And MSgt Ramon Rodriguez, who has joined us on the "rock," to take over our engineering department from SFC Chuck Locke, who has been reassigned to Qui Nhon.

The island has been fairly quiet, except for one of our notorious alerts, which MSgt Repsher can well attest to. It seems that every time MSgt Repsher stops by for a visit, we have an alert. But, to have him here, we guess it's worth it.

Anyway, about 2 a.m. the siren started blaring, and the Det 4 personnel took up their combat positions in their combat gear, almost. It seems that one person was a little too sleepy, or a little bit too much in a hurry, to don the correct U.D. Our OIC, Capt Sanders, did an heroic job of directing our almost combat, even though his attire consisted of helmet, flak jacket, boots (untied), and his skivies. Master sergeant Repsher almost died laughing, and we here at the detachment feel we owe thanks to Capt Sanders for either scaring away, or laughing away the enemy, as nothing came of the alert.

Besides directing our combat activities, Capt Sanders has been busy with the area I.O. offices. He's traveled all over Nha Trang and Cam Rahn, contacting different I.O's., and having them send in local material for our news shows. The idea is really paying off in getting the local news out to the troops.

Attention Det 5! We here on the rock, would like to enter MSgt Schilling against your captain for the "Time On The Road" award. "Top" has made two trips to Saigon in the past couple weeks and he should just have time when he gets back from his current joint, to pack his gear, and split for Bangkok on R&R. More on that next month.

And before we close, Sgt Bob Wilford has informed us that his name has appeared in the Network "Newsletter" every month since he arrived in country. He didn't do anything this past month, but didn't want to break his record.

The monsoons are here, the winds are high, and that's the latest. This is detachment four clear with the Network.

DET FIVE

Programming headline: Specialist 4 Dixon Scores Radio Success. John Dixon, Det 5's multipurpose man...TD, TV programmer, mail clerk and DJ... on his own began "Soul Train." Dixon features "soul sandwiches" during Northern I Corps' hour of top soul music. The show was an instant smash, probably due mainly to Dixon's past experience as professional musician and record fan.

Joe D'Allusio, who pioneered Det 5's "Salutes" to units in the area, left Vietnam last month. His tongue-in-cheek audio blackouts helped local units identify with Det 5. Radio NCOIC, SSgt Frank Segretto, in elaborate ceremonies, awarded D'Allusio Det 5's "Chipped Tassel" award for meritorious service and outstanding achievement.

November 10 was the Marine Corps birthday. Our "Leathernecks" (except GySgt Mossman who was at the program director's conference in Saigon) observed the occasion with representatives of First of the Fifth Infantry Division and the Army Det 5'ers. Captain Louis Chatelle read the Marine Commandant's messages. Our OIC ten cut the huge birthday cake with the first piece going to the oldest Marine, SSgt Ralph Dowling. Segreto, the youngest Marine, got the second piece. Incidentally, SSgt Dowling departed in the middle of November for statesideville, after his stint as chief engineer here. The fourth Marine, SSgt Carol Parlor got his share of ice cream and cake. He's still in a bit of a disillusioned daze, though, after being extended one week past normal DEROS to one week after Christmas. Even after the setback he insists he still believes in Santa Claus.

Sergeant Fair, engineer, made several trips via scatback this month. He and SP4 Packer, news, are approaching their six-month marks and are often seen pouring over pamphlets on Hawaii.

The Saigon news-film team was here last month. Smiles and makeup were the order of the day. Specialist Dick Bender and Photographer's Mate J. S. Cary said they wanted to "film it like it is." Detachment 5'ers still managed to straighten things around a bit.

Two new additions to the crew are: SP5 Dick Barker and SP4 Larry Russo. More on them next month as they settle in their jobs...Russo on the radio board and Barker in engineering.

And that's the latest news from up on the Landing Zone..

****DET SIX

Just like Ole' Man River, Det 6 is rolling right along from the beach at Tuy Hoa. The staff has increased by one with the arrival of SSgt Ron Harrer from Hamilton AFB, Calif. Although this is Ron's first tour with AFRTS, he's already made himself completely at home and made some major contributions to the station. Needless to say, MSgt "Hawk" Hawkins greeted him with open arms and an arm-long list of projects. The "Hawk" is even smiling again.

Everyone is fairly well accustomed to the new programming schedule by now and has adjusted to the increased broadcasting hours, work load and the decreased free time and visits to the messhall---better known around beautiful Tuy Hoa as the "Ptomaine Palace."

The whole crew is extremely happy with the rewiring job done by the team of Harrer and Hawkins. Our teletype is working for a change (most of the time), the hummmmmmm is out of the J105 and the aerial for the R390 and SP600 now permit us to catch AFRTS-W occasionally, VOA most of the time, radio teletype signals and even the local Vietnamese stations. Now if we could only talk to someone on the sideband, we'd be in pretty good shape!

Sportscaster Gil Tobin is counting the days 'till his Japan R&R and "Combat"

Bob Young has amassed several dozen "short-timer" calendars that cover "days before going on special leave", "number of days 'til his extension starts", and "number of days until he DEROSes for good". It works fine except for those occasions when he loses his nine-volume index to short-timer calendars and can't remember which calendar is which and where to mark.

Program director Art Burnett is only slightly elated at the daily logs furnished by Net HQ to go along with TW12-0. His mumblings are generally incoherent, but his screams of pain and anguish over time discrepancies aren't. Wonder why he keeps crying that they only have "plastic soul?"

Since we've moved the newsroom and Gobble Garman has some room to move around, he's managed to further get the news slide files in shape and has high hopes of having them in top shape before he goes on special leave in January.

Knuckle-whacker Tom Bull is firmly settled in his new location, surrounded by his beloved TW's, TPA's and TPB's. It has been noticed that, since moving into his own little domain, Tom is using a shorter ruler---made of soft pine---to train new men on the board.

"Top" Kyser returned to the peace and quiet of Det 6 after the recent programming conference in Saigon, only slightly the worse for wear. He's counting days also, looking forward to spending Christmas in Bangkok.

Visitors this last month included SSgt Art Corsair from Net Supply and Capt Johnson, OIC of Det 3. We enjoyed their visits and hope they enjoyed their brief stops at the Atlantic City of the China Sea.

That's it from the beach---time to knock off the morale. "Happy Holidayze" from Det 6 to the rest of the Network, more next month.

DET SEVEN

If Chu Lai could be noted for two unique situations in the recent past it would be 1) three feet of water outside the station door, and 2) receiving a complimentary letter from the division information officer of Americal. Now to expound more on these situations.

Monsoon rains aren't unusual to anyone here in Vietnam, however 50 inches of rain in 14 days presents one problem. It has nowhere to go! And, seeing that we extend the invitation for anyone in the Chu Lai area to visit our facilities, the "Amalgamated Association of Raindrops" (Chu Lai Monsoon Branch) decided to visit us to toto! Thus far we've had two such visits. Result? Three feet of water outside the door. At one time the torrent temporarily forced us off the air, and the division G-4 was on the scene in fifteen minutes! In two weeks our van had a beautiful new rain shielding cover. Amazing how fast those seabees work!

Specialist 4 Denny Rinzel, it was rumored, went floating around the station on a raft made of barrels. Who does he think he is? Huck Finn?

Now, about that letter! Though it was addressed to the OIC, it says

much good about our news staff of SSgt Larry Rogers, SP5 Allen Moore and SP4 Allen Johnson. Here's a bit of what the good major said:

"The content, technical proficiency and the overall presentation of Channel 13 news has risen from mere mediocrity to a fast moving half hour recap of the day's happenings. The raw elements of news, copy, pictures, art work, music and sound have been professionally coupled to bring Channel 13 news up to par with many stateside stations."

The letter was signed by Maj John T. Pauli, information officer of the Americal Division. He, by the way, once was with AFVN, when it started, and was the "ORIGINAL" dawnbuster. Our congrats to the news team for a job that is being well done.

Other groovie news...a very unusual coincidence...SP5 Bill Smith, PD, and sportsman and SP5 Allen Moore happened to have birthdays on the same day. So, when they did the Mid-Afternoon report together, they wished each other a happy birthday. Tho Thweet.

Chief petty officer Ray Lucasey is still smiling about R&R to Hawaii, and as a bonus, the next week he went to Saigon for the NCOIC conference, missed the plane back and stayed in Saigon for a few extra days. Two R&R's? How can he keep it up?

Specialist 5 Al Moore threw in the towel on his last cast on Nov. 6, and as a mourning jest, he and TSgt Duane Collison were treated to champagne before their DEROS departure the next day. Collison was the first voice heard over Channel 13 and was the first to arrive to get Det 7.

So, that's about how things stand at this moment. Hope you all had a happy turkey day. We did. Tofa for now. (That's Samoan for goodbye.)

AFVN NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL POLICY

The AFVN Newsletter is an informal communications medium published monthly as a means of exchanging views and ideas between Headquarters AFVN and detachments. News items from detachments should be included as attachments to weekly operation reports. Items not received prior to the 15th of the month will be included in the Newsletter for the following month. All items must be typed, double spaced, on 8 X 10½ bond paper.