

ATTACK SQUADRON TWELVE



NEWSLETTER

WORLDWIDE PATROL
TWEVE

SEEN
I'VE
BAY
SUBIC



A UBANGI PAO PROJECT

COMMANDER W. R. PETERSEN, USN
Commanding Officer

COMMANDER D. H. L. GHOLSON, USN
Executive Officer

LIEUTENANT R. A. BROOKS, USN
Public Affairs Officer

NEWSPAPER

SKIPPER'S COMMENTS

Dear Squadronmates and Friends,

Since our last newsletter, we have completed two combat line periods and are now embarked in our third with equal determination. The changes in the flying schedule from noon-to-midnight and back to midnight-to-noon have required constant adjustments to our eating, working, and sleeping habits. This has put our physical and mental endurance and stamina to the supreme test and I'm proud to say that everyone has made these adjustments with a minimum of griping. Let me advise you not to lose your sense of humor for it's a long day if you don't smile.

During our line periods our pilots have been a credit to the squadron for their bombing ability in getting their "bombs on target". I will never knowingly engage in a sortie race, but I think we are all pleased when we wax our sister squadrons in flight hours and bombing skill.

During our second line period the flak and ground fire didn't seem so intense as the first, but where we lacked in flak, we made up for it in bad weather as the Southwest Monsoon was taking over in the target areas. The work aboard ship was no less demanding, as the planes still had to be fueled, cleaned, repaired, and loaded with ordnance, as well as doing the required housekeeping and administrative chores.

After our first line period, on our way to some relaxing liberty in Japan, we were suddenly diverted to Subic Bay for a brief in-port visit. The Cambodian Campaign required Task Force 77 to have three carriers on the line so back we went to Yankee Station and near the end of that line period, we were directed to go back to Subic Bay for another "visit". We now have another schedule after this line period that tentatively takes us through August with Hong Kong and Singapore as ports-of-call.

Our original port schedule was interrupted and the rapid changes in our operating periods have kept us off balance, which points up the constant need to remain flexible.

Since we work hard at sea, it is only fitting that we play hard in port for our in-port days are so few. The squadron enjoyed an excellent All-Hands party at Grande Island after our first line period and I can attest to the enthusiasm (and sore muscles) that went into the swimming, volleyball games, skin diving, beer drinking, etc. at that party. Although we had no squadron party the second time in Subic, just looking at the "bronze gods" and observing the squadron enjoying their leisure hours in port, I feel confident that we played hard then too (more sore muscles, sunburns, and bruises).

But all is not just hard work and play, because several men in the squadron have found time in their busy schedules to study and learn and many have been promoted since the cruise started. For those of you who can't seem to find the time, ask the others how they did it and get on the promotion bandwagon yourselves.

In the last newsletter, I wrote that we had been reduced from 16 to 12 planes just before the cruise. We are now the proud owners of 13 Super Charlies and are going for 14 soon. Whether we'll get more men to help work on them remains to be seen. The future plans of VA-12 remain unchanged, in that, you are scheduled to transition to the A7E after this cruise is over.

I regret to inform you that in July I'll turnover command of VA-12 to CDR Dan GHOLSON. It isn't that I don't think he's capable of handling the job, but rather that my orders are detaching me two months earlier than I expected. I have received orders to report to the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. for duty under instruction.

In my short 14 months as XO/CO of Attack Squadron TWELVE, I have been continually impressed by the high caliber of pilots and men in this squadron. There never seemed to be a task too large or too small that wasn't completed in a professional and timely manner.

Upon taking my departure, I wish you good luck, a pleasant cruise, and my thanks to all of you for you've made my job as Skipper a memorable one.

Sincerely,



W. R. PETERSEN

SQUADRON MESS NIGHT HELD 4 APRIL

On the evening of 4 April 1970, the officers and men of VA-12 gathered on the aft mess decks for a steak dinner and all hands meeting, to wind up the long at-sea transit to WestPac. At 2100 hours, after the rest of the Airwing and ship's company had finished supper, we journeyed through the cafeteria-style line to find steaks done to order and all the trimmings. Afterwards, our usual all hands meeting the night before entering a port (in this case, Subic Bay, R. P.) was held, and the Skipper and XO spoke briefly on events to come. Lt.(jg) Simmons gave us an excellent brief on the recreational facilities available in the Subic Bay area, and also some tips on where to do our shopping, what the best buys are, etc. Before we called it a night, several of the men had questions on everything from our planned combat operations to mid-cruise personnel changes, and after these were answered, most of us decided the best way to exist out here is to be "flexible!"

THE RIGGERS DO IT AGAIN

The Kiss-of-Death Squadron's Parachute Riggers Division was named "VA-12 Division of the Month" by the PAO Officer last week after their labors resulted in the successful ejection of LT.(jg) John Filose from aircraft 413 on 28 April 1970. The aircraft was plagued with an engine failure, a fire warning light, and loss of electrical power, so THE FILO wisely decided to get out. Although the weather was extremely poor, and the ejection took place at night, John was picked up by one of the USS Ranger's helo's in little over an hour, and he reported that all of his survival equipment worked beautifully. WELL DONE, PR'S!!

AME'S, TOO!

VA-12 FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Since becoming a part of the Navy's 7th Fleet here in Southeast Asia, Attack Squadron TWELVE pilots have done a fine job of making their presence known to "Charlie". In all, over 900,000 pounds of ordnance has been delivered by our reliable old A4C's in the first two line periods. This represents an accomplishment on the part of every single man in the squadron, since each one, either directly or indirectly, supports VA-12's mission. April was a big month for flight time, as 730 hours were logged, averaging out to over 60 hours per aircraft and over 36 hours per pilot. In May, the flight hour total was only 535, due partially to deteriorating weather in the target areas, plus 8 days in port in Subic Bay, R. P., and 6 days enroute. During the two line periods however, the squadron pilots recorded a total of 660 arrested landings aboard SHANGRI-LA.



FILO AND FRIENDS

NEWCOMERS JOIN VA-12

The squadron has received some new men during the past few weeks, from various duty stations in the States. AZ1 Chuck HARRIS checked in from VT-3 in Milton, Florida and has been assigned to Maintenance Control. PRAN Berry WHEELER is a welcomed addition to the Parachute Loft from the Naval Station at Charleston, S. C. Two new 2/c AT's who have been assigned to the shop are John WILLS and Clifford HALL, both from VA-44. PMSN Jim BIRDSELL is working in the Personnel Office now, having just reported aboard from SSC, Orlando, Florida. And we sure can't forget the new Commissaryman who has been providing freshly-baked goodies in the ready-room each morning, SS2 Clifford SCHULTZ.

Our latest two arrivals are Callen BERTRAND, DK3, who came from the USS DULUTH, and YNSA John KULIK from SSC, Bainbridge, Maryland. To all of you, WELCOME ABOARD the Navy's No. 1 Attack Squadron!

Our goodbyes in this newsletter go to AOCs "Mo" MORRISON, who's leaving around 1 July for CLAW-1 at Cecil Field and PR1 Vern RISING, a real old-timer in the squadron, is leaving this month for over four years of shore duty at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. PNI Glenn NEFF is leaving early in July for VAH-1 123 at Whidbey Island, Washington. The A-7 RAG in Lemoore will get one of our senior Ordnancemen, A01 Fred KIGHT. Also leaving the Flying Ubangis is AE1 Emmitt SPURGEON, for the sunny shores of Southern California (Point Mugu). Best of luck to all of you in your new commands, and drop us a line when you can.

CDR PETERSEN taxis forward after his → 100th USS SHANGRI-LA arrested landing. Other recent "Centurions" are LT AVRETT and LTJG's LANNOM, FILOSE, KENNERLY and TOLOTTI. Rapidly nearing the 200 mark are LCDR's MERZ and CURTIN, and also LT BROOKS.

RESULTS OUT ON FEB. EXAMS

Last month the results of the February examinations for advancement were promulgated, and members of VA-12 (there were twenty-four in all) fared well. Of the 24, there was one advancement to Chief, one to 1/c, 9 to 2/c, and 13 to 3/c:

<u>Personnel Advanced</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
WHITE	ATC
JOHNSON	YN1
HIGGINS	AME2
GOLDBURN	ADJ2
PRAHL	ATN2
LINDEMUTH	AMH2
SEBYLE	AMH2
WELCH	AK2
WADE	ADJ2
WIMPENNY	AO2
LEWICKE	PN2
BENSON	ATN3
IRVING	ADJ3
MCKELVEY	AE3
NAROTSKI	ATR3
UNGERER	AMS3
WILLIAMS	ADJ3
ZOLKOSKY	AE3
MCGAHEY	ATR3
KINDER	AE3
BOYLE	ADJ3
DAVIS	ADJ3
FORTIN	ADJ3
THOMPSON	ASH3

Congratulations to all.



SQUADRON ALL-HANDS PARTY HELD

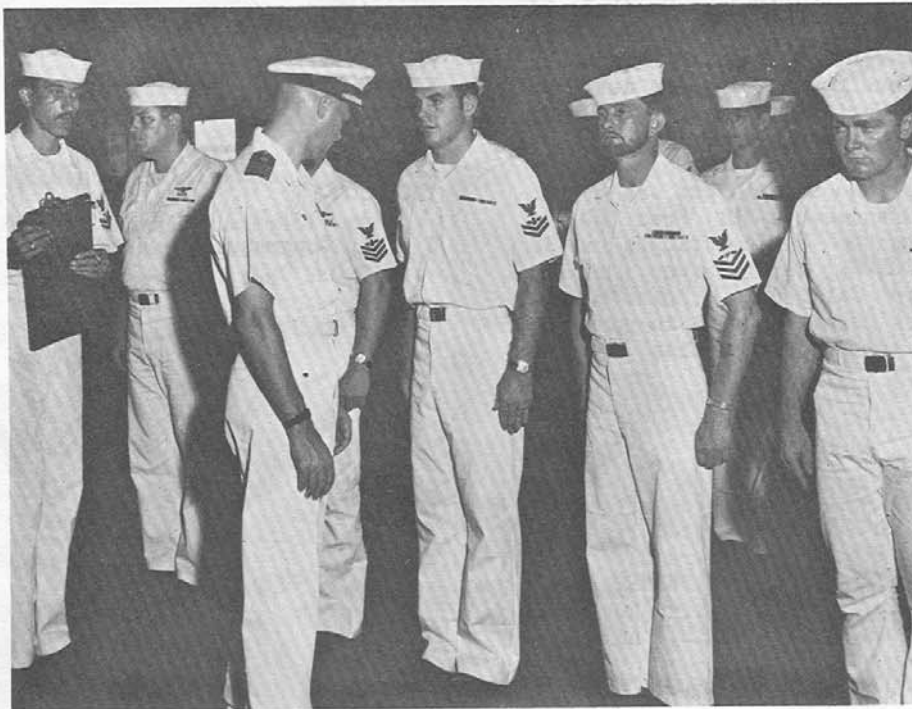
On Saturday, 9 May 1970, members of VA-12 enjoyed an all-hands picnic and "Beer Bust" on Grande Island, the Subic Naval Base recreation area. Following a formal inspection by the CO, who praised the outstanding work and long hours we'd put in this past line period, one of the base's LCM's was borrowed to transport men and food out to the island.

Once there, Lt(jg) Mike Fort (the Recreation Officer) and a contingent of shore patrol had the beer nice and cold for the rest of us. When we weren't chowing down on the steaks, hamburgers, and hot dogs that AZI Chuck Harris was grilling, most everyone found some form of exercise. Volleyball, football, skin diving and swimming kept everyone's thirst up, but Hamm's and BBud took care of that. The tab was picked up by means of the squadron's quarterly allotted welfare and recreation fund.



The Skipper has to look hard to find any discrepancies in VA-12's squared-away Ordnance Division at the 9 May inspection.

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THE BROTHERS SEVEN

Personnel in VA-12 have found that this is a pretty good squadron for "brother duty". In fact, the "Flying Ubangis" boast a total of seven brothers from three families. Bill and Bob ZOLKOSKY (AO2 and AE3 respectively) are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. V. M. ZOLKOSKY of Saline, Michigan. ADJ1 Bill and AN Alan HERTZ are the sons of Mrs. M. A. HERTZ of Beloit, Wisconsin. Finally, there's AMH2 Roy, AN Ed, and SN Ray SUTTON, sons of Mrs. Ruby D. SUTTON of Arlton, Alabama.



HMI Marvin ADKISON protects VA-12's Leading Chief, AFCM AUTH, from Cholera.



On the evening of 13 June 1970, VA-12 held an All-Hands meeting to discuss the schedule of our third line period in the Tonkin Gulf and to recognize several personnel for various awards:

AE1 Harold BURKEY:	Navy Achievement Medal
ACGS "Mo" MORRISON:	Good Conduct Medal (5th Award)
AMS1 Walter BYARS:	Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award) and VA-12 Sailor of the Month for May, 1970
ADJ2 CASSEL:	VA-12 Sailor of the Month for April, 1970
AN Mike CECCARELLI:	VA-12 Plane Captain of the Month for April, 1970
ADJ3 Melvin CLOWERS:	VA-12 Plane Captain of the Month for May, 1970

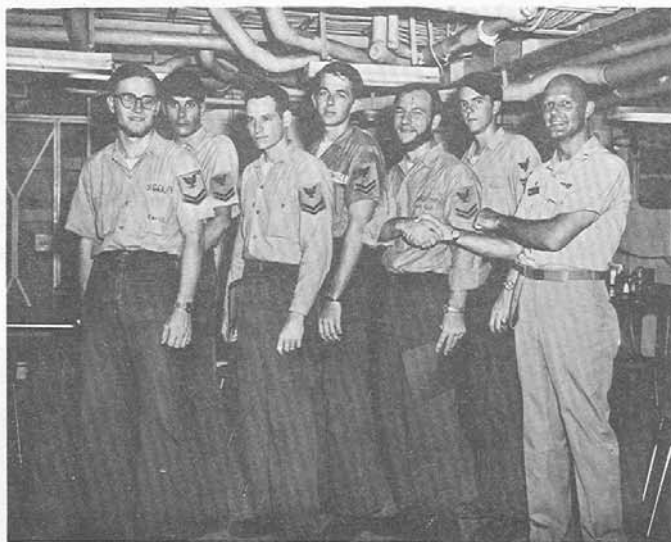




ADJ2 Joe CASSEL (left) and AMS1 Walter BYARS (right) were selected as VA-12's "Sailor of the Month" for April and May, 1970, respectively.



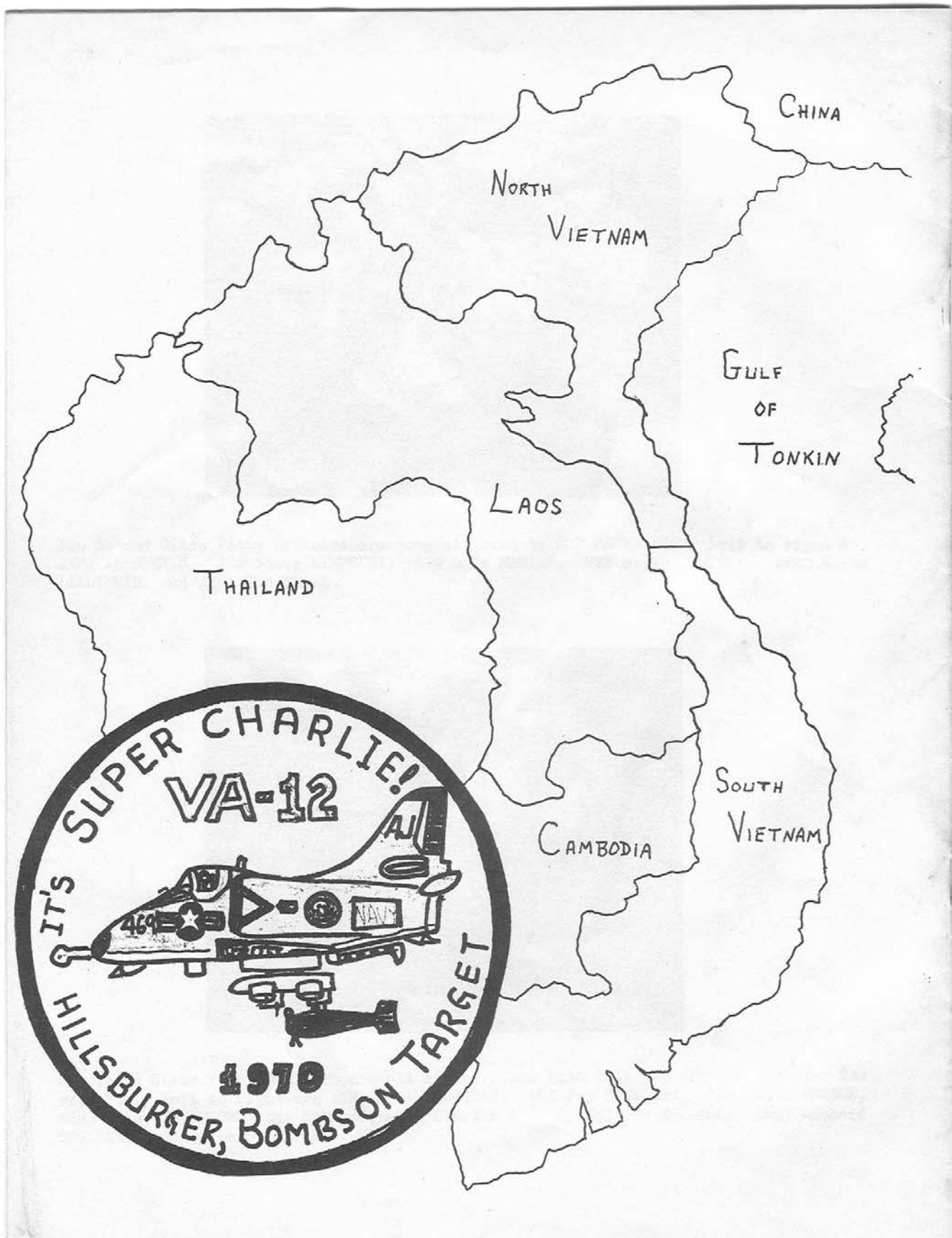
AMS1 Walter BYARS and AOCSS "Mo" MORRISON received their Third and Sixth Good Conduct Awards.



New Second Class Petty Officers are congratulated by CDR PETERSEN. Left to right are AMH2 Al SEEYLE, AO2 Steve WIMPENNY, AO2 Dale MARIER, PN2 Marty LEWICKE, AMH2 Roger LINDEMUTH, and ATN2 Ted PRAHL.



New Third Class Petty Officers are all smiles, now that they are off the list for TAD recruits. Left to right are ATR3 Paul NAROTSKI, AE3 Jay MCKELVEY, ATN3 Rich BENSON, ASH3 Tommy THOMPSON, the Skipper, ADJ3 Charles IRVING, AE3 Bob ZOLKOSKY, AMS3 Richard UNGERER, and AE3 Larry KINDER.



CHINA

NORTH
VIETNAM

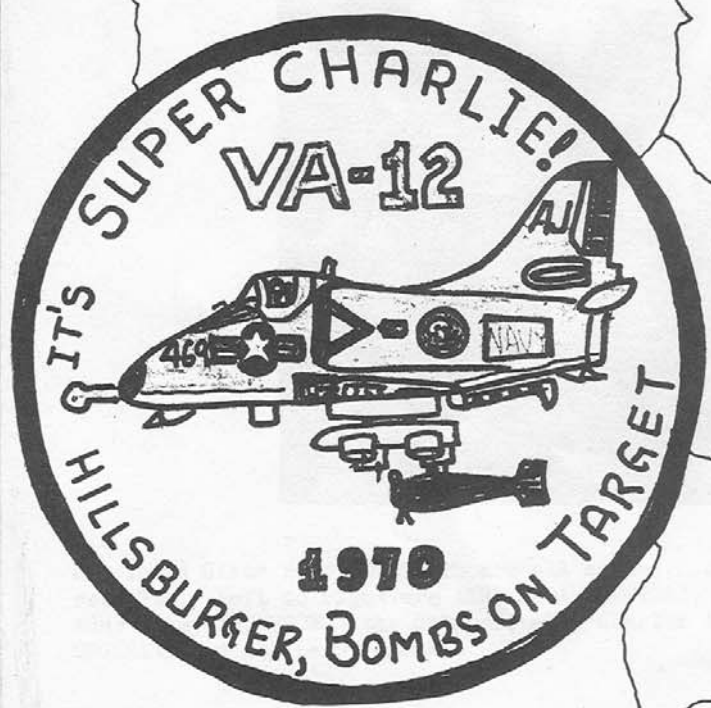
GULF
OF
TONKIN

LAOS

THAILAND

SOUTH
VIETNAM

CAMBODIA



IT'S SUPER CHARLIE!
VA-12

HILLSBURGER, BOMBS ON TARGET
1970