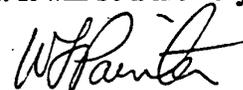


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10 July 91
FROM: Commanding Officer
TO: All NR PWC Personnel
Subj: CHANGE OF COMMAND

1. How often we say "my, how quickly time flies", and, with increasing age (mine), I find that more and more so that seems to be true. But in our case, I think I truly can say it just like yesterday that I was standing in front of you for my incoming change of command. It certainly hasn't been the usual two year tour in the Reserves!
2. Maybe everything that happened isn't what you expected when you joined up, or maybe you had been drilling for so long you forget your earlier expectations, but we sure "joined the Navy and saw the world" and did so on the shortest of fuses. One day the phone rang and we were off, and weren't home again for quite a while.
3. And what a world we saw. The verdant jungle and azure skies and seas of the Philippines may never be the same in our lifetimes. I spoke to Captain Lehman at length the other day, and the conditions at Subic are truly hard to believe. There are still black clouds and continuous lightning throughout the day. Over 250 buildings on the base collapsed; there was no water or power for weeks. A reinforced Seabee Battalion is on board helping with recovery. But unlike the typhoon recovery at Cebu, where the scars will soon heal, the affected areas will take decades to regenerate. My heart goes out to those Filipino residents who not only lost so much, but can not go back to their way of life, be it from the land or the sea, because the earth's bounty has been choked off.
4. Captain Lehman noted with appreciation the very significant donation from Chief Smick's wife to the Lingap Center orphans. This was generated by your many memorial donations in his name. I remember how much pleasure he received working with the kids, and I believe he would think this is a most appropriate remembrance.
5. Those of us who went on to the Gulf saw a very different world. A flat, waterless land of sand, different religions and cultures. An "up close and personal" view of the world events that dominated all the news for months.
6. Petty Officers Pearson and Parrington are hard at work completing a cruise book, a hardcover, 70 or so page, multi photo (incl color) production. Cost would be \$30 to \$40 depending on the number committed, please let me know in the next few weeks if you would purchase one so that we can order a printing next month. I think it will be a super book.
7. You should be taking a great deal of pride in your participation and contribution. The first Reserve Seabees to get called up overseas in over twenty years. The Reserve unit with the longest tour. The only Seabees in support of the Navy in the Gulf theater. Highly successful at strike response, disaster relief, construction projects, and operational support. Whatever the geopolitical outcome of these events, the Navy, the Seabees, and you performed superlatively, wherever assigned. You all truly got the job done.
8. And that makes me the proudest one of all. Thank each and every one of you for the very real privilege and honor of having served with you in this unique time. It will be a memory I will always cherish.


W. L. PAINTER