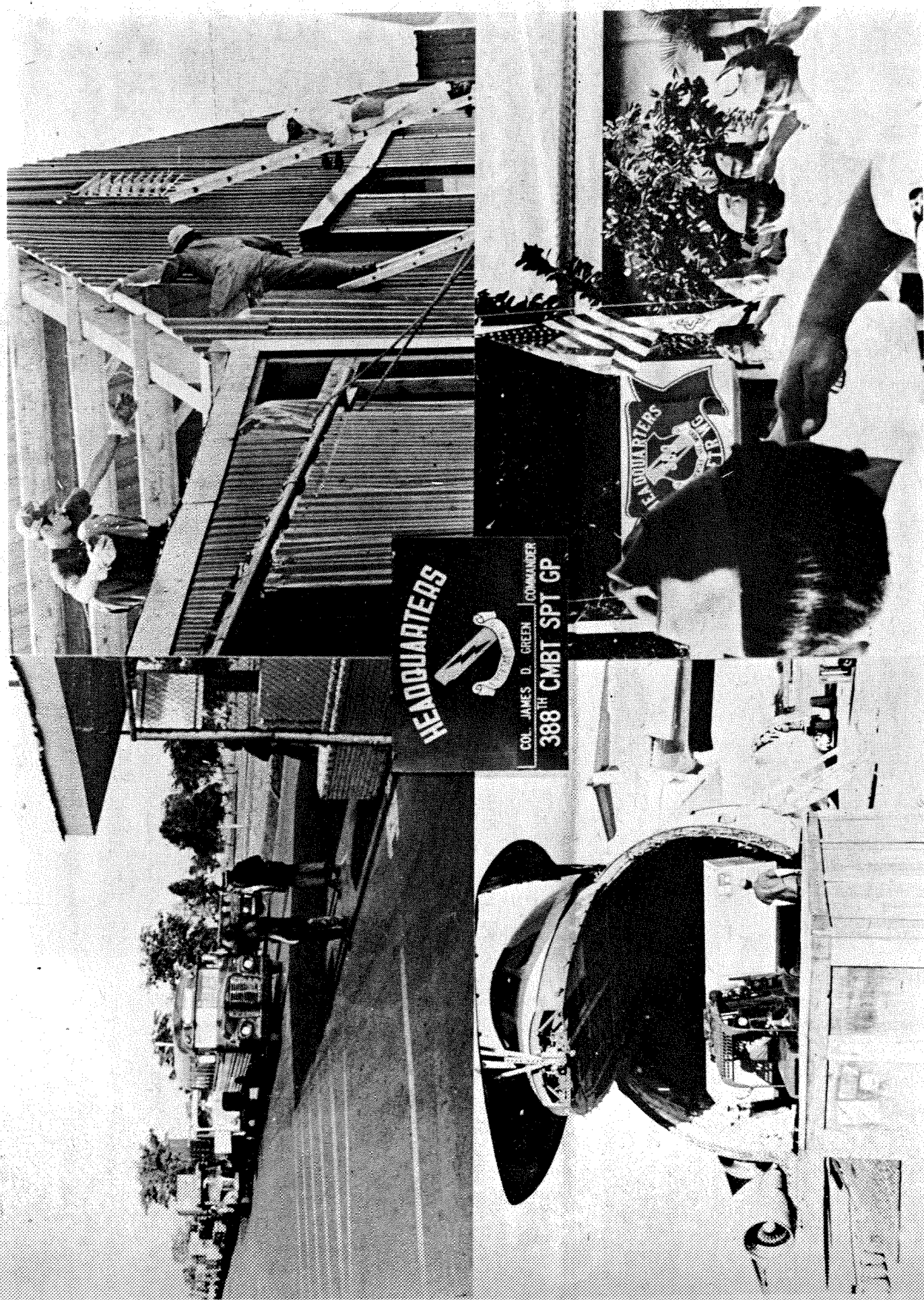


SAWADDEE FLYER

Korat, RTAFB Thailand

Vol. 9, No. 4

Jan. 24, 1976



Curtain continues to fall at Korat

THIS PHOTO COMPOSITION by Sgt. John Homer just about says it all about the phasedown of the U.S. Air Force facility at Korat. Counterclockwise from top right, 388th Civil Engineering Squadron workmen dismantle one of several base structures to be shipped out of Thailand; a truck convoy carrying retrograded equipment pauses

at the main gate; other equipment is loaded on a C-5 Galaxy; a formal retreat marks the transfer of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing to Hill AFB, Utah. The centerpiece of the composition denotes the 388th Combat Support Group which is now the principal organization at Korat. (U.S. Air Force Photos)

CBPO to close Feb. 15

The Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex., has announced the closure of the Korat RTAFB Consolidated Base Personnel Office (CBPO) effective Feb. 15. The last duty day for CBPO operation will be Feb. 13.

A CBPO closure center will be set up at U-Tapao Airfield, Thailand, for 60 days to finalize CBPO actions. All personnel actions will be addressed to the 635th CSG/

DPMXKZ, U-Tapao Airfield, Thailand.

A personnel representative will be available at the Korat Closure Center from Feb. 15 through Feb. 29 to pass out field personnel records to departing people and to serve as a liaison with the CBPO closure center at U-Tapao.

Another bit of news from CBPO; their Processing Unit will move from the base theater

Continued on page 3

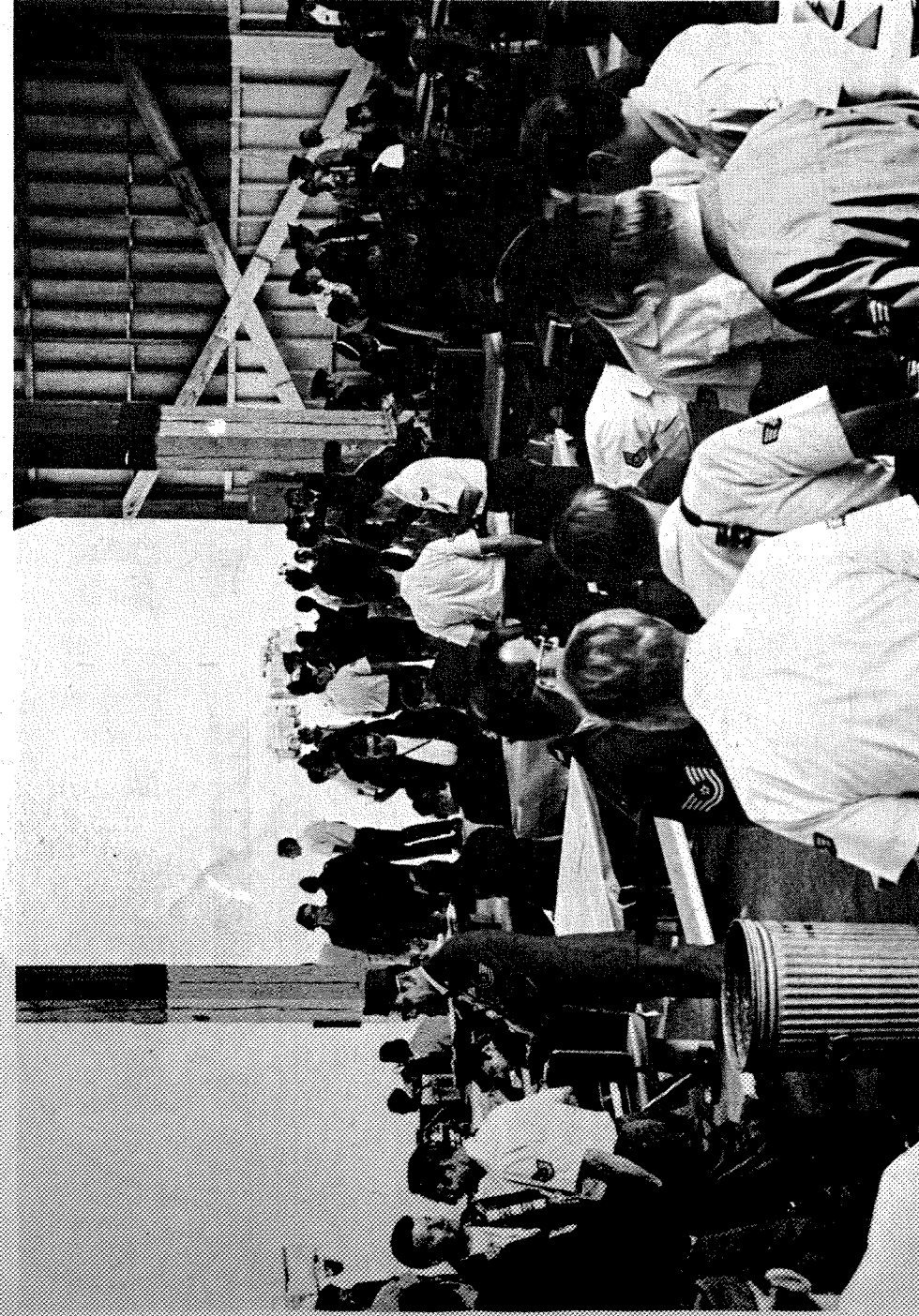
Jan. 31 final 'Flyer'

Volume nine, issue number three of the Sawadee Flyer marks the final edition.

Next week a special 16-page commemorative issue, highlighting the decade of the U.S. Air Force facility at Korat, will signal the end of publication of the oldest, Air Force weekly base newspaper in Thailand.

Beginning with the first issue of the then-called Sawadee Weekly, published Jan. 3, 1966, Korat personnel have had a ready source of local and Air Force information at their fingertips each week.

To those still here and to the many thousands who have spent a tour at "The Best Base In Southeast Asia," Sawadee from the Sawadee Flyer.



Waiting . . .

WHAT ARE THESE people in the Korat RTAFB passenger terminal waiting and milling around for? (U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. John Homer)



For this!

THEY WERE WAITING for their opportunity to board this Pan American Boeing 707 that would soon wing them on their way back to the U.S. This flight left Korat Jan. 12 and others have left daily since then. CBPO officials say if you haven't received availability date or a port call, be patient please! They are working overtime to try and get everyone out of Korat as soon as possible. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. John Homer)

Security checks reveal illegal weapons

Anti-hijacking checks at Military Airlift Command (MAC) passenger terminals and at commercial airports often reveal weapons which people want to take on board aircraft.

"Blow-guns, archery gear,

Kung Fu sticks and stars, walking sticks with concealed swords and even ice picks have been discovered during security checks

ings," says Lt. Col. Richard M. Glogowski, MAC chief of terminal services. "Letter openers, knives

and scissors are among the more common items found during these checks.

"Because these items can be dangerous, they can't be carried on board the aircraft. Most can be packed in a suitcase though

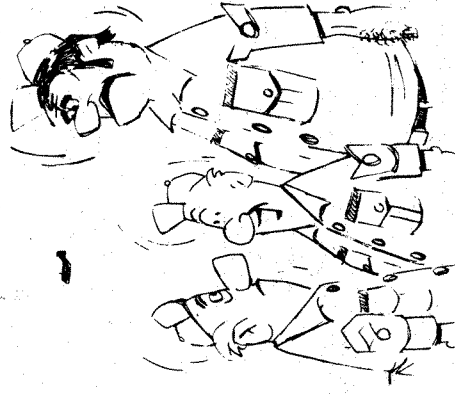
Singapore drug laws stiffened

While some states are pondering the question of decriminalizing marijuana and other drugs, the government of Singapore has taken an opposite stance. The Parliament there recently passed a new law which provides greatly increased penalties for trafficking in and possession of illicit drugs.

The most severe provision of the new law makes the death sentence mandatory for trafficking in heroin where the quantity involved is more than 15 grams. Mere possession of this quantity is presumed to be trafficking. The death sentence is also mandatory in cases involving the manufacture, import or export of heroin, where more than 15 grams are involved.

Other penalties include: For the possession of heroin in amounts between 10 and 15 grams, the maximum sentence is 30 years, minimum 20; possession of marijuana in amounts of more than 10 kilograms, maximum sentence is 30 years, minimum 20; use of heroin or marijuana (in any amount) maximum 10 years and/or \$20,000 fine; possession of pipes or other drug paraphernalia, maximum three years and/or \$10,000 fine.

Singapore government officials indicated to the American embassy that it intends to apply these provisions equally to natives and foreigners.



"YOU TELL HIM HE NEEDS A HAIR CUT!"

and taken along in checked baggage."

To prevent embarrassment at the terminal, Glogowski recommends that passengers check with transportation people who can advise which items may be carried aboard the aircraft.

Letter to editor says "Thanks" to Korat hospital

By Jimmy Rodgers, AFTN, Korat RTAFB

To properly explain my reason for writing this letter to the editor, I must admit to certain things. First, I'm a little scrawny (116 pounds, complete with a very heavy wristwatch and combat boots on). A little over 30 years ago, my mother thought I was "cute." Nobody has thought so since. I'm five-nine and one-quarter. A little over 10 years ago, I was five-nine and one-half, so you see I've lost a little height, but I gained about a quarter of an ounce. It's a little steel pin that holds my spine together (a lot of other things hold me together too, but we won't dwell on the gory details here. We have neither time nor space). Herein lies the tale. Over the past 19 years of service time, I've grown a little cynical from time to time, as I guess we all do. I work in a news environment and sometimes I lose faith in people. Just like most people, I'm a bit of the idealist and I want very much to believe that everyone is a really beautiful person...then reality invades and the bubble is burst.

So if at this time you're feeling a little caustic, or down, please give me this moment of your time to tell you about some really beautiful people. I won't deal in ranks because to these folks, it doesn't matter. Since space here is limited, I'm forced to be brief, but fortunately, honesty and sincerity doesn't really require space.

Ladies first. Juanita Owin, Mary Pavilkey, Donna Martin, Carmen Bellinger, Bernice Rivas. I met them under excruciating circumstances and because they really care, and are loving human beings, a lot of pain was made bearable.

Protect your loved ones, fasten those seat belts!

By California Highway Patrolman Tom Ross

How much value do you place on your life and the lives of your loved ones? What precautions do you take to protect those lives?

Of those people that we come in contact with on enforcement stops and traffic accidents only about 15 per cent of them are wearing seat belts. What is wrong with the other 85 per cent? The answers we receive are: "I usually wear my seat belt but I forgot this time. I am only driving a short distance. I only wear them when we go on trips. I knew someone who was thrown clear of the traffic accident and if he had remained in the vehicle he would have been killed. If the vehicle catches fire or goes into water I may not be able to get the seat belt off and I will become trapped in the vehicle and die."

Most people become involved in traffic collisions within seven miles of their residence. So, the wearing of a seat belt on long trips is not the only time that seat belts are important.

If you are thrown out of a

vehicle and survive to tell about it, you are truly an exception because most people are killed. If you are unrestrained in a vehicle that undergoes an impact severe enough to cause the vehicle to burst into flames, you will probably be knocked unconscious or become so dazed that you will not have the opportunity to try to get out of the vehicle. If your vehicle goes into the water, it will probably roll over a few times first, or if not, impact with water can be quite severe and the same principle involved with vehicle fires will apply. Seat belts can fail to open if you have never taken the time to clean out the locking mechanism periodically. Dirt, sand and grit can get into the locking mechanism and pretty soon problems will develop.

Most professional drivers wear seat belts because they are well aware of the hazards of driving. They also know that it is a proven fact that seat belt usage does reduce injuries and saves lives.

Why not listen to those experts?

The guys next. Ron Havens, Michael Randall, Don Rickard and Art Ingram. They are professionals of the first order, and personal kindness is a badge they wear well. Last person to mention, certainly not least, is a Thai national, Mr Yea. He personifies "Thailand, Land of Smiles." Courtesy and helpfulness are his trademark and I'll never forget him.

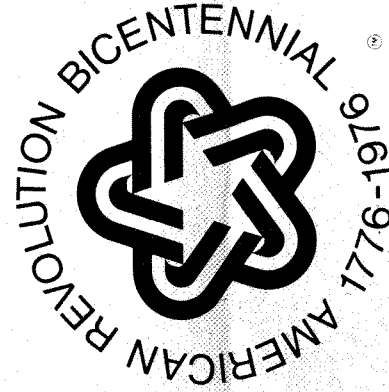
All these people have one common denominator, they work on the ward of the base hospital here at Korat RTAFB. They, like everyone else here at Korat, are short-handed, and face the same uncertainties. I could go on, but it will have to suffice to say that I have been hospitalized an unfortunate number of times and never have I been better treated, more professionally cared for, but cared about as well. These people aren't the entire hospital, of course, but their attitude is reflected in every single individual I've met in the Korat base hospital.

I want to say "Thanks" and I want each of them to know that I love them...because they loved me, that's the kind of folks they are.

One last thing, if any of you are unfortunate enough to require hospital care while at Korat, know that you're getting the best, from the best.

CBPO

Continued from page 1



to Wing Headquarters (Bldg. 145) tomorrow. The unit will close out operations at 5 p.m. today, reopening at the new location 7 a.m. Monday.

Final out-processing briefings will be held in the Wing conference room at 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Black History Month

'America for all Americans'

The contributions of black Americans to our nation are given special recognition during February 1976, which has been designated as Black History Month. "America for all Americans" is the theme of this fiftieth annual celebration of Afro-American history.

Blacks have been actively involved in the history of America from the time of its discovery and exploration. It is strongly asserted that Pedro Alonso Nino, pilot of one of Columbus' ships during the 1492 voyage, was a man of black ancestry, and that Diego el Negro, who sailed with Columbus on his fourth voyage in 1501, was a Negro.

However, uncertain these claims might be, subsequent involvement and patriotism of blacks in the making of America are undisputed historical facts. Yet, until recently, such facts were seldom included in history books. Black History Month aims at increasing an awareness that the black presence in virtually every field of endeavor is woven inextricably into the whole American fabric.

During this Bicentennial year, American history recounts that Crispus Attucks, a black seaman, was the first to die in the Revolution, and that 5,000 blacks joined the fight for freedom from England. Moreover, blacks in uniform have made noteworthy contributions throughout American military history.

Black soldiers and sailors were there during the War of 1812 and in the Civil War. They were there as the "Buffalo Soldiers" during the winning of the Southwest. They were there as chaplains and fighting forces during the Spanish American War and the Philippine intervention. They were there in World War I; although black Americans comprised nine per cent of the draft eligibles, 13 per cent of the enlisted corps were black. And they were there in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War — as always, fighting, dying and receiving decorations for valor.

In 1976, black Americans men and women continue to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Through their dedication and service they are writing contemporary black history and American history, while sharing the responsibility and credit of producing "America for all Americans."

Vacancies exist for recruiters

RANDOLPH AFB, Tex.—Several of the nation's most populous states have vacancies for career status noncommissioned officer (NCO) Air Force recruiters.

The states with the greatest need for recruiters at present are California, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Ohio and Iowa, although vacancies exist in other states as well.

Personnel of all Air Force specialties are eligible to apply, even though they may be frozen for an overseas assignment. The freeze status waiver enables career committed NCO's who have more than three years total active military service to apply. Waiver requests by NCO's in the freeze zone will be considered on an individual basis by the Air Force Military Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Tex.

Some recruiters may be eligible for government-leased family or bachelor housing, up to \$150 a month Special Duty Pay, limited reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses and serve a stabilized tour. Some receive assignments near their hometowns.

Interested NCO's should contact their local Consolidated Base Personnel Office Customer Service Center for more information and application procedures.

Debate!

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii — Competition in the Pacific reached a feverish peak early this month when residents of Wake Island, a one and one-half mile long fly speck approximately 2,000 miles west of Hawaii, heard of the claim to be the first U.S. soil where the New Year was celebrated. That claim was reportedly aired by Walter Cronkite on his evening newscast.

American Forces Radio and Television (AFRT) fired off a message to AFRTS-Washington, D.C., trying to get the record set straight. In it, the AFRT people pointed out that Wake Island AFB is an active U.S. Air Force base manned by five U.S. Air Force, 10 U.S. Coast Guard, three Royal Air Force and 200 base operating support contractor personnel.

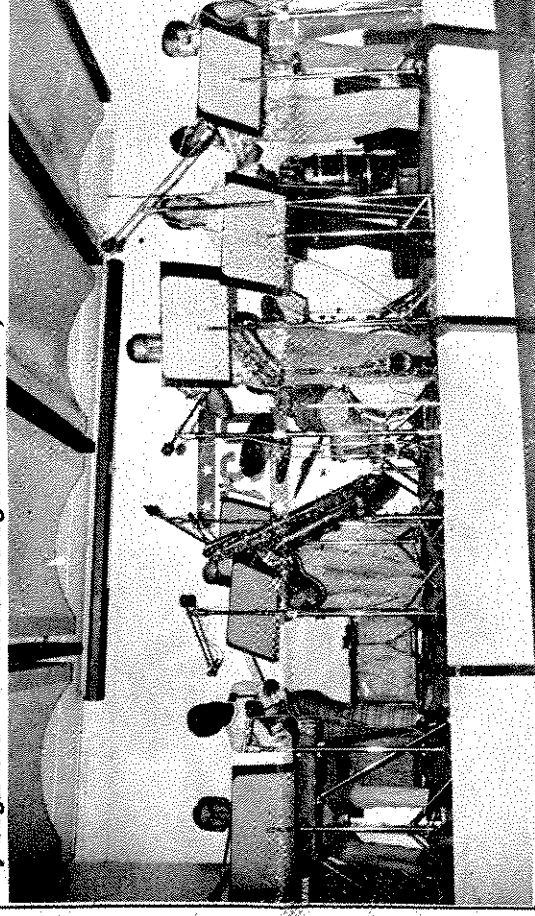
They noted that there has been some controversy over the motto, "Where America's Day Begins," claimed by both Guam and Wake Island. Then they got down to cases, pointing out that Guam time is Zulu plus 14 hours, whereas Wake Island time is two hours earlier — Zulu plus 12. Since both are on the early side of the International Date Line, it came down to who actually "celebrated" the New Year first.

They offered this fact as supporting evidence that Wake was indeed the first U.S. Land Installation to celebrate the beginning of the New Year: At 0014 (12:14 a.m.) local, Jan. 1, 1976, the base commander at Wake Island wished the operations duty officer at



Rocking Korat!

TWO BANDS ROCKED Korat personnel during the closing weeks of January. Top photo is the PACAF Rock Combo, who did two shows on Jan. 9 and 10, one each at the NCO Club and the USO. In the bottom photo is a group from Memphis, Tenn., called "Sunburst." They entertained with a great show at the Korat USO Jan. 12. Even though they experienced equipment problems, they received a standing ovation from the crowd that was present. All shows by both bands were well attended. (U.S. Air Force Photos by SSgt. Steve Pivnick and Sgt. John Homer)



KORAT SHOWTIME

Tonight the feature at the base theater is "The Absent-Minded Professor," starring Fred MacMurray, Keenan Wynn and Tommy Kirk. As might be suspected by the cast it is a Walt Disney production and the plot revolves around the "Goo that FLEW," called "Flubber!" You might say the plot gets kind of sticky as they movie progresses.

Tomorrow the main attraction at the movie house is "Book of Numbers," starring Raymond St. Jacques and Freda Payne. It's the story of a black numbers game in a small Arkansas town during the Depression. If you're the type of person who dislikes violence and raw language, (are there any of those here?) you're advised to stay away from this one.

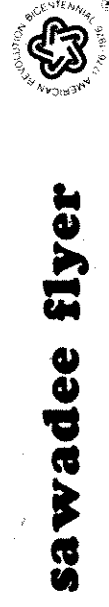
At press time, no more of the movie schedule was available to the 'Flyer' for the rest of the week. Consult the Special Services office or pick up a copy of the new "Movie Calendar" free in the box in the front of the base theater.

Did Wake Island or Guam welcome 1976 first?

Andersen AB, Guam, a Happy New Year by phone. The time at Guam when this action took place, 2214 or 10:14 p.m., for you civilians, Dec. 31, 1975.

Wake Island rests its case.

Who are the Air Force people at Wake Island? They are members of Detachment 4 of Hickam AFB's 15th Air Base Wing. Their parent unit is located in Hawaii, one of the last U.S. Land Installations to celebrate the beginning of the New Year — wrong side of the International Date Line.



sawadee flyer

The Sawadee Flyer is an official Class 2 newspaper published weekly on Saturday for U.S. Air Force personnel stationed at Korat RTAFB, Thailand. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the United States Air Force.

Published by U.S. Forces for circulation only to U.S. Forces, Thailand.
Col. James D. Green.....388th CSG Commander
Capt. Harry R. Sunderland.....Information Officer
TSgt. Bob Wansley.....Information NCOIC
AIC Dale E. Gillette.....Editor
Sgt. Rey Torres.....Administration
TSgt. Sam Hill.....Production