

NAVAL AVIATION

# NEWS



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## New Helo Unit is Formed HMM-164 is Assigned to MAG-36

The Commandant of the Marine Corps has announced the establishment of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164. The unit has joined Marine Air Group 36, part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based at MCAS SANTA ANA, California.

Slated to receive the CH-46 helicopter, HMM-164 is currently in the forming stage and training with UH-34 aircraft.

The squadron shares the mission of its sister medium helicopter units in providing helicopter transport of personnel, supplies and equipment for the landing force during ship-to-shore movement and after landing.

## Quonset O&R's Unique Idea Jet Engines Repaired Like Autos

A section of NAS QUONSET POINT'S Overhaul and Repair Department has adapted an almost out-dated automotive repair concept to the reworking of military jet turbine engines.

The development of the "service station grease pit" concept proved to be the solution that now enables the



JET TURBINE IS PUT ON HYDRAULIC LIFT

department to expand its jet engine rework programs. Quonset claims to be the only Navy aircraft O&R facility using this type of engine rework method.

Initially, the problem facing O&R engineers at Quonset was the reworking of Pratt and Whitney turbine engines housed in the A-4 Skyhawk and A-6 Intruder aircraft. In the past, jet engines could be overhauled on a horizontal stand, but the P&W J-52 turbine requires it to be dismantled and rebuilt vertically. Several carbon

oil seals positioned along the turbine drive shaft, delicate to touch, demanded such handling.

The "grease pit" concept was executed. In contrast, the jet turbine on a hydraulic lift affords a comfortable working attitude, puts the mechanics tools closer to his job, requires no climbing of ladders, and eliminates the possibility of a workman falling off a stand's narrow walkway.



CAPT. JOHN DOHERTY, RCN, receives the Air Squadron Technical Trophy which LCdr. I. M. Brown, USN, a recent exchange pilot in the Royal Canadian Navy, donated for the improvement of squadron aircraft maintenance.

## Army to Convert Navy Ship For Overseas Aircraft Maintenance

The *Albemarle* (AV-5), a Reserve Fleet seaplane tender, has undergone tests at the Charleston, S.C., Army Depot to determine its use in the floating aircraft maintenance base concept. The conversion will be performed at the Charleston Naval Shipyard and entails improvement of living and working areas and adding maintenance and repair facilities.

The "sea-going" shop will provide major repairs and maintenance for Army helicopters and fixed wing aircraft wherever needed, and serve as a back-up for overseas land-based facilities.

Need for the service stems from the excessive time it takes under the present system to return aircraft components from isolated overseas locations to continental U.S. maintenance shops. The time can be reduced greatly by having an overseas floating repair base.

*Albemarle* will be manned and operated by the Military Sea Transportation Service with a crew of about 135 officers and men. The Aeronautical Depot Maintenance Battalion of the Army Materiel Command will handle maintenance facilities.



CDR. W. J. ENNIS, C.O. of VU-7, gives Chief Photographer's Mate Clara B. Johnson the certificate which designates her an aerial photographer with the right to wear coveted aircrewman wings. To attain this distinction, she completed the regular ground and flight syllabus. She is qualified to fly in the copilot's seat of a modified photography C-45. While she cannot handle the aircraft on takeoff or landing, she checks instruments and can fly the plane when airborne. The Wave Chief shoots aerial photos of gunnery practice and naval construction in the 11th ND and heads the camera repair section in the Fleet Air Photo Lab, San Diego.