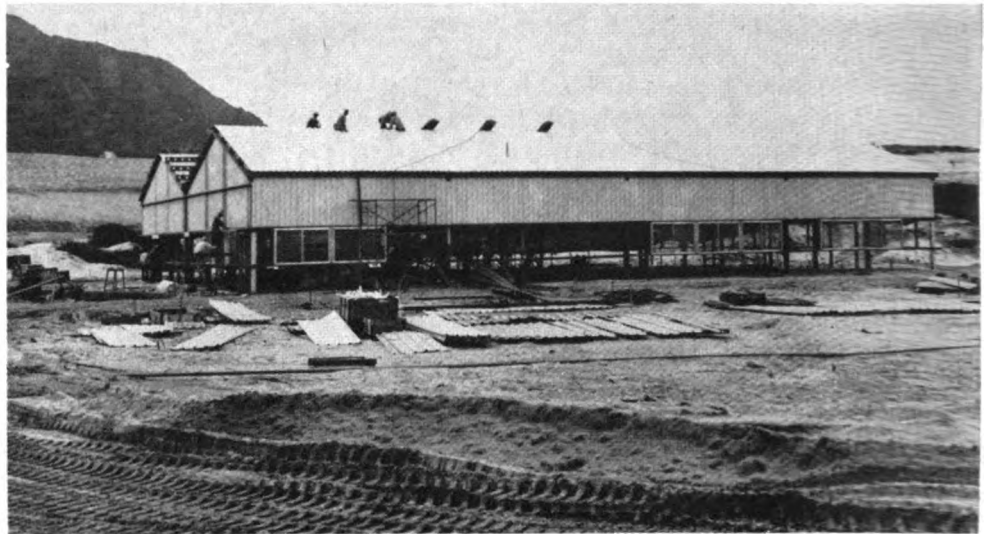




Shown at ground-breaking for the Station are (from left): LCDR Jack Hensley, Commanding Officer of the Station; CWO N. R. Shaw; YNI J. N. Swecker; Leon Cockrane; ENS John Deutsch. The mailing address (note sign) has since been changed to FPO 96697.

Receivers Unit facility is being constructed utilizing all-steel PASCOE building. Continuous duty power plant will be built adjacent to site. Adjoining antenna field overlooks South China Sea.



## Navy Communications Station in Vietnam

by LIEUTENANT GENE R. WILL, USN  
Executive Officer  
U. S. Naval Communications Station  
Cam Ranh Bay

**C**ONSTRUCTION of a new Naval Communication Station began immediately following a ground-breaking ceremony at Cam Ranh Bay on August 26, 1966. Lieutenant Commander Jack Hensley, USN, Commanding Officer of the new station, turned the first shovel of dirt, and the order to proceed, full speed ahead, was given to the enormous RMK-BRJ construction company by the Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Republic of Vietnam.

Before construction started, many arduous hours were spent in planning and design. Lieutenant Orelan Carden and Mr. Vance Vaughan of Naval Communication System Headquarters landed on the prospective sites with the initial survey team in December, 1965. The area was an uninhabited sandy beach facing the South China Sea. The southern tip of the Cam Ranh peninsula was to be the future home of a Naval Support Facility, and the

area chosen for the location of the Communications Center Headquarters building. In surveying the Receivers Unit site, the team found foxholes easy to dig in the sandy area when a few shots from snipers rang out. The efforts of this team and the combined planning of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Naval Communication System Headquarters helped bring the station to well-planned reality.

All buildings are being constructed as rugged, permanent PASCOE structures. The Communications Center, 80 by 120 feet, will house the administrative offices and communications equipment. The Center will be equipped with the most modern devices, including a solid-state, no-break power unit. A completely modern Fleet Center, Tape Relay, Message Center, Circuit Control and Crypto area will make up the station's nerve center. Collins Radio Company is supplying and installing all equipment, excluding crypto devices.

The Receivers Unit, located four miles up the eastern shore line from the Communications Center, will contain Collins 651F-1 receivers, Granger monocones 794-3 and 794-15, Granger HLPAs 747-2, and PNA-6A rotatable antennas. This unit will be connected to the Communications Center via Lenkurt AN/FRC-109 and AN/FCC-17 microwave equipment, and utilizing AN/FGC-60 multiplexing units.

Four miles farther north on the peninsula coast, located in a beautiful cove, the huge transmitter building is being constructed. The building is in the form of a cross, 180 by 240 feet. Surrounding the building and filling the beach area of the half-moon shaped cove will be the antenna field. Here, also, the Granger monocones 794-3 and 794-15 will be installed. Collins RLPA's will circle the building. An LF tower will provide for lower frequency coverage. All these antennas tie into 10 by 11 switching matrices via buried coaxial cable. On the other end of the matrices will be several of the powerful 205J-1 HF transmitters. The 208U-10 transmitters will provide for ten kilowatt operation, and the 208U-3 three kilowatt transmitter complete the HF family. AN/FRT-74 LF equipments will tie into the LF tower.

### **Microwave Link**

Microwave is used to complete the link to the transmitter unit. From there, via a microwave tower of some 360 feet, a shot is made into the Integrated Wide-band Communications System (IWCS) which will tie the station into the world-wide networks.

When the Communication Station becomes fully operational in the spring of 1967, it will be the hub of Naval Communications in Vietnam. Providing major relay for in-country messages, providing Naval Communication Operational Network circuits to all major Navy and Marine Corps commands in Vietnam, providing multi-channel terminations for ships in the South China Sea and the Tonkin Gulf area, providing communications for a Naval Air Facility and other numerous Navy activities at Cam Ranh Bay, and tying into the Communications Area Master Station at the Naval Communication Station-Philippines, this new station promises to be a beehive of activity in short order, as soon as the switch is completed.

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