

Closing Ceremony

NSGA Hanza

53 Years of Faithful Service

Over 50 Years of Leadership

NAVSUPPRADSTA

LT J. R. David	July 1945 - March 1946
RMC R. S. Katzenberger	March 1946 - June 1946
RMC P. J. Setzer	June 1946 - Jan 1947

NAVCOMSUPPORT

RMC P. R. Garner	Jan 1947 - July 1947
RMC W. C. Skinner	July 1947 - July 1948
CTC L. E. Johnson	July 1948 - Nov 1949

NAVCOMMUNIT 37 TEGAN

CHRELE J. J. Perkins	Nov 1949 - Aug 1950
CTC A. J. Ferriner	Aug 1950 - 1950
CHRELE R. Willis	1950 - Feb 1952
LT F. E. Estes	Feb 1952 - Jan 1953
LT W. H. Wesper	Jan 1953 - Sept 1953
LCDR R. F. Weller	Sept 1953 - July 1954
LT F. C. Nall	July 1954 - 1955

NAVCOMMUNIT 37 FUTENMA

LCDR F. H. Garenzini	1955 - March 1956
CDR N. W. Craw	March 1956 - Aug 1957

NSGA FUTENMA

CDR G. P. McGinnis	Aug 1957 - June 1959
LT J. S. Jennings	June 1959 - Aug 1960

NSGA HANZA

CDR W. C. Weaver	Aug 1960 - June 1963
CAPT J. L. Koon	June 1963 - Aug 1965
CAPT L. Eve	Aug 1965 - July 1967
CAPT H. K. Adkisson	July 1967 - July 1970
CAPT J.K. Cowperthwaite	July 1970 - June 1973
CAPT S. M. Parcher	June 1973 - Aug 1974
CAPT W. M. Shaw	Aug 1974 - July 1976
CAPT T. C. Bosworth	July 1976 - Aug 1979
CAPT R. E. Smith	Aug 1979 - June 1981
CAPT J. K. Kettinger	June 1981 - Oct 1983
CAPT D. L. Currie, Jr.	Oct 1983 - Aug 1985
CAPT J. A. Moore	Aug 1985 - July 1988
CAPT D. K. Wills, Jr.	July 1988 - June 1991
CAPT J. E. Gourley, II	June 1991 - June 1994
CAPT N. A. Houle	June 1994 - July 1996
CDR C. A. Williams	July 1996 - June 1998



A Rose By Any Other Name

The name "Hanza" is from the old Okinawan name for the present day Namihara Village, north of the site; to the east is the village of Sobe whose name is also associated with the command. And while we affectionately refer to ourselves as NSGA Hanza, or often simply as Hanza, the truth is we had very different names in the past.

In respect to all the Sailors who served proudly over the years, the actual names of past commands are listed below.

July 1945 - January 1947
Naval Supplementary Radio Station
January 1947 - November 1949
Navy Communications Support Activity
November 1949 - 1955
Navy Communications Unit 37 Tegan
1955 - August 1957
Navy Communications Unit 37 Futenma
August 1957 - August 1960
Naval Security Group Activity Futenma
August 1960 - June 1998
Naval Security Group Activity Hanza



Excerpts from the Commanding Officer's Closure Ceremony Remarks



A recent Naval Institute Proceedings article included a Chinese proverb used by General Krulak which fits our situation. "Change is a dragon; if you ignore it or try to control it, the dragon will eat you, but if you can ride the dragon, you will prosper."

The politics and security concerns in this region are changing, and the state of technology is changing even faster. Our closure is part of the United States Navy's realignment and use of technology to adapt. We had a very important mission, and that mission remains critical, but technology gives a much more efficient and better way to do it, requiring only a handful of civilian technicians.

With our services no longer required here, it is time for Hanza's Sailors to see where that Dragon is headed and prepare for the ride. If we can adjust to the change, we will all prosper. If not, we will be consumed. This is not an ominous prophecy for Hanza's Sailors, but a chance to look for and take advantage of opportunities we will encounter.

But what is remembered of Hanza when the Navy is gone? More so than our proud history, Hanza's legacy will be Sailors who served here.... I'm optimistic because they are looking to the future and preparing for success.... We have a future filled with opportunities but also an impressive past to remember, starting in July 1945 when LT J. R. David and a handful of Sailors landed just after the "Typhoon of Steel" and set up shop.... I'm pleased to report Hanza's proud traditions continue today and also to proudly tell you the Sailors here now are probably the most capable ever to be assigned here....

We've stopped to remember, celebrate and enjoy the festivities, but don't tarry long because the dragon of change won't wait. It is here now for many and will be here soon for the rest of us....

Prepare yourself for success, and if you are ready to ride when the time comes - You will succeed!

*CDR C. A. Williams
Commanding Officer
NSGA HANZA*

This Keystone log is a special edition for members and the families of NSGA Hanza. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the command, Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Government and do not imply endorsement thereof. Published by Navy Printing and Publications, Camp Foster, Okinawa Japan in accordance with NAVEXOS P-35 from appropriated funds.

CO: CDR C. A. Williams
XO: CDR M. F. Landers

This issue was truly a team effort and brought together the talents of many people. In no particular order, credit goes to JO2 C. L. Roberts, LT Reed, CTR3 M. Battle, Mrs. Rhonda Williams, Mr. Frank Roberts, CTOC D. Douglas, CTR1 J. Knowles, CTR1 Westermeyer, CTR1 V. Prince, CTR2 J. Vernon, CTR2 J. Scales, Mr. Dave Hamilton, and CTMCS Darril Gibson. Special recognition to PH2 A. Pugliani and PH3 R. Poliandro for the book's cover montage, and Mr. Doug Mann for the back page photo. Other photos received by R. Katzenberger, LTjg Rick Crane, Mrs. Rhonda Williams, and Mrs. Nimfa Gibson.

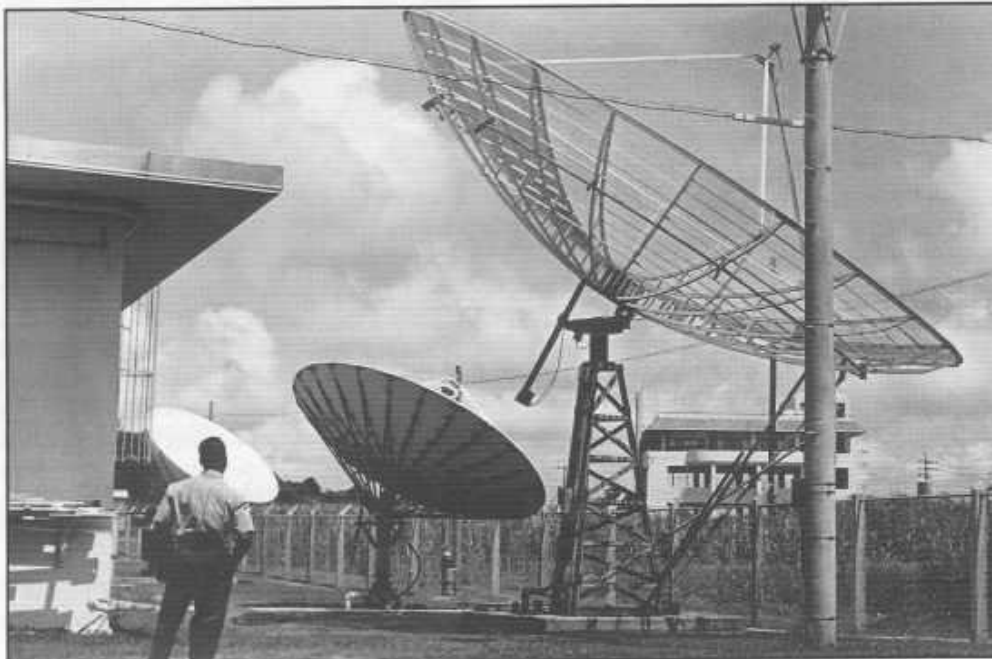
Our Mission

U. S. Naval Security Group Activity Hanza is an integral part of the worldwide U.S. communications network providing rapid relay and secure communications for the defense of the U.S. and its allies. The Naval Security Group conducted operations on Okinawa for over 50 years, first at sites located on Kadena Air Base in July 1945, then at Futenma and finally at Hanza.

The circularly disposed antenna array (CDAA) overlooks the East China Sea and was built in 1962. The 120 foot towers provide a handy landmark and have withstood typhoon force winds every year since. In the center of the CDAA is the original single story Operations building. A two-story addition was completed and occupied in 1972 when Hanza assumed several missions from other Naval Security Group sites. The last addition, completed in June 1979, added another 5,000 square feet of operations space.

One half mile from the main operations complex is the Support Compound, housing executive staff, Public Works, and Supply Departments. The U. S. Army 10th Area Support Group, Okinawa, located on Torii Station provides Hanza with barracks and full use of their recreational and personal support facilities.

At its peak, U.S. Naval Security Group Activity Hanza was one of the larger sites in the Naval Security Group Command with about 500 personnel. Before its decommissioning, it had 11 officers, approximately 250 enlisted personnel, four U.S. civilian personnel and 32 Japanese National employees.



While Hanza is commonly referred to as the "elephant cage," its mission has encompassed much more over the years, including the use of satellite dishes such as these pictured above.



One thing that hasn't changed over the years is Okinawa's oppressive heat during the summer. It's not uncommon to have temperatures in the hundreds, with humidity in the 90 percent range. The picture at left shows part of the original crew trying to bear the heat at the tent town in August 1945.

Left to right: H. Shaw RM1/C, B. Williams RM1/C, R. Katzenberger RM1/C, W. Graves RM1/C, Miller RM3/C. Photo provided by R. Katzenberger.

1945-1946

I read about Hanza and thought you would be interested in hearing from someone who was with the original crew setting up the Naval Supplementary Radio Station.

In June 1945, the officers and crew were divided into two parties to be loaded on different ships. About a week later, the convoy arrived in Buckner Bay for our first look at Okinawa. There were ships as far as the eye could see and the hillsides above Yonabaru were battle scarred. The day after anchoring, we went ashore in Landing Crafts with our personal gear. We were met by LT David, OIC. He sent us to a tent area away from the beach. We stayed there for several days. Working parties were formed to help the Sea Bees enlarge and make passable the native road so our large trucks could get through with the material needed to set up the station. The road was a main road between Yonabaru and Itoman on the China Sea side. The road was full of shell holes, bomb craters and debris from the hillside. We turned south, at Iwa, to go to Aragusku, a small uninhabited village, in a flat area of rice paddies and sweet potato fields. The area for the station was on a little rise where we set up tents and a mess hall tent. We worked with the Sea Bees to truck our equipment from Yonabaru and to clear land in order to put up Quonset huts. We set up the DAW-1 and used an Army Signal Corps communication van to set up communications with Pearl Harbor and Guam. We used the DAW-1 for operational DF purposes and for Search and Rescue while we put up a building for the DAB near the DAW-1 van.

On September 7, we started having rainy weather and word was passed that there was a typhoon on the way. We battened down the hatches, but we didn't know what we were in for. On September 9, the typhoon hit. It nearly blew the station away. It caused considerable damage to our Quonset huts. It blew corrugated steel across the rice paddies and put the DAW-1 out of commission. Our main power supply was shut down. Everyone stayed down in their huts out of the torrential downpour and the winds. There were no injuries to anyone on the station. During the storm, a crated diesel generator, next to the Butler building, tumbled down the road. After the storm passed, we had to use a bulldozer to haul it back to its original position. We had to repair the DAB building and dry out the equipment to restore it to operational condition.

I was a reserve during the war, but I shipped over to Regular Navy and retired in July 1970 as a Lieutenant after 30 years of Naval Service, 27 of which were in the Naval Security Group.

*Richard S. Katzenberger (former CO)
LT USN (Ret)*



(above) CTM1 Danny Blessing works on some state-of-the-art equipment in the 90's.
(right) CTT2 George Martin works with one of Hanza's systems.



Aug 65 - Jun 67

When I first arrived at Hanza I was assigned to the multi-coupler room in the basement. To assure reliability we were changing twenty-two vacuum tubes in 600 multi-couplers (13,000 tubes) of the FRD-10 (prototype built by ITT) every nine months. In studying the schematic of the multi-coupler I realized the front panel meter read plate current of each tube which is the equivalent of a tube tester. I convinced the EMO Chief and Officer that we could maintain more reliability by weekly meter readings. A low reading meant a bad tube and it was changed. At the end of my tour the Supply Chief came to me and said he had about 29,000 tubes in stock that we weren't using and that they were ordering 1500 tubes every month! What should he do? I told him not to order any more tubes and quietly left the island. I wonder if all those tubes are still in the basement?

*James E. Lotspeich
CTM1 USNR (inactive)*

(Ed. note - Tubes? What are tubes?)

1965 - 1968

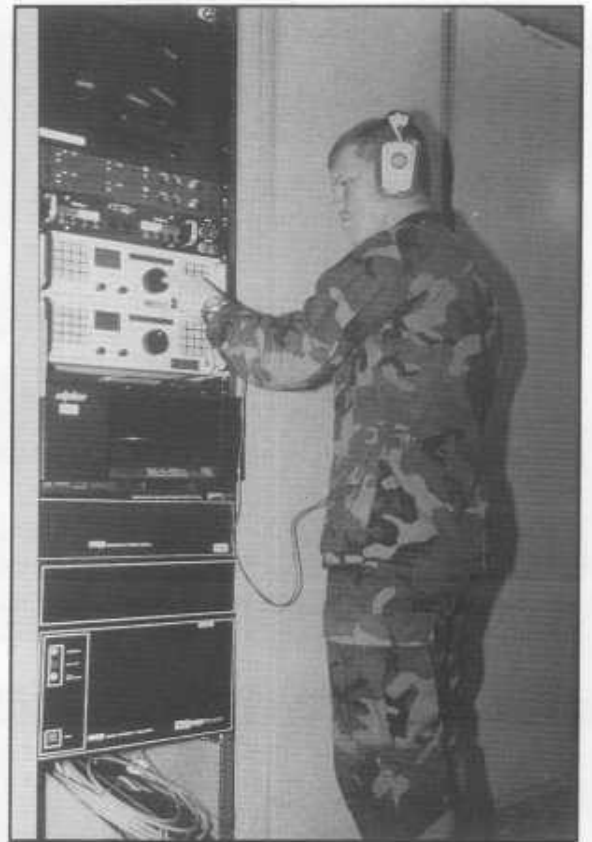
During my 30 months at Hanza COMSEC 704 was deeply involved in the Vietnam situation. Due to the available HFDF and antenna system coupled with outstanding personnel, we were able to provide more real time collection and reporting for COMSEC in support of U.S. Forces in Vietnam than any other COMSEC unit in WESTPAC, including the in-country COMSEC units at Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay. This was evidenced by numerous letters of appreciation and commendation received by COMSEC 704 from various commanders in WESTPAC as well as CINCPACFLT, COMNAVSECGRU and CNO.

*Thomas E. Perry
CTRCM USN (Ret)*



(above) CTM1 Danny Blessing works on some state-of-the-art equipment in the 90's.

(right) CTT2 George Martin works with one of Hanza's systems.



Aug 65 - Jun 67

When I first arrived at Hanza I was assigned to the multi-coupler room in the basement. To assure reliability we were changing twenty-two vacuum tubes in 600 multi-couplers (13,000 tubes) of the FRD-10 (prototype built by ITT) every nine months. In studying the schematic of the multi-coupler I realized the front panel meter read plate current of each tube which is the equivalent of a tube tester. I convinced the EMO Chief and Officer that we could maintain more reliability by weekly meter readings. A low reading meant a bad tube and it was changed. At the end of my tour the Supply Chief came to me and said he had about 29,000 tubes in stock that we weren't using and that they were ordering 1500 tubes every month! What should he do? I told him not to order any more tubes and quietly left the island. I wonder if all those tubes are still in the basement?

*James E. Lotspeich
CTM1 USNR (inactive)*

(Ed. note - Tubes? What are tubes?)

1965 - 1968

During my 30 months at Hanza COMSEC 704 was deeply involved in the Vietnam situation. Due to the available HFDF and antenna system coupled with outstanding personnel, we were able to provide more real time collection and reporting for COMSEC in support of U.S. Forces in Vietnam than any other COMSEC unit in WESTPAC, including the in-country COMSEC units at Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay. This was evidenced by numerous letters of appreciation and commendation received by COMSEC 704 from various commanders in WESTPAC as well as CINCPACFLT, COMNAVSECGRU and CNO.

*Thomas E. Perry
CTRCM USN (Ret)*



(above left) CTO2 Ben Tomlin and CTOSA Tige Chambers tracking communication circuits through the comm shop.

(above right) A file photo shows a tech working on a search and rescue position that was modern compared to the 50's, but somewhat antiquated compared to the 90's.



1951-1952

Our principle equipment was the DAB, known fondly as the "Winged Beast". When the DAB failed, specialists were called in from off-island to get it back on-line. One of those people was CTC W. H. Small who now resides in Bartow, FL. These efforts failed so the DAB was replaced with a goniometer type equipment. During the early part of this tour the crew were still berthed in commandeered housing (farm houses) with all of the local amenities.

*John S. Butler
CTCS USN (Ret)*

1975-1977

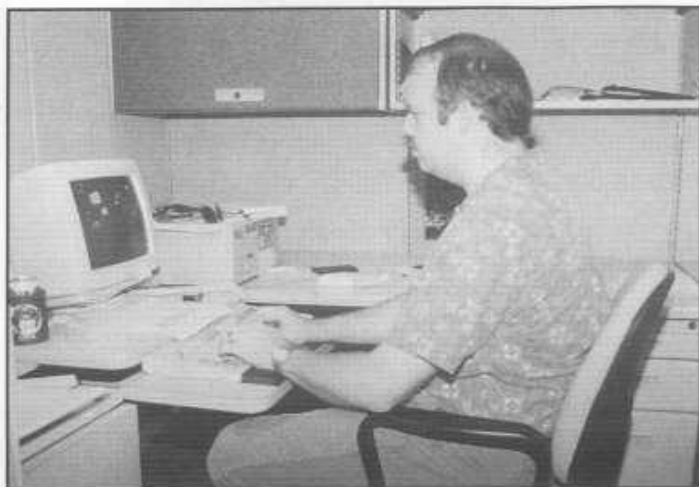
I arrived in Okinawa as a CTRSA right out of A school, and transferred as a CTR3 after a very memorable tour. During my tour I worked in "Ops Delta," if that name still exists. I specifically remember our Division LCPO, CTTCM Belks, who provided me with some of the best encouragement I have ever received. It was the Master Chief that caused me to focus on my goal on being an LDO, a goal I realized upon my commissioning in 1987. It was a good tour of duty for a CTR in the 70s and I will always remember the experience in the "elephant cage."

*J.E. Hagy
LT USN*

1983-1985

I had the honor to serve as commanding officer during the period 1983-1985. I thoroughly enjoyed my tour of duty and have fond memories of an exciting time in my life. You might be interested to know that I was ordered to Hanza to close it down. Shortly after my arrival, NSA decided to make a major investment in Hanza's future, and instead of closing Hanza down, we were very busy expanding the mission.

*Daniel L. Currie (former CO)
CAPT, USN (Ret)*



(top) DODSPECREP Mr. Doug Mann provided a lot of support over the years and was considered one of the pros from Dover when it came to communications system installation.

(right) CTR3 Christina Perkins cheerfully works with one of Hanza's systems.

(below) Hanza continued to expand its operations center with modern equipment. Room 150 is shown below with one of the last operator manned systems that was installed at Hanza.





(above)

The Navy BEQ on Torii was much more modern than the Quonset huts of old. The Sea Bee's also built a BBQ on the side which was used for several picnics and get-togethers by the residents, and sometimes entire departments.

1967-1969

Haircuts were less than a dollar across the highway from Torii Station and were better than the ones in the base barbershop. \$2.00 would buy a decent meal. A one-hour scrub-and-rub in the steam houses was \$1.85. The girls in the mess hall were earning maybe \$25 or \$30 a month, and one meal each day. Wow, did they eat!

Jim Jones

1962-1964

I was on Okinawa from August 1962 for 18 months. My orders read to report to NSG Futenma Station. When we arrived I was instructed not to unpack. In the morning, I would be transferred to another base. The base consisted of about six Quonset huts. The next day we were transferred to a joint base governed by the Army. "We" were Leonard W. Williams and Terrance R. Mooneyham both which retired from the group (as E-9's) having over twenty years each. This base was Torii station. The base was a mix between new and old barracks. At that time, the Army had control of the base and we were treated as visitors. The base had separate berthing and work spaces for the Navy. The work station was at the bottom of the hill with 20' double wire fence surrounding it guarded by Okinawans with dogs. The Air Force group was not berthed at Torii but were transported by cattle car back and forth from Kadena.

*Eugene H. Gilbert
ex-CTR3*

A Hanza Legend Retires

The only person who can really lay claim to serving the Security Group in Okinawa the longest is Ishihara-San, or "Mr. Ish" as he was so affectionately called over the years. Records show he worked under the Japanese Master Labor Contract for over 50 years, and worked for Hanza and its predecessors for over 40 years. He ultimately became a CO's driver and probably drove more CO's around than any Seaman in the Navy.

In 1996, after over 50 years of service, Mr Ish retired in style with the help of Captain Houle and his crew.



(above) Captain Houle (CO June 94 - July 96) presided over Ishihara-san's retirement and happily thanks him for over 50 years of service.



(left) Mr. Ish was loved and respected by all. Although unusual, it was still fitting to "pipe" him over. On one side the sideboys were Sailors and on the other side they were Japanese guards. Imagine the sharp contrast between this day in his life, and what it must have been when he began working for some of the first American's who occupied the island back in 1946.

1983-1986

I was the XO at Hanza from the end of 83 thru mid-85 - the 50/40/25 celebration year. If Ishihara-san is still driving for the CO, please give him our warmest regards.

*Bernard J. & Renate Haller
LCDR USN (Ret)*



(above) Mr. Ish loved the "Cowboy Mystique" and was exceptionally pleased when he received cowboy boots, a big belt buckle, and a cowboy hat as presents. With his characteristic smile, he shows his pleasure trying on his new hat.



(left) There was plenty of food for all, with a variety of American and Japanese dishes.

1983-1986

I was very happily attached to the SECGRU's mightiest site. Hanza remains my favorite tour in 15 years, and it is with a considerable amount of regret that I follow her closure. We had a great mission as CTT's back then and could often be heard to remark that the powers that be ought to close Misawa and shift everything down to us! We were VERY proud of ourselves and it was generally just a tight command.

The shuttle bus driver back then was nicknamed "Ish." He was always ready with a smile and a laugh, and we all felt rather close to him.

Scott David Kilhn



(above) Mr. Ish shows off one of his many gifts during his reception.

MLC's - A Valuable Part of Hanza's History



(above) Many of Hanza MLC employees celebrate Christmas in 1996.

Front row, left to right: Nakamura Yasuko, Hanashiro Sachiko, Demura Sadao, Yafuso Yasuyuki, Tobaru Seiwa, Yamashiro Kiyomasa. 2nd row: Hamamoto Kishin, Kinjo Ritsuo, Toyama Norimitsu, Teruya Yasutatsu, Tokumori Satoru, Nakazato Zenyu, Kuwae Manabu. Back row: Chibana Norio, Uezato Yukiya, Higa Kenichi, Yonahara Makoto, Noborikawa Masaji, Yamashiro Tsugio, Kiyuna Takeshi, Ikehara Shigemitsu.



Mr Y posed for this picture in 1966 when he first began working as a Master Labor Contractor (MLC) employee.

Hanza's Logistics Continuity Retires 1966-1997

My retirement day is coming on the thirty first of December 1997 at NSGA Hanza, after serving for thirty one years.

I was hired on twenty sixth of July 1966. With in that time, the commanding officer has changed 14 times. Despite the changes, I was able to carry out my tasks smoothly because of everyone's cooperation. I would sincerely thank everyone for their help. For the rest of my life, I would like to relax and practice golfing. I also wish everybody good health and progress in their careers. I would like to see you all in the near future and send my best regards.

Kiyomasa "Mr Y" Yamshiro

CHIBANA FEST

T
and acc
from th
for a va
empow
several
was reh
levels.

distinct
than m
Govern
treaties
giving
Japan
domain
landow

land ba
way. It
Hanza

examin
of Japa
be stor

eve of
augmer
of the t
brough
land. A
cost of
comple
with flo
Busloa
site.

satellit
was rat
friends
They pl
they lef
world f

The land that the US government uses on Okinawa is owned by many Okinawan landowners. The Japanese government guarantees usage to the American government, and accomplishes this by leasing individual properties from the owners. Landowners sometimes refuse to sign for a variety of reasons, but the Governor of Okinawa is empowered to sign in their stead. This has happened several times over the years, but in 1996 the Governor was reluctant to sign raising the issue to international levels.

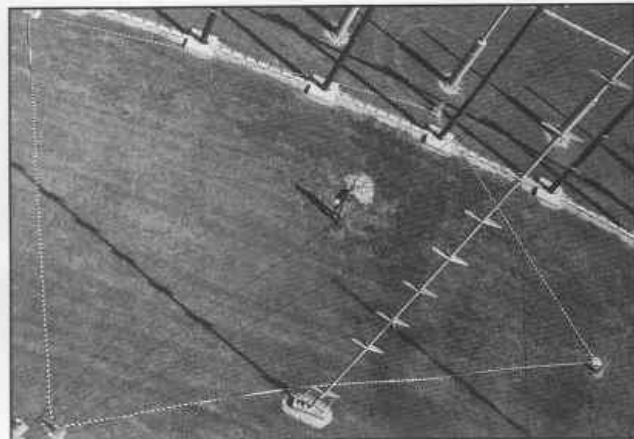
Shoichi Chibana, or Chibana-san, had the distinction of owning land whose lease expired earlier than most - April 1, 1996. He refused to lease it again. Governor Ota refused to sign in his stead. American treaties with the Japanese government remained in place giving American's the right to use the land, yet the Japanese government (without the benefit of an imminent domain law) was unable to secure an agreement with this landowner.

An obvious solution would be to just give the land back to him, but one minor problem stood in the way. It encompassed several elements of the CDAA. Hanza found itself in the middle of an international crisis.

An endless array of contingencies were examined. Would the rumors of the involvement of some of Japan's violent extremists come true? Would the site be stormed? Were Sailors at risk?

The site brought in a Chibana-fest crew on the eve of April 1 who stayed holed up for 72 hours. Marines augmented the Japanese guard crew to ensure the integrity of the building and safety of the Sailors. The Japanese brought in a contingent of guards to prevent access to the land. A fence was constructed in less than 48 hours, at a cost of over \$800,000 to the Japanese government, completely surrounding the site and was accompanied with floodlights and cameras to provide 100% visibility. Busloads of riot police remained within minutes of the site.

April 1 brought crowds of media complete with satellite link-ups and even CNN coverage, but all-in-all, it was rather anti-climatic. Chibana-san and some of his friends were given access to his land for a few hours. They played folk songs, sang, drank and ate. And then they left. The crisis passed, and Hanza's 15 minutes of world fame is now a part of its history.



(top) How much land caused all this hullabaloo? 5 acres? 1 acre? No, only about 2700 square feet of irregularly shaped land. SW2 Tate is standing in the middle of the plot marked by caution tape and cones. (above) This sign was posted on the road leading to the site from Torii. The picture is almost a conflict within itself - a fist hammering down on the site with peace doves flying up. One of Okinawa's many typhoons took the sign down.

Even a year later, reminders of the crisis remain. This sign (shown at right) was updated daily showing the current number of "illegal occupation" days. A rough translation is: "The bill to revise the special agreement law between US and Japan. This is a discrimination act against the Okinawa residents. US military facilities had been transferred from one place to another, where residents refused to accept it. We never agreed to the relocation on Okinawa. 326 days have past since the illegal occupation of military facilities was settled between the US and Japanese governments."

Construction of the fence surrounding the site is almost a story in itself. The Japanese weren't sure they could construct it in the time allotted so they first constructed it at a remote site. Once that worked, they took it down and when given the signal, constructed it at the site. It went up in about 14 hours, with the remainder of the 48 hours spent wiring the lights and cameras.

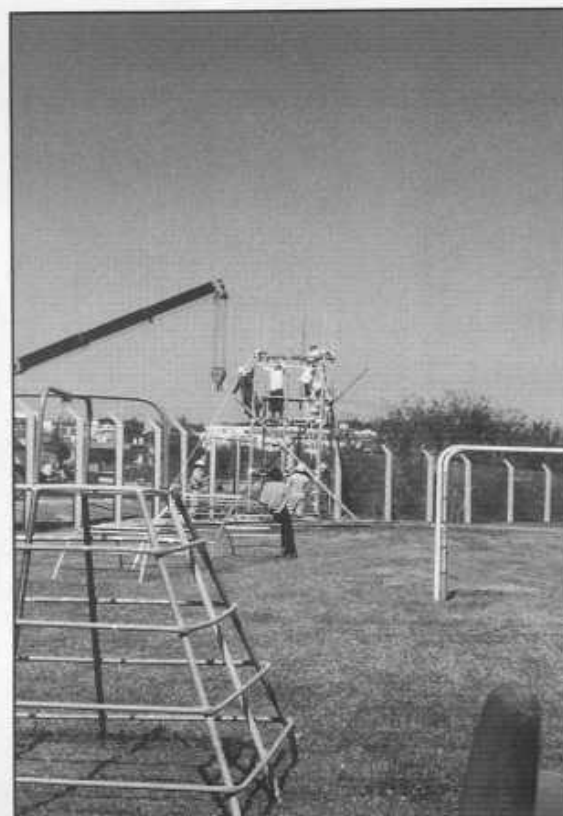
Land use issues have continued to plague Okinawa. The June 1997 issue of National Geographic included comprehensive coverage of this and other issues in Japan today.





The protest "was sort of symbolic but some of this land was owned by my grandfather."

Chibana - san



(above) The media constructed their own tower to ensure they had an aerial view of the event.

(top left) Media coverage included all the primary Japanese TV stations and even had coverage on CNN.

(middle) If it wasn't for the hundred or so of Japanese riot police, the crowds that converged on the site would have given it a traditional Japanese festival atmosphere.

(bottom) For many looking in to Hanza, it looked like a prison, separating "them" from "us."

Hanza Chiefs

The common thread that binds them together is leadership. The drive and devotion that they brought to their specific fields of endeavor inspired countless others to reach for life's greatest achievements.



(above) October 1986. Front left to right: BUC Leach, CTRCS Stephens, CTMC Caudle, CTTC Gentile. 2nd row: CTOCS Lavally, CTRC Stausser, CTRC Rabourn, CTTM Thompson. 3rd row: MAC Dampher, CTAC Barrows, CTMCS Poteat, CTMC Jackson. 4th row: CTMCS Lachance, CTRC Stale, CTMCS Vallance, CTAC Wright.



(above) October 1989. Front row left to right: CTMC(SW) Steve Carpenter, CTMC Sue "Spy" Spsychala, CTMC AJ Sickler, CTTC Ken Hagood. 2nd row: BUC Larry Kunkle, CTTM(NAC) Tommie Thompson, CTTC Jim Logan. 3rd row: CTMCM Jim Bosh, CTRC Betty Riley, CTRCS Bob Frank. 4th row: CTRCS Dave Riley, CTRC(SW) Sam Kelly, CTMCS John Pliska. Back row: CTOC Ann Colbert, CTTCS(NAC) "Red" Wasson, CTTCS(SS) Tony Rusell.

(right) circa 1992.

Seated left to right: CTMCM Easley, CTMCM Lachance, MCPON Hagan, CTRCM Thompson, MACM Mainville. 2nd row: NCC Fahey, CTIC Merritt, CTRCS Grimm, CTRC Alfaro, MAC Dasco, CTRC Futch, CTAC Murray, CTRC Burditt, SKC Anulao, CTRCS Waters. Back row: CTMCS Pliska, CTMC Schmidt, CTOC Novak, CTMC Geinzer, CTRC Hancock, CTMC Petruzzi, CTRC Peters.



Awards and Promotions



In the art of intelligence, success cannot be advertised, failure cannot be explained, heroes are often unsung - even among their peers.

- Ike Eisenhower



(above
Keith
Earns
Dave)

(above
by CA)

ant

Awards and Promotions



In the art of intelligence, success cannot be advertised, failure cannot be explained, heroes are often unsung - even among their peers.

- Ike Eisenhower





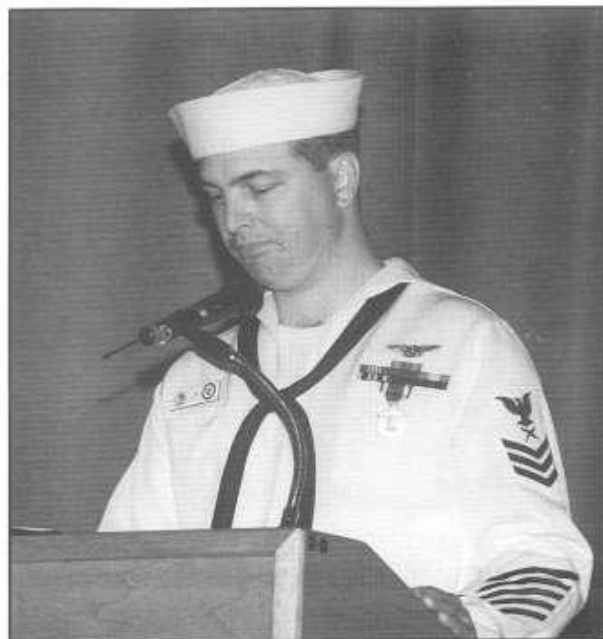
Reenlistments and Retirements



(above) CTOC (AW) John Flood gets piped over during his retirement.

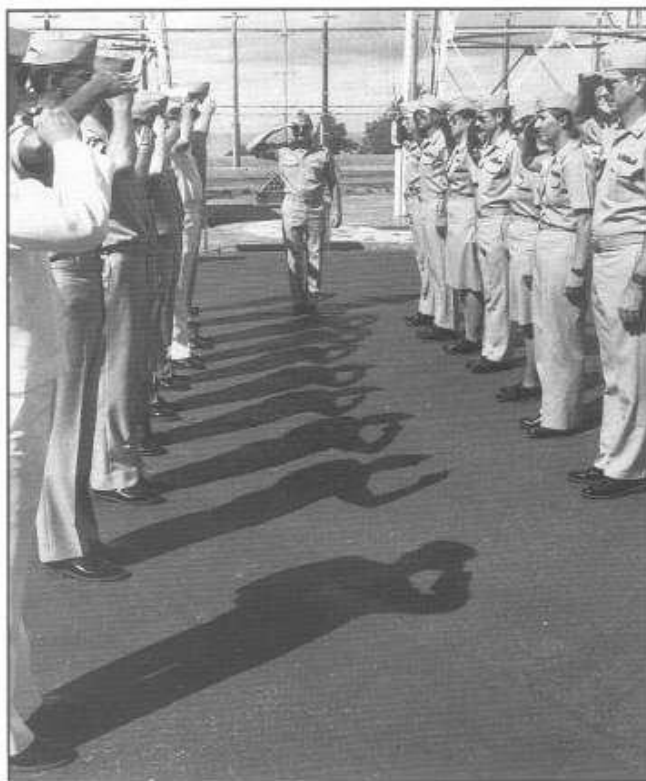
(top right) CTM1 Mike Lee got a little choked up during his retirement speech.

(right) A file photo shows an unknown Sailor getting piped over with more than the usual number of sideboys.

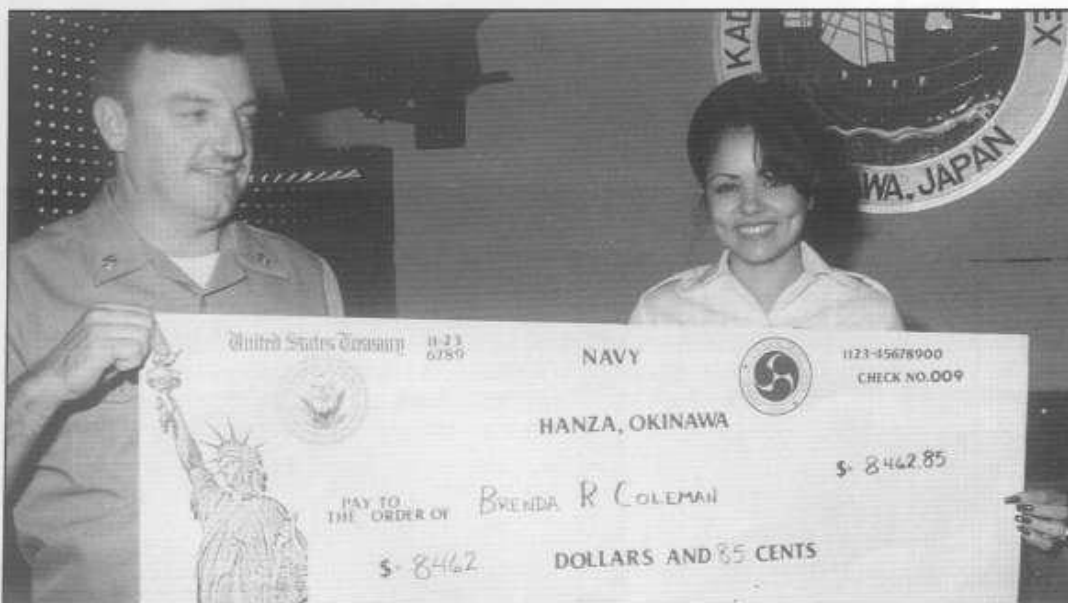


... We still have to stop all engines, lay about smartly, and drop anchor to pay honor to one of our shipmates going ashore. To honor the years served, the guidance, the leadership, the friendship and the expertise that these shipmates have freely given...

- From THE WATCH



Keeping the best Sailors



I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the uniform code of military justice. So help me God.

- Reenlistment oath

(top right) CTRCS Jim Kalisch helps CTR3 Carter with the oath of reenlistment.
(top left) CTMI Staab signs his reenlistment paperwork as longtime civilian Mike Aquino provides moral support.
(above) CTRC Jim Earnshaw hands over the big money to CTR3 Brenda Coleman after her reenlistment.

1972-1975

I reported to Okinawa in October 1972, not long after the infamous "boom room" was constructed. In those days there was no entrance from the "boom room" to the Ops building so we manned a back door waiting for the CO/XO to come down the ladder and bang at the door.

*Paul E.
Christensen
CDR USN (Ret)*



Hanza had one of the few NSGA sites with windows and they sported beautiful views to the East China Sea. And, as mentioned by a couple of the Hanza vets, had some beautiful furniture with its own history.

(above right)

The East China Sea usually provided a warm sight, whether looking from the CO or XO's office, or from the vantage point of one of the boom boards on the array.

(right)

This Jan 1976 photo shows an outside view of the office, with the covered stairs leading up. It also gives a view of a couple of the typical cars driven by personnel then.



The Hanza emblem, which was carved into all the furniture, has a history in itself. Although different versions exist, one version is that it comes from the story of a fourth century Chinese prince. He was abducted and thrown into the sea by two thugs, but instead, he pulled them both in and all three went into the water together. The symbol shows all three, in a constant struggle to balance good and evil.



1970-1973

I was also associated with the design and construction of the CO's office that overlooked the East China Sea. It was built out of recycled "boom boards." You may have heard rumors about the office and how it was built, and they are probably all true!

I was the one who told our Captain (J. K. Cowperthwaite) about an opportunity to order and purchase furniture from a supplier on Taiwan for his office. During a visit from Mr. Henry Lee, a furniture maker in Taiwan, Captain Cowperthwaite ordered all of the teak furniture that most likely is still in the CO's office. I had the responsibility of shipping the furniture back to Okinawa using CH-53 helicopters from MCAS Futenma during the Marines typical "cross country" flights to Taiwan. It took four trips and I still had to recruit space on a P-3. The conference table was the toughest.

*R. Thomas Schram
LT USN*



Part of Hanza's history lives on at White Beach by Amphibious Group One/CTF-76. The CO's desk and office furniture now belong to the admiral. Unfortunately, the admiral's office wasn't big enough to hold all of it, so the rest is used by his staff.

Community Service

The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others. — Albert Schweitzer

In October 1996, Hanza began the Adopt-A-Beach program, going to area beaches once a month and picking up trash. The brainchild of CTM2 Charles Becker, it brought together the efforts of several different organizations.

CTM2 Becker worked with the Okinawa International Clean Beach Club to identify beaches to be cleaned and to coordinate efforts with the Yomitan Government. He enlisted the aid of the Okinawa Christian school and of course, Hanza. Chow was provided to all volunteers by one of Hanza's organizations - the Ward Room, the Chief Petty Officer's Association, or the Petty Officer's Association. The village of Yomitan supplied garbage bags, gloves, and provided garbage pickup.

A typical beach cleanup would net over 80 full garbage bags of trash along with car parts, wood, batteries, and an occasional oddity such as a car door or TV.



(above) CTR1 Victoria Prince maneuvers through some of the rougher terrain during one of the cleanups.



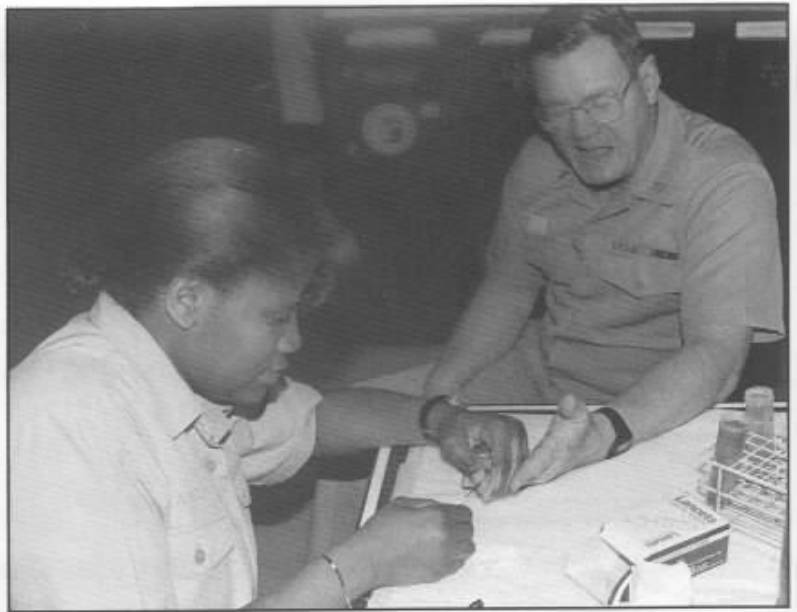
(above) CTM2 Charles Becker is awarded the prestigious "Nippon Zenkokai" Association Good Deeds Commendation Award for his part in the Adopt-A-Beach program.



(above) CTRC Dave Schultz and CTMC Dave Larsen stand behind part of a day's haul.



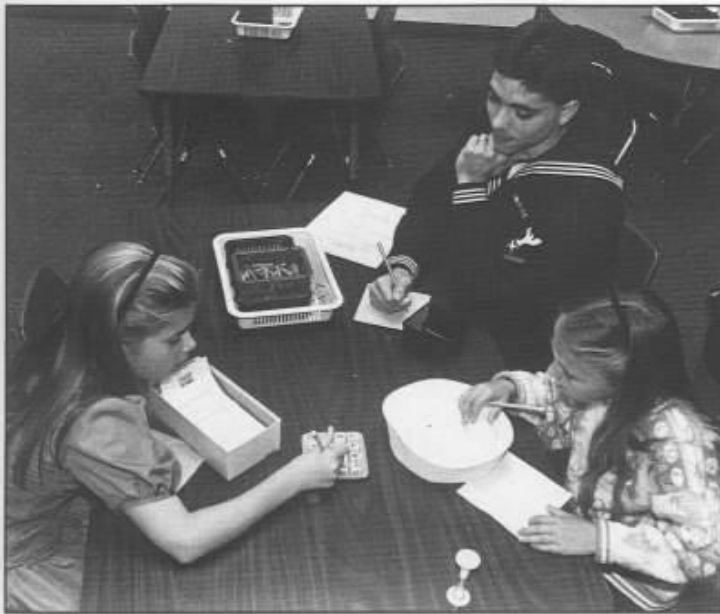
(above) Petty Officer Becker joins a local Okinawan as they clean debris out of the steps leading to the beach.



(left)
CTM2 Joyette Weber is still smiling as the blood is drained from her during one of Hanza's many blood drives.
(above)
CTMCM Easley grimaces as he gets his finger pricked before giving blood.



Hanza personnel pulled together to throw a Christmas party for a local orphanage. It included a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings and was rounded out with gifts for all the children donated by command members.



(above)
A file photo of one of Hanza Sailors shows him working with two children, but he seems to have lost his hat.



(above)
CTR2 Bohannon volunteered his time to help children with some of the basic skills.



Past Hanza community projects have included helping local schools with tutoring programs and the highly successful Saturday Scholars program. Saturday Scholars paired up military personnel with one or two children to provide individual tutoring on basic subjects. While the tutoring was helpful, the real value in the program was the mentoring aspect. Saturday Scholars has become a popular community project in the states for this reason alone.

(left)
CTM2 Trish Berry helps a student with some long division.

Fund Raisers

Hanza has always been willing to chip in for fund raisers over the years, but the methods were often more creative than most. Khaki auctions were popular, where khaki's would volunteer to cook dinners, wash cars, stand watches, or even mow lawns in a dress if the price was right.

One of the best money makers was the annual pie-in-the-face event. Groups often pooled their money to spend over 100 dollars to ensure their "favorite" Sailor received a pie. And the privilege of throwing the pie always gained a few more dollars.



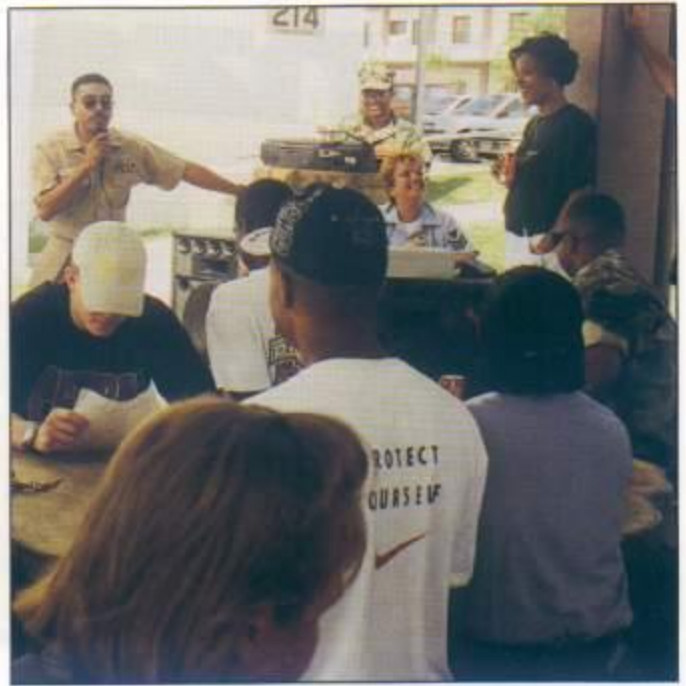
(top right) CTR2 Marvin Woods hands CTO3 Timothy Jester the CO's parking spot pass at one of the khaki auctions with CTO2 Kimberly Tassoni checking the price.
(right) CTRC Steve Connor gets "creamed" literally.

(facing page top left) CTMC Dave Hamilton said "shoot, if you pay \$100, I'll mow your lawn in a dress." CTRCM Pichelmayer paid.

(top right) ENS Bocachica raised quite a bit of money as the auctioneer.

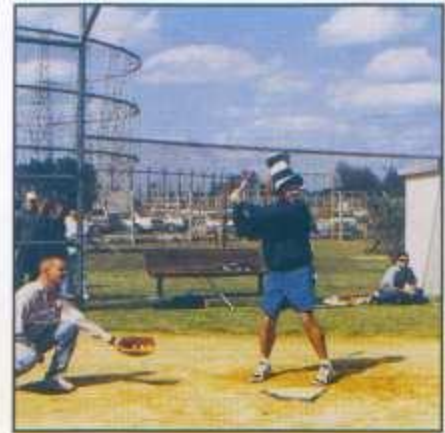
(bottom) CTA2 Brian Fernberg lets out a victory cheer after smearing a chocolate cream pie in CDR Landers face.





Hanza Sports

Softball is the premier sport on Okinawa and is played virtually year round. Hanza has had teams that border on legendary over the years -just ask any team that battled with Hanza during any softball game. For some reason it always seemed to come down to who ever won the softball league took home the Commander's Cup Trophy. Today if you look at the trophy sitting at CFAO, Hanza's name shows up many times. Hanza has been blessed with many great players and some that just wanted to have fun but between the two, Hanza always managed to put together a winning team.



What? Another Hanza home run? Hanza home runs were also called the "Hanza trot." Left to right, CWO3 Crane, Sgt Baker, CTMC Hamilton.



(top) Cat in the Hat?? CTR2 Charles Bahr having some fun on the field,
(above) Captain Houle receives the Commander's Cup trophy from Captain Clarkson, Commanding Officer of CFAO.

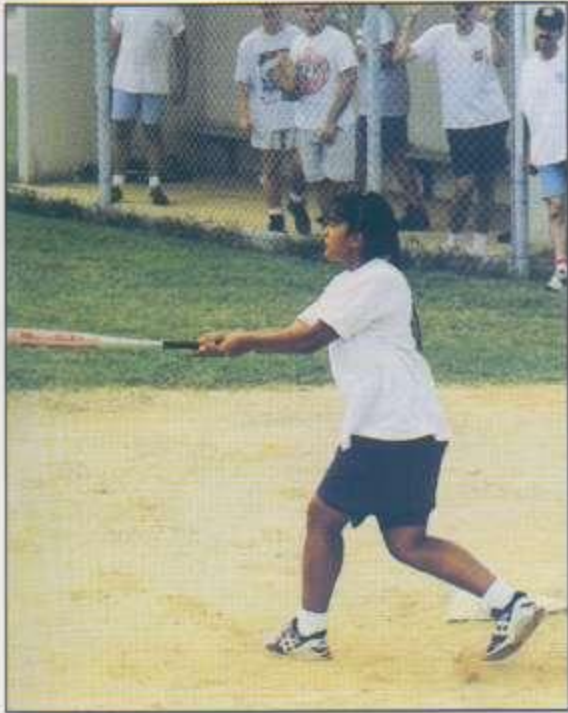
1962 - 1964

"I was the starting centerfielder on the Hanza softball team which won both the COMFLEACTS and COMNAVFORJAPAN championship in 1963 and repeated as the COMFLEACTS champions in 1964".

*Ed. Marciniak
CPO USN (Ret)*

Softball was an integral part of Hanza's social functions. Ability to play was waived; having fun was a must. Sailors were all thrown together for some heated competition and laughs galore. Even if you didn't play, the games were a never ending source of entertainment.

Hanza not only competed at a Commander's Cup level, but put together many tournament winning teams. And then there were the great matches between the White Hats and the Khakis. Dare we say who won the most matches?



(left) Hanza softball is geared for everyone willing to have "FUN". CTM2 Stephaine Bringas swings for the fence.

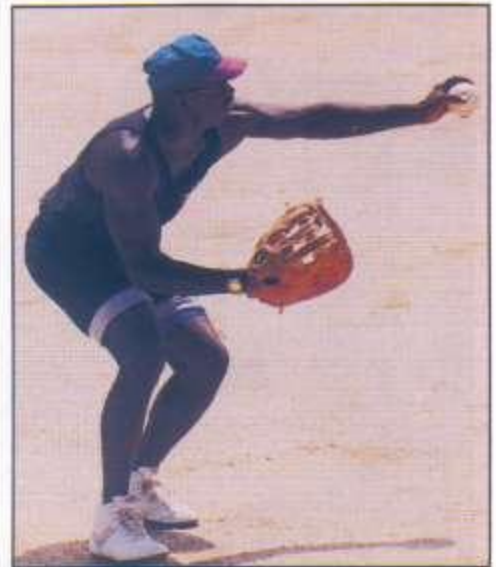
(right) "HEY" Guess what I have? LNC Tony Smith ready to tag out a runner.

(bottom) An aerial shot of the softball field.

1970 - 1971

"I remember my first day. I checked into the quarterdeck and was asked by CTR3 Ron Knox if I played softball, to which I answered yes and was promptly told practice was at 1600 on the antenna. Where is the antenna was my first question."

*Jim Ballast
CTTC USN (Ret)*

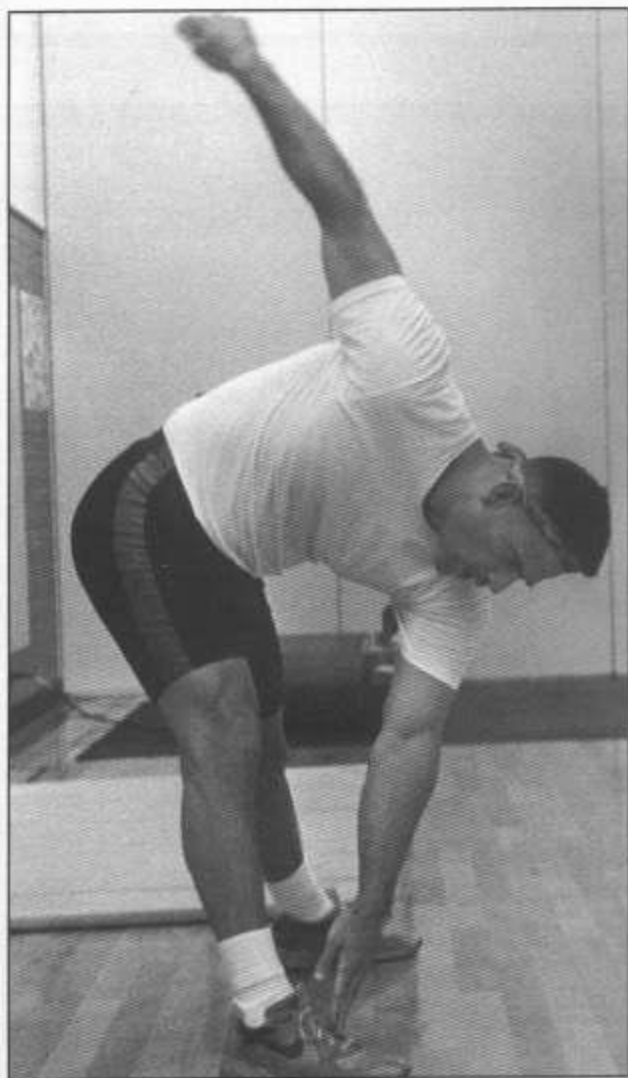
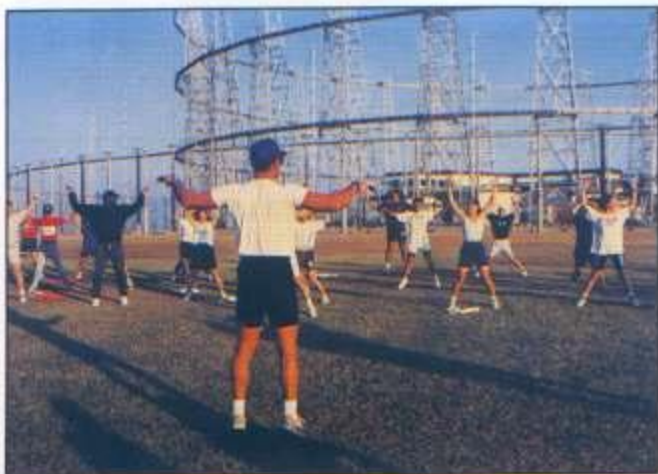


1970 - 1973

"The softball field at Hanza was built by the people in the plant maintenance office using "surveyed" material from Naha and some superb help from the Seabee's. We managed to get four picnic pavilions put up, the softball field built, and water run out there all for under \$1,000."

*R. Thomas Schram
LT USN*





(top) Command-wide physical fitness tests were often held at the site.

(above) CTRCS Jim Kalisch was known as "Mr. PT" and led many PT sessions giving it his usual 110 percent.

(top) CTO2 Ray Cortez shoots for the maximum on sit-ups.
(middle) An unknown Sailor pumps out another pushup at Torii gym.

(bottom) CTMCS John Petruzzi joins the crew at Torii gym doing flutter kicks.



Hanza Sailors enjoyed sports of all kinds and regularly won the Commander's Cup trophy.

Go Navy Beat Army

Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, upon other fields, on other days, will bear the fruits of victory.

— Douglas Mac Arthur

The Army-Navy game is a traditional rivalry that all Soldiers and Sailors look forward to each year, but it's not only played in the states. The battle has been played out annually at Torii Station also, complete with "Bill the goat" - the Navy's mascot.

Hanza has always fielded several players for the team and the event has become one looked forward to by many.

(right) The Hanza crew gathers to videotape the cheer "Go Navy, Beat Army."

(below right) Bottom: CTR3 Christina Perkins, CTR2 Elizabeth Ingram. Top: CTR3 Jennifer Stevens and CTR1 Tammy Gilliard.





Clockwise from top left:
The Navy team trots onto the field ready to begin.

At the line of scrimmage and Navy has the ball.

Touchdown!

Navy makes a tackle, but it looks like they pulled a little more than the flag.

The Navy always filled the stands with several energetic fans ready to cheer on their team.



WET & WILD

Dragon Boat Race day. The Navy's first race is against the Army, Air Force, and Marines. Crews board their boats and get into position to start the race. The signal is given. All crew members begin to move as one, digging their paddles into the East China Sea and the Navy's Dragon Boat lurches forward unbalancing the drummer.

The race is on! At first the boats are neck and neck but within the first 200 yards the Navy team starts to pull ahead. "STROKE!" "STROKE!" is being yelled by every crew member and the boat springs forward with every stroke, creating more and more distance between them and the competitors.

Now comes the most crucial part of the race — the turn. The lumbering Navy boat starts its turn executing it with precision and without missing a stroke. The Navy has to take advantage of their lead. With hearts pounding, arms that feel like lead weights, and strength waning, now is the time to prove their mettle.

Quick glances aft show that the Navy boat still has a good lead. With only 300 yards to go every crew member gives it everything they have, but will it be enough? As the Navy's boat crosses the finish line, the crew breaks out in a roar of cheers. Although exhausted, the moment rules. The Navy team has beaten all services.

The Dragon Boat races are a part of Okinawa culture, in which they pay homage to all their ancestors and relatives that lost their life at sea, and to chase away evil spirits to ensure a good fish harvest. These Dragon Boats weigh approximately 1800 pounds, are 40 feet long, and have a crew of 30 paddlers, one coxswain, and a pace drummer.





(top left) The victors of the 1994 race proudly display their trophy. Over the years the Navy Dragon Boat teams, both male and female, won many trophies and Hanza has been pleased to be a part of every winning Navy team.

(above left) The Navy's female Dragon Boat race team paddles into starting position.

(top right) The Pacer keeps the team in step.

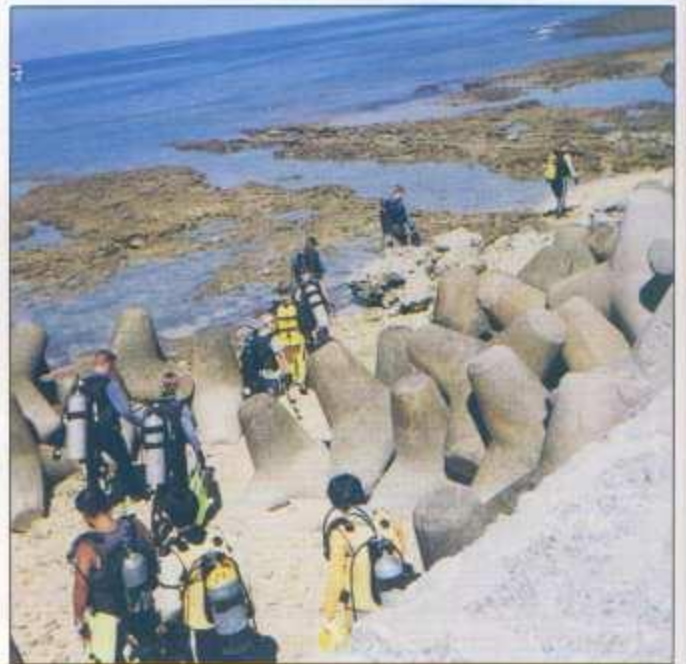
(above right) CTR2 Julie Ingram digs in, giving it all she has in the 1996 race.

Okinawan Life

1967-1969

After returning from Vietnam the second time, a friend who was getting out gave me his car. It was an old Toyopet that was a retired taxi, so you can imagine the shape it was in. I put a lot of miles on that car and saw a lot of Okinawa. I enjoyed the Cherry Blossom festival at Nago, visited the Suicide Cliffs at the southern end of the island, took diving lessons and made a few dives.

John G. Lippke



1967-1969

The road around the island near Hedo Misaki was still under construction. The beaches were nearly unoccupied, and uncluttered by resorts.

Jim Jones



1962-1964

Okinawa was the best tour of my career, bar none. The morale was the highest I ever witnessed, and the entire crew became like family.

*Paul A. (Pappy)
Poole
CTRCM (Ret)*

(top)

Shuri castle was completely destroyed during World War II, but was later rebuilt in its original form.

(above)

The Peace Memorial Park in Naha has an area reminiscent of the Vietnam memorial in the states. Etched into an endless parade of walls are the names of all the Okinawans and Americans who lost their lives during the war.

(left)

At almost every home or business on the island are Shishi dogs (sometimes called Shishi lions) to protect from evil spirits. Often, the home is protected by two, but sometimes there is only one. It's said that if there is only one, it must be exceptionally ugly (or fierce) because it has to do all the work.

1967-1969

The road around the island near Hedo Misaki was still under construction. The beaches were nearly unoccupied, and uncluttered by resorts.

Jim Jones



1962-1964

Okinawa was the best tour of my career, bar none. The morale was the highest I ever witnessed, and the entire crew became like family.

*Paul A. (Pappy)
Poole
CTRCM (Ret)*

(top)

Shuri castle was completely destroyed during World War II, but was later rebuilt in its original form.

(above)

The Peace Memorial Park in Naha has an area reminiscent of the Vietnam memorial in the states. Etched into an endless parade of walls are the names of all the Okinawans and Americans who lost their lives during the war.

(left)

At almost every home or business on the island are Shishi dogs (sometimes called Shishi lions) to protect from evil spirits. Often, the home is protected by two, but sometimes there is only one. It's said that if there is only one, it must be exceptionally ugly (or fierce) because it has to do all the work.



(top) The Taiko drummers often entertained at events.
(above) The strawberry hat is the most distinctive attire of the traditional Okinawan dancers.

(top) Cape Hedo is a popular spot for divers and sightseers alike.
(above) Higi Falls (by Okuma resort) provides spectacular views for those willing to take the 45 minute hike.

Picnics



(bottom right) Ian Hamilton hops along with his partner ahead of CTAC Bovill and his son.
(bottom left) LT Reed and MA2 Hanson talk to the children at the ballfield playground by the site.
(left) CWO2 Crane and LTJg Bentley cheerfully give someone a push at an Oktoberfest celebration.
(top) CTAC Bocachica psyched herself for the sumo match at one of the spring flings at Torii Beach.





(top left) CTM3 Sherfield is a two-fisted eater at one of Hanza's many spring flings held at Torii Beach.

(top right) CTA2 Ron Belviy was one of many cooks over the years that made use of the huge barbecue at the ball field.

(above) The Acey Deucey association hosted many parties at the Torii pool.

THE HOLIDAYS AT HANZA

The holidays at Hanza have always been a special time. Although everyone is far from family members back in the states, the Hanza family still took care of their own. In 1985, the Hanza's Ladies Group formalized the Hanza tradition of providing for Sailors and their family members at special events during holidays throughout the year. Over the years, this tradition has been carried on by the Chief Petty Officer's Association, the Ward Room, the First Class Petty Officer's Association and the Acey Deucey Association.

1962

I made friends there that I still have today. Okinawa was the highlight of my career and for most of the people stationed there. We had more fun than a man's got a right to have.

*Jack D. McCutchoen
CTTCS USN(Ret)*

Valentine's Day



A few of The Hanza Ladies Group gather to work on floral decorations for the Red Feather Campaign. Left to right: Joan Lundborg, Becky Caudle, Jerre Stephens and an unnamed friend of The Group.



Peggy Moore, Linda Jack, Mitsuko Thompson, and Nobuko Steele work together to tackle the job of frosting over 50 dozen cookies to give out at Valentine's Day. They delivered them to personnel at the site and the BEQ.

Easter Frolics



Warm spring breezes, and a bright sunny day lets you know Easter is not far away. Brightly colored eggs, and the Easter Bunny with chocolate galore is the reason you can hear the children roar. Every year the Petty Officers Association conducted fund raisers, and planned the children's Easter party. And what a party it was - food, Easter eggs, and games with prizes for all.



Clockwise from top: LCDR Haller is hugged by the Easter Bunny (Barb Barrows), a little one aims his bean bag through the hole, a lucky girl finds an Easter egg during the popular Easter egg hunt and a group of children decorate their own cupcakes.



HALLOWEEN TREATS

Ghosts and goblins everywhere, and no place to hide. But who would want to? Most of these Ghouls are cute enough to hug and squeeze.

Hanza's Sea Bees took great pride in building the Haunted House each year at the support compound. With sweat on their brow and joy in their heart, they made many rooms foreboding and full of "Doom."

Of course, not all of Hanza's Halloween parties were scary. Some were just good old-fashioned fun for the kiddies.



Thanksgiving always conjures up memories of turkey and pumpkin pies and one tradition that has continued on has been to ensure everyone has some of these favorites, no matter where they are. The Hanza's Ladies Group and later the Chief Petty Officer's Association annually prepared Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the Sailors in the barracks and those standing watch in the operations building.



Thanksgiving

Christmas Party At Hanza "The Best on the Island"

Christmas at Hanza includes palm trees swaying, warm gentle breezes, and temperatures in the 80's. Not quite the traditional white Christmas, but that's never stopped us from having a grand celebration. How much more can you ask for during the Christmas holidays? Hanza had a reputation for having the best Christmas party on the island. An invitation was coveted.

A Hanza Christmas traditionally brought Santa and his elves, parties, kinship, and a time of good cheer.



(above) Hanza personnel donated gifts which were given out by Santa during the children's party.

(top right) While we had no snow, we still had snowmen — at least in the cakes.

(right) Two children decorate crafts during a Christmas party.

(bottom right) No sleigh handy on Okinawa, so Santa rode in the fire truck to many of his appearances.





(clockwise from top left) A 1963 photo shows two couples enjoying conversation after the Christmas dinner. CTR2 Julie Ingram enjoys some dancing with her fiancé. A later year, Santa (CTR1 James Darrow) made CTM2 Joyette Weber very happy with a prize of a VCR and tapes. The Kubasaki High School choir often entertained at Hanza parties and were especially known for their audience participation rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The reading of the Christmas Poem became a treasured event at Hanza's Christmas parties over the years with many names and events changed annually. Here's the version read at Hanza's last Christmas party in '97 (with apologies to C. Clement Moore) with some pictures of Christmas past.

"Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the site,
All the daystaff were gone, what a midwatch delight.
The antennas were checked by the Seabees with care,
To ensure ole' Saint Nick wasn't strung up, up there.

All the off duty Sailors lay snug in their beds,
while visions of Christmas leave danced in their heads.
And the XO with his clubs, the Captain with his too,
Had just settled down, to hit a golf ball or two.



When out at the site there arose such a clatter,
The watch sup's woke up, screaming, "Hey, what's the matter?!"
"CDO get out here," the cellular did blare,
The OOD claims Santa Claus is there.

Away to the front gate they flew in a flash,
Hoping Santa brought them some cash.
Then what to their watering eyes did appear,
But a broken down sleigh and eight furless reindeer.

They all looked in awe, as the sleigh circled quick,
And they saw a fat man, who just must be St. Nick.
This sight must be shared with command one and all,
So they called up the CO, and requested a recall.

Herman Adams was the first to appear,
All armed to the teeth, wearing Santa search gear.
Belviy came next with request chits in hand,
Pleading, "Santa needs a clearance before he can land!"

But the Skipper and XO, both mission bound,
Said, "Hey jolly guy, land right here on our ground."
As they drew back their heads, and were turning around,
Down by the geedunk, St. Nick came with a bound.

He was dressed all in wool, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all covered in salt and jet soot.
"I have a big problem", the jolly elf did say,
"The reindeer are shot and Rudolph is gay!"

(left) Santa (CTR1 Murry) gives CDR Williams a big kiss after holding the much ballyhooed "Santa's Mast" (below). The CO was found guilty of being "very naughty" and received a plaque with a piece of coal.
(below right) CE2 Dennis Oaks enjoyed his role as both Elf Master At Arms and general elf dancer.



My elves were all lost in a nasty dog fight,
As we tried to fly over Kadena tonight!"
The Captain looked around at his staff and his crew and
decided right then, he knew what to do.

"60, provide us with Seabee know how,
Build a new sleigh from the stern to the bow!"
"Make it roomy and plush, a pleasing new ride, With a bright
Hanza logo adorning the side!"

"Now admin get busy, your tricks I must foster, from you all I
need, the world alpha roster!"
"And cut me some orders, per diem to boot, cause travelin's no
fun without lots of spare loot!"

"Now 40, install a computer or two, with a modem, a fax, and
CD-ROM too!"
"And while you're there with tool pouches out, check out the
wiring in Rudolph's red snout!"

"Supply, with your money and purchasing might, requisition
new toys for the rest of the flight."
"Techers, check circuits from ground to the air, and ensure St.
Nick's traffic gets there!"

"Contractors, with half the staff that you've got, can you loan
Santa an extra coffee pot?"
The Captain had finished and said "I'm through."
XO snapped a salute and said "I'm through too."

But Chief Snell had ole' Santa pinned at the gate, while
dogged the old guy "bout his beard and his weight."
Saying "Shave off that fur that you've got on your chin, just
what kind of a Navy do you think you're in?!"

And just when St. Nick thought he'd get away, he said far too
loud, "I've no reindeer for my sleigh!"
Well, the Captain just grinned like a Cheshire cat, saying,
"Jolly fat guy I just knew you'd say that."

"The loss of reindeer is no reason for doom, these guys lead my
Sailors by night and by day, I'm sure they won't mind pulling
your sleigh."

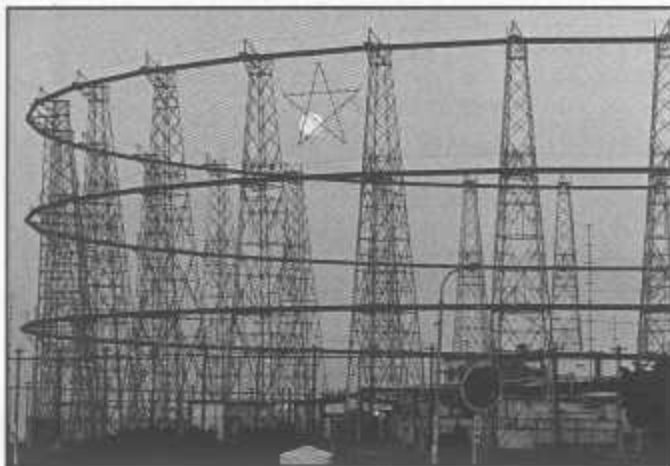
The Captain sprang to the sleigh, gave the wardroom an order,
and they flew like Iraqis, reiteration 'cross the border.

"Now on Mark, on Rick, on Morgan and Jay, wait, these measly
four can't pull that big sleigh."

Then Keith with his star said "I know what to do, the Chiefs will
pitch in and pull that sleigh too."

"On Darril, on Dave, on Kurt, and Dee,
On Charles, on TJ, and you too Tony."

Santa hopped in the sleigh and flew out of sight, yelling "Merry
Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



(above) For many years, the Hanza star was lit on the array
and could be seen for miles around the island.

(below) In 1995, Hanza's "rat pack" made their debut and are
seen here singing Macho Man. Later, ENS Bocachica joined
the group singing "Heard it through the Grapevine."



The Beginning of The Grand Finale

Our actual decommissioning doesn't occur until June 1998, but by then, only a handful of Sailors will be here, so celebrations began early to allow more to participate. How did we celebrate our history?

We started off with a command family day in the spring with a picnic and allowing family members to visit the work spaces. In June, we held a formal, all hands mess night/dining in - as far as we know a first for Hanza and after some initial trepidation everyone got into the act and it was an unqualified success. In September, we celebrated the closure week with a 7.5K fun run/race around the Yomitan Aux Airfield with breakfast for about 70 runners and volunteers. Next we had a golf tournament with about 27 foursomes, and the week culminated in a sunset ceremony presided over by RADM Stevens.



Dining In



On the 20th of June, 1997, NSG/A Hanza personnel gathered together for an evening of good cheer and to honor the feats of all of Hanza personnel, both past and present.

(above) In honor of all Sailors who are missing in action or have lost their lives in service to their country, a table is set with a lone place setting. Even in celebration, we recognize that our freedoms are achieved through the selfless dedication of those who have gone before us.

(left) The Honor Guard ceremoniously presented the colors with precision and perfection.



The formal military dinner ceremony known as "Dining-In" is a tradition that has been observed by military services in the United States and Europe for hundreds of years. Its origin dates back to the early 18th Century in Europe, where the officers of various regiments of the established monarchies would gather together for the sole purpose of an evening of good food, fun, fellowship and the honoring of feats of individuals and organizations. Down through the years, as governments and military organizations became more sophisticated, the mess night became a definite part of the social program. In this country, only slightly more than 30 years ago, Dining-In was a regular military social affair.

"Traditions end, and just like Hanza, the traditions that live on the longest are based on a solid reputation of professionalism. Throughout the 26 years that I have been professionally visiting and living on Okinawa, NSGA Hanza has always been referred to as a group of high class Sailors known for how well you do it, because no one has ever really known what you do!"

— LtCol Chandler
in his speech



(above left)
The guest speaker, fire-breathing Marine LtCol John Chandler, gave an uplifting and motivating speech about humble leadership principles and traits adding "the ones I carry in my kit bag right at the top are Dignity, Discipline, and Humility."

(left)
left to right: CTOCS Keith Connor, CTMC Dave Larsen and CTRCM "Pic" Pichelmayer listened intently during LtCol Chandler's speech.



(above right) The chef paraded the beef for the President's approval but CTM1 Barbara Felch (above left) apparently wasn't pleased with the food, so she had a sandwich delivered to her seat. Or was that her Marine Corps friend that set her up? At any rate, Mr. Vice (CTO2 Clarence Murray, below) and the President weren't pleased.



Dining-In ceremonies are governed by specific guidelines. When violations are discovered by the President, the result is usually a trip to the grog bowl (or the non-grog, grog bowl depending on the wishes of the violator) or possibly being directed to entertain the Mess.

Violations of the Mess

1. Untimely arrival at proceedings.
2. Smoking at table prior to the lighting of the smoking lamp.
3. Haggling over date of rank.
4. Inverted cummerbund.
5. Loud and unobtrusive remarks in a foreign language or in English.
6. Improper toasting procedure.
7. Leaving the dining area without permission from the President.
8. Carrying cocktails into the dining room.
9. Foul language.
10. Wearing clip-on bow tie at an obvious list.
11. Being caught with an uncharged glass.
12. Rising to applaud particularly witty, succinct, sarcastic or relevant toasts, unless following the example of the President.



Some of Hanza's personnel posed for pictures before the dinner was served.

(left) CTA1 Deborah Thomas and CTA2 Deborah Belviy.

(middle) Mr. Herman Adams, Mr. Mike Goldberg, and Mr. Marv Marker.

(below left to right) CTO1 Kurt Brindley, CTA3 Jeffrey Robison, CTO1 Ricky Saunders, CTASN Grant Walker, CTR3 Dana Davis, and CTO3 Jason McHenry.



(right)
 Front: CTO3 Timothy
 Jester and CTA2 A.
 Liddel tip their glasses
 to a toast. Captain
 Bray (rear), Chief of
 Staff
 COMPHIBGRUONE,
 lost his seat at the
 head table after
 arriving unfashionably
 late.



(below)
 Left to right:
 CTA3 Jeffrey
 Robison, CTO1
 Kurt Brindley,
 CTASN Grant
 Walker, and
 CTR3 Dana
 Davis raise their
 glasses in a
 toast.



Toasting Hanza's Legacy



Hear! Hear! Toasts were drunk to the Commander-In-Chief, the United States Marine Corps, missing comrades, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Sailors of NSGA Hanza past and present, and more.

The final toast of the evening was to The United States Navy.



(top left) CTMC(SW) Charles Bering reenacts CWO3 Crane's successful run-in with a shark, and later showed how a darling starfish laid him up for over three weeks.

(top right) CTR3 Brockway entertains the mess with his rendition of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" after violating mess rule number 9 (but don't tell his mother).

(above) Part of the maintenance crew give their rendition of "Ain't it great to be crazy!" Left to right: CW03 Richard Crane, CTMCS Darril Gibson, CTMC(SW) Charles Bering, and CTMC Dave Larsen.



(top left) CTMC Nancy Hamilton taught LTJg Lutz and LT Tulang how to drink the grog, and by the way LT Lutz, the proper way is not by pinching your nose.

(top right) CTOC(SW) Mark Cumber is seen here enjoying one of the night's events.

(above left) 20 Department cheerfully entertained the mess with song also. Left to right: LTJg Ferdinand Bocachica, CTO1 Kurt Brindley, CTO1 Kathy Quay, CTR1 Patricia Seay, CTO2 Kimberly Tassoni, CTO3 Tige Chambers, CTR2 Elizabeth Ingram, CTO1 Ricky Saunders, CTO3 Michael Heissenbottle, CTO2 Charles Taylor.

(above right) CTR3 Christopher Morris gave 20 department a score of 15, but we're not really sure if this is on a scale of 1-100 or 1-10.



P

rior to the official closing ceremony, many other events were planned making this more of a celebration of the five decades of Hanza's history, rather than a mourning of her closure.

Celebrations included a golf tournament, an 8K fun run starting at the site, a family day inside the spaces, and a Dining In.



The Final Ceremony

As with all beginnings, there must be an ending. On September 10, 1997, NSGA Hanza performed the ceremonial closing commemorating "53 Years of Faithful Service". Ceremonies do not just happen, they have to be planned, practiced, and executed. Hanza personnel put a lot of effort into making the closure ceremony worthy of all who have served Hanza and her predecessors.

In a setting that complimented the closing ceremony, Hanza personnel took their places. An air of excitement and solemn remembrance filled the ceremonial scene. Speeches were given, praises uttered, and final words of wisdom were passed to all in attendance.

As we remember all Sailors past and present that served at NSGA Hanza, know that for 53 years they carried the torch of freedom. They are the best, serving the best, and can be extremely proud to say "I served at Hanza."

CDR Williams said his goal was "to have a ceremony of grace, dignity and celebration of more than 50 years of service. I wanted the Sailors to be proud of being part of a five decade history."



(top) RADM Stevens, Commander Naval Security Group, flew in from Washington D.C. to attend Hanza's closure ceremony.

(bottom) The Honor Guard looked sharp as always and did an excellent job during the ceremony.



(left) RADM Stevens talked not only about Hanza's past, but also about the Security Group's future.

(above) Chaplain Worman and RADM Stevens listened as CDR Williams talked about success and change quoting a Chinese proverb: "Change is a dragon; if you ignore it or try to control it, the dragon will eat you, but if you can ride the dragon, you will prosper."

Excerpts from Admiral Stevens (CNSG) Closure Ceremony Remarks

NSGA Hanza will now occupy an honored place in our Navy's history. Those of us in the Naval Security Group cannot help but feel saddened at the passing of this command. Those who have served here cannot help but pause as we see this name stricken from the active list. In fact, anyone who has ever seen this beautiful country, and experienced first-hand the warmth and friendship of the people of Okinawa will feel some loss as this superb command is decommissioned.

But there is good reason for this decommissioning, a reason for all of us to celebrate, give thanks, and look to the future with pride, optimism, and anticipation. The cold war and the Soviet Union are no more. We have put behind us a time of never-ending tension, teetering on the edge of global war for most of our lives. NSGA Hanza has played a major role in this accomplishment...

This decommissioning should be viewed with honor; for NSGA Hanza has helped preserve many years of peace by providing timely support to fleet and national consumers. I am extremely thankful and proud of the Sailors who were stationed here and their families for the effort and support provided over the years. As long as the U.S. Navy puts to sea, NSGA Hanza and the Sailors who served here will be remembered. They will always recall NSGA Hanza with affection, nostalgia, and pride.

While I have never had the opportunity to be assigned to Hanza, I have visited numerous times. I am always touched by the warm friendship and hospitality exhibited by the people of Okinawa. Living among the people of Okinawa offers the opportunity to glimpse a culture that is walking in peace towards the future while holding on to the best of its past. We will miss the pageantry of the many festivals celebrated here. As you may well expect, we in the Navy will particularly miss the dragon boat races.

Being the decommissioning crew and Commanding Officer are probably the hardest and most thankless jobs we can assign an individual. As C.O., Commander Williams accepted the assignment with the outstanding enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication that he has demonstrated throughout his Naval career. He has accomplished his mission superbly while ensuring the morale and care of his shipmates remain the foremost concern. Chuck, thank you for the hard work, the leadership, the caring. You've done a superb job in the face of unprecedented challenges. To all hands, past and present, who have served at NSGA Hanza, I express the appreciation and respect of the entire Naval Security Group Community. The exceptional level of performance that was the trademark of NSGA Hanza will always live on in those who have served here and moved on to new and demanding challenges.

(right)
Hanza's entire crew turned out for
the closure ceremony.

(below left)
CTA3 Woloszczak listens to the
CO's speech next to CTOCS Connor
and MSI Barcelon.

(below right)
LT Tulang stands at parade rest.

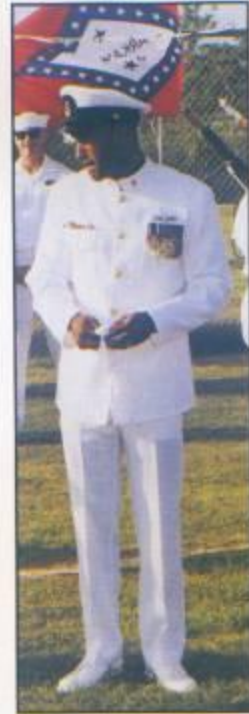




Apparent to most past members of Hanza is the change in size of different departments. Even in September, it's obvious the departments have already significantly reduced in size.
 (top left) 30 department.
 (top right) 20 department.
 (above) 40 department.
 (left) Civilians and dignitaries.

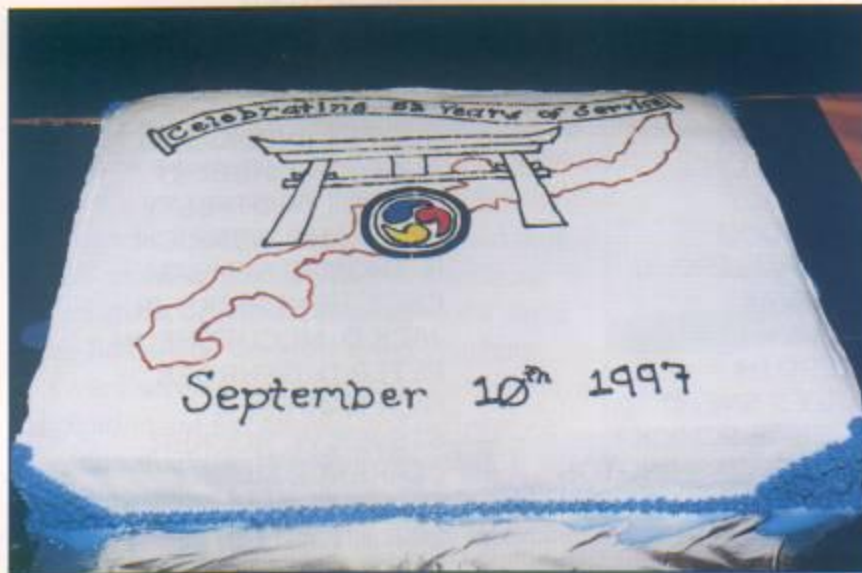


The ceremony wasn't all pomp and circumstance. There was time for mingling with a festive spread of food to top off the event.





(above) The XO looks on as CTRCM Pichelmayer returns the Commander's Cup trophy to CAPT Weyrick. The CO joked with CAPT Weyrick that convincing the CNO to close Hanza was a rather drastic way of getting the trophy back.



(left) MS3 Campbell outdid herself in baking and decorating the cake for the closure ceremony.

(below) In one of the Navy's fine traditions, both the oldest and youngest Sailors cut the cake. From left to right: CTMCS Pliska (Ret), CTICS Hughes (Ret) and CTRCM Pichelmayer all competed for the oldest with CTO3 Mahoney fulfilling the role as the youngest.



Our Alumni

As we put together this commemorative issue of the Keystone Log, we had the opportunity to read some wonderful letters from Hanza's alumni - people who have served at NSGA Hanza, NSGA Futenma, NAVCOMMUNIT 37 Futenma, NAVCOMMUNIT 37 Tegan, NAVCOMSUPACT, and NAVSUPPRADSTA. We received letters from people who came ashore by boat to help set up the first radio station and letters from Sailors who only recently left us.

All together, we received several dozen letters from our alumni. We strongly believe that this issue is much richer thanks to them taking the time to write and each will receive a copy of this commemorative issue. We're also very grateful to the NCVA for helping us get the word out, which encouraged all these past Sailors to "muster in."



THOMAS LEWIS
CWO3 VAUGHN VANCE
JASON LUSK
JIM LOGAN
WILLIAM LEVERENCE
BRIAN LINVILLE
MARK CLARK
RICHARD S. KATZENBERGER
MICHAEL CANAVAN
PATRICK DUFF
JAMES DALY
JOHN FLOOD
JOHN ARMSTRONG
JOE NOVAK
HARRY KYSER
JOHN ROTH
CHARLES SNEED
CLARENCE SCHICK
GARLAND WASHINGTON
DAVE MCCORMACK
MICHAEL HUGHES
CHARLES JONES
JOHN COOKJIM JONES
RONALD MAURER
ROBERT GRANT
DOW BERGGREN
JOE ALEXANDER
ROBERT NELSON
EUGENE GILBERT
DANIEL CURRIE
BERNARD HALLER
JOHN LIPPKE
PAUL CHRISTENSEN
JAMES LOTSPEICH
WILLIAM HORTON
JAMES BELLANT

EDWIN MARCINIAK
PAUL POOLE
ROBERT SOMMER
WENDELL SWITZER
JOHN BUTLER
TOM DONOHUE
TURNER P. WALLACE
JOHN MOORE
SCOTT DAVID KILHN
AUGUST SCHUBERT
ROBERT GLOTFELTY
LEIGH ANN WENRICH
R. THOMAS SCHRAM
CECIL HENDRICKS JR
JACK D. MCCUTCHEON
PETER D. GEHRDES
NICK HARRIS
STEVEN W. RUCKER
CLARENCE MURRY
TED RABOURN
DON KNOWLES
DAVID M. DANN
LCDR CHARLES KASINGER
JOHN COWPERTHWAITTE
RICHARD CARLSON
RICHARD J. WILSON
HAROLD ANGELL
ALFRED SUTLICK
MELVIN MORENZ
GEORGE MCGINNIS
JERE ALLEN HARMS
THOMAS PERRY
LT JAMES HAGY
KEITH ADKISSON
THEODORE J. PHILIPPI JR.

Some Final Thoughts from the XO

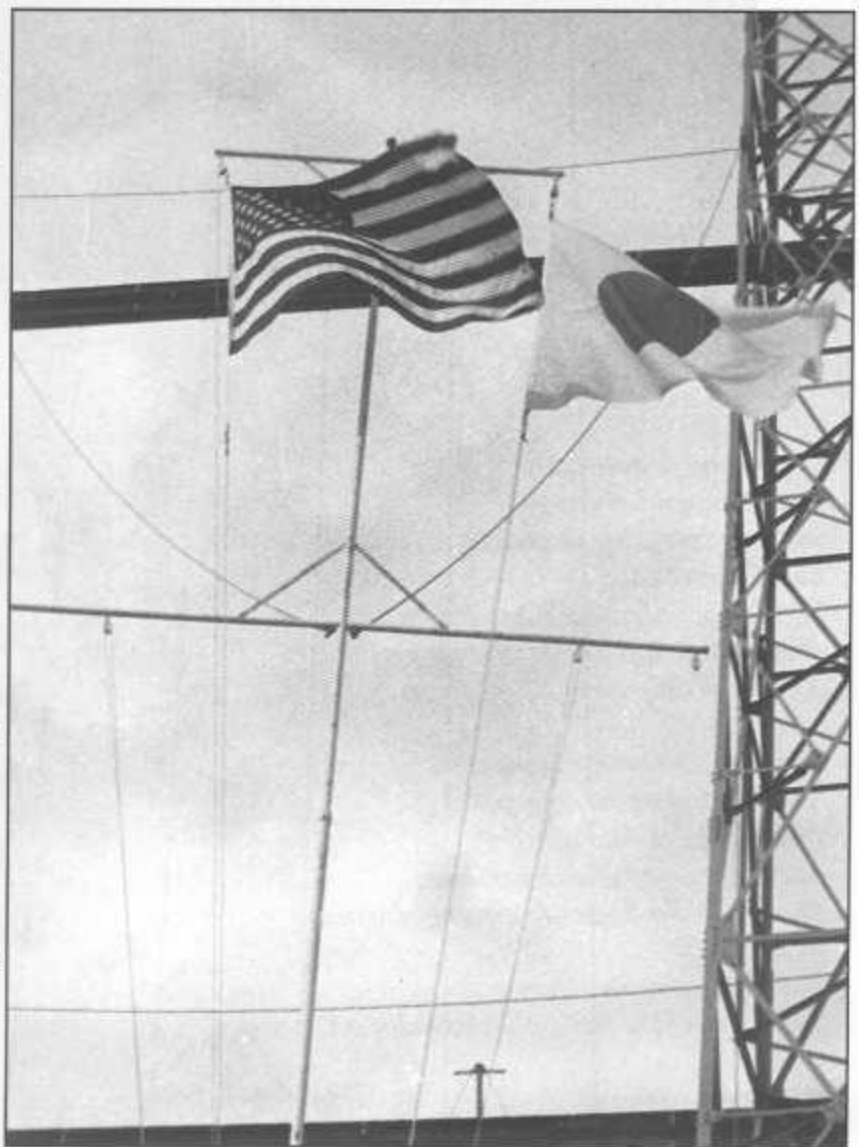
As I walk through the barren halls of Hanza these days, my mind drifts back to my arrival, four short years ago. I remember vividly the hustle and bustle of the 24-hour operations, the sea stories told by my Chiefs of times past when they arrived as Seaman, and again as First Classes, and again as Senior Chiefs. I now understand the appeal this station had on Sailors. The mission was all encompassing — Collection, HFDF, Special Signals, DIRSUP. The morale was high, the activities and culture rewarding and memorable. Many said it was the best kept secret in the claimancy — I believe they were right.



As I walk outside and look up at my old office windows, the view comes rushing back. What a view of the East China Sea to be had by a lucky CO and XO — a daily catharsis to counter the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. And as I turn and look at this grand maiden of 53 years, with her green apron of grass sprawling to the sugar cane fields, and her steel towers pushing skyward serving as a landmark for visitors, a navigation aid for seamen and definitely a question mark for the inquiring mind, I cannot help but feel a sense of great pride in the service she provided but also a vast sadness in knowing that we shall never pass this way again.

On 1 June 1998, the remaining Sailors will form up for a final ceremony. We will honor all of you that served over the half century and the guidance, leadership, friendship and expertise that has been freely given over the years. The flag will be raised and lowered over Hanza for the last time, and on that day we will make the final log entry, "Hanza, you stand relieved." To all of you that served at Hanza, Fair Winds and Following Seas.

*CDR Mark F. Landers
Executive Officer
NSGA Hanza*





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Security Group Activity, Hanza
Unit 35167
APO AP 96376-5167

Official Business