

# CAPT. N.L. Ruppert, Executive Officer

"We were not a team back in January and February. We were engineers and pilots - Kilo Company and Deck Division - "airdales" and "trees" - a lot of spirit, but not a team. I had the privilege and pleasure over the next two months of watching a team grow. We spent a lot of time together at Camel Crossroads in the Indian Ocean, more than any amphibious unit has ever spent in similar surroundings. It was a difficult time for all of us, but what we had when we left was the finest team of professionals I've ever had the pleasure of serving with - a Navy/Marine Corps team that is second to none. Be proud of yourself and your team - you made it happen."

