

## Commander Vollmer Assumes Duties As Executive Officer

Commander Cecil R. Vollmer assumed the duties as Bennington's Executive Officer on Jan. 19, 1968, relieving Captain Joseph E. Fenwick. Commander Vollmer was Bennington's Operations Officer before becoming the ship's Executive Officer.

Joining the U. S. Navy on March 3, 1947, Commander Vollmer participated in the Berlin Airlift during his first tour of duty. After instruction duty in Corpus Christi, Tex., and duty with VP-26 in Brunswick, Me., he became assistant C. I. C. Officer aboard the USS Saratoga (CVA-60).

From the Saratoga, Commander Vollmer attended the University of Mississippi and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He then graduated from the Command and Staff course at the Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

Subsequently, Commander Vollmer served as operations and maintenance officer of VS-31, Quonset Point, R. I. Then came a tour as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of VS-22, Quonset Point. While under his command, VS-22 was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award and the Atlantic Fleet "E".

After a tour as Commanding Officer of VS-30, Key West, Fla., Commander Vollmer graduated from the National War College, Washington D. C. and was also awarded a Master of Science degree in International Affairs from George Washington University. He then reported aboard Bennington as Operations Officer.

Commander Vollmer resides in San Pedro, Calif., with his wife, the former Maltese Baker of Pensacola, Fla., and their three children Cynthia, Mark and David.



**BENN CELEBRATES 105,000th LANDING**--Cableman, Airman Charles A. Tingle of Lexington, Ky., and Captain Daniel J. Murphy share the timelight in the cake-cutting held in honor of the 105,000th aircraft to land on Bennington's flight deck. Tingle of the V-2 Division was standing watch on the arresting gear when the landing was made on Feb. 2.



Signalmen on VARGO (AE-301) put their heads together and came up with this colorful banner. The ship proudly displays it during each underway replenishment. The signalmen created the multi-colored banner approximately eight months ago. Benn men got their first look at the banner during Operation Bead Stringer on January 10.

## Benn's Dignitaries

From admirals to lieutenants of several U. S. allies spent an eventful week aboard Big Benn from Feb. 18 until they were flown off on Feb. 23.

The exchange service revealed to our allies some of the capabilities of the largest and most versatile navy in the world. They toured the ship, saw how the crew lived, and then compared them to their own equipment and accommodations.

General Quarters, taking on ammunition while underway, air defense procedures, air operations and general shipboard living during their one-week cruise were a few of the events the dignitaries were able to observe or participate in. Topping off the week, the dignitaries were flown off the ship to the mainland as Bennington stayed at sea for another two days finishing her scheduled operations.