

comaswgru 3 guides benn thru pre-westpac exercises



of leaders and followers

By Chaplain G. S. Macho

Anti-Submarine Warfare Group Three, aboard Bennington since June 16, is now guiding Benn and her complementary forces through their pre-deployment training exercise period.

According to Captain Floyd H. Brown, Flag Operations Officer, Benn, her air group, and the ships of Destroyer Squadron 29, are all being drilled in hunter-killer anti-submarine warfare, and other exercises to sharpen the group's submarine control capability.

Captain Brown also noted that ASW Group Three is responsible for maintaining the ASW readiness posture of all units in the group by conducting individual and coordinated exercises to cope with the submarine threat.

The units which come the control of Rear Admlal Norman C. Gillette, COMASWGROUP THREE, are: ASW staff; Bennington; CSGO-59, including squadrons VS-33, VS-38, HS-6, and Det. 20 of VAW-111; and COMUSRON 29, which includes the destroyers Albert David, Ramsey, O'Brien, Cunningham, Eversoll, and the Benner.

DUTY IN SPAIN

Rear Admlal Norman C. Gillette, Jr., Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Group Three, came to Bennington and ASW Group Three from Spain where he had spent two and a half years as Chief, Joint U.S. Military Group.

Previous to duty in Spain, and shortly after he was promoted to Rear Admlal in 1964, RAdm. Gillette served as Commander Fleet Air Wings, Atlantic Fleet.

He had extensive experience in the development of suitable anti-submarine warfare aircraft, equipment and tactics while having served with Anti-Submarine Development Squadron One at Key West, Fla., after World War II. Once he had departed the squadron, he was subsequently checked out in over a dozen different aircraft types, ranging from B-29, to carrier-based planes, to helos and lighter-than-air craft. In addition to flight duty, RAdm. Gillette has served as the Executive Officer of the USS Randolph (then CVA-15), as the Commanding

You are either a leader or a follower--life seems to be like that. No matter where you go, there are leaders pulling one way and followers pulling the other. The leader must do his duty. He must get the job done. So much depends on that; the welfare of the nation, the success of other operations, and the leader's own promotion. It is not surprising that he may sometimes drive or pull his followers rather than lead them, because all his objectives are good, important, legitimate.

But then the followers pull the other way. Their welfare, their independence, their big objective--myself!--is more important to them. They'll do what they must, but it turns out that for every step forward they take two steps backward toward their own legitimate good. And so we have a stalemate with nobody happy.

What this situation really requires is a change of direction. If leadership turns toward the follower, sees the importance of the follower, appreciates the individuality of the follower, then it's bound to happen that the follower will see the importance of the mission, will appreciate the common welfare, will contribute according to his abilities with greater energy.

As life develops and situations change, a man's position changes. A leader in one situation will be a follower in another. Today's follower will be tomorrow's leader.

It is generally true that poor followers make poor leaders when they are promoted. The reason is usually the same. A man who fails to focus upon the common good of the group will fail to work well for the group, either as its leader or as one of the rank and file.

We should ask God to give us all a sense of cooperation. To help us realize we can't exist alone. Leaders need men and men need leaders. That the welfare of the individual is intimately tied to the welfare of the whole group and that the whole group depends upon the well-being of the individual.