

spec/serv on its feet again

Special Services aboard Bennington dwindled during the last cruise and in the first months of the recently completed yard period, but now it is receiving a face lifting. Under the direction of the ship's Senior Chaplain, Commander James C. Rittenhouse, Special Services will once again be a mainstay in the morale of the crew.

Chaplain Rittenhouse was assigned the job of renovating Special Services by the Executive Officer, Commander William J. Callaghan, Jr. Since being assigned the job, Chaplain Rittenhouse has obtained a Special Services vehicle, helped build up the ship's closed circuit radio/television station, has seen that the administration of Special Services follows the outline provided for CVS's and has put the Welfare/Recreation on its feet.

The biggest entanglement Chaplain Rittenhouse found himself after accepting the task was in establishing the administration of Special Services. A job that was the sole task of one officer has now been broken into collateral duties for three officers. The AIMO Officer, CDR Kenneth S. Bjork, has been appointed as the Special Services Officer. The Officer in Charge of the Welfare/Recreation Fund is LTJG James D. Moran, who is also the OP Division Officer. The ship's closed circuit radio/television station, once the major duty of the Special Services Officer, has been assumed by the Public Affairs Officer, LTJG Thomas R. Skinner.

With summer around the corner, division parties are being requested left and right. The 'bow' in obtaining a party chit is confusing at the present time with the administration of Special Services being changed. The Administrative Office now has the party chits. Chaplain Rittenhouse is still acting as the Special Services Officer and signs the chit following the division officer. The chit is then routed through the Executive Officer and the Captain. After the Captain approves the party chit, it then goes to LTJG Moran, who writes a check for the party and forwards it to the division requesting the party.

Due to the time lapse involved in obtaining the signatures needed for a party to be approved, it is highly advisable to route the chit at least two weeks prior to

the planned party.

Most Bennington sailors have noticed the new ship's vehicle with Special Services painted on the side, but not many realize the use of the panel truck. Here are some of the ways Benmen can utilize the vehicle:

- *Scheduled trips into liberty areas, as designated by the Special Services Officer, to deliver and pick up ship's company personnel.

- *Transport personnel to and from the local bus, rail and air terminals.

- *Transport visitors from the base gate to the ship, as requested.

- *Any other legitimate request from ship's personnel. These requests can be made in person or by telephone to the OOD.

Since the Special Services vehicle is insured by the Navy, there is one regulation that must be adhered to: The man driving has to have a Navy driver's license. A pool of drivers is now being established to fulfill this need.

Another section of Special Services is athletic gear. Fishing rods and reels, softball equipment, boxing gloves, etc., are available to the ship's company. The men in charge of checking out this gear work in the library. So if you want to toss a football around or wet a line just drop by the library and the men there will check the gear out to you.

When the administrative part of Special Services has been re-established and handed to Commander Bjork, the Plan of the Day and announcements on KBEN will be used to inform the crew of the change.

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retention, cont'd

with rules--any society--individuals will always be asked to do things they dislike.

In conclusion, the presence of non-career personnel in the military is not a detriment, but a democratic force rooted in the citizen-soldier concept. The enormous turnover it creates is inefficient and expensive, but it results in mature citizens and broadens the experience of professional military leaders. In the final analysis, whether a man elects to remain in the military is less important than whether he is a better man for his experience. If he is, the country benefits regardless of his decision, and that is the important thing.