



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The duties and responsibilities of our medical team varied considerably during our deployment. Everywhere we put into port and almost daily at sea they were confronted with some new situation which put their knowledge and skill to the test. Each of the eighteen MEDCAP trips into five separate South Vietnamese provinces entailed a party composed of the Doctor, or Chief, plus their assistant and five or six of the crew. Never knowing what they would find, they hit the beach "ready for anything" and always armed to the fullest. In all they treated over 1350 non-INGHAM military and civilian personnel on board and ashore throughout the deployment as well as the usual round the laboratory work, broken fingers, stitches and the handing out of pills. Three shipboard operations and eight MEDICAL EVACUATIONS (MEDEVAC) were accomplished during seven months.

Dr. Shideler has been a real friend to all INGHAM personnel with an ear always open for suggestions. The "Doc" oversaw the nightly bull sessions in sickbay. Although they never served to straighten out the war, they were a good place to blow off steam and discuss the events of the day. You could always expect a lively night of liberty ashore with this group anytime you might be brave enough.



LCDR B. L. Shideler, SN D. W. Schilling, HMC L. E. Thornton