

MUMBLES

MUMBLES ISN'T A REAL MILITARY JEEP (BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT), SHE IS A 1948 CJ2A. SHE WAS RESTORED TO REPRESENT OUR MAINTENANCE VEHICLE AT CAM RAHN BAY AND TO HONOR AND REMEMBER SOME OF THOSE THAT SERVED IN "THE FLEET'S FINEST".

FOR MOST OF US, VP-1 WAS ONE OF THE MOST DEFINING EXPERIENCES OF OUR LIVES. I THINK BACK TO A MISTY WINTER, LATE AFTERNOON SITTING IN MY STORE, THINKING ABOUT THE SHIPMATES AND SHARED ADVERSITY (BUT MOST OF ALL THE SHIPMATES), AS A WAVE OF NOSTALGIA SWEEPED OVER ME. THIS WAS AROUND THE TIME OUR FOUNDERS IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST WERE BEGINNING TO PUT TOGETHER VP-1 POPS

WHEN THE WORK BEGAN TO RESTORE MUMBLES, I HAD IN MIND THREE FOLKS ...WITH MEMORIES OF MANY MORE THAT SERVED IN VP-1 WITH GREAT PRIDE, AND MADE VERY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS...ALL THE GREAT HEAVIES, THEIR OUTLOOK AND LEADERSHIP (SOME NOT UNDERSTOOD AT THE MOMENT, BUT USUALLY REALIZED ON DOWN THE ROAD)....THE YOUNG TIGERS, FULL OF PISS AND VINEGAR, READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD BUT STILL GREEN AND UNSURE.....WHAT PRIDE WE TOOK WHEN YOU BECAME PPC'S AND GOOD OFFICERS, PAYING OUR GREAT COUNTRY AND NAVY BACK FOR IT'S INVESTMENT IN YOU....THE AGONY WE EXPERIENCED, BUT HID, WHEN YOU STUMBLED...MY PEERS...SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE...OUTSTANDING, AN OVER USED TERM BUT VERY MUCH FITTING FOR THIS VALUABLE GROUP....THE FINE AIRCREWS...I'LL ALWAYS HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART FOR THE FE'S...ALWAYS TRYING TO BETTER THEIR CRAFT...A YOUNG KID NAMED JIM McNINCH. WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN HE STEPPED UP AND BECAME A FINE PETTY OFFICER....BOBBY OLIVER WITH HIS GREEN BOOK....AND I COULD GO ON AND ON.

....BUT I SPENT A LIFE TIME ONE TURN AROUND PERIOD ON NIGHT CHECK....MANY TIMES WE WOULD BE AT THE BEER MACHINES ON THE GOLF COURSE AND WAVE AT DAY CHECK AS THEY WERE GOING TO WORK...AND WE WERE ON OUR FIRST BEER....AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT THERE WOULD USUALLY BE FOUR OF US.....US FOUR WOULD USUALLY BE READY (AND THE LAST) TO SECURE WHEN AN APU WOULD NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM ONE AIRCRAFT AND INSTALLED IN ANOTHER....THESE THREE HAD SWITCHING APU'S DOWN TO A FINE

ART.....NEVER GRUMBLE, JUST DO THE JOB, AND PROPERLY....WITH THEM IN MIND, MUMBLES CAME TO BE DONE,...AND FOR THEM A BIG HAND SALUTEJERRY ADAIR.....JACKIE BACHOFER,.... AND JACK FORTE.. YOU ARE GOOD PEOPLE.

(MASTER CHIEF MIKE TAYLOR, USN - RETIRED)

