

Nine Men Answer Emergency Blood Call

An emergency on April 28 at the naval station dispensary precipitated a need for a large supply of blood. Nine naval station people responded to a call for blood donations to save a dependent's life.

Those who contributed blood are: Sgt. John Berry, LCpl. William Harmer, LCpl. Brian McLean and LCpl. Dennis Woodard, Marine Barracks; LCDR Otis Rackley and DT3 J.D. Sidko, Dental Clinic; Mr. Rudolph Etheridge, ROICC; ADRAA Charles Driver, AFRTS; and AMS1 Frank Drapala, Operations Maintenance Department.

LCDR Ronald V. Pellegrini (MC) of the dispensary said, "In situations of this type the dispensary must have a ready source of supply of all types of blood. Anyone desiring to be placed on the emergency blood donors list is requested to contact the dispensary laboratory at extension 2112."

Money Orders Cheaper Now

The naval station's American Express Bank has lowered its fee for money order purchases. As of May 1, American Express Money Orders sold at all overseas military banking offices will cost 25 cents for any amount up to and including \$100.

Previously, money orders up to the \$100 level cost from 25 to 40 cents, depending on the amount. The 25-cent money order will be sold at about 170 military banking offices of the American Express International Banking Corporation in Europe and the Far East.

AFI Promotes 24 Men

In May Increment

Twenty-four Air Forces Iceland personnel were promoted in the May 1 increment, headquarters officials announced this week.

Promoted to E-5 were: Staff Ser-

Home In A Hurry Via C-47 & AFA!

From H-2 to Keflavik to the States all within eleven hours! That was the story of an Air Force sergeant and the combined Navy-Air Force effort to get him home in an emergency.

At 10 a.m., April 29, SSgt. Francis Lepuf received Red Cross notification that his wife was hospitalized and his presence was deemed



ON HIS WAY! -- SSgt. Francis Lepuf leaves the station C-47 and heads towards the aircraft that took him to the states. With Lepuf is ABH3 William Hayes, who gave SSgt. Lepuf his travel orders between planes. (Photo by PH2 Hugh L. McLaurin).

necessary by doctors. But Lepuf was at the remote radar station at H-2, and no flights were scheduled there for that day.

Through contact with Keflavik, however, arrangements were made for the station C-47 - then at H-3 - to pick up Lepuf and fly him to Keflavik. The pilot, Capt. Ralph W. Hart, commanding officer of the naval station, and copilot, Lt. Daniel Blycker, were notified of the emergency shortly after departing H-3 for Keflavik. They quickly

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changed course and picked up Lepuf at H-2.

According to LCDR. Elwin F. Large, the officer-in-charge of H-2, Lepuf had only twenty minutes to pack for his trip home. Another twenty minutes were spent on the steep road to the air strip. Then, the plane landed and Lepuf boarded for his trip to Keflavik.

Back at the naval station, both the Air Force and the Navy were working on Lepuf's case. AMN Stephen Bash prepared the paperwork authorizing payment of the re-enlistment bonus due Lepuf. SSgt. James Crow, the Chief, Military Pay, then put the bonus and Lepuf's paycheck in a special package which was delivered to planeside by TSgt. Eugene Lee. At the Navy's Operations Department, personnel of the Airlift Command Post postponed the American Flyer Flight until the arrival of the C-47 with Lepuf aboard.

When the station plane landed at Keflavik, it was taxied to the passenger terminal. Lepuf stepped off the plane, took his special pay envelope, and boarded the flight for the states. In less than eleven hours, the Navy and Air Force had brought him from a remote radar site in Langanes Iceland to within 200 miles of home.

2nd Time In 2 Weeks!

This incident marked the second time in a two week period that the station C-47 provided fast emergency service for the remote sites of the Iceland Defense Force. On April 18, Radioman Seaman D.F. Fruci, also from H-2, developed acute appendicitis. The next morning, the station C-47 flew through a snow storm and minimal flying conditions to perform the necessary medical evacuation mission. According to LCDR. Large, Fruci was on the operating table at Kefla-