

# Recovery War Stories

By Dave Peterson

## AN/ARD-17

When I first arrived at NASA in 1967, I was sent on a Lunar Module tracking mission with Sherry Berthume. It started rather pleasantly when Continental Airlines offered us First Class accommodations (at no extra cost) to promote their new service to Hawaii. It turned out that there were no other first class passengers and so Sherry and I enjoyed the flight and movie, each with our own stewardess. Actually, the stewardess had pretty light duty as I did not ask for much. Sherry will need to respond for himself.

After arriving in Hawaii, Sherry and I hooked up with the ARRS at Hickam. The Mission took us over the south Pacific, somewhere between Hawaii and American Samoa, where we were to use the AN/ARD-17 to track the orbiting LM. Prior to tracking the LM, smoke began to fill the rear of the HC130. The crew put us in parachutes. I was told to pull the 'green apple' and do something else (my mind was overloaded by now) to remain afloat when I hit the water. I was also instructed to blow in some tubes if the vest did not inflate. Keep in mind that this was God-knows-where over the south Pacific, at night. I was trying to figure out how to kiss my butt goodbye.

Someone (it may have been Sherry) discovered that it was the AN/ARD-17 printer that was smoking. The equipment was unplugged and the smoking stopped. Problem solved. No Bailout. I go on to live another day.

## Santa Maria

I was scheduled to be stationed with the ARRS in Santa Maria, the Azores. I took advantage of the opportunity to visit a friend in Germany and then take the EurRail from Germany to Portugal, to then fly commercially to Santa Maria. Well, I get to the airport in Portugal and the dude behind the counter says that they do not have a ticket for me. Bummer. The guy standing next to me was a Captain in the Canadian Royal Air Force. He was headed to Santa Maria as well. He had the advantage in that he brought his own plane. An Anti-submarine Warfare aircraft in fact. He invited me to tag along and I jumped at the chance. After takeoff, he invited me up front and they allowed me to sit in the clear belly dome for the rest of the flight. Talk about a view! I had the urge to pucker on landing, but it was a great experience.

## The MQF

Several of us remember participating in the test of the Mobile Quarantine Facility. I believe the use of a microwave oven was new, as were the recipes offered up by those who feed the astronauts. Can you say guinea pig? I knew you could. We learned firsthand that rich foods were not a good idea. I personally learned that microwaving a whole egg (without placing a pin hole in one end) was also not a good idea. Wearing hot egg fragments burns. Ouch.

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