COMMANDANT'S bulletin

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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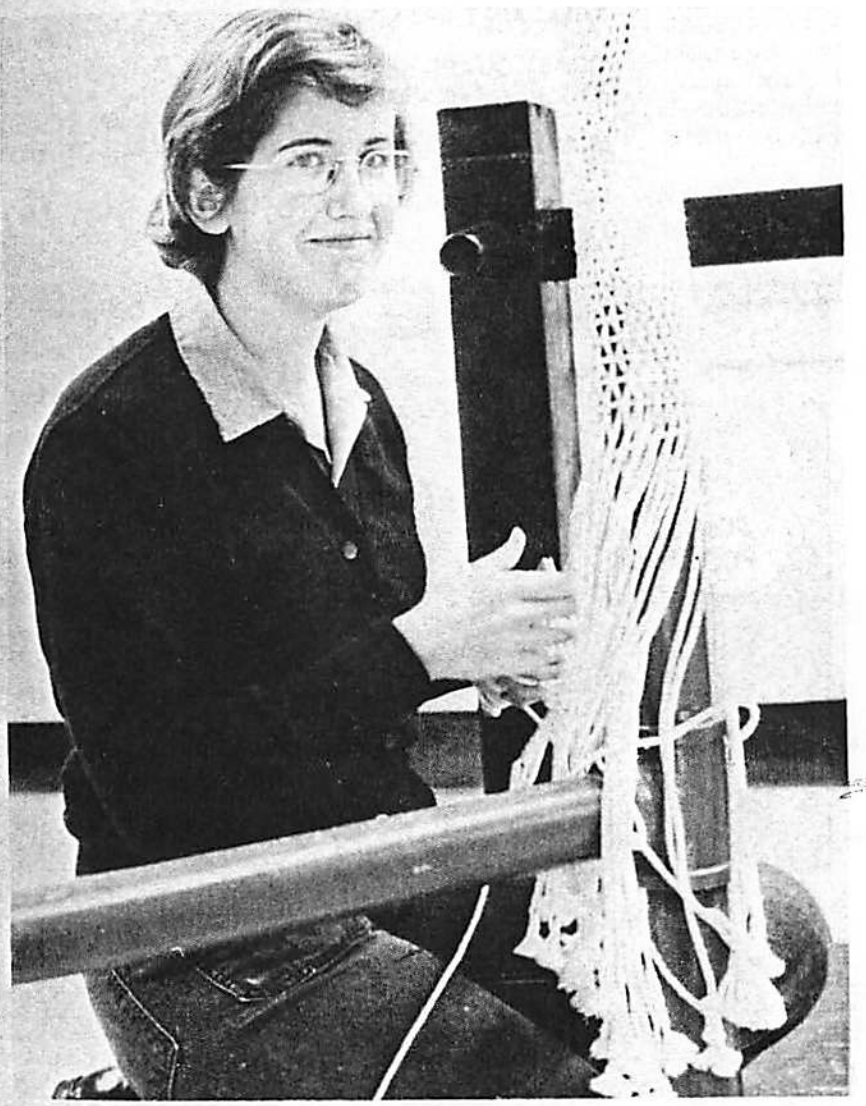

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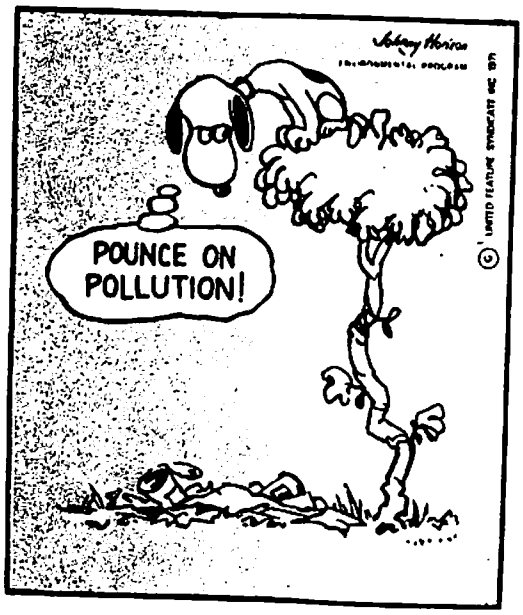
On the cover: SN Debbie Atkin, first woman to graduate from Boatswains Mate training school in Yorktown, practices her marlinspike seamanship. See story on page 11 for further details.



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GENERAL

COAST GUARD AIRMAN DAN L. TITUS WHO RECENTLY BROKE THE EXISTING SCHOOL RECORD FOR CUMULATIVE GRADE AVERAGE AT NATTC MEMPHIS, TENN. WITH A 96.10 AVERAGE IS PRESENTED A COMMAND PLAQUE BY CDR DICK FLETCHER, NATTC DIRECTOR OF TRAINING. TITUS ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM ADM OWEN B. SILER.

FIRST WOMAN GRADUATE AT YORKTOWN BOATSWAINS MATE SCHOOL

Debbie Atkin added another chapter in the history of our nation's oldest sea going service by being the first regular woman to graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center's Boatswain's Mate School. Traditionally the Boatswain's Mate rating has been a male stronghold due to the physical as well as practical demands of marlinspike seamanship, boat handling and supervision of personnel.

Debbie has proven more than equal to the task by matching or exceeding her fellow male students in all phases of training. She has completed the small boat operations course and upon graduation she will be assigned to duty as staff at the Boatswain's Mate School where she will undergo further training for the coveted Boat Coxswain's qualification insignia. Prior to entering school, Debbie served with the base small boats section maintenance force where she gained practical experience in her rating.

Debbie is a twenty-one year old native of Los Angeles, California. She said, "The main reason I joined the Coast Guard was to get to where the action is, and the Boatswain's Mate rating is where the action is."

Miss Atkin is definitely a career oriented sailor. She intends to go for twenty plus. When asked about marriage she said, "I can handle it but I hope he doesn't feel his job is more important than mine -- it won't happen that way."