

Second Honeymoon

by Chaplain R. B. Luebke

As we enter into the final days of our deployment, we anxiously anticipate the day we finally touch down at Quonset Point and see wives, families and loved ones. Many are looking forward to a "second honeymoon". However, a word of advice is offered here so that some won't be disappointed.

For the past eight months during our absence from home, the little lady of the household has had the rather awesome burden of innumerable additional "masculine" responsibilities. Beside the normal duties of being cook, launderess, housekeeper and possibly bread winner, if she is gainfully employed; she has had to become the "man" around the house as well. She has been forced to become financial manager, father and disciplinarian for the kids as well as tending to the little odd jobs that require attention around the house. She has become accustomed to making decisions and living independently on her own—without any advice or direction from her spouse. Sometimes it is difficult for a wife to make a quick adjustment back to being marriage partner and mother as soon as hubby returns.

Some wives will feel that their husbands have been living rather carefree, uncomplicated lives while in Vietnam. No screaming children to worry about, good meals prepared, freedom of movies, shows, exchanges, and nights out at the club with "the boys". No responsibilities of home. Quite naturally the wife is probably going to expect you to be the one to make the changes, because she feels you have been living this "deployed" kind of life. She, no doubt, will presume that it is only fair that when the husband arrives in homeport he will automatically be ready to take some of the burden she has carried these months off her shoulders. Don't be surprised when you have just finished that favorite dish which she has prepared just for your homecoming, and you crawl into that comfortable easy chair in front of the TV, that she calls out, "Dear, the dishes are ready and the children need their baths, and after that please wax the floors for me. . ."

Remember, there will be a second honeymoon if husbands are kind and considerate of what the wife has had to put up with these past months. Indeed, even the separation will have proven to be a healthy experience for both when each realizes the assets and positive points of the other and neither partner becomes impatient in expecting the other to make the adjustment too quickly.