

## Cap Kembro Departs, Promises to Return

Chief Petty Officer Malery D. (Cap) Kembro, the Navy's fifth helicopter pilot and one of the last of the vanishing breed of "flying chiefs," left the Bureau of Aeronautics Navy office here this week for his first assignment in 11 years not directly connected with helicopters. *DANN 4 JAN 4 1980*

He will join the VR-32 ferry group at San Diego where he expects to serve until his upcoming retirement March 1 after 22 years in the Navy. Then, he said, "I'll see all my friends here again. I'm coming back because I like Texas."

Since coming here 18 months ago, Cap has logged 237 hours in Bell helicopters. In all, he's flown some 4,745 hours for the Navy. More than 2500 hours of this has been in helicopters—1600 in Bell helicopters.

Kembro qualified as a helicopter pilot in July, 1945, before the Navy

even owned a helicopter. He was one of two qualified helicopter pilots ("me and the skipper") assigned to the Navy's first helicopter experimental squadron, VX-3 after the war. In 1947, he flew the first Bell Model 47 purchased by the Navy away from Bell's plant at Wheatfield.

Other duty has included as assignment on a Navy icebreaker in the Arctic ("Riding it was like riding a flatbed wagon down a mountain road") and as instructor at the Navy's helicopter flight school at Pensacola, Fla.

"I'd say," Cap said on his departure, "that this has been my most enjoyable tour. To wind up my career, the Navy couldn't have treated me better."



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