

DON'T ATTEMPT TO PLUG YOURSELF IN



Illustration by DM1(AW) Eulogio Devera, USS *Nimitz*

USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) returned in May from a record-breaking, nine-month-and-16-day deployment. Before departing last year and while in work-ups preparing for the deployment, one of the ship's berthing compartments was having problems with numerous individual bunk lights: Many bunk lights kept blowing fuses.

Electricians no sooner would replace fuses than they would blow again. Electricians discov-

ered many bunk lights had been illegally modified when crew members installed electrical receptacles for personal electronic gear, ranging from small fans to televisions and VCRs. These "Sailor-alts" were done with varying degrees of sophistication, but all presented shock hazards to individuals and the ship.

After tagging out all the compartment bunk lights, electrician's mates identified and repaired each modified light. Repairs took a month, and each altered bunk light was photographed to document the range and varied skills used for the unauthorized alterations. [See photos on next page.]

Once repairs were done, *Abraham Lincoln* electrician's mates organized the photos into a presentation for the

carrier's chief petty officers' mess. The presentation was designed to help CPOs identify future crew attempts to alter bunk lights.

Although many hours were needed to correct these unauthorized modifications, the plug-installations caused no mishaps. Other Sailors making similar modifications to their bunk lights might not be so lucky.

Let electrician's mates do your electrical work, and follow established procedures. ☺

