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Hello everybody,

It's Sunday morning, time to get serious again after a crazy weekend. We sat down on the beach early in the evening to drink a few beers. I wished I had brought my camera because we saw a sea otter. It was kind of cloudy but the damn thing came in so close I might have been able to get a decent picture. It was so neat to watch this sea otter float on his back cracking shellfish having dinner. They're so cute, I'll have to see if I can get some pictures one day.

Yesterday, one of the Army guys took me over to his place in Salinas. Both he and his roommate are married to Korean women so it was neat to be able to use what little Korean I knew with a native. His roommate was getting ready to go back to Korea this week. It seemed like he couldn't wait. They both have been to Korea and really loved it. It should be interesting to be able to spend some time over there.

We spent about three hours studying for our Module 2 test on Tuesday. Then we spent the rest of the day playing cards and darts. Salinas is a funny town. It's at the edge of the valley and seems to be a town of vegetable cooperatives. You drive by miles of lettuce fields.

and huge packing installations. The area is populated largely by Mexicans who spend their whole lives in the fields picking produce. They seem to do pretty well for themselves.

I saw you haven't gathered I didn't make it to LA this weekend. Due to complications on the other end and the fact that I have a test Tuesday we changed our plans to this weekend. Jim is still really looking forward to it, seeing Disney Land and all that. I may have already told you this.

I can't complain but I've been getting so many letters (I love it don't stop) but I can't keep track of who I've told what and who I haven't. I get letters from Mom, Dad and Kim and it's hard to keep up. Jeff Bates will send me three letters in a week and I still haven't been able to answer his first letter of the week. I usually try to write at lunchtime but I've been busy getting a few things straightened out.

I almost forgot. I've got some good news. Due to the fact that I've got my college records I can get my E-2 immediately which is seventy bucks more a month plus back pay for the time I was eligible for E-2 which was since the day I enlisted. Plus I'll be eligible for my E-3 in early November. Which means I'll be coming

home at Christmas with three stripes on my shoulder. It's not as large a pay jump as from E-1 to E-2 but it is more responsibility and recognition. The best thing about it all is that I'll be eligible for my E-4 (3rd class petty officer, ~~or~~ non-commissioned officer rating) by the time I finish my schooling down at Goodfellow Air Force Base. I've heard that it is beneficial to be a petty officer by the time you hit the fleet.

I thank you so much for the camera. I've got some prints that should be ready tomorrow and I can't wait to see how they come out. I decided to go for the Kodachrome glossy finish because of your recommendations and I really don't like the matte finish. I'm working thru the PX so I should get a good price. Also picked up some 400 (ASA) so I've got that and one roll of ASA 200 to take to L.A. That way maybe I can make a comparison test. I'm going to pick up the joy of Photography if you think it will be helpful.

I thank you for sending out the items I requested. I'm still waiting for the second package but I'm sure it will be here shortly. Thanks for closing out my account at Sovran Bank. Towards the end of the month I'll be sending a check for a total of \$827 to bring my account up to a total of \$1016 for the end of August. After that I'll send

home \$90 a month. I hope to have a total of \$1376 or more by the end of December, plus just enough for my ticket to fly home and back at Christmas.

I received a note from Julie. I was very pleased to hear from her. She seemed to be doing well but said Radford was kind of slow in the summer. I'm so glad she has decided to finish up with nursing school. She fought so hard to get where she is that it would be a horrible waste not to follow thru with it. It's nice to hear that she and Mark are still getting along so well. I think he's a real nice guy and has a good influence on Julie. I hope things continue to work out well for her.

I've been writing all morning and I think I'm getting writer's cramp. Also it's time to go to show. I'll try to get some pictures of me to send you. Also want to congratulate Kim on being so highly honored at camp. I know she's quite happy about that. I'm sorry Reid didn't have a very good experience, maybe next year. Well I'm going to sign off. Give everyone my love. Take care. I'm thinking about you always.

Love,
Scott