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and started operating from West Fields Able and Baker, adjacent to the NAVAL AIR BASE. Their planes sometimes find it necessary to use the Navy strip for emergency landings when returning from a mission and the NAVAL AIR BASE crash and fire crews are called upon for assistance from time to time. The addition of this B-29 Wing has further congested the air traffic over this island and has increased the need for an AVR to cover the waters immediately west of Tinian. A request for this rescue craft was made to Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet and approval and shipping instructions have been received. Emergency rescue operations had been carried out previously by the NAVAL AIR BASE forty-three (43) foot picket boat but this boat was not found to be seaworthy enough for operating in rough water or far off shore. This rescue craft will serve Army, Navy, and Marine units operating from this island plus transient traffic.

It was necessary to close the NAVAL AIR BASE strip for a period of approximately ten (10) days during April in order that necessary repairs and resurfacing could be effected. The NAVAL AIR BASE air traffic used the adjacent VLR strips during this period. The apron used for transient transport plane traffic was enlarged by Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 597 from sixty-one thousand (61,000) square feet to one hundred fifty-seven thousand (157,000) square feet in order to relieve the congestion experienced in the past.

On 27 April 1945 a B-29 of the 313th Bomb Wing at the North Field, Tinian, crashed into the NAVAL AIR BASE hardstand area, destroying the B-29 and a PB4Y-2 and damaging two other