Aviation machinists attempt to repair the United States Coast Guard helicopter last week after it became stranded at Gill Elementary School in Farmington Hillis late Wedneaday, On the chopper are John Milbrandt (lett) and J.R. Roberts. Supervising on the ground is Petty Officer Peccell Arnold, an aviation electrician's mate. The extra engine in the truck was put into the heliconter Firlds werening.

Students from Alice Davis' first-grade class get a visited Gill Elementary Wednesday. of the Sikorsky helicopter, which

Staying over

Engine troubles ground visiting chopper

Gill Elementary School is not nown for its bed and breakfast

known for its bed and breakrast package.
But members of an Air Rescue Team from Selfridge Air National Guard Base used the Farmington Hills school as their overnight head-quarters Wednesday and Thursday after their helicopter broke down on the school? palayround

quarters Wednesday and Thursday after their helicopter broke down on the school's playground.

The breakdown followed a daylong visit to the school Wednesday, Jack Lawing, director of administrative services for Farmington Public Schools, and his staff provided overnight facilities for a second crew flowin in late Wednesday afternoon to help with repairs.

A third team of maintenance workers arrived by truck at 7.3a m. Thursday to complete repairs. They had the engine running less than an hour later, according to Petty Officer Matt Sprague, who supervised the chopper's repairs Towered lawin.

But the part needed to complete repairs on the downed aircraft was more difficult to install than workers thought, and they had to spend another night at the school, Sprague

said. The maintenance crew brought a replacement engine for the chopper, Sprague added, pointing to his pickup truck, which had carried the engine from Mount Clemens. It was installed Friday morning and Sprague expected the helicopter to lift of I atter Friday afternoon—with a promise of better weather.

"THEY WERE very good to us at the school," said John Milbrandt, an aviation machinists mate. Milbrandt spent most of Wednes-day night bundled with blankets in the helicopter, his sleep interrupted by a constant stream of area resi-

dents shining flashlights and head-lights on the downed chopper. Even local police visited shortly after 3 a.m., he said.

after 3 a.m., he said.
Despite problems, wednesday and Thursday nights, the day of the team's scheduled visit was a subject of student of the said of the team's chief of the company of the team's chief of the could be the equipment demonstrated and ask questions. Bout the Ht 52A Skorsky belicopter, according to a sopkeswame from the control of the said of the said

questions" about the HH 52A Sikor-sky helicopter, according to a spokeswoman from the school.

The helicopter performs a variety of tasks, including water rescue, law enforcement, wildlife tracking and performing surveillance for the Se-

cret Service when the president is in the area.

Lt. Mark Feldman who piloted the alreant, Ensign Gralg Lindsey who was co-pilot, and Brad Ervin, an air rewman, demonstrated the helicopter for the students.

"The crew explained the helicopter has built-in flotation devices that enable it to land in the water," she said, "and the children were fascinated and surprised to learn that the propellers were 50 feet long."

Students recognized Feldman as the pilot who rescued a couple whose

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