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OK, open wide. Today I will try to talk about food.

91. We were luckier than some in that we had a mess hall. As I recall at both Sally and Dau Tieng they were located next to the orderly room. I do not have a clue why that was. In any case my recollection was that there was hot chow twice a day except on Sunday. My recollection is that I rarely ever ate in the mess hall up north. I think it had to do with the rare chicken!

92. Our main diet was C rations when we were flying. The crew would pick up the C's and normally the AC had first choice, then the CE and then the other crewmembers. I preferred the B-1 units. There were times when the crew would pick up a case, other times they would only get four (one per crew member).

93. Even more prized than the C rations were LRP rations. Occasionally we would be able to acquire these most coveted of prizes and enjoy chili or spaghetti or what ever. I liked em!

94. The intent of providing us with C rations was the meal while we were gone to work (Ha, I never really thought about it in that light. We got up; got into our planes and off we went to work not unlike a commuter). If we were working DCS then we would eat whenever. If we were working CA's then at first break was usually time for C's. As you recall we would often start the day with a 7 AM pitch pull or arrival time. If it was a CA, we would normally do our pickups and insertions and refuel and then wait. So around 10AM ish it was time for brunch. One person would monitor the PRC radio for instructions. Before we would shut down those that wanted a hot meal would place the food on the exhaust stack of the aircraft. Hot chow.

95. There were other ways of cooking. I had a roommate that had a brick of C-4, which he would scrape into an empty c-ration container and then light. It worked. Of course down south we had hot plates.

96. The crews were very original with C-rations making some interesting combinations. For example taking the pound cake from one can and the peaches from another gave you peach shortcake, Good old American ingenuity. I believe that there was actually a C-ration cookbook, but I never saw it. ~~Now the main and Ennas had their own special dish. The crew on the M-60's used them, but I do not recall why they were needed.~~

97. Sometimes down south when doing CA's we would shut down near a village. The children would come out and it was usually entertaining. They sold soda, but I never bought one, I had been warned about cut glass being put in the soda, but never knew of a circumstance that it actually happened.

98. We bought ice on the economy as I recall. Yet, we had a more unique way to chill our beer and soda. It just so happened that the cans would fit down a 2.75 folding fin rocket tube, so load them up and climb up and cool them off. I don't remember not having ice; it was just that this was a neat thing to do.

99. As part of my additional duty as custodian of the EM and NCO clubs I started a little mini PX. On the food side I ordered everything from pickled pigs feet to pizza. Most of it was well received and disappeared quickly.

100. The best food came from home. I loved the care packages. Everything from a whole canned chicken, to kool aid. Thank you Mom and Dad. Remember when the cookies would come in for the average guy they would make it once around the tent and ...gone. Sharing was half the fun.