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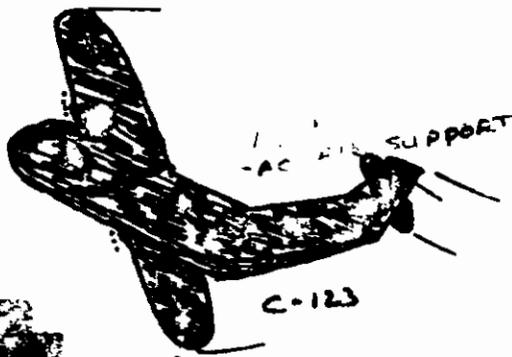
WELCOME TO PHAN RANG AB



F-100
BST TFW



B-57
PTM
TAC-BOMB



C-123
TAC AIR SUPPORT



10 Thurs
Briefings
Chapels

BEST IN THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 35th TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96321

Welcome to Phan Rang Air Base! We are glad to have you with us. You are now a member of the USAF first team. In this theater there is an urgent need for the qualities and the talents that you bring to Phan Rang Air Base.

You are in Vietnam for a special reason; we are at war. Today, our nation and all of us are being tested by a strong, tenacious enemy. He is organized, trained and skilled in a strange kind of warfare. Our adversary feels time is on his side, and eventually we will tire and withdraw from Vietnam. There can be no withdrawal because the problem will continue to follow us if we retreat, and the outcome here effects the future of Americans and free men everywhere.

As the Wing Commander, I insist upon high standards in the performance of your assigned duties. Each of you must do your part in maintaining these high standards. There must be no "weak links" in the performance of our duties. The manner in which you perform your duties will have a direct bearing on the success or failure in accomplishing our assigned mission. Dedicate yourself to your job. It is important that you follow established policies and use the advice and assistance available to you.

In your contacts with the Vietnamese people, never discredit the United States or create ill-feeling that might hinder the accomplishment of our mission. Try to understand and be tolerant of local customs and practices, just as you would expect others to be of ours. We must maintain cordial relationships with the local civilian and military communities. Each individual's conduct reflects on the United States, so be very sure the image that you create is one of which every American can be proud. Use courtesy and good common sense in your everyday dealings with others.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy great success in your new assignment with us.

Herndon F. Williams
HERNDON F. WILLIAMS, Colonel, USAF
Commander

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THE 35th TACTICAL FIGHTER WING

The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, located at Phan Rang AB, Republic of Vietnam, consists of three squadrons of F-100 Supersabre jet fighter aircraft, one squadron of B-57 Canberra jet tactical bombers and the Number 2 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force, which is attached to the 35th Wing for operational purposes.

The Wing has tenant units of the 315th Air Commando Wing (C-123 Provider aircraft), Flight B of the 14th Air Commando Squadron (AC-47 Dragonships), and Detachment 1 of the 504th Tactical Air Control Group which conducts an O-2 Forward Air Controller (FAC) Training School.

Stationed near the base is the 1st Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division and elements of the Republic of Korea Whitehorse Division.

Most of the missions flown by the 35th TFW are of the close air support type and are conducted to destroy enemy forces and facilities in the Republic of Vietnam. Since moving to Phan Rang in October 1966, the 35th has provided air support for almost every major ground operation conducted by allied forces. In many instances, the Wing's pilots have been responsible for inflicting great losses on the enemy and on repeated occasions, have saved the lives of friendly forces.

Phan Rang is a relatively new base. The site was selected for an Air Force base in the late summer of 1965 because of the good all-around flying conditions found here. Most of the initial construction work was done by the 62nd Army Engineering Battalion, a civilian contractor, RMK-BRJ, and the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (RED HORSE). The first fighter aircraft arrived here in March, 1966 and the first Phan Rang combat sortie was flown in the same month by an F-4C Phantom of the 389th TFS, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing.

The aircraft assigned to the 35th TFW began arriving at Phan Rang in July 1966, and in October of that year, the 35th replaced the 366th TFW as host unit.

The 35th was first formed and activated at Moffett Field, Calif. in 1940 and was originally designated the 35th Pursuit Group (Terrorceptor). The Group entered World War II in 1941 and was based first in Australia and later in India.

In May, 1942, under a new designation as the 35th Fighter Group, the unit served in combat with the Fifth Air Force operating from bases in Australia, New Guinea, Owi, Morotai and the Philippines. The group was equipped with P-38s and P-39s and later with P-47s and finally with P-51s. At the end of the war in 1945 they were moved to Japan as part of the Far East Air Forces.

In January 1950, the Group was redesignated the 35th Fighter Interceptor Group and was equipped with F-80 Shooting Star jet fighters. They entered combat in the Korean War in July of that same year.

The Group was transferred without personnel and equipment to Japan in 1951. There it was remanned and equipped with F-51s and F-80s. In 1955, it converted to F-86s and was subsequently placed on the inactive roles of the Air Force.

On April 8, 1966, the 6252nd TFW at Da Nang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, was redesignated the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. B-57 Canberra jet bombers of the 8th and 13th TBS and F-4C Phantoms of the 390th and 480th Tactical Fighter Squadrons, bombed and strafed military targets both north and south of the 17th parallel. In addition, the two F-4C squadrons had a number of MIG kills to their credit, including all the MIG-21s downed during the early part of the war.

The 35th TFW designation was then moved to Phan Rang Air Base on October 10, 1966, where it has continued to operate with its three squadrons of F-100 Supersabre jet fighters: the 614th, 615th and 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadrons, and two squadrons of B-57 Canberras: the 8th Tactical Bomb Squadron (now a consolidation of the 8th and 13th TBS) and the Number 2 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force.

THE 315th AIR COMMANDO WING

Phan Rang Air Base also supports the men and aircraft of the 315th Air Commando Wing which has its headquarters and three of its C-123 Provider squadrons here: the 309th, 310th and 311th Air Commando Squadrons.

The wing arrived here in July of 1967 after being scattered at bases all over South Vietnam. The 315th ACW is responsible for air resupply and troop transfer all over South Vietnam. Also, the wing supplies the aircraft for paradrop of men and supplies in emergency conditions and in hazardous terrain. Daily, thousands of pounds of supplies and ammunition are shuttled to far flung outposts throughout the battle zones of Vietnam.

FLIGHT 'B' 14th AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON

Flight B, 14th Air Commando Squadron, with AC-119 Dragonships, arrived in January, 1968, to begin operations of providing air support for Phan Rang and the local area. These aircraft provide flare-drop and mini-gun support for local ground forces. Around these parts, they're known as 'Ole Spooky'.

THE 504th TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT GROUP

The Detachment #1, 504th Tactical Air Support Group (TASG) joined the growing family of units at Phan Rang in February, 1968. The detachment operates the Theater Indoctrination School (TIS) for all Forward Air Controllers (FAC) reporting for duty in SEA. At the school all FAC pilots receive proficiency training in the O-1 'Bird Dog' and O-2A 'Super Sky Master.'

INTERIOR
BASE MAP
PR - LATE
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