

Television Star Tours Man With Mission Cheers Up the GIs

By PFC. ROBERT REICHLE
SAC Staff Correspondent

SAIGON—Barney Collier, who pulls off the impossible on a television series, had an easy time of it on his recent mission in Vietnam.

But instead of the make-believe world of television, actor Greg Morris, who plays Barney, was doing his thing with the troops. His mission: Entertain the troops.

Morris, one of the stars of TV's "Mission: Impossible," took time out from his 12-day handshaking tour of the Republic to collect his thoughts and speak his mind on a few things.

"I think any war is ridiculous," he said.

"But it doesn't alter the fact that there are thousands of guys over here doing a job, putting their life on the line every day. I feel it's essential that they know that somebody cares."

Thanks to his weekly appearance on "Mission," Morris is well known to the public, but he says, "People think of me as a two-dimensional figure who does exist, but they're not sure."

Recently he branched out from acting to music, "telling" 10 love songs on his first album.

"Years ago, I had the desire to join with the Modern Jazz Quartet and record 'This is My Beloved,' to personally edit the book because it is long, and to do it with the quartet improvising in the background."

GREG MORRIS
His dream is to someday sing on record. For the present, to "tell" it is sufficient.

Yet another side is that of a husband and a father, the side rarely seen except to family and friends.

The father of three, Greg finds that acting and popularity hinders in some ways the normal family life.

"I can't take my kids to a Saturday afternoon show, to a hamburger stand or a place like Disneyland because it's no fun for them. With the increased popularity of the show, people are always walking up to me, wanting to talk to me and asking for my autograph. I realize it's no fun for them."

About the character he portrays in the television series, he says:

"I would say that a lot of Barney is Greg Morris, because I am creating the character. No one created it for me."

"Barney doesn't hurry in terms of rushing. He hurries but he doesn't rush. He methodically gets everything done."

"These are all characteristics that I chose."

And this is all part of Greg Morris, the man who does exist.

More entertainment is headed to Vietnam this month, by way of the USO-Hollywood Overseas Committee.

Headlining the shows will be actor Ricardo Montalban, in his first tour of the Republic.

His May 14 arrival will also be a reunion, since he has a son stationed here, Spec. 5 Mark Montalban, of the 3rd Surgical Hospital, Cont Tam.

Three variety shows are slated for arrival this month: Mary Margaret and the Martells, arriving Saturday; Texas Jean Thompson, arriving May 15, and, arriving on the 18th, D. J. Oaky Miller. Returning for another visit is Ken and Roberta Griffins, in a musical and magical act, arriving May 20.

Also on the list of shows is George Winn and the Bluegrass Partners, with a country and western style show, slated for arrival May 26.



BRAKES LOCKED AND ENGINES HOWLING, FOUR F100 SUPER SABRES WAIT THEIR TURN TO TAKE OFF FROM BIEN HOA AB.

Super Sabres Up Front— Where Perfection Counts

By S. SGT. JIM WHITE

BIEN HOA, Vietnam (Special) — Prowling the sky in search of enemy aircraft, the sleek, deadly, silver-skinned fighter began its career as a hunter.

Today, crouching on alert pads at air bases throughout South Vietnam, it is a jungle fighter.

Its pilots affectionately call it the "Hun," the "Lead Sled" or the "Super Sled." It is the F100 Super Sabre, one of the Air Force's most devastating weapons in the Vietnam war.

"Every day," says Maj. Arthur E. Hahn, commander of the 90th Tactical Fighter Sq. (TFS) at Bien Hoa Air Base, "somewhere in Vietnam, F100s are the margin between life and death for American soldiers fighting on the ground."

Close air support is the primary mission of the 90th. A second mission is interdiction — striking enemy supply and infiltration routes, stopping the inflow of men and munitions into Vietnam.

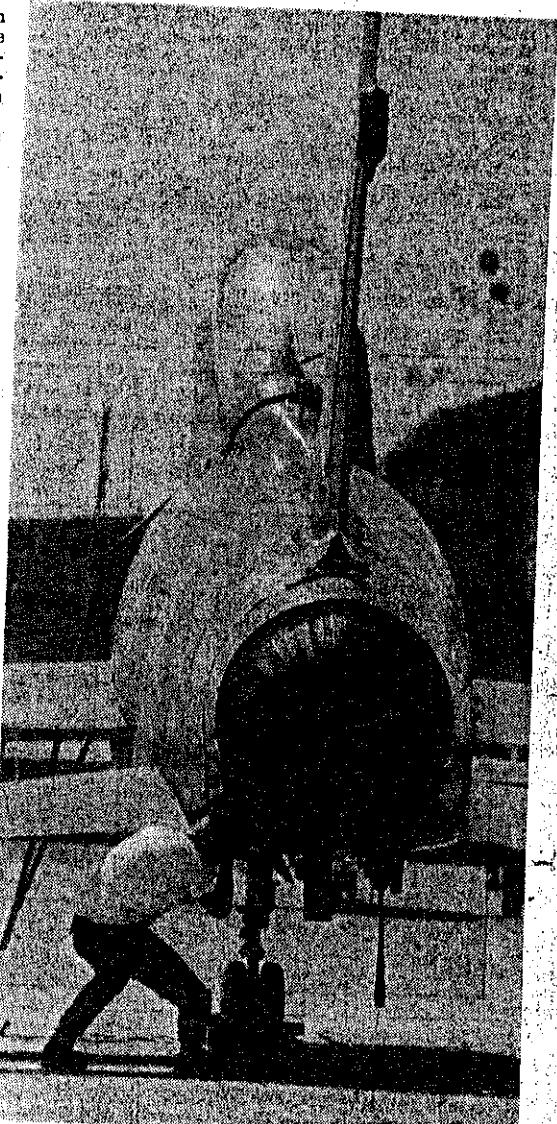
Blusting enemy strongholds — supply caches, staging areas and troop concentrations — is a third mission.

All of the Super Sabre missions have one factor in common: They are designed to prevent the loss of Allied lives on the battlefield. But among the pilots of the 90th, the most popular mission, by far, is close air support.

"Flying close air support allows you to see the results of your actions immediately," points out Maj. Edward Levell Jr., operations officer for the 90th. "You know that because of your efforts, a lot of guys on the ground who might otherwise have been killed or wounded are alive and well."

In addition to being the most rewarding mission, close air support is also the most demanding. Moving at more than 800 feet per second during an attack dive, the F100 passes through its bomb release point in the blink of an eye.

"Flying close air support is like flying down a funnel," Hahn notes. "You can start almost anywhere, but there's just one point in space — the tip of the funnel — where you can release your ordnance to make it hit the target. And you must pass through that point at an exact speed and a precise dive angle."



An aircraft maintenance specialist checks a section of the tail assembly of a 90th Tactical Fighter Sq. F100 at Bien Hoa AB. After each mission, the Super Sabres are given a thorough going over.

USAF Photos by S. Sgt. Ron Smith