

PHANFARE

VOLUME I, ISSUE 12

THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

AUGUST 9, 1967

BASE COMMANDER HAILS OPENINGS

Col. Lewis R. Riley, base commander, sees August as the turning point in the long-range construction program of the base. Within the last week three major new facilities were opened....a base exchange, a dining hall, and a chapel.....and two more will open before the month is over. The airmen's open mess will open its new building on Friday and a new group headquarters building is due to go into operation on Aug. 24.

The base commander described the new BX as "one of the finest base exchanges in all of Vietnam." He noted that over \$50,000 worth of merchandise was sold on the first day as close to 5,000 people surged through the doors.

The new dining hall, which opened the same day, served 2,100 personnel in its first day of operation. "I think it's one of the greatest dining halls in Southeast Asia today," commented the hall's supervisor, TSgt. Rice. "We have attempted to make this a Stateside-appearing base," said Colonel Riley. "It doesn't cost much more to go first class....This is our home."

WHO WAS FIRST?

"The food is just great!" said A3C Roy P. Youngblood Jr., 19, a B-57 phase mechanic in the 8th TBS who was the first airman to eat in the new dining hall.

"It's beautiful inside....It's very decorative and real modern design...I really like it," said MSgt. James Jump of the 35th CES, first man to enter the new base exchange.

A2C Bill Westerberg claimed he was the first man to make a purchase....a pack of cigarettes, at the new facility. He's assigned to the machine room of CBPO.

CREAM OF THE CROP

The personnel mechanized record section of CBPO recently set a record for all 7th AF bases by achieving a rejection rate of only one per cent in June in the process of completing 11,334 transactions. The PACAF goal is two per cent or less.

Sergeants Bell and Johnson and Airmen Wahl, Bouley, and Westerberg were hailed by a CBPO official for their "complete dedication" in this effort.

BIG THINGS TO HAPPEN AT RED CROSS CENTER

Camilla, one of the new girls at the Red Cross Center, has announced the following activities:

'Chips' Galore, a quiz game featuring prizes (wall-ets), will be offered tonight at 8.....Tomorrow nite at 8 there'll be a pinocle tourney, and at 7:30 p.m. everyone is invited to the first meeting of the Phan Rang Players, a new theater group.....Friday nite is tentatively set as Aussie nite, featuring films of Australia.....A lively game of Charades, based on proverbs, is set for Saturday nite at 8.....Next Tuesday (Aug. 15) there'll be a guided bus tour of local points of interest. The bus leaves at 3 p.m...You

GIRLS, DANCING, MAYBE FOR FRIDAY OPENING

Late word from the Airmen's Open Mess is that girls may be on hand for dancing at the Grand Opening of the new building on Friday. This is tentative.

The Rhythm-errors will offer music from 7 to 10 p.m. The girls may be coming in from communities near the base. The opening is set for 6 p.m. The new 360-man patio is now open.

must sign up in advance for this two-hour tour....Next Wednesday at 8 p.m. A2C Tom Tillotson will launch a weekly photo and movie clinic...Next Thursday at 7:30 a book club will be launched, & on Monday, Aug. 21, a music club will be started. SSgt. Don Mathis will offer a jazz program.

WEEKLY JEWISH RITES START

Weekly services for Jewish personnel were started last week. These services will be held every Friday night at 7 in the preventive medicine hooch behind the base commander's office. (Call SSgt. Hirsch, 188)

These services were spearheaded by last week's visit of Army Chaplain (Capt.) Sholom I. Gliksmen. Services set for this Friday night will feature a talk by A1C John Engle on ties between the Mormons and the Jews, and a sermon by A1C Eli Wilner, assistant lay rabbi, on "God Gives Me Seven Days a Week; Why Can't I Give Him One Hour?" Everyone is invited to come.

800 STEAKS

Over 800 NCO's, as well as top wing and base officials, enjoyed charcoal-broiled steaks Sunday night at the opening of the NCO Open Mess's new outdoor kitchen, open daily for lunch and supper.

PERSONALITIES OF THE WEEK

HE LOVES THE SEA

For 27 years, MSgt. Richard A. Rice has been hooked on a "big liquid tranquilizer".. the oceans of the world.

Chief administrative man in the consolidated base personnel office, the 38-year-old native of Chandler, Ariz., skin-dives, collects sea shells, takes color photos under water, and writes articles on skin-diving which have been published in "most of the major skin-diving magazines in the world."

"I'm so fascinated and amazed by everything that I see," said the devout sea-worshipper as he described his under-water sensations.

"All your troubles just sort of float on the surface and you duck under them...Adventure, danger, beauty.....seeking the unknown and never sure you're going to find it...It's a constant challenge to your mind and your body."

He described sea life as "Walt Disney and Picasso under water.....all those strange little characters swimming around."

Sergeant Rice came to Phan Rang in March, and has spent his off-duty hours at the beach near the base.

He has collected shells by the dozen, continued his passion for under-water photography, and skin-dived from a reef three miles from shore.

As a youngster in Ashtabula, Ohio, the sergeant began his love affair with the water by diving into one of the Great Lakes, and in his 21-year Air Force career he has managed to go skin-diving in the Caribbean Sea...the Sea of Cortez off Mexico...along the coast of Canada....off the Bahama Islands...and along the coast of Florida.

Back in 1963, when he was stationed at Homestead AFB, Fla., Sergeant Rice became president of the 'Gators', a base skin-diving club with 140 members.

He has written skin-diving and fishing columns for the South Miami News in Florida and his articles have appeared in such magazines as American Skindiver and Australian Skindiver.

His wife Verda and four children are confirmed water-bugs, just like Dad. With each new Air Force assignment, Sergeant Rice grabs a map to locate the nearest body of water.

He has encountered sharks many times, mostly off the Florida Keys. Once he was confronted by a Lemon shark off Key Largo. The sergeant 'shouted' under water to scare off the intruder, and then shot to the surface.

A FATHERLY TOUCH

Things looked grim for Thich Trong Truong, a 17-year-old Vietnamese boy, when his father was killed more than a year ago in a motor-

cycle accident in Thap Cham.

The boy's mother dropped from sight, and he began hanging around the beach site near the base.

Then a sergeant who worked at the beach house 'adopted' him. Thich Trong Truong became a permanent fixture at the place. Last August, when MSgt. Milton Corry, 38, from Port Huron, Mich., arrived at Phan Rang and became beach club secretary, he "inherited" the boy from his initial 'foster parent', who rotated back to the U.S.

Sergeant Corry, who has a wife and five children back in Port Huron, fitted naturally into his new role as the boy's unofficial guardian:

"I try to guide him the best I can."

Called 'Fuke' by the many Americans who visit the beach, the Vietnamese teenager lives in a little room near the snack bar at the beach house, where he works alongside his 'dad' serving soft drinks.

Fuke speaks English now, and "many G.I.'s use him as an interpreter," the sergeant stated.

He said Fuke has two ambitions: the purchase of a motorbike and the role of interpreter in the Vietnamese Air Force, which he hopes to join next year.

Sergeant Corry takes Fuke to nearby towns to buy shirts and other items for the slender boy, and sometimes, like any father, he sits down with the teenager to iron out problems with a man-to-man talk.

Soon Sergeant Corry will complete his tour at Phan Rang and Fuke, a shy youngster with a big smile, is grimly apprehensive about the day he'll be parted from his American 'dad'.

"He's being Americanized," Sergeant Corry insisted, pointing to pin-ups on the wall in Fuke's room.

The warmhearted American sergeant makes no bones about the fact that he too dreads the moment of separation.

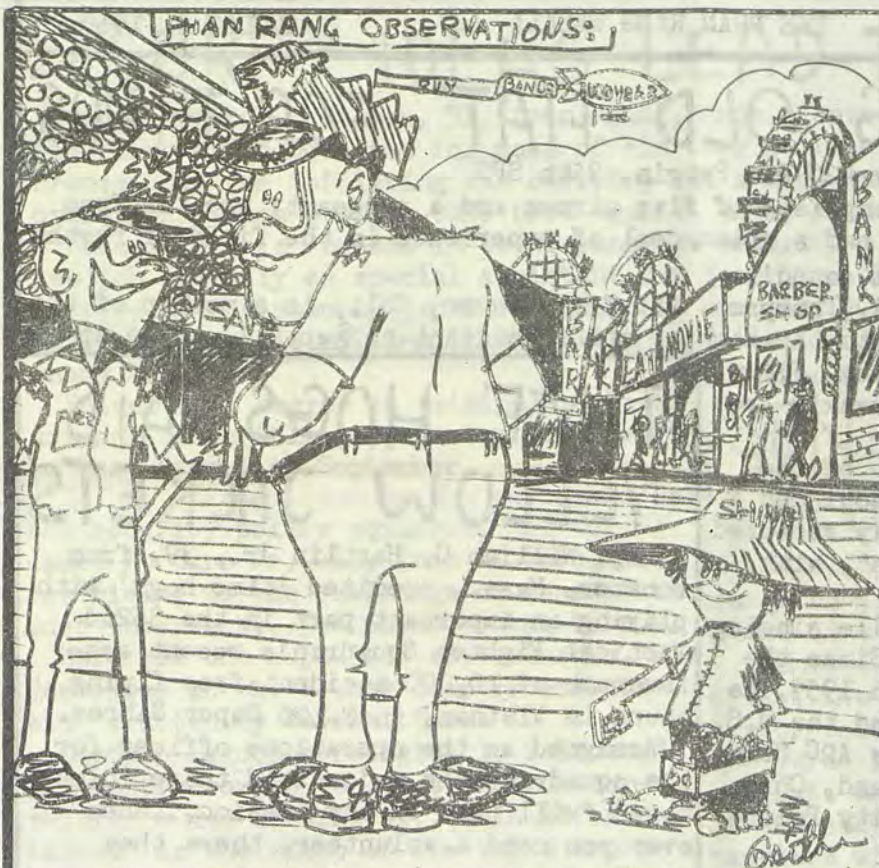
'THAT'S FANTASTIC'

"That's fantastic", said Maj. William G. Hartlin Jr., new operations officer for the 352nd Tactical Fighter Sq., as he enthused over the many Vietnam combat missions of a real 'pro' in the F-100 unit, Capt. Ronald F. Miller.

As a forward air controller for a one-year period at Pleiku in 1964-65, the captain rang up 568 combat missions for a grand total of 1,144 combat hours.

Captain Miller has flown 58 combat missions in the Super Sabres of the 352nd TFS, since coming to Phan Rang two months ago.

SAY! Did you know that the 7th Air Force news photos on the Red Cross center wall are changed every Wednesday??



"LET ME BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE YOU, COLONEL. IF THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A STATESIDE BASE, NOTHING DOES!"

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PHANFARE

AUGUST 9, 1967

THE MOVIE LINE-UP

TONITE — Elvis Presley in "Paradise, Hawaiian Style, a color-plashed island romp.

THURSDAY — Warning Shot, believed to have David Jansen in starring role... Sounds like suspense.

FRIDAY — Caper of the Golden Bull, probably another movie portrayal of the 'perfect' robbery.

SATURDAY — The Professionals - top-rated Western starring Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster.

CLUB HI-LITES

THURS: — Eva Maria, radio and TV star of the Philippines, will entertain at the Airmen's Open Mess from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. along with her Young Spices Combo.

FRIDAY — The above show will be at the NCO Open Mess from 8 to 9 p.m., and Happy Hour will be offered there from 6 to 7 p.m.

SATURDAY — Rhythm-errors at NCO Open Mess, 7 to 11 p.m. with the accent on Western music.

SOFTBALL TEAM ALL SET

Thirteen members of the base softball team left for Cam Ranh Bay on Sunday to prepare for the 7th AF softball tourney, slated to begin today. It will continue thru Sunday. Call Ext. 143 for the latest news.

HEY, WEIGHT-LIFTERS — On Friday nite at 8 in the weight-lifting room (near the base theater) there will be a weight-lifters' meeting. WO Sims of the 35th SPS will explain the base weight-lifting tournament coming up.

BRONZE STAR SMSgt. John M. Turner, outgoing NCOIC of the 435th MMS bomb dump, received the Bronze Star last week from the wing commander.



SHOW BIZ IS OLD HAT FOR 'THADS'

By A2C Jim Perrin, 35th SPS

The 'Thads' a vocal group comprised of five airmen and a sergeant, are far from being amateurs. Most of them have had a great deal of experience in the field of rhythm 'n blues, pop music, and the 'soul sound'.

The lead singer, A1C Jimmy A. Thompson, 25, from Denver, Col., is a member of the 35th Supply Sq., and will move up to the rank of staff sergeant on Sept. 1. While attending high school in New York City, Jimmy auditioned and was accepted by 'Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers.'

Unfortunately he dropped out of the group because of his youth. Undiscouraged, he again auditioned and was readily accepted by a group called "The School Boys", with Leslie Martin.

His first record was cut while singing with the 'Concords' in New York. Since the beginning of his service career in 1959, he has sung with groups in England and the U.S.

Bass singer for the Thads is A2C Herman 'Dave' Davis, 22, from Cleveland, Ohio, who is assigned to the 35th Security Police Squadron.

Dave can also handle tenor and baritone roles because of his unusual voice range. He has probably had more professional experience than any other member of the group.

While singing with the 'Gents' in Cleveland, he made his debut on Radio Station WABQ. Later he appeared with "The Sounds Four" from Griffiss AFB, N.Y. on another radio station.

Station WRNY of New York State featured the group on a weekly program.

During Dave's travels through the musical world, he has become acquainted with and received advice from such groups as 'Ruby and the Romantics,'... 'Harvey and the Moonglows'.... 'The Impressions'.... 'The Miracles'.....and 'The Hornets'.

Dave is apt at writing lyrics as well as singing, and is anxious to present his works to some professionals for their critiques.

Another member of the group, A1C Hubert H. Hill, 23, from Newark, N.J., did his first singing as a child to wheedle a cookie from his parents!

Currently assigned to the 35th SPS, this young musician has sung with groups from the cities of Newark, Abilene, and Norfolk.

A new addition to the 'Thads' is SSgt. Manassa W. Harris, from Chicago, Ill. In 1957 Sergeant Harris sang with a group called 'The Tramps' at George AFB, Calif. This group won a base talent contest and then placed second in another Air Force talent contest. In 1962-63 Sergeant Harris sang with the 'Corvairs' at Alconbury, England, and history repeated itself. That is, the Corvairs won a base talent contest but had to settle for the runner-up slot in that year's Air Force talent contest.

Later, at Bolling AFB, Wash., the sergeant teamed up with a former Corvair to form the 'Sparks'. This group cut two records for Van McCoy of New York. Sergeant Harris has a standing offer from Mirwood Recording Studios in Hollywood, Calif. to record for them upon his return to civilian life in September, 1969. He is 33, and is in 35th Supply Sq.

Another 'Thad', A2C Gladstone S. 'Tony' Alleyne, 25, from the Bronx, N.Y., is assigned to the 35th Armaments Electronics Maintenance Sq. While attending Cheyney State College, he became the college choir's leading soloist. Accompanying the group on lead guitar is A2C Roy Brown, 22, from Nashville, Tenn., who is in the 35th SPS.

The 'Thads' will appear at the Red Horse Club on Aug. 21, and here is a chance for everyone on base who hasn't heard them to 'catch the act'. As far as Tony Alleyne is concerned, "the group has unlimited potential.... Every member is readily capable of handling the lead... This versatility enables us to vary our style."

'TIME HOGS' AID 'YELLOW JACKETS'

Maj. William G. Hartlin Jr., 39, from Wooster, Mass., credited 'time hogs' with playing an important part in the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron's recent achievement of 10,000 accident-free flying hours in Vietnam, in F-100 Super Sabres.

Assigned as the operations officer for the squadron, the major said these 'time hogs' "will take on any mission... Whenever you need a volunteer, there they are."

A veteran of 18 years' military service, he said the 'time hogs' simply "fly, fly all the time," and then he listed six of them:

Maj. Warren Sams, Maj. Wilber Stevenson, Maj. Charles Zeitner, Capt. Myron Gastine, Capt. Robert Edney, and Capt. James Lehtonen.

Major Hartlin came to Vietnam over two months ago and recently took on the duties of operations officer for the 352nd 'Yellow Jacket' Squadron.

A veteran of 100 combat missions in the Korean Conflict and 60, so far, in the Vietnamese Conflict, the major proudly noted that the 'Yellow Jackets' flew in Vietnam last year "under the most demanding of conditions... new to the theater (of operations)... a new base... a new war... tents (as living quarters)... temporary aluminum runway... dirt roads."

Nothing could stop the 'yellow Jackets', as they met their combat commitments.

SECURITY IDEAS LEAD TO BRONZE STAR

Capt. Gerald W. Magoon, 31, from Miami, Ariz., security operations officer of the 35th Security Police Squadron for most of his tour at Phan Rang, is slated to receive the Bronze Star for initiating and carrying out a wide range of improvements in the complex operations which protect this base against enemy attacks.

Because of his success in developing new security techniques, the captain received a new job recently as special assistant for security. Enemy probes of the base perimeter have been consistently repelled under the security program developed by the imaginative officer, and this multi-million-dollar installation has never been subjected to a major enemy attack.

Holder of a degree in criminology from Arizona State College, the captain came to Phan Rang last September.

He has been praised by the commander of the security police squadron, Lt. Col. James A. Carr Jr., 44, from El Paso, Tex., for rising to the challenge of "one of the most important...positions on the base."

Here are the captain's achievements, as described in the Bronze Star recommendation written by Colonel Carr:

Captain Magoon strategically relocated all sentry towers "so that maximum surveillance and security...could be maintained" in the midst of the rapid expansion of the base.

He developed close liaison with officials of nearby Vietnamese, American, and Korean Army units and gained their "outstanding support and coordination" in security matters.

Captain Magoon developed an effective light concentration plan utilizing four high-intensity light beams which enabled tower sentries and sentry-dog handlers to request artillery and searchlight illumination "accurately and concisely."

"During several probes of the base perimeter by enemy forces," wrote Colonel Carr, "this plan was given a true test and proved to be highly effective and efficient, and was undoubtedly responsible for saving lives and property of U.S. Forces."

Colonel Carr cited the captain's courage and "dynamic leadership" as the security forces rallied to repel the probes.

Captain Magoon set up sentry emplacements within aircraft revetments on base to afford sentries better protection and more advantageous fields of fire.

It was Captain Magoon also who created Phan Rang's scout patrols, roving units of security policemen to act as a back-up force for the sentry-dog teams on the perimeter, and "this system has been adopted by the U.S. Army at this installation."

Appraising the hundreds of security policemen who protect the base, the captain said, "The senior NCO's are outstanding... Our airmen act just like professionals when the going gets tough."

Singled out for individual praise were MSgt. Harvey M. Foster and MSgt. Walter J. Wielkiewicz. The former is NCOIC of security and the latter is his assistant.

MSgt. Peder Breibik, NCOIC of the Panther Flight, helps direct night operations.

SENTRY DOGS KEEP THEIR NIGHTLY VIGIL

Snarling, four-footed 'detectives' with fangs an inch and one-quarter long form the first line of defense for this huge base.

Under ideal wind conditions, these detectives, the sentry dog section of the 35th Security Police Sq., can ferret out an intruder 600 yards away.

TSgt. Rodney G. Arnold, enlisted supervisor of the section, credits the dogs and their handlers with total success in their nightly patrol of the base perimeter.

"We've never had a penetration by the enemy," the 35-year-old native of Tucson, Ariz. pointed out. He feels that the sentry dogs' patrolling of the perimeter has been "a deciding factor" in preventing major attacks on the base.

On their nightly rounds with the dogs, handlers are armed with sub-machine guns and the knowledge that their dogs will obey their every command without hesitation.

"I wouldn't be anything but a dog handler," said A1C Joel P. Turbeville, 23, from Dickson, Tenn. "You've got somebody you can depend on."

His dog is named, fittingly enough, 'Diablos' which is Spanish for 'devil'.

The handlers and their dogs sleep by day and guard by night. Their staggered schedule of patrolling "affords us maximum security at the crucial period," said Sergeant Arnold, who has been in the sentry dog business for 12 of his almost 17 years of Air Force service.

Qualified as marksmen with their sub-machine guns, the handlers are equipped with two-way radios so as to keep in constant touch with the central security control station of the security police network on base.

Several months ago, when enemy intruders tried to penetrate the perimeter, a pair of sentry dogs and their handlers detected them and then helped beat them back in the fire fight which followed.

Officials of 7th AF and PACAF (Pacific Air Force) have labeled the Phan Rang sentry dog section as the best in Vietnam, Sergeant Arnold observed.

His men teach their dogs tricks to nail down dog obedience, and compete with one another in an attempt to make their own dogs the most aggressive in the kennels. The canines constant go through a 300-yard obstacle course to maintain their toughness, and they are frequently tested in exercises in which they hunt down a handler acting as a decoy.

FREE SHOW -- Dog show 6 p.m. next Tues...
Bus leaves Airmen's Club at 5:30 p.m.

THESE MEN PUT STING IN THE WING

(Continued from last week)

Cranes, rough-terrain forklifts, ten-ton tractors, and 25 and 40-foot trailers are the "bread and butter" of the wing's munitions handlers as they assemble ordnance and rush it to the flightline.

The ordnance is delivered directly to the fighter aircraft six to ten hours before take-off time, and bomber ordnance is delivered to a special storage area for the bombers 10 hours before their take-off time.

Sergeant Thiebaud could recall no instance of a munitions accident at Phan Rang, accenting the 435th MMS mission of providing "safe and reliable munitions" for the wing's aircraft.

The munitions men work at their exacting jobs on a round-the-clock schedule, and munitions convoys are constantly on the move, shuttling between the bomb dump and the flightline, which is seven miles away. The ordnance is delivered to the bomb storage area by Army vehicles, and from there on it is the munitions workers' "baby".

They take bombs out of crates and add fins and boosters to bombs ranging from 250 to 1,000-pounders.

They put rockets together by attaching the rocket heads to motors and then inserting the products into rocket launchers made of cardboard and metal.

It takes a lot of time and muscle to do all this. Twenty tons of trash consisting of such things as bomb crates and fin protectors are removed from the bomb storage area each day as the ordnance is put into shape for action.

Fighter aircraft pylons have to be cleaned and inspected and repaired. These pylons serve as the fighters' bomb racks.

Maj. Felix E. Elliott Jr., 46, is the unit's popular maintenance supervisor and "he makes the whole thing go," according to Sergeant Thiebaud, who has been in service for 25 years and flew 12 combat missions as a B-24 bomber gunner in World War II.

TSgt. Charles E. Haskins, 37, from Panama City, Fla., is the enlisted supervisor of munitions services, which includes the gun shop, pylon shop, and weapons release section.

The long hours of toil at the bomb storage area are relieved by a weekly visit by Red Cross recreation center assistants. The girls bring koo-aid, start group quiz games, and deliver 'puzzler' pamphlets filled with quizzes and brain-teasers of all kinds.

Two bomb dump mascots, a pair of dogs named Bullet and Ammo, also help in keeping up the morale of the tireless men whose munitions put the sting in the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

BANG! When it comes to weapons, the 35th Security Police Squadron relies heavily on A1C Donald L. Cook, 24, from Dwight, Ill. As armorer of the law enforcement armory, he's responsible for 100's of rifles, pistols & hand-radios.

HOW THEY MOVED THAT MOUNTAIN

(Editor's note: This is the wrap-up of the story of how the 554th 'Red Horse' Civil Engineering Sq. 'moved a mountain' to build a parking ramp for the C-123's of the 315th Air Command Wing).

"First we removed the aluminum matting and began from scratch. This matting was salvaged for use as an expeditionary runway for some other infant air base in Vietnam.

"Seventy men of the Red Horse squadron, working in two shifts, worked around the clock, seven days a week, to prepare a new base for the asphalt ramp.

"We stripped off the surface of the old base materials and used a Paddle Foot Roller to vibrate the base materials into a denser state and reduce moisture content... and then built up the sub-base until it was 20 inches deep over-all.

"Our survey of the ramp area told us that we would need 200,000 cubic yards of crushed rock for the sub-base and 18,000 tons of tar for making the asphalt.

"This meant that our rock-crusher and asphalt plant would have to work at full capacity to satisfy our needs.

"After 107 days and nights of hard labor under the broiling hot sun and the monsoon showers, the first C-123 was parked on the ramp, and we had only hours to spare in order to have the ramp ready for the first arrival of the C-123's.

"Part of the ramp was hardly cool, but we made it on time!"

THIS IS THE WAY TO SPEED UP MAIL

The thousands of consolidated mail-room 'customers' on base will be interested to learn that at the present time the CMR personnel are carrying out a complete box-re-numbering program.

Completion of the new numbering system will speed up the sorting of mail for each box-holder.

Fill out the required information on the card which you will receive through your assigned box, and drop the card in the orange-colored box in the lobby of the CMR.

Be sure you immediately notify all correspondents and publishers of your new box number. Forms for this purpose are available at the CMR window.

We would like to have the full cooperation of all box-holders during the change-over.