

PHANFARE

VOLUME I, ISSUE 13

THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

AUGUST 13, 1967

LARGEST 'AOM' IN VIETNAM OPENS WITH CROWD OF 2,500 ON HAND

2,500 Airmen were on hand for the grand opening of the new Phan Rang Airmen's Open Mess. Colonel James A. Wilson, 35th Wg. Commander cut the blue ribbon on August 11th at 7:PM officially opening the new facility.

Prior to last Friday's dedication, Phan Rang airmen were using a temporary facility which was constructed when the base was in its first stages of development.

The new AOM facility, formerly Phan Rang's first messhall had been turned over to club officials in July for conversion into a modern AOM facility.

Master Sergeant Bobby B. Wolfe, the club manager said "that the \$25,000 conversion job which was completed in 41 days now gives Phan Rang Air Base the largest Airman's Open Mess in Vietnam. He went on to say that the new club can accommodate 3,500 airmen as opposed to 700 before the new club was opened."

Facilities in the new club include:
(Cont. on page Six)

COWS AND CHICKENS CALM IN EMERGENCY

The cows were already strapped down, but chickens "pretty well took their chances" when a C-123 Provider transport of the 310th Air Commando Squadron made an emergency landing recently at Phan Rang Air Base.

The pilot, Captain Chester G. Clark, 31, from Logansport, La., reported nearly a cackle or a moo from the three cows and seven chickens aboard as the C-123 which had

lost the tread of its right tire on take-off, made a safe landing on a foam-covered runway.

Captain Clark, assistant director of safety for the 315th Air Commando Wing, said that the cows and chickens, along with a pallet of rice and a pallet of fuel, were on their way to an Army Special Forces camp. Also aboard the aircraft were five Vietnamese passengers, and a flight surgeon on his first in-country mission.

(Cont. on Page Six)

315th AIR COMMANDO WING GETS A NEW COMMANDER

Colonel Bill M. Richardson, 46, from Russellville, Ky., has become commander of the 315th Air Commando Wing, whose C-123 Provider transports bring supplies to Army Special Forces camps all over South Vietnam.

A B-26 bomber pilot in World War II, the colonel has eight months in Vietnam. His comment on taking over the wing: "It's a very fine outfit ... I have some good people to work with."

The colonel's appointment as commander comes at a time of major changes for the Provider unit, which has four airlift
(Cont. on Page Six)

35th FMS MECHANIC HOSTS MARINE BROTHER ON BASE

Lance Corporal Gary L. Robinson, 19, a truck maintenance specialist with the 3rd Marine Division at Phu Bai, flew to this base recently for a five-day visit with his brother, A1C Richard H. Robinson, 20, from Hollidaysburg, Pa., a jet mechanic assigned to the 35th Field Maintenance Squadron.

"He sure liked this place," the airmen commented. "He was going to tell a bunch of people he was stationed with to come down here on R & R (Rest and Recuperation)."

The Marine lived in Air Force barracks with his brother, who showed him around the jet engine shop and engine test cell of the 35th FMS. The military brothers also managed to spend a day at a beach near the base.

Airman Robinson, who works on F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter engines, came to Vietnam in June, one month after his Marine brother.
(Cont. on Page Six)

2,000 Sweet Pea Seeds Arrive

The Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce in Lompoc, California has sent 2,000 Sweet Pea flower seeds to Phan Rang Air Base in response to a base beautification program.

"We have noted your appeal for the improvement of the landscape in your area," wrote Mr. Ralph Patey, executive manager
(Cont. on Page Six)

\$300,000 AUTOMATIC DIAL SYSTEM IS 'GO'

A \$300,000 automatic dial telephone system revolutionizing communications on base went into operation yesterday. According to Capt. Donald Terrell, chief of telecommunications in the 1882nd Communications Squadron, said that about 550 of the projected 1,000 lines of the new system have been activated.

These cover the cantonment side of the base. The remaining 450 lines, on the 'flight-line' side of the base, will be activated in "three to five months."

"It's almost going to be Stateside," said the officer, noting that the conversion to the new system was carried out by 1882nd Comm. Sq. personnel. Key roles were played by Capt. D.W. Antry, MSgt. N.H. Holifield, and TSgt. Clyde R. Mayo.

Actual construction of the new system was handled by the 485th Ground Electronic Engineering Installations Agency Sq. of Cam Ranh Bay. About 550 new telephone directories are available and can be picked up at the base communications building alongside the BX

BIG SHOW SATURDAY

A highly-rated USO show called 'Four in the Morning' will be on stage Saturday at 8 p.m. The same show will be presented for the 101st Airborne troops at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Described as a cross between 'The Four Freshmen' and 'The Brothers Four', the stars of 'Four in the Morning' offer silky smooth harmony with a background of bass, guitar, banjo, drums, and piano.

Get ready for pop tunes and ballads as sung by Duncan Robertson, John Christensen, Ron Case, and Robert Ness. Their drummer is Bill McNeil.

SOMETHING EXTRA FOR SECURITY POLICEMAN

The kids in the neighborhood decided to do something a little extra for A2C Daniel W. Baker back in June, when he came home on leave to Winston Park, Ky. prior to launching his new assignment at Phan Rang Air Base.

Airman Baker, 22, arrived here recently and has been assigned to the Panther (night) Flight of the 35th Security Police Squadron.

About 15 youngsters stretched a big piece of crepe paper, a welcome home sign across the telephone poles in front of his house.

They also chipped in to buy a present for the security policeman...some shaving lotion. "It made me feel pretty good that they felt this way," the young Kentuckian commented. He was formerly stationed at Eglin AFB, Fla.

LET THE AIR FORCE SOLVE THE PROBLEM

(Editor's note: At the request of the director of personnel and the consolidated base personnel office, PHANFARE offers the following excerpts from a column written by Col. Earl L. Johnson, commander of the 823rd Air Division at Homestead AFB, Fla.)

"Congressmen do not exercise executive authority in Air Force matters. They do ask questions about complaints they receive from Air Force personnel and they do get answers....answers any of you would get if you ask questions of your base inspector general.

"I emphasize again that anyone may write his Congressman without fear of reprisal action; however, in the interest of speed and economy, I urge all of you to use our Air Force established facilities to air your grievances....You might be surprised to find your problem can be solved quickly. Let's all try to run our Air Force ourselves."

BASE SOFTBALL TEAM GOES DOWN SWINGING

The Phan Rang softball team beat Tan Son Nhut 4-3 in the recent 7th Air Force Tourney at Cam Ranh Bay but lost 3-1 to Phu Cat and 6-4 to Cam Ranh Bay.

The two losses knocked the team out of the double-elimination tourney, which was won by Fleiku.

"We played good, hard ball," noted the coach, SSgt. Bob Locher of 35th Hq. Sq.

The team's three medics each hit home-runs, one in each game. SSgt. Bobby Miles, A2C Marlin Keylor, and A1C Richard Goodblanket poled these round-trippers, and Goodblanket's circuit swat made him the winning pitcher in the game against TSN.

Here are excerpts from the coverage of that game via TWX:

"Phan Rang...had one man on base after Jerry Gramke was hit by a pitched ball and was thrown out at second on Don Eschen's fielders' choice. Eschen reached second on a wild pitch and came in to score on Marlin Keylor's single...."

"Tan Son Nhut found itself in trouble in the third as two walks and an error loaded the bases with only one out. Phan Rang managed to push across two runs.

"Phan Rang chucker Dick Goodblanket won his own ball game by unleashing a long homer over the left center field fence. He then held the Saigon-based nine to only one hit and walked off with a well deserved victory."

The Phan Rang Roster included SSgt. Perkins, SSgt. Locher, A1C J.L. Simmond (who pitched two games), A1C Bunk, SSgt. Vincelle, A2C Grover, A1C Carter, A2C Clack, & A1C Rheam. Eleven Phan Rang runners were left stranded in the game against Phu Cat.

PHAN RANG OBSERVATIONS



DIMBY DUMSTICK



MOVIE DAYS CHANGED

Get this! No movie Thurs, but movies on Tuesday and Sunday... **TONITE:** Never Too Late, a side-splitting comedy... **FRIDAY:** Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, starring Liz Taylor, Richard Burton in a searing domestic drama with bitter humor.... **SATURDAY:** Harlow, lush Hollywood tragedy of the late Jean Harlow, starring Carroll Baker.... **SUNDAY:** Desperado Trail... Humma... A Western..... **NOTE:** Liz won an Oscar for 'Woolf'.

CLUB ROUND-UP

FRIDAY the Rhythm-errors will be at the Airmen's Club from 7 to 10 p.m., and Vietnamese hostesses are tentatively scheduled to be there from 6 to 10..... Meanwhile, the NCO Club will have Happy Hour from 6 to 7 p.m..... **On SATURDAY** the Tony Martinez Variety Show will be at the Airmen's Club from 7 to 8 p.m. & at the NCO Club from 9 to 10 p.m. The outdoor kitchen of the NCO Club now open from 7 to 11 p.m. daily.

RECREATION SITUATION

On Sunday the base softball championships will be gin on Diamond One, next to the dispensary, with games at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. After that there will be games every evening at 5:30 at the same place. Top four teams from each league competing in this double elimination tourney. Bleachers have been installed At the Red Cross Center.... At 7:30 p.m., Photo Clinic in Reading Room, with A2C Tom Tillotson, tonight! On Thursday nite, 7:30, Mr. Joe Burns will address the new Book Club, On Friday at 7:30 p.m., a pinocle tourney, and Saturday, same time, 'The Game??!'. On Sunday Don Mathis will launch the Music Club with a trik on jazz, featuring music on tape. On Tuesday it will be a Pool Tourney. Aussie Night on Aug. 24 (Thurs)

MILES OF MESSAGES

On Monday 35th TFW Intelligence sent out its 10,000th non-classified message of 1967. That's almost two miles of messages!



THE AFTERMATH OF DA NANG ATTACK

A massive maintenance operation is under way to repair C-123 Provider transports of the 311th Air Commando Squadron which were damaged in last month's deadly rocket attack on Da Nang Air Base.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur F. Trompeter, operations officer for the airlift squadron reported that the C-123's on the flightline during the night assault suffered "very extensive damage." One of the transports had a wing completely blown off.

Other C-123's were left with shrapnel holes in their engines and propellers, and still others emerged with ruptured fuel tanks. "Some aircraft," the colonel stated "had large pieces of metal that had gone through main spars."

Two days after the attack, the 311th moved to Phan Rang Air Base as part of a maintenance consolidation operation of the 315th Air Commando Wing. Maintenance personnel of the squadron concentrated on catching up whatever aircraft they could for the one-time flight to Phan Rang, where the crippled aircraft could undergo major maintenance work.

Colonel Trompeter said tape patches were placed over "smaller holes" in the damaged aircraft to make these C-123's flyable for the trip to Phan Rang.

It was, he said, "a tremendous effort on the part of the maintenance people that made the move to Phan Rang Air Base possible."

GRANDPA FLIES COMBAT STRIKES

"I think the older we are, the more we can pull back on our experience to get us out of any tight situations," commented a Phan Rang B-57 jet bomber pilot who became a grandfather four months ago.

Lieutenant Colonel Douglas M. Davis, 46, recently launched his third rotational combat tour in Vietnam with the 13th Tactical Bombardment Squadron, whose home is at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

A veteran of 76 combat missions in Vietnam, he observed that in the 13th TBS "we have many men who either are or will be grandfathers within the next year.... We don't react quite as quickly, but when we do react, it's generally the right reaction to take."

Colonel Davis has amassed over 4,500 flying hours. He flew B-29 bombers in World War II and the Korean Conflict, and has a total of 24 years' Air Force service. He has never seen his four-month-old grandson Stephen.

The silver-haired grandfather noted that "we do take in two generations of pilots here (in the 13th TBS)," but added that he has been the subject of "quite a bit of kidding."

In his Vietnam combat missions the B-57 pilot has bombed and strafed Viet Cong base camps, flown convoy cover and attacked enemy targets during his daily missions.

AIRMAN'S LETTER STARTS CHAIN REACTION

"You'd never guess what one letter can do," stated Airman First Class Lewis J. Sauerbrey, chaplain assistant at Phan Rang Air Base, commenting about how he has become the representative of three groups back in the states and the children of Tan Tai Orphanage which is located near Phan Rang Air Base.

"When I first came to Vietnam, I decided to find something that I could do to occupy my spare time. The first week that I was here, Chaplain (Major) Edward B. Hemkens, asked me to go to Phan Rang with him to see the Tan Tai Orphanage."

When he returned from the trip, Airman Sauerbrey wrote to his parents in Owego, N.Y., telling them of the conditions and the children and most of all the need for the most basic child care items.

Back in Owego, the word spread and his mother, who works at the IBM Corporation Cafeteria, told her friends about the children. Soon they were bringing powder soap, oil, and lotion for a package to be sent to Vietnam for the children. Other friends brought diapers and good baby clothing for the project.

In a letter sent to a former school friend who is now a secretary in Washington D.C. he mentioned the people of

(Continued on page 5)

AUSSIE MEDIC HAS AN AIR FORCE 'PROF'

Corporal James E. Smith, 27 of the No. 2 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force, recently carried out the first electro-cardiograph (EKG) test to be run by any Australian on a Vietnamese civilian at the 35th Tactical Dispensary at this base.

It was the climax of three weeks of on-the-job training he has received at the Air Force dispensary at the hands of A1C Eli Wilner, 34, a medical service specialist at the dispensary.

The Aussie is "a very, very good student," said the airman, "and an excellent technician." He noted that the EKG testing was part of the medical assistance program being provided by American civilian and Air Force personnel for the Vietnamese people in towns and hamlets near Phan Rang Air Base.

22 ENLISTED MEN SET TO TEACH ENGLISH

"Actually I was scared to death," said Airman First Class James H. Smith, 26, from Knoxville, Tenn., a member of the 35th Security Police Squadron, as he recalled his first night as an English teacher in Phan Rang's Civic Action program of assistance to the Vietnamese people.

One of 22 enlisted men of the base who recently volunteered to teach English to youngsters in Thap Cham and Phan Rang, he found himself facing an enthusiastic class of six children between the ages of 12 and 16.

CHAPLAIN PUBLISHES HIS NINTH BOOK

Awaiting our new base Chaplain (Lt. Col) Theodore J. Kleinhaus, on his arrival here were the author's copies of his latest book, 'Scoutways to God'. A long-time author, he has written nine previous books. Two have been novels, two biographies and five religious books.

This one was written on request for the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts. A series of fifty readings, it emphasizes the Scout Law and gives moral and religious insight to famous Americans.

Chaplain Kleinhaus came to Phan Rang from Keesler AFB, Miss. Before departing from the states, he left the manuscripts of two books with his literary agent, Curtis Brown Ltd. of New York.

A member of Authors Guild and the Authors League, he has won awards from the Freedoms Foundation for his writing every year for the past five years. Chaplain Kleinhaus has been in the Air Force for 14 years.

Airman Smith broke the ice by asking them why they wanted to learn to speak English. One twelve-year-old youngster said that he wanted to go to America on a scholarship to learn a trade so that he could come back to Vietnam and help his people.

The security policeman broke the ice with his class, which is expected to swell to at least 50 students, by asking the children about their families and interest in English.

Other airmen involved in the teaching program are: MSgt G.D. Tucker, 615th; A1C W.E. Kerchenfaut, 615th; A2C S. Vogel, 600th Ph.; A2C J. Perrin, 35 SPS; A2C D. Hudson, 35AEMS; A2C G.A. Peterson, 35AEMS; A2C D.G. Wolfe, 35 AEMS; A1C E.H. Sutton, 35 AEMS; A2C E.W. Pickens, 35 AEMS; A1C D.E. Briggs, 35 CES; TSgt W.G. Webb, Hq; A2C L.J. Guest, 35 SPS; A2C C.J. Tripp, 35 SPS; A2C A. Bernard, 35SP; A2C C. Barnes, 35 SPS; A2C W.B. Goodson, 35SP; A2C E.E. Jimenez, 35 SPS; A2C E.A. MC Caulley, 35 SPS; A1C J.D. Payten, 35 Sup; SSgt. S. Frazier, 35 Sup; and A2C B.S. Draper, 35 Sup.

When asked if teaching three nights a week plus carrying out his duties as a Security Policeman worked any hardship, Airman Smith replied, "I'd rather be teaching than sitting around the barracks dreaming about home. The good we can accomplish here is important."

THOUSANDS TRAINED

What do you know about First Aid, Disaster Action, Code of Conduct or Security Control?

Technical Sergeant Neuman W. Dahl, 29, from Walnut Creek, Calif., is doing something about improving your knowledge in the different fields that make up the General Military Training (GMT) Program.

He is the ground training NGOIC. In classes daily hundreds of base personnel are being trained and tested in the areas of knowledge that might save a life or help them in their military career.

Working under the auspices of Colonel Lewis R. Riley, base commander, Sergeant Dahl has already tested over 2000 personnel.

"As far as I know, we are the only base in Vietnam that is supporting the entire GMT program," stated Sergeant Dahl, "Plans are in the mill now for a full pellet gun course in marksmanship and small arms training."

With advent of the pellet gun range, the GMT program will work closely with the recreation program to provide a new outlet for off-duty time.

Sergeant Dahl commented, "There are a lot of airmen and officers that like to shoot and this way we can give them a chance to do so, very inexpensively, and at the same time improve the marksmanship of the individual." The course that comes with the guns is a motion picture target sequence that places the individual in the combat situations without him leaving the class room. It is patterned after the famed 'Kelly's Alley' at the FBI Academy.

Those who have already taken the GMT tests are mildly surprised at how much can be learned quickly.

CHAIN REACTION

(Con't from page 4)
Vietnam and the children. Within a month he received a box of basic baby items from the secretaries at the office where she works. Since that time he has received several more.

He mentioned the children to some friends at Forbes AFB, Kans., where he was formerly stationed. The Ladies Sodality (a Catholic womens organization) now sends packages regularly with items for the children. Recently he received a package from the sixth grade class at North Owego Elementary School. Mrs. Ruth-erford, the teacher, sent a letter telling how the children had saved their allowances and bought the items for the package.

The only comment that Airman Saubrey can make about the whole project is "You ought to see those children's eyes light up when they see what has come for them."

THOUSANDS AT GRAND OPENING

(Continued from page one)

a modern two chair barbershop, a complete snack bar and dining room, game room and a 140 sq. ft. patio equipped with a large stage. The new stage was designed with large musical and stage shows in mind and will allow for all types of entertainment.

Future plans for the new club, include: the installation of air conditioning and the construction of a large swimming pool.

The club's old facility will be turned into a game room and reading lounge for the enjoyment of members and their guests.

Two musical groups were on hand to entertain and a good time was had by all.

Two musical groups were on hand to entertain and a good time was had by all.

SPEEDY! SSgt. Clair T. Scott of the 352 TFS won his 3, 5, & 7 levels in 1967.

NEW COMMANDER

(Cont. from page one)

squadrons and a squadron which specializes in defoliation operations to deny the cover of forests and other hiding places to the enemy.

Recently the wing moved its headquarters and the majority of its personnel and aircraft to Phan Rang Air Base in move designed to consolidate its major maintenance operations at a single base.

The wing's 'B' model Providers are currently being replaced by improved 'K' models from the United States. The new models, according to Col. Richardson, have two additional jet engines which comprise a "significant safety factor". The presence of these engines "pays off" said Col. Richardson, "in taking off from short landing strips with heavy loads."

The air commando wing's C-123's use approximately 150 runways and landing strips all over South Vietnam. They fly approximately 945,000 miles per month, and in the process they airlift approximately 25,000 tons of cargo and at least 70,000 passengers to places all over the country.

The airlift squadrons, Col. Richardson stated, provide a "regular airline schedule" for troops in Vietnam. These squadrons also deliver "combat-essential war cargo" with or without a parachute.

COWS AND HENS CALM

(Continued from page one)

The emergency began when the aircraft took off from Phan Rang. "We weren't quite sure how much strength we had left in this particular tire," Captain Clark recalled. "We requested foam on the runway (to ease the landing)," he added.

During the entire emergency, Capt. Clark stated, the coordination of the crew, including co-pilot, loadmaster and flight mechanic, was outstanding. "The Chickens were up front," he pointed out, and there was no way to secure them in anticipation of the emergency landing.

The co-pilot was Lieutenant Elliot, the flight mechanic was Airman Bales, and the loadmaster was Sergeant Basilac.

The aircraft tilted slightly to the right as it taxied along the runway after touching down, but otherwise it turned out to be almost a normal landing.

Two hours after the C-123 landed, Captain Clark reported, its damaged tire was replaced and the cows and chickens were airborne again. Later in the day they were delivered in good shape to the Special Forces Camp and nearby Montagnard villagers.

SEEDS FROM CALIFORNIA

(Continued from page one)

of the chamber, in the letter which accompanied the package of seed packets sent to Phan Rang Air Base.

"We are indeed pleased to know," he continued, "that you and the men assigned to Phan Rang are maintaining an interest in the beauty of your area despite the serious burden you carry in behalf of the free world."

Mr. Patey concluded, "These seeds produce an exceptionally hardy breed of Sweet Pea and we hope that the resulting flowers can give some measure of pleasure and beauty to your men and the installation.... Please extend this community's grateful appreciation to the men at Phan Rang for the job they are doing."

Phan Rang, a relatively new base, has been the scene of a massive construction program accompanied by a base-wide effort to beautify the area through the procurement and planting of grass.

The Sweet Pea packets will be distributed to units throughout the base and before long the Calif. seeds will flower into beautiful landmarks on this base.

BROTHERS MEET

(Continued from page one)

Their recent meeting at the air base was their first get-together since leaving the U.S.

Airman Robinson noted that his brother is stationed just 15 miles south of the DMZ (De-militarized Zone). Airman Robinson will return the visit in October.