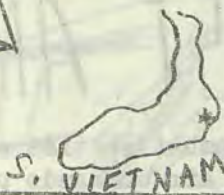


# PHAN



# AIR

VOLUME I, ISSUE 22

THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

OCTOBER 18, 1967

## 'PROJECT FATHER' PRESENTS SOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS TIME

An airman who spearheaded a Christmas drive last year which produced gifts for close to 4,000 Vietnamese in this locale is now launching a second edition of the drive in hopes of coming up with gifts for nearly 10,000 Vietnamese people this Christmas.

Airman First Class Bill Gaither, 25, from Ludlow, Kentucky, is assigned to the 1882nd Communications Squadron as Motorola Systems monitor. According to Airman Gaither, last year's 'Project Father' was the first Civic Action project ever to be undertaken at this air base. When airman Gaither began last year's project, he had originally planned for enough gifts for approximately 150 youngsters of a vocational school at the nearby Go Dem hamlet. To provide presents for the children, Airman Gaither sought help from home by writing letters to his friends and relatives.

'Project Father' snowballed into 8,000 gifts, many of them from people in the area of Texas and Arkansas, and Airman Gaither turned to local officials of the United States Agency for International Development to distribute the gifts throughout the communities around the air base.

In order to see the program grow, airman Gaither extended his tour of duty in Vietnam. 'Project Father' has become a squadron effort, and also has the active backing of people in other squadrons on the base. "We hope to hit nearly 10,000 people in this Christmas season", said Airman Gaither, and he is appealing to all personnel on base to write home to their families, friends and hometown civic groups for gifts. Such gifts should be addressed to: Project Father, 1882nd Communications Squadron, APO San Francisco 96321. The civic action minded airman plans to direct the accumulation, sorting and repairing of gifts right up to his day of departure, which will be shortly before Christmas. At that time, Captain Donald Terrell of the 1882nd will take his place as chief of the project. \* \* \* \*

### AIRMAN WEDS ON R & R TRIP

"Both of us got kind of lonely," said Airman First Class Richard S. Cirillo, 20, from Quincy, Mass., an administrative specialist in the 35th Field Maintenance Squadron, as he explained why he flew to Hawaii recently for a wedding rendez-vous with his California Sweetheart.

When the young airman came to Vietnam, close to eight months ago, he and his fiancée, the former Miss Connie L. Johnson of (Continued on Page Two)

### ROCK SHOP NOW OPEN

Top officials of this base were on hand recently for the opening of a base lapidary shop featuring \$2,500 worth of stone grinding and polishing equipment and 84 types of stones including quartz crystals and star rubies.

Colonel Lewis R. Riley, the base commander cut the yellow ribbon officially opening the new facility for business.

Also on hand for the grand opening were Colonel James A. Wilson, commander of the 35th TAC Ftr. Wing & Colonel Edward P. McNeff, vice commander of the 35th TFW.

The new facility will be open from six to 10 PM Mondays thru Saturdays and from noon to 10 PM on Sundays.

The quarter inch slabs of stone sell at prices ranging from 50 cents each to \$4.95.

In the two display cases are a wide variety of jewelry mountings, which will enable rock shop patrons to create a wide variety of attractive jewelry. The new facility is located near the Airmens Open Mess. \*\*\*\*\*

### TWO BASE PILOTS RECEIVE DFC

During a recent visit here General Gabriel P. Disosway, commander of Tactical Air Command, presented the Distinguished Flying Cross to two pilots from the 614th TFS.

Captain Gordon M. Pollard, received the medal for his aid in saving the lives of 47 friendly troops during operations last May. At that time he was a forward air controller who repeatedly flew his unarmed light plane over hostile gun positions in order to safely direct the rescue of a patrol which was in heavy contact with enemy ground forces.

(continued on Page Six)

### R&R MARRIAGE (cont)

Merced, Calif., had plans of getting married upon completion of Airman Cirillo's one year tour over here.

By June, the seperated sweethearts had decided to get married in Honolulu during the airman's R & R (rest and Recuperation) trip to Hawaii.

An Air Force chaplain at Hickam AFB, in Hawaii made the arrangements, and the wedding came off almost without a hitch at the Air Base, after the airman traveled 7,000 miles and his wife traveled another 3,000 to reach the scene.

The only hitch was that the couple were 30 minutes late for the ceremonies, because Connie couldn't find her blood test slip. Finally it turned up, in her purse!

R & R trips are five days long, and that was the length of the couples honeymoon.

"My wife loves to shop," said Airman Cirillo and some of the time was spent shopping in the Honolulu area.

"It's wonderful!" said Airman Cirillo, when asked how it feels to be a husband.

When he and Connie were engaged, he would write her a letter every day from Vietnam. Now that he's her husband, he's writing her letters twice a day.

### CAPS! OFF

The policy in Air Force dining halls is hats off! The reactions are occasionally offbeat.

Not long ago an airman entering one of the dining halls on the base was asked to take off his fatigue cap. "Why?" asked another airman innocently, "Did somebody die?"

More recently another airman who had forgotten to take off his hat was confronted by a stern cook. "I've got a head cold," the unperturbed offender blandly explained, just before he removed the cap.

\* \* \* \*

# "JUST ANOTHER DAY"

Eight combat sorties add up to "just another day" for veteran air commando pilot Major Richard W. Mead, 39, from Lisbon, North Dakota.

Since he came to Vietnam in December of 1966, this 309th Air Commando Squadron pilot has flown more than 1,000 such sorties in his C-123 Provider transport to deliver food, ammunition, aircraft parts, and other vital supplies to Army Special Forces camps all over the country.

In March, as he taxied the aircraft along one of the 66 landing strips he has utilized in these endless supply missions, an enemy landmine blew up directly underneath his C-123 and demolished the landing gear as well as much of the nose section of the aircraft.

"We lucked out," the major grinned, nobody got a scratch. The C-123 has been hit by at least 20 bullets since Major Mead began his combat tour, but he insisted that this is par for the course for the rugged air commando transports.

Recently on the day the major flew his 1,000th sortie he also flew seven others in the course of delivering passengers and cargo from early in the morning until twilight.

Major Mead is also Chief of Standardization for the 309th Air Commando Squadron. In that role, he insures that air crew personnel perform the same flying jobs in the same way. He also is in charge of the up-grading of squadron pilots to such positions as aircraft commander and instructor pilot.

The major recently served as aircraft commander during a series of C-123 paratroops near Phan Rang to qualify members of the Army's 101st Airborne Division as paratroopers.

This operation marked the start of a new front-line paratrooper school based on partnership of Army and Air Force units. "I really enjoy making the air drops," commented the major, and he added the trainees performed real well. "I think it was excellent training for both sides," the Major concluded.

## PIT VIPER MULTIPLIES

A malayan pit viper has given birth to 21 baby snakes in what is believed to be the only snake house in existence among all 7th Air Force bases in Vietnam.

Both mother and babies are doing fine according to Airman First Class Bill Gaither, the snakes benefactor and protector.

Airman Gaither is extremely proud of the event in that this is the first reptile to reproduce since the opening of Phan Rang's snake house.

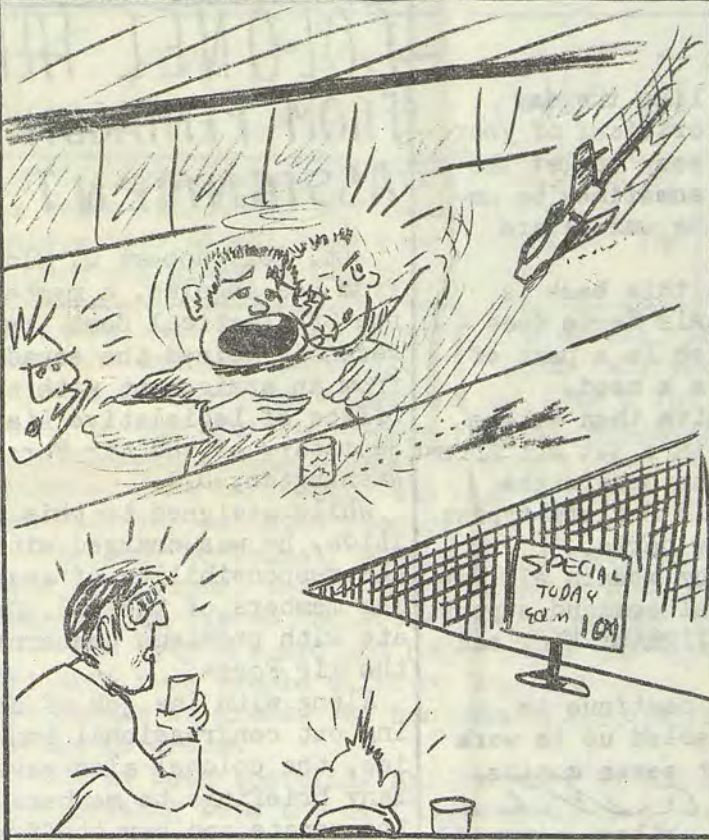
The mother snake was pregnate when captured by a non-commissioned officer in the base's bomb storage area.

According to the serpentarium specialist he provided a natural habitat for the snake to lay the eggs in, and kept them moist for the five week incubation period so that they would hatch naturally.

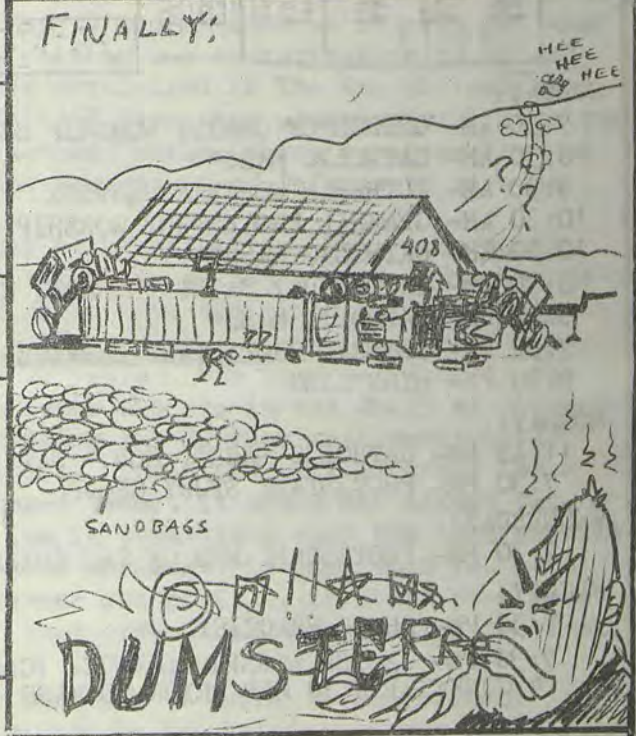
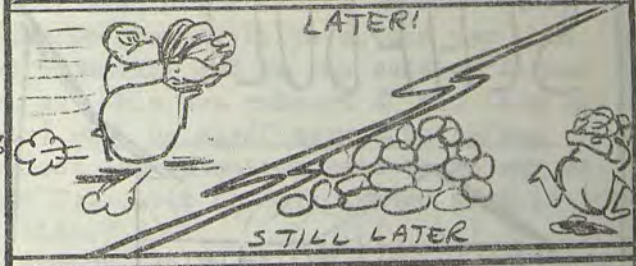
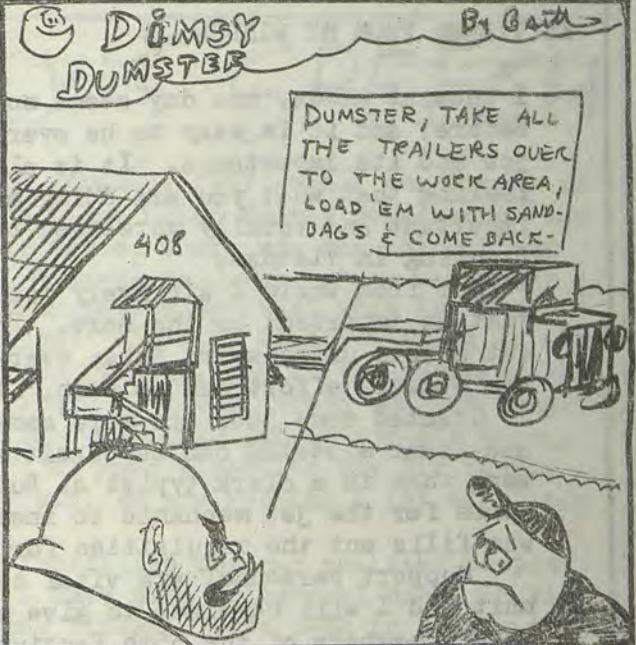
The mother snake coiled around the pile of eggs and remained in that position, without food or water for the entire incubation period.

The baby snakes are in fine shape, and just as poisonous as their mother, although they are only three inches long.

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THERE I WAS AT 20,000 FEET WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE OVERCAST SPLIT AND - - -



**SPORTS SHORTS:** Results from the first base foot-ball games are as follows:

- 35MMS-HQ Sq. 13-12 (Forfeit)
- Food Serv- Supply 14-7
- 35 CES - 600 Photo 7-0 (Forfeit)
- Other Games were rescheduled due to the Monsoon season. Games for this week are: (Weather Pending Today: 435MMS - 35 A&E)
- Oct. 19: 315 ACW - 35 FMS
- Oct. 20: Svs - 435 MMS
- Oct. 21: Hq - 35 FMS
- Oct. 23: 35 AC&W - 315 ACW
- Oct. 24: 600 Ph - 315 Pilots

**NCO OPEN MESS**

- THURS: Bring Your Boss Nite
- FRI: 8:30 PM "The Jaguars"
- SAT: Friendship Nite

**AIRMAN'S OPEN MESS**

- FRI: 7:00 PM "The Jaguars"

**RED CROSS RECREATION CENTER**

- TONITE: Games
- THURS: Games & Bridge Lessons
- FRI: Pinochle Tourney
- SAT: Clubmobile Program
- SUN: Coffee Call - Los Vegas Nite
- MON: CLOSED
- TUE: Slide Nite of Bangkok

**MOVIE SCHEDULE**

- TONITE - Butterfield Eight - Elizabeth Taylor,
- FRIDAY - Texas Across The River - Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, Frank Sinatra
- SATURDAY - Once Before I Die - Ursula Andress

## AS VIEWED FROM MY WINDOW...

I know, at times, one day seems much like the day before, and it is easy to be overly critical of your job and its importance. It is also easy to get the feeling that what you are doing may sometimes be unimportant and totally unrelated to the war we are fighting in Vietnam.

But from where I sit every job on this base is just as important as the next. The Air Force does not create unnecessary jobs; every job is a part of the overall effort and as such, fills a need.

Granted some jobs are more sensitive than others, and fewer mistakes can be permitted in a jet mechanic's work than in a clerk typist's. But who orders the parts for the jet mechanic to install? A clerk typist who fills out the requisition for the parts.

Support personnel are vital to any modern Air Force unit and I will continue to give equal command support to all members of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing and the various tenant units.

We are a team, and I know we will continue to maintain the team spirit that has enabled us to work so effectively together over the past seven months.

*James A. Wilson*  
Col. James A. Wilson, commander  
35th Tactical Fighter Wing

COLONEL HERE  
FROM PENTAGON  
ASSIGNMENT

Lt. Col. Robert Q. Old, 42 from Los Angeles, a member of the 8th Tactical Bomb Squadron recently joined the squadron from an assignment with the Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, D.C.

While assigned to this position, he was charged with the responsibility of assisting members of the U.S. Senate with problems concerning the Air Force.

Along with the job of checking out congressional inquiries, the colonel also gave many briefings to members of the senate and key staff members of the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

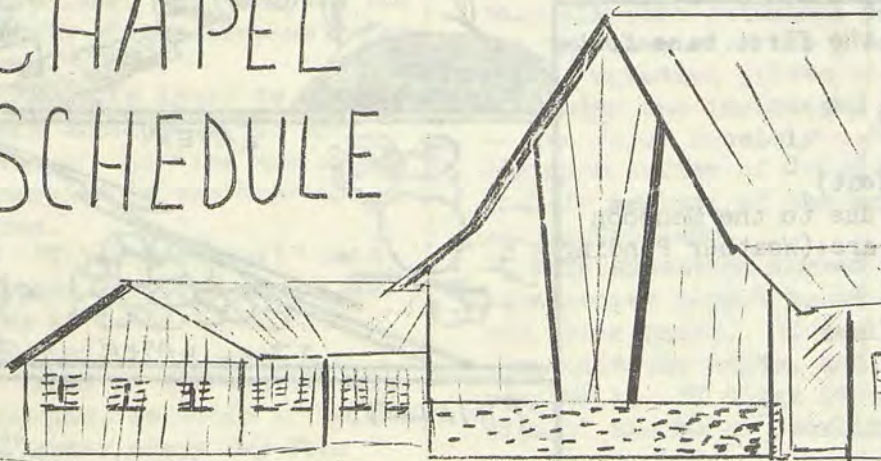
He personally conducted Senator John Tower (R-Tex), on two tours of Vietnam, in which they visited nearly every Air Force and Army installation.

Col. Old said, "Few, if any, congressional letters about conditions in Vietnam are received by members of Congress from Air Force personnel stationed here." He went on to say, "the office of Legislative Liaison processes over 100,000 inquiries a year from the legislative and executive branches of our government. Most of the constituent inquiries cover everything from Air Force contracts, to letters from parties asking why they were rejected by the local recruiter."

Col. Old, a veteran pilot, first entered the service during the closing stages of World War II, and was recalled in 1950 to fly B-26 bomber missions during the Korean War.

Between WWII and 1950, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Pepperdine College in Los Angeles, and after Korea continued his education and was graduated from George Washington University with a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

Before coming to Vietnam, the colonel attended the National War College.

CHAPEL  
SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY:

- 7:30 AM- CHURCH OF CHRIST WORSHIP SERVICE (Chapel Annex)
- 8:30 AM- CATHOLIC MASS\*
- 9:30 AM- LUTHERAN WORSHIP SERVICES
- 10:30 AM- GENERAL PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE
- 12:00 AM- CATHOLIC MASS\*
- 3:30 PM- LATTER DAY SAINT (MORMON) WORSHIP SERVICE (CA)
- 6:30 PM- CATHOLIC MASS\*
- 7:30 PM- GENERAL PROTESTANT SERVICE
- 8:30 PM- HYMN SING

## MONDAY:

- 11:45 AM- CATHOLIC MASS\*( MON - SAT )
- 7:30 PM- PROTESTANT STUDY GROUP

## WEDNESDAY:

- 7:30 PM- PROTESTANT MEN OF THE CHAPEL

## FRIDAY:

- 7:30 PM- CHOIR PRACTICE
- 7:30 PM- JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE (Chapel Annex)
- \* CONFESSION 30 MIN PRIOR TO MASS

" COME WORSHIP WITH US "

# CMSGT AIREY'S SPEECH

The following speech by CMSgt. Paul W. Airey is being printed in its entirety for the information of all Phan Rang personnel. The speech was given on October 10, 1967.

"On April 3, 1967 when I was put in as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, there was one thing I was very concerned with, along with many other people and that was: Is this

position that has been created a ceremonial position?" "Has it been something to placate the enlisted personnel?" "I can tell you quite frankly, and quite tangibly, that this is not so. This position has done a lot of good. I'm very proud and very happy being on the staff of General John P. McConnell, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

I do have access to him whenever I need it. "I do have access to the Air Staff, whenever it's necessary, and step by step, bit by bit, we are getting a lot of things done for our enlisted people."

"General Mc Connell wanted me to check on the facilities for our enlisted people here in Vietnam, and Southeast Asia in general. I have been to several bases in Vietnam, and as far as facilities go, Phan Rang has the finest I have seen in a long time."

"I'm very pleased and happy about the tour thus far, because of the response I have met with from people all over Southeast Asia. The airmen know why they are here, and the morale is great. The non-commissioned officers know why they are here and the morale is great."

"I've been traveling all over the United States to various bases. The response I am getting from the civilian communities where these Air Force bases are is terrific." "Out in Colorado, I have been given one square foot of Pike's Peak. Down in Florida, I am a five star admiral in the Florida Navy. In Tennessee, I'm a sheriff. Out in New Mexico, I'm a colonel aide-de-camp to the governor. I like to think, and I'm sincere when I say it, that all these honors coming to me are not going to befall me personally. They are going to the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, and in turn they rub off onto every enlisted men in the Air Force."

"Eighteen months from now, there will be someone else up here taking my place. I want to talk briefly on promotions. Promotions now, and in the months to come (and, the way we're programming it, we hope, in the years to come) will be better now than any time since the Korean War. Right today we are promoting men to the rank of Airman First Class, often with less than two years service. This was unheard of not long ago. A fair percentage (of men who make A1C in two years) will be staff sergeants before their first enlistment is up. Consequently, we expect the retention rate to go way up. The outlook for the rest of the ranks is excellent ..... It is anticipated that in the future there will be no entirely frozen career fields."

"Let me be very frank: There will always be career fields in which there are more opportunities for promotion than in others. No this I don't think we'll ever get away from. Recently we got a 12,000-stripe increase, raising our authorization to 62 and one half percent. We are trying to get 70 percent authorized in the top six enlisted grades. We think this publicity that has been derived from this congressional committee that has been meeting in Washington in the past several weeks, which I personally had to testify before, will be added incentive for the Department of Defense to give us this increase."

"That's one way to get promotions. The other is by attrition. This covers, of course, separation, discharges, and retirement. Everytime an E-9 (Chief master sergeant retires, eight people get promoted..... and so on down the line. We do anticipate a steady attrition."

"The average non-com stays in an average of 22 years. The next big jump is 26. there are less than 2,000 NCO's in the Air Force today who are in the 28, 29 or 30-year bracket..... Our Korean service veterans are reaching the 20-year retirement mark.

"We anticipate a steady, fairly large attrition. Promotions will be great for a long time to come. If hostilities in Vietnam closed today, it would not effect our promotion rate. Part of the reason for the log jam in promotions over the last several years (in the ranks of staff sergeant through master sergeant) is that when you have 48 percent of your men staying in and making a career out of it....it slows down your promotion flow. I'd like to assure (you) ..... that promotions are starting to break, and that they will continue to break."

"The pay bill, we anticipate will be going through. I spoke to Congressman Rivers a few weeks ago, and he told me the only reason he was holding on was that he wanted to see what the Civil Service Commission and Postal authorities wanted. At that time he would submit his bill."

EDITORS NOTE: THE HOUSE HAS PASSED A SIX PERCENT PAY INCREASE FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES AND A 4.5 PERCENT INCREASE FOR OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (October 14th Issue of Stars & Stripes)

(CMSgt. Airey's Speech continued on page Six)

# AROUND THE BASE WITH SERGEANT AIREY

Chief Master Sergeant Richard D. Vetter, 41, from San Diego, Calif., who escorted the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force around the base during the latter's recent four-hour visit, described him as "a warm individual who appears to have the airmen's interests at heart."

Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey stopped and shook hands with everyone in the immediate vicinity throughout his tour of the base, according to sergeant Vetter, base sergeant major. "He just puts you in a relaxed atmosphere... He made me feel relaxed" sergeant Vetter added.

The sergeant-major said that wherever sergeant Airey went, he would walk up to airmen at the scene and introduce himself. Then sergeant Vetter continued, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force would ask the men about such things as their on-the-job training and promotion status.

The tour began with a briefing by the commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Colonel James A. Wilson and then sergeant Airey went to the Airmen's Open Mess for coffee with the board of governors.

From there, Sergeant Vetter noted, the man who represents 750,000 enlisted men & women went to the Red Cross Recreation Center for a quick tour of the building. The next stop was the recently completed base chapel, and from there, Sergeant Airey visited the new base library building.

Also included in the base tour was the orderly room of the 35th Security Police Squadron, and a visit to one of the airmen's barracks, of that organization. Sergeant Airey was very impressed with the cleanliness and the way people have taken it upon themselves to fix their barracks up.

Sergeant Airey also visited the Non-Commissioned Officers Open Mess, the base's new dining hall, the new base exchange, and the headquarters of the 35th Combat Support Grp. where the distinguished visitor talked with the vice-deputy base commander.

Next came a helicopter trip to the beach, and then Sergeant Airey went to the Non-Commissioned Officer's Open Mess for lunch with the first sergeants of the base and the board of governors.

Sergeant Airey departed from Phan Rang at approximately one P.M to continue his tour of Air Force installations in South Vietnam.

\* \* \* \* \*

## TELEVISION TRANSLATOR STATION ARRIVES AT PHAN RANG A.B.

Phan Rang's new television receiver and translator station is on base and a team of installation specialists will have it in operation before the end of the month.

This will be another first for Phan Rang Air Base in that we are getting the first translator station in Vietnam.

# AIREY SPEAKS

Continued from Page Five:

Before Sergeant Airey, who represents the 750,000 enlisted men and women in the Air Force left the meeting, he told the sergeants that every enlisted man or woman in the Air Force has the right and the authority to communicate directly with the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

However he strongly urged, that airmen turn to their NCO's for the solving of personal problems rather than immediately contacting him.

# TWO 8TH TBS PILOTS END TOUR

Captain John M. Hurley and Captain Richard R. Robertson recently finished their tour of duty with the 8th Tactical Bomb Wing at Phan Rang Air Base.

Captain Hurley climbed out of his B-57 jet bomber after finishing his last mission and found a case of iced down Champagne and a large group of friends on hand to help celebrate his last combat mission. The captain has over 400 hours of combat flying in Vietnam behind him, and has been in Southeast Asia for the past two years, all of the time with the 8th Tactical Bomb Sqdn.

Captain Robertson also finished his two year tour of duty with the 8th TBS on the day, but not the same mission.

Both Pilots departed for Clark Air Base in the Philippines, which is the home base of the 8th Tactical Bomb Squadron for out-processing and the long trip back to the United States.

# - D.F.C. - (cont' from Pg ONE)

First Lieutenant Louis V. Distelzweig, Jr received the Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission over South Vietnam on April 12, 1967. He was called to help friendly forces that were hard pressed in a death grip with Viet Cong forces. Pressing the attack, against heavy ground fire, Lt. Distelzweig made accurate deliveries of his bombs and ordnance destroying the enemy positions and forcing the enemy unit to withdraw with numerous casualties.

# CIVIC ACTION SQUADRON - OF THE WEEK

A tip of the hat and a pat on the back for the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron is long over due.

This squadron for many months has done everything it can to cooperate with the base Civic Action officials.

\*\* INVESTIGATE THE 10% SAVINGS PLAN \*\*