

PHAN



RANG

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THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 8, 1967

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW OFFICER DORMITORIES

Following brief ground-breaking ceremonies by top officials of the base, members of the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron 'Red Horse' began work on a \$293,100 construction project which will provide officers of this base with permanent housing.

The new bachelor officer's quarters will consist of 15 steel framed wooden buildings. Each building will accommodate 27 men. The project is scheduled for completion in March.

Twelve pieces of heavy earth moving machinery were lined behind a ribbon at the construction site at the start of the ground-breaking ceremonies.

After the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, Col. James A. Wilson, snipped the ribbon, the equipment rumbled. (con't on pg two)

"PROJECT FATHER" GAINING SUPPORT FROM 33 STATES

'Project Father', a plan to provide Christmas gifts for 10,000 Vietnamese youngsters, has gained the support of 33 states in the U.S., according to the project's sponsor, Sgt. Bill Gaither, 25, from Ludlow, Ky.

Assigned to the 1882nd Communications Squadron (AFCS) as a Motorola radio systems monitor, the sergeant originated 'Project Father' last year to provide 150 Vietnamese children near the base with Christmas gifts.

"It snowballed into what was probably the largest single unit sponsored distribution in the country," he said noting that gifts came pouring in for almost 4,000 youngsters.

Twenty cities in 13 states responded to the 1966 Christmas drive, the sergeant re-

RED HORSE WELCOME FIRST PHASE ARRIVALS

In the early hours of last Sunday morning, two large C-141 Starlifters rolled to a stop on the ramps of Phan Rang AB. Inside was the first increment of replacement personnel for the 554th 'Red Horse' Civil Engineering Squadron.

Newly arrived Colonel William T. Meredith, 48, of Waynesboro, Va., commander of the famed squadron, met the planes and welcomed the men to Phan Rang.

NEW CHAPLAINS

Buildings aren't the only thing that is new around the chaplain's complex.

Two new faces have joined the staff headed by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Theodore Kleinhans.

The first to arrive was Capt. Charles R. Hutsler, 32, from Kansas City, Mo. Chaplain Hutsler is a Methodist and comes to Phan Rang from Homestead AFB, Fla.

Following Chaplain Hutsler's (con't on pg two)

From the time that they arrived until late in the evening the new arrivals had a very busy day.

First they were fed, then a preplanned program for processing-in began.

The Consolidated Base Personnel Office (con't on six)

PILOT INVOLVED IN LOC NINH BATTLE

"It looked like a string of Christmas lights coming out of each automatic weapon from five different positions" stated 1st Lieutenant Louis V. Distelzweig Jr., 25, from Springfield, Ill.

Assigned to the 614th TRS the young pilot was describing the ground fire that greeted a pair of F-100 Super Sabres as they attacked an enemy rocket position backed by five automatic weapons during a furious battle near the Loc Ninh Special Forces camp, 70 miles north of Saigon.

Scrambled from Phan Rang in the early a.m. answering an urgent call for air support, the F-100's encountered what he called was the heaviest automatic weapons fire he has observed in the course of 190 combat missions in South Vietnam.

"I'm happy to say that when we were through hitting the position, the automatic weapons were silenced," he stated.

The lieutenant noted that for every tracer bullet he

(con't on pg six)

called, and this year," I think we've expanded by about 20 additional states."

One of the latest developments is that the Air Force Mothers Association, which according to Sergeant Gaither has 13 chapters in five states, has "picked up the project as a Christmas holiday season project."

"We have nearly 1,000 toys on hand now, and are repairing broken toys and sorting them," adding that "this year about 40 to 50 people in our squadron and across the base are working at this end."

Encouraging letters have arrived from churches and civic groups "across the states."

A crash program is being drawn up for distribution of the toys on December 24th.

- GROUNDBREAKING -

(Con't from one)
onto the site and started to level the area.

Project engineer for the BOQ is 1st Lt. Gary L. Bruhler, who drew the plans for the base chapel. Responsibility for the sewage layout and water distribution are Capt. David O. Swint, and 1st Lt. Robert C. Holt.

Vertical construction supervision will be by TSgt. Richard Johnson, who also worked on the chapel.

- NEW FACES -

(Con't from one)

arrival by one day, was Chaplain (Capt) William H. Mattox 31, from Elgin, S.C.

Chaplain Mattox is a Baptist and has just come from Kelly AFB, Tex.

Both men are to replace the current protestant chaplains, Captain Franklin D. Hartsell and Captain Russell D. Williams, who return to the states this month.

NEW REFUELING RIG GETS WORKOUT

Recently the 35th Supply Squadron received 12 new refueling rigs for servicing the 'thirsty' F-100 Super Sabres, B-57 Canberra jet bombers and C-123 Provider transports on base.

"They're the best refueling units the Air Force has put out," commented fuel specialist Sergeant Lee C. Morris, 21, from Talladega, Ala., who uses one of the new 5,000 gallon rigs to fuel F-100's.

The gearshift on the streamlined trucks is on the left hand side, so the drivers can start pumping operations from the outside, instead of having to climb back into the cab.

The trucks are painted a bright safety yellow, so that they can be seen at night.

ARMY COMMENDS F-100 FLIERS

Two F-100 pilots of the 352d TFS received a letter of appreciation from the Army commander at the scene of an air strike 20 miles north of Phu Cat which left 13 Viet Cong dead.

One of the pilots, Captain John L. Martin, said he appreciated the letter "more than anything else out of the mission," which took place in mountainous terrain amidst overcast skies.

The other pilot, Captain James R. McNeil, recalled that the FAC could hardly find the target because of the bad weather. A veteran of 115 combat missions in Vietnam, he said that because of low cloud ceilings they couldn't "get any dive angle or anything."

Nevertheless, after the FAC marked the target with smoke, they managed to catch the VC in the open and hit them with 750-pound bombs and 20mm cannon.

Commenting on the death of the 13 VC, Capt. Martin, who was the flight leader, said, "I had no idea that the concentration was that heavy."

He recalled that the two 352d pilots could find only one little hole in the clouds through which to dive on the target, which lay only 500 feet below the clouds.

"As the mission wore on," said Capt. Martin, "the hole got smaller and smaller, and finally disappeared, and we had to quit at that time."

The strike was called in after the forward air controller reported ground fire in the area.

The weather got so bad, Capt. Martin observed, that the "forward air controller was boxed in his little canyon there as the mission ended.... We had to tell him where there were some holes, so he could get out."

Also a 115 mission veteran, he has been at Phan Rang AB since June.

TWIN SERGEANTS HAVE TWIN AIR FORCE CAREER

Twins, whose Air Force careers have closely paralleled, are presently serving in Vietnam.

Chief Master Sergeants Donald and Doyle Gambrell are directly involved in combat support activities at separate bases in South Vietnam.

Donald is assigned to the 389th TFS at DaNang, where he is a line chief for F-4C Phantom jet fighters.

Doyle, formerly a line chief, is presently serving as special assistant to the Deputy Commander for Materiel, Col. Michael Pashkevich, here at Phan Rang.

The brother's military career, which together totals 40 years, began in September of 1947 when Donald enlisted in the Air Force. Doyle joined him one month later. From that time the brothers have served together all over the world, except for very short separations.

The twins first got together following basic training at Keesler AFB, Miss, where they attended Airplane and mechanical school. Donald, who had arrived earlier was allowed to wait and graduate with his brother.

From Keesler, the brothers served at Chanute AFB, Ill., attending the Aircraft Electric Specialist School. Then on to MacDill AFB, Fla., as aircraft electricians, later converting to engine specialists.

The twins stayed together during the Korean War.

After the war, they returned to MacDill, and were married in a double ceremony to two girls who had been life-long friends.

In the summer of 1962, they had separate assignments for the first time in their military career. Both were going to the same country, but not to the same base...Morocco.

They were together again in 1965 at MacDill, both now holding the same rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

Again they were separated when they came to Vietnam, but they have both received assignments to Hawaii to be together again.

CMSgt. Doyle Gambrell recently reenlisted again here at Phan Rang. His boss, Col. Pashkevich administered the oath of reenlistment.

RED CROSS

TONITE: Pinochle & Pool Tourney
 THURS: Brain Twister
 FRI: Game Nite
 SAT: Game Nite
 SUN: Coffee Call & To Tell The Truth
 MON: Closed
 TUES: Pancake Day

MOVIE TIME

TONITE: Projected Man
 FRI: Riot on Sunset Strip
 SAT: The Quiller Memorandum
 (Fine spy movie)

ENTERTAINMENT

AIRMAN'S OPEN MESS

FRI: No Band

SAT: The Five A's 7:30 pm

SPORTS

In the football picture, two teams are tied for first place in league standings; they are: 35th Civil Engineering Squadron and 35th Services Squadron.

The schedule for this weeks games is as follows:

TONITE: Pilots vs 435th MMS
 THURS: 35th SVS vs 35th CES
 FRI: 35th SPB vs 315 AC's
 SAT: 35th SVS vs 35th SPB
 MON: 35th SIS vs 435th MMS
 TUES: 35th SVS vs 315th AC's

A double elimination tourney is in the mill for the end of the season, more as plans are made.

ROD & GUN NEWS

The cement has been poured for the high and low shooting pads at the Skeet Range. Also, the concrete work is almost complete for the target huts.

Hopefully the range will be complete by the first part of December.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS Meeting

There will be a board of Governors meeting of the Airmen's Open Mess on Wednesday, Nov. 15th. All members that have a membership card are welcome to come and sit in on the proceedings of the meeting. The meeting will be held at 3:30 in the afternoon.

HAVE YOU MAILED YOUR Christmas Presents?



AS VIEWED FROM MY WINDOW....

'FOR YOUR EFFORTS'

The progress made in the development of this modern air base has been phenomenal, and much of this is due to the long hours and hard work of every man on this base.

During the time I have been here, I have been amazed at the all-out effort you have put into the task.

Much of the job has been completed in record time and required your having to do without many of the pleasures that you and I take for granted.

The most outstanding thing, in my opinion, is that we have not only accomplished this gigantic feat, but flown many thousands of combat missions at the same time.

In all of my years of military service, I have never had a finer, more dedicated group to work with.

I want to congratulate you on your noteworthy efforts.

Many of you will be going back to your families shortly, and it is a fitting tribute to each and every one of you that so much was accomplished as a result of your individual contributions to our over-all mission.

James A. Wilson

James A. Wilson, Colonel, USAF

WHY IT'S CLOSED

In response to numerous questions about why the base chapel is closed at night, Chaplain (Major) Edward B. Hemkens, stated "We regret that the chapel has to be closed in the evenings, but AFR 265-1 states; Chapels must remain locked during the hours of darkness when not being used for public worship or instruction."

This policy was enacted because of so many acts of vandalism and destruction upon Air Force chapels.

"Our present chapel is still under construction, so it is closed earlier in the evening than it would normally be. However, most evenings of the week the chapel is being used, and is open. The building is open all through the day for meditation."

All base personnel were invited to participate in the religious activities offered by the chaplain program.

35th SVS NAMED SQUADRON of the WEEK

The 35th Services Squadron has been named "Civic Action Squadron of the Week" for its contributions of time and services to the civic action program.

Captain George H. Mills, 30, from Princess Ann, Md., has given much support to his men in the civic action work that they have done.

"His willing assistance, and cooperation is greatly appreciated," stated the civic action representative.

Staff Sergeant James G. Williams, 37, from Ridgeway, Wisc., NCOIC of the Billeting Office, and Sgt. Howard E. Anderson, 28, from Walla Walla, Wash., have contributed countless old mattresses and beds for the boarding schools and a youth center in nearby villages.

MARS REPORT

The base MARS station reported handling 180 personal phone patches this past week.

GOOD WORD FOR WORK....

SAFETY

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

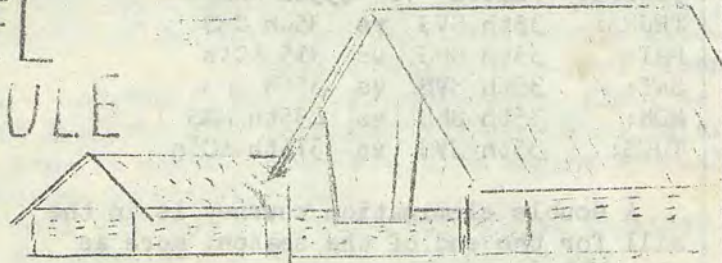
SUNDAY: AM

- 7:30 Church of Christ Worship
- 8:30 Catholic Worship*
- 9:30 Lutheran Worship
- 10:30 General Protestant Worship
- 12:00 Catholic Worship*
- PM
- 3:30 Latter-Day Saint (Mormon) Worship
- 6:30 Catholic Worship*
- 7:30 General Protestant Worship
- 8:30 Hymn Sing

WEEKDAY

- 11:45 Daily: Catholic Worship*
- 7:30PM Mon: Protestant Study Group
- 7:30PM Wed: Protestant Men of the Chapel
- 7:30PM Thur: Church of Christ Study Group
- 7:30PM Fri: Protestant Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30PM Fri: Jewish worship Service

(* Confession held 30 min. prior to service)



WEATHER WORD

Average Max: 91 F
 Average Min: 74 F
 Extreme Min: 72 F
 Rainfall: 0

These weather figures are for the week of October 29 - November 3.

LEGAL NOTES

by Captain F.C. Cline Jr., Base Legal Office,
 Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam.

(Editor's Note: Due to the popularity of last week's column, we are happy to print this second installment on Customs Information.)

Even though the returning serviceman has duty-free return-of household goods and personal effects, certain other restrictions apply to the importation of specific goods.

Here in Vietnam, there are two areas of special concern: **MERCHANDISE THAT IS PROHIBITED** by foreign assets control regulations may not be imported without a treasury license.

For our purposes, these licenses are practically unobtainable. This restriction applies to goods of a type and kind which traditionally have origin in Red China. These items may be imported if you can obtain a comprehensive certificate of origin at the time of purchase; but the certificate must be issued by the Hong Kong government. "Certificates" or "Guarantees" by shopkeepers will not suffice. Green Jade is an example of such an item.

TRADEMARKED ARTICLES

A second restriction that should be noted by servicemen in this area, is in the case of trademarked items. You may wonder why there is such a restriction on importation of certain well known Japanese cameras.

The explanation is that the American ownership of the trademark has been assigned to a U.S. owner and that owner is entitled to sole use of the trademark in the U.S.

The foreign manufacturer may not use the trademark in the U.S. And his product may not be imported without the consent of the owner of the American trademark.

Many U.S. owners of trademarks applied to cameras most often purchased by overseas travellers have consented to importation of a limited quantity of cameras bearing the trademark.

These "consents", however, do not apply to cameras mailed to the U.S. or imported for resale.

The general rule seems to be that one camera bearing the trademark may be imported if in possession of the owner and for his personal use and not for resale.

In addition, most lens
 (con't on pg. six)

THE VOICE IN DARKNESS

What is an Air Force Communicator?

An Air Force member who talks?! Possibly, but not completely true. An Air Force communicator is a highly trained competent and dedicated individual who is proud of the fact that he belongs to the Air Force Communications Service.

He is a man that knows no duty day, as 'duty day' is normally defined. He works at noon, midnight, and all the hours in between. He has children who see him when his shift permits, a wife who loves him and works even harder than he, trying to keep two daily schedules- one for her housework, and one for his duty day.

If he is a radio operator, he is the voice of all who use his system. As a telephone cable maintenance man, he keeps your voice intact. As a tower operator, he is the voice of authority and an insurance policy for our pilots.

In short, an Air Force communicator is a conglomeration of support necessities.

When a telephone cable is damaged, through no fault of his own he is criticized. Once it has been restored to its original condition, he is blessed. He is a man who keeps you waiting until three A.M. for that all-important call to your home. He is the person who tolerates your impatience for eight hours while you wait your turn in the MARS Station, knowing full well that your pent-up anger will vanish completely when he tells you, "Your wife is on the line, speak to her."

Hated one minute, loved the next. A fool at eight A.M., a master-mind an hour later, the Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) personnel lead their on-again, off again, up/down life, day-in, day-out, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Why? To serve you, the officer, airman, and NCO. He is, during periods of inclement weather, the eyes of the pilot; the command nervous system; the fingers of a thirsty bomber searching for a refueling tanker at midnight; the ears of all who use his system.

He gives us AFRTS, MARS, and radio service, rapid, precise teletype communication; efficient telephone service; RAPCON, GCA, Tower and many more untold services, regardless of existing conditions.

The communicator is the person who can leave the office after a grueling twelve hour midnight shift and climbs into a bus heading for an orphanage with packages of toys for forgotten children.

He is also the man that can stubbornly refuse you a radio part for your transistorized portable, when he has fifty in stock. Now that you know what the "blue suit" communicator is, think of him from time-to-time. Remember him when you flick on your radio and hear music from home. Or when the "I love you, honey, over," reaches you from thousands of miles away. With him we are a team, without him we are simply "people talking to one another...if we are within hearing range." by Sgt. Bill Gaither, AFCS

- R. H. ARRIVALS -

(from one)

worked many long days in advance getting the forms and paper work for the 90 enlisted men and 30 officers ready for a speedy completion of in-processing.

The men brought with them a 'slight' reminder of Eglin AFB, Fla. It was a stature of a Red Horse that stood near the NCO Open Mess there; It is now at the Red Horse lounge in the 554th Area.

The new arrivals started to work on time Monday morning.

"They were doing a few things, double-time," commented SMSgt Robert F. Foy, from Erwin, N.C., the Red Horse First Sergeant.

SPORTS ARENA OPENS SAT.

The opening of a sports stadium outside Phan Rang City on Saturday will be a big day not only for thousands of youngsters in Ninh Thuan Province, but also for the base Civic Action office, which has devoted countless hours to spearheading the construction of the stadium.

The opening will be marked by colorful ceremonies attended by a number of dignitaries, including top officials from Phan Rang AB.

BITS & PIECES

Not long ago, Airman First Class Larry Cirillo of the 35th FMS went off to Hawaii and got hitched. Now it appears that he has started a trend. Planning to do the same thing are: A1C Larry L. Kerr, from Springfield, Mo., 1882 Comm. Sq.; A1C Mark A. Walker, from Highland, Calif., 35th FMS; and a friend of Airman Cirillo's at Tuy Hoa AB Sergeant Joseph Treglio....Bon voyage!

A few days ago, Sergeant John D. Maisch, assigned to the administrative section of the 35th TFW Headquarters, celebrated the halfway mark in his tour in Vietnam. Now he only has 15 more months to go! Sergeant Maisch believes in extending!

Sergeant Mike Hall stood on the stairway of his barracks in the headquarters Squadron area recently and crowed, "I stand five-foot-six-inches tall...Who says I'm not short!"

CMSgt Jennings, superintendent of the base dining halls, has launched a big project to build up the dining hall facilities of a school in town. More next week.

- - - LIKE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - - -

(Con't from One)

...could see, there were four bullets coming that he couldn't spot, since only one out of every five rounds from the automatic weapon is a tracer.

When the F-100's reached the target, he noted "we could see right away that the enemy was heavily fortified with automatic weapons." The Super Sabres made three passes apiece, delivering heavy ordnance from approximately 1000 feet.

They also carried out strafing passes at the target.

Lieutenant Distelzweig has carried out four combat missions in support of friendly forces at Loc Ninh, and he feels that the battle ground has been the scene of one of the greatest displays of tactical air power since the start of the Vietnam conflict.

NOTICE!

An intensified enforcement for the control of pets and stray animals has been directed by 7AF. Note from DB Nov. 6:

"Pet animals (mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian) will not be kept within the confines of Phan Rang AB. Those presently on station will be disposed of by the 15th of this month.

Owners will accomplish this through the Base Veterinarian and/or the Security Police.

Owners of dogs who can show proof of a current rabies series will not be required to comply with this supplement.

On November 15 an aggressive program will be launched to eliminate all such pet animals not treated as required and registered with the Pass and Registration Section of the 35th Security Police Squadron.

WHERE IS THE MAGIC TREE ?

Enemy gunners "were just arbitrarily throwing up a sheet of lead," he said, "trying to get the right timing, and hoping that we would fly through it."

(Editors' Note: At the time of this printing, it has been estimated that the enemy have suffered over 2000 losses due to air, ground attacks and artillery.)

SMALL WORLD

Three enlisted men 10,000 miles away from their hometown, Ashland, Ky., have discovered that they are all from the same street.

The three are: Sergeant Charles R. Rice, 20, a heavy equipment operator in the 554th CES; Airman First Class Ray D. James 21, a cook in the 35th SVS; and Airman Donald Green, 20, wire splicer in the 485th GEEIA.

Airman James said that he and the other two Kentuckians are from 45th Street, and all grew up within three blocks of one another. Ashland has a population of approximately 39,000.

HELP WANTED... A barber is needed for the Airmen's Open Mess. Day shift 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Contact Sergeant Smart ext:2140

LUTHERAN church membership classes for small groups and individuals are being conducted. You may join at any point in the series. Call Base Chapel ext. 2156 for details.

BASE LIBRARY has many new books from the McNaughton Collection for your use. Come by and browse.

WANTED TO BUY..Bicycle, good condition. Call Sgt. Engle ext. 2464

SAFETY IS YOUR JOB