

PHAN RANG

VOLUME I, ISSUE 30

THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

DECEMBER 13, 1967

614th COMPLETES 10,000th SORTIE

This past week, Major John W. Postgate, 33, from Scottsdale, Ariz., completed the 10,000th sortie to be flown by members of the 614th TFS, 'Lucky Devils'.

At the end of the mission he was met by the squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth P. Miles and Crewchief, Sergeant I.P. Bommarito.

This flight marked Major Postgate's 410th combat mission. Both as an F-100 Pilot and as a Forward Air Controller.

Have you seen the magic tree?

THREE SQUADRONS SHARE

F-100 SUPER SABRE HONORS

For more than a decade, the F-100 Super Sabre has been known to be a durable aircraft, but the durability never before reached the point that it recently did here at Phan Rang.

For the first time in the history of the Super Sabre and possibly any other single engine jet in combat, three F-100 aircraft each amassed more than 100 hours of flying time in a single month. All three fighter squadrons of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing turned the trick almost simultaneously.

This accomplishment gave birth to a new, exclusive club—the 100 Hour Club. As nearly as can be determined, there are only three crew chiefs in the Air Force with the necessary qualifications for membership. They are Sergeant Donald Schlomer, 21, of Stover, Mo., 615th TFS; A1C William G. Medford, 20, Georgetown, Ky., 614th TFS; and A1C Lee W. Wallace, 19, of Perham, Minn., 352nd TFS.

615th TFS SETS WING RECORD

From October 29 until December, 933 sorties were flown by personnel of the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 'Black Panthers', without a single abort of any aircraft either in the air or on the ground.

During this 38 day period, the planes of the squadron underwent 32 double phase inspections and there were 11 scheduled engine changes.

Weapons personnel worked extremely careful and there were no aborts due to weapons handling.

The average turn around time for the squadron is a speedy 30 minutes.

In 38 days the pilots flew 1,423 hours and dropped nearly 900 tons of bombs.

Lt. Col. Julian D. Sawyer, 38, from Denver, Colo., squadron commander stated, "Effectiveness of maintenance is what helped reduce our aborts for the month. It also was achieved by an increased coordination between our maintenance and operations personnel."

"Munitions played their part as well, by insuring that that their work and causing no aborts due to munitions failure."

We have been told that 38 days is a wing record."

WING PICKED FOR AF-WIDE COMPETITION

The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, commanded by Colonel James A. Wilson, has been selected to represent 7th Air Force in world wide competition for the 1967 Daedalian Maintenance Award.

"I extend my personal congratulations to you and your entire maintenance organization for achieving the distinction of being selected for this coveted award," wrote Brigadier General Harmon E. Burns, 7th Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel.

"I wish you further success in the competition for selection as the PACAF nominee."

The average flying hours for the F-100 in a combat zone, is approximately 55 hours. The fact that the normal time was almost doubled was attributed to the skill of the crew chiefs plus a lot of pampering, petting and hard work.

The pilot of one of the record breaking aircraft, Major Gerold O. Buster, 36, of Happy, Tex., stressed the importance of the record: "This is a tribute to the enthusiasm and dedication of the maintenance men in the wing, particularly to the crew-chiefs and supervisors that made this record possible. A record such as this is particularly important in a combat zone where each additional hour means an increase in combat capabilities."

The three crew chiefs have been named the top crew chief of the month in each squadron.

DEDICATION

This edition of Phanfare is dedicated to the maintenance personnel who work hard long hours in all weather to keep our birds in flight.

AS SEEN FROM MY WINDOW.....

Well Done....

I want to take this opportunity, after the recent influx of distinguished visitors, to congratulate all Phan Rang personnel once again. Your efforts are praised each time our base is visited.

Generals McConnell and Ryan, Lt. General Momyer, Senator Tower of Texas, and the Congressional Committee, headed by Representative Hardy, all expressed to me their admiration for the men who have worked so diligently and tirelessly to make Phan Rang what it is today. The steady stream of VIP's who come to Phan Rang are unfailingly impressed with the beauty, cleanliness, and superior facilities here.

Your professionalism and dedication are responsible for making Phan Rang what it is today...the showcase air base in Vietnam.

I wish it were possible for our visiting dignitaries to meet you individually to pass on their praise.

Since that is impossible, I will do it for them and, again for myself. I am proud of you and always enjoy showing Phan Rang to visitors.

Well Done!

James A. Wilson, Colonel, USAF

BASE PROCUREMENT SETS RECORD

No, this time it's not 100 missions flown in support of ground operations in Vietnam, but something altogether different.

The Base Procurement Office here has completed its 100th referral action to its many out-of-country Area Procurement Offices in direct support of the 35th TFW. When asked what exactly encompasses the activity, TSgt. Dale E. Isaac, the Base procurement officer, replied "its buying and contracting of supplies and services for the personnel and equipment of the 35th TFW and attached units. This 100th referral mark was accomplished in only half of the current fiscal year, and we plan to almost double it in the future."

Sgt. Michael J. Knight, operations branch, stated that since July 1, they have received requests for the purchase of 422 items.

BOOK WRITING CHAPLAIN'S PASTIME

"Not watching television for 15 minutes a day will write one book a year," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Theodore J. Kleinhans, 43, from South Bend, Ind., who has had nine books published during the last 11 years.

He joined the Air Force 14 years ago, and since that time has written two novels, two biographies, and five books of a religious nature. Some of these books have been published in German and Swedish as well as English.

The chaplain's favorites among his own books are the two novels, "Time of Testing" and "The Music Master." The latter is about the famous musician, Johann Sebastian Bach.

Assigned as installation chaplain, the prolific author directs the work of three other chaplains at Phan Rang and counsels pilots and

VIETNAM TODAY AND YESTERDAY "ANIMISM"

Animism, also called the people's religion" is one of the most prevalent religions in Vietnam. It is a belief in "spirits" both good and evil, which inhabit animate and inanimate objects.

Animism is the religious faith of most of the tribes-people, but traces are found in all other religious faiths in Vietnam today. It must be understood that the distinction between the secular and the sacred for the Vietnamese is not as precise as for most Westerners.

Each person has a spirit, without which, sickness and death would soon occur. The spirits are reckoned with, either by appeasement or by exorcising them. Upon the death of an animist, the spirits of the person must be attended to because the spirits have the ability to continue an independent existence.

If the spirits are cared for properly, they leave the people alone; but if a man dies a violent death, or burial is not proper, the spirits are dissatisfied and will seek to create havoc and harm on the offenders.

A violent death can be attributed to accidents, war, those killed by tigers, and women who die in childbirth and childless.

The animist lives in fear from birth to death as he tries to placate the spirits. Because of this fear, the animist will utilize fetishes, blood sacrifices, and symbolic designs, magic words and charms and taboos, to cause the spirits to do the will of the worshipper.

Blood sacrifices, either of fowl or animals are offered for protection, health or prosperity, birth, marriage, death, drought, warfare and

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RED CROSS CENTER SLATES ACTIVITIES

TONITE: Las Vegas Nite
Thursday: Pool Tournament
Friday: TO TELL THE TRUTH!!
 These are true stories!
 It will be up to you to determine which girl these happened to:
 Which one lectured a man on telephone courtesy only to find out later that she was talking to President Truman?
 Which one was mistaken for a patient and detained in an insane asylum?
 Which one rode a fire truck and hosed all the people??
 Come Friday night at 7:30 and find the facts behind these startling stories!
 Start making plans to come to the Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 21, when 25 children from the Tan Tai Orphanage will come to the Center to celebrate the holidays with you.
 In other events coming up this week, we have a Pinochle tournament scheduled for Saturday and a Powder Puff Derby is set for Tuesday.

MOVIE MADNESS

TONIGHT: "Your A Big Boy Now" (oh really!!)
Thursday: none scheduled.
Friday: "Lightening Bolt" (a real shocker)
Saturday and Sunday: "Night Of The Generals" (fine flick)

AIRMEN'S OPENNESS

Thursday: Oriental Variety Show!!!
Saturday: The Digger Revell Show.

VIETNAMESE CHOIR HERE TONIGHT

Tonight at 7:30, the Vietnamese Seminary Choir of the Evangelical Bible Seminary, Nha Trang, will present Christmas music at the Chapel.

AFUN TV-SCHEDULE

CHANNEL	78
WEDNESDAY December 6 (PM)	SUNDAY (continued)
1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee	10:15 Movie: "I'll See You In Hell"
7:05 Previews & News Briefs	11:25 Late News
7:10 American Sportsman	
8:00 News & Sports	MONDAY December 18 (PM)
8:30 Clown Alley	1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee
9:20 The Fugitive	7:05 Program Previews
10:15 Green Acres	7:07 Headlines
10:40 Perry Mason	7:10 21st Century
11:30 Late News	7:35 My Favorite Martian
	8:00 News and Sports
THURSDAY December 14 (PM)	8:30 Our Place
1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee	9:20 Daniel Boone
7:05 Previews and News	10:15 Get Smart
7:10 Official Detective	10:40 Wild, Wild West
7:35 Bewitched	11:30 Late News
8:00 News & Sports	
8:30 Hallmark Hall of Fame	TUESDAY December 19 (PM)
9:45 Big Valley	1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee
10:35 Voyage to Bottom of Sea	7:05 Program Previews
11:30 Late News	7:07 Headlines
	7:10 Assignment Underwater
FRIDAY December 15 (PM)	7:35 Dick Van Dyke
1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee	8:00 News and Sports
7:05 Previews & Headlines	8:30 Mike Douglas
7:10 Priority Special	9:20 Combat
7:35 Flying Fisherman	10:15 Movie: "Footlight Glamour"
8:00 News & Sports	11:30 Late News
8:30 Steve Allen	
9:20 Gunsmoke	
10:15 Tonight Show	
11:25 Late News	
SATURDAY December 16 (PM)	
1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee	
3:00 Sports Special	
5:05 Previews & News Briefs	
5:10 Pro Bowlers Tour	
6:20 Lost In Space	
7:05 Addams Family	
7:30 Vietnam Report	
8:00 News & Sports	
8:30 Metrotone News	
8:50 Colgate Comedy Hour	
9:30 12 O'clock High	
10:20 Movie: Sahara	
12:25 Late News	
SUNDAY December 17 (PM)	
2:05 Previews & News Briefs	
2:10 The Christophers	
2:25 This is the Answer	
3:05 Sports Special	
5:35 Tournament of Champions	
6:30 Project 20	
7:20 Social Security	
7:35 Andy Griffith	
8:00 News & Sports	
8:30 Ed Sullivan	
9:20 Bonanza	

HOMETOWN NEWS

Have you been promoted, received an award or taken part in a newsworthy project recently?

If so, the best way to let the folks at home know about it is to fill out a form 175 through your squadron orderly room or the Office of Information. Only a few minutes of your time will get the news back to your hometown newspapers.

Being in Vietnam makes any news item all the more interesting -- why not let your friends and relatives know about it?

CATHOLIC CHOIR

Catholic choir members are needed for Christmas midnight Mass. Rehearsal begins Thurs. at 7 p.m., and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday night until Christmas.

310th ALS DONATES RICE

Personnel of the 310th Air Commando Squadron recently donated 1,500 pounds of rice to the people of Hoai Truong, a small village five miles southwest of Phan Rang Air Base.

Captain Norman G. Barfoot, squadron civic action officer, and his assistant, Sergeant Roy Thompson, presented the rice to the hamlet chief for distribution to the 240 families of Hoai Truong.

The families of Hoai Truong are Montagnards who were moved from their mountain homes to Phan Rang Valley to protect them from Viet Cong terrorist attacks.

Although they are not lowland farmers. This is the livelihood to which they must turn in order to survive.

The Hoai Truong Montagnards have been given a small plot of land to raise food and money crops. Cleared with the help of the Civil Organization for Revolutionary Development Support Agency (CORDS), the land is being divided among the hamlet families. Until the Montagnards begin harvesting their crops, they must be adequately fed.

The air commandos donated the money to buy the rice, which was purchased through CORDS and coordinated by the Phan Rang AB Civic Action Office.

"With the outstanding attitude the squadron has displayed toward support of the Civic action program," Captain Barfoot said, "there should be no trouble getting the people of Hoai Truong back on their feet."

MAIL POURING FOR YULE PATRONS

"It's quite a fantastic operation," mused 1st Lt. James M. Stouffer, base postal officer, as he thought about the average of 3,000 letters and 5,000 pounds of packages pouring into the post office each day from the United States.

The Christmas rush is in full swing now at the popular facility, and "the boys are going to be quite busy around here," said the 25-year-old native of New Cumberland, Pa., noting that the expected December mail load of 300,000 pounds is double the size of the load for all the other months of the year.

Two-thirds of the mail is delivered by truck from Cam Rahn Bay, the postal officer revealed, and the rest is flown in from Saigon. Lieutenant Stouffer said that letters are now reaching the base from the United States in five days via air mail, and that air-mailed packages are reaching the base in 7 days.

"People back in the states don't know what a morale boost mail is!" he commented. Smiles light up the faces of the men as they pick up letters and packages, he continued, and such expressions as "Whoopee" She's written," are overheard. "It's really great to hear them" the postal officer stated. In Dec., they will operate 22 hours a day.

CIVIC ACTION

SQUADRON OF THE WEEK

614th TFS

The Civic Action Squadron of the week, the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron, "Lucky Devils," is said to have been one of the easiest to pick to date.

Not only has the 614th contributed money and many long hours of work in building the Cham school of An Phouc, one of the most improved schools in the district, but they are also 100 per cent in the scholarship program. Staff Sergeant Eddie R. Winn has a lot to do with this, as he takes care of two complete scholarships each month.

MSgt. Robert H. Burch, squadron first sergeant, has been a help to the program in many ways. This past week alone, he has released 97 salvagable beds that have been delivered to NVS, a Japanese organization similar to our peace corps, operating in the area. MSgt. Earl D. Irby is another of the squadron personnel who has aided the program by contributing much of his off-duty time and providing transportation.

The Phan Rang Civic Action office offers their sincere appreciation to Lt. Col. Kenneth F. Miles, commander, 1st Lt. Alva R. Cox, squadron civic action officer, and to all of the men of the squadron.

FASHION REVIEW BIG SUCCESS

A "Combat" fashion show spiced with comedy was presented recently for an overflow crowd of at least 300 Air Force and Army men at the Red Cross recreational aides who modeled everything from a pilots' anti-gravity suit to the latest mod fads.

Wave after wave of applause and laughter greeted the young ladies. Pat Rowan, 22, from Houston, Tex., holder of a degree from Texas Christian University, brought down the house when she appeared in a snug "G" (anti-gravity) suit and produced lipstick, compact, eye-lash curler, and the latest copy of Vogue Magazine from the pockets of the survival vest worn with the suit.

Gay Nall, 23, from New Orleans, La., wore a snug set of fatigues topped by a combat helmet decorated with a huge paper flower. Lizz Ann Malleson, 22, from Ridgewood, N.J., came over from the Army side of the base to help the Red Cross girls of the Air Force side put on the show.

AIR POWER IS EFFECTIVE AT DMZ

Air Strikes by Air Force and Marine F-4C Phantom jets and Air Force B-52 bombers in the area of the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam are being carried out against a backdrop which conjures memories of World War I.

A visit to Dong Ha, where Marine and Army artillery batteries eight miles from the DMZ are pouring shells into enemy positions in North Vietnam in conjunction with these air strikes, offers painful reminders of the trench warfare of 50 years ago in Europe.

Rains have turned roads and camp areas into slimy seas of mud. Bunkers of sandbags are everywhere evident, and firing center where air strikes are coordinated with artillery fire are located in underground shelters. All through the night the piercing boom of artillery shells.... incoming and outgoing.... splits the air, without even disturbing the sleep of battle-weary soldiers and Marines who are off duty.

Through it all, the G.I.s haven't lost their sense of humor. A sign tells the visitor that he's in "South Vietnam....just barely," and offers the attractions of "nightly fireworks" and "free hunting."

Air strikes along with off-shore naval gunfire and the Army and Marine artillery fire have turned the land alongside the DMZ into what one officer described as something resembling the crater-pocked surface of the moon. This fire power is aimed at enemy attempts to infiltrate into South Vietnam via the DMZ.

Phanfare is a weekly publication of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing Office of Information. Ext. 2464 for news tips.

614th COMMANDER LITED

As if receiving the Silver Star for gallantry from the Air Force Chief of Staff wasn't enough, the commander of the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron was also honored recently by the clean sweep his unit scored in a series of monthly awards.

"Naturally, I'm elated," said Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth P. Miles, commander of the "Lucky Devils."

He received the Silver Star for gallantry from General John P. McConnell during the four-star general's recent visit to this base. At almost the same time, Colonel Miles was informed that the 614th had been selected as Phan Rang's Squadron of the Month, and that the "Lucky Devils" had won all the honors in Maintenance Man of the Month, Outstanding Weapons Load Team, and Outstanding Crew Chief competition.

"These maintenance people that I have are the best I've ever seen at any time, at any place," Colonel Miles insisted. "I'm just sort of humble to have the people doing such an outstanding job."

The 614th TFS commander received the Silver Star for his role in a series of air strikes which kept an enemy force of 2,000 men from overrunning an Army Special Forces camp. "We just knew that we had to help the people on the ground," Colonel Miles stated, recalling that "there were guns firing all over the place."

The F-100 pilot described the men of his unit as "very courageous," and pointed out that the Super Sabre is a "very accurate weapons platform" allowing for close support of friendly ground forces.

MAINTENANCE CHIEF LAUDS OUTSTANDING CREWMAN

"You people have really worked hard....it takes get-up and go...this is what makes this wing what it is," said Colonel Michael Pashkevich, 46, of Tucson, Ariz., deputy commander of materiel for the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing as he presented trophies and certificates to the wing's top crew chief, maintenance man, and armament and electronics maintenance man of the quarter.

IN THE RED

Recently the bi-monthly rotation of the 8th and 13th Tactical Bomb Squadrons took place and the hue of several areas changed from yellow to red.

The arrival of the 13th was marked by the sudden appearance of "Oscar" the skeleton insignia of the "Grim Reapers." The 13th emblem is displayed in several places, including the operations building and the Officers' Club Bar.

So until the next rotation, yellow is out, red is in, and "Oscar" is showing up everywhere.

Honored in the presence of their supervisors and squadron commanders were: SSgt. Richard A. Dingman from West Glens Falls, N.Y., crew chief for the F-100s of the 615th TFS; Sgt. Chester D. Hovey of Cayuga, N.Y., assigned to the tire shop of the 35th FMS; and ALC George A. Peterson from Stanford, Fla., a radio repair man in the 35th A&E Maintenance Squadron.

Maintenance Awards officer 1st Lt. Larry A. Graefnitz of Lafayette, Ind., lauded the huge maintenance task force here as "some of the best maintenance people that I have ever been associated with in my Air Force career."

NEW CHAPLAINS FIND MORALE HIGH FACTOR

Two chaplains recently assigned to this base reported that they are much impressed by the high morale they have encountered among the thousands of Air Force personnel stationed here.

"I think the morale is tremendous," said Chaplain (Captain) William H. Mattox, 31, of Elgin, S.C.

"I'm very much impressed with the spirit of these men," said Chaplain (Captain) Charles R. Hutsler, 33, from Sedalia, Mo., "They feel they're all united in one purpose...to accomplish our mission here in Vietnam."

Chaplain Mattox commented that his duties include both preaching at regular services and counseling men, in between services, along the flightline and throughout the rest of the base. He likened his role to that of a civilian minister, and explained that his purpose was to establish a friendly relationship and encourage them in their mission.

Chaplain Hutsler, a former enlisted man said, "It's a real joy to go in the flightline to talk with them (pilots and enlisted personnel)...These men work long and tedious hours."

Chaplain Hutsler, who was a former enlisted man, said that his experiences as an enlisted man help him understand the problems of the men he talks to daily.

VIETNAM

planting and harvesting crops. It is through these rites that the animist seems to find order and meaning in his life.

Death usually claims many children and the fear of their spirits will usually cause the animist to give "false names" to the child while the real name is held in strict confidence. This is an attempt to fool the spirits so that seizure of the child's spirit will not occur.

The head is believed to be the residence of the spirit, so a pat on the head of a child by an American can be misunderstood as an attempt to seize his

The fear of evil spirits accounts for "spirit houses", the use of red papers and mirrors to frighten spirits, and the wearing of strings and charms on wrists and necks.

CHAPLAIN KLEINHANS

maintenance specialists on the flight line before and after combat missions.

Chaplain Kleinhans has had three books published this year. One of them is a devotional guide for Girl and Boy Scouts. Another called, "Letters to John", offers spiritual guidance to men entering service.

35th TFW WINS 7th AF UNIT SAFETY AWARD

Word has just been received that the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing has been awarded the 7th Air Force Flight Safety Unit Award for the period of January 1, 1967 to June 30, 1967.

In a letter from Lt. General William W. Momyer, commander of 7th Air Force, he states "...The fine flying safety record of your wing, is indeed outstanding in view of the wing's excellent performance of a hazardous combat mission.

This selection reflects great credit upon your organization and contributes positively to the combat effectiveness of the Seventh Air Force.

My sincere congratulations on a job well done. Please convey my thanks to each member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing for their part in the significant achievement.

B-57 PILOT HAS RIDE WITH BULLET IN SEAT

Looking back over his 150 combat missions in the B-57 Canberra jet bombers of the 13th Tactical Bomb Squadron, an Air Force pilot recently described one harrowing mission in which 13 bullets struck the aircraft, one of them lodging in the parachute on which he was sitting.

Major Phillip H. Lacy, 44, from San Antonio said that two other bullets crashed through the cockpit, and one of them narrowly missed his elbow. Still another bullet hit one of his fuselage tanks, causing fuel to stream out of it.

"I felt the aircraft shudder," he stated, "There was a loud noise." Despite the battle damage, he continued hitting the enemy, and made three bomb passes before returning to Phan Rang, where he executed "precautionary emergency landing".

A ground crew frantically signaled for him to cut off the engines, once the stricken aircraft got back on the ground. The fuel from the damaged tank was leaking all over the bomb bay.

He noted that the seat parachute worn by B-57 pilots is a proximately five inches thick and all the bullets that hit the aircraft were from a 30-caliber machine gun.

Major Lacy recalled that when he stepped out of the aircraft and surveyed the damage he said a "little prayer of thanksgiving", for having succeeded in making a safe return.

Asked about how he felt about his combat role in Vietnam, the major said, "This is the frontier of our own freedom...There is no question in my mind that we need to be here."

PASSED ON TO US....

"Do you know what "Twiggy" has tattooed on her chest?" "No, what?" "F-B-O-N-T"