

SEASON'S

PHAN RANG

VOLUME I, ISSUE 31

THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

DECEMBER 20, 1967

FROM OUR COMMANDERS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all personnel of Phan Rang. Through your devotion and outstanding performance, all organizations have contributed to successful accomplishment of various missions dedicated to peace in Vietnam. 1967 has been a year in which we all can take pride. Each and every one of you is to be complimented on your dedicated and professional efforts in 1967. While we may look back upon the past year with pride and satisfaction, we must also look to the future with even greater personal resolution that in 1968 our contributions will exceed those of 1967. As we of Phan Rang enter this year of challenge--as we make our contribution to Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men--let that contribution be the most effective military operation in Vietnam the world has ever seen.

ROBERT D. BROWN, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 315 Air Commando Wing

+ + + +

As the commander, 554 Civil Engineering Squadron, (Red Horse) I certainly appreciate this opportunity to wish all military and civilian personnel on Phan Rang Air Base, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. While realizing sacrifices must be made in time of your countries' needs, you have individually joined toward a common cause in assuring that your loved ones may enjoy this holiday season under peaceful surroundings. In the forthcoming year, we of Red Horse will place forth the maximum effort in assuring that each of you have the most modern facilities to meet your daily mission requirements, that subsequently will insure your earliest possible return to your families.

WILLIAM T. MEREDITH, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 554 CES

+ I am sure that all of you agree with me that Christmas by mail will never replace Christmas at home with our families. Let's not lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas, although we're thousands of miles from what a 'real Christmas' would be for us. Peace and Good Will--Peace on Earth and Good Will towards men--is what Christmas means. I know each one of you joins me in a fervent hope that the peace and good will man has always sought will be a reality for everyone on a not-too-distant Christmas day. It is a difficult job we have to do here, but I wish to express my appreciation for your efforts and contributions to our mission. I extend my heartiest greetings for a Merry Christmas and wish each of you a Happy New Year.

JAMES A. WILSON, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 35 Tactical Fighter Wing

+ + + +

+ Christmas, it is true, usually calls to mind family celebrations in the warmth and comfort of one's own home. Yet Christmas is the birthday of Christ, who made the greatest sacrifice of all...his life...to keep faith with the high ideals he envisioned for all mankind. All of you can celebrate Christmas this year with the knowledge that your sacrifice is contributing to the very same ideals for which Christ laid down his life...freedom and dignity for all mankind. Although we are serving far from home during these 1967 holidays, our joy stems from the act of giving...giving a less fortunate people a cause for happiness, the hope of freedom. That thought should lead to a joyous Christmas for you in Vietnam.

JOHN M. CROWLEY, Colonel, USAF
Base Commander

GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS THANKS TO 311th LIEUTENANT

Servicemen in Vietnam are working to add a touch of Christmas to their bases, and they're getting help from people in the U.S. and G.I.s who are in Vietnam.

First Lieutenant Michael A. Garoutte, 24, of South Pasadena, Calif., a pilot with the 311th Air Commando Squadron here, has contributed to the Christmas atmosphere for the Marines at Dong Ha, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh by presenting them with $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of recorded Yuletide music.

The tapes will be played on loudspeaker systems set up in the 15th Aerial Port Squadron detachments' terminal facilities.

The 311th commandos fly daily missions from Da Nang. Lieutenant Garoutte recorded the music at the personnel services' music centers at both places when he wasn't flying. It took him nearly two weeks to make a master tape and three copies because of flying duties.

"I asked them if they would like to have Christmas music and they said yes. Since recording facilities aren't available to them, I told them I'd do it," Lieutenant Garoutte said.

BROTHERS SPEND YULE TOGETHER

Sgt. David J. Jaronik, a security guard in the 35th Security Police Squadron, won't be able to spend Christmas with his folks in South Bend, Ind., but he's planning to do the next-best thing by spending the holiday with his brother.

The Air Force security policeman won't even have to leave the base to do it. His brother, Spec. 4 David Jaronik, is assigned to the First Brigade of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, whose home is at Phan Rang. The brothers have seen each other regularly since coming to Vietnam nine months ago.

CIVIC ACTION'S SQUADRON of THE WEEK

The 35th Headquarters Squadron has been named as this week's Civic Action squadron of the week.

During the past week, the squadron has donated 228 pieces of reusable plywood to three area high schools, and has distributed 184 beds throughout the province.

GENERAL VISITS DINING HALL

The commander of 13th Air Force, Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., recently enjoyed a fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings at the new airmen's dining hall here.

Afterward he commented that it was the best food he had ever eaten anywhere. The three-star general ate the meal while on a visit to the 13th Tactical Bombardment Squadron here. At the table with him in the dining hall were the wing commander, the base commander, the commander of the 13th TBS and a number of other men including three enlisted men of the 13th. This trio included the squadron first sergeant, maintenance NCOIC, and operations NCOIC.

The dinner included roll dressing, ice cream, and cake. The personnel who prepared and served the meal include TSgt. Lee (dining hall NCOIC), Sergeant Perkins (shift leader), Sgt. Naputi (first cook), A1C Luking, A1C Ruiz, A1C Berry and A1C King.

General Davis took time out from the meal to chat with Sergeant Lee and Captain Mills, food services officer.

WEATHER WORD

(10 Dec- 16 Dec)

Avg. Max: 85 degrees

Avg. Min: 73 degrees

Ext. Max: 87 degrees

Ext. Min: 73 degrees

Rainfall: Trace

Happy Hanukkah, Y'all!

"I believe our people are responding very well in all aspects of Civic Actions," said TSgt. Joseph A. Wall, squadron first sergeant. "We are contributing 100 per cent to the scholarship fund, we have teachers in the program and we are always ready to help with any project."

In other civic action news, 76 students and Bo De High School were presented scholarships last week.

Chosen on the basis of their scholastic work and need, 38 of the 76 were given scholarships of 1600 piastres, enough for two months' tuition.

A total of 120,800 piastres in scholarships was presented to the students by 1st Lt. Arthur J. Querido, base civic action officer.

Lieutenant Querido said that "the whole base should be congratulated on the success of the scholarship project as each and every squadron on base has contributed greatly to the program."

TRASH HAULERS? NOT HARDLY --

The crews of the 315th Air Commando Wing are nicknamed the "Trash Haulers," because of the varied cargo they carry in their C-123 Providers.

But one cargo that the 310th carries will never be referred to as trash--fresh vegetables for the dining hall.

Four missions daily are scheduled to go to Da Lat to pick up fruit and vegetables purchased from Vietnamese farmers. Each mission flies at least three sorties to bases throughout II Corps. In November the 310th hauled 1,600 tons of fruit and vegetables.

So the next time you have a salad in the dining hall, you'll know it was carried by the 310th, not trash haulers.

RED CROSS CENTER

Tonite: Game Night
Thurs: Orphans Party
Fri: Pinochle Tourney
Sat: Match Game
Sun: Christmas Carnival
 Come to the center. There will be caroling, slide shows and crazy stunts, plus other surprises!
Mon: Merry Christmas!
 Join us at the Center. Gift giving, and other traditional activities. There will also be a Favorite Girl photo contest. There are three categories—Wives, Sweethearts and Kids. Photos will be judged on the basis of prettiest and funniest. Get your entries in before Dec. 23.

MOVIE MADDNESS

Tonite: Johnny Yuma
 Same Same TV ?
Fri: The Blue Max - Ursula
 Address, George Peppard
 No.1 Flick!

Note: Due to the use of the Airmen's Open Mess for a movie theater, nights of a floor show will not have movies.

ENTERTAINMENT

AIRMEN'S OPEN MESS
Sat: Dixie King Show 7:30
Mon: Western Jubilee 7:30
Note: The Airmen's Open Mess will not open until 5:30 Monday, Christmas day.
Wed: The Vamps Show 7:30

EDUCATION

Four college courses will be taught by officers here during the first quarter of 1968 under the University of Maryland study program.
 The courses will be: Business Enterprise, Taught by Captain Guin; Personnel Management, by Major Kaufman; Introduction to Mathematics, by Captain Ewald; and an English Course of Composition and Literature by Chaplain (LtCol) Kleinhaus.
 Classes will be held in the new Library-Education building. Call Ext. 2260 for details.

TV SCHEDULE

<p>Wednesday Dec. 20</p> <p>1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee 7:05 Program Previews 7:07 Headlines 7:10 American Sportsman 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Rogers and Heart 9:20 The Fugitive 10:15 Green Acres 10:40 Perry Mason 11:30 Late News 11:35 Sign Off</p> <p>Thursday Dec. 21</p> <p>1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee 7:05 Program Previews 7:07 Headlines 7:10 Fractured Flickers 7:35 Bewitched 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Danny Thomas 9:20 Big Valley 10:15 Voyage to the Bottom 10:45 Third Man 11:35 Late News 11:40 Sign Off</p> <p>Friday Dec. 22</p> <p>1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee 7:05 Program Previews 7:07 Headlines 7:10 Priority Special 7:35 Flying Fisherman 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Steve Allen 9:20 Gunsmoke 10:15 Tonight Show 11:25 Late News 11:30 Sign Off</p> <p>Saturday Dec. 23</p> <p>1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee 5:05 Program Previews 5:07 Headlines 5:10 Pro Bowlers Tour 6:20 Lost In Space 7:05 Addams Family 7:30 Vietnam Report 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Metrotone News 8:50 A Christmas Memory 9:30 12-O'Clock High 10:20 Black Sabbath 12:25 Late News 12:30 Sign Off</p> <p>Any personnel interested in forming a chapter of AA on base are invited to meet in the Base Chapel Sanctuary at 6:30 pm Fri. Civilian dress.</p>	<p>Sunday Dec. 24</p> <p>H A V E Y O U S E N T H E M A G I C T R E ? T U E S D A Y</p> <p>2:05 Program Previews 2:07 Headlines 2:10 The Christophers 2:25 Sacred Heart 2:35 This Is The Answer 3:05 Sports Special 5:35 Tournament of Champions 6:30 Special: Red Skelton Christmas 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Social Security 8:45 Christ Is Born 9:35 Bonanza 10:25 No Sad Songs For Me 12:00 Late News 12:05 Sign Off</p> <p>Monday Dec. 25</p> <p>1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee 7:05 Program Previews 7:07 Headlines 7:10 21st Century 7:36 Christmas With Lorne Green 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Jackie Gleason Christmas 9:20 Daniel Boone 10:15 Danny Kaye Christmas 11:05 Get Smart 11:30 Late News 11:35 Sign Off</p> <p>Tuesday Dec. 26</p> <p>1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee 7:05 Program Previews 7:07 Headlines 7:10 Assignment 7:35 Dick Van Dyke 8:00 News and Sports 8:30 Mike Douglas 9:20 Combat 10:15 Movie: Leave It To Blondie 11:30 Late News 11:35 Sign Off</p>
---	--

JEWISH SERVICES

Rabbi (Captain) Sholom Glikson will conduct Jewish services at the base chapel annex today at 1: p.m. All Jewish personnel are urged to attend. Because of the chaplain's many commitments over a wide area of South Vietnam, he can only visit the base once a month.

Who's happy with Happy Hour?

CHRISTMAS ^{IN} THE AIR

Thousands of Air Force personnel spending their first Christmas 10,000 miles from home in Vietnam are being treated to a holiday atmosphere which would warm the hearts of their loved ones in the United States.

Christmas is everywhere evident. High on a mountain alongside the main area of the base, an illuminated Christmas tree glows like a beacon in the night.

Colored lights have been strung on trees and buildings and inside many buildings are gaily-decorated artificial Christmas trees.

Tons of Christmas mail and packages have poured into the base for the last month, and just about everyone is getting stuffed with fruitcake and cookies from home.

A chapel choir of officers and enlisted men is preparing to go Christmas caroling at the base hospital and other places on base, and they'll have a field organ with them to add enjoyment to their listeners.

The 1882 Communications Squadron is preparing to deliver thousands of toys, donated by people in the United States, to Vietnamese children throughout the local province of Ninh Thuan.

Eight Christmas services, including candlelight services are set at the beautiful new base chapel, and a huge Christmas dinner with all the trimmings awaits personnel at the three airmen's dining halls.

The holiday season is not without benefit of a touch of humor. In one of the F-100 fighter operations buildings signs state 'Marry Christmas' and 'Hippie New Year'.

Recently an airman from the 435th Munitions Maintenance Squadron opened a Christmas package and found three large golden bells. He pulled a string on one of them and the tinkling sounds of 'Jingle Bells' filled the air. He promptly hung up the bells alongside his bed, and they blended in with the many decorations others had put up. Santa would feel at home here.

DUAL EFFORTS PROVIDE FRESH PRODUCE FOR TABLE

For more than a year the Air Force and Army have been working together to insure that the soldiers and airmen in South Vietnam get fresh vegetables with their meals.

Organized in July 1966 by the Army Procurement Agency, 1st Logistical Command, the program maintains three field offices to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from Vietnamese farmers.

The offices are located at Saigon, Can To, and Da Lat. Da Lat is by far the largest of the field offices. A budget of 13 million dollars is allocated for the purchase of produce, of which 8 million is consigned to Da Lat.

The DaLat field office was also the first to go into operation.

"We made the first purchase here in August 1966 and shipped it out by air," said Major Charles K. Smith, 29, of Aurora, Nebr., commander of the office. "And we've been shipping everyday since and growing larger."

The procurement program is also a shot in the arm for the economy of the farmers in the Da Lat area.

"When we first began to buy the farmers thought that we could take everything that they grew," the major said. "At that time, the farmers weren't growing much because they had no way of getting it to the markets because they were afraid of the VC on the roads.

"But when they realized that we couldn't take everything, they began hauling their produce to markets in Saigon and Phan Rang by road. The railroad from DaLat to Phan Rang was making runs to the coast twice a month. Now there's a train everyday. About 25 percent of our produce is shipped to Phan Rang and Cam Ranh Bay by rail.

But sometimes the railroad is uncertain because the VC blow up the bridges. Then the full load is on the Air Force. And they are doing a great job at moving the produce. I can't say enough about the fine work they're doing," Major Smith said.

The procurement of vegetables and fruit is made once a week. Bids are submitted by Vietnamese vendors and the lowest bidder is awarded the contract to deliver the required amount of the vegetable for which he submitted the bid.

When the product is delivered, it is checked by two Army food inspectors before
(con't on five)

35th SPS GETS NEW COMMANDER

Earlier this month, Major Leroy E. Holtz, 41, from Omaha, Nebr., assumed command of the 35th Security Police Squadron.

Major Holtz comes to Phan Rang from the University of Omaha, where he was director of instruction for the Detachment 470 of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps.

A 19-year veteran, Major Holtz recently learned that he will sew on his Lt. Colonel leaves in the summer of 1968.

"...I'm very glad that I was assigned to Phan Rang. I believe in the Security Police Squadron insofar as to think we have the finest squadron on base, and, I intend to keep it that way," stated Major Holtz.

614th AIRMEN RECEIVE GREETINGS

Two airmen from the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron received Christmas greetings from their state government officials recently.

A1C Terry Brodt, 21, from Panorama City, Calif., received Holiday Wishes from Gov. Ronald Regan and Representative Charles M. Teague, both of California.

Sgt. Joseph Sorrento, 21,
(con't on five,)

GREEN - CONT From Four

...it is accepted. If it is rejected, the vendors bear the loss on their contracts.

After it has been accepted, the produce is crated and palletized for shipment. At this point, Major Smith turns the vegetables over to Master Sergeant Ronald L. Leighton, 34, of Winooski, Vt., NCOIC of the 14th Aerial Port Squadron at Da Lat.

Sergeant Leighton is responsible for getting the vegetable products to the distribution points. Each afternoon he receives the palletized edibles and determines how many aircraft will be needed the next day. He then asks the Airlift Control Center (ALCC) at Tan Son Nhut AB to make them available to him.

"We move from 35 to 50 tons of vegetables each day," Sergeant Leighton said. "Normally, we have four C-123's scheduled to us, and we get three sorties a day from them. In addition we usually have a couple of C-130s and several Caribous to use every day."

The C-123 Providers belong to the 310th Air Commando Squadron at Phan Rang. In November the air commandos carried 800 tons of produce to distribution points throughout II Corps. That was 50 per cent of the total amount shipped by air. The remaining percentage was carried by C-130 Hercules and C-7A Caribous, and other C-123 aircraft of the 315 Air Commando Wing.

"The biggest problem is getting the loads out during the rainy season," Sergeant Leighton continued. "Then we get backlogged and need every plane we can get."

"The longest that the produce is allowed to sit at the aerial port is three days. After the third day it is condemned. Fortunately, we don't have many loads condemned."

With inter-service cooperation, personnel morale is being bolstered and an important part of the Vietnamese economy is being strengthened through the vegetable procurement program... by SSgt Jim Caldwell, who toured the procurement facilities at Da Lat recently.

VIETNAM: TODAY & YESTERDAY

Taoism (pronounced dah-o-ism) is a way of life which requires man to adjust to nature in order to have happiness. It is one of the more powerful religious forces in Vietnam and was introduced through Chinese cultural influence and occupation. It's founder was Lao Tzu, who lived about 600 BC.

The basic doctrines of Taoism are: 1) the universe, physical and spiritual natures, is supreme. 2) For every positive factor in the universe there is a negative one. 3) These positive and negative factors cannot be changed, but astrology can assist in forecasting them. 4) The universe is controlled by a mystical being from whom mandates come to rulers and priests. 5) The elements--metal, wood, water, fire and earth form the basis for the religious rites.

Submission to the laws of nature is taught to encourage gentleness, peacefulness, serenity and resignation to unchangeable fates. It is inherent that Taoism consists of a repression of a willingness to exploit nature, to take risks and to gamble for distant goals with no obvious success. It seems to discourage competition with either nature or man, but it is considered the best way to adjust to the natural world.

YULE GREETINGS -

...from Kenmore, N.Y., who received a Yule Greeting from his State Senator, Earl Brydges.

All greetings were to every man at Phan Rang wishing each a joyous holiday season, and expressing deep interest in the welfare of all.

They all stated a wish for all to return home soon.

309th ACS HAS OFFICIAL

The 309th ACS has officially adopted the hamlet of Cat Già located approximately 15 miles in the hills near Phan Rang. The hamlet is populated by Montagnards who have had their way of life disrupted by the Viet Cong.

Food is in short supply, so members of the 309th in coordination with Tanh Hai MACV advisors recently visited the village taking needed supplies to the village.

MACV advisors secured a MEDCAP team from the 101st Infantry Brigade to give medical assistance to the inhabitants at the same time.

SERGEANT GETS

CHRISTMAS GREETING
To one sergeant here, the Christmas season will be a little brighter.

SSgt. Edgar A. Simpson, 1882 Communication Squadron, received notice (cont on six)

The ritual of Taoism seems to consist largely of magic, fortune telling, divining, spirit worship and use of horoscopes, in order to ascertain the will of nature relative to the individual. Taoists concepts are observed in medical practices, marital arrangements, selection of auspicious dates, worship ceremonies and planting and harvesting.

The principal divinity is the Jade Emperor. His assistants are Nam Tao and Bac Dau, who keep the register of all beings in the universe.

Taoism today has limited formal organization, but the concepts are in evidence in the daily life cycle of all the people. The cultural mold into which the Vietnamese are born and reared has been developed for more than two thousand years.

(These articles on Vietnam are prepared by the Civic Action Office. It is the purpose of each short article to assist the men of Phan Rang AB to understand the Vietnamese people and culture a little better during our one year tour.)

Coming soon is a full length article on the customs and practices observed during TET.

It is our hope that knowing what to do and not to do will make your enjoyment of this once-a-year festival more meaningful.)

HOLIDAY WISHES FROM

"As we approach the Christmas season and the beginning of a new year, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to all the members of the United States Air Force, and to their families and loved ones.

"We may all well reflect with pride and satisfaction upon the many accomplishments of the past year. Your devotion and dedication have brought high honor and credit to our service. You have demonstrated anew that when freedom is challenged, the people of our nation do not falter in the face of hardship and sacrifice. The coming holiday season reminds us once again of the abundant bounty we enjoy. Let us strive in 1968 for the day when these benefits will be shared in peace and concord by all mankind.

-- Harold Brown,
Secretary of the Air Force

"As another Christmas season draws near, I wish to express again my sincere appreciation for the courage and selfless devotion to duty of the men and women of the Air Force.

"I regret that we continue to be faced with difficult and trying times and that many of you are separated from your loved ones. Those of us at home are inspired by your sacrifices and encouraged by the effectiveness and results of your efforts.

"Each of you can take pride and satisfaction in your achievements. Your professionalism and dedication are indispensable to our national security and to our continuing effort to restore peace in the world.

"To each of you and to your families, I extend heartfelt best wishes for the holidays and the new year."

-- Gen. J.P. McConnell,
Chief of Staff

"On behalf of the members of Headquarters Pacific Air Forces I extend our sincere holiday greetings to all personnel of this command.

"Throughout the new year we hope that the true spirit of Christmas, peace on earth and good will to all men, will move substantially toward reality."

-- Gen. John D. Ryan
Commander in Chief, Pacific Air Forces

"I am proud of you and deeply grateful for your magnificent performances of duty during the past year. To each of you, and to your families, I send my warmest personal wishes for a joyous Christmas and a successful and satisfying New Year."

-- W.C. Westmoreland
General, United States Army
Commanding

- MARS CALL -

... recently that he had been selected by Government Employees Exchange (GEX) of Virginia as one of two servicemen who would be given a free call home during the Christmas season.

Each of the 16 GEX stores nationwide were to select two servicemen from their memberships and contact their families and the men, through Red Cross, to set up a time and date for the call.

Sergeant Simpson made the call from here last Sunday at 3:10 p.m. Who says there's not a Santa Claus?

From the Staff of Phanfare to all personnel assigned to Phan Rang AB, a wish for the merriest of Christmases and a very Happy New Year. It has been a pleasure to serve you throughout our first year, we are looking forward to 1968 as a new chance to serve you better.

Make this Season a Safe One!

FROM A NOTE BOOK

By Uncle Dudley

In our busy rush at work and at play during this Holiday Season, we often forget just what this Christmas is all about.

Strange enough, the first Christmas took place in a country not too dissimilar from this one.

There was no snow, nor were there any sleigh bells that first Christmas night. Only a village, not much different than Thap Cham, that was too crowded, due to the returnees home to be enrolled.

No, we are far from home this Christmas, far from the familiar, but, Christmas is still the same, the gift is still the same, and the promise is still there.

For something to do this Christmas season, read the Story of the first Christmas in the book of Luke, then look around you and see how merry Christmas can be.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS PLANNED FOR SCHOOL

Personnel of the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (RED HORSE) have several special Christmas treats planned for the children of the An Phouc school.

On Christmas eve, squadron personnel will visit the school with gifts of food baskets, and install playground equipment. Following this, they will return to the squadron area where they will have an evening lighting ceremony, complete with Christmas carols.

On Christmas day, 554th personnel will host 73 children from the An Phouc school for Christmas dinner. Each of the children will receive a gift from his squadron host.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!