

PHAN RANG ARE

VOLUME I, ISSUE 32

THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

DECEMBER 28, 1967

SOUTH VIETNAM PRESIDENT SENDS HOLLIDAY GREETINGS

(Ed. Note: This Christmas and New Years message was received too late to meet our Christmas edition deadline.)

Dear Comrades-in Arms:

Tonight is Christmas night. Everyone in the world raise the carols and traditional prayers: "Glory to the Lord and Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will".

The carols and the good wishes have raised our hearts many hopes. But while men on this earth are enjoying the blessings of peace, the people of Vietnam once more celebrate the birth of Christ in the midst of war.

It is with heavy feeling that I think of the suffering of the Vietnamese people. It is with a heavier heart that I think of the hardships and sacrifices, that you, allied soldiers from many lands, are enduring far from homes at a time when you could have enjoyed this festivity in the midst of your families, in peace and happiness.

Because the communists nourish the ambition to conquer this country, to stifle the voice of freedom, to destroy democracy and peace, you have come here to help us to repel their aggression, in the name of brotherly solidarity between our nations, to defend our common ideals for democracy and freedom.

Christ descended on earth to save mankind for freedom and to spread the ideals of justice and charity.

Today, we are fighting precisely for these same ideals. Following the path of Christ, we glorify the commandments he taught to mankind on this earth.

At this hour, I am sending my best wishes to everyone of you on the frontlines, as well as in the rear, on the highlands, as well as in the delta. I wish to share with you all the hardships and privations you are enduring. As a combatant myself, I thoroughly understand them.

In the name of the Vietnamese people and in my own name, I convey to you our gratitude and our heartfelt congratulations. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Years. I also pray that our enemies will soon awaken, to realize that they cannot win in the face of our determination and our close solidarity in the defense of freedom, and of our overwhelming strength.

They should face these realities to renounce their aggressive ambitions, and...

(cont on Pg. FIVE)



COLONEL McNEFF BIDS FAREWELL TO PHAN RANG

Champagne ceremonies on the north ramp of the flightline this past week brought to a close a "very productive and interesting" year of duty for Colonel Edward P. McNeff, vice-commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Colonel McNeff, who completed his 200th combat mission, arrived at Phan Rang when the base was hardly more than a tent city. He has seen the tremendous growth and improvement that is characteristic of Phan Rang.

His military career started in 1942 when he entered the Army Air Corps. He received his commission through the Air Cadets in 1943 and served as a squadron pilot for the 8th Air Force in Europe as a bomber escort.

In Korea, Colonel McNeff served as Group Operations Officer with the 51st Fighter Group.

Early this next week, he will leave Phan Rang to become the commander of the 405th Tactical Fighter Wing at Clark Air Base, Philippine Islands.

Phanfare wishes to salute Colonel McNeff for his outstanding leadership and dedicate this issue to him as a farewell memento.

"Bon Voyage" Colonel McNeff.

MEETS PRESIDENT

On 23 Dec., I had the pleasure of meeting President Johnson who made a trip to Vietnam after leaving Australia. The President told the assembled troops, representing all the United States services, fighting in Vietnam that he could not return to the United States without first stopping over to express the respect and admiration of our people, for the men fighting here. He wanted us to know that the position of our government is firm, that we know our cause will win. He also wanted us to know that as Commander-in-Chief, of the Armed Forces he was exceedingly proud of our efforts over here. Our President was sincere in this praise and he came an additional 5,000 miles to bring his greetings in person.

Col. McNeff

1882 COMM. MEMBERS CITED BY ARMY

Two members of the 1882nd Communications Squadron were hailed by an Army pilot for their efforts in helping him land during foul weather recently.

MSGT Donald H. Leacott, and SSgt Richard B. Chambers, air traffic controllers at the Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) site here, were cited by Major Richard H. Kamerling, an Army pilot, for their efforts in getting him landed after he had encountered difficulties with his compass while flying in turbulent weather.

"...I sincerely believe that if it wasn't for GCA that I might not have been able to complete the mission. It is very comfortable feeling for an Aviator to know that we have such capable and dedicated men as those in GCA to assist in time of need... On behalf of the United States Army and myself many thanks for saving one \$20,000 aircraft and one Aviator...me."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



VIETNAM: YESTERDAY and TODAY "CONFUCIANISM"

Confucianism came to Vietnam during the Chinese rule (111 B.C.-939 A. D.) and has since held an important place as well as mold Vietnamese character. Confucius, who lived 2500 years ago never attempted to found a religion, but by the very nature of his philosophy and promotion of traditional rites, he imbued disciples with the spirit of reverence and devotion.

His teachings were social and ethical, for it encouraged good government and harmonious relations among men. His doctrines were pragmatic and practical and there is no belief in a personal deity or the salvation of the soul. Followers of Confucianism are taught to be more conscious of their obligations than their rights. The virtue of humanity, loyalty, civility, wisdom and justice are encouraged through the Confucian concepts set forth regulating right relationships. Subordination to superiors is directed, but the superior also has duties and responsibilities to his charges, whether the relationship be ruler to subject or father to children.

Some of the major principles of Confucianism are 1) The individual is always less important than the family. 2) The living person is merely the link between the dead and yet unborn. 3) Marriages are planned by the family to insure sustained veneration of ancestral spirits. 4) Veneration rites encourage large families. 5) Deep respect is due the elders. 6) Males are desirable for they have the twofold responsibility of head of the household and religious head for ancestor veneration. 7) The reform of society must begin at the top.

Confucianism gave Vietnam a highly organized hierarchical society. It encouraged the improvement of the individual but only so that he could better function in society. the French rule, Confucianism...

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MAGIC TREE ?

(Con't on Pg Five)

RED CROSS NEWS

AFVN-TV

CHANNEL 78
NHA TRANG
PHAN RANG

The Red Cross Center will be open until 8 p.m. "New Years Eve. The following day, Jan. 1, the center will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. TONIGHT: Football Fun Friday: Hail and Farewell Party... Newcomers and short timers, this party is especially in your honor!

Saturday: Pinochle Tournament.

Sunday: New Year's Eve.. Party Punch served until 8 pm.

Monday: Happy New Year!! A soothing morning complete with black coffee and tomato juice is planned. That night we'll have "Do You Remember?"

Tuesday: Birthday Party.. If your birthday falls in January we have a gift and a party for you.

Wednesday: Cribbage Tournament.

ARTISTS OF PHAN RANG----- Enter your paintings or drawings in our Art Contest. The center will become an art gallery on Jan. 6. Please have all entries in by Jan. 4 so we can frame them.

SPORTS SHORTS BASKETBALL

All units planning on entering a team in the Phan Rang Basketball League should do so by Dec. 29.

League play is set to begin on Jan. 2, with games scheduled for 6 and 7:30 p.m.

To date, 13 teams have entered.

E-4 NOTICE MEMBERSHIP

Effective Jan. 1, all sergeants (E-4), age 21 and over, are eligible to become members of the Noncommissioned Officers' Open Mess.

Phan Fare is a weekly publication of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing Information Office.

Thursday, December 28

- 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 Bell Telephone Hour
- 9:20 Big Valley
- 10:15 Voyage
- 11:05 Third Man
- 11:35 Late News
- 11:40 Sign Off

Friday, December 29

- 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

Saturday, December 30

- 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 Away We Go
- 9:30 12 O'Clock High
- 10:20 Movie: "Bad For Each Other"
- 12:25 Late News

Sunday, December 31

- 2:05 Program Previews
- 2:07 Headlines
- 2:10 The Christophers
- 2:25 The Sacred Heart
- 2:35 This Is The Answer
- 3:05 Sports Special
- 5:35 Tournament Of Champions
- 6:30 Air Force Review
- 6:45 Special: Old College Try
- 7:35 My Three Sons
- 8:00 News and Sports
- 8:30 Jackie Gleason New Year
- 9:20 Bonanza
- 10:15 Movie

Sunday (continued)

- 11:25 Late News

Monday, January 1

- 1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee
- 7:05 Program Previews
- 7:07 Headlines
- 7:10 21st Century
- 7:35 Program
- 8:00 News and Sports
- 8:30 Our Place
- 9:20 Daniel Boone
- 10:15 Get Smart
- 10:40 Wild West
- 11:30 Late News

Tuesday, January 2

- 1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee
- 7:05 Program Previews
- 7:07 Headlines
- 7:10 Assignment Underwater
- 7:35 Dick Van Dyke
- 8:00 News and Sports
- 8:30 Mike Douglas
- 9:20 Combat
- 10:15 Movie
- 11:30 Late News

Wednesday, January 3

- 1:30 Shiftworkers Matinee
- 7:05 Previews & News Briefs
- 7:10 American Sportsman
- 8:00 News and Sports
- 8:30 Clown Alley
- 9:20 The Fugitive
- 10:15 Green Acres
- 10:40 Perry Mason
- 11:30 Late News

AIRMEN'S OPEN MESS SHOW SCHEDULE

Saturday: International Variety Show -- begins at 7:30.

Sunday: The Luciano and Ninon Show -- 6 p.m. NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW -- begins approximately 11:30 p.m.

Playing at the club for an entire week, from Jan 1-7, will be one of the top bands from the Philippines-- the GOLDEN GOODIES -- said by some to be better than the Jaguars!!!!

The show is scheduled to begin at 7:30 nightly.

WHO GOES THERE?

"SANTA CLAUS!"

Santa Claus, resplendent in a \$200 hand-sewn suit of red velvet and white fur, gave tower guards and sentry dog handlers along the perimeter of the base the surprise of their lives Christmas night.

Accompanied by a lovely helper, Red Cross recreation aide Gay Nall, 23, from New Orleans, La., he arrived in a motorized sleigh and handed out gifts by the hundreds to members of the 35th Security Police Squadron as they stood guard.

"I never expected to see him out here," said one sentry dog handler. "I hope he gets combat pay for it."

A tower guard flatly admitted that he was "kind of shocked." All he could say was "This is too much!"

Saint Nick was actually Lieutenant Colonel Theodore G. Grossholz, from Omaha, Neb., who has been playing Santa for "about 30 years," ever since his mother made him a Santa suit back in his high school days so he could hand out Christmas presents to handicapped students at a nearby school.

Commander of the 35th Civil Engineering Squadron, he has since played Santa all over the world. The officer said that his wife creates a new Santa suit for him every three years, at an expense of \$200. "It's worth it just to be out with the troops," the officer commented. "It's a real pleasure to do my little bit to make people happy."

Miss Nall, whose "Hi!" and "Merry Christmas" echoed up and down the perimeter throughout the night of Christmas, said, "I'm just having a ball. This is more fun than I've ever had." She got a big kick out of Santa's routine. As the sleigh, a carry-all truck decorated with streamers, approached a guard post, the guard would yell "Halt!"

Then the security police official traveling with Santa would yell, "It's Santa Claus and his helper!", and Gay recalled that the guard's answer was usually something like "Are we supposed to believe that?"

The gifts were donated by people in the United States and were gathered and shipped to Vietnam by the Red Cross.

A security-alert team guard said Santa's visit "makes us think that we're thought of on Christmas, and makes me feel very good." A New Yorker, he made this comment about working on the night of Christmas: "I'm out here doing a job, and I'm proud to be doing it."

A sentry dog handler from Lake Charles, La., standing 75 yards from the perimeter fence with his dog Reny, made this comment: "It's a job we have to do for our folks back home....I don't especially like it, but I feel pretty proud of the people back home supporting us in this war over here."

He said Santa's visit was "really a surprise, no kidding!....I sure appreciate it, and I imagine all the other fellows will like it too."

On the scene was the commander of the 35th Security Police Squadron. He helped pave the way for Santa's sleigh on the perimeter, and commented: "He's a real kind sort to volunteer to help us out tonight.... So is this young lady."

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today," a wise man once said, "because if you enjoy it today, you can do it again tomorrow."

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

The recent moving of the base library to the new library-education building across the street from the airmen's barracks area has been accompanied by an explosion in the library's book population.

Mr. Joe Burns, from Olathe, Kansas, base librarian, noted that 2,000 new books have been put into circulation, bringing the total of hardbacks in the library to about 5,000.

Recently 40 cartons of paperbacks arrived. Of the approximately 4,000 books in these cartons, 500 have been given to the 101st Airborne Division of the Army, and another 600 were turned over to the 315th Air Commando Wing for distribution to Army Special Forces camps in South Vietnam. The rest of the books are available at the library.

Three hardcover books can be checked out at a time. Among the new books at the library are many reference books which will come in handy for personnel taking on-base college courses under the University of Maryland program here.

The library is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The new home of the library, constructed by the 554th CES (RED HORSE), is a modern, spacious, air-conditioned building which offers twice the floor space of the library's old home.

Mr. Burns noted that many more new books are due to arrive at the library, which offers reading tables, lounge chairs, and a wide variety of magazines and newspapers for the convenience of its patrons.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Emphasis is being placed on the "CODE OF CONDUCT". Every man serving in Vietnam should know what it is and understand the principles it sets forth. Read and Learn!

35th TFW PILOTS LAUDED

The commander of the unit that captured Hill 875, the site of one of the largest battles of the Vietnam war, recently praised the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing for playing a large and important part in the five-day battle.

In a letter to 35th TFW Commander, Colonel James A. Wilson; Lt. Colonel James H. Johnson, commander of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade said:

"During the period of November 20 to 24, 1967, in the vicinity of Dak To, your unit provided the 4th Battalion (Abn) 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, almost continuous Tactical Air Support.

"Although your aircraft and crews were subjected to murderous ground fire on almost every mission, you continued to provide precise, devastating air strikes against the deeply entrenched enemy on and around Hill 875. Your unerring and timely delivery of ordinance helped turn the tide of the battle and, to a large measure, made possible the assault and capture of Hill 875 on November 23.

"Your unit demonstrated heroism, devotion to duty, and professional skill of the highest order. The officers and men of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, will never forget the significant part you played in this historic battle.

"On behalf of the "Geronimo Battalion", I wish to express my admiration for a job well done, and my appreciation for your magnificent support."

CIVIC ACTIONS KEY FOR BRIGHT FUTURE - - - COL. McNEFF

In a recent interview, Colonel Edward P. McNeff, vice-commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, summed up his impressions of the Civic Action program carried on by base personnel.

"The major success of the program has been with the youth. Our scholarship program, sponsored by different squadrons, and the baseball program have been the most successful 'direct contact' programs we have had.

In referring to the many building projects that have been initiated by the Civic Action office, the Colonel stated, "Time taken in showing the Vietnamese people how to build, yet not building the projects ourselves, has created a deep sense of satisfaction and self accomplishment for them. A sense of local pride is beginning to assert itself in the dealings we have with the people. In Korea, right after the war, similar projects were undertaken, now the people have an economical aggressiveness and self reliability. This is the same feeling we wish to inspire here."

315th CAMS CAN DO!

Recently a small crew of aircraft maintenance specialist from the 315th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMS), landed on the isolated runway of Gia Nghia, a small village approximately 100 miles northwest of Phan Rang. Their mission was essential to the operation of the 345th Air Commando Wing, a C-123K Provider aircraft had been totally disabled and was unable to return to Phan Rang.

Working under extremely hazardous conditions and using only tools that could be carried by hand, these select men were able to salvage approximately one-half million dollars worth of parts, engines, and other equipment from the downed aircraft. All salvaged parts were airlifted in to Phan Rang for proper identification and storage.

The thoroughness and efficiency of this five day operation is testimonial to 315th CAMS -- CAN DO!

When asked about the success of our local Civic Action programs, he commented that the program is keyed "just right". The coordination, organization and well directed programs are being run the way they will... "do the most good for the most people, and have the best impact on the minds of the people."

"Our daily association with the Vietnamese who work on base, and those we meet in town or anywhere else is also helping to win the minds and attitudes of the people. This is why it is very important that we, as Americans, must be on our best behavior everytime we associate with the Vietnamese."

He concluded by saying, "Our goal, in this program, is to show the people that we wish to help them to be free; but at the same time not to impose our way of life on them."

By encouraging a more free association and understanding with the Vietnamese people, we will eventually show them that the Viet Cong have nothing constructive to offer... But by working together, they can emerge into a nation of their own, free dedicated and proud people. The veneration of ancestors accounts for family altars.

VN PRESIDENT - - -

...to meet with us at the negotiating table to end this war and to restore peace. That is the only sensible path open to them. We are fighting for freedom and peace, and we are determined to fight until the other side accepts this path.

May the Lord grant his blessings to all of us, and may the Vietnamese nation and all other nations celebrate future Christmases in peace and happiness.....

Pres. Nguyen Van Thieu

VIETNAM Y & T - -

...declined, for the requirement of an European education system for civil service examinations meant the lack of Confucian learning. However, the basic precepts still remain deeply imbedded in the morals and values of the people. The Vietnamese still feel that the family is most important; they respect learning; they strive for harmony with their surroundings. Confucian doctrine contributes to the politeness of the peo-

F-100 PILOTS AID FRIENDLY FORCES

Three pilots of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing recently inflicted heavy damage on an enemy bunker complex in the area near Duc Hoa.

Carrying a total of twelve 750 pound bombs and 2,400 rounds of 20 millimeter ammunition, Col. Edward P. McNeff, Capt. Leslie E. Smith and Maj. Ira F. Tindal departed on a pre-planned mission when they were diverted to the Duc Hoa area to support U.S. ground forces engaged in heavy contact with a Viet Cong force entrenched in a large bunker complex.

The forward air controller (FAC) briefed the flight on the target, giving the friendly position as approximately 150 meters from a river. The Viet Cong were located between the friendlies and the river bank. Due to this position, the only possible approach for the aircraft was an attack heading parallel to the river, which gave the flight the full effects of a 25 knot cross wind that was blowing toward the friendly forces.

Colonel McNeff was the first of the trio to attack the target. Despite heavy ground fire, he approached the target at the lowest possible altitude to insure greater accuracy, and to reduce the effect of the wind.

His bombs detonated immediately to the rear of the enemy positions, causing as much damage as a direct hit. Colonel McNeff informed the other pilots of the estimated strength of the wind, and they then scored direct hits.

After all the bombs had been dropped, the FAC reported the destruction of a vehicle and at least two weapon emplacements. Ground fire was observed in another area and the aircraft then made repeated strafing runs, greatly diminishing the ground fire.

Three large bunkers were destroyed, and the possibility of greater damage was reported.

VIETNAMESE STUDENTS MAKE YULE BASE VISIT

Led by the chief of Ninh Thuan Province, Lieutenant Colonel Kha Vinh Huey, a delegation of approximately 150 Vietnamese adults and children came on base recently to thank Air Force personnel for their friendship.

A teakwood painting was presented to the commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Colonel James A. Wilson, and other gifts were presented to enlisted men who are conducting English classes in Phan Rang City as part of a widespread Air Force Civic Action program.

A representative of the Truong Vinh Ky High School made a speech in which he said:

"We thank you for your help in the protection of our fatherland with your own blood. You are ready to die that the Vietnamese people live, and you are ready to sacrifice yourselves that we can be free.

"Had the American and the Allied forces not been in our country for these three years, South Vietnam would have been held by the Communists."

As he spoke, outside the headquarters of the 35th TFW top officials of the wing and base stood by, along with personnel assigned to the various offices of the wing. A few feet away, three flags fluttered in the breeze... the Vietnamese and American flags, and an Australian flag representing the Number 2 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force.

The Vietnamese speaker expressed thanks for "your many scholarships which have helped the poor students to get through school... We thank you for your help in the building of our school.. We hope that in the coming year, with your contributions we can build more classrooms and a playground."

His audience included the wing commander of the wing, the base commander, the wing's deputy commander for material, and the staff of the base Civic Action office. The volunteer teachers in the Civic Action program each received attractive albums containing photos of their classes.

The ceremonies began

with a speech by the province chief, and concluded with a brief speech by the wing commander, who expressed the gratitude of the base for the visit, comments, and gifts of the Vietnamese delegation. The visitors also made trips to the areas of the First Brigade of the Army's 101st Airborne Division and the Australian Number 2 Squadron for similar ceremonies.

The colorful delegation displayed a large sign readings: "Best Wishes to Our Allied Comrades -- A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Colonel Wilson's remarks, translated into Vietnamese by an interpreter, included these words:

"You brought us a real Christmas in the tokens of your esteem that we'll give to our airmen here on our base... We hope we have a prosperous new year... We hope we have a lasting peace. All I have to say is, I wish all of you a very, very Merry Christmas."

UNIQUE RE-UP

Sgt. David T. Bice recently re-enlisted in mid-air, with famed singer Connie Francis for his witness.

The ceremonies took place at an altitude of 9,500 feet, in a C-47 delivering Miss Francis to Phan Rang for a pre-Christmas performance for approximately 3,000 Air Force and Army personnel.

The oath was administered by Maj. Charles E. Hopkins, chief of base operations and training division in the 35th Combat Support Group. Sergeant Bice, chief dispatcher at the Base Operations, works for him.