

PHAN RANG

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

VOLUME II, ISSUE 27

THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

DECEMBER 5, 1968

Gen. BROWN Praises Aid

General George S. Brown, commander, Seventh Air Force, had words of praise recently for the Phan Rang Air Base Civic Action program which placed second in Vietnam during the past quarter.

In a letter to Col. Frank L. Gailer Jr., commander, 35th TFW, General Brown wrote, "Your achievements in the field of civic action during the quarter ending 30 September 1968 are gratifying to me. The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing has attained an enviable record in the effective support to the people and Government of Vietnam.

"The magnitude of the improvement program for 100 schools and the successful involvement of the people in this program is commendable. The development and support of youth programs reflect a high degree of sensitivity to the needs of the community."

"The program General Brown speaks of," said 1st Lt. Bryan A. Wolter, Phan Rang civic action officer, "reaches about 120 schools and affects 40,000 children." We work with just about every primary school in Ninh Thuan Province.

"We work with the school Parent-Teacher Associations in a partnership. We discuss with them what improvements are needed for their school--electrical wiring, lighting, fences, other items--we make the materials available and they, the PTA, do the work.

"Our objective in these self-help projects is to strengthen the PTA," Lieutenant Wolter said, "to get the people more involved in their children's education.

FIVE HERE WIN AWARDS FOR MILITARY SUGGESTIONS

Recently, five men at Phan Rang AB, were presented awards for suggestions they submitted under the Air Force's military suggestion program. Four of the men were given cash awards; the fifth received a letter of appreciation.

Col. Stanley J. Obarski, base commander, presented the awards at ceremonies in his office.

TSgt. Millard R. Vieno, 554th CES (RED HORSE), received \$15 for his suggestion to pad the frame of the practice golf cages at Phan Rang. SSgt. Raymond R. Sidhu, 35th SPS, received a letter of appreciation for his suggestion to consolidate two areas of defense at Phan Rang, resulting in savings of manpower and vehicle utilization.

SSgt. Carrel E. Owen, 310th SOSQ, received \$15 for his idea of bolting two steel bars onto the arm of a towbar to avoid breakage at a potential weak point.

Sgt. Burl E. Spainhower, 35th AEMS, garnered \$25 for suggesting that the cannon plugs on two types of F-100s be marked to avoid mixing them up, thus avoiding damage to either one of the two indicators concerned.

2nd Lt. Chester S. Labelczyk, 352nd TFS, pocketed \$20 for the idea of installing a bracket on the tail of the F-100 Supersabre to lift the tail hook off the ground. This provides clearance so the aircraft can taxi to revetment areas or refueling pits.

All suggestions were first reviewed by a suggestion review board to check their usefulness and benefit for the Air Force.

Two Civilians Earn Cash

Two Vietnamese employees of the 35th Transportation Sq. recently became the first local nationals to receive Sustained Superior Performance cash awards at this base.

They were presented the awards by Col. Stanley J. Obarski, base commander.

The two employees are Miss Tran Thi Ngoc Diep, orderly room secretary, who was awarded 2,700 piastres, and Mr. Ngo Than, body and fender mechanic in vehicle maintenance, who received 2,100 piastres.

"These awards indicate the growing contribution our Vietnamese employees are making toward the operation of Phan Rang Air Base," said Mr. Milton Villareal, chief, civilian personnel, "and an increased recognition of their efforts by the military supervisors."

PLACE TO GO

The weekly 35 TFW Intelligence Briefing is held every Monday at 8 p.m. in Batson Dining Hall. This briefing is open to all military and civilian personnel. Significant developments in South Vietnam, the local area and elsewhere will be discussed and questions from the audience will be entertained.

Lt. Col. JOSEPH F. HERMANN KNOW THE COMMAND

Lt. Col. Joseph F. Hermann has served as vice commander, Phan Rang AB, since July of this year. Prior to his arrival in Vietnam, he served as base deputy commander, 513rd Combat Support Group, RAF Mildenhall, England.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Colonel Hermann received his commission and wings through the aviation cadet program in 1943.

In April 1944, he arrived in England where he accrued more than 243 combat hours in the B-24 bomber. He also received the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his World War II service.

His other overseas tours include three years in England (1948-51), three in Germany at Rhein-Main and Wiesbaden Air Bases and Lindsey AFS (1955-58), a return to England (1965-68) and his current duty in Vietnam.

He and his wife, the former Miss Doris V. Bain of Portland, Ore., have five children, Joseph, Mary Louise, Kathryn, Susan and John.

DEAR BALDY

Dear Baldy,

After a hard night's work out in the boonies, it is certainly a good feeling to hop on the "flight line express" for a quick ride to the post office area. The "Give your buddy a ride" system has picked up quite a bit too and is another big help.

Hitchhiker

Dear Hitch

Couldn't agree with you more but too many empty vehicles are still passing people by.

Baldy

* * * *

Dear Baldy,

When are they going to put some street lights up around this base? I don't mind
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

NCOs To Aid In Retention

(AFNS) — Seeking to further improve the first-term airmen reenlistment rates, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell has directed major commands to call upon their top three noncommissioned officers for increased support.

"I believe that our non-commissioned officers, particularly the top three grades, can significantly improve the Air Force reenlistment program," General McConnell said.

Accordingly, the Military Personnel Center has implemented a unit-level retention program, called "Top Three." It is aimed directly at the first-term airman and will be carried out by chief, senior and master sergeants.

"The members of our non-commissioned officer corps are true professionals with the leadership qualities it takes to do the job," General McConnell said. "I am sure
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

SP Training Is Big Job

"Our pupils couldn't out-shoot Matt Dillon, but they have out-shot Charlie every time," says Sgt. Thomas J. Metzen.

Sergeant Metzen, NCO in charge of the 35th Security Police Sq. firing range, is charged with making certain that the sentries know the weapon they are handling like the back of their hand.

"When we get new men in the squadron," he continued, "they go through classroom and range familiarization. They may have handled the same weapons for two or three years—but not in a combat situation. That can make
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY

SCHEDULE OF CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

PROTESTANT

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Protestant Services
9:15 a.m. Family Life Series
Monday: 10 a.m. 7:30 p.m. Think and Talk Series
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. Meditation and Prayer
(2nd Wed - 6:15 p.m. - PMOC Cookout and Program)
Thursday: 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. New Testament Series
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Morning)
Friday: 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Evening)

Episcopal Service:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Church of Christ:

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Worship Service

Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints:

Sunday: 3:30-5:30 Worship Service

CATHOLIC

Sunday: Mass 8:30 a.m. noon 6:30 p.m.

Mon Sat: Mass noon

Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Catholic Instruction Classes
8 p.m. Marriage Enrichment Classes

First Friday: Mass noon and 6:30 p.m. followed by Steak Cookout

Sunday: Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.

Confessions: One half hour before all Sunday Masses
15 minutes before weekday Mass

DEW DROPS

Hi!

We'd like to say how much we enjoyed seeing all of you in the mess halls on Thanksgiving Day! Please stop by the Center soon to say "Hello" again.

We'd also like to thank Sgt. Tom Caputo and the K-9's for the demonstration they presented last Sunday afternoon; their show was very impressive, and your response was terrific.

During the coming week we're especially excited about Talent Night, Dec. 9. If you didn't attend the auditions last Monday, there's still time to come by our office and arrange to participate in the show. There's a remarkable amount of talent among the men of Phan Rang; share yours with all of us at the Dew Drop Inn!

On Dec. 14, we plan to welcome the Christmas season by making decorations for the Center, and on the 17th we'll trim our tree. The Center is a big place, and it's going to take a lot of "ivy" to "deck the halls"—we need your help.

On Christmas Day, the Chapel will sponsor a party for grammar school children from Phan Rang, to be held at the Dew Drop Inn. Bring your artistic talents (or at least your good intentions!) to the Red Cross Center on Monday, Dec. 16, and Saturday, the 21st, because on those nights we'll be making gifts for the children. And if you have any extra, small toys or games, save them for the kids, too.

The Center has received a stack of letters addressed to you from fifth grade class in Independence, Mo., and they're pure sunshine. If you'd like to be a "pen-pal", just check with us.

Have a good week, and "Dew Drop Inn"!

Save the tax bite!

Take a "short."

And enlist in Vietnam

TV SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 1:30 SHIFTWORKERS MATINEE
- 6:35 NEWS BRIEFS
- 6:40 OPERATION
- 7:30 EVENING NEWS
- 8:00 PENTAGON FORUM
- 8:30 DEAN MARTIN SHOW
- 9:20 STAR
- 10:10 BIG VALLEY
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 1:30 SHIFTWORKERS MATINEE
- 6:35 NEWS BRIEFS
- 6:40 PRIORITY
- 7:05 BIG PICTURE
- 7:30 EVENING NEWS
- 8:00 ROWAN AND MARTIN
- 8:55 DRAGNET
- 9:20 HOLLYWOOD PALACE
- 10:10 GUNSMOKE
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 1:05 LAWRENCE WELK
- 1:55 MELODY RANCH
- 2:45 SPORTS
- 5:05 AMERICAN SPORTSMAN
- 5:55 KRAFT MUSIC HALL
- 6:50 ARMED FORCES NEWS SPOTLIGHT
- 7:05 VIETNAM REPORT
- 7:30 EVENING NEWS
- 8:00 JONATHAN WINTERS
- 8:55 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
- 9:45 SPECIAL
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 1:30 CHRISTOPHERS
- 1:45 SACRED HEART
- 2:00 THE ANSWER
- 2:30 SPECIAL
- 3:30 SPORTS
- 5:25 PRO BOWLERS TOUR
- 7:05 MY THREE SONS
- 7:30 EVENING NEWS
- 8:00 ED SULLIVAN
- 8:55 BONANZA
- 9:45 LATE SHOW
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 1:30 SHIFTWORKERS MATINEE
- 6:35 NEWS BRIEFS
- 6:40 THE MONKEES
- 7:05 INFORMATION SPECIAL
- 7:30 EVENING REPORT
- 8:00 ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW
- 8:55 DANIEL BOONE
- 9:45 BEWITCHED
- 10:10 WILD WILD WEST
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 1:30 SHIFTWORKERS MATINEE
- 6:35 NEWS BRIEFS
- 6:40 GE COLLEGE BOWL
- 7:05 GET SMART
- 7:30 EVENING REPORT
- 8:00 RED SKELTON SHOW
- 8:55 COMBAT
- 9:45 CHANNEL 11 THEATER
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 1:30 SHIFTWORKERS MATINEE
- 6:35 NEWS BRIEFS
- 6:40 LUCY SHOW
- 7:05 FELONY SQUAD
- 7:30 EVENING REPORT
- 8:00 SPECIAL
- 8:55 DICK VAN DIKE SHOW
- 9:45 IRONSIDE
- 10:10 JOEY BISHOP
- 11:00 LATE NEWS

CENTER SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

How well do you know your states?

FRIDAY

M & N Night

SATURDAY

Christmas Collage

SUNDAY

Cheer Tournament

MONDAY

Talent Show*

TUESDAY

Scientific Night

WEDNESDAY

Fun 'N Games

THURSDAY

Peanut Butter Bingo

Spread The News

Get promoted this month? Then come to the Office of Information, Wing Headquarters, second floor, and let us make a low town news release on the big event. Drop in at any time between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Invest in your future
...Buy U.S. Savings Bonds

FIRE PREVENTION ASKS FELP FOR YULE SEASON

Base Fire Prevention officials have asked the cooperation of all PRABites in making this another fire-free Yuletide season at Happy Valley. They ask that everyone be aware of the increased fire potential during the Christmas season and keep a few basic safety rules.

These rules include having all units and individuals coordinate decoration plans with the fire chief before installation, using only flame-proofed or flame resistant decorative materials, not using open flame devices such as candles, using only commercial electric decorative lighting which bears the UL seal of approval, and having Christmas trees, unless manufactured of non-combustible materials, chemically treated for flame proofing if they are to be mounted indoors.

Fire prevention officials also asked that no decorations be installed so as to block an entrance or exit.

By following these basic, common sense rules, they feel sure that both the base firemen and all other base personnel will have a fire-safe holiday season.

NEW BOOKS AT LIBRARY

Books newly received in the McNaughton Collection at the base library are: Barrett, The wine and the music; Bell, Death of a Con Man; Calvino, Cosmicomics; Couteaux, My Father's Keeper; Dickinson, Glass-Sided Ants' Nest; Exley, A Fan's Notes; Friedman, Haunted Woman; Gentry, Killer Mountains (Lost Dutchman Mine); Hawley, Hurricane Years; James, Complete Bolivian Diaries of Che Guevara; Levant, Unimportance of Being Oscar; McBain, Fuzz; Merrill, England Swings (SF), and SF 12; Montgomery, Here and Hereafter (reincarnation); Simenon, Maigret's Pickpocket; Topkins, Passing Go; Turner, Police Establishment; Zilinsky, Middle Ground.

AUSSIE, YANK FRIENDS MEET

The arrival of Wing Commander John Whitehead at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, to take command of the Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Canberra Squadron also marked his reunion with Lt. Col. Samuel T. Dickens, a former squadron mate.

In 1956 and 1957, then Flight Lieutenant Whitehead and Captain Dickens were assigned as exchange pilots with Royal Air Force Squadron Number 92 at Linton-on-Ouse, near York, England.

They were flying the Hawker Hunter "six" type aircraft and served together for seven months.

The two officers became very close friends during this time and when Dickens wed the former Miss Marcella F. Smith of Corbin, Ky., on Jan. 26, 1957, in London, Wing Commander Whitehead was the best man.

'Spooky' Drops Nine Frags

The men of B Flight, 3rd SOS, who fly the AC-47 gunship, discovered during the early hours of a recent morning what developed to be nine new "frags."

The first arrived at 1:30 a.m. and the last came around 3 p.m. Runners delivered progress reports to the men of the 3rd who were already celebrating the event at the base recreation area, "White Rock National Park."

The news was not a complete surprise as some results had been expected for several weeks. However, the fact that there were nine surprised many—especially TSgt. Bruce H. Maine in whose room "Spooky," the unit mascot, released the news.



VA Aids Home Buyers With Higher Guarantee

VA's guarantee of home mortgage loans has been changed by recent legislation which should make the program more effective. First, the maximum permissible six per cent interest rate was removed. It is 6 3/4 per cent at the present time. Secondly, maximum guarantee was increased from \$7500 to 12,500. Finally, the requirement that the purchase price may not exceed the appraisal of reasonable value was removed.

Raising the interest rate should make more homes available. The 6 per cent rate was not attractive enough to lenders, because they could get more yield than that on other investments. Also, raising the guarantee to a \$12,500 maximum should assure the lender of a virtually riskless investment. This

conforms with recent increases in the cost of homes, and the resulting increase in amount of loan needed to buy them.

Formerly, purchase price of the home could not exceed the appraisal of "reasonable value", and occasionally an in-service man or veteran was prevented from buying a home he wanted because the seller asked a price in excess of the appraisal.

Think Positive
... Stay Air Force

TWO PILOTS END TOURS

Two 615th TFS pilots, Majors William H. Davidson and Michael F. Connolly, completed their tours in Vietnam this month and returned to the U.S. as instructor pilots. Both served the full year with the 615th.

During his tour here, Major Connolly flew 313 combat missions and served his unit as scheduling officer, "D" Flight commander, unit flying safety officer, instructor pilot, flight lead and functional check pilot.

In addition, he was project officer responsible for establishing an operational checkout for the F-100 Triple Ejector Bomb Rack system.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters for his flights in Vietnam. He has been reassigned to TAC at Cannon AFB, N.M., as an instructor pilot in the Replacement Training Center.

Major Davidson flew 260 combat missions in the F-100 and several missions with forward air controllers while TDY at Phu Bai.

He served the 615th as assistant operations officer, "A" Flight commander, and instructor pilot. He has been reassigned to ATC's Vance AFB, Okla., as an instructor.

SS Replaces Serial Nr.

(AFNS) -- The Department of Defense has directed that the social security account number be substituted for the military service number as a military personnel identifier, effective July 1. Departmental forms are being revised to satisfy this requirement. Forms will be phased into the publications distribution system prior to the implementation date. Affected publications will refer to the new identifier as revisions are published.

CHAMPA KINGDOM

TEMPLE REMAINS TODAY

Towering over Phan Rang Air Base and the village of Thap Cham in Ninh Thuan Province, is an ancient temple, a remnant of the once-powerful Champa Kingdom.

Although the Cham people still inhabit the area, their number is relatively few and their wealth and power no longer exists. Only the temple stands as a reminder of what once was.

The Champa Kingdom was established around 200 A.D. after the Chams gained independence from the Chinese. At the peak of its strength, the Kingdom extended along the coast of Vietnam from Hue to Phan Thiet. During this time of power, the Chams were widely known as skilled mariners--and pirates. Their wealth in gold, amber, perfume, aromatic wood and cotton was legendary in Southeast Asia.

The Champa Kingdom lasted approximately 1,500 years. Throughout their history, the Chams battled with the Vietnamese people and suffered a serious setback in 1471 when their capitol fell. The Kingdom finally disappeared during the 1700s.

There are now approximately 35,000 Chams living in Vietnam--most of them in Ninh Thuan Province.

The Cham temple located near Phan Rang AB was built around 1306 by King Jaya Simhavarman III. It consists of a main tower and two adjacent towers. The tallest tower is about 18 meters high and stands upon a square foundation of stone nine meters high on each side.

Over the main tower entrance stands a statue with six arms called the Civa. In the entrance to the altar room is a cow-like statue facing the altar. On the altar itself is a bust in honor of the Cham deity, Po Kiaung Garai.

The temple is still used, on an infrequent basis, when a Cham priest chooses a "lucky day" for a festival given to insure peace and prosperity.

Military Law Change Made

The soldier who fought at Valley Forge could expect only "drumhead justice" if he ran afoul of military law.

The trooper at Gettysburg could expect little more.

Even the doughboy who went ashore with Pershing had nothing like the legal protection of the civilian at home.

That has changed, now. The man who dons the uniform of his country today does not discard his right to fair treatment under law.

The first great step came in 1950. It was then that our servicemen and women were given the Uniform Code of Military Justice -- the most sweeping development in military law in all our history.

When President Harry Truman signed it into life, he was able to say that "the democratic ideal of equality is further advanced."

Today we advance again. The Military Justice Act of 1968, which we sign now, will stand proudly next to the 1950 law.

It expands the concept of fairness by creating an independent court system within the military, free from command pressures and control.

It enlarges the rights of the individual soldier by giving him trained legal defense when he is tried by a special court-martial.

It makes many other changes to streamline the system, and to safeguard the serviceman.

We have always prided ourselves on giving our men and women in uniform excellent medical service, superb training, the best equipment.

Now, with this bill, we are going to give them first-class legal service as well.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

MILITARY...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

As Commander-in-Chief, I have worked for better pay, better care and better rewards for those who serve their country's flag. This will be the last bill I sign in their behalf. I am glad it goes to the root of the system they defend for all of us -- the right of every citizen to justice and fairness under the law.

Lyndon B. Johnson
President

PROMOTIONS...

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Phillip G. Gandy, Jerry Hadley, Charley T. Kent, Edward Lund, William E. Perry and James E. Vogelpohl. To staff; John P. Alberto, Joseph Breaux, Charles A. Cothran, Ernest J. Delone Jr., Howard N. Eastlack, Michael L. England, Benny D. Graham, Daniel P. Hoosier, Wellen J. Ivory, John Kasperek, Robert H. Landry, Donald L. McMutt, David P. Moore, Charles B. Munger, Lawrence D. Neary, Michael L. Oliver, William F. Polk, Larry J. Proffitt, James D. Robison, David O. Schwarz, Robert C. Smith, Bret R. Stagg Jr., Roman I. Stephanie Mark A. Walker, Glenn T. Wright and R.W. Zmijewski.

NCOs...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

that I can count on their support...in the Top Three program."

Personnel officials report first-term airmen reenlistment rates increased to 18 per cent in fiscal year 1968, up from 16.7 per cent from the previous year. Many bases attained a percentage in excess of 25 per cent, a spokesman added.

In this fiscal year, Air Force seeks to retain 26,000 first-term airmen for a balanced career force. Experience has proven that a prime influence in successful reenlistment programs has been the NCO supervisor, Personnel officials reported.

SP...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

quite a difference."

After the initial familiarization with a multitude of weapons, the policemen are called back on a bi-monthly basis for re-fire.

"Though these people carry the weapons daily, they may not fire them once between training sessions," commented Sgt. Roger T. Williams.

Aside from the familiar M-16 rifle, the course also includes firing the M-148 and M-79 grenade launchers, the M-12 riot gun and the M-60 and .50 caliber machine guns, plus basic instruction on hand grenades and flares.

"Part of our initial training consists of instructions on how to spot explosive devices or "booby traps," said Sgt. Larry D. Paul.

"There is no way," concluded Sergeant Williams, "to tell how much the people gain from our instruction, or how many lives it has saved, but we are confident that our work has paid big dividends."

DEAR...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

walking on the curb but on these moonless nights, I keep stumbling over those big unowhats.

Sore Toed

Dear Sore,

This isn't stateside, however, a plan is already in being on that problem with a survey being taken to determine the most critical locations. The snack bar-chapel area is one of the top contenders. In the meantime, one less at the Club might help!

Baldy

Sgt. Reenlists On Birthday

A Thanksgiving Day reenlistment on his 21st birthday is the claim to fame of Sgt. Merton C. Dwyer, aircraft electrical repairman with the 35th FMS. His Thanksgiving bonus came to about \$1,000, tax-free in Vietnam.

Sergeant Dwyer was also the recent recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal for "meritorious service."

sorry 'bout that...



WADDA YA MEAN, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE RESCUED