

PHAN FARE

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

VOLUME II, ISSUE 29

THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

DECEMBER 19, 1968



Lucky Devils Hit'em Hard

Two F-100 Supersabre pilots of the 614th TFS "Lucky Devils", Phan Rang Air Base, had an excellent mission recently in support of the allied Toan Thang offensive.

The pilots were Capt. Jerald J. Erskine 1st Lt. Frederick J. Erickson.

Scrambled from the alert pad at Phan Rang, the jet jockeys reached the target which the forward air controller (FAC) described as Viet Cong (VC) in the open.

"What he had," said Lieutenant Erickson, "was a bunch of sampans that had hidden under some trees along the edge of a canal, waiting for him to leave, only he didn't leave. We got secondary explosions on almost every pass, one of which was the biggest I've seen since I've been in Vietnam. It had a two hundred foot fireball, with a 1200 foot high column of smoke."

The pilots received heavy ground fire throughout the mission, especially on their strafe passes. The final bomb damage assessment for the strike was five bunkers destroyed, three damaged, five secondary explosions, three sampans destroyed and 10 enemy soldiers killed by air (KBA). The FAC also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

'Operation Father' Draws Strong Stateside Support

MSgt. Robert E. Pohlod is not a man who make something of nothing, but when the 1882nd Comm. Sq. launched "Operation Father", a program to help the children in Go Dinh Orphanage have a special Christmas, he decided to write his wife to do everything she could to gather gifts for the children.

"I wrote my wife to gather what she could in toys and clothes around the neighborhood," said Sergeant Pohlod, "and from there the whole thing just mushroomed."

Mrs Pohlod related her husbands request to Mrs. Charles Shields.

"Mrs Shields," Sergeant Pohlod further commented, "took the request seriously. She first collected parcels of toys and clothes from her church. Then, she reported to the local newspaper, and even went on television to enlist the aid of local people. Soon packages were pouring in at a rate that Mrs. Shield and my wife couldn't handle them. An employment agency volunteered their services to answer any inquiry on the program."

Over 400 packages are now in the mail to Sergeant Pohlod for the children of the Go Dinh Orphanage.

SERGEANT AIDS U.S. IMAGE

The treatment of aches, pains and assorted injuries isn't just limited to doctors, as SSgt Edward A. Wentworth can tell you.

Sergeant Wentworth, a medic with the 821st CSPS, goes to various villages around the local area, three times a week, on medical civic actions (MEDCAP) visits.

Seeing almost 200 patients every trip, he has seen everything from malaria to broken bones to the common cold.

"By going on these trips," he commented, "I accomplish two things. One is helping the people who need the help, thus enabling them to have a better chance at life, and two, helping to gain their confidence in Americans and our presence in Vietnam."

WE PRINT 'EM -- UNFORTUNATELY

A famous wit once said, "A doctor buries his mistakes-- a journalist prints his!" Thus, be it VC gremlins or transposed stories, the Phan Fare erred on last week's page 4. The headline should have read "Colonel Larsen Takes 315th Vice Command" and the name is spelled with an "e" not an "o". Our regrets.

Lt. Col. Buss Lt. Col. McCall KNOW THE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Robert H. Buss of Mankato, Minn., is the commander of the 614th TFS. Prior to his assignment to Phan Rang, he was a student at the Air War College.

Originally commissioned a second lieutenant navigator, Colonel Buss went through pilot training school in 1954.

He has previously served in Vietnam on TDY status in 1964 and again in 1965. During these tours, he flew 30 combat missions in the F-100 including 24 over North Vietnam.

Assigned to Headquarters, Tactical Air Command in 1957-58, Colonel Buss went to Europe in 1959 where he served in Germany and France with the 417th Tactical Fighter Sq.

Prior to attending the Air War College, he was assigned to the Pentagon as tactical air operations officer with the Directorate of Estimates, DCS/Plans.

Colonel Buss is married to the former Gloria M. Peterson of Lake Crystal, Minn. Their son, Robert Charles, is a freshman at Mankato State Teachers College in Minnesota.

Lt. Col. Craig C. McCall, a native of Sligo, Pa., is the commander of the 615th TFS, the first F-100D squadron equipped with the triple ejector rack system (TERS). This system doubles the normal F-100 bomb load.

Commissioned in 1943, Colonel McCall served in the European Theater of Operations in World War II as a P-47 pilot. From March 1944 to VE-Day, he flew 76 combat
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

By Capt. (Chaplain) Stephen J.C. Williams-Christmas is upon us once again. The Holy Season which marks the birth of the Prince of Peace is to be duly celebrated with all the joy the Christian can muster. Each year we strive to find a new medium through which to communicate our happiness at his coming.

This year, in the chapel, we will respond to the
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

CHAPEL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

ROMAN CATHOLIC

22 Dec
Masses 0830, 1200, 1830
24 Dec
Confessions 2330-2400
Caroling 2330

MIDNIGHT MASS 2400

25 Dec
Masses 1200, 1830
29 Dec
Masses 0830, 1200, 1830
1 Jan
Masses 0830, 1200, 1830
5 Jan
Masses 0830, 1200, 1830

PROTESTANT

22 Dec
1030 Morning Worship Service
1930 Lessons and Carols
24 Dec
2000 Carol and Candlelighting Service
25 Dec
1030 Christmas Worship Service
29 Dec
1030 Morning Worship Service
1930 Evening Worship Service
31 Dec
2100 Watch Night Communion Service
5 Jan
1030 Morning Worship Service
1930 Evening Worship Service

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Ceremony of Lessons and Carols
22 Dec 1930
Organ Recital - Chaplain Williams
29 Dec 2015

JEWISH

20 Dec
Sabbath Service - 1930
27 Dec
Sabbath Service - 1930
3 Jan
Sabbath Service - 1930

DENOMINATIONAL SERVICES

Episcopal

22 Dec
0930 Holy Communion
24 Dec
2200 Holy Communion
29 Dec
0930 Holy Communion
1 Jan
1730 Holy Communion
5 Jan
0930 Holy Communion
6 Jan
1730 Holy Communion

Letter Day Saints

22 Dec - 1500-Worship Service
29 Dec - 1500-Worship Service
5 Jan - 1500-Worship Service

Church of Christ

22 Dec 0730 & 1930 Worship Service
29 Dec 0730 & 1930 Worship Service
5 Jan 0730 & 1930 Worship Service

1882d Comm Honors Two

Sergeant Kenneth R. Blankensopp, and A1C Frederick J. Cody were recently named "Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter" and "Airman of the Quarter" for the 1882nd Comm. Sq.

Capt. Robert C. Sparks, Chief of Telecommunications, commented, "Sergeant Blankensopp is the most outstanding sergeant with whom it has been my pleasure to work."

Airman Cody received praise from Sparks for his "outstanding performance of his duties as a communication center switchboard operator," and his "desire to become the best operator on his shift."



COMMAND YULE MESSAGES

"With another year drawing to a close, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all men and women of the Air Force for their total dedication and devotion to the defense of America and her allies.

"I am particularly proud of those of you who, though separated from your loved ones, continue to carry on in the face of much hardship and sacrifice. You may be sure that your countrymen are fully aware of your many achievements and efforts.

"Each of you, no matter where you are, can take satisfaction in the outstanding job you are doing to uphold the blessings of democracy. Your professionalism stands as an example to all mankind.

"To each of you and your loved ones, I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

GENERAL J.P. MCCONNELL
USAF Chief of Staff

"As the holiday season nears, I am happy to extend once again my warmest greetings to all members of the United States Air Force, and to their families and loved ones.

"You have truly earned the right to take pride and satisfaction in the many accomplishments of our service during the past year. Your continued and complete dedication to the defense of the Free World has gained for you the honor and respect of your fellow countrymen and has brought credit to the Air Force. You have demonstrated fully our nation's willingness to defend freedom no matter where it is challenged.

"As Christmas and the New Year approach, we should remind ourselves of the great blessings our country and its people enjoy and rededicate ourselves to the day when these blessings will be shared by all mankind in peace and harmony."

HAROLD BROWN
Secretary of the Air Force

MUNG GIANG SINH

I feel sure that we can all agree that Christmas by mail will never replace Christmas at home with the family. However, even though we are thousands of miles away from Christmas as we know it, let us not forget the real meaning of this season—"Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."

I know each of you join me in the fervent hope that the peace and good will which man has always sought will someday become a reality.

We have a difficult task here, you all know that, but I want to express my appreciation for your efforts in the past year and ask for your continued support throughout the coming year. I am personally very proud to serve with such a group of dedicated and capable people and I hope that next year will be a time when everyone can have Christmas at home.

To each and every one of you, I extend my personal wish for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Colonel Frank L. Gailer Jr.
Commander, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing



Both personally and in behalf of the officers and men of the 315th Special Operations Wing, I take this opportunity to wish all Phan Rang personnel a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. At this season it is appropriate that every organization in the "Happy Valley" family pause to reflect with pride on the important contributions which each of us has made in our diversified unit missions toward bringing a meaningful peace to Vietnam. While looking back at 1968 with considerable satisfaction, we must also look forward to the coming year with added personal resolve to increase our efforts in the months ahead. As we enter this year of challenge, as we strive toward Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men, let us do so with the knowledge that our contribution to this Great Crusade is the best that we can muster.

Colonel John W. Pauly
Commander, 315th Special Operations Wing



THREE 120th MISSIONS HIT ENEMY A DEVASTATING BLOW

F-100 Supersabre pilots of the 120th TFS recently had three separate missions all on the same day (Dec. 7) that combined, struck a devastating blow to the enemy.

Of his mission, one of the former Colorado Air National Guard pilots, said, "After a week of hardly any bomb damage assessment (BDA), it felt pretty good to have hit something. All in all it was a pretty good mission."

The final BDA for the strike was eight bunkers destroyed and six damaged, ten fighting positions destroyed with another 15 uncovered, 40 meters of trench destroyed and a 2 1/2 ton truck destroyed.

On a second mission, the forward air controller (FAC) credited the pilots with one enemy soldier killed by air (KBA), one sampan and numerous fighting positions destroyed, and some trenches flooded.

One of the pilots on that mission was Capt. James K. Fletcher who said, "We were pretty close to the Cambodian border and we felt sure we would be able to get something out of the area. We rolled in and delivered our ordnance and the FAC said that we 'were right on target'."

The pilots on the third mission were Maj. John L. France and Capt. William J. Wilson. Their target, an area about 25 miles west of Saigon, was according to Major France, "bombed so much over the years that it looked like the face of the moon, except for a stand of timber in one corner."

That stand of timber was what the pilots were after and they went in and hit it. "The Viet Cong (VC) had practically managed to build a town in there," continued Major France, "and we hit it good. The wind wasn't bad so we had no trouble putting our bombs right on target."

The final BDA for the mission was 14 enemy bunkers destroyed and six uncovered, 15 meters of trench destroyed and another 200 meters uncovered.

TOP AIRMAN FROM 8th

A1C Thomas L. Bolt, a weapons mechanic with the 8th TBS was recently named base "Airman of the Month" for November.

Col. Wallace C. Bosworth, vice commander, 35th TFW, presented Airman Bolt the awards which accompanied this honor.

These included field glasses, a tailored suit, steak dinner for two at the Airmen's Open Mess and a Class "A" Letter for his promotion folder.

Airman Bolt was also recently named a member of his unit's outstanding "weapons load team" for September and has extended his tour in Vietnam by six months. He will be spending his 30 days leave with his family during the Christmas season.

NEW BOOKS FROM LIBRARY

Books newly received in the McNaughton Collection: Assassination, Robert F. Kennedy. Bawden, Grain of Truth. Brasselle, Cannibals (television). Chidsey, California Gold Rush. Delderfield, Green Gauntlet. Elder, Farthest Reaches (SF). Frady, Wallace (George). Gary, Dance of Genghis Cohn. Gerson, Sam Houston. Hudson, Case of Need. Johnson, Nine Lives of Alphonse. Larson, Eisenhower. MacDonald, No Deadly Drug. Montejo, Autobiography of a Runaway Slave. Rojo, My Friend Che. Shaw, Nazi Hunter. Taylor, Biological Time Bomb. Troop, Innocent Greed. Woolfolk, Beautiful Couple. Books may be reserved by telephoning 3439.

Yellow Jackets Kill Seven

Recently, two F-100 Supersabres of the 352nd TFS were scrambled off the alert pad to a target 310 miles away, where the Viet Cong (VC) had been harassing the forward air controller (FAC).

The pilots were Captains Sloan L.B. Brooks and Omer D. Fahey.

"When we got to the target," commented Captain Brooks, "it was almost dusk. We went on the target low because of a 4,000 foot ceiling. At first, we were receiving heavy ground fire which resembled .50 calibre, so we went in and immediately silenced that. On the rest of our runs, the ground fire had mostly been eliminated."

"The target was a complex of enemy structures on a river bank," continued the pilot, "with a cluster of sampans nearby. After we got the gun site, the FAC marked another target and we went in again, circling to avoid any unexpected ground fire. We cleaned up what we could on our remaining bomb and strafing runs. We were gratified when we received the bomb damage assessment (BDA)."

The final BDA for the mission was seven enemy soldiers killed by air (KBA), one sustained fire, one heavy AAA position suppressed, two secondary explosions with 1250 foot fire balls and 150 foot column of smoke, seven enemy structures destroyed and seven damaged, five sampans destroyed with one damaged, two enemy bunkers destroyed and three damaged.

New Chief For 1882nd

Maj. John R. McWilliams recently assumed command of the 1882nd Comm. Sq. here.

Relinquishing command was Maj. James G. Cole who had commanded the unit since 1967.

Major McWilliams, a 20-year veteran of Air Force communications, comes to Phan Rang from the University of New Hampshire where he was an AFIT student.

DU DROPS

Merry Christmas EVERYONE! We have lots of fun things planned at the Du Drop Inn and they won't be complete unless you're on hand for the festivities. Just this past Tuesday night we decorated the center for Christmas. We have a gorgeous 16 foot REAL Christmas tree, imported from Colorado, and generously given to the center by the 120th TFS. We thank them for their thoughtfulness!

Tomorrow night (Friday) will be the last Art Night before Christmas... all of the paintings, sketches, and crafts done by the men will be given to the school children from Phan Rang at our party for them on Christmas Day.

Monday night the 23rd will be the Christmas Concert. Cisco Byrd, Berrel Johnson, Sgt. Powell and Sgt. Stevens are going to present traditional Christmas music with a contemporary accent--in addition the Phan Rang Illusions will sing some favorite Christmas selections but done in their own style of arranging. The concert is at 8 p.m. at the Du Drop Inn.

On Christmas Eve we plan to go caroling. The motor pool will furnish a truck and Sgt. Normand will drive--and on the back will be a piano, drums, and saxophones plus lots of carolers. You don't have to be really musical to participate but just full of Christmas spirit. The caroling will start at 7 p.m. so please plan to go with us.

Christmas Day the Chaplains are sponsoring the party at our center for the Vietnamese school children. The party will be at 1:30. It will be lots of fun and make Christmas day happier for these children. We need your help in entertaining them so Du Drop In!

Christmastime is a time of giving--not just presents but giving of yourself. A smile, a friendly word... these are gifts.

TV SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

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 TREK
10:10 BIG VALLEY
11:00 LATE NEWS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

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 21

1:05 LAWRENCE WELK
1:55 MELODY
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 22

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

RED CROSS CENTER

Thursday--Game Night
Friday--Freak Out
Saturday--Christmas Paint-In
Sunday--Ping Pong Tourney
Monday--Christmas Concert
Tuesday--Christmas Eve-Caroling
Wednesday--Christmas Party
Thursday--Guys vs. Gals

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

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 24

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 25

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 DYKE SHOW
9:45 IRONSIDE
10:10 JOEY BISHOP
11:00 LATE NEWS

ACADEMY MASCOT AWOL AGAIN

CHICAGO (AFNS) -- Elphonso is for the birds if he thinks the Air Force is going to tolerate his hawkish ways.

Elphonso, a prairie falcon flew the coop during the Air Force - Navy football game at Soldier Field. His free-flight demonstration was part of the halftime festivities. After flying around the stadium, Elphonso was to return to his handlers on the field. But Elphonso preferred the wild blue yonder.

After fruitless attempts for more than a month to return the Air Force mascot to duty, the Air Force discharged him.

Air Force won the game, but returned to its Colorado site minus a mascot. It was the second time during the football season that one of the Academy's falcons--they have at least six--pulled an absent-without-leave trick.

LUCKY...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
credited the two with 200 meters of trench uncovered.

"It was a good mission," concluded Lieutenant Erickson, "It was real satisfying to see our bombs do such a good job on the target. The FAC wasn't sure what the secondary explosions were, but from the way they blew up and kept blowing while we were in the area, we're pretty sure that it was a good sized ammo cache."

HU-16s End Long Career

(AFNS)--The amphibious HU-16 Albatross has been retired from the Air Force rescue inventory in the Pacific after more than 18 years in humanitarian and combat rescue.

The last three Albatross aircraft left the Pacific Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Center's 33rd Squadron at Naha AB, Okinawa, for Luke AFB, Ariz., and assignment to the 302nd ARRS (Reserve).

CHAPLAIN...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)
season with joy and with dignity. All of the traditional elements of Christmas in our churches will be shared, with some additions.

Dramatizing the common search for Peace by men of good will both in the sacred and secular spheres, we will begin the holiday season with a Ceremony of Lessons and Carols. This will take place at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, 22 Dec. Roman Catholics and Protestants alike will join in singing the favorite old carols and hearing read the story of the redemption of the world through the advent of the Prince of Peace.

On Christmas Eve, Protestants will participate in a Candlelighting Service at 8 p.m. Roman Catholics will participate in the Midnight Mass. For Roman Catholics, the Mass will be preceded by confessions at 10:30 p.m. and Carols at 11:30 p.m. Episcopalians will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 8 p.m.

Complete listings are on page 2.

Col. McCall...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)
missions, participating in a number of major campaigns including the Normandy invasion and the Rhineland offensive.

Returning to civilian life after the war, Colonel McCall remained in the military in reserve status. He was recalled to active duty for the Korean Conflict and flew 100 combat missions in the F-51.

Since Korea, Colonel McCall has served in a variety of tactical assignments. From November 1962 until June 1964, he was TAC advisor in the Air Force Operations Branch of the Joint United States Military Advisory Team, Ankara, Turkey.

Prior to his assignment to Vietnam, he was with the Directorate of Operations, DCS/Plans and Operations, HQ USAF, Washington, D.C.

Colonel McCall is married to the former Nancy J. Hinkle of Washington, D.C. They have five children, Robert, Kevin, Judy, David and Janet and reside in Alexandria, Va.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

