

PHAN RANG

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

VOLUME II, ISSUE 30

THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

DECEMBER 26, 1968



51 PICKED FOR STRIPES

Fifty-one PRABites were among those selected for promotion to "super sergeant" during the coming calendar year. The list included 11 NCOs to receive chief master sergeant stripes and 40 men to the rank of senior master sergeant. The list also included one former guardsman to chief and four to senior.

Selected for promotion to chief master sergeant are: Earle F. Bogacki, Francis D. Gill, Jesse B. Haines Jr., Elmer E. Lewis, Clarence E. Lingerfelt, Richard L. Morrell, Clifford E. Scates, Lee R. Walker, Jimmie M. Wardlow, James Wren and Maynard C. Campbell.

Selected for promotion to senior master sergeant are: Thomas H. Ball, Claude W. Chester Jr., Glenn R. Dody, Paul W. Frease, Joseph S. Godwin, Lyndell O. Graham, Charles S. Hall, Douglas Hall, David W. Hardy, Donald L. Hike, Ira I. Jarvis, William O. Jeffries, John J. Latham, Robert H. Lavoie, Eddie L. Ling, Wayne L. Lloyd, Herbert A. Lowe, Clifford A. Mason, Donald L. Mauch, Billie R. McCoy, George R. McKinnon, Jerry Medley, James M. Mayfield, Virgil H. Parrish, Willard A. Patrick, Truman E. Paugh, Bernard E. Quesnel, Joseph W. Sapp, Jack A. Schneider, Henry L.

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310th SOS Crew Delivers Palletized Yule Cheer

(The following is a pre-Christmas release--now a fact.) There is an Air Force C-123 Provider based here that does not know it yet, but on Christmas morning it will be assigned a mission for the day similar to that of Santa's sleigh.

The mission, called "Operation Christmas Cheer," is to airlift and air-drop "goodies" to isolated Civilian Irregular Defense Groups in the Central Highlands (II Corps) of Vietnam.

"All the guys in the squadron chipped in for this one," explained the aircraft commander of "Santa's sleigh," Lt. Col. Frank F. Cannon. "We fly over those camps every day delivering needed supplies and mail. We all wish we could reach out of the sky and shake the hands of every troop down there. Our presents of soda pop and other goodies is our way of saying we appreciate what you are doing for us."

Colonel Cannon commands the 310th SOSq of the 315th SOWg based here. His squadron of twin-engined prop-driven Providers is part of the aerial life-line of the Green Berets. Food, livestock, ammunition, and even vehicles are among the items one can see daily parachuting to earth over a remote camp.

"We'll hit 14 camps altogether," the colonel said. "I had no trouble getting volunteers to go along." Besides Colonel Cannon, the crew will consist of Maj. Vincent J.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Bobcats Get 42 Confirmed

Recently, F-100 Supersabre pilots of the 615th TFS "Bobcats" were diverted from their original target site to an area two miles from the Cambodian border, and when they got there, they found it was worth the effort.

One of the pilots, Capt. T.K. Egan, commented, "When we reached the area, there was a lot of activity from other strikes as well as ground skirmishes. The Army needed some fire power about five miles from us. They had helicopters in there and they had spotted some North Vietnamese Regulars taking cover behind a disabled bulldozer. The forward air controller (FAC) marked the target and we made our runs. As we pulled off, the choppers went in and counted 12 enemy soldiers killed by air (KBA)."

The best news of the mission was to come the next day, as the high flying pilots found out.

"When I got down to the
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Lt. Col. Robert D. Hook KNOW THE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Robert D. Hook, commander, 352nd TFS, began his military career in June 1951 by serving as an electronics maintenance officer. He then attended pilot training, graduating in October, 1952 at Bryan, Texas.

His next assignment was the F-86 gunnery school at Nellis AFB, Nevada, after which he was assigned to Osan, Korea where he flew 51 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

Colonel Hook departed Korea in December 1953 for Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, the first of his four assignments with Air Force research and development. During his stay at WPAFB, he had the opportunity to fly all bomber and cargo type aircraft then current in the USAF inventory.

Next assigned to Holloman AFB, N.M. (1958-61), he flew the C-123 for the Air Medical Field Laboratory and also flew in support of Capt. Joe Kittinger's epic parachute jump from 102,000 feet.

Colonel Hook next attended the University of Connecticut (1961-62) under the AFIT program where he received his Masters degree in engineering management. He has an undergraduate degree in physics with an additional major in speech.

After Connecticut, Colonel Hook served in the Plans and Programs office, Office of Aerospace Research, Washington, D.C., from August 1962 to January 1964.

Following gunnery school and additional training in the F-100 at Luke AFB, Ariz., he was assigned to the 48th TFW (Statue of Liberty Wing) at Lakenheath, England, in June 1965. A year and a half later, he was transferred to headquarters, Third Air Force, in London.

In January of this year, he was reassigned to Phan Rang AB, arriving here in March and assuming the role of 352nd operations officer. He took command of the squadron on Dec. 5.

Since his arrival in Vietnam, he has accumulated nearly 200 combat missions. He

now has more than 3,650 hours flying time in the B-25, T-33, C-45, C-123, T-29, C-131, U-3A, T-39, F-100, F-86 and other aircraft.

Colonel Hook is married to the former Marilyn G. Boyd of Dayton, Ohio. They have three children, Dennis, 12, Denise, 10 and Bryon, 5.

TAC Starts A-37 Training

ENGLAND AFB, La. (AFNS) - Tactical Air Command has activated its first combat crew training squadron here to train pilots in the A-37 subsonic fighter-bomber aircraft.

The 4406th Combat Training Squadron will train pilots in the A-37.

120th PILOTS HIT GUNS

"When we went in it was pretty nasty because we were in a three-way cross-fire." Those were the words of Maj. Martin W. Mechling, 120th TFS, as he described a recent mission he flew in support of the allied Toan Thang Offensive.

The other pilot was Capt. Galen J. Smith.

"The target was a large clearing with .50 calibre positions in the middle and on either side," continued the former Air National Guardsman, "The forward air controller (FAC) had us put our bombs on one side of the clearing and then one in the middle."

"We then strafed both positions, and the FAC said he could see ground fire out of the third. When we hit one of the guns it went up like a powder keg. The FAC did an excellent job of judging where the ordnance should go!"

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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: Church of Christ:
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. 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 Masses

DU DROPS

'Twas the day after
Christmas, and all through
the Base,

Not a man could be found
with a smile on his face.

The boxes from home had
been opened with joy,
But now Christmas had come
and gone--Xin Loi!

And Di in her kerchief,
Pat in her blue dress,
Cath in her tennies, and
Lin in a mess,
Were feeling the let-
down, too, I'd guess.

When all through the Cen-
ter a strange thing occurred;

Everything stopped, not a
sound could be heard.

Even the ping-pong players
stopped ping-pong,

Even the tape-recorder
stopped singing.

Even the hard-core pool
players quit,

Even the TV stopped snow-
ing a bit.

Even the coffee-drinkers
stopped sipping,

Even the kool-aid con-
tainers stopped dripping.

And you may not believe
this, but I'm not kidding--

Even the pinochle players
stopped bidding! (Fat Chance)

I suppose you're wondering
what was amiss,

What in the world could
have caused all this?

You'll think I'm crazy;
the tale sounds tall,

But there in the Center,
in front of us all

Stood a little fat guy
with a long white beard,

Dressed in red fatigues--
man, he was wierd.

His eyes were glassy,
like Goofy Grape,

His Choo-Choo Cherry
mouth was agape,

He was beat and bedrag-
gled, and all he could say

Was "You think you've got
it bad with a twelve-hour
day!"

We offered him coffee,
and gave him a seat,

And pulled the red jungle
boots off of his feet.

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TV SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

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 27

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 28

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 29

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 - New Card Game

FRIDAY - Pick up stix

SATURDAY - Write a note home

SUNDAY - Pool tourney

MONDAY - New Year resolu-
tions.

TUESDAY - New Year's Eve

WEDNESDAY - New Year yatcee

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

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 31

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, JANUARY 1

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 PICKS '69 CAPTAINS

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo
(AFNS) - Quarterback Gary
Baxter and defensive tackle
Ed Epping were selected by
their teammates as co-captains
of the 1969 Air Force foot-
ball team.

Baxter, a junior from West
Covina, Calif., directed the
Falcons to a 7-3 record this
year. Epping, stalwart defen-
sive ace from Kenosha, Wis.,
was rated, week after week,
by opposing coaches as the
best defensive tackle they
had faced.

In 1969, the Falcons face
the toughest schedule in their
history with Notre Dame, Mis-
souri, Southern Methodist,
Army, Stanford, and North
Carolina slated as away oppo-
nents. At home, Air Force
will meet Wyoming, Oregon,
Colorado State U., and Utah
State.

CERTAIN SYMPTOMS SEEN WHEN TOUR NEARS END

There comes a time in the Vietnam tour of every airman when certain symptoms appear. Self-diagnosis is easy and the inevitable answer is you know you've been at Phan Rang Air Base nearly a year when:

...200 P doesn't seem high at all for a glass of Saigon tea.

...your shot record's full.
...seeing a movie four times is commonplace.

...Red Horse completes a Red Horse Project.

...you have 11 copies of Playboy.

...you can open your mailbox with your eyes closed and using your left hand.

...you've heard five different stories of when your port call is coming in.

...you've rolled down the hill from the NCO Club more times than you've walked down.

...you can walk anywhere on base blindfolded.

...you can recite the names of all the local bars in alphabetical order.

...the guys at the MARS station know you by your first name.

...you're freezing to death and it's only 68 degrees.

...you think movies are made with the best parts cut out.

...you have more jungle fatigues than the 538 section.

...you've got more paperbacks than the NYC public library.

...the guy you think you're shorter than, left yesterday.

...you know Chris Noel's address by heart.

...you think the only adult magazines are Playboy and Cavalier.

...you've forgotten how much postage goes on a letter.

...clear water looks odd to you.

...you've figured out the sum of all the tail numbers of aircraft on the base.

...your replacement asks you if you're short.

...the sight of a 707 really turns you on.

NEXT WEEK

You know you're new at Phan Rang when:

New Books At Library

Newly received 1968 publications in the Library collection are: 327.73 McGee, Responsibilities of World Power. 355.009 Montgomery of Alamein, History of Warfare. 364.15 Smith, Brief Against Death. 539.7 David, Lawrence and Oppenheimer. 629.1331 McEntee, Model Aircraft Handbook. 793.73 Kaplan, Puzzle Me This. 796.332 Sullivan, Pro Football's All-Time Greats. 796.9 Bass, Winter Sports. 909/82 Mowrer, Triumph and Turmoil. 956 Kimche, Sandstorm (Arab-Israeli War 1967). 970.1 Farb, Man's Rise to Civilization as Shown by the Indians of North America. 978 Lavender, The Rockies. FIC Cartwright, Hundred-Yard War. Ellin, Valentine Estate. Household, Dance of the Dwarfs. MacHardy, Send Down a Dove. Pearson, The Senator. Sjowall, Man on the Balcony. MYS Dickinson, Glass-Sided Ants' Nest. Wynd, Sumatra Seven Zero. SF Knight, One Hundred Years of Science Fiction. Moody's Handbook of Common Stocks, Fourth Quarterly, 1968 edition, is available at the Information Desk. Books may be reserved by telephoning 3439. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

GI Insurance Dividends Due

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- More than 4,250,000 World War I and World War II veterans holding GI insurance policies will receive \$236 million in dividends during 1969. This is \$13 million more than the 1968 dividend. The dividends will be paid on the anniversary dates of the policies, according to the Veterans Administration.

TWO PILOTS END TOURS

It may have been Friday the 13th, but that didn't stop Maj. Elmer E. Slavey and Capt. D. Cook, 352nd TFS Yellow Jackets, from flying their last mission together.

The two pilots together flew more than 500 combat missions in South Vietnam with Major Slavey flying an additional mission as a Misty FAC (F-100F) over North Vietnam.

As a FAC, Major Slavey received the Silver Star for directing a strike against 90 enemy trucks. He was credited with 70 destroyed and several more damaged.

Captain Cook has received the Distinguished Flying Cross for missions in South Vietnam.

If you ever dropped into the Hornet's Nest, you may have sampled some of "K.J. Cook's" outstanding Mexican food and while you were there, you could pick up some good information on the "Hun" from "the old pro," Major Slavey.

Major Slavey is being reassigned to Vance AFB, Okla., as the wing quality control officer and Captain Cook has been assigned to Lakenheath, England, where he will continue to fly the F-100.

Five States Pass Bonus

So far, five states have passed State Bonus legislation for Vietnam veterans.

These states are Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana and Massachusetts. Usually, to be eligible for the bonus, you must have entered the service from that particular state, and have been a resident of the state for a specified time prior to enlistment. In the case of Louisiana, payment is not made until the end of the Vietnam conflict, a date yet to be determined. That state will, however take the names of eligible veterans and send applications at the proper time.

DEAR BALDY

Dear Baldy

I have noticed the fine stairway built for the officers' ascent to their club. Is there any truth to the rumor that a mammoth sliding board will be erected for their descent?

Jealous NCO

Dear Jealous

We can truthfully say that the rumor is unfounded at present but that the idea has been taken under consideration by Base Ground Safety-if anything breaks, we'll let you know.

Baldy

* * *

Dear Baldy

What's the deal on these towering loudspeakers that shot up all over the base. Could it be so we'll know the difference between a practice simulated alert and a real simulated alert?

Scared New Guy

Dear Scared

Ask any old timer (easily identifiable by symptoms described elsewhere in this edition) and he'll tell you the easiest way to tell a simulated alert from the real thing is to listen for the "crump" of incoming rounds. As for the loud speakers--we'd hoped they would be for broadcasting Christmas Carols but were shot down on that one. Easter maybe?

Baldy

* * *

Dear Baldy

What happened to all the adult magazines on this base. Just sign me--

Tired of Popular Mechanics

Dear Tired

We've tried to check that one out--to the extent of pulling a sneak raid on the senior NCO billets and several officer hooches--and they're not at the Red Cross Center either. However, if you're interested in some really good books, there's a little store down in Thap Cham just to the left of-- (CENSORED).

Baldy

MACONOMY Saves Taxes

Project MACONOMY is the MACV and Seventh AF plan for stimulating, identifying, and reporting management improvement and cost effectiveness actions.

Fine, but what does that have to do with you and me? Everything. MACONOMY - a cost reduction program with simplified paperwork for the combat zone - is people - you and me! This war comes out of our tax-paying pockets, friend!

Sure, wars are known to be wasteful but why not put some of your good ideas to work in reducing that waste? Officially stated the primary purpose of MACONOMY is to attain the most effective and efficient utilization of resources.

To you and me that means making certain we get a buck's worth of value for every buck spent. Makes good "cents", doesn't it?

How many times have you thought, "I know a better way to do this job that would save money"?

Why not get credit for your ideas by helping Phan Rang AB achieve its \$12.4 million fiscal year 1969 goal (\$3.1 million per quarter) set for us by Seventh Air Force. (You can win cash for your ideas if you get them approved as a military suggestion.)

Happy Valley already has credit for \$7.05 million for the 1st quarter of FY69. Go see your unit MACONOMY representative -- every unit has one - to find out how to get your ideas on paper.

SPS Win Flag Trophy

Lawrence (Phil) Phillips star quarterback of the 35th Security Police Squadron, led the SPs to a 21-7 flag football victory over the 35th Civil Engineering Squadron team Wednesday night (Dec. 18).

The game decided the Phan Rang Air Base championship for 1968.

Ed Timmons made the first touchdown of the game when it was just five minutes old by intercepting an Engineer pass and scored all the way from the CE 20-yard line.

But it was the dazzling passing and evasive speed of 23-year-old Phillips that led to the SP record at 6-0 this year. The 5' 10" Houston, Tex., quarterback affectionately earned the title of "rabbit" from the stunned engineers.

Fans were equally enthusiastic: "Bring on Green Bay!" they cheered from the sidelines.

400 Students Being Taught

More than 400 Vietnamese high school students, plus a few adults, in nearby Thap Cham and Phan Rang City are receiving thrice-weekly

English pronunciation classes through the volunteer efforts of two dozen Phan Rang Air Base officers, NCOs and airmen.

1st Lt. Bryan A. Wolter, base civic action officer, said "Ours is the oldest teaching program among Air Force bases in Vietnam. This is the third year we been working with the young people of this area.

"Each teacher is a volunteer-the only pay he receives is the self-satisfaction with the youngsters and watching their use their knowledge of the English language, as spoken by Americans, develop."

Lieutenant Wolter added that only those students selected by their Vietnamese teacher may attend.

310th SOS Crew ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Caruso, pilot; Maj. Ronald H. Herr, 1st navigator; Maj. William R. Quasney, 2nd navigator; SSgt. James R. Gathright, flight engineer; TSgt. Leon R. Gibson, 1st loadmaster; and Sgt. Manuel Sais Jr., 2nd loadmaster.

The all-volunteer crew will forget about sleeping late Christmas morning; take off time is 7:30 a.m. From Phan Rang they will fly to Nha Trang AB where Army experts in parachute rigging will be waiting to load the palletized gifts. Some 90 cases of refreshments will be rigged Christmas Eve by the 5th Special Forces. Each bundle will weigh approximately 160 to 180 pounds utilizing the T-7A chute which has a minimum deployment altitude of 375 feet. Drop locations are An Lac, Duc Lap, Ban Don, Buon Blech, Tien Atar, Plei Me, Plei Djereng, Polei Kleng, Plateau Gi, Duc Co, Plei Mrong, Cong Son, Dong Tre, and Gia Vuc. Troops at the camps will be tuned to the plane's frequency so they will know exactly what time the pallets will float down. The 310th has been primary supplier for these bases since they were established beginning in 1962. Therefore, the squadron air crew feel a strong kindred with the camps.

"Occasionally we land at one of those marginal landing strips," Colonel Cannon said. "When we do we are treated like kings. They are so glad to see an American. This Christmas we want them to know they are kings."

51...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Shumake, James E. Twinn, Glenn E. Vawter, Kenneth L. Virdell, Earl S. Wolfe, Earl D. Zahniser, Kenneth L. Blankenbush, Robert M. Huffman, Walter B. Moeller and Ronald R. Silvrants.

120th ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Then final bomb damage assessment for the mission was one .50 calibre gun position destroyed, three bunkers destroyed, one secondary explosion, and one trail cut.

Bobcats ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

squadron the next day," continued Egan, "there was a report form intelligence waiting for me. The Army had gone into the area after our strike and had found another 30 enemy KBA, bringing the total for the mission to 42 enemy KBA, by body count.

I didn't realize there were that many soldiers down there, I sure as heck didn't see them. I feel that a lot of the credit for that strike should go to the FAC, he did an outstanding job of marking the target, and the Army choppers did a great job in helping, too. It was really a well coordinated effort."

As well as getting credited with the 42 enemy KBA, the pilots were also credited with destroying the bulldozer that the soldiers were hiding behind.

WHY RISK TURNING PEOPLE OFF WITH DANDRUFF? It Can't be seen in the dark at the 35th TFW Intelligence Briefing every Monday night at 2000 hours, at Batson Hall.

DU DROP ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

He took a sip, and we watched him pause, Then he said with a twinkle, "I'm Mr. Claus..

I've done my thing with the kids and the sleigh, But there's one more thing I want to say.

Before I go back to the Pole and rack,

I've one more gift for you men in my sack."

And he reached in his bag, and he made a sign,

And he pulled out 1969!

"That's right," he said with a laugh and a wink,

"I've brought a new year and a new thought to think:

Remember this when things go wrong,

When nights are lonely and days are long,

Whatever happens, never fear,

For each one of you men will be home this year!

Wherever they send you, wherever you roam,

This is the year you all go home!"

And he tightened his belt, and he finished his drink,

And he said, "I'd best be going, I think."

And we heard him exclaim as he drove away,

"I'll see you next Christmas in the U.S. of A.!"

