

PHAN RANG

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

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THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

March 13, 1969

Aussies, Bobcats Start Exchange Orientation Rides

Two Royal Australian Air Force pilots recently flew combat sorties in the F-100 Supersabre with pilots of the 615th TFS "Bobcats".

The Aussies, Flight Lieutenant Mervyn J. Lewis and Pilot Officer Shane S. Welsh are both members of the RAAF #2 Squadron flying Canberras at Phan Rang.

The Bobcat flights were the beginning of a joint familiarization program that will have 615th pilots scheduled for flights in the RAAF Canberra while additional Australian pilots fly in the back seat of the F-100F.

A 615th spokesman added, "There is a very close relationship between the purpose of the fighter and the bomber squadrons in Vietnam and a very close friendship between their crews."

"The #2 Squadron has certainly maintained a standard of professionalism with excellent results. That assists in keeping the competition between squadrons keen and morale high at Phan Rang."

NEW THEATER READY MONDAY

Red Horse construction workers were breathing hard at press time as they galloped towards a construction deadline. At the finish line is Phan Rang's new 401-seat indoor theatre.

The theatre, centrally located on base between the snack bar and 35th Wing headquarters, will be fully air-conditioned with two 17 1/2 ton capacity units. Opening night is scheduled for Monday.

The paid-admission type
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Base Assists City Scouts

A new scout combination meeting house and recreation room for Phan Rang City is the latest Phan Rang Air Base civic actions project.

When completed, the 90-foot by 20-foot-structure will serve as a meeting center for 150 boys ranging in ages from 5-year-old Vietnamese Cub Scouts to 17-year-old Senior Boy Scouts.

"It is a joint self-help project," explained 1st Lt. Bryan A. Wolter, base civic actions officer.

"We supplied the materials and limited funds for skilled labor. The Boy Scouts, building on land donated by Ninh Thuan Province, are providing the unskilled labor," he added.

Materials provided by the base included 180 board feet of 2x6s, 2,512 feet of 2x4s, 1,000 feet of 1x6s, four gallons of paint, electrical wiring, nails and plumbing materials plus 105,000 piastres for skilled labor.

Airmen from the base also work with the Vietnamese Boy Scouts as adult advisors.

RESERVATIONS ONLY

There will be no tickets on sale for the opening night at the base theater. About half of available seats that night are reserved for the Red Horse construction men who built the theater. The remainder are being distributed among units. There is only one movie that night.

Aussies Win At Ping Pong

The Aussies have finally done it! After challenging the 35th TFW to matches in volleyball, tennis and pistol shooting -- and in all three contests going down to defeat -- the men of the Number 2 Squadron, RAAF, recently came back to whip the wing in ping pong.

In competition held at the 352nd TFS operations sections, Pilot Officer Steve Roodhouse and Pilot Officer Dick Allichin, the Aussie "doubles team" made a clean sweep of the team efforts by the wing.

In the singles division however, the Number 2 representative Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Cramer, lost to the 352nd's Captain Fred E. Davis.

With the definite gains made in ping pong, the Aussies are expected to challenge again. The only questions is "What?" Horseshoes anyone?

IDEA EARNS \$900 BONUS

MSGt. Harold C. Spring was recently presented a check for \$900 by Col. Robert G. Gould, commander, Phan Rang Air Base.

Sergeant Spring, NCOIC of the Intelligence Division, 35th TFW was given the check along with a suggestion award certificate for submitting an idea which "resulted in saving of time and material by eliminating agencies from distribution of reports containing information not needed by their office."

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Lt. Col. L. C. Russell KNOW THE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Len C. Russell, commander, 352nd TFS, is a native of Macks Creek, Mo. After pilot training as an aviation cadet, he received his wings and commission on Aug. 2, 1952, at Bryan AFB, Texas.

Following advanced training at Nellis AFB, Nev., he joined the 334th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Osan AB, Korea, flying the famed F-86 Sabrejet. He flew 81 serial missions and 112 combat hours and was credited with one MIG-15 destroyed.

Returning to Nellis in December 1953, Colonel Russell served there until January of 1960. During that time, he held positions as fighter gunnery instructor with the standardization section and TR&D project pilot.

In early 1960, he was reassigned to Wheelus AB, Lybia, where he served successively as tactical fighter pilot with the training branch of operations; liaison officer with the tactical fighter liaison branch, and weapons instructor.

Reassigned to Luke AFB, Ariz., in 1963, Colonel Russell held positions as wing weapons officer and squadron assistant operations officer before being reassigned to Hq, USAF, as operations staff officer, Current Systems Branch, Tactical Division, Deputy Director for General Purpose and Airlift Forces, Directorate of Operational Requirements and Development Plans, DCS/Research and Development.

He was reassigned to Vietnam in August of last year and was promoted to his present rank in November.

He and his wife, the former Miss Ramona Kelso, also of Macks Creek, have three children, Carol, 13; Peggy, 9 and David, 7. The family presently resides in Alexandria, Va.

ANYONE FOR SPRING TRAINING? THE INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT WILL COMMENCE ON APRIL 15. CONTACT YOUR UNIT ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE AND GIVE YOUR UNIT THE SUPPORT IT NEEDS.

'Sabres Aid Ground Troops

F-100 Supersabres of the 614th TFS recently supported friendly troops in contact with the enemy near Dak To, Vietnam.

The flight, which accounted for 10 enemy soldiers killed and 10 enemy bunkers destroyed, was led by Maj. John R. Dick Jr.

"This was a rather tricky situation," said Major Dick, "with enemy forces dug into the top of a hill and friendly troops surrounding them."

"As we came in on top of the hill, a nearby friendly camp took an incoming mortar round. The forward air controller (FAC) (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

NEW BOOKS AT LIBRARY

New 1968/1969 books in the Library collection are:

BIOG: Shaw, Sinatra, Twentieth-Century Romantic. Fic: Barlow, The Burden of Proof; Davidson, Making Good Again. James, The Capitol Hill Affair. Kaufman, The City and the Lion's Den. Reade, A Comeback for Stark. Shine, The Life-Adjustment of Harry Blake. Whitehouse, Squadron Shilling. Harvester, The Bamboo Screen. Mystery, With Malice Toward All. OBI Walker, Best Magazine Articles: 1968. 296 Adler, Dear Rabbi. 320.1 Watkins, Hobbes's System of Ideas. 325.1 Lieberman, Are Americans Extinct? 328.73 Bolling, Power in the House. 3531. Beichman, "Other" State Department. 362.7 Spargo, Bitter Cry of the Children. 382.914 Axlino, European Community Law and Organizational Development. 532.6 Berry, Thin Film Technology. 591.55 Chauvin, Animal

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CHAPEL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

PROTESTANT

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Protestant Service
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. following by Steak Cookout
Sunday: Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
Confessions: One half hour before all Sunday Masses
15 minutes before weekday Masses

BALDY SCOTCHES SKI SLOPE RUMOR

Dear Baldy

The other day I was on my way to the NCO Club near the MMS barracks when, lo and behold, I looked up the side of the hill and guess what I saw? Are they really building a ski slope? Please confirm this for me. I haven't been on a ski slope for years. And remember, I was on my way TO the club.

Concerned

Dear Concerned

No, your eyes aren't deceiving you. I hate to throw cold water (would you believe snow) on your dreams, but that is not a ski slope. It is going to be a walkway to the club that will eliminate the old alternates of the long, winding street or under-brush routes to the club.. and it should prove to be a big boon to our "old sarges".

Baldy

Dear Baldy,

Each morning for many weeks now, I've gathered my swimming trunks and sunning towel and dashed happily across the street to the swimming pool--to have my high hopes dashed by the sight of an empty pool. Can you offer me any hope on this subject?

Waterless

Dear Waterless

The problem of pool completion is the need for a liner. The manufacturers mislaid the first order and a repeat order has gone in with no firm delivery date. True, there has been little progress on the base swimming pool in many a moon but look at the progress that has been made in other directions--primarily the base theater which will hold a heck of a lot more people than the swimming pool. In the meantime, I suggest you take your beachwear and meet the crowd at the Du Drop Inn and head for the beach.

Baldy

Dear Baldy

I've hesitated having my pay sent to the base bank because I have stateside bills to pay and I've heard their checks aren't acceptable stateside. Can you

enlighten me?

Doubtful

Dear Doubtful

There you go listening to rumors instead of asking Old Baldy for the pure ungarbled truth. The fact that these checks are negotiable back in the World is one of the greatest advantages of our checking accounts here--next to the irritation of payday check cashing lines.

Baldy

Thanks a million, you generous people--the continued production of the Phan Fare for the next 12 months is assured because of your tremendous response to our plea for staples. We now have a very good supply and won't have to fall back on bubble gum as we once feared--Thanks!

Baldy

Dear Baldy

I happened to hear a rumor that Phan Rang is going to be blessed with a golf course in the not too distant future. Is I am a real golf nut from the word go, I would welcome it. Can you give me any details?

Golf Nut

Dear Nut,

The rumor you have heard is partially--repeat partially--true. Phan Rang is going to have a golf course but, it is a miniature golf course. Personnel Services has it on order and it is expected to arrive in the not-too-distant future. My advice is put away your driver and get out your putter.

Baldy

Dear Baldy,

Recently, my first sergeant told me that I must register with him all the electronic gear that I had, such as radios, tape recorders, TV, etc. Now, I don't really think it is any of the first sergeant's business what I own as long

as I paid for it with my own money. What's the scoop?

Resentful

Dear Resentful,

There are two reasons why all this gear should be registered with the first shirt. Both are to protect you! First, if one of your possessions are stolen (which, unfortunately happens), with the serial number being registered, it can more easily be recovered. Secondly, if someone else has some equipment stolen, you may be saved from any possible difficulty because here is proof positive of your ownership. Don't balk at the idea, in the long run, you may save yourself a real headache with a little bit of effort.

Baldy

Dear PRABites,

As my tour at Happy Valley comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for their fine cooperation. In the eight months since the first Dear Baldy appeared, only one complaint has been received. The idea of the column has been to give every man on base a voice, to provide entertainment and, on rare occasions, information. Thanks for your help in your column.

Baldy

Be on the lookout for Phan Rang's newest columnist and advisor to the uninformed.
FROM NGUYEN WITH LOVE.



"I asked him how I should be paid. He said he didn't know my name."

'Ranch Hands' Visiting While Home Base 'Hot'

Landing on the runway at Phan Rang, a glance towards East ramp would give the appearance of being at the C-123 factory, for the base was being overrun by the "Provider" herd from Bien Hoa.

The 12th Special Operations Squadron, the "Ranch Hands," commanded by Lt. Col. Rex Stoner, has been remotely operating out of here after temporary relocation from their home base during the current high threat period.

Mounting their saddles in the sky, out of Phan Rang, the "cowboys" have experienced only minor operational problems, none of which have impaired successful mission accomplishment.

Stopping briefly at Bien Hoa after each mission, they re-fill their 1000 gallon herbicide tanks with a new load and return to Phan Rang ready to mount for their next mission.

The 12th's mosquito bird "patches" has also been seen roosting here. Although this airplane is generally on the road, it always returns for periodic and other minor specialized maintenance and bed-down for the crew.

Close coordination with base officials has provided the purple scarfed airmen, with the necessary quarters and messing facilities, making their unscheduled visit to Phan Rang, most pleasant.

Once the ranchers' home base is secure, they will return to their own corral and the purple stampede seen at the local military clubs will become a thing of the past.



"WIFE'S THE MATTER MAN-LIKE
ARMY 'K' NEVER SEEN A GUN BLAZE."



"IF YOU WANT, I'M ALL FOR
OFF-DUTY EDUCATION, BUT..."

Wife's Address Not Necessary On Hometown News Release

"Your wife's name and address won't be used in hometown news releases unless specifically requested," base information officials announced recently, "as a matter of Air Force policy."

This policy, as explained in a recent USAF Information Program Bulletin, says, "Names and addresses of wives of personnel serving unaccompanied overseas tours are not included in printed, radio tape or TV film releases distributed by the USAF Hometown News Center unless the news subject specifically requests in writing on his AF Form 175 that this information be released.

"There are two reasons. First, it is the DoD policy-- a policy designed to prevent possible harassment of the wives by unscrupulous persons.

"Second, the 'wife tie' is often weak -- because, in many cases, she resides in a locality far removed from her home town and that of her husband while he is overseas.

"A hometown news release is of interest only in localities where the news subject is well known or where his parents, other close relatives, or his wife's next of kin reside.

"All married persons or unaccompanied overseas tours should be aware of this policy," the bulletin concluded.

Maj. Merfeld New Ops Officer

Maj. Homer J. Merfeld has been assigned as operations officer for Det. 1, 504th TASG. He began his tour as an O-1 PAC with the 1st Australian Task Force at Mui Dat and was later the Air Liaison Officer (ALO) for the 82nd Airborne Division at Saigon.

He replaces Maj. Philip Klein who recently completed his tour in SEA and has been reassigned as a KC-135 crew member at Castle AFB, Calif.

This has been the policy within Seventh Air Force for more than a year, base information officials continued -- inasmuch as a majority of the news stories written pertain to airmen members, flying squadron information officers are encouraged to assure that the maximum number possible of these men complete the hometown news release forms. Incidentally, the Information Office cannot use your name in any release unless a signed form 175 is in their files.

F-111s To SAC

(AFNS) - Strategic Air Command is scheduled to begin receiving General Dynamics FB-111s in fiscal year 1970 to replace early models of the B-52 which will be retired from the active inventory.

The FB-111 is a variation of the tactical fighter. The bomber essentially will be a basic F-111 airframe with some modifications. It will have the fuselage of the basic fighter with slightly longer wingtips.

In comparison to SAC B-52s the FB-111 will fly faster at both low and high altitudes.

American Express Bank Adds Extra Tellers For Service

In an effort to improve the service to the men at Phan Rang, the American Express Bank has expanded its local facility. Seven tellers are now available for financial transactions daily.

"We began operations on Dec. 14 1968, and are constantly striving to improve the efficiency of our office," explained Mr. Leo Tylewski, bank manager. "Military and Civilian personnel who are authorized to use the bank are afforded a rare opportunity to earn five per cent annual interest compounded quarterly on their checking account. One point to remember, however, is that the minimum balance during the calendar quarter must not fall below \$100," reminded Mr. Tylewski.

The local bank manager is looking forward to moving into the new facility sometime late spring or early summer. He feels confident that Phan Rang will have the "Number 1" Military Banking Facility in Vietnam.

Mr. Tylewski also stated "With the exception of loans and safe deposit boxes, we are able to offer any financial transaction normally available in the States. We hope that more people will use the bank and open checking accounts for the deposit of their pay."

Some of features of having a bank account include:

1. There is no charge for a bank account and no requirement to have a minimum balance.

2. Checks are free and there is no charge for writing checks.

3. Checks are good in the states -- may be sent home or to pay bills.

4. Receive five per cent interest on balances of \$100 or more during any quarter of the calendar year.

5. Hours of the bank are: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. Usually longer hours are offered on paydays.

6. Have your pay check sent to the bank by seeing

the Accounting Finance Office (next to the bank) by the 15th of the month.

7. Open an account, do business by check, and avoid long lines.

Questions concerning the bank operations and/or problems should be brought to the attention of Mr. Tylewski 3322 or 3379; or Lt. Colonel Stasiak, base comptroller at 3126 or 2451.

Buckeye Flag In 3 Flights

Three F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 352nd TFS recently flew the Ohio state flag on combat missions over Vietnam. The three pilots were Lt. Col. Robert D. Hook, Dayton, Ohio, commander of the 352nd, Msj. Donald W. Houston, Lodi, Ohio, and Capt. Fred E. Davis, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Flying the flag on a mission deep into the Mekong delta region of Vietnam, Colonel Hook destroyed 10 enemy fortifications.

Major Houston, flying the same flag, supported troops in contact with the enemy.

"We put all bombs on target," said Houston, "and the ground commander couldn't have been more pleased with our performance."

The flag was airlifted again when Captain Davis, on another close air support mission, softened up "dug in" enemy as ground forces moved into the area.

Other men from the Buckeye state in the 352nd TFS include MSgt. George W. Jackson, Sgt. John S. Holp and AIC Paul D. Gardner.

The Civil Air Patrol has expressed a desire for new and feature stories about former and current members of the CAP now serving in Vietnam. Person with these qualifications are asked contact the Office of Information, ext. 3313 or 2661.

DU DROPS

A new Red Cross girl has arrived at the Du Drop Inn this week! Her name is Fran; she's a tiny brunette from Detroit, and she comes to us from Qui Nhon. Stop by the Center and welcome her to Phan Rang. And listen, men, believe it or not, she plays pinochle (cringe)! She'll be replacing Stephanie, who is moving with her multi-colored tresses to Cam Ranh Army--So come in and say'bye to Steph, too.

We'd like to thank Pfc. Don Abbott for his "Oldies but Goodies" DJ show, Platter Chatter" on 8 March. He plans to present another show on 22 March featuring the newest hits from the States, and you'll all want to be on hand for that!

On Monday, 17 March, the Center will hold its first Bridge Tournament. We know many of you are interested in this game, so don't forget to come by and sign up for the tournament this week. And for you Ping Pong players, the March Ping Pong Tournament will be on 24 March.

We're extending a special invitation to the SHIRT Colorado ANG to attend our party in their honor as "Squadron of the Month". The party will be on Saturday, 29 March, at 8 p.m. at the Red Cross Center. Please mark that date on your calendars, 120th TFS; we'll be expecting you.

That's all the Du Drop news for now. Just remember, Beware the Ides of March, Phan Rang!

RED CROSS WEEKLY CALENDAR

Thursday -- Quiet Night

Friday -- Laugh In

Saturday -- "Beware the Ides of March" party

Sunday -- Whirlie Twirls

Monday -- Bridge Tournament

Tuesday -- Clubmobile

Night

Wednesday -- RINXO!

Thursday -- Quiet Night

Sabres Aid ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)
was now really in a hurry for us to come in.

"I made my first pass and when the bombs hit, the FAC really blew his cool, yelling 'Great! Perfect! Hit the top of the hill! Hit the top of the hill! They're running for better cover!'"

"My wingman came in, dropping 500-pounders along the ridge, busting bunkers all over the target.

"We kept pounding the hilltop until our bombs were gone and then made a long strafing pass, pouring a good 1,300 rounds of 20mm fire into the target for good measure."

New Books ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)
Societies from the Bee to the Gorilla. 607.2 Foreign Policy, Toward the Year 2018. 629.4 Bernardo, Aviation and Space in the Modern World. 650.1 Rischin, The American Gospel of Success. 794.1 Chernev, Chess Companion. 796 Fox, Little men in sports. 796.357 Einstein, the third Fireside Book of Baseball. 811 Reeve, In the Silent Stones. 821 Brooke, Letters. 914.58 Mangione, Passion for Sicilians. 943.086 Gum, Eva Braun, Hitler's Mistress. 949.3 Carey, Web of Modern Greek Politics. 973.923 Sidey, Very Personal Presidency.

New Theater ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
theatre will show 35mm features supplied by Army-Air Force Motion Picture Service, Pacific.

Designed and built by Lt. Col. (soon to be full colonel) Neils H. Lund's 554th Civil Engineer and Heavy Repair Squadron (RED HORSE), the theatre will have feature six performances daily: 11:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 21:30, and 0030 hours beginning March 18.

Opening night's gala premiere showing is scheduled for 8:45 p.m. Monday.

Idea Earns ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
The 22-year military veteran says he plans to put the money in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. The \$900 is the highest amount ever paid for a military suggestion at Phan Rang Air Base.

Canberras Hit

Bunker Complex

B-57 Canberras of the 8th TBS dove through a heavy haze and hit an enemy bunker complex in the Mekong Delta area of South Vietnam recently.

Two of the crew members were Lt. Col. Kenneth S. Smith and Maj. Moyce D. Tate.

Commenting on the strike, Colonel Smith said, "There was a lot of haze hanging in the target area which was west of Bien Hoa. But, we could distinguish a tree line, our target, about 500 meters from the nearest allied troops.

"The friendly forces were south of the target and the wind was from the north, so we had to be careful of the drift of the bombs.

"The haze was so bad," he concluded, "that the forward air controller couldn't assess the damage we had done. Some Army choppers in the area came in and gave us our bomb damage assessment.

The Yellowbirds destroyed 19 enemy bunkers and 50 meters of trench.

AIR SUPPORT EARNS PRAISE

Close air support of a ground camp under night attack earned praise from the ground commander for two F-100 Supersabre pilots of the 120th TFS.

One of the pilots was Capt. Robert G. Seabout.

In the words written by U.S. Army Capt. Leo V. Lynch, commander, Camp Cai Cai, "Early in the morning, Camp Cai Cai came under heavy attack from a large (enemy) force armed with 82mm mortars, light machine guns, a heavy machine gun and assorted small arms.

"A request for air support was submitted to help counter this attack." An AC-47 gunship dropped flares, lighting the target for the arriving fighter pilots.

Captain Lynch continued, "Each of these pilots completely disregarded his own personal safety by braving tremendous ground fire, darkness and unfamiliar terrain terrain to attack and destroy the target. Their actions inspired the men on the ground and the enemy attack was completely shattered by these pilots we will probably never meet.

"...these pilots dove to treetop level in the darkness and through a virtual sheet of enemy fire to accurately place their ordnance. This resulted in the destruction of the (enemy) bunker and trench system.

