

PHAN RANG AIR BASE

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

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THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

JUNE 26, 1969

This unofficial bulletin is published by the Information Division, 35th TFW and is designed to keep Phan Rang Air Base personnel informed on current local events.

WINNING THE WAR IS WINNING THE PEOPLE

Vietnamese Students Display Talents at Base Variety Show

Some 50 Vietnamese high school and elementary students put on a one-hour variety show recently.

The show, held at "Happy Valley" outdoor theatre, featured singing and dancing. The youngsters wore colorful native costumes as well as modern dress. The various acts were musically backed by a high school "rock" group which also played a couple of instrumentals.

The well-rehearsed group is part of a Vietnamese performing arts program of Ninh Thuan Province, the province that surrounds Phan Rang Air Base. As Base Civic Actions officer, 1st Lt. James V. Cooley Jr., saw the group perform at a nearby school and asked them if they would perform at the base.

"We thought it would be interesting to bring them out to the base to give the airmen a glimpse of the culture and people living here as well entertainment," Lt. Cooley said. "And it's been a fun thing and constructive project for these young Vietnamese students."

Lt. Cooley, who acted as master of ceremonies, between acts briefly explained the base's scholarship program for Vietnamese youngsters. "This show is the students' way of saying, 'Thank you for assisting us get an education,'" he told the audience. We presently have 236 high school students on scholarship and we had some 800 applications. There are some 20 squadrons and individuals

on base sponsoring those scholarships.

"Those students receiving scholarships have to meet certain criteria and are very carefully screened," he continued. "Most of them are quite needy and all have lost one or both parents in the war. The program is also an effort to keep a wider segment of youngsters in school rather than just those who have the money to afford it."

Lt. Cooley said that each scholarship consists of 500 piasters (about \$4.50) a month for the nine months out of a year that schools are in session. School costs average 2,000 piasters a month. He hopes the base will be able to raise that amount to 1,000 piasters a month per scholarship. "We might have to reduce the number of scholarships to do so, but it would be a more effective program," he said.

315th CAMS Hosts Youths Seeking An Education

The right to an education is a privilege which as Americans, we all enjoy -- for us, it's as basic as a bowl of wheaties for breakfast. But, for Vietnamese children, this is not necessarily so. For in Vietnam, the costs are partially borne by the student or the family.

When they are unable to afford this expense, the child may be denied an educational opportunity.

Students of the Duy Tan High School, Phan Rang City, faced with this problem are being aided by the 315th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The men collect and contribute 7500 piasters (\$65.83) per month for fifteen students whose fathers have been killed in action and the remaining family is incapable of supporting their tuition.

In an effort to gain and maintain the necessary support from the men in the squadron, Captain William K. Hindon, squadron section commander, conceived of the idea to bring the student to the squadron so the men could see where their support was being directed; likewise, the children should know their benefactors.

Following their jaunt around the maintenance area, which included a visit to a C-123, they were treated to cake and ice cream and

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SUPPORT
CIVIC
ACTION!

Col. Leslie J. Campbell KNOW THE COMMANDER

Col. Leslie J. Campbell Jr., has assumed command of the 315th Special Operations Wing.

Col. Campbell, who hails from Great Bend, Kansas, received his commission and pilots wings from aviation cadets at Yuma, Arizona, in 1944. His assignment to B-17's was cut short when the class was re-routed to B-29 training. The war ended prior to his becoming combat ready and he was subsequently released from the service in 1946.

Retaining his commission in the Reserves, he was commissioned in the regular Army Air Force in 1947 and was sent to Biggs AFB, Texas as a B-26 instructor. In August 1948 he was assigned to the 23rd Fighter Wing at Northwest Field in Guam then flying P-47 aircraft. He moved with the unit when they were transferred to Howard AFB, Canal Zone. Upon the Wing's deactivation, he was reassigned to Vanez AFB, Oklahoma, where he was a B-25 instructor until March 1951.

He was then assigned to Wichita, Kansas, as part of the B-47 test project. Later, he moved to McConnell AFB, Kansas, where he instructed in the B-47, as well as serving as wing operations officer and squadron commander.

In September 1955, he became Aide to Major General George W. Mundy, Barkspace, La., commander 2AF (SAC), and in August 1958 he attended the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Upon graduation he was assigned to the 3958th Test and Evaluation Squadron for the B-58 at Carswell AFB, Texas. In 1959, he moved to the Pentagon in the Directorate of Operations, and later was assigned to the office of the Secretary of the Air Force Legislative Liaison, working on special actions which pertained to legislative program and policies.

In 1966 he attended the National War College, where he concurrently worked and received his Masters Degree in International Relations from George Washington University. Upon graduation he was sent to Sewart AFB, Tennessee, as the director of operations, 64 Tactical Airlift Wing. A year later he was assigned as the wing's vice-commander.

Col. Campbell is a command pilot with over 6,500 hours of flying time. He is married to the former Miss Patricia Gumm, of Great Bend, Kansas.

Cricket No Cup of Tea for "Yellowbirds"

It was a jolly good day for cricketeers of Number Two Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force as they thrashed the 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron "Yellowbirds," 103-68, to win the "Battle for the Cinders" at Phan Rang Air Base recently.

The Aussies also earned the self-proclaimed title as cricket champions of Southeast Asia after winning the one inning of cricket. A regular match is two innings.

The "Cinders" is a trophy made of the starting cartridge from an Australian Canberra bomber with a 20mm cannon shell for the handle. It is named after the "Ashes," a cup filled with the ashes of the wickets used in the Australian-Great Britain cricket championships.

The Aussies taught the Yellowbirds cricket as part of a friendly sports rivalry between the two squadrons. Both units fly their respective versions of Canberra bomber from Phan Rang AB and are the only such units of their kind in Vietnam.

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"Yellow Jackets" Have Piping Hot Alert Week

The Yellow Jackets of the 352nd TFS continue to receive additional KBA resulting from the sorties flown during their alert tour of 3-10 June. The squadron flew 154 sorties for the week. KBA totals for the week showed 89 by body count and 27 estimated.

The pilots, maintenance crews and munitions crews did an outstanding job during the tour. Pilots and crews supported 30 combat sorties in one single day.

The highest sortie day came on 6 June, when the Yellow Jackets accounted for 13 KBA, 15 bunkers, 24 structures, one 50 caliber gun site destroyed and one damaged.

Maj. Donald Grostic, operations officer for the 352nd TFS, and his wingman, Lt. Claude Staylor, were credited with 48 KBA, the highest KBA for a single mission. Early on the morning of 7 June, Maj. Grostic and Lt. Staylor scrambled to a troops-in-contact situation. A hostile force had surrounded a friendly fortification and was entrenched in bunkers and fighting positions as close as 100 meters to the friendly base camp. Maj. Grostic and Lt. Staylor braved low ceilings, poor visibility, and intensive ground fire to help rout the hostile force.

At the end of the week tour of alert, the Yellow Jackets had damaged or destroyed a total of 75 bunkers, 63 structures, two 50 caliber gun positions, and had set off 9 secondary explosion and 1 secondary fire in addition to the KBA.

On 3 June, Capt. Floyd Abney and Lt. Dennis Stanford were credited with 13 KBA by body count. Lt. Col. Russell and Capt. Harry O'Brien destroyed 13 bunkers and damaged 3 more also on 3 June.

For "Yellowjacket" Scramble

GEN. BROWN PINS SILVER STAR ON CAPT. CLARKE

"The heavy overcast hung on the hilltops at 500 feet, not far above the ground-fire," Capt. Colin A. Clarke said in explaining the mission that recently earned him the Silver Star medal.

A pilot assigned to the 352nd TFS "Yellow Jackets" Capt. Clarke was presented the medal by General George S. Brown, Seventh Air Force commander, during the general's recent trip to Phan Rang.

On Aug. 19, 1968, Capt. Clarke led a pair of F-100 Supersabres on a scramble mission against an enemy force that had ambushed a friendly armored column

near Tay Ninh.

"Despite darkness, poor visibility and intense hostile antiaircraft fire," the medal citation read, "and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Captain Clarke made repeated passes on the hostile position until all his ammunition had been expended (saving) the armored column."

In recalling the mission, Capt. Clarke said, "We had to find holes in the clouds to get down and locate the forward air controller (FAC). The enemy guns were firing at us, but I fortunately didn't take any hits. Despite the darkness we put

the ordnance where the FAC wanted and helped to break off the attack."

Capt. Clarke has also received two Distinguished Flying Crosses for air operations during July and August 1968 and a Purple Heart for injuries sustained when he ejected from his aircraft near Cam Duoc. The aircraft had been shot down.

He is scheduled to depart Vietnam shortly for assignment as Air Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Near Bomb Dump

AUGMENTEES IN FIREMEN'S ROLE PUT OUT FIRE

Six security police augmentees were cited for their untiring efforts in controlling a grass fire that was threatening the base bomb dump.

In a letter of appreciation to each airman's commander, the chief of security police, Lt. Col. Donald E. Reeves, said, "Only through their untiring efforts, despite burns and minor injuries, the grass fire, was brought under control.

Col. Reeves continued, "To me this typifies the qualities we seek in security police augmentees, and the type of personnel you have provided us who have

served the installation so well during the periods of threat and attacks this year."

A fire broke out north of the air base firing range as the airmen were completing their by-monthly augmentee training. It was started by a slap flare demonstration. As the fire department was being summoned, the augmentees fought it with whatever means they could find, such as machetes, hoses, rakes, branches, shovels, "the shirts off their backs" and fire extinguishers.

Because of limited access roads, the fire department could only fight the fire from one side while the

opposite portion was controlled by the six airmen.

The six airmen were Sgt. Clyde L. Moore, AIC Robert T. Bradshaw, 1st Alvin Winberly, Sgt. Jerry D. Davis, AIC Thomas L. Decker and Ann. Dean O. Stevens.

In presenting the letter of appreciation from the chief of security police to the airmen, Col. J.F. Herrmann, commander, 35 GSG, said, "Actions of the nature indicated are a reflection of the true character and awareness of the personnel concerned in their roles as professional airmen, regardless of the time, situation or event."

New Schedule for Catholic Services Announced

There has been a change in the times for Catholic services at the base chapel. Here is the new schedule:

SUNDAY: MASS 8:30 a. m. Noon 6:30 p. m.

MONDAY-SATURDAY: MASS Noon

TUESDAY: Catholic Religious Education 7:30 p. m.

THURSDAY: Marriage Preparation, Enrichment 7:30 p. m.

FIRST FRIDAY: MASS Noon, 6:30 p. m. — Steak cookout after 6:30 Mass.

BENEDICTION — Bible Vigil Thursday before first Friday 7 p.m.

CONFESSIONS: One half hour before all Masses; anytime upon request.

Du Drop In Swings

GAY CARNIVAL PLANNED FOR JULY 4TH

How would you like to have a carnival? Just as I thought - your enthusiasm is overwhelming!!! Well, the Du Drop Inn just might have a carnival on or about the 4th of July, but we definitely need some help in the planning and preparation departments. How 'bout it?

Just a reminder - the first meeting of the Book Club will be held on July 3 at 8 p.m. in the back room of the Du Drop Inn. For further information contact Sgt. Miller at 2621 or any one of the Red Cross girls at the Du Drop Inn, 2629.

Yes, we promise, sometime in the future we will have a Soul Show. Right, fellas?! Keep checking this column for time and date. Schedule of events for June 26 - July 2.

June 26 - Hinge - Day, are we going to have some groovy prizes!

27 - Coffee House - We're getting there. Come and join us!

28 - Squadron of the Month - 821st CSRS are the honored guests for cake and coffee at 8 p.m. Also, check the display board in the writing room.

29 - Double Day Pinochle Tourney - What a neat idea! Pinochle tourney for two days.

30 - (You guessed it!) Pinochle Part #2

July 1 - Road Show

2 - Bring A Tape Night - Here's your chance to improve on Bob Dylan, which has become our "music to play pinochle, pool and assorted variations by".

Photographer Wins Top 7AF Awards

A base photographer recently won three out of four categories in the Seventh Air Force photographic competition for May 1969.

A1C William F. Diebold hit the jackpot for his entries, winning a 3-day trip to Bangkok, a wristwatch and a transistor radio.

Earning the general category award was his photo feature on the 35th Security Police Squadron Heavy Weapons Section on Phan Rang. He garnered the support category award for a photo of weapons section's mortar firing at night.

A photo taken at the weekly visit to An Xuan village by doctors and dentists of the 35th USAF Dispensary earned the civic action category selection.

Airman Diebold studied Accounting for three years at Loyola University of Los Angeles and San Fernando State College, Northridge, Calif., before joining the Air Force in December 1967.

He attended a six-week combat photojournalism course at Lowry AFB, Colo., before coming to Vietnam in February.

Shadow Directs Artillery Fire

While returning home to Phan Rang Air Base early one morning, an AC-119G gunship of "B" Flight, 17th Special Operations Squadron "Shadow" was called upon to investigate suspected enemy activity 20 miles west of the base.

"We located some lights in a small clearing," Capt. William R. Casey, pilot on the mission related. "We raked the area with our miniguns and then withdrew so friendly artillery a few miles to the west could finish the job."

Shadow stayed in the area to monitor the artillery fire. "The artilleryman said it was the first time they ever received corrections from a gunship," Capt. Casey said. "It took only three shots for them to hit dead center on the target."

The gunship's firing caused ten secondary explosions and a secondary fire, and the artillery scored a secondary fire.

Grenade Proves No Play Thing

Phan Pare does not know how true the following story is, but it makes for interesting reading...

An airman collected a small arsenal, including several fragmentation grenades and a quantity of bulk explosives. He loaded part of his deadly loot on his motorcycle and went looking for a place to play with it - the loot. He found a pit and apparently decided to drop one of the grenades in the pit.

Apparently, he was not too familiar with the grenade because he was still holding it in his hand when it went off. No one else was hurt, but the medics had to use his footprints to identify him.

Investigators are still trying to find out how he got these items, and if anyone else has any.



Softball**315th, 10-0,
White Hot Team**

With the first half of the softball season complete, the 315th SOW still remains the only undefeated leader in either their own American League, or the National League.

William K. Hinden, team captain, and Douglas L. Gray, are the driving force behind this high spirited club.

Chief hurler Vaden R. Low has pitched two no-hitters and is currently holding a ten win, zero loss record. Powerhouse hitters include Sherman Ross, 1st base; Hinden, 2nd base; William K. Neffner, shortstop; Duane G. Goble, 3rd base; and pitcher Low. All are slugging over .300.

If the 315th sustains their present drive, they will meet head on with the National league victors for the base championship play-off during the latter part of August.

Present standings are as follows: (through 16 June)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	WON	LOSS
315th SOWg	10	0
554 CES	7	2
600th Photo	6	3
8 TBS	5	4
589th Engr	4	5
27 Arty	4	5
1822nd Com	3	6
435th MRS	3	7
No. 2 Sqdn	0	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	WON	LOSS
35 Supply	8	1
35 AMS	8	1
35 FNS	7	2
35 SHS	6	3
35 Hq Sq	5	4
35 USAF Disp	5	4
35 CES	3	6
615 TFS	2	7

"BREAK UP
THE ~~YANKS~~
S.O.W.!"

Piping Hot Airlifters**315th SLATES 327 SORTIES, FLIES****SAME**

Making his debut on the airlift scene, Col. Leslie J. Campbell Jr., commander, 315th SOW, led his C-123 Provider troops to a perfect "red letter" day by scoring 100% sortie reliability. Statisticians can manipulate figures to prove almost anything, but in the cargo hauling business, there is no way to juggle whether an organization flies all of its assigned missions. They either do, or they don't! Attaining this goal has eluded the grasp of every airlift unit flying in Southeast Asia -- that is, until June 15.

On that day, the 315th SOW flew each of its scheduled 327 sorties. In basic terms, this means aircrews flying C-123's made 327 take-off and landings at airfields of every shape and description, from the meager 2,000-foot dirt strip at Gia Nghia, to the 10,000 foot concrete slab at Tan Son Nhut.

The 150 flying airmen hauled a total of 587.9 tons of cargo and 2,795 passengers. Flying 37 lines (the term given to each individual aircraft flying a group of sorties), each aircraft's average haul was 24.3 tons during the day.

To handle operations throughout Vietnam, the Wing launches ten Providers from the 19th SOW at Tan Son Nhut; 11th at Operating Location, Da Nang; 311, from the 309th and 310th Squadrons at Phan Rang.

Sortie reliability takes into consideration any deviation caused by weather, enroute maintenance problems or hostile action. Cancellation of any stop by over flight or any reason directly affects sortie reliability. The successful completion of this unprecedented accomplishment is a tribute to the diligent efforts of the maintenance personnel and the professional skill of the aircrews. This ostentatious feat will go down in the annals of the tactical airlift records -- records which continuously are being shattered and re-written by aircrews flying the C-123 Provider.

8th Anniversary**Comm. Squadron
Will Slice Cake**

The Air Force Communications Service, which is represented at Phan Rang AB by the 1882 Communications Squadron, will celebrate its eighth anniversary on July 1.

AFCS, is a global organization which provides communications, air traffic control and air navigational aid services and facilities for the Air Force and other government and civilian agencies. To carry out these important missions, the command operates and maintains some of the most intricate equipment ever developed.

A wide variety of this equipment supports the base operation. Maj. John R. McWilliams commands the 1882nd whose mission is managing and executing AFCS responsibilities for operations and maintenance of Telecommunications and Air Traffic Control Facilities for Air Force, Army, and other associated agencies in the Phan Rang area in direct support of the 35th TFW and 315 SOW.

AFCS is an unique command. For instance, 60 per cent of its 54,000 people are stationed overseas at any given time. All of its units are tenants on bases under the jurisdiction and control of other commands. Additionally, more than 75 per cent of the command's personnel are considered highly technically skilled, far above the Air Force average of 47 per cent.

Vietnamese...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

were later introduced to all the airmen at a special Commanders' Cell.

Accompanying the students were Mr. Nguyen Tien, vice-principal, Mr. Ton That Van and Mrs. Le Thi Suong, English teachers, who proffered their thanks to the man for the assistance given to the students.

Most impressive was a shy young girl, Miss Tran Thi Lan who, speaking for all the children, expressed her gratitude for the educational opportunity made possible by the 200 gathered men.

The personality exchange closed, the somber mood of war returned as nightfall descended upon the air base, and the armed escort was joined for the return of the children to their homes.

IT FLIES!

O-2 Mechanic Builds O-2 Model

A Phan Rang airman who services twin-engined, twin-tail push-pull O-2A reconnaissance aircraft, built himself one—a model O-2A—recently.

The remarkable thing is that it flies. Remarkable considering he had no kit, no blueprints—just a desire and the energy to put in balsa wood form the Air Force's version of the Cessna 337 Super Skymaster.

"I bough the wood, paint, engine and tires at the base hobby shop," said the designer and builder of the model, Sgt. William D. Tetterton, of FAG-U. "I then drew a rough sketch of the O-2A and after two months off-duty time, this is what I came up with."

The model has a 3-foot wingspan, a length of 31 inches, and has a single-cylinder McCoy 19 engine. The model weighs 3½ pounds.

Using a U-control, Sgt. Tetterton took it up on its successful first flight June 4. But like most prototype aircraft, Sgt. Tetterton's O-2A had its share of problems. "I've had to go back to the drawing board on several frustrating occasions," Sgt. Tetterton said shaking his head, "but she's ready now."

A veteran of seven months in Vietnam and 2½ years in the Air Force, Sgt. Tetterton serviced huge C-124 Globemaster transports at Kelly AFB, Tex., before leaving for Vietnam last September.

"There's a Globemaster with an 8-foot wing span at the base hobby shop," he said with a far away look in his eye. "I think I'll make that my next off-duty time project."

Sgt. Tetterton has won the praise of all his superiors including the commander of Phan Rang's PAC school, Lt. Col. Donald J. Yum, Det. 1, 504th Tactical Air Support Group.

GEN. BROWN GIVEN VC FLAG

RQK Major Pak, Il Mok presented a captured enemy flag to General George S. Brown, commander, Seventh Air Force, shortly after General Brown's arrival at the base to speak at a 35th Tactical Fighter Wing dining-in. Maj. Pak is assigned to the 1st Regiment, 30th Infantry Bn., 9th "White Horse" Div. The flag was captured near the air base.

Cricket, Anyone?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth S. Smith, Yellowbird commander, said, "They taught us how to play cricket quite well, so it made for a jolly good game." Smith then issued a challenge for a rematch.

NEW BOOKS AT LIBRARY

New books at the base Library are:

FICTION: Frankau, Colonel Blessington; Airth, Snatch; Singer, The Family Carnovsky; Hinde, High; Mayer, Follow The River; Davis, The Bouviers; Creasey, A Clutch of Coppers; Savage, The Liar; Thorp, Dionysus; Smith, The Great Chill Confrontation; Telacome, The Listener; Masters, A American Marriage; Waugh, Run When I Say Go; Clark, Special Relationship; Creasey, The Baron and the Missing Old Masters; Kluger, National Anthem; Ballinger, The Men That GOD Made Mad; Keneally, Three Cheers For the Paraclete; Shaw, A Card From Morocco; Gilbert, Jamey; The Us or Them War; Hall, The Striker Portfolio. **NON-FICTION:** Chester, American Melodrama; Moore, The French Connection; Abels, In the Time of Silent Cal; plus two biographies: Wild Cow Tales; Ambiguity of

Good

sorry 'bout that...



I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GUYS ALWAYS COMPLAIN ABOUT VIETNAM. I LIKE IT HERE.