

PHAN RANG

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

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THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

JULY 3, 1969

Know the Commander Lt. Col. A.E. Smith

Only first names and middle initials changed at a change of command ceremonies of the 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron at Phan Rang Air Base recently.

Lt. Col. Albert E. Smith assumed command of the 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron on June 25 replacing Lt. Col. Kenneth S. Smith.

Col. Smith, an Air Force veteran of 27 years, came to the 8TBQ from Headquarters Electronic Systems Division, Hanscom Field, Mass., where he spent two years as chief of engineering division, one year as chief of test and Deployment division, and one year as chief of the post attaché command and control system.

A 1941 graduate of Arcadia High School, Arcadia, Colo., Smith entered the Air Force in 1942 as an aircraft mechanic. After he completed aviation cadet training in 1944, he received his commission as a second lieutenant.

From 1944 through 1950 Col. Smith held various aircrew duties flying in T-6, P-47, P-51 and F-84 aircraft. His assignments included: cold weather test pilot, Fairbanks, Alaska, 1944-45; pilot, 79th Fighter Wing, Hirsching AB, Austria, 1946-49; and instructor pilot, Randolph AFB, Tex., 1949-50.

During a short break in service in 1950, Col. Smith attended the University of California at Los Angeles at which time he was recalled to active duty in April 1951. He was assigned to the Ground Officers Radar Course at Keesler AFB, Miss.

In 1952 Col. Smith was reassigned as commander,

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New, Larger Dental Clinic Opens With Increased Staff

Brief ceremonies were held recently at Phan Rang AB to mark the opening of the new dental clinic facility.

The base dental clinic was moved from temporary quarters in the 35th USAF Dispensary to an adjacent, newly constructed building. This larger structure will enable the dental staff to more efficiently meet the increasing dental needs of Phan Rang personnel.

Col. Frank L. Gailer Jr 35th TFW commander, cut the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony and was also the first official patient at the new facility.

Under construction since the middle of March, the clinic has eight dental treatment rooms, a laboratory, administrative offices, waiting room and conference room.

Also moving in the building were the Military Public Health and Medical Materiel offices. The military Public Health office monitors working areas for health hazards and checks Vietnamese employees to make sure they comply with physical examination requirements and have current health cards.

The Medical Materiel office stores and distributes all medical supplies for the dispensary and other organizations on base.

"The clinic will provide complete dental service," stated Lt. Col. James D. Browning, dental officer in charge of the clinic. "Our present staff of four dental officers and fourteen technicians will be increased to keep up with our enlarged

dental operation."

"Not only will the dental clinic serve the personnel of Phan Rang Air Base," added the doctor. "But dental treatment will also be made available to the MAC-V (Military Assistance Command-Vietnam) team in Phan Rang City and Army personnel who are stationed at camps as far away as Phan Thiet."

Dental treatment is not limited to the military. About three days a week, the clinic conducts DENCAP (Dental Civic Actions Program) in the local Phan Rang area. On a rotating basis, a team of one dental officer and at least two technicians visit the communities of Thap Cham, Long Tre Province and Phan Rang City to give free dental aid.

Yellowbird Wins MACONOMY Award

A member of the 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron "Yellowbirds" recently received a MACONOMY Achievement Certificate at Phan Rang AB.

Lt. Col. Louis I. Lawrence, a navigator-bombardier in the squadron's B-57 Canberra bomber, had conducted an inventory of the unit's property. As a result, \$19,000 of excess property was returned to supply channels for use by other units. He also saved an additional \$700 on other projects.

Col. Frank L. Gailer Jr 35th TFW commander, made the presentation.

BULLETINBOARD

6-20-69



8th
TACTICAL

BOMB SQ. at PHAN RANG AB, VIETNAM, CELEBRATED ITS 52nd ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH. FORMED IN 1917, THE SQ. AMASSED 19,000 COMBAT HOURS IN B-57 CANBERRAS SINCE FEBRUARY 1965.

AF SEC.
ROBT. SEAMANS, JR.



AIC MICKEY SCHAD, LACKLAND AFB, TEXAS, REPEATED AS AIR FORCE TENNIS CHAMPION. HE RETAINED HIS SINGLES CROWN AND A SHARE OF THE DOUBLES TITLE.



MSGT. MARVIN KELLY, DAVIS-MONTHAN AB, ARIZ, BUNSMITH HAS A FIREARMS COLLECTION NORTH
\$10,000

WORLDWIDE AF TALENT CONTEST WILL BE HELD AT EDWARDS AFB, CALIFORNIA JULY 6-12



Administered HIS FIRST ENLISTMENT OATH TO SGT. WALTER HOUSTON WHO REENLISTED FOR THE FIRST TIME..



DURING 12 HRS. THE 315th SPEC. OPS. WG. AT PHAN RANG AB, VIETNAM, SET A C-123 PROVIDER PASSENGER AIRLIFT RECORD IN FLYING 1,949 TROOPS AND DEPENDENTS..



Air War College Seminar Completes First Phase

After eighty classroom sessions, 13 students completed the first phase of the Air War College Seminar Program at Phan Rang AB recently.

Started in February 1969, the seminar is the first of its kind in Vietnam. The purpose of the Air University Associate course is to bring together senior officers who, through lectures and discussions of problems outlined in Air University (AU) seminar guides, may share their knowledge

and experiences. The cross section of participating officers included squadron commanders, chaplains, operations staff officers, crew members, the comptroller and a dentist.

After four such seminars, or volumes in Air University parlance, the student is credited with completion by correspondence the Air War College course. This program is opened to all lieutenant colonels and lieutenant colonel selectees.

In Boonies...**TACTICAL AIRLIFT CONTROLLERS**

The "sheektroopers" of airlift, come in the form of Blue Beret Combat Controllers from the 834th Air Division. Working closely with 315th Special Operations Wing C-123 Providers and C-7's, they team up to "pass the ammunition" throughout Vietnam.

The controllers, headquartered at Tan Son Nhut 834th Air Division, are on call twenty-four hours a day, available to answer any tactical emergency or situation requiring their talents.

Primarily, these control teams exist to provide air traffic control at forward operating locations, including jungle airstrips and drop zones.

Additionally, they handle long range communications to keep the division commander and his staff continuously informed on the progress of operations at their base camp of responsibility. Aircrews utilizing the control team facilities often follow their advisories and directions to complete a mission.

To maintain the communications link, a four-man team proceeds to the operations area in a C-123, accompanied by a communications vehicle (jeep) loaded

with UHF, VHF, FM and HF transceiver equipment. The teams possess the capability to stay in the field indefinitely by employing austere re-supply methods, however a normal tour in the field will last seven days before returning to Tan Son Nhut for re-fit, and once again returning to the forward base.

The "elite" 48 troopers filling these positions are justly proud of their accomplishments; few of which are publicized. Their isolated efforts comprise a vital link to monitoring, feeling, and reporting the "pulse" of tactical airlift.

Know the Commander...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Armament and Electronics Squadron, Chateaufort Air Depot, France.

From 1955 to 1958 the colonel was assigned as commander, 2nd Shadow Beacon Flight, 345th Tac Bomb Wing Langley AFB, Va., flying the B-57 jet bomber.

Under the Armed Forces Institute of Technology (AFIT) program, Col. Smith was graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1961 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

After completing the AFIT program, Col. Smith was assigned to the Minuteman System Program Office in Los Angeles for four years beginning in 1961.

President's Independence Day Message

On July 4, 1969, we shall observe the 193rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This is a special day to be celebrated by all Americans. It is a time to recall with joy and celebration the proclamation of "liberty throughout the land," on that Glorious Fourth in 1776, the day our Nation was born.

In the words of John Adams, our second President, this day "ought to be commemorated . . . by solemn acts of devotion to God . . . solemnized with pomp and parade . . . from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, evermore."

Our heritage of the democratic principles of the equality and dignity of all men and their "unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" stems from this document. These principles, to which the Declaration's founders mutually pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, are today protected by all men and women in the Armed Forces. For this, all Americans can be proud of your contribution to our security -- to assure that succeeding generations of Americans will always be able to celebrate Independence Day.

Richard Nixon

At Du Drop Inn**JELLO, CHESS, PINOCHLE FEATURED**

A double-day pinochle tourney closed out the month of June at the Du Drop Inn. Winners of both evenings received awards.

July 4 is coming up! Since most everyone in America is interested in some sport, we decided to make this a day of fun and games complete with relays, possibly a Jello eating contest, and a tournament or two. Watch the easel board in the center for further information, and be sure to join us July 5. For fun and games.

As for other activities - this is tournament week at the Inn. Thursday, July 3, is Chess Tourney and Wed-

nesday, July 9, a pinochle Tourney will be forthcoming. Sandwiched in between these dates will be a night of Bridge on Monday, July 7 and on Tuesday, July 8, a recreational program on the sea. Join us at the Inn to test your skill in one or more of these competitions.

Special Note: The first meeting of the book club will be held July 3 at 8 p.m. in the back room of the Inn. Do join us.

**HELP
SAVE WATER!**

CMS of AF Tours Base; Likes WAPS

CMSgt Paul W. Airey, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, visited the base June 27. He toured the base making stops at Eatson (where he spoke and mixed with the men for almost an hour), the "Over 21 Club," 35th IFW propulsion shop, and the 315 SOW engine build-up shop.

Sgt. Airey said that Air Force knows its biggest personnel problems center about promotions and assignments. Both problems, he assured the airmen, are under continuous review. He called the new promotion system (WAPS) "the best I've ever seen."

Sgt. Airey is being re-assigned Aug. 1 after serving as AF CMSgt for 2 years.

RED HORSE ALIVE AND WELL; SHARES SMOKES

Like many units in of Vietnam, the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron, Red Horse, at Phan Rang Air Base has a symbol of their organization.

What makes the 554th's symbol different from most other unit symbols is that it eats grass.

For more than a year, a Chinese pony, named "One and a Half," has been the living symbol and mascot of the engineering squadron. Purchased in Phan Rang City, "One and a Half" is about as tall as a Shetland pony. But his size doesn't deter from his eating habits.

Sergeant Stanley Kirby, who has taken care of the mascot in his off-duty time for the past four months, says the animal eats all day long. "We feed him

grass, oats, corn, carrots... he'll eat just about anything," explains Kirby, who works in the Red Horse dispatch office.

"One and a Half" is not above sharing a cigarette (which he eats) and a beer with the men," comments Major Marvin T. Howell, RED HORSE operations officer.

"We knew about 'One and a Half' before our team came over last year," the major said. "So, when our C-141 landed at Phan Rang, about three months supply of oats, hay and salt lick was unloaded along with the rest of the men and equipment."

The horse is normally kept in the RED HORSE compound during the day. Sometimes he is taken out for jaunts around the base. At night he is placed in his

corral, a fenced in area with a little stable, which members of the 554th have built and added to over the months.

"One and a Half" attends the squadron Commander's Calls and whenever the Red Horse unit has honor guard duty, there's an equine standing tall in the ranks. For this and other important occasions, "One and a Half" will don his special red blanket which bears "honorary" chief master sergeant stripes. Dressed this way, the 554th mascot has met several high ranking officers, including chief of Staff of the Air Force, General John F. McConnell.

Whether in a parade or having a smoke with the boys, "One and a Half" is a symbol who makes his presence known.

Shadow on The Spot

VC Rocket Attack Gets Quick Response

The evening started casually enough. Shadow 63's mission following a 6:30 p.m. briefing was to pre-flight their AC-119 and stand-by on alert until the scheduled takeoff time after midnight.

"Part of the crew was in the aircraft with no assisting in the preflight checks; related the Shadow pilot, Capt. William R. Casey. "Then suddenly like a clap of thunder, the first incoming rocket exploded without warning barely forty yards in front of our aircraft. There was a large ball of flame and lots of sparks where it hit the steel planking and a cloud of dense black smoke swelled up immediately.

"The aircraft offered little protection, so as soon as we were sure no following rounds were going to land in the same area, we slid out of the plane and ran in a crouch over to the revetment wall just as the siren started.

"Within a short time, the rest of our crew came roaring up in a truck to announce that we were 'scrambled' for base defense, so we

piled back into the gunship and seven minutes later were on our takeoff roll.

"The tower advised of damage to the runway by another rocket impact, so I held to the right side for takeoff", explained Capt. Casey.

"The suspected enemy firing position was less than four miles from the base, so we were over it almost immediately and Capt. Leo Basten our night observation sight operator located what we thought to be the target right away.

"We hadn't received clearance to fire at that moment, but I was actually looking through the gunsight at their position when the enemy opened up with their second barrage. We advised the base immediately to expect more incoming and returned on the mini-guns as firing clearance came through almost simultaneously.

"We were sure we had Charlie cold this time and were pouring the lead on him when base defense artillery opened up again also. The artillery stuff was splashing all around us and we had

to pull out because it was being fired through our altitude. But we put 3,800 rounds in and felt we'd made it very hot for the leads who had touched off the early evening attack against Phan Rang."

"To my knowledge, no report of damage was ever received on our strike against those positions", commented Capt. Paul Cherenzie, instructor navigator.

Capt. Cherenzie continued, "So we don't know for sure that we got any of them. But we sure put our rounds into where they were firing from!"

Shadow patrolled the base perimeter with their "big white light" for an hour then landed to regenerate for their regular mission. It didn't come off on schedule. Just after midnight, they were again scrambled to a troop in contact situation 30 miles south of Phan Rang.

However casual the evening may have started, it certainly didn't end that way! But then if you fly with Shadow