

PHAN RANG

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

VOLUME III, ISSUE 9

THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

AUGUST 1, 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.

Vice PACAF Commander Pins Silver Stars On C-123 Pilot, F-100 Pilot, and S. Policeman

A camouflaged C-47 Skytrain landed at Phan Rang recently and taxied up next to an open hangar where a group of men were standing in formation.

Stepping down from the plane was Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF).

The general had come to present three Silver Star Medals and two Bronze Star Medals to five members of Phan Rang units and also tour the base.

Included in General Edmundson's official party was Brigadier General Victor N. Cabas, assistant deputy chief of staff, operations, PACAF.

Following the awards ceremony, General Edmundson was given a short briefing by Colonel Frank L. Gailer Jr., 35th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, and then taken on a tour of the base facilities.

A special stop was made at the 315th Special Operations Wing area and the general was shown through their facilities. General Edmundson was then escorted to the Phan Rang Officers' Open Mess where he and his official party had lunch with Colonel Gailer and members of his staff.

General Edmundson departed Phan Rang at the conclusion of the luncheon.

Provider Pilot Reed L. Stone

Major Reed L. Stone, 35, Laredo, Tex., received the Silver Star Medal at ceremonies held recently at Phan Rang.

The nation's fourth highest military decoration was awarded to Major Stone by Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces.

A C-123 Provider pilot with the 311th Special Operations Squadron at Phan Rang, Major Stone is assigned to Da Nang Air Base. It was on a mission near Da Nang that the major distinguished himself.

"When we heard that Tien Phuoc Special Forces Camp was being overrun", the major began, we suspended our regular scheduled missions and started airlifting supplies to them. When we took off from Da Nang there were 250 special forces troops on board.

"The weather was kind of bad and there was a low cloud deck that made ground

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Supersabre Pilot James L. Russell

First Lieutenant James L. Russell, 26, Benton Harbor, Mich., received the Silver Star Medal at ceremonies held recently at Phan Rang.

The nation's fourth highest military decoration was awarded to Lieutenant Russell by Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces.

An F-100 Supersabre pilot with the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang, Lieutenant Russell tells what happened during the mission that he distinguished himself.

"We were standing alert at Phu Cat one night," he began, "when we were told to scramble. It was pitch black outside. The ground, stars and the horizon were hidden by the darkness.

"We rendezvoused with FAC (Forward Air Controller) and the flare ship at a stop near Da Nang. We were told by FAC that a friendly helicopter went down in the area and the crew was still at

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Security Policeman Lawrence S. Kirk

Staff Sergeant Lawrence S. Kirk, 33, Tye, Tex., received the Silver Star Medal at ceremonies held recently at Phan Rang.

The nation's fourth highest military decoration was awarded to Sergeant Kirk by Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces.

On the night of the 26th of January, 1969, Sergeant Kirk, a security policeman with the 35th Security Police Squadron at Phan Rang, was checking mortar positions when the Viet Cong launched their biggest offensive ever against the base.

"I heard some activity out on the base perimeter," Sergeant Kirk said, "and I jumped in my jeep and drove out to the area to find out what was happening. I stopped by a sentry tower and asked the sentry if he knew what was going on. He didn't know either, so I got back into the jeep and drove along the fence line until I

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

COMPUTER CORNER

By Bud Goode

What are the weaknesses of the National and American League pennant contenders? Pitching control is the major infection, with some first division clubs as weak on control as rained on bees.

Earlier in the season Cincinnati management proclaimed they finally had a well balanced team. Front office apologies for Red's pitching, "We only lost by one run . . ." could be accepted for the first few weeks. But the season is nearly half gone and the Red's pitching still leaves much to be desired. The Cincinnati baseball engine is hitting on all eight. But the Reds have a screw loose in the pitching machine — specifically in their pitching control. Ray Maloney and staff are giving free rides to 11.3% of all batters facing them.

Compare this to the 9.5% league average on control (defined as the percentage of batters who reach first base on a base-on-balls or hit-by-pitch) . . . or to the Dodger's league leading control percentage of 7.5% . . . and you can see that the Reds are walking away from the pennant.

What are the pitching control figures of the other pennant contenders? Computer Corner poured the season statistics into our Univac sports analyzer through games of June 24, with these results:

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
EAST	PITCHING CONTROL%	WEST	PITCHING CONTROL%
CHICAGO	7.9%	LOS ANGELES	7.5%
ST. LOUIS	9.0%	ATLANTA	7.7%
PHILADELPHIA	9.2%	SAN FRANCISCO	9.1%
NEW YORK	9.6%	HOUSTON	9.2%
PITTSBURGH	10.4%	SAN DIEGO	10.7%
MONTREAL	11.9%	CINCINNATI	11.3%
National League Average 9.0%			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
BALTIMORE	8.4%	CHICAGO	9.3%
NEW YORK	10.0%	CALIFORNIA	9.3%
DETROIT	10.6%	MINNESOTA	9.6%
BOSTON	11.9%	KANSAS CITY	9.8%
CLEVELAND	12.5%	OAKLAND	10.6%
WASHINGTON	12.9%	SEATTLE	11.2%
American League Average 10.5%			

Potential pennant contenders — Cincinnati, Oakland, Detroit and Boston — are walking away from divisional championships.

Dependent Flag Authorized

A service flag and lapel button denoting active duty in the U. S. Armed Forces have been authorized by Congress for display by members of a serviceman's immediate family.

The flag, one foot wide by 1.9 feet long, has a white rectangular field bordered by red. A blue star for each family service member is affixed to the white field.

The service lapel button consists of a blue star on a white rectangle within a red border.

For additional information see your personnel officer.



Tennis

'Grunts' Whip 'Zoomies' by Fred DuBose

James Rogers, chaplains office, 189th Artillery, defeated Arthur Ricci, 35th Combat Support Group, in the finals of the Phan Rang novice tennis tournament.

It was a hard fought contest throughout with Ricci coming on like a Hurricane to win the first set, 6-4. Ricci look looked like a sure winner again in the second set, but Rogers took advantage of Ricci's mistakes and took the set, 6-4.

The third and fourth sets were close and every point was fought for like it was set point. The experience of Rogers began to show as he took the last two sets, 6-4, 6-4.

The tournament began with 24 men opening play and both Rogers and Ricci won six matches to earn the right top play with each other in the finals.

As tournament director, I presented trophies to Rogers and Ricci.

Also taking part in the tournament were Red Peddicord, 35th Dispensary; Edwin Wade, John Brett, Vince Miller, Lawrence Goldstein, Dennis Kirkpatrick, John Cooley, Douglas Weaver, Sherman Stephens, A. E. Biery, Rollie Bisig, Bob Swander, and John Daugherty, all of Hq. Sq. Other players were W. Carr, SP Sq., D. Bell, FMS; and John Ostler, 315th CAMS. The lone civilian participant was Robert Moffett from MACV.

KNOW THE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Joedan J. Saunders

Lt. Col. Joedan J. Saunders has assumed command of the 310th Special Operations Squadron, replacing Lt. Col. Frank Cannon who rotated to the 313th Air Division at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

Colonel Saunders, hailing from Kansas City, Missouri, is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he received his officer's commission as a second lieutenant in 1950.

He received his pilot wings from Vance AFB, Okla., in 1951 and remained there as a pilot instructor in T-6, T-28 and B-25 aircraft.

In 1955 he went to the 39th Air Division at Misawa Air Base, Japan, and served in its Manpower and Organization section.

Colonel Saunders was selected, in 1958, to attend the University of Michigan under AFIT where he earned his Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.

Two years later he went to the Pentagon where he served in the Manpower Directorate as a Data Systems Designer.

Prior to arriving Vietnam, he was assigned to Headquarters USAFE in the Requirements Division under the Manpower and Organization Directorate.



FAC Flyers**Becky Lynn Joins Debbie in Search for Charlie**

Little Debbie recently accepted an additional duty as teacher for her big sister and eventual replacement.

The new student, Becky Lynn, is getting on-the-job training for a difficult and sometimes dangerous job.

Debbie is an O-1 Bird Dog forward air control (FAC) aircraft assigned to Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Advisory Team 45. Debbie has flown an average of 85 sorties for a total of about 160 flying hours a month from Phan Rang Air Base.

Her "sister" is one of two O-2 Super Skymasters that will share the load of roaming over Ninh Thuan Province, spotting enemy targets for strike aircraft. The second O-2 is scheduled to arrive after Debbie's departure for another assignment.

When Debbie leaves, the two pilots who have flown her for six months, totaling about 350 combat sorties each, will stay on a while. Both are being reassigned later to other FAC units in Vietnam after they finish indoctrinating the new pilots.

One of the Bird Dog pilots is Major William H. Carroll, Air Liaison Officer (ALO) for the Advisory Team, who is also qualified to fly the O-2. He and First Lieutenant Jeffrey B. Geagley have directed numerous air strikes against the enemy in the mountainous province.

"The two new aircraft are being used to supply more thorough coverage of this large province," Maj. Carroll said. "Since the new pilots aren't experienced at flying over mountainous terrain in light aircraft, we will remain a couple of weeks to help them become familiar with the intricacies involved.

As with any FAC pilot, a great deal of orientation into the area is needed. "We are showing them where they can expect to find hostile activity. An important part of their training is to learn the mountain passes

and their updrafts, down-drafts, winds, turbulent areas and other peculiarities," Maj. Carroll explained.

When Maj. Carroll leaves, O-2 pilot Maj. George A. Irvin, will become the ALO.

"The O-2 has a higher airspeed and more power than the Bird Dog because the O-2 has two engines," Maj. Irvin explained. "It has better range and also holds more smoke rockets, which are invaluable when lingering over the target area. However, we still must learn all its capabilities in flying this area," he said.

To help them gain that valuable experience, the O-1 pilots demonstrate how their aircraft flies under various circumstances. "The Bird Dog often has to use the winds like a glider does," Maj. Carroll explained, "whereas the more-powerful O-2 will react somewhat differently in similar circumstances. The pilots make comparisons while getting experience." Debbie and Becky Lynn were named after the daughters of the crew chief, Sergeant Thomas F. Sullivan, Sgt. Sullivan and A1C Sterling R. Eby, assistant crew chief, are responsible for keeping the FAC aircraft in top flying condition.

Sgt. Sullivan has worked on Debbie for 11 months and has also been responsible for Becky Lynn since her arrival.

No less busy is Sgt. James M. Bramlet, intelligence specialist, who coordinates all target information with MACV. He determines likely areas of enemy activity from MACV and other reports, coordinates the information and advises the FAC pilots of good areas to locate the enemy.

After a pilot finds a target he wants to direct an air strike against, the pending attack must be cleared through appropriate channels. Coordinating clearance is the responsibility of Sergeants Wayne P. McCarthy, and Wilgus H.

Fortney, radio operators. They also monitor all other aircraft in the area so they can direct assistance when needed.

"We have a highly-professional, hard working crew here," Maj. Carroll said. "With the amount of flying we do and the area we cover, everyone has to do his job perfectly to insure success."

AT 'O' CLUB**Lettuce & Tomatoes**

BY 1ST LT. JIM LEONE

The "lettuce wagon" is due to come in this week. I'm keeping my fingers crossed, anyway. We're working on better connections to work out of more than one source to acquire the stable vegetables needed for you hard working troops.

We also have a new bread supply and there is a good possibility that the favorite submarine sandwich will be served from our snack bar.

We would like the cooperation of all club members to park below the hill while construction of the new club is in process. The faster they build the new club, the better facilities will be for all concerned.

The entertainment for Saturday, 2 August, will be "Robin and She." This twosome is returning to Phan Rang for their second time. They were thoroughly enjoyed their last time here, so plan to spend Saturday night at the O'Club. Show time: 2130 hours

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C., received a dividend when two of the base's "lawnmowers" produced new ones. The "lawnmowers" are the four-footed type — goats. They are used to eat grass in areas where bulk aircraft fuel is stored. Conventional lawnmowers could spark a dangerous situation.



FROM
"NGUYEN"
With LOVE



Dear Nguyen,

On the 4th of July, my compatriots and I saw a movie titled, "The Angry Breed." Pray tell, who is the one who selects films of this ugly caliber to be shown here?

Sincerely,
The Critic & Co.

Dear Critical,

A check with Personnel Services produced this answer: "Selection of films is made by Army-Air Force Motion Picture Service, well out of the jurisdiction of authorities in Vietnam. This (Angry Breed) film was shown all over Vietnam, and we do agree with the Critic, the film was not a 'winner,' but we are sorry to say we could not prevent its showing. We are certain that there will be other films in the future that the Critic will not approve, but we cannot please all viewers."

Nguyen

WRITE TO NGUYEN
C/o Box 9696
APO 96321

At Du Drop Inn

JELLO, PINOCHLE, KARATE ON MENU

BY PAULA WRIGHT

I just arrived at Phan Rang after being in An Khe. Phan Rang is so "Uptown" that it even has pop-corn at the movies, and that's not counting the air-conditioning. I feel as if I'm back in the "world". It's so stateside here that we even have to keep our dog on a leash.

You men are really lucky this month... we are having another jello eating contest. I know you all are overwhelmed. It's going to be August 7th. Be sure and put that in your little black book along with your other important dates.

Also for the month of August we are going to have a Karate Exhibition, side art and a Hootenany. These are the major activities which doesn't include bridge night, scrabble night, chess tournament and last, but of course not least, a Pinochle Tournament.

We are also hoping that by the end of the month we will have the newsreel on the moon landing. We will let you know more about that later on.

For the coming week, we are having bridge on Monday.

Put away those Pinochle cards and be prepared to play bridge.

Tuesday we will have a triva of games and tricks.

Wednesday is Pinochle and Thursday is checker night.

We have decided to have a chess tournament which will last for two nights, Friday and Saturday.

Sunday come over for a game of badmitten.

See you at the Du Drop INN.....

PASSPORTS OUT DOWN UNDER

SAIGON (MACV) -- Visas or passports are no longer required by Vietnam-based military personnel who are traveling to Australia on ordinary leave via R&R aircraft.

The visa requirement was dropped July 1, according to the MACV R&R Section.

Only travel orders, immunization record and military ID card are now required for this travel. (It should be noted, however, that the ID card must show the individual's social security number.)

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"I HOPE THEY STUDY HARD & KEEP THEIR GRADES UP — I DREAD TH' THOUGHT OF THEIR BEING DRAFTED."

Top Ground Crews Get 'Yellow Jacket' Ride

Three Phan Rang sergeants were recently given what few airmen ever have an opportunity to receive--a ride in a jet fighter.

Staff Sergeants Wilson L. Davis and Jerry E. Hammons, and Sergeant Dale E. Simmons, jet aircraft mechanics for the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS) at Phan Rang, were taken up on a two-seat F-100F Supersabre.

The 352nd TFS gives the F-100 ride to those airmen who are selected Crew Chief of the Month and Maintenance Man of the Month.

Hammons, 21, Tahlequah, Okla., and Davis, 25, Marietta, Ga., were Crew Chief of the Month for April and May 1969, respectively.

A twenty-one-year-old native of New Bedford, Mass., Simmons was selected Maintenance Man of the Month for March 1969.

Maj. Stone Wins Silver Star

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

visibility difficult. When we got to the camp, we made a pass over the field, lost sight of it and had to come around again. We kept the field in sight all the time on the second pass," Major Stone continued.

"About half a mile from the end of the runway, a .50 caliber gun opened up on us from across the river. We took three hits in the aircraft. A round hit one of the jet engines and it came apart, sending turbine blades all through the plane. One blade cut a fuel line and fuel began leaking into the damaged engine. A fire started and we couldn't put it out because the leaking fuel line kept the fire going."

"We landed the plane and

unloaded our cargo. Nobody wanted to hang around, so I made the decision to take off with the burning engine, believing the wind would blow the fire out. We taxied down to the end of the runway and took off without jets. We couldn't hear any ground fire, but a FAC (Forward Air Controller) in the area told us later that recoilless rifle fire was following us down the runway. The engine fire was out by the time we were airborne.

"Landing back at Da Nang, we counted several holes in the aircraft. I don't especially want to go through anything like that again," Major Stone concluded with a small grin.

Sgt. Kirk ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

came to the place where the Viet Cong were trying to get in."

"I set up a machine gun and called in two heavy weapons teams. Two APCs (Armored Personnel Carrier) arrived and we set up a cross fire and sprayed the area. I went out to the fence line and threw some grenades over the barbed wire. Then I picked up a 90mm recoilless rifle and went down the perimeter to check on some K-9 people, firing through the wire as I went along. After I checked the K-9 people, I went back to the jeep and waited. When it was daylight, we went outside the barbed wire and made a sweep of the area," the sergeant concluded.

1st Lt. Russell ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

at the crash site. Two groups of Viet Cong and a group of friendlies were trying to beat each other to the crash area.

"Flares were dropped and we could see the ground easily enough," he continued. "The friendlies were pretty close, so we had to watch where we were placing our bombs. The lead plane went in and marked the target fairly well with his bombs. I started my pass. The target looked like a big fish bowl of black with tiny lights here and there.

"I noticed as I pulled up that red tracers were flying past my tail. The gunner wasn't very accurate, but he was trying. We made a couple of bombing and strafing passes, taking ground fire now and then. We asked for clearance to hit the gun position, but due to the poor visibility and the nearness of the friendlies, FAC couldn't pinpoint the gun."

"But, as we pulled out of our last pass and headed for home, FAC told us that the friendly rescuers were successfully working their way into the crash site. It was the most exciting mission that I've ever flown, but I was never so glad to come home from a mission as I was from that one," Lieutenant Russell finished.

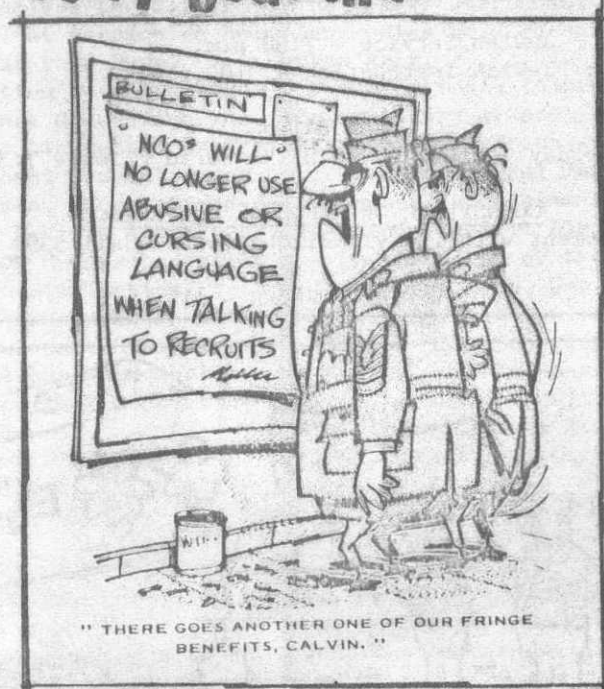
'Bobcat' Suggestion Nets \$50 Award

First Lieutenant Thomas H. Clark, an F-100 pilot assigned to the 615th TFS, was recently notified that he was the recipient of a \$50 award for a suggestion made while undergoing F-100 upgrading at Luke AFB, Arizona.

Lieutenant Clark felt that a ground emergency egress trainer used in the

program did not provide the proper obstacles that would be encountered in climbing out of the actual airplane. He suggested the addition of a canopy structure to the trainer to give more realistic training in the procedures necessary to exit the aircraft during a ground emergency.

sorry 'bout that...



Visit The Chapel This Week

CHAPEL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

FOR DAILY CHAPEL SCHEDULE AND PRAYER, DIAL 114

PROTESTANT

Sunday: Worship Services - 9:30, 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Chapel
10:00 a.m., 315 S.O.W. Briefing Rm
Adult Bible Class - 9:15 a.m.

Monday: Moody Science Films & Discussion - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Mid-Week Laymen's Service - 7:30 p.m.
2nd Wed: PMOC Cookout & Program - 6:15 p.m.

Thursday: Great Religions of the World - 7:30 p.m.

Friday: Choir Rehearsal (Morning Service) - 6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal (Evening Service) - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: Informal Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

DENOMINATIONAL SERVICES

Episcopal Service: Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Church of Christ: Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.

Latter-Day Saints: Sunday: Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Priesthood - 3:30 p.m.
Sacrament - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday: Home Evening - 7:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC

Sunday: Mass 8:30 a.m., Noon, 6:30 p.m. Base Chapel
Mass 10:00 a.m. Army Chapel

Monday-Saturday: Mass at Noon

Tuesday: Catholic Religious Education - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday: Marriage Preparation & Enrichment - 7:30 p.m.

First Friday: Mass at Noon & 6:30 p.m.
(Steak cookout follows 6:30 Mass)

Benediction: Bible Vigil at 7:00 p.m. Thursday before
First Friday

Confessions: One half hour before all Masses; and
Anytime upon request.

JEWISH

Friday: Jewish Service - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Jewish Instruction - 3:00 p.m.

ALL FAITHS

Last Wednesday: Dialogue with the World Films - 7:30 p.m.

COUNSELING OR PERSONAL CONFERENCE

By Appointment with individual Chaplains. Call 3390 or 3324

DIAL - A - PRAYER - 114

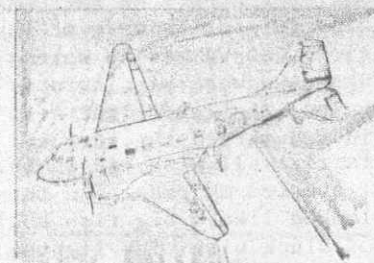


PROTESTANT CHOIR DIRECTOR WANTED

The Chapel is in dire need of a person to assume the duties as Director of the Chapel Choirs. This person has the responsibility of choosing, preparing, and directing appropriate choral music for services in the chapel each Sunday, as well as for special occasions.

The Protestant Chaplain Fund Council is prepared to enter into a contract with a qualified person to perform this service. If you are interested in adding to your income, and have experience as a choral director, please call Chaplain Newton, the Installation Chaplain, at 2156/3324.

**USAF HAS TURNED 5
AC-47 GUNSHIPS OVER TO
VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE.**



RABIES

Beward of Dog!

A U.S. medical team in this area reported that one out of every three stray dogs in this area have rabies. As a result, all base personnel are being cautioned against possible exposure to the disease.

Mascots running loose about the base are in danger of being picked up and destroyed by Security Police. All pets must be registered with the Security Police.

Rabies can be carried by any mammal, including cats, bats, rats, monkeys and the like. Anyone bitten (or even scratched by an animal should report immediately to the dispensary.