

# PHAN FARE

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

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THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

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## Silver Star Presented to 35th SP Maj.

Gallantry while directing security forces during a ground attack against Phan Rang Air Base has earned the Silver Star medal for a 35th Security Police Squadron officer.

Major William H. Powell, squadron operations officer, was presented the award by Maj. Gen. James F. Kirkendall, Seventh Air Force deputy chief of staff for Operations, at brief ceremonies recently held at Phan Rang.

The 41-year-old native of San Rafael, Calif., was cited for heroism during the early morning hours of Jan. 26, 1969. At that time a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) sapper unit penetrated the base perimeter in the largest ground attack of the  
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## 'Dollars for Scholars'

### AID FOR VIETNAMESE STUDENTS

Whether in the hamlets of the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) or the red-clay villages of India, education is vital if competent future leaders are to be groomed for the task.

To help Vietnamese youths gain this education, Phan Rang Air Base is conducting its second annual "Dollars for Scholars" fund-raising drive to provide financial support for selected local high school students.

The goal of the drive is 200 scholarships with a total cost of \$15,000. Each scholarship will provide a selected pupil 1,000 piasters (\$8.47) a month for nine months to defray about half his expenses.

Both cash donations and pledges are being accepted from individuals and units

to support the program.

"After determining how many students we can support," explained 1st Lt. James V. Cooley Jr., base Civic Action officer, "applications are screened. Scholarships are provided on a basis of academic capability and individual need.

"Most students selected for assistance have lost one or both parents in the war. Without our financial aid, these 'kids' would undoubtedly have to quit school to support their families," the lieutenant added.

"Besides providing education to Vietnam's potential leaders, this program will help create a more cohesive society. Many of the students are of the Cham or Montagnard ethnic minorities from  
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## Pilot's Guardian: 'Pedro'

### AIR RESCUE CHOPPER READY IN FIREMAN'S ROLE

"If an aircraft crashes on the runway, our job is to get the people aboard out alive."

This statement by Major John G. Acton Jr., 39, Jacksonville, Ark., former commander of Detachment 1, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, "Pedro," at Phan Rang Air Base, summarizes one of the unit's most important missions: "sick bird" scramble.

"A 'sick bird' is an aircraft with battle damage or mechanical malfunctions that can cause it to crash on the runway," Major Acton explained. "Of the several base units scrambled to action when a 'sick bird' is to land, our responsibility is the most crucial."

One of "Pedro's" two MH-43B Huskie rescue helicopters with its five crewmen and a fire suppression kit (FSK) slung below is called to action. Combining chemicals, water and air, the FSK can dispense 690 gallons of fire-suppressing foam.

Meanwhile, firetrucks, crash vehicles and an ambulance take their emergency stations along the runway.

"Such scrambles occur on an average of four times daily," Major Acton added, "but fortunately, tragedies are rare."

If the aircraft does crash, however, the highly-trained crew of pilot, co-pilot, medical corpsman and two firefighters are ready.

"As the crippled aircraft

begins its landing, we follow it down the runway. We are thus prepared to land behind the aircraft anywhere it might stop and burst into flames," the major said.

After setting the FSK near the burning aircraft and letting out the firemen and corpsman, the helicopter hovers over the wreckage to suppress the flames with the wind from the chopper's whirling blades.

One of the firemen, Staff Sergeant Kenneth A. Myers explained the job of removing the crewmen: "We use the foam from the FSK and the chopper's rotorwash to clear a path to the aircraft so we can get the people out quickly and take them back  
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**KNOW THE COMMANDER****Lt. Col. Robert M. Hodges, 311th SO Sq**

Lt. Col. Robert M. Hodges has assumed command of the 311th Special Operations Squadron, replacing Lt. Col. I.W. (Bill) Bailey, who rotated to Maxwell AFB, Ala., at the director of Operations section in the Civil Air Patrol.

Col. Hodges, from Memphis, Tenn., received his commission and pilot wings through the Aviation Cadet program at Luke AFB, Ariz., in 1944.

Upon graduation he reported to DeRidder Field, La., and was first assigned to fly P-40's. Later he moved to Key Field, Meridian, Miss., for tactical reconnaissance training, flying the P-6, a photo version of the P-51. Schooling complete, he was sent to Itami, Japan, where he flew the P-6 until 1948.

Returning to the United States he attended the Air Tactical School (forerunner of the Air University's Squadron Officers Course) and subsequently reported to the 20th Fighter Wing to fly the F-84. Remaining with the 20th, he moved from Shaw AFB, to Langley AFB, and finally Weathersfield, England.

In 1955 Col. Hodges attended the Air Force Command and Staff College, and upon completion, returned to Luke AFB, as a maintenance officer.

Three years later he reported to Karachi, Pakistan as a maintenance officer in the MAAG office.

Proceeding to Headquarters TAC at Langley AFB, he became a maintenance inspector in the Inspectors General office.

Prior to his Vietnam assignment he was stationed in Panama where he was the Chief of Maintenance and ultimately became the Director of Maintenance in Hq. USAFPO.

Col. Hodges is married to the former Miss Eileen Bloodworth of Bristol, England. They have 4 children; Susan, age 17, Sandra, age 15, Deborah, age 13, and a son, Gary, age 2.

Pass Your Copy

Of **Phan Kark**

On To a Buddy

**BASE-WIDE BOOM  
IN REVETMENTS**

Some confusion exists on the base regarding the revetment program. Perhaps a few words of clarification are called for.

First off, none of the original buildings (those built in 1965-67) was designed to include revetting. This was "Happy Valley," remember?

When the attacks began in earnest in August 1968, they were mostly at night.

"Charlie" had to get in close to launch his mortars, and darkness gave him the best chance of doing this. Consequently, when the revetment program got under way, priorities had to be set. Every building could not be revetted at the same time.

The priority was: first, buildings where mission essential night work was done; second, airmen and MCO sleeping quarters; and third, officer sleeping quarters. Except for some officer trailers, this has all been accomplished.

When the first day time rocket attack came in June 1969, additional priorities had to be set because of the enemy's apparent change of tactics. Now the emphasis was on revetting those buildings where the most people worked or congregated in the day time. Hence, the accounting and finance building was protected, next the CBPO, then the airmen's dining hall, etc. Some 64 buildings have been identified to be revetted.

New buildings, such as the theater, are being revetted as they are built. In addition, the "unpopular" sandbags protecting the airmen's quarters are gradually being replaced by brick.

Actually we're pretty  
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

**Presidential  
Unit Citation  
To 35th TFW**

The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang Air Base was recently awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest U.S. military unit award.

Maj. Gen. James P. Kirkendall, Seventh Air Force deputy chief of staff for Operations, presented the award at brief ceremonies on the Phan Rang AB flightline.

Col. Walter T. Galligan, who became the 35th TFW commander two days before the ceremony, greeted the general and received the award certificate on behalf of the wing.

The citation covered the period Oct. 10, 1966 to April 10, 1967, during which time the wing flew more than 19,000 combat missions.

The citation pointed out that pilots of the 35th TFW conducted "devastatingly precise attacks that have stopped hostile attacks at the very perimeter of friendly positions."

After attaching the award streamer to the wing banner, General Kirkendall praised the efforts of all personnel on base in a brief speech to gathered officers and airmen.

The 35th TFW has also earned two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.

**FREE MOVIE!**

A movie, "The Best of Everything," starring Joan Crawford, Stephen Boyd and Hope Lange, is scheduled to be shown at the base chapel, 1930 hours, 27 August. No admission charge.

**NEW BOOKS**

Among the new books at the base library are:

Biography:

NEWFIELD, Robert Kennedy

ZHUKOV, Marshal Battles

Fiction:

DAVIS, Cowboys Don't Cry

HUNTER, Lieberman

JAMPSON, The White Crow

68 a month

## AIR DROPS BIG PART OF 315th PROVIDERS

"Bookie 101 turning on final."

Moments later the C-123's nose suddenly snaps up, engines screaming, as Lt. Col. Leonard L. Brion, pushes his throttles sharply forward.

Instantly five tons of ammo laden parachutes tumble out the tail and quickly settle on the Mekong delta drop zone. Mission complete -- in seven seconds!

Behind this seemingly short burst of action lie the efforts and teamwork of many people.

Successful mission accomplishment depends on troops from the 91st Aerial Delivery Group (ADG, ARVN), 315th Special operations Wing aircrews, Traffic Management Agency (TMA) and the scheduling section personnel for the 834th Air Division, and Forward Air Controllers.

These forces work together to airdrop needed ammunition to Civilian Irregular

Defense Group (CIDG) camps in the Mekong delta.

By their nature, these camps are removed from the usual lines of communication and dictate re-supply of certain items by airdrop.

Routine supplies are locally procured or brought in by helicopter, however due to large quantities and heavy weight, delivery of artillery shells by chopper is not feasible. Airdrop is the only secure and practicable method.

Requests submitted by District Chiefs are coordinated and approved by the Vietnamese Joint General Staff in Saigon. This initiates the paper machinery to produce delivery orders, which are sent to the 91st ADG parachute riggers and TMA.

Maj. Nguyen Ngoc Hoan, Commander, 91st ADG, directs his personnel to pack and rig the load. TMA, in turn, passes a request for 315th

crews and aircraft, telling them when and where to drop.

At the designated time, aircraft, crews and rigged loads converge at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, where the supplies are loaded on board the Provider.

The 315th Wing averages 68 drops each month. During the last eleven months aircrews have delivered more than eight million pounds of ordinance for artillery tubes at these tiny, isolated camps.

During the same period, the 91st ADG has rigged over 4000 pallets for Air Force crews. They have also packed and rigged similar loads for Vietnamese Air Force aircrews, who in the future will assume the entire airdrop mission.

Until that time, the 315th SOW will continue to respond in their skillful and professional manner maintaining the CIDG's life line to security.

### Jewish Holy Days Announced

SAIGON (MACV) -- Plans have been announced by MACV for conducting Jewish religious services in September in commemoration of Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement).

Services are scheduled for Saigon, Long Binh Post, Nha Trang and Da Nang Sept. 12-14 for Rosh Hashanah, and Sept. 21-22 for Yom Kippur.

Jewish personnel desiring to attend the services must first obtain approval from

their commanding officer or senior advisor. The appropriate headquarters may then issue "permissive temporary duty" orders.

Transportation aboard military aircraft has been authorized for individuals attending these services.

NOTE: Reference is made to MACV letter, dated 13 July 1969, subject: "Policy for Observance of Jewish High Holy Days."

### DU DROP INN DOIN'S

BY PAULA WRIGHT

Do you know what's new at the Du Drop Inn this week? No, it's now an elephant joke. The new thing is Pam White. Pam has come to Phan Rang from Long Binh. She's been in country about 5 months. For all you Southern gentlemen, you might be interested in knowing that Pam comes from Tennessee. If you have a chance, come on down to the center and say hello to her.

We have something else new at the center, too. Every Wednesday night we are going to have National Football League motion pictures. Since we're just getting started, it is tentative for this week.

This Saturday we're going to have a "hootenany."

Sunday night we plan to have slides on Bangkok.

Monday we have our ever popular Road Show.

Tuesday night is checkers.

Thursday night is sidewalk art. Friday is bridge and Sunday night is Olympics.



"BUTTERFINGERS SPRAY'S BACK FROM LEAVE, SIR!!"

## Pedro...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)  
to the medic standing near the FSK."

While "Pedro" is doing its job, fire trucks, which are spaced along the runway, respond by spraying the aircraft with foam to put out the fire.

"Although our FSK has only limited foam," Sergeant Myers explained, "it is enough to give the trucks time to get to the scene and for us to remove the people."

If the ambulance cannot get close enough to get the victims out and take them to the hospital, the helicopter is equipped to evacuate them immediately.

"Most crippled birds land safely," Major Acton concluded, "but we must be ready for any eventuality--and that's our motto: 'THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE.'"

## Dollars for Scholars...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)  
the rural areas," concluded Lt. Cooley. "By attending school together with the Vietnamese they learn about each other, which helps reduce ethnic differences."

The "Dollars for Scholars" program is but one of a number of continuing community efforts sponsored by the Phan Rang AB Civic Action office.

## Silver Star Awarded Major Powell...

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war against the base.

According to the citation accompanying the award, Maj. Powell left a "position of relative safety and moved to the immediate area to evaluate the situation first hand and join in close combat in order to lead and direct his men."

"The outstanding calm, professional and aggressive leadership of Maj. Powell is a key reason why a bitter and devastating defeat was inflicted upon the opposing force and the base was thereby saved from destruction," the citation continued.

During the attack the enemy fired numerous rockets and mortars into the base.

In recalling the attack, Maj. Powell said, "The area was receiving fire as I arrived. A sentry dog handler had spotted several NVA at the fence, so we poured firepower into their position."

"I led one of two elements of security policemen around the NVA, and we defeated the enemy about 25 yards from the fence," he continued. "After moving back to the perimeter, several other NVA had penetrated the fence and were firing on our positions,

knocking out of commission some of our armored personnel carriers."

"We continued fighting them until daybreak, when we made a sweep of the area and found 14 enemy killed and one wounded. We also found numerous indications of more enemy soldiers killed and wounded," the major concluded.

## Revetments...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

lucky here in "Happy Valley" when it comes to the number of structures protected. Few Vietnam bases can beat our high percentage of revetted structures. And we're getting out of the sandbag business, too. Phan Rang is the only air base in the RVN that can boast of its own brick making factory.

Our excellent progress is receiving recognition, too. MSgt. Richard E. Lindsey Jr., disaster preparedness MCO at 7AF, during a staff visit on 15 Aug. 69, said, "The bunker and revetment program at Phan Rang AB is the best I've observed in Vietnam. It's combining both protection and beautification."

## 'Bobcats' Claw With Precision

By Mike Glenn

Two F-100's of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing recently hit a bunker complex 40 miles west of Phu Cat. The two pilots, both members of the 615th TFS, were Capt. William D. Atkins Jr. and Maj. Billy J. Vinson. They were credited with destroying 15 military structures, six bunkers and seven fighting positions.

Maj. Vinson, talking about the mission, had this to say, "We were scrambled from the alert pad to support a group of 'friendlies' who were in contact with the enemy. Our target was only one-half of a kilometer from the friendly troops. We had to be extremely careful and accurate with our ordnance."

Capt. Atkins said it was "very gratifying" to assist the friendly troops.



"Now take it slow and easy, operator; any rapid acceleration drives me to extreme positions!"