

Attacks on Phu Cat AB

Date	Time	# Rounds	KIA	WIA
2/6/1968	2344	10	0	0
2/22/1969	2135	Sapper	0	1
4/16/1969	0227	Sapper	0	1
6/17/1969	2333	18	1	1
1/4/1970	0100	3	0	0
1/4/1970	0645	2	0	0
2/2/1970	0647	10	1	19
4/4/1970	0500	Sapper	0	0
5/8/1970	0535	4	0	0
5/21/1970	0546	6	0	2
6/4/1970	0529	5	0	0
8/30/1970	0448	6	0	0
10/5/1970	0312	2	0	0
12/2/1970	0515	3	0	5
2/1/1971	0610	6	0	1
2/21/1971	0449	4	0	0
2/22/1971	1740	4	0	2
2/24/1971	1758	2	0	0

**Source: Air Base Defense in RVN
1961 - 1973
Roger P. Fox
University Press of the Pacific
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Col Bill Thomas

COL MELTON
12WG/CC

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

IT'S A DISTINCT HONOR FOR ME, AS THE LAST U. S. AIR FORCE COMMANDER OF PHU CAT TO BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY DURING WHICH IT IS TRANSFERRED TO ONE OF OUR FINEST ALLIED AIR FORCES, THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE.

I AM PROUD OF MY TOUR HERE AT PHU CAT, FIRST AS VICE WING COMMANDER, THEN AS WING COMMANDER AND NOW TODAY. I AM PROUD BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE MEN WHO FLEW OUR F-4'S AND THE MEN ON THE GROUND, ALL THOSE SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHO ASSURED THAT WE DAILY CARRIED OUT OUR MISSION.

AND I AM EQUALLY PROUD TO BE HERE TODAY TO BE A SMALL PART OF THE CEREMONY IN WHICH IT OFFICIALLY BECOMES A PART OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH I HAVE THE HIGHEST ADMIRATION -- THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE NEWLY FORMED 22ND AIR BRIGADE.

DURING MY SHORT ASSOCIATION WITH THE ORIGINAL GROUP OF PERSONNEL WHO ONLY A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO CAME HERE TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS TRANSFER, IT BECAME QUITE EVIDENT THAT THEY WERE PROFESSIONALS IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. A GROUP OF DEDICATED, HIGHLY - SKILLED INDIVIDUALS THAT, AS WING COMMANDER I COULD IMMEDIATELY SENSE WOULD WITHOUT FAIL CARRY FORWARD WHAT WE LIKE TO CONSIDER THE SPIRIT OF PHU CAT. A SPIRIT OF SKILL, ABILITY, DESIRE, PRIDE, AND ABOVE ALL, PROFESSIONALISM.

I AM PROUD OF THE RECORD OF THE 12TH TACTICAL FRIGHTER WING. AND I AM ALSO PROUD TO BE LEAVING WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE WILL NOT ONLY EQUAL BUT EVEN SURPASS THAT RECORD.

I SAY THAT BECAUSE THEY ARE PROFESSIONALS !

Col Bill Thomas

COL MELTON
12WG/CC

1. FIRST, LET ME SAY FOR ALL PERSONNEL OF THE 12TFW, PAST AND PRESENT, THAT WE'RE EXTREMELY PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO RECALL FROM MEMORY. BUT THE WING HAS BEEN IN A STATE OF MAXIMUM COMBAT READINESS IN VIETNAM FOR SIX YEARS NOW, AND OF COURSE OUR ASSIGNMENT WAS TO CONDUCT COMBAT MISSIONS WHEREVER DIRECTED TO DESTROY HOSTILE FORCES AND THEIR WAR MAKING CAPABILITY; AND ITS PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THE TASK HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE WE'RE GOING HOME NOW WITH BOTH PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

DURING THOSE SIX YEARS THE 12TFW WAS THE FIRST UNIT IN VIETNAM TO CONVERT TO THE F-4 PHANTOM, AND IT HAS FLOWN OVER 110,000 COMBAT MISSIONS AND DELIVERED OVER 26,000 TONS OF ORDNANCE. THE WING HAS PARTICIPATED IN ALL MAJOR OPERATIONS AND IN LAM SON 719 ALONE WE FLEW OVER 1400 COMBAT SORTIES. AND THIS WAS A REAL TEST OF WHAT ITS ALL ABOUT - CLOSE AIR SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY FORCES IN CLOSE COMBAT WITH THE ENEMY. THE AIRCREWS OF THIS WING REALLY HAD THEIR STUFF TOGETHER AND PERFORMED OUTSTANDINGLY.

THE 12TH WING AIRCREWS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS EXPERTS FOR THEIR PRECISION BOMBING IN CLOSE AIR SUPPORT OF GROUND FORCES; THAT IS USING LOW ALTITUDE LOW ANGLE BOMBING PROCEDURES. SUCH MISSIONS WERE EXTREMELY DEMANDING AND HAZARDOUS DUE TO THE CRITICAL NATURE OF THE TARGETS WHICH WERE USUALLY NEAR FRIENDLY TROOPS AND WITH LOW CLOUDS AND LIMITED VISIBILITY IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN WITH INTENSE SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FROM HOSTILE FORCES.

BY ANY STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT, THE 12TH WING HAS SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS AND MORE THAN MET THE DEMANDING CHALLENGE OF COMBAT WHILE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE WING HAS BEEN AWARDED 5 AFOUA WITH VALOR AND THE PUC FOR ITS PERFORMANCE. OTHER AWARDS AND DECORATIONS ARE STILL PENDING BOTH FOR THE WING AND FOR ASSIGNED AIRCREW MEMBERS.

PERSONALLY, FOR ME, SERVING BOTH AS A MEMBER AND AS A COMMANDER OF THE 12TFW BRINGS OUT ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY CAREER THAT I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER AND CHERISH.

IF THE 12TFW IS ACTIVATED AGAIN I FEEL CERTAIN THAT FUTURE MEMBERS WILL UPHOLD ITS GOOD NAME AND RELISH ITS PAST HISTORY AND RECORDS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. I WISH ALL MEMBERS OF THE WING A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE AND DEEPLY APPRECIATE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A FLYING AND FIGHTIN OUTFIT THAT ALL CAN BE MOST PROUD.

2. WELL, WITHOUT A DOUBT "PEOPLE" RECORDED THE HISTORY OF THE WING" AND WERE ABOVE ALL ELSE" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IT HAD. NEVER HAVE I WITNESSED A MORE CLOSE KNIT OUTFIT. OFFICERS AND AIRMEN ALIKE, WERE WILLING TO GIVE AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF ENERGY AND SACRIFICE TO INSURE SUCCESS. DETERMINATION, TEAMWORK, PROFESSIONALISM, LONG HOURS AND HARD WORK ARE SOME THOUGHTS THAT RUN THROUGH MY MIND. I HAVE FOUND PEOPLE TO BE MUCH CLOSER AND DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER IN A COMBAT ENVIRONMENT. BACK TO THE SUCCESS OF 12TFW, THE KEY TO SUCCESS OF ANY UNIT IS TO GIVE THE PEOPLE DIRECTION, MAKE AVAILABLE RESOURCES NEEDED FOR A JOB AND THENLEAVE THEM ALONE. THE WING WORKED HARD, PLAYED HARD, IT FLEW SAFE AND FOUGHT WITH PROFESSIONALISM. AFTER THE AIRCRAFT HAD DEPARTED FOR THE STATES I FOUND A CREW CHIEF IN A REVEIMENT WITH FLASHLIGHT IN HAND WRITING HIS FOLKS A LETTER. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS DOING AND HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD LIVED WITH HIS AIRCRAFT SO LONG THAT HE REALLY MISSED IT AND

JUST WANTED TO RELATE HIS THOUGHTS HOME FROM THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD WORKED AND MAINTAINED HIS SECOND HOME. I ADDED A NOTE TO HIS LETTER. THATS SUCCESS IN MY BOOK.

3. THE F-4 IS PROBABLY THE MOST DIVERSIFIED FIGHTER EVER BUILT AND IN MY MIND IS NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BECOMING OBSOLETE OR WORN OUT. IT HAS PROVEN ITSELF IN AIR-TO-AIR COMBAT AND IN A CLOSE AIR SUPPORT ROLE. A TWO ENGINE AIRCRAFT WITH TWO CREWMEMBERS, A HIGH OR LOW ALTITUDE CAPABILITY IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER, DAY OR NITE! WHO CAN ASK FOR MORE. EVEN FOR THE UNCONVENTIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN SEA IT IS STILL A FIGHTER PILOT'S DREAM. IT CAN DO ANYTHING. THE RECORD OF THE F-4 SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.