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## 1882<sup>nd</sup> Communications Unit Strengthens Reins of Command *(Seventh Air Force News, 25 Dec. 1968)*

By Sgt. Steve Monk



**PHAN RANG**—"Providing The Reins of Command" is the motto of the Air Force Communications Service. This motto has never applied more fully than to the men of the 1882nd Communication Squadron's Telecommunications Centers here.

The men of these centers are charged with the responsibility of keeping the base in constant touch with other bases and strategic points around the globe.

The 28-man section can carry messages entailing promotions, supply, command policies or a multitude of other essential messages.

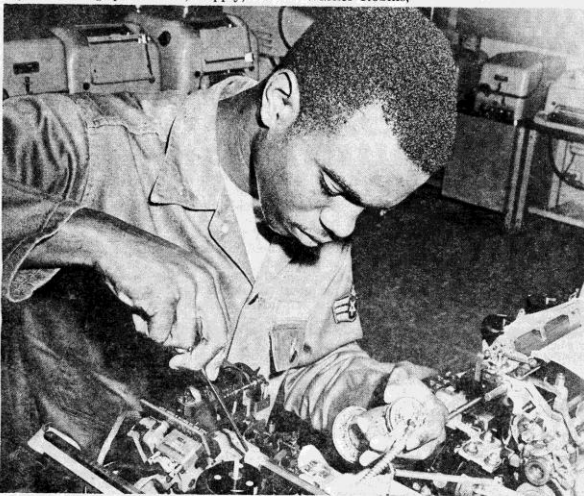
Modern equipment kept in top-notch order assures Phan Rang AB of expeditious transmission of all messages.

Members of this essential section include: TSgt. Robert E. Elzig, Little Falls, Minn.; Ssgt. Danny G.

News From many sources from "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, Vietnam  
...keeping the memories alive

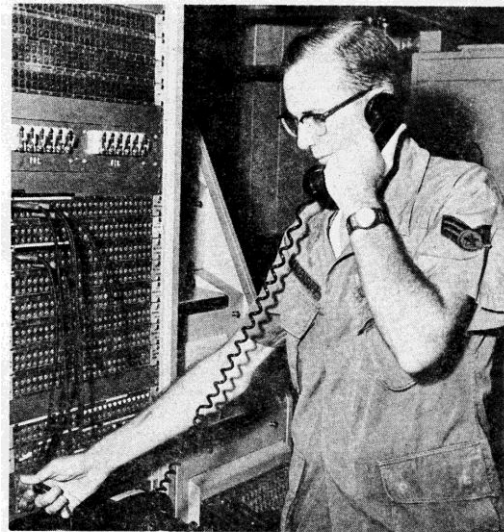
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Bennett, Beckley, W.Va.; SSgt. Walter Abbey, Aurora, Colo.; A1C James D. Granford, Lithia Springs Ga.; A1C Richard V. Carpenter, Garden City, N.Y.; Sgt. Glenn Allen, Los Angeles, Cal.; Sgt. Garry D. Field, Los Angeles, Cal.; and Sgt. Kenneth R. Blankensopp, Warner Robins, Ga.



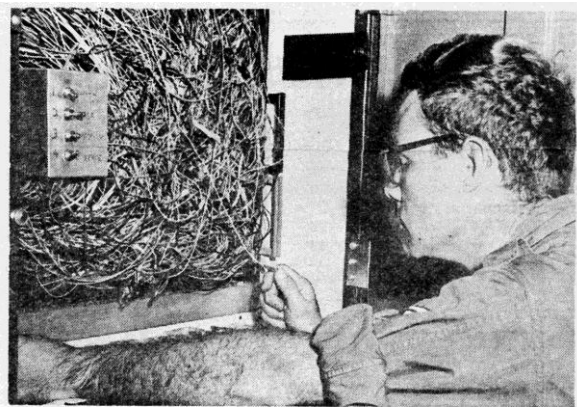
**Maintaining Equipment**

Sgt. Glenn Allen performs maintenance on one of the teletype machines in the 1882nd Communications Squadron's Telecommunication Center.



**Hello, Hello**

Sgt. Kenneth R. Blankensopp checks the lines to Tan Son Nhut AB from Phan Rang AB's Telecommunications Center.



**Lost?**

Sgt. Garry D. Field seems lost in a maze of wires as he services one of 1882nd Communication Squadron's computers.



**Preparing Messages**

SSgt. Walter P. Abbey prepares paper tape messages to be sent from Phan Rang AB.

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**Sending Message**

SSgt. Danny G. Bennett, Beckley, W. Va., feeds paper tape into a 1004 Autodin Terminal.

**Firemen Gather To Talk** (*Seventh Air Force News, 25 Dec. 1968*)

**PHAN RANG** — Fire chiefs and representatives from 10 major Seventh Air Force bases throughout Vietnam met here recently for a two-day discussion of mutual programs and goals.

The conference opened with Col. J. A. Bowers, deputy chief of staff, civil engineering, Seventh Air Force, presenting the "Most Improved Fire Department in Seventh Air Force" plaque to SMSgt. Donald R. Mullis, Eastman, Ga., Phan Rang fire chief and conference host.

The award was for the July-September 1968 period.

Bases represented at the conference were Bien Hoa, Binh Tuy, Cam Ranh Bay, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Phu Cat, Pleiku, and Tan Son Nhut.



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## **A GI's Christmas Gift** *(Seventh Air Force News, Dec 25, 1968)*

(AFPS)—Christmas is quite often a different sort of holiday for those of us in the armed forces. For those of us fortunate enough to be assigned in an area where we can be with our families during the holiday season, the difference is not too apparent.

But for those serving alone in distant overseas assignments or even in remote areas of the U.S., the holiday takes on a certain aspect of loneliness, perhaps even sadness.

To be sure, there is evidence of the joyous holiday season to be found in every military unit. Mail call brings Christmas closer to us, with the mail sacks overflowing with Christmas wishes and gifts from those we love.

Then, on Christmas Day, there will be the gigantic holiday feast that has become traditional in even the smallest military mess hall.

For some, there will be a gala holiday USO show, performed by tireless entertainers who also have given up being with their families so that we might have a little more joy in our holiday. But with all the special festive activities of Christmas, it still won't be quite the same for those of us serving in the steaming heat of Vietnam or in a cold, gray warship on the high seas. We'll miss the snow, holly, mistletoe and gaily-decorated trees.

But there is perhaps one more thing we can do to help fill any empty feeling we may have at Christmas.

Think about the family gathering back home on Christmas Day. One of the things they're enjoying most is the feeling of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Man." Of course, peace does not reign throughout the world and good will toward man is often forgotten.

But citizens of the United States are closer to that ideal than most people in the world.

Those of us in the military are the vanguard of our nation, protecting that feeling of "Peace on Earth," and insuring that our families will continue to enjoy it in Christmases to come.

If the true joy of Christmas is in the giving rather than in the receiving, we can count ourselves among the happiest people in the world. Our "gift" — the peace our countrymen enjoy — is one of the greatest that can be given.

## The Latest from Happy Valley



We've also added quite a few members to our "Happy Valley" Facebook group...we now have 555 members.

### **From Vietnam, With Love, Hope and Cash** (*Los Angeles Times, Apr. 14, 1971*)

Tears streamed down her cheeks as Paula Holt thanked "all the gang at Phan Rang." Her brother, Gary, said "thank you" again and again. Air Force St. Robert L. Jones of Turlock, Calif., had just brought them a check for \$30,000 to help them fight a rare disease, acute familial nephritis, which already has taken the lives of three of their brothers and sisters, Paula, 17, and Gary, 20, of Austin, Tex., need 15 hours of treatment a week by an artificial kidney machine. They hope some day to have kidney transplants. The money was contributed by servicemen at Vietnam's Phan Rang Air Base after the plight of the brother and sister was told in the Stars and Stripes newspaper.

### **Cross of Gallantry given to 35<sup>th</sup> unit** (*Chicago Daily Defender, May 29, 1971*)

**WITH U. S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam** — Sergeant John W. Gilmore, son of Mrs. Callie E. Gilmore, 3983 S. Lake Park ave., Chicago, is a member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, that has been honored by the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

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The 35th has received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm for its contributions to the military forces and local citizenry of that country.

The wing, which operates F-100 Super Sabre fighter bombers, was cited for flying more than 53,000 missions during a two-year period in support of U. S. and Vietnamese ground operations. The 35th was also recognized for its community service programs which included establishing a medical dispensary for treatment of villagers and orphans in the area.

Sergeant Gilmore, a fire protection specialist, will wear a distinctive service ribbon to mark his affiliation with the unit.

He attended Englewood high school. His wife is the former Cora L. McLean.

### **Pat Nugent Training** (*The Washington Post, Times Herald, Aug 14, 1968*)

#### **PHAN RANG, Vietnam**

**(AP)** — Airman First Patrick J. Nugent, President Johnson's son-in-law, training for a new job should let him see a deal of South Vietnam, including where the action is.

Nugent, who arrived Vietnam April 13 for a one year tour, is stationed at U.S. Air Force Base at Phan Rang, on the central coast, 175 miles northeast of Saigon.

He's a member of 309th Special Operations Squadron, in training loadmaster on the Force's C-123, a twin-engine prop plane that carries cargo and men to all parts the country.

The second phase of training, called on-job training began in mid-July.

Nugent is flying as an apprentice loadmaster on C123s making hops all over Vietnam, and possibly Thailand and Laos.

A fully qualified loadmaster accompanies him each of the trips until September, when Nugent will be fully qualified.

**John Ryan:** Has anyone been able to keep in contact with Nugent? I never knew him personally to talk to but remember when he was with us at PR. For a time he was caretaker for Sgt Butch, a highly decorated four legged flight crew member. To my knowledge he never used his marriage as an advantage.

**James Baranowski:** I remember the White House calling our command post at the 315th SOW to find out how he was doing. Nice to have family as Commander-in-Chief!

**Gene Eby:** When he showed up the nick name changes from Happy Valley to Mortar Alley!

[John Ryan](#): Now that you mention it, I think things did pick up a bit. I really never thought of the connection before.

[Jackie Cooper](#): I remember standing in formation with him reading a letter from the White House.

[Ken Swickard](#): Treated him a couple of times at the Dispensary after hours. (between 1700 and 0800 hrs.) Average guy.

[John Ryan](#): I remember mostly he rode a motorcycle (a little bigger than others were allowed to have) and Sgt Butch rode on the gas tank with him. I'd see him walking from the Squadron HQ building to his aircraft and back. I never actually talked to him.

[Douglas Springsteel](#): He was a load master on the 123's. I loaded his plane a number of different times... he was always a good guy

### **A Short History Lesson** *(by Joseph Luther)*

In October 1966, the wing transferred to Phan Rang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, to replace the 366th TFW. With the transfer, the 35th became the parent wing at Phan Rang Air Base. Operational squadrons of the 35th TFW at Phan Rang were:

352d Tactical Fighter Squadron: 10 October 1966 – 31 July 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VM)  
(Deployed from 354th TFW, Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina)

614th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 10 October 1966 – 31 July 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VP)  
(Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana)

615th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 10 October 1966 – 31 July 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VZ)  
(Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana)

120th Tactical Fighter Squadron (Colorado ANG): 30 April 1968 – 18 April 1969 (F-100C/F Tail Code: VS)

612th Tactical Fighter Squadron: 10 October 1966 – 8 January 1967 and 14 April 1969 – 15 March 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VS)  
(Deployed from England AFB (1966), Misawa AB Japan (1969))

8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron: 12 October 1966 – 15 January 1968 (B-57B/C/E Tail Code: PQ)

13th Tactical Bombardment Squadron: 12 October 1966 – 15 January 1968 (B-57B/C/E Tail Code: PV)

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No. 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force: 19 April 1967 – 4 June 1971 (MK-20 Canberra)

8th Special Operations Squadron: 30 September 1970 – 31 July 1971 (A-37B Tail Code: CG)  
(Reassigned from 3d TFW, Bien Hoa AB)

The RAAF No. 2 Squadron provided day and night bombing, photo strike assessment, and close air support primarily for 1st Australian Task Force in Phuoc Tuy Province

Missions included air support of ground forces, interdiction, visual and armed reconnaissance, strike assessment photography, escort, close and direct air support, and rapid reaction alert. It struck enemy bases and supply caches in Parrot's Beak just inside the Cambodian border, April–May 1970 and provided close air support and interdiction in support of South Vietnamese operations in Laos and Cambodia, January–June 1971.

The 35th TFW's resources passed to the 315th Tactical Airlift Wing on 31 July 1971 when the 35th Wing inactivated in Southeast Asia. It was later reactivated at George Air Force Base California on 1 October 1971.

For its wartime combat duty in Southeast Asia, the 35th TFW was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm and the Vietnam Air; Vietnam Air Offensive; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III; Vietnam Air/Ground; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV; TET 69/Counteroffensive; Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969; Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Southwest Monsoon; Commando Hunt V; Commando Hunt VI. Campaign streamers.

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## **The 2014 "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB Reunion**

**Where: DoubleTree by Hilton, Reid Park, 445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson AZ**

**When: October 9-11**

**Single/Double rate \$99**

**Banquet 11 October in the Bonsai Room**



**You may now make your hotel reservations for the reunion. Click on the Double Tree logo above and it will take you to the Phan Rang AB Reunion Web Site. Please make your reservations early which will help us greatly in the planning process and also to insure that**



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**everyone that wants to attend gets the reunion rate. This is a smaller hotel than the previous year, so we have to watch it very carefully. Remember if circumstances prevent you from attending you can always cancel within 24 hours of your check-in date. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact [me](#).**

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### **PR Wins Firemen's Award** *(Seventh Air Force News Dec. 4, 1968)*

**PHAN RANG** — "Most Improved Fire Department in Vietnam" is the honor awarded the Phan Rang Fire Department by Seventh Air Force officials.

Selection criteria for the quarterly award is based on effort expended toward fire prevention, extent and effectiveness of training, management procedures and facilities and equipment improvement.

Lt. Col. James B. Roberts, Pleasureville, Ky., commander, 35th Civil Engineering Squadron and base fire marshal, credited the fire department's "very comprehensive training program" with being a strong factor in taking the award.

"In addition, we were rated 'Outstanding' in the 7th AF Inspector General's report during the quarter. We are very proud firemen. We're professionals," Colonel Roberts said.

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**Doug's Comments:** I know not all of these stores may have a dateline of Phan Rang, but we have a lot of members and readers that have an interest in stores dealing with the B-57, F-100, C-119, C-47 and C-123 aircrafts. Some may have friends or may have even been stationed at one time at these other bases.

Also if you are new to the Phan Ranger mailing list and you would like copies of previous issues of the Phan Rang News, just send [me](#) a note and I'll will send one your way. If you know of a Phan Rangers that would be interested in receiving news about Phan Rang AB, please let [me](#) know and I will add them to the mailing list.