

Phan Rang News No. 19

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## **The Arrival of the 366th At Phan Rang AB - A Pictorial**

Incredible high-resolution photos of the arrival of the 366th at Phan Rang AB. The 366th Tactical Fighter Wing was the first permanent USAF organization to be stationed at Phan Rang Air Base, arriving on 20 March 1966 from Holloman Air Force Base New Mexico. The wing was composed of a mixture of F-100 Super Sabre and F-4C Phantom II squadrons, deployed from several Tactical Air Command wings.





Phan Rang Air Base was quickly expanded in 1965 to accommodate both United States and South Vietnamese Air Force fighter and helicopter units. The modernized airfield consisted of two 10,000-foot runways 04L/22R concrete and 04R/22L AM-2 planking with parallel taxiways and covered and open aircraft revetments along with several ramps and parking aprons on both sides of the runways. They were constructed with asphalt and AM-2 pierced steel aprons. In addition, a large support base was constructed with a large control tower, fire rescue units, maintenance facilities, supply warehouses, munitions storage, barracks and a wide variety of support buildings including service clubs and recreation facilities. The APO for Phan Rang Air Base was APO San Francisco, 96321.



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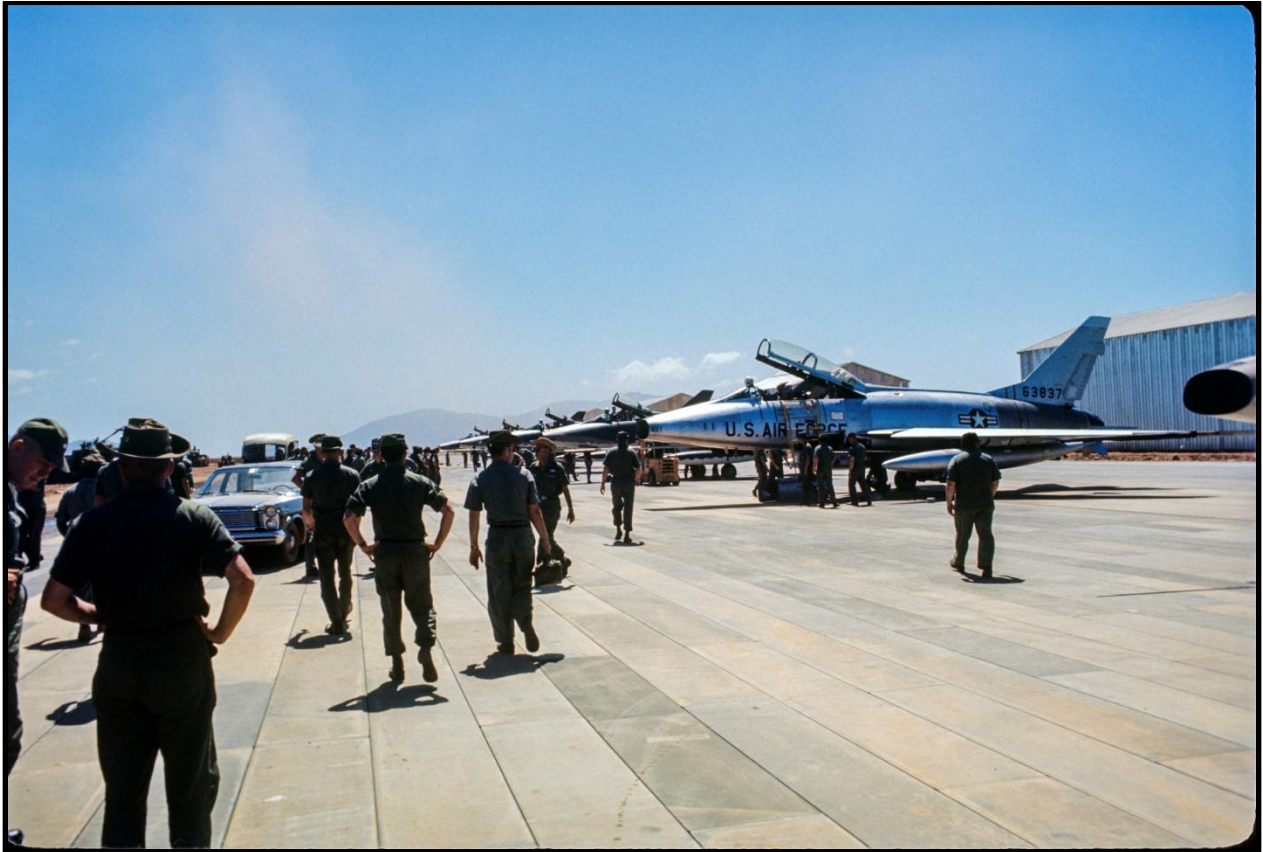
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**35th Tactical Fighter Wing**



North American F-100D-25-NA Super Sabre 55-3658 of the 352d Tactical Fighter Squadron dropping a napalm bomb near Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, 1967.

The **35th Tactical Fighter Wing** took over as the host unit at Phan Rang on October 10, 1966, being transferred from Da Nang Air Base. The move from Da Nang made the 35th TFW an entirely F-100 wing. The 35th sustained continuous air operations there until they moved from

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Vietnam, together with the Royal Australian Air Force's No. 2 Squadron of Canberra bombers as at the end of May 1971. Units assigned to the 35th TFW upon transfer to Phan Rang were:

- 352d Tactical Fighter Squadron: October 10, 1966 – July 31, 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VM)
- 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron: October 10, 1966 – July 31, 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VP)
- 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron: October 10, 1966 – July 31, 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VZ)
- 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron: October 10, 1966 – January 8, 1967 and April 14, 1969 – March 15, 1971 (F-100D/F Tail Code: VS)
- 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron: April 30, 1968 – April 18, 1969 (F-100C/F Tail Code: VS) (TDY Deployed from the Colorado Air National Guard)

### **USAF withdrawal**

The 35th TFW was inactivated on 31 July 1971 as part of the general drawdown of United States forces in South Vietnam. The wing's remaining resources passed to the 315th Tactical Airlift Wing on 31 July 1971 when the 35th Wing inactivated in Southeast Asia. The 35th TFW was later reactivated at George Air Force Base California on October 1, 1971. The 612th TFS and 614th TFS were inactivated in place on 31 July 1971 and were reassigned back to the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, now assigned to Torrejon Air Force Base Spain. The 352d TFS and the 615th TFS were inactivated in place along with the 35th TFW, standing down from operations on 26 June 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.

The 315th TAW inactivated shortly afterwards in place on 30 September 1971 as part of the US withdrawal from South Vietnam, and jurisdiction of Phan Rang Air Base was turned over to the South Vietnamese government.

*(Information from Wikipedia)*



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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 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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Got Photos or Stories that you would like to share with Phan Rangers and other interested Vietnam veterans? If you do, send those treasured pictures and stories to me and I'll include in this newsletter, that reaches out to over 200, or post on Facebook where we have over 550 former Phan Rangers, their families and friends. You can contact [me](#) and I will provide further instructions. Share the Phan Rang story and keep the memories alive.

**Doug's note:** I know not all of these stores 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, they are all available [here](#) for downloading. If you have any difficulties,

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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.