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Base Procurement Sets Record

(Phan Fare, December 13, 1967)

No, this time it's not 100 missions flown in support of ground operations in Vietnam, but something altogether different.

The Base Procurement Office here has completed its 100th referral action to its many out-of-country Area Procurement Offices in direct support of the 35th TFW. When asked what exactly encompasses the activity, TSgt Dale E. Isaac, the Base Procurement Officer, replied "its buying and contracting of supplies and services for the personnel and equipment of the 35th TFW and attached units. This 100th referral mark was accomplished in only half of the current fiscal year, and we plan to almost double it in the future."

Sgt. Michael J. Knight, operations branch, stated that since July 1, they have received requests for the purchase of 422 items.

310th ACS Donates Rice

(Phan Fare, December 13, 1967)

Personnel of the 310th Air Commando Squadron recently donated 1,500 pounds of rice to the people of Hoai Truong, a small village five miles southwest of Phan Rang Air Base.

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"Stories worth telling"

Captain Norman G. Garfoot, squadron civic action officer, and his assistant, Sergeant Roy Thompson, presented the rice to the hamlet chief for distribution to the 240 families of Hoai Truong.

The families of Hoai Truong are Montagnards who were moved from their mountain homes to Phan Rang Valley to protect them from Viet Cong terrorist attacks.

Although they're not lowland farmers, this is the livelihood to which they must turn in order to survive.

The Hoai Truong Montagnards have been given a small plot of land to raise food and many crops. Cleared with the help of the Civil Organization for Revolutionary Development Support Agency (CORDS), the land is being divided among the hamlet families. Until the Montagnards begin harvesting their crops, they must be adequately fed.

The air commandos donated the money to buy the rice, which was purchased through CORDS and coordinated by the Phan Rang AB Civic Action Office.

"With the outstanding attitude the squadron has displayed toward support of the Civic Action Program," Captain Barfoot said, "there should be no trouble getting the people of Hoai Truong back on their feet."

One LTMKIA - First Mission Fatal

(Surfside Sentinel, Dec. 6, 1968)

Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Cam Ranh Bay AB where the knights of the 12th TFW charged through the air in their F-4 Phantoms, there lived a little mouse.

He didn't live too long, unfortunately. At least, not long enough to tell about his first--and last combat mission in an F4.

No one noticed the little mouse until one day in the personnel equipment Shop of the 558th TFS, he was seen scurrying around among the helmet bags. The little mouse frightened the big, brave knights who fly the Phantoms who SAW him running about.

But the knights soon forgot about the little mouse until Sir (1st Lt.) William K. Matthews rushed to his Phantom, leaped into the back seat, strapped himself in, and pulled his gloves from his PEBag. Out of one glove jumped the little mouse, and he ran all around the cockpit. Well, Sir Matthews was startled, to say the least.

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Luckily for him, their mission was cancelled, and he and Sir (Major) Raymond L. Gardner got down from their steed -- hurriedly! But they didn't forget the little mouse, no sir!

The evil pilots plotted to get rid of the little mouse. Should they pull the seats out and drag him out bodily? Should they fumigate the cockpit? No, they finally put some Swiss cheese in a mousetrap, put the mousetrap in the back seat closed the canopy and waited.

They waited four hours. Then the gallant F-4 was called to the battle arena again. Sir (Capt.) Ellis G. Shuler and Sir (1st Lt) Stephen D. Leech hopped into their gallant steed. The mousetrap was undisturbed, but they forgot about the mouse. They had their minds only on the very important work they had to do.

The Phantom roared into the skies, and pretty soon was over the target area (for there were reports of some black-dressed knights below). Sir Leech in the back seat was very busy, looking all around for the target. He looked out the window on the right side, and he looked out the window on the left.

Suddenly, lo and behold, the little mouse darted right past Sir Leech's bulging eyes along the bottom of the canopy! Sir Leech, well, he didn't know what to do. The little mouse frightened the big, brave knight.

Unfortunately, in all the excitement, the little mouse slipped to the floor and Sir Leech, who was frenzily thrashing his feet. . .well, he stomped on the little mouse. Alas the little mouse bought the farm.

Sir Shuler and Sir Leech landed their steed and filed their report. Their bomb damage was four structures and four bunkers destroyed.

But their report did not include the fact that they also had "one LTMKIA -- Little Tiny Moose Killed in Action.

Sir Shuler and Sir Leech lived sadly ever after.

Perimeter Towers of Phan Rang

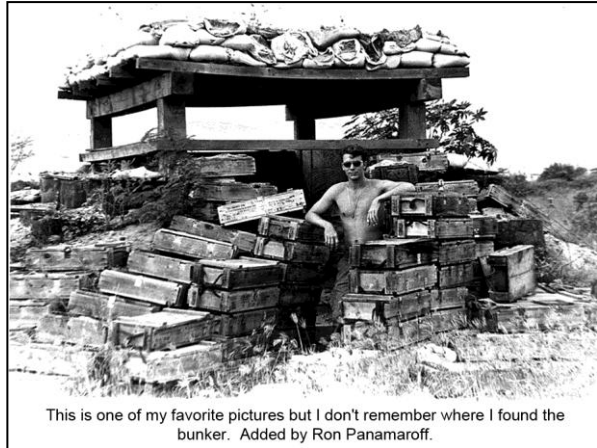
There have been many stories and comments on Facebook about the perimeter guard towers at Phan Rang so I thought I would go through the photo archives of Phan Rang and pull out guard tower pictures. So the next few pages are those pictures and Phan Rangers comments.

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

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"Stories worth telling"



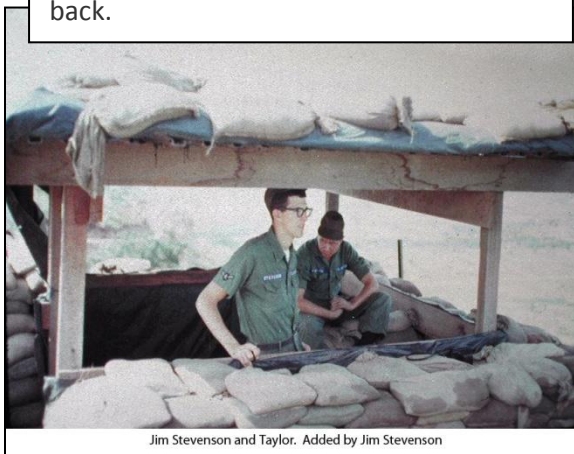
This is one of my favorite pictures but I don't remember where I found the bunker. Added by Ron Panamaroff.



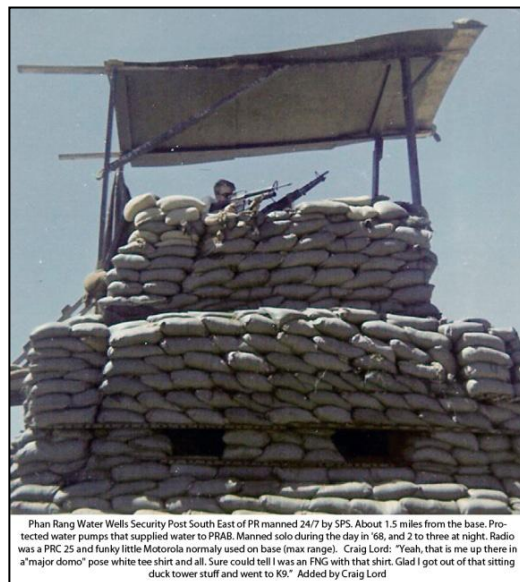
Max Smith "It took me many years to realize how important the SP's were. I tip my hat, and offer my thanks to you! Because of you, many made it" back.



Steve Janke "We had a great bunch of guys just 19-21 yrs old mostly. Most importantly a great bunch of dogs...."



Jim Stevenson and Taylor. Added by Jim Stevenson

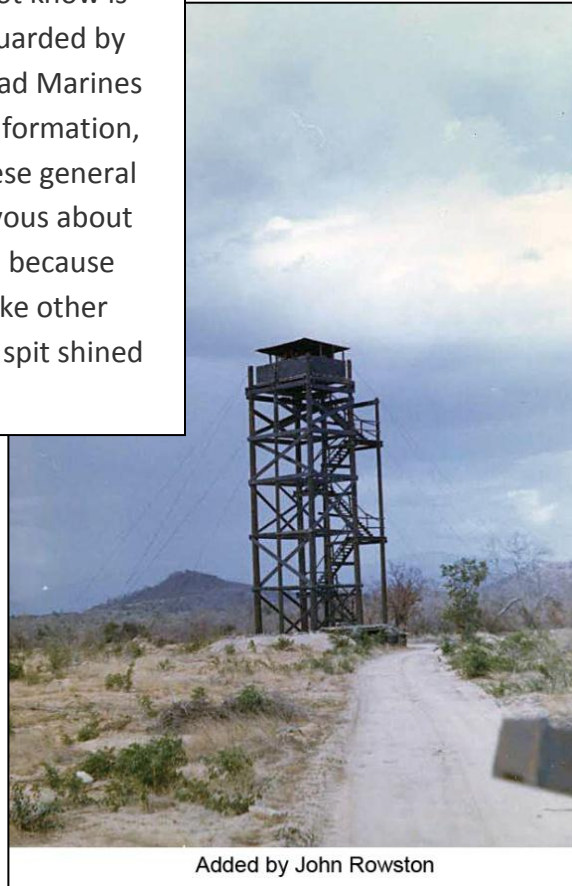


Phan Rang Water Wells Security Post South East of PR manned 24/7 by SPS. About 1.5 miles from the base. Protected water pumps that supplied water to PRAB. Manned solo during the day in '68, and 2 to three at night. Radio was a PRC 25 and funky little Motorola normally used on base (max range). Craig Lord: "Yeah, that is me up there in a 'major domo' pose white tee shirt and all. Sure could tell I was an FNG with that shirt. Glad I got out of that sitting duck tower stuff and went to K9." Added by Craig Lord

David Gile "What many of this group might not know is that the entire perimeter of Phan Rang was guarded by Air Force SPs, unlike many other bases who had Marines and Army on the perimeter. I can't find this information, but I read an article, written by a N. Vietnamese general after the war ended. He said that he was nervous about attacking the Air Force side of a military base, because the AF on the perimeter were armed and unlike other branches of the service, they went to work in spit shined boots."

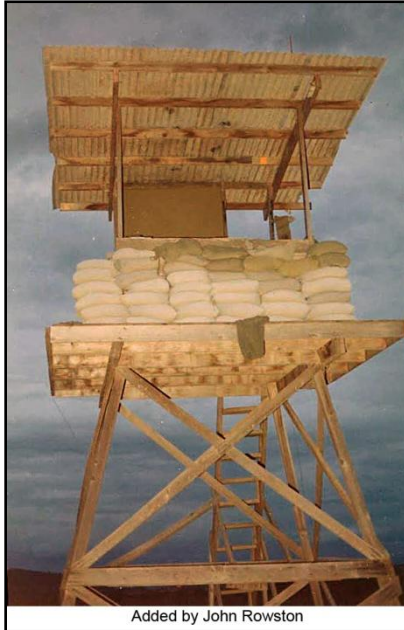
Bob Hoffman "Most thought we were arrogant, especially K-9 troops. I personally feel it was a coping mechanism to deal with some inner fears on a nightly basis. I remember getting off the posting truck, Stoltz looking at me like "let's do this" and me thinking (Hope this is a good night). Usually a quick prayer calmed my nerves and off we went."

Joseph Luther "I thought you were buckaroos ... and glad to have you."



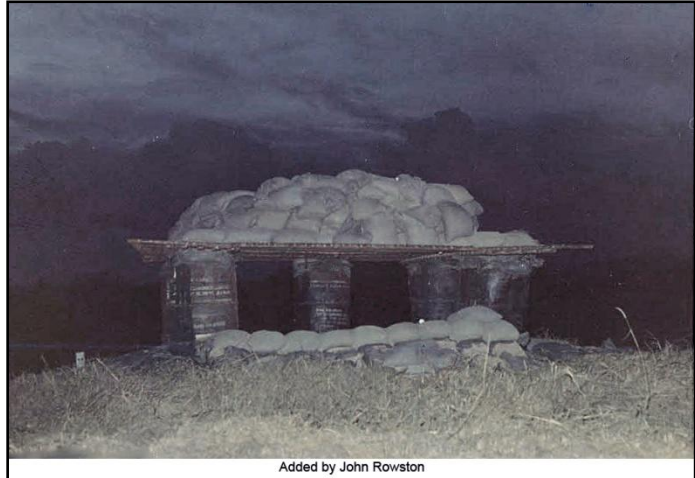
Added by John Rowston

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Added by John Rowston

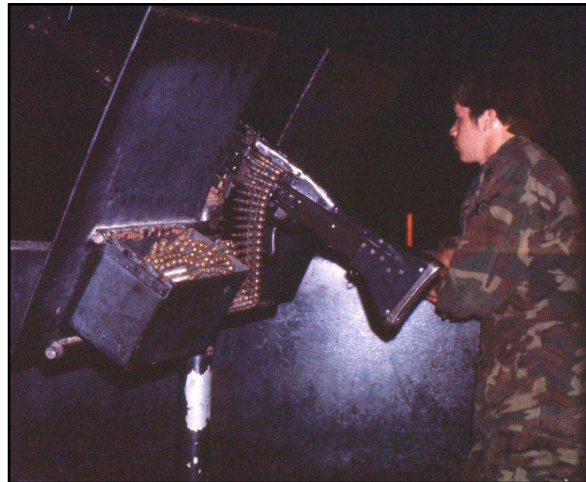
"Stories worth telling"



Added by John Rowston



Bunker at water supply. Added by Marcel Raoul



Diligently keeping guard at the main bunker of the water supply feeding Phan Rang Air Base is Marcel Raoul. Photo by Marcel Raoul.

Bill Fisher "Wow, I never knew the water supply came from that far out. Thanks to all of you who protected it! As an SP augmentee I spent some nights in guard towers on the perimeter. Saw a big cat (tiger) one night. We called in and were granted permission to shoot it, but when I readied the M-60 the SP I was with said no, that I had to use my M16. I declined and it went on its merry way. LOL."

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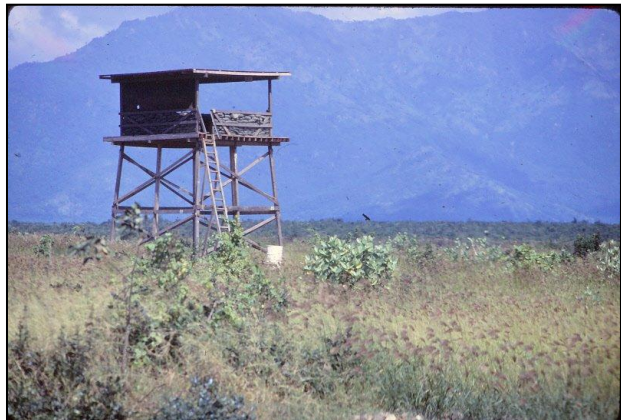
"Stories worth telling"



Dad in Vietnam 1966-1967 By Marcelle Hubbell Ehrhart
"Lawrence Kent Hubbell"



Dad in Vietnam 1966-1967 By Marcelle Hubbell Ehrhart
"Roger Chadwell and Lawrence Kent Hubbell"



George Haskett "Yeah!! Thanks for guarding us. We slept a little better at the Air Rescue Squadron because of your sacrifice out there."

Dennis Grove "I serviced the generators out there doing 67. I'm not sure what bothered me the most, the dogs trying to chew thru their cages to get to me or the snakes, lots and lots of snakes."

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

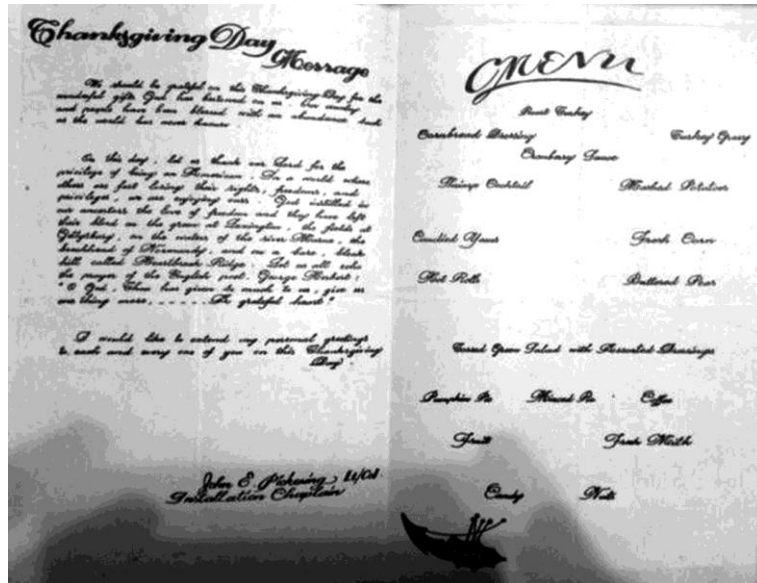
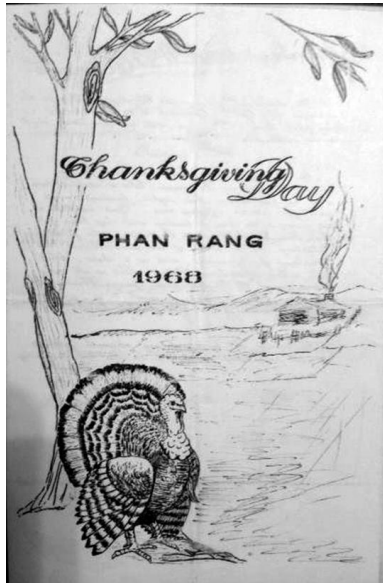
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"Stories worth telling"



Craig Lord "Guardians of the night."

Batson Hall Menu for Thanksgiving 1968 (Courtesy of Tom Parsons)



Bennie Luke Davis General Bennie L. Davis, USAF, Retired, passed away peacefully on September 23, 2012. A Native American, born on May 12, 1928 in McAlester, Oklahoma, Bennie graduated from the US Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He earned a Master of Science degree from George Washington University and also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard School of Business. A highly decorated command pilot with more than 9000 flying hours, Bennie flew more than 350 combat hours on 142 missions over Vietnam. Promoted to the rank of four star General 1 April 1979, pivotal assignments of his thirty-five year military career included command of the US Air Force Recruiting Service, Deputy Chief of Staff Manpower and Personnel, command of the Air Training Command

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"Stories worth telling"

at Randolph AFB, and Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command. Bennie retired from the Air Force in August of 1985 and moved to McLean, Virginia. Selected in 1989 for induction in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, he served as a Senior Fellow of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. before moving to Georgetown, Texas in 1999. Always physically active, Bennie, a member of Army's championship football teams of the late 1940's, remained an avid golfer throughout his adult life. Bennie was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and wife of 54 years, Patricia Grafe Davis. Survivors include his wife Yvonne, sons James (Judy) and Thomas (Karla), grandchildren Matthew Davis (Holly), Bess Davis, Taylor Clark (John), Abby Davis, Tori Davis, and a great-grandson, Max Davis. A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 28th, at 11: 00 am at Santa Rosa de Lima in Andice, Texas. Interment will be in early November at Ft Sam Houston with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Santa Rosa de Lima, Scott and White Hospice, or the Wounded Warriors Project.



Published in Austin American-Statesman on Sept. 27, 2012

Mother Had Feeling Son Was In Battle

"I thought he'd be in the thick of it."

After learning today that her son was a crewman on an Air Force jet which bombed Viet Cong positions in South Viet Nam. Mrs. Mercy Galbreath of 1527 Reed Ave., said she had a feeling he was in combat.

The son is 1st Lt. Robert Bruce Galbreath, 25, who arrived Saigon about two months ago. He is the navigator-bombardier of a B57 Canberra.

"In one of his letters he described his plane so it was from that and a mother's instinct that I just knew he was involved when I read the Evening Tribune last night," Mrs. Galbreath said.

The Tribune carried a story yesterday announcing that the Air Force had begun using jets for the first time against Communist guerrillas in South Viet Nam.

Mrs. Galbreath, employed in the purchasing department of the city Board of Education, said her bachelor son was graduated from Mission Bay High School, was on the honor drill team of the Air Force ROTC at San Diego State College and also attended the University of Arizona.

He was commissioned in the Air Force after attend navigator school at Connally AFB, Tex. Before going to the Far East he served with the Military Air Transport Service on flights to Europe from Dover, Del.

The lieutenant's father, R. C. Galbreath, is retired. A sister Lorie, 20, attends City College.

Reconnaissance Jets Revamped for Viet Use *(Chicago Tribune Press Service)*

Washington, Nov. 28 - A number of B-57 twinjet bombers have flown to the Martin company in Baltimore for modification under an air force contract announced recently. The air force said models which have been used for reconnaissance missions will be modified to a tactical configuration for possible use in Viet Nam.

First B-57 Jets Reach Japan *(unknown source dated Sept. 5, 1955)*

TOKYO—(AP) -The first B-57 jet bombers, which can fly 600 miles an hour and carry atomic bombs, have reached Japan, a U.S. Air Force spokesman said Monday.

First arrivals were two of four new B-57s being flown over to give propeller trained crews some practice. They landed at Yokota air base, west of Tokyo.

ANG Officers See B-57s at Yokota *(unknown source dated March 25, 1964)*

YOKOTA AB, Japan—Col. John J. Stefanik, commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, and three officers of his headquarters recently completed a four day visit to Yokota.

The group observed 41st Air Division maintenance and operational procedures for the B-57 Canberra light bomber. The Massachusetts ANG is scheduled to receive these planes later this year.

A number of the B-57s are also scheduled to go to the New York ANG.

Ferrying of the B-57s from Yokota to the U. S. has already begun. The phase-out of these planes at Yokota was announced late last year.

Colonel Stefanik, and his party, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Judge, Joseph J. Devona and Bruno J. Grabovsky, also attended the quarterly 41st Air Division dining-in as guests of the 13th Bomb Sq.

Admit U.S. Air Bombers Train In Philippines *(1964)*

Manila, P.I., June 9 (AP) - A United States air force spokesman said today that B-57 jet bombers and crews are training at Clark Air Base north of Manila for all contingencies but have been given no specific targets.

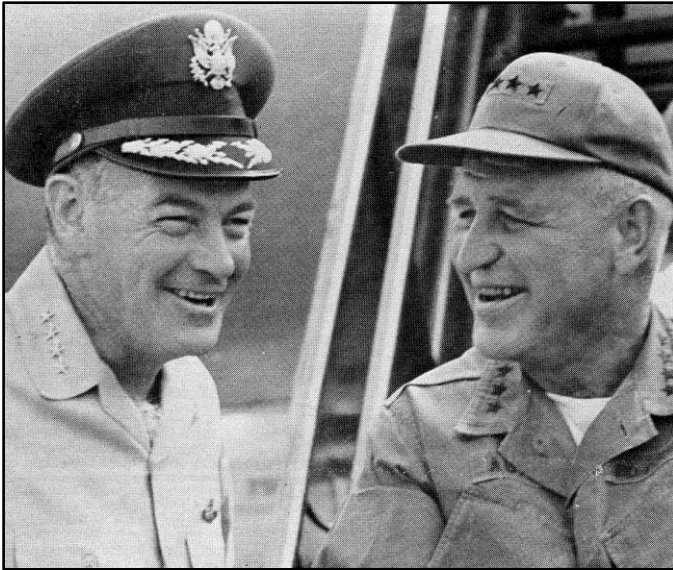
The spokesman was commenting on a New York Herald Tribune report that a combat force of B-57s is training in the Philippines to bomb targets in communist North Viet Nam.

The newspaper report said that about 50 B-57s are assigned to the United States air force's 3rd bomb wing, stationed temporarily at Clark. It said that until this spring the defense department

planned to dismember the wing and apportion its planes among air national guard squadrons in the United States. But instead it moved the wing from Tokyo to Manila about six weeks ago.

Gen. Brown Takes 7AF Command

West Point Grad Assumes
Job Aug. 1



NEW 7AF COMMANDER Gen. George S. Brown (left), new commander of 7th Air Force and deputy commander for Air Operations of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MA CV), is greeted on arrival at Tan Son Nhut AB outside Saigon by Gen. Creighton W. Abrams Jr., MACV commander. General Brown officially took command of 7AF Aug. 1, succeeding Gen. William W. Momyer.

SAIGON - Gen. George S. Brown assumed duties of 7th Air Force commander and Deputy Commander for Air Operations of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Aug. 1.

Gen. William W. Momyer, who held the position since July 1, 1966, assumed command of the Tactical Air Command Aug. 1. In his dual capacity, General Brown, as 7th Air Force commander, will be responsible for all Air Force combat air strikes, air support and air defense operations in mainland Southeast Asia.

In his MACV capacity, he will advise on all matters pertaining to effective use of tactical air support and coordinate Vietnamese Air Force and United States air operations of all air units in the MACV area of responsibility.

General Brown comes to 7th AF from Washington where he was Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that position, he was the Chairman's principal assistant and adviser and represented the chairman at any time and place directed.

After graduating from West Point in 1941, he entered flying training at Pine Bluff, Ark., and earned his wings at Kelly Field, Tex., in 1942.

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He flew with his unit to England in August 1942, the first B-24 Group to join the Eighth Air Force. Between then and April 1944, he held various positions with the 93rd Bomb Group. High point of his combat record of 190 hours and 25 missions occurred Aug. 1, 1943, when his unit bombed Ploesti, Rumania, at low level from a Bengasi, Libya.

With the outbreak of the Korean War, General Brown assumed command of the 62nd Troop Carrier Group at McChord AFB, Wash., operating between the west coast and Japan. During 1951 and the early part of 1952, he commanded the 56th Fighter Wing, Selfridge AFB, Mich., and in May 1952 joined Fifth Air Force, Seoul, Korea, as Director of Operations.

Following a tour as commander of Williams AFB, Ariz., the general entered the National War College. After completing the school, he served as Executive to the Chief of Staff, Headquarters USAF, until 1959.

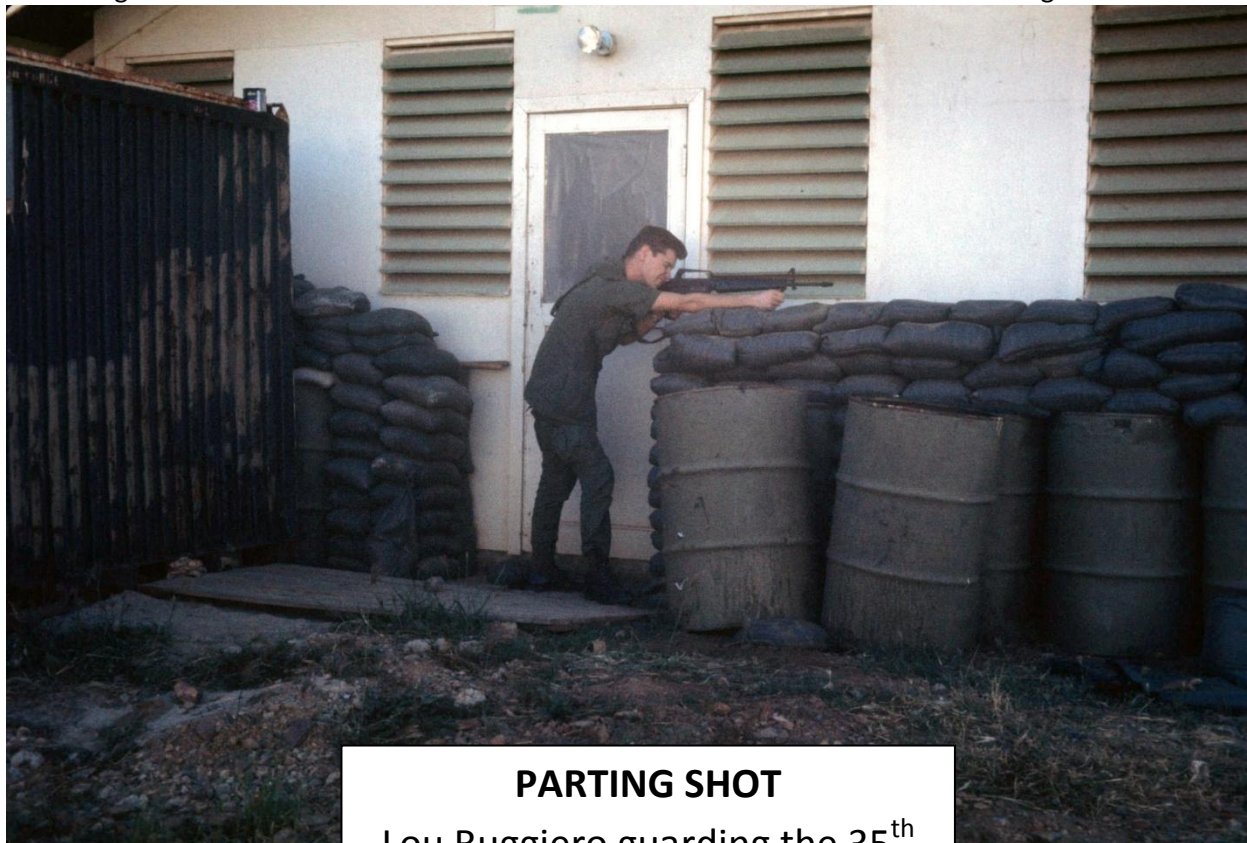
During the next four years he held positions in the Pentagon.

General Brown left the Pentagon in 1963 to become commander of the Eastern Transport Air Force, McGuire AFB, N.J. In September 1964, he was named Commander of Joint Task Force 2. In January 1965, he moved with the Joint Task Force to Sandia Base, New Mexico.

He served as Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C. from Aug. 1, 1966, to Aug. 1, 1968, when he assumed command of the 7th Air Force.

Note: 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 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.



PARTING SHOT

Lou Ruggiero guarding the 35th
Supply Squadrons liquor supply.