

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

In this issue:

FMS Takes Phan Rang Title

Comm. Team Closes With 10 of 11 Wins

Program Aided by University

Phan Rang to Get Quarters for 5,000

500 County Gifts Arrive in Vietnam

ROK Drive Kills 109 Reds

Air Force Man Trains Children to Farm Land

RAAF Unit Receives Award For World War II Service

Serving Our Country

Phan Rang Staff Members

FMS Takes Phan Rang Title *(Seventh Air Force News, September 17, 1969)*

By TSgt. Jahn B. Mahony

PHAN RANG -- The Field Maintenance Squadron of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing here its fairy godmother looking after it recently when it bombed the 315th Special Operations wing, 10-0, to win the 1969 base softball championship.

Just a week before winning the championship, the FMS nine ended the regular softball season (15-3) in a three-way National League tie. The F-100 mechanics then went on to defeat their opponents in a National League playoff series.

Meanwhile, over in the American League, the 315th took the pennant in a less heatedly contested battle.

When the two pennant winners finally met, the 315th SOW merely had to beat the FMS learn once to become base champions. Because it lost game in the playoff, the FMS team had to beat the 315th two in a row to become champion.

The following evening another standing-room-only crowd watched FMS pitcher Duane

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

Bell (11-2) oppose pitcher-manager Ray Low (16-2). Bell got off to a jittery start by walking four of the first five batters he faced. In the top of the second inning. 315th pitcher Low, who hit close to .500 during the season, belted a double with the bases loaded, putting the 315th SOW ahead, 3-0.



Duane Bell the winning pitcher carried. (U.S. Air Force Photo by A1C Christopher Boles.)

The 315th SOW appeared to have the championship sewed up as 35-year-old iron-arm Low never looked better.

Then he never looked worse as the roof fell in. Fourteen FMS batters came out swinging in the bottom of the fourth inning, with 10 runners scoring for a 10-3 triumph.

The following evening the fired up 35th FMS nine put the final championship game away in the first inning on second baseman Jim Roberts' three-run homer.

In the bottom of the third, the FMS team scored five

more runs as the normally clean-fielding 315th SOW team fell apart with a series of bobbles and wild throws.

The game ended in the sixth inning when bustling FMS catcher John Sweet singled with the bases loaded driving in the 10th run.

A wild bedlam followed. "I've never seen any celebration here like this cue," said one joyful

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

sergeant who came to Phan Rang shortly after it opened in 1966.

The jubilant, shouting and leaping FMS team and fans carried their 24-year-old hero-pitcher, Duane Bell, off the field. dousing him and each other with cold refreshments.



**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”



Field Maintenance Squadron Team

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”



Note: All photos for this article are by A1C Christopher Boles.

Comm Team Closes With 10 of 11 Wins (*Seventh Air Force News, September 17, 1969*)

By Sgt. Charles Collins

PHAN RANG - Winning 10 of their last eleven games, after losing the first six, enabled the 1882nd Communications Squadron here to finish with an 11-7 softball record.

The Communicators, coached by Hurley, Puryear and Bill Bethea, were selected to participate in the base championship tourney at the completion of the season.

Catcher Dave Hawley, commented, "Our team came a long way from our slow start and we were able to improve our hitting and defense to complement the fine pitching we received all season."

Third baseman, Tom Adams added, "The turning point for the team I would have to say was the game where we beat previously unbeaten (11-0) 315th Special Operations Wing, 9-2. The team really came on strong after that big win."

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

Program Aided by University (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Thursday, January 27, 1966*)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam— An American University has put into action a plan to help the 101st Airborne Div. aid their Vietnamese neighbors.

In Nov., 1965, the Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div., received a letter from the student-body of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, asking how they could assist the brigade. Specifically, they asked what funds and materials they could send in support of the Civic Action Program.

A civic action program, centered principally on eight schools in the Phan Rang area (168 miles northeast of Saigon) of Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam, in which the "Screaming Eagles" have located their base camp, has been started by the Brigade.

The main object of the airborne unit's efforts is the improvement of sanitation facilities, and the personal hygiene of the local school children. U. S. Army Medical Corps physicians had cited the lack of individual health measures as a basic cause of 75 to 85 per cent of cases they were asked to treat.

After receiving an answer from the brigade civil affairs section, headed by Capt. James M. Nichols Jr. of Clarksville, Tenn., the student-body responded with a drive for \$5,000 to purchase hygiene articles.

Their drive has produced more than 50 cases of bath soap, 5,280 toothbrushes, and over 6,000 tubes of toothpaste.

Nichols was staggered at the amount sent. "The effects of this generosity," he said, "are threefold: one, upon the standards of Vietnamese hygiene; the second, upon American soldiers' relations with the students back home, and lastly, the American-Vietnamese relations."

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

Phan Rang to Get Quarters for 5,000 (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Wednesday, April 27, 1966*)

PHAN RANG , Vietnam (10) — C Co. of the U.S. Army's 62d Eng. Bn. (Construction) has begun building a 5,000 man cantonment area which is designed to accommodate elements of the 101st Airborne Div, in the Phan Rang Valley area.

The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Paul D. Triem, reported that in addition to featuring an excellent billeting area, a new recreation hall will be added which is to be operated by the American Reel Cross.

.....
Fear of friendly fire in the night (*Australian, The. 04/26/2004.*)

Vietnam veteran Bob Hepe recounts the trauma of coming under attack from an unexpected source A GROWING enemy threat against the **Phan Rang** air base in the first months of 1968 saw the RAAF's airfield defence guards conduct patrols to prevent attacks, reduce infiltration and to establish a no-man's land around the base.

So says the official history of the Royal Australian Air Force published by the Australian War Memorial.

These ADGs were responsible for finding, hunting and killing the enemy. A small number of officers with a company of 30 men aggressively carried out regular night ambush patrols in the months following the Tet attacks in February 1968.

But the missions were laden with danger, the dark and the chaos of the times forcing the men to abandon practices and protocols ingrained into them over years of training. Such were the conditions, lack of moonlight and sometimes heavy monsoonal rains, that the ADGs had to give up maintaining correct distances between each other during patrols (a policy implemented to prevent mines and booby traps from injuring more than one person and to limit death and injury if the patrol was ambushed). Instead, they were forced to cling to the shirt of the man in front of them to avoid being separated from the patrol, leaving themselves more open to danger.

Beyond the environmental factors was the all too tangible problem of ``friendly fire" from the soldiers' US allies. The Australian troops also faced difficulties identifying which Vietnamese

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

were allies and which were enemies, leading to the unfortunate shooting of Vietnamese friendlies. And their concerns were exacerbated when one superior told the troops in 1968 that he did not believe the US could win the war.

Mick McPhail, lead scout for one of the three 10-man sections of RAAF ADG's who served at Phan Rang in 1968, told The Australian of several life-threatening incidents during those hair-raising patrols, including one where members of his section were almost killed by an American artillery barrage.

Merv Reid, who led an ADG 10-man section at Phan Rang and who today leads the Airfield Defence Guard Association, has confirmed that this occurred and has detailed events that took place at the time.

According to an official American patrol briefing given to Reid at the time, an artillery barrage was planned to drive the enemy towards ADGs who were lying in wait in an ambush position. When the plan was put in action, those lying in the ambush position subsequently heard shells rattling overhead and then huge explosions that shook the ground as the barrage moved closer towards the ambush position. Unfortunately, the barrage was “walked” into the ambush position. When it became obvious the barrage was about to fall on his position, Reid ordered his troops to move to the other side of the hill they had been lying on. Seconds later, a barrage fell extremely close to where the section had been lying in wait just seconds before.

Former ADGs say they were forced to shoot a South Vietnamese friendly. This occurred in 1968 after an ADG patrol was verbally challenged as they conducted a night ambush patrol. After an appropriate reply was given, the patrol was shot at. The patrol returned fire and the original shooter was killed. It was then discovered the shooter had been a South Vietnamese ally.

The shooting highlighted one of the major problems faced by ADGs serving in the war zone. Quiet conversations among ADGs in 1968 often highlighted the fact that stress caused by the fear of being fired upon by friendlies was something that was not easily dismissed.

Given the friendly bombardment, the friendly shooting incident and the fact that a newly arrived American officer was seen shooting at beer cans while on patrol, it is not difficult to understand why such fears were held.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

The holding of such fears was vindicated when two ADGs were shot by American troops as they returned to base after a patrol; Keith Fisher and John Paine still carry the scars and injuries.

In May 1968, Flight Lieutenant George Foskett addressed his troops after he had attended a briefing session held by the Americans. He told his men he believed the Americans could not win the war. Foskett also said everyone should exercise due care while performing their duties to ensure everyone present returned home alive.

This news stunned us all. If he said the war could not be won, why were we fighting it?

Douglas Gale was an ADG section leader who served at Phan Rang in 1968. He was present when Foskett informed his troops that the war could not be won. Speaking from his home on the south coast of NSW he said the revelation raised stress levels considerably.

Sometimes the professionalism of the Australian troops was the only thing that prevented serious friendly fire incidents, Reid said, citing the night three individuals attempted to attack a night patrol from the rear. After they were driven off by machine-gun fire South Korean troops searched the area and in doing so walked through an ADG ambush position without realising the Australians were there. Given that shots had been fired and many South Korean troops walked right through a 10-man ADG section laying on the ground in a classic clockface ambush position without standing on one of them, it was remarkable no one was shot by friendly fire.

Despite the stresses imposed upon them in 1968, ADGs performed their duties admirably to ensure the best traditions of the RAAF were carried on.

The Australian War Memorial's published history of the RAAF involvement in the Vietnam conflict noted ADG's "substantially contributed" to 2 Squadron's four-year role.

However, attempts made by former ADGs to receive an award that signifies combat service have fallen on deaf ears, despite the fact that Australian Army personnel received awards. Perhaps the current Government is reluctant to bestow combat awards on former servicemen who were under threat from friendly fire as well as enemy fire.

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

Kern Viet Activities Told (*The Bakersfield Californian, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1967*)

Activities of five Kern County men on duty with the U.S. Air Force at **Phan Rang AB**, Vietnam were reported by the Air Force Home Town News Center at Tinker AFB, Okla.

Ten minutes after Staff Sgt. Vincent L. Davis of Bakersfield, took off in the midst of enemy-held territory, his critically wounded Vietnamese patient arrived at Phan Rang City Hospital for treatment.

Davis, son of Mrs. May K Davis of 2606 San Emidio Street, was an aeromedical technician on an H-43 Huskie helicopter crew that recently rescued a Vietnamese soldier who had been shot in the back twice by the Viet Cong 10 miles south of Phan Rang.

When his helicopter was unable to land in the immediate area because of the terrain , the sergeant volunteered to climb down a cable to reach the injured man. Then, with assistance of Vietnamese troops, Davis carried the victim to a clearing where the chopper had landed.

Davis is assigned at Phan Rang as a member of the highly-specialized and global Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service that has logged more than 1,000 combat “ saves” in Vietnam since December 1964.

The sergeant, a 1951 graduate of Bakersfield High School, has 15 years Air Force service.

.....
Congress honors American Fighter Aces for service in 4 wars (*Associated Press News Service, The - May 20, 2015*)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles "Chick" Cleveland flew 145 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam, shooting down at least five planes during a career in which he logged more than 4,500 flying hours.

The 87-year-old Cleveland is one of only 1,447 U.S. pilots designated as American Fighter Aces, a title reserved for those who shot down at least five enemy aircraft in aerial combat during World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

As president of the American Fighter Aces Association, Cleveland accepted another honor Wednesday on behalf of himself and the 76 other living members: the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian award.

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

"If there's an elite among fighter pilots, it's these men," Cleveland told a crowd of about 500 people at a Capitol ceremony that included about three dozen members of the elite fighter group.

The Fighter Aces "helped shorten the wars and saved lives," said Cleveland, of Montgomery, Ala. "These men are disappearing but must not be forgotten."

House Speaker John Boehner said the daring missions flown by the Fighter Aces "changed the course of American-fought wars throughout modern history. These Fighter Aces risked it all to defend freedom and democracy around the world."

Boehner, R-Ohio, was among several congressional leaders to speak at Wednesday's ceremony. "We are the land of the free because of our fighter aces," said Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Texas, a former fighter pilot who flew 87 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam. "I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor their heroism than with the Congressional Gold Medal."

Air Force Brig. Gen. Frank Gailer Jr., a World War II Fighter Ace, (also commander of 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phan Rang AB) served as wingman for famed pilot Chuck Yeager. Gailer, 91, of San Antonio, called the ceremony "fabulous" and said he accepted the gold medal on behalf of himself and those who did not live to see it awarded.

Cleveland engaged in a little politics during his speech. While Congress may have a low approval rating among the American people, "I guarantee that the approval rating for Congress among the Aces is sky high," he said to applause and laughter.

Another mission accomplished.

.....
500 County Gifts Arrive in Vietnam (*Wisconsin State Journal, State Area, Saturday Morning, December 19, 1970*)

Five hundred Christmas presents from Dane County residents have arrived in time for Christmas at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam.

A letter from the Red Cross field director at Phan Rang, Richard C. Irwin, thanked the Dane County Red Cross for delivery of 500 ditty bags — small handmade sacks containing items such as combs, waterproof bags, soap, toothpaste and writing pads.

More than 100 Dane County Red Cross volunteers donated time to make the bags. The project was coordinated by Mrs. Elizabeth Risser, chairman the Red Cross volunteer committee. Individuals interested participating in next year ditty bag program can contact the Red Cross office at 1202 Ann St., Madison, telephone 255-0021.

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

ROK Drive Kills 109 Reds - Near Cam Ranh Bay (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Monday, August 11, 1969*)

By SGT. SONG JUNG IL
S&S Staff Correspondent

SAIGON — Korean troops of the 9th White Horse Div. ended a nine-day operation Friday near Cam Ranh Bay, killing 109 Communist soldiers, ROK military spokesmen said.

The operation, dubbed Dong Bo 2-18, was launched July 31 under the command of Lt. Col. Lee Jae Hung, commander of the 2nd Bn., 30th Regt.

Backed by air strikes and artillery fire, the Koreans were flown by helicopter onto the 3,-300-foot Ta Nang Mountain about 10 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay to begin the operation.

The mountain, overlooking the Air Base, is covered by thick jungles and rugged rocks. The heaviest firefight occurred last Monday on the southern sector of the mountain when the ROKs killed 43 enemy soldiers holed up in caves. The enemy dead were identified as troops of the 255th North Vietnamese Co. and supporting guerrillas who had threatened Phan Rang Air Base.

During the operation, Korean soldiers also captured 103 individual weapons, six crew-served weapons, some rocket launchers and a considerable amount of war materials.

Numerous natural caves and huts, believed to be enemy camps, were destroyed.

Korean casualties were reported to have been extremely light during the operation.

Meanwhile, Korean infantrymen and Marines killed 21 Communist soldiers and seized 12 weapons Friday in three separate clashes along the central coastlands.

Three prisoners and two weapons were taken by the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade in a search operation 17 miles south of Da Nang.

No Korean casualties were reported in Friday's actions.

Air Force Man Trains Children to Farm Land (*The News, Van Nuys (Calif.) - Thursday, June 17, 1971*)

Vietnamese youngsters, ages 6 to 18, are being taught improved agricultural methods on their own two and one-half acre plot near Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, by U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael J. Selby.

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

Capt. Selby, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. George Selby, 400-B W. Alameda, Burbank, and a fellow member of the Phan Rang civic action team have delivered to the young farmers a water pump, a sprayer, insecticides, seeds, clothes and barbed wire for a fence — all donated by the Phan Rang civic action program.

The youth contributed the fence posts and will share in the labor in forthcoming months . As planned, the youngsters will level and prepare the land before planting corn, watermelon, sugar cane and banana trees.

The participants in the multi-sponsored program were selected from among the membership of Kien Kien hamlet's Rural Development Youth Club.

The captain, a special operations officer, was commissioned in 1967 upon completion of Officer Training School. Lackland AFB. Tex.

He graduated from John Burroughs High School in 1960 and received his B.A. degree in English in 1964 from the University of California at Los Angeles. He is a member of Phi Delta Theta.

.....
RAAF Unit Receives Award For World War II Service (*Seventh Air Force News, July 30, 1969*)

By TSgt. John Mahony

PHAN RANG - The U. S. Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation was presented recently to the Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Squadron here.



The Citation was awarded to Australia's Number 2 Squadron for its many successful attacks against Japanese forces in the Southwest Pacific at the outbreak of World War II.

At a flightline ceremony at Phan Rang Gen. George S. Brown, U.S. Seventh Air Force commander, made the presentation.

R. L. Harry, Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam: Maj. Gen R. A.

(USAF Photo By Sgt. William F. Diebold) General Brown and Commander Whitehead Inspecting the Honor Guard.

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

Hay, commander, Australian Forces, Vietnam; and Air Commodore F. S. Robey, Royal Australian Air Force commander, Vietnam; made up the official Australian delegation at the ceremony.

The 27-year delay in the presentation was due to several factors such as the disbanding of the squadron after World War II and the Australian requirement that a unit be in continuous existence for 25 years before it can get its own standard or banner, an RAAF spokesman explained.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, who was then Supreme Commander of all Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific area, recommended the Number 2 Squadron for the award for the period April 18, 1942, to August 25, 1942.

On January 4, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved a U. S. War Department order making the award official. King George VI approved acceptance of the citation April 29, 1943.

In April 1967 the squadron arrived for duty to Phan Rang AB. Since then the 300-man unit has flown more than 8,000 combat sorties against enemy forces. Wing Commander John A. Whitehead, Canberra, Australia Capital Territory, is the current squadron commander.

Two members of the RAAF who were in Number 2 Squadron during the citation period are still serving with the RAAF in Australia.

The men, Warrant Officers E. J. Lee, and C. P. Badger, were flown to Phan Rang to take part in the ceremony. General Brown presented the individual citation ribbon to them.

(Note: This very same article was in Phan Rang News 01 and 83, but I’m repeating it again because not everything in the article was converted to text. By not converting it to text and posting it as a picture, the text is not searchable on a picture, so all of the previous articles that have been posted as pictures, I will eventually repost them in future issues so all text is searchable.)

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”



LYNTON WINN, 1941-2012. ([Sydney Morning Herald, The](#). 03/27/2012.)

Lynton Winn went to Vietnam with the Royal Australian Air Force in the most difficult phase of the war, in September 1970, well after the Tet Offensive, when the US forces were striving to win the war from the air.

His unit, the No.2 Squadron RAAF, was assigned to the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing of the United States Air Force (USAF) and operated from **Phan Rang airbase**, 250 kilometres north-east of Saigon.

The squadron's Canberra bomber aircraft were very effective in low-level precision bombing but they were also vulnerable to gunfire from the ground. One aircraft was shot down; another one was unaccountably lost.

Winn, a graduate of the RAAF's Point Cook academy in Victoria, served with distinction in Vietnam. He was mentioned in dispatches "for the conscientious and selfless efforts he made as officer-in-charge of the administrative flights, to ensure that No.2 Squadron always received the best possible assistance from its supporting elements". He went on to serve in Australia and overseas and became the youngest peacetime group captain in the RAAF.

Lynton Thomas Winn was born in Edgware, London, on September 25, 1941, the son of a World War I aircraft mechanic, Thomas Winn, and Elizabeth (nee Childs). The family migrated to Australia in 1948 and settled in the Wyong-Toukley area on the central coast of NSW, where he completed school.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

He enrolled at the RAAF academy in 1959 and was commissioned in 1962. His first posting was to Townsville, Queensland where he flew Neptune maritime aircraft. In 1963, Winn met a secretary, Beverley Eddy, while swimming at Terrigal beach, and he married her in 1966. In 1967, he was sent to Canada as an exchange air force officer. Their first son, Jeremy, was born there in 1968.

In July 1970, Winn was posted to Vietnam. His service lasted until July 1971 when the squadron completed its deployment, having lost two aircraft and five men. He was posted to Edinburgh RAAF Base in Elizabeth, South Australia, where his younger son, Michael, was born in 1972.

While posted to the United States for 16 months, he did a thesis for a Master of Science in logistic management. Co-written by a USAF officer, it was titled "Foreign military sales legislation: impact on the achievement of United States foreign policy objectives and implication for the Department of Defence."

In July 1977, Winn received the National Medal for 15 years' diligent service in the Defence Force. In October that year, now a wing commander, he became commanding officer of No.11 Squadron, Maritime Surveillance, based in Elizabeth, a position he held for three years. In June, 1981 Winn was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) "for service to the RAAF, particularly as commanding officer of number 11 squadron". In July 1981, at the age of 39, he became a group captain.

Winn retired from the RAAF in January 1982 and became director of studies at the Australian Administrative Staff College (later known as the Graduate School of Management) in Mt Eliza, Victoria, where he worked for seven years.

He then joined Lincolne Scott, the international consulting engineers, to which he brought new ideas and ideals.

"He was often my sounding board through what was a very difficult time in the company," a former colleague said. In 1998, Winn bought Window Warehouse, a seller of windows, doors and security screens, at Mt Gravatt in Brisbane, and put in new systems and adopted a new approach. The business flourished.

He and his wife then took to travelling, touring Europe in a campervan for two years. At home, he raced in sailing regattas with his son Michael, and competed in national sailing

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

championships. Winn was planning a two-year campervan tour of the US when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. He died in Brisbane on February 17 from complications arising from surgery.

His funeral was held in Brisbane on February 24, with a strong RAAF presence. Lynton Winn is survived by his widow, his two sons and four grandchildren.

Decades ago, in a war zone, this man gave this toddler a chance ([*Portsmouth Herald \(NH\)*](#), 11/12/2010)

PORTSMOUTH -- As Thursday's Veterans Day ceremony unfolded in the city, Fred Fulvi carried with him a book of photographs illustrating the story of his service in Vietnam, and of one small boy in particular.

As a member of the U.S. Air Force, Fulvi, who now lives in Portsmouth, served from 1970 to 1971 in Vietnam, where soldiers often visited the local orphanage, bringing doctors along with them.

When Fulvi visited the orphanage, he would often bring clothing and other items sent from home.

"I just love children," he said, adding: "They had so many kids that they said, 'Anyone interested in adopting, feel free to.'"

"I took them up on that offer," Fulvi said.

Fulvi's son, whose name is James Peter Fulvi, was just 18 months old when the two met in the **Phan Rang** orphanage.

"The first time I saw him, I said, 'He don't belong here,'" recalled Fulvi, who at the time already had three children at home in California.

From Vietnam, Fulvi wrote to his wife, Marie, and the children, all under the age of 8, asking for their support in adopting the boy.

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

"I saw the pictures of him and what could I do?" Marie said.

After three trips to the embassy in Saigon, the adoption process was complete, and James traveled to California -- with two Vietnam chaplains -- at the age of 2 1/2.

The family later moved to Portsmouth, and all the Fulvi children graduated from the Portsmouth school system.

James quickly fit in well with the Fulvi's three children, and their father gushes when showing family portraits. The book he carried Thursday showed James' last photo taken in Vietnam, the first taken in California and many others taken of the two while together in Vietnam.

Now 41 years old, James lives in Florida with his wife and two children, Nyla, 5, and Maverick, 9. He works as a firefighter and paramedic. He served three years in the U.S. Army.

"He's strong and determined," Marie said.

On Thursday, Fred Fulvi said the life-changing experience is one that benefitted the entire family.

"If he stayed there, he would have been ostracized. Here, he had a chance at an education, a safe way of life," he said. "It's made a big difference in my life."



“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 111 **“Stories worth telling”**

Air Force Lt. Col. **ROYCE MOSER JR.**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Royce Moser, Versailles, has received the Air Force Commendation Medal, while stationed at Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam.

Dr. Moser, a flight surgeon, and commander of medical services at Phan Rang, was decorated for his outstanding professional skill, knowledge, and leadership while stationed at Ent Air Force Base, Colo.

A 1953 graduate of Versailles High School, he received an A. B. in Biology in 1967 from Harvard College, and his M. D. degree from the Harvard Medical School. (*Daily Capital News, Jefferson City, MO, Thursday, January 21, 1971.*)

Eugene Martin Jr. Arrives in Vietnam on Air Force Duty (*The News, Van Nuys (Calif) - Thursday, August 14, 1969*)

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. **Eugene Martin Jr.**, son of Mrs. Eugene W. Martin, 1148 Justin Ave., Glendale, has arrived to assume the position of chief of safety with the 315th Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam.

Col. Martin served at Hamilton Air Force Base, Cal. prior to his appointment at Phan Rang. He is in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces.

The colonel, who received his commission through the aviation cadet program, is a World War II and Korean War veteran.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1C **John V. Beasley Jr.** son of Mr. and Mrs. John V. Beasley Sr. of 3335 Stephen Drive, Columbus, Ohio, has arrived in Vietnam for duty and will be stationed at Phan Rang Air Base. Airman Beasley is a member of the 821st Combat Security Police Squadron, an elite unit that has been specially trained to repel enemy aggression and provide air base security.

His wife, Carolyn, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Long of 1107 N. Ninth, Haskell, Texas. (*The Abilene Reporter-News, Abilene, Texas, Thursday, September 24, 1968*)

[Click here to make your hotel reservation.](#)

Please make your hotel reservations now!

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 111

“Stories worth telling”

PHAN RANG STAFF MEMBERS

Joseph Burkhart: Master of Ceremonies

Robert Kellington: Tour Coordinator

Jack Anderson: Treasurer

Lou Ruggerio: Site coordinator/Contract negotiator

Douglas Severt: Reunion Coordinator

Ed Downey/Barbara Brandt: Ceremonies

Christopher Boles: Photographer

Kirk Minert: Aircraft Historian

Bob Tucker: Keeper of the Rolls & Badge Board

Joe Kaupa: In Memoriam (new)

Bruce Mueller: Badges (new)

Mike Maleski: Chaplain

Jim Erixson: Associate Chaplain

Bob Howe: Australian Ambassador

FACEBOOK GROUP ADMINISTRATORS

**Douglas Severt, Joseph Burkhart, David McGaughey, Vincent Joseph Miller
(Susan Anderson-Miller) and Kirk Minert**

I hope that you enjoyed this issue of the Phan Rang Newsletter. This newsletter was compiled and published by [Douglas Severt](#). Previous issues of the Phan Rang Newsletter are available [here](#) for download.