

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

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Phan Rang AB News No. 134

**“Stories worth telling”**

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**Pedro: A Little Bird with a Big Job**

**PHAN RANG** AB, Vietnam (Special)-The aircraft is small in size compared to the giant C-5 Galaxy or C-141 Starlifter transports of the U.S. Air Force. It does not compare to the F4 Phantom jet fighter in speed or range, and unlike the F-111, it carries no sophisticated weapons systems.

It has a simple name — Pedro —it's a helicopter, and its mission is to save lives. It is flown by the aircrews of Det. 1, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Sq. here, who are on alert 24 hours daily, ready to scramble -their twin-rotor life-saver to respond to any trouble call from a disabled aircraft or one that has an unsafe condition.

Capt. Mike H. Nelson is a Pedro aircraft commander and a veteran of both base and regional aircrew rescue missions. He said, "We may receive our scramble call from the Phan Rang AB control tower or the Joint Rescue Coordination Center at Tan Son Nhut AB, near Saigon. From the initial call we can plan our mission requirements, we may or may not be needed. But if it is decided that we are needed in the rescue, we'll be there.

Primarily designed as an airborne firefighter, Pedro, a Kaman HH43 Huskie helicopter, doubles its role in Southeast Asia as an evacuation and rescue helicopter. The specially modified Pedros on duty here have increased range and speed and use a 200-foot cable for rescuing downed airmen from tropical jungles.

The helicopter airlifts a team of two aerial firefighters and a medic to the scene of an aircraft crash. The firemen use a fire suppression kit which is slung underneath the aircraft. The kit includes a foam dispenser capable of discharging 850 pounds of foam, enough to clear a path for the evacuation of a downed crew, with the aid of the downwash from the helicopter's rotors.

The detachment has the assigned task of evacuating airmen downed in the Phan Rang area. To do this the helicopter flight mechanic doubles as the hoist operator, and with the aid of the jungle penetrator seat or an evacuation basket, can place a medical technician on the ground to assist the injured and then extract the crew and the medical man to speed them to the nearest medical facility.

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**Pedro taking off with the fire suppression kit. Photo by Christopher Boles**  
*(Seventh Air Force News, date unknown)*

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**VC ROCKET ATTACK GETS QUICK RESPONSE  
SHADOW ON THE SPOT**

The evening started casually enough, Shadow 63's mission following a 6:30 p.m. briefing was to preflight their AC-119 and stand-by on alert until the scheduled takeoff time after midnight.

“Part of the crew was in the aircraft with me assisting in the preflight checks,” related the Shadow pilot, Capt. William R. Casey. “Then suddenly like a clap of thunder, the first incoming rocket exploded without warning barely forty yards in front of our aircraft. There was a large ball of flame and lots of sparks where it hit the steel planking and a cloud of dense black smoke swelled up immediately.

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“The aircraft offered little protection, so as soon as we were sure no following rounds were going to land in the same area, we slid out of the plane and ran in a crouch over to the revetment wall just as the siren started.

“Within a short time, the rest of our crew came roaring up in a truck to announce that we were ‘scrambled’ for base defense, so we piled back into the gunship and seven minutes later were on the takeoff roll.

“The tower advised of damaged to the runway by another rocket impact, so I held to the right side for takeoff”, explained Capt. Casey.

The suspected enemy firing position was less than four miles from the base, so we were over it almost immediately and Capt. Leo Basten our night observation sight operator located what we thought to be the target right away.

“We hadn’t received clearance to fire at that moment, but I was actually looking through the gunsight at their position when the enemy opened up with their second barrage. We advised the base immediately to expect more incoming and returned on the mini-guns as firing clearance came through almost simultaneously.

“We were sure we had Charlie cold this time and were pouring the lead on him when base defence artillery opened up again also. The artillery stuff was splashing all around us and we had to pull out because it was being fired through our altitude. But, we put 3,800 rounds in and felt we’d made it very hot for the lads who had touched off the early evening attack against Phan Rang.”

“To my knowledge, no report of damage was ever received on our strike against those positions;”, commented Capt. Paul Cherenzia, instructor navigator.

Capt. Cherenzia continued, “So we don’t know for sure that we got any of them. But we sure put our rounds into where they were firing from.”

Shadow patrolled the base perimeter with their “big white light” for an hour then landed to regenerate for their regular mission. It didn’t come off on schedule. Just after midnight, they

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were again scrambled to a troop in contact situation 30 miles south of Phan Rang.

However casual the evening may have started, it certainly didn't end that way! But then if you fly with Shadow....

*(Story provided by Bruce Muller. Source: Phan Fare, The Phan Rang Weekly but the exact date is unknown but from information received from **Paul Glasser** who kept a Julian date calendar and marked the days we were attacked in red, he fact checked the date to his contemporaneously kept calendar and it show we were attacked on day 141, or May 21, 1969.)*

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**Vice PACAF Commander Pins Silver Stars on C-123 Pilot, F-100 Pilot, and S. Policeman**

*(Phan Fare, The Happy Valley Weekly, August 1, 1969)*

A camouflaged C-47 Skytrain landed at Phan Rang recently and taxied up next to an open hangar where a group of men were standing in formation.

Stepping down from the plane was Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF).

The general had come to present three Silver Star Medals and two Bronze Star Medals to five members of Phan Rang units and also tour the base.

Included in General Edmundson's official party was Brigadier General Victory N. Cabas, assistant deputy chief of staff, operations PACAF,

Following the awards ceremony, General Edmundson was given a short briefing by Colonel Frank L. Gailer Jr., 35<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing Commander, and then taken on a tour of the base facilities.

A special stop was made at the 315<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing area and the general was shown

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through their facilities. General Edmundson was then escorted to the Phan Rang Officers’ Open Mess where he and his official party had lunch with Colonel Gailer and members of his staff.

General Edmundson departed Phan Rang at the conclusion of the luncheon.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RECIPIANTS**

- **PROVIDER PILOT REED L. STONE.** Major **Reed L. Stone**, 35, Laredo, Texas, received the Silver Star Medal at ceremonies held recently at Phan Rang.

The nation’s fourth highest military decoration was awarded to Major Stone by Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces.

A C-123 Provider pilot with the 311<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron at Phan Rang, Major Stone is assigned to Da Nang Air Base. It was on a mission near Da Nang that the major distinguished himself.

“When we heard that Tien Phuyoc Special Forces Camp was being overrun”, the major began, we suspended our regular scheduled missions and started airlifting supplies to them. When we took off from Da Nang there were 250 special forces troops on board.

“The weather was kind of bad and there was a log cloud deck that made ground visibility difficult. When we got to the camp, we made a pass over the field, lost sight of it and had to come around again. We kept the field in sight all the time on the second pass,” Major Stone continued.

“About half a mile from the end of the runway, a .50 caliber gun opened up on us from across the river. We took three hits in the aircraft. A round hit one of the jet engines and it came aprt, sending turbine blades all through the plane. One blade cut a fuel line and fuel began leaking into the damaged engine. A fire started and we couldn’t put it out because the leading fuel line kept the fire going.”

“We landed the plane and unloaded the cargo. Nobody wanted to hang around, so I made the decision to take off with the burning engine, believing the wind would blow the fire out. We

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taxied down to the end of the runway and took off without jets. We couldn't hear any ground fire, but a FAC (Forward Air Controller) in the area told us later that recoilless rifle fire was following us down the runway. The engine fire was out by the time we were airborne.

“Landing back at Da Nang, we counted several holes in the aircraft. I don't especially want to go through anything like that again,” Major Stone concluded with a small grin.

- **SUPERSABRE PILOT JAMES L. RUSSELL.** First Lieutenant James L. Russell, 26, Benton Harbor, Mich., received the Silver Star Medal at ceremonies held recently at Phan Rang.

The nation's fourth highest military decoration was awarded to Lieutenant Russell by Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces.

An F-100 Supersabre pilot with the 612<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang, Lieutenant Russell tells what happened during the mission that he distinguished himself.

“We were standing alert at Phu Cat one night, he began, “when we were told to scramble. It was pitch black outside. The ground, stars and the horizon were hidden by the darkness.

“We rendezvoused with FAC (Forward Air Controller) and the flare ship at a stop near Da Nang. We were told by FAC that a friendly helicopter went down in the area and the crew was still at the crash site. Two groups of Viet Cong and a group of friendlies were trying to beat each other to the crash area.

“Flares were dropped and we could see the ground easily enough,” he continued. “The friendlies were pretty close, so we had to watch where we were placing our bombs. The lead plane went in the marked the target fairly well with his bombs. I started my pass. The target looked like a big fish bowl of black with tiny lights here the there.

“I noticed as I pulled up that red tracers were flying past my tail. The gunner wasn't very accurate, but he was trying. We made a couple of bombing and strafing passes, taking ground fire now and then. We asked for clearance to hit the gun position, but due to the poor visibility and the nearness of the friendlies, FAC couldn't pinpoint the gun.”

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“But, as we pulled out of our last pass and headed for home, FAC told us that the friendly rescuers were successfully working their way into the crash site. It was the most exciting mission that I’ve ever flown, but I was never so glad to come home from a mission as I was from that one,” Lieutenant Russell finished.

- **SECURITY POLICEMAN LAWRENCE S. KIRK.** Staff Sergeant Lawrence S. Kirk, 33, Tye, Texas, received the Silver Star Medal at ceremonies held recently at Phan Rang.

The nation’s fourth highest military decoration was awarded to Sergeant Kirk by Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson, vice commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces.

On the night of the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 1969, Sergeant Kirk, a security policeman with the 35<sup>th</sup> Security Police Squadron at Phan Rang, was checking mortar positions when the Viet Cong launched their biggest offensive ever against the base.

“I heard some activity out on the base perimeter,,” Sergeant Kirk said, “and I jumped in my Jeep and drove out to the area to find out what was happening. I stopped by a sentry tower and asked the sentry if he knew what was going on. He didn’t know either, so I got back into the Jeep and drove along the fence line until I came to the place where the Viet Cong were trying to get in.”

“I set up a machine gun and called in two heavy weapons teams. Two APCs (Armored Personnel Carrier) arrived and we set up a cross fire and sprayed the area. I went out to the fence line and threw some grenades over the barbed wire. Then I picked up a 90mm recoilless rifle and went down the perimeter to check on some K-9 people, firing through the wire as I went along. After I checked the K-9 people, I went back to the Jeep and waited. When it was daylight, we went outside the barbed wire and made a sweep of the area.” The sergeant concluded.



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### **Spooky Arrives In Nick of Time**

By SSGT. JIM WHITE

**NHA TRANG** (Special ) - "When the compound and the men in it seemed doomed," said Army Capt, Stephen M. Brown, "Spooky arrived overhead. **All of us owe our lives to that Spooky crew. We had absolutely nothing else to help us.**"

Brown, who came to Nha Trang AB to thank the 4th Special Operations Sq. AC47 Dragonship crew which saved him and his men, is an advisor on Advisory Team 25.

The team's compound, 17 miles northeast of Ban Me Thuot in Vietnam's central highlands, had come under intense mortar attack and a heavy ground assault in the pre-dawn hours.

"The enemy had been throwing mortars at us for about 45 minutes when we realized that a sapper unit had penetrated our southwestern perimeter," Brown recalled. "By that time, we had been forced into our bunkers by the mortar rounds and were unable to counterattack.

"The sapper unit was moving about the Compound at will," he continued, "setting satchel charges and hurling grenades into the bunkers. Just as it appeared that we had had it, Spooky arrived,"

Brown, in radio contact with the circling AC47 overhead, informed the crew that all his men were in bunkers and needed help badly.

"I cleared them to fire into the compound," he said. "The resulting firepower riddled the entire compound, caught the enemy in the open, and forced them to turn and run."

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"After the enemy forces began to retreat," said Air Force Lt. Col. Beacher M. Tillman, the AC 47 commander, "we stayed on target dropping flares to support a medical evacuation helicopter".

Told by Brown that the attackers had broken contact and were withdrawing to the southwest, Tillman and his crew followed the retreating enemy force, firing into its escape route.

*(Pacific Stars & Stripes, Wednesday, February 5, 1969, Photo by Billy Clark)*



**Shadow Pops 80 Secondaries**

"The target area looked like a string of firecrackers going off," said Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William C. Dawson after returning in an AC-119G Shadow gunship to his home base at Phan Rang.

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The Lieutenant is a navigator and night optical sight (NOS) device operator aboard a Shadow aircraft. During the night of June 12-13 the Shadow he was on hit three enemy targets causing some 80 secondary explosions.

The navigator on the highly successful mission, Maj. William Taliaferro, told how the mission went: “We took off from Phan Rang at 6:45 last night (June 12) and headed up the coast,” the major said our target was a suspected enemy concentration and storage area between Pleiku and Kontum.

“We arrived at the area by 9:15 and immediately began searching. After we spotted a light on the ground that appeared to be moving, we had Lieutenant Dawson check it out with his infrared light.

“He said it definitely appeared to be an enemy camp site or concentration”. Maj. Taliaferro continued, “We called in the exact coordinates to DASC Alpha and got permission to fire.”

Lt. Dawson interjected with, “We cut loose with all four guns in short bursts. In my night scope I could see a series of secondary chain reaction explosions.”

The twin-engined Shadow circled the area for more than an hour firing 20,000 rounds of ammunition within three-quarters of a mile from where the initial explosion occurred.

Exhausted of ammunition, the Shadow flew into Pleiku Air Base taking on additional ammunition and fuel.

While Shadow was on the ground, Air Force fighter-bombers kept up the attack with heavy ordnance.

At midnight Shadow was airborne again this time headed for an Army outpost at Dak To which had received mortar fire and ground probes. “We circled the area and dropped flares and probed with our big spotlight,” Maj. Taliaferro explained. “When the enemy withdrew, we headed south back to our first target.”

This strike the Shadow crew scored with eight additional secondary explosions bringing thier total of secondary explosions up to 70.

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After being on target for 45 minutes more, low clouds and fog covered the ground forcing Shadow to return to base.

Enroute home Shadow received orders to rake another suspected enemy concentration this time about 16 miles west of Tuy Hoa.

The plane and its eight-man crew returned to its home base landing at 5:30 a.m.

“This was the second best night I experienced in my five months in Vietnam,” said Maj. Taliaferro. “There were small craters all over the area on that Pleiku target. We’re positive we hit a small arms cache.”

Crew members on the mission were: Major Donald R. Horak, pilot; Maj. Richard C. Huston, co-pilot; Maj. Taliaferro; Lt. Dawson; SSgt. Henry J. Young, flight engineers; TSgt. Edmond L. Harmon, Gunner; Sgt. Paul S. Wing, gunner; and SSgt. Ray E. Meckstroth, illuminator operator.

*(Phan Fare, The Happy Valley Weekly, June 19, 1969)*



*(Source: Phan Fare, 24 April 1969)*

## **I Remember the Day I Left Phan Rang**

By Harry Watts

I remember the day I left Phan Rang Air Base RVN 1970. I didn't know how I was gonna leave so I got all my stuff together and went to my duty section to say good bye to my brothers. I called the 02 Squadron 9th SOS I asked them if they had an 02 headed for Cam Ranh Bay they said they did and get down to the operations area ASAP.

The boys at the 600<sup>th</sup> Photo Sq. threw my stuff in the back of their truck and I was there in less than 5 minutes. I got on board the 02 and after a 15 minute or less flight I was at Cam Ranh Bay

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on the flight line.

A follow me truck picked me up out on the runway and brought me to the aerial port and dropped me right on front of the door. As I was walking inside a message came on the public address system for "anyone requiring air transportation to the continental United States please come to the service counter". I was first in line and started my out country processing. I got on that freedom bird and with the rest of my brothers gave a cheer as Vietnam was behind us.

**Thank you Lord for my good fortune that day.**



*(Phan Fare, The Phan Rang Weekly, November 7, 1968)*

The Yanks overpowered the Aussies in recent international volleyball competition at Phan Rang Air Base between all-star teams from the 35<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing and the Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Squadron.

The best of five series came as a result of a challenge issued by Wing Commander David Evans, commander, RAAF Number 2 Squadron to Colonel Frank L. Gailer Jr., commander, 35<sup>th</sup> TFW.

In the first game, the Aussies grabbed an early lead and held on for an easy 15-3 win over the



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Yanks.

The tables were turned in the second match with the Yanks gaining an early upper hand for a 15-6 win.

In the third game, the Aussies jumped in front 6-1 but the Yanks fought back and tied the score 8-8 and then gained their first lead of the game, 10-9. The two teams exchanged leads several times, but the Americans rallied for a close 16-14 victory.

The USAF team jumped to a 9-2 lead in the fourth and final game, and except for a RAAF rally that made the score 12-8, the Yanks were not seriously threatened and went on for a 15-8 win.

**Phan Ranger Passes - Bob Cornwell**



**G'DAY ...** Just a short note to advise you fellas that here in Australia, we lost an absolute Icon of the " ADGIE " ( Airfield Defence Guards ) mustering Saturday night, like myself, he had only been a member of this site for a few short months .... Bob Cornwell, aka " POM " had a massive heart attack and passed away. He was a fiercely loyal ADG (see Phan Rang Newsletter 124 “RAAF Air Defence Guards (ADGs) at Phan Rang” and Phan Rang Newsletter 128 “RAAF Air Defence Group (ADG) “Out Beyond the Wire” a photo”).) all his life and is very well known here in Australia in the Mustering, from the very old to the very new ... some of you will remember

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us ... we were the Aussies that wore the green and went on daylight patrols and night ambushes etc ... probably about thirty of us on the Base at any one time .. Pom was extremely proud of his service **"up the sharp end" ... as we all were of him. RIP Digger ....**



**Korean Operations  
Leave 25 VC Dead**

S&S Vietnam Bureau

**SAIGON** — Twenty-five Viet Cong were killed Thursday by Korean infantrymen and Marines in fighting along South Vietnam's coastal lowlands.

Marines of the 2d Brigade killed 11 enemy soldiers and captured a supply of hand grenades during cave-searching operations a mile northeast of Dien Ban. Nearby, another Marine element engaged an unknown size enemy force, killing four. There were no ROK casualties in either contact.

Three VC were killed by elements of the ROK 9th Div. 10 miles east of **Phan Rang** and four more were added during another contact near Tuy Hoa. Two Korean soldiers died and two more were wounded during the action.

Capital Div. infantrymen killed three Reds.

*(Pacific Stars & Stripes, Sunday, February 9, 1969)*

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**Helicopter Losses Pass 1,000 Mark**

S&S Vietnam Bureau

**SAIGON** — U.S. helicopter losses in combat over South Vietnam went over the 1,000-mark Wednesday as an Army OH6 light observation chopper was shot down 45 miles west of Saigon.

The helicopter crashed five miles southeast of Moc Hoa. One crewman was injured.

The toll climbed to 1,001 Thursday morning when an Army UH1 copter was downed by enemy fire near **Phan Rang**, 170 miles northeast of Saigon. One crewman was killed and another wounded in the crash.

Counting 10 helicopters brought down over North Vietnam, a total of 1,011 U.S. choppers on combat missions have been lost to the Communists since January 1961. The figure represents about one aircraft destroyed for every 10,000 hours of flying time.

Army helicopter gunners killed 21 enemy soldiers Thursday, destroyed 37 of their fortifications and 15 Red sampans. The choppers made 11,432 sorties, with 751 backing Vietnamese ground troops in the Mekong Delta.

Elsewhere in the air over South Vietnam, U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers made 289 sorties Thursday, blasting apart 174 enemy fortifications and 304 bunkers.

*(Pacific Stars & Stripes, Sunday, February 9, 1969)*

**Allies Brace for New Red Attack - Enemy Activity Increases**

*(The Bakersfield Californian, Bakersfield, California, Saturday, March 22, 1969)*

**SAIGON** (AP) — Sharp fighting swirled on three sides of Saigon today following 30 overnight rocket attacks on allied towns and bases. Field commanders were alerted to be ready for an expected “ high point” of enemy activity around the capital this weekend.

Allied forces reported killing 127 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese in four battles north, south and east of Saigon. U.S. casualties were one killed and nine wounded, and South Vietnamese losses were six killed and 28 wounded.

All the U.S. casualties resulted from one four-hour fight in the Mekong Delta, 40 miles south



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of Saigon, when a Viet Cong force attacked 150 infantrymen of the U.S. 9th Division in night positions around the provincial capital of Ben Tre.

The infantrymen called in artillery and helicopter gunships shortly after midnight, and at daybreak the bodies of 42 Viet Cong were found.

On the outskirts of Tay Ninh City, 51 miles northwest of Saigon, 400 South Vietnamese paratroopers fought a two-hour battle with North Vietnamese units and claimed killing 40. Government casualties were five killed and 20 wounded.

South Vietnamese headquarters said the paratroopers also seized a mortar tube, an anti-aircraft machine gun and two bazooka-type rockets.

In another fight 100 miles east of Saigon more than 100 enemy soldiers attacked a government military headquarters shortly after midnight. Spokesmen said South Vietnamese militiamen killed 35 enemy at a cost of one dead and eight wounded.

The fourth action involved Air Cavalrymen of the 1st Division participating in Operation Atlas Wedge, a 10,000-man U.S. counteroffensive aimed at preventing an assault on Saigon. One unit ran into North Vietnamese troops 47 miles northwest of Saigon and called in helicopter gunships, which killed 10 enemy. There were no U.S. casualties.

U.S. spokesman said 300 North Vietnamese have been killed since Operation Atlas Wedge began Tuesday, but the bulk of the enemy force estimated at 7,500 men is evading contact and choosing its own time and place to fight.

About 200 U.S. air cavalrymen were pulled out of the operation today and an officer said: “It looks like they’ve done the most they can do right now.”

More than 40 U.S. B25 bombers dropped 1,200 tons of explosives in an arc northwest to northeast of Saigon Friday and today. Some of the strikes were north of Atlas Wedge, aimed at catching North Vietnamese troops who may have pulled back to jungle base camps in War Zone C.

The U.S. Command reported an Army observation plane and a helicopter were shot down

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Friday. It raised to 2,616 the number of fixed-wing aircraft lost in the war and to 2,453 the number of choppers lost.

Spokesmen said one crewman was killed and another was wounded when the plane was downed in the central highlands 28 miles northeast of Kontum City. Five men were killed when the helicopter was downed 70 miles northwest of Saigon.

U.S. headquarters aid overall military damage and casualties from the latest round of shellings wore “light.”

Among the targets were the headquarters of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division at Dong Tam, 35 miles southwest of Saigon; the big American military base at Phu Bai, just south of Hue; U.S. air bases at coastal **Phan Rang**, and the resort city of Vung Tau.

Some helicopters were reported damaged in 40-round mortar barrage on the 9th Division headquarters.

In a delayed report, headquarters said an enemy sapper platoon of about 30 men blasted their way into the perimeter of a U.S. engineers’ night bivouac near Kontum City Friday morning, killing two Americans and wounding two.

The sappers tossed explosives into construction equipment, causing heavy losses, headquarters said. The bodies of two enemy soldiers killed by counterfire were found in the area, a spokesman said.

**Dear Baldy**

**Dear Baldy,**

**I’ve been told that the excavation behind the base library is a new Security Police two-man bunker. It seems too small for that! Could it be a one-man bunker?**

**Defense-less**

**Dear Less,**

**Believe it or not, that is the new base swimming pool. From looking at it, I see that it is too small for even a one-man bunker!!**

**A Message from Phu Khiên Nguyễn Phước**



**Phu Khiên Nguyễn Phước**

Hello, my name is Khiên, I'm 18 years old and I currently live in Saigon. I grew up with stories, which my dad told me, about the kind, fun-loving GIs that shared C-Rations and Marvel comics with him. My dad still has a huge admiration for US soldiers because he learned most of his English from them.

For most of my life, I was taught in school that American GIs were blood-thirsty killers that ate babies for breakfast (I mean no disrespect). But, my dad's stories helped me see through those lies.

I'm deeply grateful for the sacrifices you made for South Vietnam and the ideals that you fought to protect. I as a youth are fighting for civil rights in Vietnam and the legacies that my forefathers died to achieve.

Once again, I would like to thank the veterans that fought in Vietnam for your sacrifices will never go unheard. May you have a pleasant 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Yours truly, Khiên**

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**PHAN RANG REUNION SHIRTS**



**Here are the costs for the Seattle Reunion 2017:**

**Reunion Fee: \$10.00/person**

**Plate Banquet Dinner: \$50.00/person**

**Beef Banquet Dinner: \$55.00/person**

**Trip to Museum of Flight: \$50.00/person**

You can send your checks at any time from now until September 20th. Send them and make them payable to:

**Happy Valley Reunion**

**826 72nd St SE**

**Auburn, Wa 98092**

**See you in Seattle! October 11<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Here's the latest from the Pacific Northwest**

Seattle 2017 is only 4 months away! **We have only 5 rooms left on our block**, so don't delay!

We may be able to add rooms, but not at the last minute. Get the \$109/night price now!

Use this link for hotel reservations. Don't call! Use the link.

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/.../SEASPDT-PHA-2017.../index.jhtml>

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

Phan Rang AB News No. 134

**“Stories worth telling”**



**Phan Rang Brothers United in a Common Goal...Catching Fish!**



Bob Hoffman  
Dave Pace  
Dave Hooten  
Steve Phillips  
Robert Watson\*

Joe Kaupa  
John Schrank  
Tom Mix  
Vincent Donadio  
Lee Miller\*

Bruce Muller  
Jim Erixson  
David Gile  
Dave Twiller  
Jim Martindale\*

**Did you Know?**

- 1 - Bob Hoffman not only caught a fish, but it's alleged he caught a bird as well.
- 2 - Dave Pace, a non-Phan Ranger caught the biggest fish.
- 3 - Arnett Gill from Design-Apparel donated the boonie hats for every fisherman.
- 4 - PaPa Smerf dreams of being a Cheese Head but then again so does everyone else.
- 5 - Jay and Jena Phillips have been declared AWESOME people by the Vietnam Veterans that



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Phan Rang AB News No. 134      **“Stories worth telling”**  
they admire.

- 6 - The group grilled two salmon after the boat trip.
- 7 - The group discovered the real Washington State Sasquatch.
- 8 - Kudos to Bob Hoffman for organizing this adventure and being such an affable host.

\*Not a Phan Rang Veteran

**615<sup>th</sup> Weapons Loading Crew Reunion  
(That was then, this is now)**

615<sup>th</sup> Weapons loading crew 6-67 to 4-68 at Phan Rang Air Base. Left to right: Sgt's **Dick Breiding, Jim Currie, Bert Davidson, Leo Remillard**. Second picture same order same guys first reunion in Carlisle PA. 50 years to the day we set foot on Phan Rang, June 20, 2017.



**Doug's Comments**

That does it for this newsletter. A lot of us who couldn't make it out to Westport for the fishing expedition anxiously awaited the post from the guys out there and it made us even more anxious to see everyone in October. I hope that you enjoyed this issue of the Phan Rang Newsletter. I'm gathering stories about the "Doom Pussy" for a future issue. If you have any stories or even a picture, please share them with me so that I can combine them with the others. This newsletter was compiled and published by [Douglas Severt](#). Previous issues of the Phan Rang Newsletter are available [here](#) for download.