

In this issue:

2SQN Colours Parade - Vietnam Service

Yellow Jackets Clear Zone

Bigger, Bloodier Battles Yet to Come in Viet Nam

Reenlists in Army While On The Road in Vietnam

Mutiny in Vietnam

Airman of Year Lives It Up

Phan Rang by Horst Faas

Certain Symptoms Seen When Tour Nears End

Serving Our County

The Selling of Phan Rang - Challenge Coins

Phan Rang AB Staff Members

2SQN Colours Parade - Vietnam Service



2 SQN held a parade at RAAF Base Williamtown on 21 September 2018 to honour two unit awards for the Squadron's service in the Vietnam War from 1967-1971. It highlights the Squadron aircrew member's high level of skill throughout the campaign, as well as the support staff who managed a 98% serviceability rate during that time. The awards, in the form of citation pennants, or streamers, were attached to the Squadron Standard during a colours parade.

The first streamer, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, was attached to the Standard by WGCDR Lance Halvorson MBE (Retd) and the second, the US Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat V device, was attached by WGCDR Alan Curr (Retd). Both members

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

were navigators with 2 SQN in Vietnam in 1967 and 1969-1970 respectively.



WGCDR AI Curr (Retd), 2SQN Vietnam veteran, take great pride in attaching the USAF Outstanding Unit Award pennant to the Squadron Standard. Photo SGT Shane Gidall



WGCDR Lance Halvorson MBE (Retd) attaches the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry pennant to the Squadron Standard. Photo SGT Shane Gidall.

Deputy Air Commander Australia, AIRCDRE Guy Wilson, accompanied by the Squadron CO, WGCDR Jason Brown, reviewed the parade and the march past at the completion of the ceremony. WOFF Steven Kmiec uncased and prepared the Standard for the Squadron Standard Colour Bearer, FLTLT James Shelton. Following the attachment of the award streamers, the Squadron Colour Party paraded the Standard in a formal acknowledgement of unit honours for service in the Vietnam War nearly 50 years earlier.



**2SQN Standard in front of an E-7A Wedgetail
Photo SGT Shane Gidall.**

The parade was held on the 2SQN tarmac in front of an E-7A Wedgetail aircraft. Parade Commander, SQNLDR Sam Thorpe, and Squadron members carried out an impressive parade to commemorate the significant occasion. Following the parade, 2SQN Association Vietnam veterans, and their wives/partners, joined Squadron members for a light luncheon at the Squadron HQ.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

2 SQN had previously been awarded the US President Distinguished Unit Citation for the Banda Sea Campaign in 1942. However, the pennant was not attached to the Squadron Standard until 11 July 1969 when the unit was serving at Phan Rang Air Base in South Vietnam.



2 SQN Colour Party parades the Squadron Standard. Photo SGT Shane Gidall.

“It is fatal to enter a war without the will to win it.”

Douglas MacArthur

YELLOW JACKETS CLEAR ZONE

(Phan Fare, The Happy Valley Weekly, November 14, 1968)

Recently two F-100 Supersabre aircraft from the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron “Yellow Jackets” helped clear a landing zone for the army on the edge of IV Corps.

The Pilots, Captain Douglas I. Cook, and Sloan L. B. Brooks, hit an area about five miles northeast of My Tho, on the edge of IV Corps.

“All the runs were real good”, said Captain Cook, “and the Forward Air Controller (FAC) dropped his smoke right on target and our bombs hit right on his smoke. We got some real fine Bomb Damage Assessment, (DBA) including seven enemy structures destroyed and eight damaged; five bunkers destroyed and two damaged, and a large secondary fire we couldn’t quite figure out what was burning, but we think it was one of the structures going up in smoke.”



THE TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE

Vol. CXLIII—No. 8.

TEN CENTS.

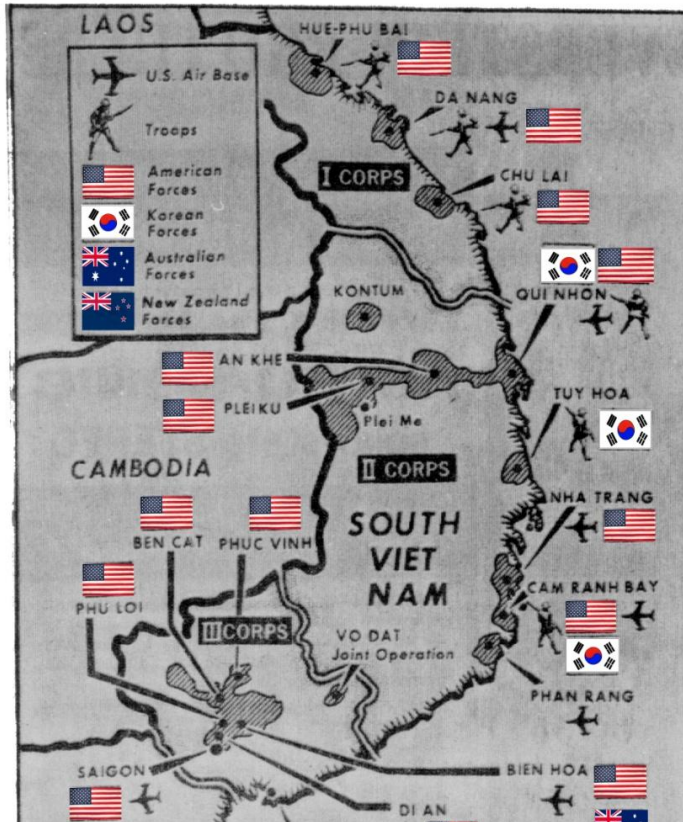
FINAL EDITION

Terre Haute, Ind.

Bigger, Bloodier Battles Yet to Come in Viet Nam

By Peter Arnett

(Terra-Haute Tribune Star, December 4, 1965)



FOREIGN INSTALLATIONS IN VIET NAM - Map shows locations of American, South Korean, Australian and New Zealand troops in South Viet Nam. Shaded zones locate areas of combat between troops of these countries and the Viet Cong.

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (A P) — Despite the huge American buildup, Allied forces in Viet Nam remain in sufficient to carry the fight to the Communist Viet Cong effectively. An important reason: Most U.S. and Vietnamese troops are pinned down by security jobs — including keeping what they hold — so that surprisingly few battalions are available for searching out the Viet Cong.

An influx of troops from Red North Viet Nam has in effect returned the situation to where it was earlier this year, before a surge of new U.S. forces tipped the balance temporarily in the Allies' favor.

The Communists in recent weeks have shown themselves willing to sacrifice hundreds of troops. Man for man they are as well equipped as the U.S.

infantryman and have as much, if not more, firepower. Seldom mentioned any more in Saigon is the U.S. platoon, because of its firepower, could easily wipe out a Viet Cong company.

More Blood Coming

The war now probably will produce bigger and bloodier battles. It seems likely that only if U.S. troops can wipe out large Communist units with the enemy return to the harassing hit-and-run

guerrilla type war.

Allied forces in Viet Nam total a little over 689,000. Of these 170,000 are American, 500,000 Vietnamese, 18,000 South Korean, 1,300 Australian and 300 New Zealand. In addition, the U.S. Navy has major forces deployed off the coast. At least four aircraft carriers and numerous destroyers are in action in the South China Sea all the time. One carrier provides aircraft only for South Viet Nam. Destroyers are used with greater frequency to bombard Viet Cong facilities and provide fire support for villages and out-posts under attack.

U.S. strategy is to punch deep into enemy territory and hold as much of it as required to operate base installations. One U.S. aim is to keep its major base installations outside the range of Communist weaponry.

Battalions Eaten

But putting bases deep in Communist territory, the U.S. command has found, requires plenty of men to defend them, and this defense job has eaten up battalions.

Jungled areas like Chu Lai, An Khe and Ben Cat, where up to six months ago the Communists moved freely, have become American base locations. Now that the bases are set up, the question is: “Where do we go from here?”

The Allied buildup thus far seems at the most to have had the effect of containing the Communists. Open invasion across the border by North Vietnamese troops has drastically changed the picture. New U.S. forces had been brought in early this year to forestall a dangerous Viet Cong buildup. Communist ranks were swollen by southerners who had gone north in 1954 when the country was partitioned, and who returned as indoctrinated “liberators.” Now, countering the U.S. buildup, North Viet Nam has sent in its 325th Division, mainly troops born and bred in North Viet Nam, and set the situation back, from the Allied viewpoint. Both sides in this war are proving ready and willing to fight. The conflict has become something like a boxing match. Each side leaves its corner for a tussle in the center of the ring, then retires to safe territory until the bell rings for another round.

Calvary Pulls Out

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

The U.S. Army’s 1st Cavalry, Airmobile, Division rang it at Ia Drang by helilifting men deep into Red territory. The Communist hammered them, and themselves look heavy losses. The cavalrymen pulled out last weekend.

The Communist side rings the bell by attacking government outposts and base installations.

The 81mm mortar, the Popular Viet Cong weapon, has a range of four to five miles. U.S. commanders say that if they have security up to three miles their main base installations, they are reasonably area safe from accurate enemy mortar fire. But this will change if the communist start using their bigger 75mm pack howitzers more frequently. These have an eight mile range.

As the Americans establish more base areas for heavy artillery, they will need more men to secure them. There is a debate going on between U.S. military headquarters in Saigon wanting bigger artillery in more places, and the U.S. Army 1st division, preferring fewer artillery bases and more freedom for troops to move.

The role of U.S. Marines differs greatly from what it was in other wars. Historically, Marines were beachhead forces. The Army would come in later and the Marines would move on. Now they stay put three coastal enclaves while the Army strikes out.

Make Most of It

Burdened with this semi-garrison duty, the Marines make the most of it by attempting pacification of Vietnamese villages. The Marines figure they have pacified everything within 12 miles of the Da Nang air base, but concede that Viet Cong terrorist still can penetrate defenses, mine roads or launch assaults against the air base.

Pacification is a sideline — a byproduct — so far as U.S. forces are concerned. Base areas have been chosen for military reasons. There is one pacification experiment in the Vo Dat area northeast of Saigon, where U.S. infantrymen guard, farmers harvesting rice. Once the rice is in, the area — like other “pacified” areas — will be turned over to the Vietnam U.S. officials insist it’s an experiment.

Here is how Allied forces are deployed in South Viet Nam:

UNITED STATES

Marines, totaling 40,000 have been assigned to the northern coastal part of the country. In South Viet Nam since February, they have established themselves in three main areas: the Da Nang air base, Chu Lai and the Hue-Phu Bai sector.

Most of the U.S. Marine Corps 3rd Division is at Da Nang, preoccupied with protecting the important airbase. Several Marine Seabee battalions work in the Da Nang area.

One Marine regiment guards the increasingly important Chu Lai air base, 65 miles south of Da Nang, where helicopter and Marine jets are based. Patrols from Chu Lai penetrate about 12 miles into countryside where the Viet Cong operate.

The Marine enclave in the Hue-Phu Bai area devotes itself almost wholly to guarding the airstrip there.

Marine officers say they would like a more aggressive role, but the Marine high command says if its forces can hold the coast and increase control in the lowlands, the Viet Cong can have the mountains and highlands.

“ We want the places where the people are ,” said a Marine officer. “The Viet Cong can have the rest.”

Two Vietnamese army division fights alongside the U.S. Marines in the 1st Corps area of Viet Nam.

A whole division of U.S. troops-the 1st Cavalry, Airmobile Divisions-is based in the An Khe Valley in the middle of Viet Nam. This misty mountain area was envisioned as a jumping off point for airmobile operations using the division’s numerous helicopters. The division engaged in fierce fighting against North Vietnamese troops at La Drang.

One brigade from this division secures the An Khe base area. Another is free to operate against the enemy. A third is in reserve. The central highlands capital, Pleiku, has been a center for the cavalrymen. The highlands town of Kontum north of Pleiku, may be another operating area.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

The 1st Cavalry’s mission is to engage the Communists in a fight to the death. It may have severe actions in the future because the central highlands represent the main infiltration route for the North Vietnamese.

A U.S. Army paratroop regiment from the 101st Airborne Division is based at **Phan Rang**, a fishing village on the coast, 160 miles northeast of Saigon. The 101st is primarily a reacting force for use in emergencies.

Other American installations in the 2nd Corps area include the main U.S. field force headquarters at the coastal city of Nha Trang, and the major project port of Cam Ranh Bay, a few miles south of Nha Trang a huge airfield for jet craft has been completed at Cam Ranh Bay port facilities are being installed.

The U.S. Army 1st Division - the “Big Red One” - is deployed in four areas north of Saigon. One brigade is at the Bien Hoa air base, another at Ben Cat, and the third at the lonely town of Phuoc Vinh, beside Zone D. The division headquarters is at Di An, about 17 miles northeast of Saigon.

Attached to the 1st Division is the 173rd Airborne Brigade has made many probes into the southern fringes of Zone D. Other 1st Division battalions have patrolled into Viet Cong areas. But the main work up to now has been to secure bases of operation. As more heavy artillery comes in more men will be needed to protect it because the Viet Cong seeks to knock out these pieces. As of now, the “Big Red One” probably has five battalions available for aggressive actions against the Viet Cong.

Part of the 1st Division region is Zone C, north of Tay Ninh where no American troops have yet stepped. The U.S. Air Force, using jet bombers and B52s, has done the job in Zone C up to now. Eventually the 1st Division may have to go in.

U.S. helicopters have made a base of the old Japanese airfield at Phu Loi, 20 miles northeast of Saigon. U.S. armored and artillery units are there.

Saigon remains the main headquarters for U.S. forces, the seat for Maj. Gen. William C.

Westmoreland, U.S. forces commander.

SOUTH KOREA

Aiding the Vietnamese army’s two divisions in the highlands is the Korean Capital Division nicknamed “Tiger.” Two Korean regiments numbering 10,000 men are based in the coastal city of Qui Nhon, due east of An Khe, providing security for the U.S. Logistic bases there. The Koreans sometimes move out on pacification operations 10-15 miles from Qui Nhon.

A Korean battalion recently moved down to Tuy Hoa, south of Qui Nhon, to help secure the town after Viet Cong troops knocked out several Vietnamese platoons in the area.

The Koreans have 6,000 Marines at Cam Ranh Bay on security duty, and troops at Di An, north of Saigon, building roads and bridges.

Korea is the only foreign ally with a complete hospital which treats Vietnamese as well as Korean wounded and Americans.

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND

The 1,300 men from the Royal Australian Regiment, based at Bien Hoa, are under command of the U.S. 1st Division. They have been used mainly in search and clear operations around Bien Hoa. Occasionally they move into Zone D on search and destroy missions. They are supported by New Zealand artillery men using lightweight Italian artillery pieces that can be easily maneuvered.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE

South Viet Nam’s army has 11 divisions and numerous smaller groups such as the rangers, marines and airborne troops. Some joint operations have been held with U.S. and other Allied troops. A few operations have been directly under U.S. command.

U.S. troops have scrupulously avoided the populated areas around Saigon and in the Mekong Delta, where more than a third of South Viet Nam’s population lives. The delta Vietnamese have been traditionally hostile to foreigners and the U.S. command seems to have deemed it better to stay away from them for the time being.

New air bases are springing up across Viet Nam. There once were three main bases — Bien Hoa, Saigon and Da Nang. Now there are seven. The new ones are at Qui Nhon, Nhatrang, Chu Lap and Cam Ranh Bay. A big one is being constructed at the coastal town of **Phan Rang**.

“Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Reenlists in Army While On The Road in Vietnam

(La-Marque-Times-May-28-1969)

PHAN RANG - The 589th Engineer Battalion's latest re-enlistment could well have reflected the "avant-grade" in the U. S. Army recruiting. It was an on-the-road affair involving inter-company cooperation. The occasion was the re-enlistment of SP4 **Samuel Sparks** of the 589th's C Company.

A convoy headed by Battalion Sergeant Major C. E. Moore and Sergeant First Class Rudy Smith, the 589th's career counselor, departed Battalion headquarters to meet a convoy carrying C Company Commander, Captain Richard Comiso and SP4 Sparks at a point along QL-11 midway between Phan Rang and Song Pha.

On their way to the meeting point SGM Moore and SFC Smith were delayed along QL-11 at a B Company bridge site because they did not have anyone to escort them to their destination for security purposes.

1Lt Nick Lapoevic, a B Company platoon leader then offered to escort them to complete the re-enlistment. As it turned out, representatives of three companies were present to see SP4 Sparks re-enlist for six years.

SP 4 Sparks, a heavy vehicle driver, will have spent almost 20 months in country when he returns to the states in September. A native of Dickinson, Texas, he is the son of Mr and Mrs Henry Sparks of the same town. A 1967 graduate of Dickinson, Texas, High School SP4 Sparks previously worked as clerk/checker before joining the Army.

“War is hell.”

Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman

Mutiny in Vietnam

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

(Brisbane Courier, November 24, 1954)

SAIGON, November 24 (A.A.P.) - A minor mutiny by troops aligned with the South Vietnam premier (Ngo Dinh Diem) has been crushed by forces loyal to the Army Chief of Staff, (General Nguyen Van Minh).

The mutiny staged by 350 troops in the seaport town of Phan Rang, 150 miles north-east of Saigon. The mutiny was put down within 48 hours, but its end left the struggle for power in South Vietnam between the Premier and the General farther than ever from decision.

Premier Diem called the Phan Rang troops 'loyalists.' The army called them 'mutineers.'

“We never understand the real value of someone, until that someone becomes a memory.”

Airman of Year Lives It Up

(Pacific-Stars-and-Stripes-March-16-1967)

A1C **James Sprinkle**, Pacific Air Forces' First-Term Airman of the Year loads bombs on fighter planes at Phan Rang AB. He is enjoying his reward of a week-long holiday in Japan. Sprinkle, 23, who loads bombs on fighter planes at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, won \$109 expense money, a seven-day leave and jetliner tickets to Japan for his "outstanding performance and devotion to duty" while assigned to the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, he hails from New Albany, Ind. (USAF)

**Phan Rang
by Horst Faas**

(Findlay-Republican-Courier-Sep-29-1966)

PHAN RANG, Viet Nam (AP) - At the foot of an ancient crumbling temple on the central Vietnamese coast six giant airstrips stretch into one of the most powerful jet fighter bomber bases of the U.S. Air Force in Southeast Asia.

It is operated solely by the United States and is strictly for fighting. No supply missions are flown from Phan Rang.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

More than 6,000 combat sorties have been launched from Phan Rang since March. The number of bombs dropped on the enemy is classified, but fuel consumption averages 300,000 gallons a day.

The six landing strips are 200 feet wide and 10,000 feet long. They are cut into reddish rocks and sand 10 miles inland from the South China Sea. The base is 160 miles northeast of Saigon the almost exact center of the South Vietnamese coastline.

About 100 U.S. Air Force jets — a squadron of F-4C Phantoms and four squadrons of F-100 supersabres — are stationed here. They strike anywhere in the Viet North.

THE AIR FORCE calls it a "bare base." There are no permanent buildings, no warehouses and no harbor. Tanks receive fuel pipelines from tankers in the South China Sea. Bombs are delivered by landing craft, truck convoys and cargo planes.

Security is provided by about 1,000 soldiers of the Korean Tiger Division and a battalion of Vietnamese Army troops. They are supported by the largest team of scout dogs in Viet Nam—100 dogs with American handlers.

The headquarters of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division is only one mile away. But the paratroopers cannot do much for the air force. Except for a small base guard they have been away on operations most of the time since they arrived. Viet Cong activity was virtually nonexistent in the Phan Rang area until the Americans arrived in early 1965 and started building air strips. It has steadily increased since then. Recently the guerrillas attacked the fuel pipe line several times. In the worst attack 10,000 gallons were destroyed.

THE PREDOMINANT NATIVES in the areas immediate vicinity are Chams, a steadily diminishing people that 2,000 years ago ruled Viet Nam. The Chams' reddish temple stands above the airstrips on a rocky hillside where it was built 1,200 years ago.

Most of the Viet Cong operate from a coastal salt flat some five miles south of the U.S. base. U.S. officers also say the VC maintains a training camp for about 500 guerrillas in the Je Mountains 12 miles to the northwest. The bombers of Phan Rang Base have not struck these

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

nearby targets since the province chief has not asked for bombings. He is the only authority that can approve them in Ninh Thuan Province.

Phan Rang is a link in a complex of U.S. bases along the coast. Thirty miles north is the vast logistic center at Cam Ranh Bay. This supply harbor and depot is also under sole control of the U.S. Armed Forces. Cam Ranh still serves partly as a fighter air base but Phan Rang is expected to take over all this activity soon.

Thirty miles farther north is Nha Trang, headquarters of the U.S. 2nd Field Force, which is similar to an army command.

National Highway 1 and a railway connect Phan Rang, Cam Ranh and Nha Trang. The road is traveled by well protected American convoys. The train does not carry U.S. military supplies because there are still too many Viet Cong incidents — but it is hoped that the track can soon be secured. Armored boxcars roll in front, and U.S. Air Force spotter planes fly overhead when the daily train trundles up past the six big airstrips, stops at the giant harbor supply base and rolls into Nha Trang in the late afternoon.

Certain Symptoms Seen When Tour Nears End

(Phan Fare, The Happy Valley Weekly, December 26, 1968)

There comes a time in the Vietnam tour of every airman when certain symptoms appear. Self-diagnosis is easy and the inevitable answer is you know you've been at Phan Rang Air Base nearly a year when:

...200 P doesn't seem high at all for a glass of Saigon tea.

...your shot record's full.

...seeing a movie four times is commonplace.

...Red Horse completes a Red Horse Project.

...you have 11 copies of Playboy.

...you can open your mailbox with your eyes closed and using your left hand.

...you've heard five different stories of when your port call is coming in.

...you've rolled down the hill from the NCO Club more times than you've walked down.

...you can walk anywhere on base blindfolded.

...you can recite the names of all the local bars in alphabetical order.

...the guys at the MARS station know you by your first name.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

...you're freezing to death and it's only 68 degrees.
...you think movies are made with the best parts cut out.
...you have more jungle fatigues than the 538 section.
...you've got more paperbacks than the NYC public library.
...the guy you think you're shorter than, left yesterday.
...you know Chris Noel's address by heart..
...you think the only adult magazines are Playboy and Cavalier.
...you've forgotten how much postage goes on a letter.
...clear water looks odd to you.
...you've figured out the sum of all the tail numbers of aircraft on the base.
...your replacement asks you if you're short.
...the sight of a 707 really turns you on.

(Note: Phan Rang Newsletter 169 will have *“You Know You’re New at Phan Rang Air Base When”*.)

Serving Our Country



Orange Boy Hurt in Vietnam - **Raymond Gamache** has informed his parents of injuries he received in South Vietnam. He is hospitalized and in hopes of being moved to Chelsea Naval Hospital soon. SP4 Raymond Gamache, 18, son of and Mrs. Roland Gamache, Sr., of 9 Rogers Ave., in a letter dated July 3, informed his parents he had been shot through a shattering the bone about four inches below the knee. For the past four months he had been serving with the 48th Helicopter Company in Phan Rang. He was wounded while on a resupply mission in the mountains near Phan Rang, about 200 miles northeast of Saigon, and it took only five minutes

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

to get him to the Phan Rang Air Force Base, he said. The family said yesterday that Gamiache is presently in a hospital in Japan. In Vietnam he had been maintaining and servicing "Huey" helicopters. He has been in the service since September, 1966, and is a Mahar Regional School graduate of that year. (*Greenfield Recorder, July 18, 1967*)

Sergeant **Peter O. Lutz**, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Lutz Sr., 2140 Madison St., has received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service in Vietnam. Sergeant Lutz distinguished himself as a supply specialist at Phan Rang Air Base and was cited for his outstanding professional skill, knowledge and initiative. He was honored at Peterson Field, Colo., where he now serves with the 4600th Supply Squadron, a unit of the Aerospace Defense Command which protects the U.S. against hostile aircraft and missiles. The sergeant is a 1966 graduate of Pacelli High School. His wife, Marjorie, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asbury Nix, 1541 Ellis St. (*Stevens Point (Wis.) Daily Journal Friday, January 16, 1970*)

Glouster Man Given Commendation Medal - Master Sgt **William R Dunlap Jr.** son of Mr. and Mrs. William R Dunlap Sr., 20 Spring St., Glouster, has received the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. Dunlap was decorated for meritorious service as a communications superintendent at Empire Air Force Station. Mich. He was cited for his outstanding professional skill, knowledge and initiative. The sergeant is now at Phan Rang Air Base serving with a unit of the Air Force Communications Service which provides global communications and air traffic control for USAF operations. He is a 1950 graduate of Glouster High School. His wife is the former Janet E. Holder Cheltenham. England. (*Athens-Messenger-Dec-07-1969*)

U.S. Air Force M.Sgt. **Eugene R. Iwanski** of Route 1, Junction City, was decorated with the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam by Col. Gregg P. Nolan Jr. commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. Sgt. Iwanski. son of Mr. and Mrs. B . W. Iwanski distinguished himself at Phan Rang as an aircraft maintenance superintendent while participating in aerial flight and was cited for his outstanding airmanship and courage on successful and important missions completed under hazardous conditions. The sergeant's .wife, Sara, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Sheets, Auto, W. Va. (*Stevens Point (Wis.) Daily Journal Thursday, August 5, 1971*)

Airman 2/C **Richard A. La Chance**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence La Chance of Rte. 1, Rapid River, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. La Chance, an aircraft equipment repairman, is a

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

member of the Pacific Air Forces which provides offensive defensive airpower for the U. S. and its allies in the Pacific, Far East and Southeast Asia. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to the 4510th Field Maintenance Squadron at Luke AFE, Ariz. The airman is a graduate of Perkins High School. (*Escanaba-Daily-Press-August-04-1967*)

With U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam—Sergeant **Franklin D. Wingo**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Wingo, 2208 13th Ave N, Texas City, is on duty at Phan Rang AB., Vietnam. Sergeant Wingo, an air operations supervisor, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he served at Kingsley Field, Oregon. The sergeant, a 1956 graduate of Texas City High School, attended Lee Junior College Baytown. His wife is the former Nancy G. Flint. (*La-Marque-Times-March-26-1969*)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Airman First Class **Roger L. Landry**, son of Mr and Mrs C. P. Landry, 416 19th Ave N. Texas City is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Airman Landry, a radio repairman, is in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to 4510th Combat Support Wing at Luke AFB, Arizona. The airman is a graduate of Texas City High School. (*La-Marque-Times-March-26-1969*)

WITH U.S. COMBAT FORCES, Vietnam — Sergeant **August J, Fiesel**, son of Mr and Mrs August J. Fiesel Jr of 2710 John Drive, was recently decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Fiesel distinguished himself by meritorious service as an aircraft support equipment repairman at Phan Rang. He serves with Pacific Air Forces. The sergeant is a 1968 graduate of Kirwin High School, Galveston. His wife, Joan, is the daughter of Mr and Mrs M.V. Ellis of 202 10th Ave. W, Texas City. Colonel Cregg P. Nolan Jr, commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, made the presentation. (*La-Marque-Times-June-16-1971*)

Glouster Man Given Commendation Medal - Master Sgt **William R Dunlap Jr.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Dunlap Sr., 20 Spring St., Glouster, has received the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. Dunlap was decorated for meritorious service as a communications superintendent at Empire Air Force Station. Mich. He was cited for his outstanding professional skill, knowledge and initiative. He was presented the award by his squadron commander, Major John R. McWilliams. The sergeant is now at Phan Rang serving with a unit of the Air Force Communications Service which provides global communications and air traffic control for US AF operations. He is a 1950 graduate of Glouster

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 168 **“Stories worth telling”**

High School. His wife is the former Janet E. Holder Cheltenham. (*The Messenger, Athens, Ohio - Monday December 8, 1969*)

DECORATED WITH MEDAL - U.S. Air Force SSgt. **Donald R. Birdsong**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Birdsong, 340 Marble street, Buchanan, has been decorated with the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Birdsong a flight engineer, received the medal for his outstanding airmanship and courage on successful and important missions completed under hazardous conditions. He is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces at Phan Ragn. Birdsong is a 1959 graduate of Buchanan high school. His wife is the former Donna M. Welch. (*The News - Palladium, Benton Harbor, Michigan - Wednesday, July 9, 1969*)

**THE SELLING OF PHAN RANG
Challenge Coins**



PRICE
\$8 each. Price includes postage.

Please send remittance to **Jack Anderson, 826 72nd St. SE, Auburn, WA 98092.**

Make checks payable to Phan Rang Reunion and please indicate number of coins. If you are sending a check for other reunion payments, please do not add coins to that check, but write a separate check. **Please be advised that orders will be fulfilled as soon as the coins are received from the manufacture.**

PHAN RANG AB STAFF MEMBERS

Like any great community, it's the dedicated volunteers that make our community GREAT!

PHAN RANG STAFF MEMBERS

Douglas Severt: President

Lou Ruggerio: Vice-President

James Kucipeck: Secretary

Jack Anderson: Treasure

Ed Downey/Barbara Brandt: Drill & Ceremonies

Christopher Boles: Photographer

Kirk Minert: Aircraft Historian

Bob Tucker: Keeper of the Rolls

Joe Kaupa: In Memoriam Board

Bruce Muller: Badge Board

Jim Erixson & Charles Simmons: Chaplains

Bob Howe: Australian Ambassador

Kristina Ho: Vietnamese Ambassador

Doug Severt: Facebook Administrator

Kirk Minert: Facebook Administrator

Bob Tucker: Facebook Moderator

Joe Schwarzer: Facebook Moderator

Kristina Ho: Facebook Moderator

American-Australian Reunion

Greg Schmidt - Chairman

**Jack Anderson, Lou Ruggiero, James Kucipeck, Doug Severt, Bob Howe
and Arthur Rennick** - Members

Skip Ruedeman: Place Reunion info in VFW Mag.

Lou Ruggerio: Place reunion info in AFA Mag. & VVofA Newspaper

I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter and if you have any comments, please let me know. This newsletter was composed by **Douglas Severt**. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, reply to mailto:dougsevert@cox.net and put ‘unsubscribe’ in subject line.