

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 169 **“Stories worth telling”**

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2019 Phan Rang Reunion Update

366TH Units In Viet Nam Shift

(Alamogordo (N.M.) Daily News, Friday, October 21, 1966)

HOLLOMAN — Movement of F-4C Phantom and B-57 Canberra units and the opening a 10,000-foot concrete runway at the Phan Rang air base were announced last week by the Air Force in Viet Nam.

Units shifted were Phantom- equipped 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron, formerly of Holloman, from **Phan Rang** to the Da Nang air base. The Canberra units transferred from Da Nang to **Phan Rang**.

Concurrent with the transfer, the parent wing designations along with their attached squadrons at the two bases were switched. The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing is now at Phan Rang and the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing is now at Da Nang.

Only the Phantom and Canberra aircrews and some support men were physically transferred.

The movement and unit designations were part of Air Force’s “bed down” program for its organizations in Viet Nam.

The transfer joined the with two sister Phantom squadrons-the 390th and 480th - at Da Nang, the Air Forces most northern major air base in Viet Nam.

The newly completed runway at **Phan Rang** is capable of handling the largest transports and faster jet fighter operating in this combat zone.

Col. George S. Weart, 46, of Chicago, the 35th commander, was first to fly a Phantom off the **Phan Rang** runway to signal its opening and end seven months of operation from an aluminum matting strip. **Phan Rang** has been used by the Air Force since March when Phantom crews of the 389th arrived from Holloman.



Tuesday Morning, December 26, 1967

72 Pages in Seven Sections

Crew Celebrates Christmas

-Aboard U.S. Warship

ABOARD THE USS RANGER, GULF OF TONKIN (UPI) - A Bellevue, Neb, Army sergeant and his reunited Navy son thinking of mother at home. A Roswell, N.M, sailor awakened to meet his long separated brother, A Bellair, Tex., bomber pilot talking of home.

This was Christmas aboard the U.S.S. Ranger, prowling the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam launching air raids against the country with the best air defense ever used in wartime.

Sunday night at six, the 24- hour Christmas truce was at hand. The air raids shopped.

It was time for opening presents thinking of loved ones at home going to mass, writing letters or watching the movies “Cleopatra” or “Whose Afraid of Virgin Woolf?” - or being alone.

PETTY OFFICER Lamar Moorhead 27 of Roswell N.M., was sleeping when somebody shook him.

Hey you better get up and get ready. “Your brother’s coming aboard.”

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Two hours later, there was his brother Army Sgt J. B. Moorhead, 24, whom he had not seen in 3 years.

“A pretty good Christmas present” Lamar said.

Moorhead is with the 1st Infantry Division north of Saigon. He was one of 13 fathers and brothers the Navy brought aboard for reunions with relatives on the Ranger.

SSGT. Donald Benedict of Bellevue Neb., last saw his son, Navy Electronics Technician Dennis Benedict, last July-before they both left for war.

“She’ll be happy we’re together,” Donald said of his mother. “But I wish we could be back.”

“She’ll be lonely this year,” his son said.

Sgt. Lewis Ortis of Antonio, Colo. was in his quarters in **Phan Rang**.

“I got the word to go to Da Nang or Saigon,” he said.

HE WAS MET by his brother, Gunner’s Mate Roger Ortis. They hadn’t seen one another for 12 years, the day of their father’s funeral.

When Lt. (J.G .) Al Jones, 26, of Shady Side, Md. And Lt. (J.G .) Rusty Scholl, 24, of Bellaire, Tex. got back from their 13th bombing mission over North Vietnam, their thoughts turned to home.

“We’d probably be getting ready to go visiting,” said Scholl. His wife and five-month-old son are with her parents in San Antonio.

IN THE SHIP’S post office Postal Clerk Harry Sanders of Alameda, Calif, worked furiously. The Ranger is handling Christmas mail for 16 ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. Six more tons of mail was about to arrive. It was just about time, he figured, to be tucking his three children in bed at home. He had little time for thoughts of home.

“As soon as one load of mail is cleaned out, another hits us,” he said. He had two helicopters

shuttling back and forth from the carrier to other ships delivering Christmas packages, including a Christmas tree from Seattle.

IN THE GALLEY. Ensign Ned Duffy, 25, of Pawtucket, R. I., spent the first Christmas away from his wife and two children.

“Being so busy with this Christmas Dinner doesn’t give us too much time to think about home,” Duffy said. He is the ship’s food officer. His 30 men worked nearly 10 hours apiece to make Christmas dinner a success.

Quartermaster Rodney Colson, 20, of Riverview, Fla. had his own plans for Christmas.

“I’ll write a couple of letters,” he said. “It’s like any other day out here.”

“THE GLOW OF ONE WARM THOUGHT IS TO ME WORTH MORE THAN MONEY” - Thomas Jefferson

Douse Hot Spots
Airborne Soldiers Dubbed ‘Firemen’

By RICHARD MERRON

(The Morning Herald, Uniontown, Fayette County Pa., Wednesday, July 13, 1966)

DAK TO, South Viet Nam (AP) — Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, have come to be known as the firemen in Viet Nam. They do a lot of moving from hot spot to hot spot.

“When we first came in (last July 29) we were assigned the radio call sign ‘Grand Nomad’,” A young officer recalled today. We have certainly lived up to the name.”

Part of a division called the Screaming Eagles, they have spent a total of three weeks in their base camp at **Phan Rang**, on the South China Sea coast 160 miles northeast of Saigon.

All the rest of the time they have been on the go.

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They had their first major engagement shortly after reaching Viet Nam, They were assigned to secure a central highlands area around An Khe for the arrival of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. A battalion of Screaming Eagles, lifted by helicopters, cleared out a Viet Cong base camp after 24 hours of heavy fighting.

From that battle and later ones, field commanders such as Lt. Col. Henry Emerson of Milford, Pa. of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, were able to devise new tactics to deal with an elusive enemy who would not fight the conventional war taught at the Army's service schools.

"If you study past battles in history, you'll find that flexibility is the most important element," Emerson said.

To apply this principle, the tall West Pointer has developed what he calls a checkerboard concept.

"This concept," Emerson said, "means the deployment of small units over large areas to find 'em, fix 'em and finish 'em.

"The small units, using guerrilla tactics, find them and fix them. Once found and fixed, the action reverts to conventional warfare, with large units called in to finish them with envelopment and heavy fire support."

The tactics have provided new problems for the people supplying forward combat troops.

The checkerboard concept entails small units' staying in the field for periods up to a week, avoiding helicopter resupply in order not to give away their position.

One platoon leader said, "There is nothing worse for a trooper's morale than to be handed a week's supply of C-rations weighing upwards of 30 pounds."

The brigade has had several military victories against the Viet Cong, but just as important to Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, the brigade commander, have been the victories while working for the Vietnamese people.

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"**The Screaming Eagle**," Pearson said, "has two wings. One represents the warrior and the other the diplomat."

While the paratroopers were securing the area around the coastal city of Qui Nhon for the incoming Korean Capital Division last fall, they uncovered 200 tons of enemy rice, the largest cache found by an American unit to that date. The rice was distributed to the people of the area through Vietnamese officials.

BUILDING THE ‘CONCRETE SKY’



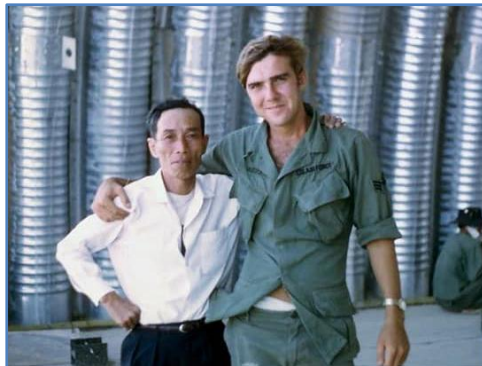
All photos by Sgt. William Arvo, 554th CES (Heavy Repair)



Local Nationals, Chams and Vietnamese are trucked to the construction site.



Concrete truck arrives at the construction site.



Sgt. William Arvo, 554th CES poses with the Local National ‘Honcho’.



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Members of the 554th CES work right along with the local nationals.



Sgt Arvo stated, “Building “Concrete Sky” was not easy..had to be damn near a mountain climber!”

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Concrete being poured on the structure. Construction occurred in the fall of 1969. The concrete had to be pumped to the top of the structure via a special concrete pump.



View from the top before concrete was poured.

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Here freshly poured concrete is being smoothed to create the base for the ‘Concrete Sky’. In the background are the metal structural pieces waiting to be lifted into place by a crane and then bolted together.



Capt. Kraybill of Pittsfield Heads Medical Team

(Journal Courier, Jacksonville, Ill, May 2, 1971)

WITH U .S . COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam - A “model hamlet” is one training tool Captain William G. Kraybill of Pittsfield uses on his special assignment at Phan Rang, Vietnam.

Captain Kraybill heads a four-man U.S. Air Force medical team that is helping conduct the U.S. Military Public Health Assistance Program at Phan Rang and the surrounding area.

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The team has had the triple mission of primarily instructing their Vietnamese counterparts as they help implement public health programs in nearby hamlets and provide patient care at the Ninh Thuan Provincial Hospital in down town Phan Rang.

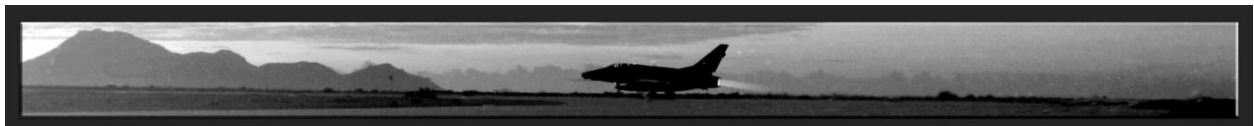
A model hamlet established by the Vietnamese under the guidance of earlier U.S. medical personnel, has provided the Air Force team a vital example of what improved facilities can do for a community. Confronted with the visual result and guidance by Captain Kraybill’s team, other Vietnamese officials and villagers have undertaken a variety of similar projects that range from improved sanitation to immunization programs. In the area of medical care, Captain Kraybill and his teammates have encountered diseases practically unknown in the United States, including leprosy, plague and spinal tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is their concern, with some 30 to 40 patients treated each of the two days the clinic is in operation.

Commenting upon discovering the disease in its early stages, Dr. Kraybill said, “It is significant too that the people are coming in more freely. They are aware now of the dangers of not taking steps to protect their health. Once something like this starts snowballing, effective public health becomes a reality.”

Services of the team are also supplemented by three professional specialist who travel from the big Air Force hospital at Cam Ranh Bay to Phan Rang for regularly scheduled visits.

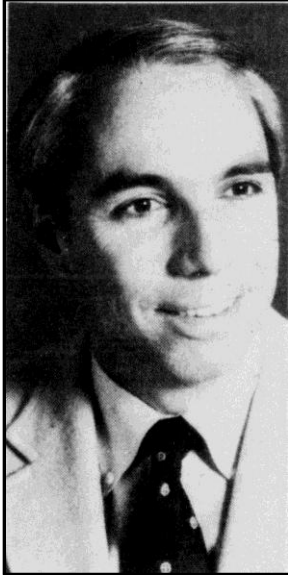
In conducting the three-fold program, Captain Kraybill and his teammates agree that the language barrier has been their greatest handicap because in the case of some English words, there is no Vietnamese equivalent.

The 28-year-old physician, son of Mrs. W. G. Kraybill, Sr., of Pittsfield, is a 1961 graduate of Pittsfield High School. He received his A.B. degree in biology in 1965 from Earlham College, Richmond Ind., and his M.D. dress in 1964 from the University of Cincinnati.



Former Defiance man Joins Vanderbilt staff

(The Crescent News, Wednesday, May 25, 1983 Defiance, Ohio)



Spengler

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - A Defiance native has been appointed to the chairmanship of a department at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Dr. Dan Spengler has been named chairman of the department of orthopedics and rehabilitation. He succeeds Dr. Arthur Brooks, who has served as acting chairman of the department since August 1981.

Spengler, 41, is the son of H. A. (Mike) Spengler and the late Wilhelmina Spengler. He graduated from Defiance High School in 1958 and from Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, in 1962.

Before joining the staff at Vanderbilt, he was at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where he was professor of orthopedics as well as director of the Orthopedic Bone Research Lab at Veterans Administration Hospital, Seattle. After graduating from University of Michigan Medical School in 1966, Spengler served his internship at King County Hospital, Seattle. He then served residencies in both general surgery and orthopedics at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, before serving a fellowship in biomechanics at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

He joined the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1974 as an assistant professor of orthopedics.

One of his chief research interests in spine problems. He has published numerous articles on the subject, was involved in production of a movie on spiral stenosis, and is author of “Low Back Pain: Evaluation and Management,” published in 1982. He has participated in the American-British-Canadian Orthopedics Exchange Fellowship of the American Orthopedic Association, spending the spring of 1981 in Great Britain.

Spengler served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1970, spending a year at Milhap Hospital in Phan Rang, Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star for meritorious service.

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Dr. Roscoe Robinson, vice-chancellor for medical affairs at Vanderbilt, said, “We are pleased that Dr. Spengler has accepted this important departmental chairmanship and are confident that he will sustain and enhance the excellent work currently underway in orthopedics and rehabilitation.”

Added Dr. John Chapman, dean of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine : “The chairmanship in medical schools is a key position from which one can place in motion the collective energies and interests of the department in programs of education, research, and clinical science. Dr. Spengler is well qualified to undertake these key responsibilities.”

Spengler, his wife, Cynthia, and their two children will be relocating to Nashville in the near future.



MSgt. Gettle Writes From DaNang Base

(The Daily Gazette, Sterling-Rock Falls, Illinois, Friday, October 28, 1966)

A letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gettle from their son, M.Sgt. George Gettle who had been serving in Phan Rang but was recently sent to DaNang. The letter was written on Friday, October 14, and portions of it reads as follows:

Dear Mom and Dad,

We arrived at Da Nang at 4:30 a.m. on the 11th of October, dropped our bags in the barracks, checked in, then went right to work the same day.

I got to bed last night for the first time in three and one half days, and got about four hours sleep all together. I intended to write last night when I got off work but by the time I wrote Molly and the boys I fell asleep so didn't get yours written.

We are working 12 hour shifts. Boy! That sure is different than the eight hour shifts we were working at Phan Rang. The Air Base here is much nicer and larger than the one at Phan Rang. The difference is that this base is built up a lot more and closer together. We have only one

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mile to go to work where at Phan Rang we had six.

There are cement ramps for the aircraft and plenty of room for them. We have three squadrons of F-4C aircraft. The Marines have a couple of aircraft squadrons and the Army and Navy each have several squadrons.

There is also a lot of Air Force aircraft here. Even the Vietnamese have aircraft here. There are two main runways and they are packed day and night. They estimate that a plane lands and takes off every 32 seconds during the day. We also have a bunch of helicopters and the civilian airlines which come in.

This is the main landing point for the wounded, and they come in and out of here.



Orange Youth Hurt In Vietnam

(Greenfield Recorder, July 17, 1967)

ORANGE —An Orange boy has informed his parents of injuries received in South Vietnam. He is hospitalized and is 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 has parents he had been shot through a leg shattering the bone about four inches below the knee cap. 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 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.

Stormy Gives Clues for Spotting The New Guy

(Phan Fare, The Happy Valley Weekly, January 2, 1969)

Sgt. Stormy (That’s his real name by the way) Thorson, when not doing his job as an inventory management specialist with the 35th Supply Sq., writes jokes. We might add that he writes some very funny stuff.

He started writing humorous articles for his school newspaper, although most of the time he just writes for his own enjoyment. He says he hasn’t had anything published yet because he doesn’t think it is that good.

He writes his rib-tick-lers “off the top of his head” and would like to turn professional when he gets out of the Air Force. Unknown right now, if he continues his writing, we predict you’ll hear more “From Stormy.” For instance, **YOU KNOW YOU’RE NEW AT PHAN RANG AIR BASE WHEN:**

...You think a ROK is a nickname for the security police “Tough guy” squad.

...you think Chris Noel has a sexy voice.

...when you think “ba muoi ba” (bom de bob) is slang for a mortar attack.

...you get lost coming back from the latrine.

...something cost 25 cents and you reach in your pocket for a quarter.

...you try to change the TV channel while watching AFRTS.

...you get sunburn walking from finance to the dispensary.

...a guy in faded jungle fatigues hands you a razor blade.

...you think MPC is Vietnamese money.

...a hooch maid sees you in your underwear and you blush.

...you can’t wait to go downtown and see everything.

...you look on practice alerts as being “neat”

...your boss tells you you’re going to LBJ and you can’t wait because you’ve never met the President.

...you salute a Red Cross Donut Dolly.

...you think a P-38 is an Armored Personnel Carrier.

...you don’t understand any of these examples.

...you ask a guy how much the Phan Fare pays for an article.

(Note: See Phan Rang Newsletter 168 for “You Know You've Been at Phan Rang Air Base Nearly a Year When”.)

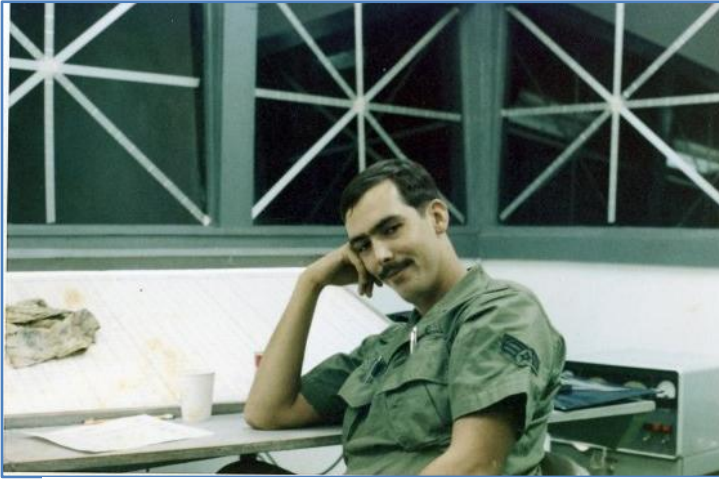
Serving Our Country



Airman First Class **Vernal D. Yount**, who received the first oak leaf cluster to the Air Force Commendation Medal during ceremonies held in Maj. Haley A. Schroeder’s office. Airman Yount, who received the first oak leaf cluster to the medal distinguished himself by meritorious service as assistant postal clerk, Detachment 23, 9th Air Postal Squadron, Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, for the period from June 13, 1966 to Jan. 3, 1967. During this period his outstanding professional skill and initiative aided immeasurably in identifying and solving numerous problems according to the citation. (*The Sheppard Senator, Thursday, March 30, 1967*)

MSgt **Eugene R. Iwanski**, son of Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Iwanski of Route 1, Junction City, helped close the final chapter in the combat history of the workhorse of U. S. Air Force tactical air units in Vietnam. Sgt Iwanski has served as an aircraft maintenance superintendent with the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing that recently flew the F-100 Super Sabre on its last mission in Southeast Asia. Phan Rang-based aircrews flew four fighter-bombers on the final strike to drop 750-pound bombs against an enemy bunker complex and add to the more than 157,000 sorties logged by the 35th since its arrival in the theater in 1966. The wing, the last to fly the F100 in Vietnam, is being deactivated as the eighth increment of U. S. troop redeployments from the combat zone and the F100s are being returned to the United States. The Super Sabre, the first fighter aircraft to attain supersonic speeds in level flight, was introduced to the Air Force inventory in 1964. The versatile F-100 distinguished itself in combat while flying tactical air strikes, close air support for allied ground operations and such special missions as armed escort and forward air control. Sgt. Iwanski, who entered the Air Force in March 1955, has completed 24 months of duty in Vietnam. His wife, Sarah, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Sheets of Route 2, Auto, W. Va. (*Stevens Point (Wis.) Daily Journal, Friday, August 6, 1971*)

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Robert S. Foust
Det. 8, 14th Aerial Port Sq.

Airman Foust at Phan Rang - Airman First Class **Robert S. Foust**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Foust of 601 Brown Trail, Hurst, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam. Airman Foust, an air freight specialist is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam he was assigned to McChord AFB, Wash. The airman, a 1965 graduate of L. D. Bell High School has studied at Texas Technological College. (Hurst Mid-Cities Daily News,

Thursday, August 29, 1968)

Sgt. Jerry D. Burkhart, son of Mrs. Rita Burkhart, Leoti, has received the USAF Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AF, Vietnam. Sergeant Burkhart was decorated for meritorious service as an aircraft crew chief for the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang. A 1964 graduate of Lakin Rural High School, the sergeant attended Hutchinson Junior College and Fort Hays State Teachers College. His wife, Sherrill, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Fletcher, Lakin. (Hutchinson News, Thursday, August 19, 1971)

Wins Bronze Star - U.S. Air Force CMSgt. **Ralph L. Ferri**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ferri, 533 North Fifth, has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service while engaged in military operations against Viet Cong forces. Sgt. Ferri was cited for his performance as an aircraft maintenance superintendent at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. He was presented the medal during ceremonies at Norton Air Force Base, Calif., where he now serves with the 63rd Organizational Maintenance Squadron, a unit of the Military Airlift Command which provides global airlift for U.S. military forces. The Korean War veteran is a 1946 graduate of Pocatello Senior High School. His wife, Kathryn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Sweat, Yucaipa Calif. (Pocatello, Idaho, Thursday, April 9, 1970)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam • (AHTNC) — Army Specialist Fourth Class **Reginald Rogers**, whose wife. Ruth, lives at San Benitio Dr. Brownwood, recently returned to his camp in Phan Rang with his unit, the 1st Brigade of 101st Airborne Division, after more than a year of combat in the jungles

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of Vietnam. Spec. Rogers, a draftsman in the brigade, and the other members of the unit traveled land, sea and air in the longest convoy thus far in the war. The journey began Jan. 21 and lasted five days. Land travel covered 400 miles, great deal of which included roads blocked by the Viet Cong for several years, and proved that the infamous Vietnamese Highway 1 is open and safe for civilians to traverse. The land movement covered stretches on the highway that had not been traveled since the French departure over a decade ago. (Brownwood Bulletin, Thursday, February 9, 1967)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam- Army Capt. **Andrew J. Hudson Jr.**, 28, whose parents live at 601 Irvin St., Dc Leon, recently returned to his base camp in Phan Rang with his unit, the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, after more than a year of combat in jungles of Vietnam. Capt Hudson, assistant logistics officer of the brigade, and the other members of the unit traveled by land, sea and air in the longest convoy thus far in the war. The journey began Jan. 21 and lasted five days. Land travel covered 400 miles, a great deal of which included roads blocked by the Viet Cong for several years, and proved that the infamous Vietnamese Highway 1 is open and safe for civilians to traverse. The land movement covered stretches on the highway that had not been traveled since the French departure over a decade ago. (Brownwood Bulletin, Thursday, February 9, 1967)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam- Airman 1.C. **Michael R. Kleeman**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kleeman of 322 E. 14th St., Jasper, is presently serving with the Air Force in Phan Rang. Airman Kleeman, a 1970 graduate of Jasper High School, received his basic training at San Antonio, Tex., and was assigned Duluth, Minn., before volunteering for overseas duty. His address is: A1C Michael Kleeman, FR 310 56 7055, PSC Box 5177, APO San Francisco, Calif., 96321. (The Daily Herald, Tuesday, June 8, 1971)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Sergeant **August J. Fiesel**, son of Mr. and Mrs. August J. Fiesel Jr., 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. (The La Marque Times, Thursday, June 17, 1971)

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Sergeant **William B. Arvo** received The Air Force Commendation Medal. Sgt Arvo distinguished himself by meritorious service as Masonry Specialist, Airfields Division, 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair), in the Republic of Vietnam from 4 November 1969. During this period Sergeant Arvo displayed an exceptional degree of professional competence and devotion to duty in support of the squadron mission. His many accomplishments were successful due to his outstanding managerial skills, aggressive leadership, and effective scheduling of available resources.



Sgt Willaim B, Arvo, 554th CES

Vietnam - Sgt **Rodney H. Garecht** of San Leandro, was decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, by Colonel Cregg P. Nolan Jr., 35th Tactical Fighter Wing commander. Sgt Garecht, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney N. Garecht, 1435 Marybelle Ave., was decorated for meritorious service as an aircraft maintenance specialist at Phan Rang. He was cited for his professional skill and initiative in the performance of his duties. The sergeant is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. He is a 1967 graduate of Pacific High School. (Daily Review, October 13, 1971)

LAKIN—Sgt. **Jerry Dean Burkhart**, a Lakin native, helped close the final chapter in the combat history of the work-horse of the U.S. Air Force tactical air units in Vietnam. Sgt. Burkhart has served as an aircraft maintenance specialist with the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing that recently flew the F-100 Super Sabre on its last mission in Southeast Asia. Phan Rang-based aircrews flew four fighter-bombers on the final strike to drop 750-pound bombs against an enemy bunker complex and add to the more than 157,000 sorties logged by the 35th since its arrival in the theater in 1966. The wing, the last to fly the F-100 in Vietnam, is being deactivated as the eight increment of U.S. troop redeployments from the combat zone and the F-100s are being returned to the United States. The Super Sabre, the first fighter aircraft to attain super-sonic

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speeds in level flight, was introduced to the Air Force inventory in 1954. The craft distinguished itself in combat while flying tactical air strikes, close air support for allied ground operations and such special missions as armed escort and forward air control. Sgt. Burkhart, a 1964 graduate of Lakin High School, attended Hutchinson Community Junior College and Fort Hays State College. His wife, Sherrill, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Fletcher, Lakin. (Garden City Telegram, September 1, 1971)



Lewis Waters, 35th SPS; **Allen Andrews**, 101st Airborne; **Dan Spengler**, MACV Team Doctor; **John Myers**, 35th AMS; **Bill Tidwell**, Red Horse; **Leland Sullivan**, 435th MMS; **Dale Wallace**, Air Traffic Controller; **John Debusky**, 35th CES; **Bart Uselton**; **Tom Reinke**, 35th/315th Supply Sq.; **Doug Reiter**, 35th CES; **William Arvo**, 554th CES Red Horse; **Walter Brooks**, 9th SOS; **Charles J. Steng**, 435th MMS; **Pam Anders** the wife of Jim Anders; **James Shope**, 18th SOS; **Richard Hillenbrand**, 435th MMS; **Roger Tyner**, 35th Supply Sq.; **Matt Dunne**, son of LAC William John Dunne, No. 2 Sqd.; **Chuck Meagher**, 35th SPS; **Bill Calhoun** and 309th SOS; **Aubrey Mitchell**, 35th SPS and **Vince Matalavage**, 35th SPS.

Welcome all!



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.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 169 “Stories worth telling”

DESIGN APPAREL .COM



PHAN RANG'S OFFICIAL OUTFITTER

To order any of these items click on the picture



This is the official **2019 Phan Rang AB Reunion** TShirt for sale by Design-Apparel.com

Click on the shirt to order

Design by Steve Russ



This time-less **Phan Rang Polo** is always available at Design-Apparel.com
Click on the shirt to order and see options.

The logo was designed by the grandchildren of Bruce Muller.



Click on any item to order. For suggestions on other Phan Rang themed products, please let [me](#) know.

REUNION UPDATE

Phan Rang AB Reunion



Here’s the latest: Our block of rooms for the Embassy Suites Hotel has been filled and any other reservations made after this point will be with **Homeland Suites** a property right next-door to the Embassy Suites. For those of you that have been following this process, using these two properties was part of the our original plan because we couldn’t find a hotel large enough to accommodate our needs all under one roof. I’ve been told that basically the two properties are very similar with a few less amenities than the Embassy Suites, but the rate is somewhat less expensive so that is appealing. Breakfast is still included.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AT THE HOMEWOOD SUITES](#)

Here are the rates for the **Homewood Suites by Hilton Savannah Airport, 149 W. Mulberry Boulevard, Savannah, GA. 31407**

7-10 Oct. 2019	11-12 Oct. 2019	13 Oct. 2019
\$144.00 Rate	\$149.00 Rate	\$144.00 Rate
Guest Room Rates are based on single/double occupancy, subject to 6% occupancy tax, 7% sales tax and \$5.00 Georgia Hotel Fee per room, per night. Cancellations: If an individual needs to cancel their own personal reservation, they need to do so 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid a cancellation or no show charge.		

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Dates:	11-13 Oct 2019
Location:	Embassy Suites Savannah Airport, 145 W. Mulberry Blvd, Savannah, Georgia 31407 912-330-8222 and Homewood Suites by Hilton Savannah Airport, 149 W. Mulberry Boulevard, Savannah, GA. 31407
Costs*:	
Reunion Fee:	\$20
Banquet (12 Oct):	\$55.41
CityTour-Dinner Cruise (11 Oct): (See schedule below)	\$77**

All costs are per person.

**To obtain this cost we subsidized the event with \$5,000 of our organizational funds that you made possible through participation in various fund raising events and the generosity of so many members.

Please make your hotel reservations as soon as you think you might be able to attend. If an individual needs to cancel their own personal reservation, they need to do so 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid a cancellation or no show charge.

****OLD SAVANNAH TOUR-DINNER CRUISE SCHEDULE**

3:00pm-Arrive at Embassy Suites and begin boarding guests

3:30pm-Depart for the River Street bus stop under the Hyatt

4:00pm-Arrive on River Street Hyatt bus stop and unload passengers

Discover old Savannah and be ready to board the riverboat by 6:00 PM

9:15pm-Riverboat arrives back at the River Street under Hyatt and begin
 boarding guests and depart back to the Embassy Suites

10:00pm-Arrive back at the Embassy Suites and unload guests

River Queen Buffet: Beef Carving Station Fresh Catch of the Day Savannah Style Shrimp &

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Grits Baked Chicken with Artichoke Cream Sauce Fresh Seasonal Fruit
Display Garden Salad with Dressings and Toppings Roasted Fingerling
Potatoes Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Squash Casserole Iced Tea,
Lemonade, Soft Drinks and Coffee. Additional information: The USAF Flag will be flown on the
Riverboat and a missing man table will be set in the dining room.

HERE ARE THE COSTS

	Single	Double
Reunion Fee, Banquet and Tour	\$152.41	\$304.82
Reunion Fee and Banquet only	\$75.41	\$150.82

PLEASE SEND CHECK TO:

Jack Anderson
826 72nd St. SE
Auburn, WA 98092

I get a lot of questions about what goes on at the reunion besides the banquet, tour and cruise from potential first time attendees, so let me try to explain. The reunion dates are Thursday 10 Oct. thru Saturday 12 Oct. checking out on Sunday, 13 Oct. Now with that said many people arrive sometimes as early as three days earlier and many also extend their stay after the reunion because the rates are effective three days before and three days after the reunion. One of the reasons some arrive early and stay later is to explore the area because once everyone starts arriving there isn't much time to do any of that. The main events of the reunion are the city tour and cruise on Friday afternoon and evening and on Saturday evening we have the banquet. Saturday has a lot of other things, like general meeting and group pictures, raffle/silent auction drawings, etc. All the other time is socializing in the hospitality suite telling stories and showing pictures and other stuff and just having a good time over light refreshments. A schedule of events will be available before the reunion and available during check-in. You will find the time just flies by and you'll be wishing that you would have had more time to chat with your buddies.

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.