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Why Do We Use ‘Funny Money’ Here

(Copied from 7th AF News May 7, 1969, Pg 6)

(Previously copied from The MACV News)

Ever wonder just why we have to use Military Payment Certificates (MPC) in Vietnam? MPC can sometimes be a nuisance, especially if your wallet is filled with the equivalent of five dollars in small ‘change’ and a few hundred piasters. Between two forms of currency, it seems most people are never really sure exactly how much money they have in their possession-until a few days before payday, of course. But there are good reasons for the practice of using script.

The former policy of allowing Vietnam servicemen to use “greenbacks” was harming our own war effort and the Vietnamese economy Since the U.S. dollar is one of three international

currencies and therefore can be sure to buy goods in any market, worldwide, many nations are anxious to get those dollars by legal or illegal means.

MPC is for use only in U.S. facilities such as exchanges, clubs and messes. Only authorized patrons of these facilities are allowed to possess MPC. This means according to the MACV Directive 37-6, that all in-country business transactions between U.S. authorized personnel must be accomplished in piasters. It is further worth noting that the possession of MPC by Vietnamese Nationals is forbidden by Vietnamese law.

It is possible that black market dollars can be used to buy communist supplies and weapons. The process isn't very complicated and as the end results, the dollars you place into the black market pool in Vietnam could pay for the weapon and bullets that might kill you! Whether you put greenbacks or MPC into illegal hands, the effect is the same.

Just what are the consequences of an illegal money deal? Under Uniform Code of Military Justice, conducting a black market or other illegal transaction is considered a criminal act. In other words, since violation of the pertinent MACV directive constitutes a violation of a lawful order, an illegal money deal becomes a court-martial offense, with penalties including imprisonment and dismissal from the service.

If it becomes necessary for you to deal on the local economy, first convert your MPC to piasters at any authorized U.S. Conversion point. It'll save you from many future regrets.

Phan Rang Aids Scouts

(Seventh Air Force News, March 26, 1969)

PHAN RANG - A new scout combination meeting house and recreation room for Phan Rang City is the late Phan Rang AB civic actions project.

When completed, the 90-foot by 20-foot structure will serve as a meeting center for 150 boys ranging in ages from 5-year-old Vietnamese Cub Scouts to 17-year-old Senior Boy Scouts.

"It is a joint self-help project," explained 1st. Lt. Bryan A. Wolter, Algoma, Wis., base civic

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actions officer.

"We supplied the materials and limited funds for skilled labor. The Boy Scouts, building on land donated by Ninh Thuan Province, are providing the unskilled labor," he added.

Materials provided by the base included: 180 board feet of 2x6s; 2,512 feet of 2x4s; 1,000 feet of 1x6s; four gallons of paint; electrical wiring; nails; and plumbing materials plus 105,000 piastres for skilled labor.

Airmen from the base also work with the Vietnamese Boy Scouts as adult advisors.



Enemy Bunkers Hit

(Seventh Air Force News, March 26, 1969)

PHAN RANG-F-100 Supersabre pilots of the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron "Bobcats," here recently blasted an enemy bunker complex in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam.

One of the pilots on the strike was Maj. James E. Williamson, Grapevine, Tex.

"The Viet Cong positions were along a river," commented Major Williamson.

"The clouds were pretty low, but they were broken enough so that we could weave in among them. The big factor was a strong wind blowing across the area which made accuracy difficult but not impossible.

"There was a Vietnamese Air Force strike going on nearby too," he concluded, "so we had to turn right off our bomb runs to stay out of their way."

The FAC credited the pilots with destroying six enemy fortifications and damaging three, destroying two bunkers and one sampan and causing one secondary explosion.



Phan Rang Holds Preaching Mission

(Seventh Air Force News, June 18, 1969)

PHAN RANG-A weekend Protestant Preaching Mission was held here recently to give chapel-goers an opportunity to renew and strengthen their spiritual commitments.

Chaplain (Maj.) Nell F. Wolfe, Wichita, Kan., visiting from Phu Cat AB, addressed the Phan Rang congregation and Bible study classes. In his sermons about faith in conflict, conduct, crisis and conquest, Chaplain Wolf remarked, "We each must reexamine and reaffirm our faith to have true satisfaction with ourselves and our God."

Accompanying Chaplain Wolfe was TSgt, Olin M. Duckett, Opalocka, Fla. Sergeant Duckett, Phu Cat's chapel music and choir director and president of the Protestant Men of the Chapel, led the hymn periods during services and study classes.

The purpose of the mission, according to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John E. Pickering, Cleburne, Tex., Phan Rang base chaplain, was provide an opportunity for airmen to rediscover the religious principles needed to provide direction and meaning to Life.

"Chaplain Wolfe and I consider the mission highly successful," Chaplain Pickering commented. "The messages were excellently geared to the needs of our servicemen to make new and deeper Christian commitments."

DoD to Demobilize 13,000 Reservists

(Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tuesday, January 21, 1969)

S&S Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department has announced the demobilization schedule for Some 13,000 Air Reserve and National Guard personnel called to active duty last year following the capture of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo by the Communist North Koreans.

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Involved in the demobilization are many officers and enlisted men now in units in Vietnam, South Korea and Japan.

The Air Force said it did not know how many of the 13,000 guard and reserves are serving Overseas.

Here is a list of the overseas units; their present location and the dates they will be released from active duty; 120th Tactical Fighter Sq., **Phan Rang AB**, Vietnam, April 30; 174th Tactical Fighter Sq, Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, May 28; 166th Tactical Fighter Sq., Kunsan AB, Korea, June 18; 127th Tactical Fighter Sq. also at Kunsan, June 18; 188th Tactical Fighter Sq Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam, June 4; 136th . Tactical Fighter Sq. also at Tuy Hoa, June 11; 150th Comm. Support Sq., Tacegu Air Field, Korea, June 4; 71st Special Operations Sq., Nha Trang Airport, Vietnam, June 18; 107th Comm. Support Sq., Kwang-Ju, Korea, June 11; 107th Tactical Dispensary, also at Kwang-Ju, June 11; 152nd Comm. Support Sq., Suwon, Korea, June 9, and Aeromedical Evacuation Yokota, Japan, June 18.

An Air Force spokesman said the men will be rotated to the U.S. sometime before their release Date.

American Forces Vietnam Network

Nha Trang-Cam

Ranh-**Phan Rang** TV

CH 11 & 78

Thursday, Jan. 23

1:30—Shiftworkers Matinee

6:35—News Briefs

6:40—Operation Entertainment

7:30—Evening Report

8:00—Pentagon Forum

8:30—Dean Martin Show

9:20—Star Trek

10:10—Big Valley

11:00-Late News

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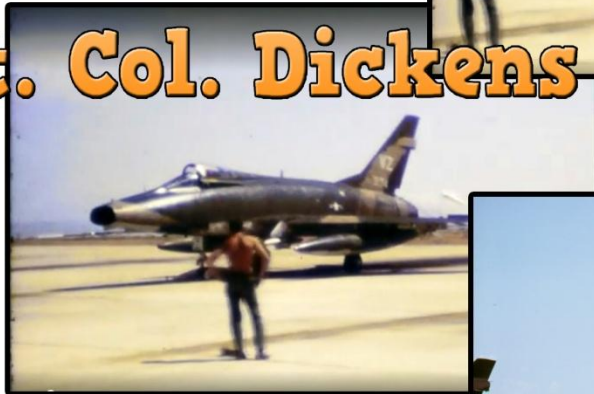


Art by Nghia Ngoc Le

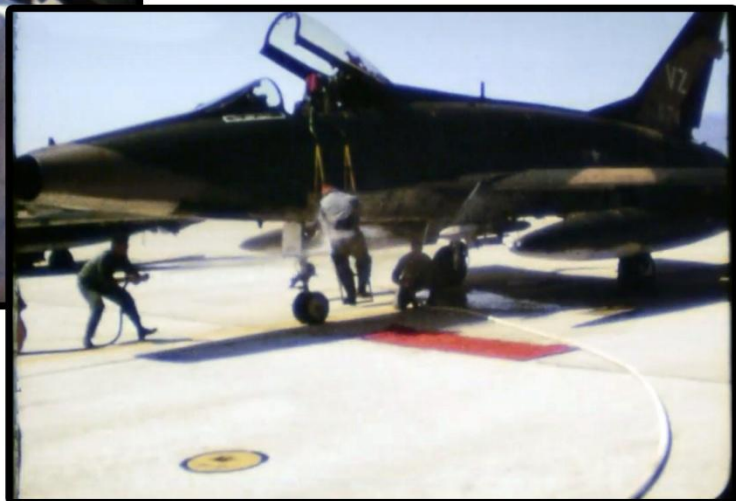
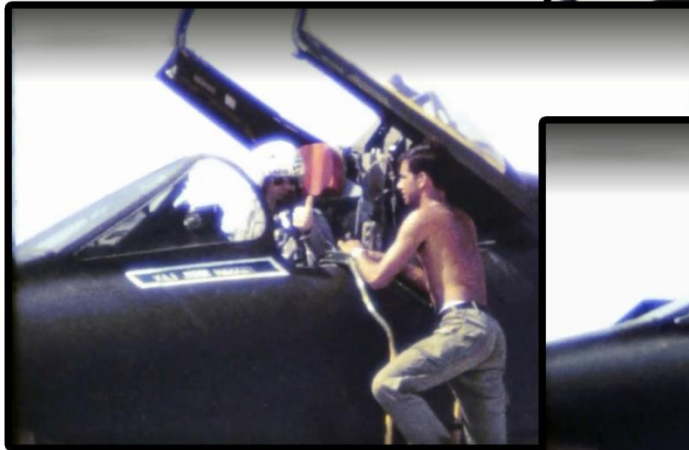


Lt. Col. Dickens Fini Flight

15 April 1969



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THE CORBIN THE HUB OF THE VALLEY OF PARKS **DAILY TRIBUNE**
CUMBERLAND FALLS

CORBIN, KENTUCKY. FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 18, 1969

Dickens Completes 200th Mission

U. S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel **Samuel T. Dickens**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Dickens, 2122 California St., NW, Washington, D. C., recently completed his 200th combat mission in

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Southeast Asia.



Lieutenant Colonel Samuel T. Dickens

Colonel Dickens, an F-100 Super Sabre aircraft command, flies with the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

The colonel is a veteran of the Korean War and has more than 23 years service.

A graduate of American High School, Buenos Aires, Argentina, he received his B.S. degree and was commissioned in 1951 at the U. S. Military Academy.

His wife, Marcella, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard H. Smith, 311 Van Dorn St., Corbin.

Note: The photo collages were created using a combination of screen captures from a video and still photos supplied by David Dickens, the son of Col. Dickens. Previous stories about the Dickens family are Colonel Dickens’ bio in Phan Rang Newsletter 139 and his son, David T. Dickens, personal account of a Missing Man formation over Arlington National Cemetery while visiting his father’s grave in Phan Rang Newsletter 144.



Vietnamese Bishop Confirms Nine Men at New Base Chapel

(The Phan Rang Weekly, October 25, 1967)

Seven enlisted men and two officers were confirmed recently at the new base chapel by the Most Reverend Francis Xavier Thuan, Bishop of Nha Trang, who diocese covers 110,000 Vietnamese Catholics in four provinces.

The solemn ceremonies marked the first time that a Vietnamese bishop had ever confirmed American Airmen on Base. The confirmations were arranged by Chaplain (Major) Edward B. Hemkins, 44, from St. Louis, Mo., Catholic chaplain at the base for the last 11 months.

Approximately 100 persons, including Colonel Edward P. McNeff, 43, from Camden N.J., Vice-commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, were on hand, as the confirmees knelt in turn before Bishop Thuan to receive the Blessed sacrament of confirmation.

Eighteen Vietnamese and French clergymen accompanied the Bishop to the ceremonies. Among them were: Father Joseph Huan, Vicar of Phan Rang; Father Peter Hung, the Bishop's secretary; and French missionaries Father Peter Gauthier and Father Marc LeFebvre.

The congregation included all chaplains of the base and at least 20 Vietnamese workers. After the ceremonies, the confirmees sat down to dinner with the Bishop and the other clergymen in the new support center of the Chapel. Bishop Thuan shook hands with the men and gave them postcard-sized photos of himself.

The first man to receive the sacrament of confirmation from the Bishop was 1st Lt. **John H. Rheinsheld**, 28, from Logan Ohio, hospital administrator for the 35th Tactical Disp.

Also confirmed were: Capt. **Frederick S. Maybee**, 46, from Rochester, N.Y., base operations officers and C-47 pilot; TSgt. **Fred L. Foss**, 35, from Machias, Maine, chief of personnel administration for the 35th Combat Support Group; A2C **Harry Decker**, 21, from Ashtabula, Ohio, security policeman in the 35th Security Police Squadron; A2C **Jim Lacourse**, 21 from Scarbore, Maine also a Security Policeman in the 35th SPS; and A2C **William Smith**, 20, from Waconia, Minn., power production specialist in the 554th Civil Engineering Sq.

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Confirmed also were; A1C **Charles E. Felt**, 22, from Peabody, Mass., cost accountant in the 554th CES, A2C **James F. Murray**, 22, from Scottsbluff, Neb., a member of the fire department of the 35th CES; and TSgt. **Robert H. Denman**, 34 from Niagra Falls, N.Y., non-commissioned officer in charge of utilities for the 554th CES.

Father **Patrick McCormick**, chaplain of the No. 2 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force, was on hand for the confirmation. In the role of commentator for the services was Maj. **Charles O’Brien**, 39, from Springfield, VA., a C-123 Transport pilot in the 310th Air Commando Sq.

Three enlisted men served mass during the services; A2C **Joe Muccino**, 21, from Staten Island, N.Y., who heads the re-enlistment and seperation section of the consolidated base personnel office; A2C **Gordon K. Ward**, 21, from New Orleans, La., a weapons mechanic in the 13th Tactical Bombardment Sq.; and A1C **Frank A. Rinaldi**, 27, from Waterbury, Conn., a member of the 1882nd Communications Sq.

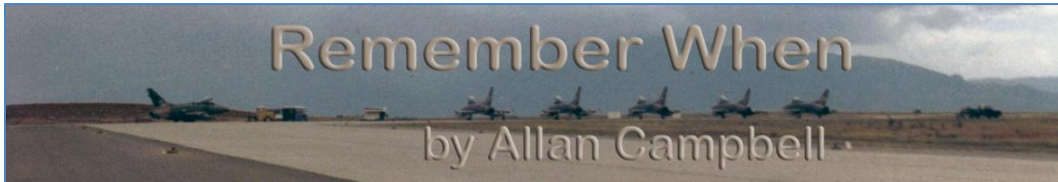
The Bishop traveled three hours by car from Nha Trang in order to preside over the confirmations. The Vietnamese-American services at the chapel were a follow-up to ceremonies held at the Catholic Church in Phan Rang City last year. On November 20, 1966, 21 Americans were confirmed by a Vietnamese Bishop.

One of the airmen confirmed at the base chapel by Bishop Thuan commented, “I think it makes the relations between the two people (the Vietnamese and the Americans) stronger.”

Father Hemkens commented after the ceremonies, “we’re extremely glad the Bishop could come,” and he also expressed his pleasure over the presence of the local parish priest.

Bishop Thuan said, “It is a great pleasure for me to come to see American Chaplains, to collaborate with them in confirming the military men.”

Remember When by Allan Campbell



I wonder if anybody remembers the night Phan Rang was invaded in 1971. It was the 4th of July of 1971. I had just lain down in my bunk when the sirens went berserk. We scrambled into our fatigues, added flak vests and helmets and ran to the nearest bunker. Then, we were treated to a spectacular night show as the aircraft repeatedly dropped flares and shown spotlights on the base. We had our M-16s but were never issued any ammo. A few hours later, the show was over and we were all told to stand down and return to our racks. In the morning, they found the “invasion” force – a cow had wandered into the minefield and got tangled in the trip wires that set off all the alarms. Our big excitement on the fourth of July was the result of a wandering cow. No wonder we were never issued ammo.

A similar incident from the fall of 1971 – the SPs spotted an infiltrator and challenged him to halt in English and Vietnamese. He kept coming closer to the fence so the SPs challenged him again. When he failed to respond, the SPs at that post opened fire and killed the intruder. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the “invader” was a US Army troop who had come to Phan Rang for R&R. He had bribed the swing shift at that post to let him go into the town (which was off limits to us all). I assume he was told to get back to the base by midnight. Unfortunately, at midnight the shift changed and there were two new SPs on duty. They weren’t in on the “fix”. I remember 1971 as a time of ethnic tension. It turned out that the dead army troop was black and the two SPs who fired at him were white. In order to mitigate any possible ethnic tension, the two SPs were transferred post haste to Da Nang AP. I never heard what (if anything) happened to the swing shift who let the guy violate the general off limits rule.

SMSgt (Ret) Allan V. Campbell

AAS (inventory management) (CCAF), AA (business) (Univ of Maryland) ,BS (business) (Univ of Maryland), MS (accountancy) (California State University – Sacramento), CPA (State of California)

The “Bummers” Saga Continues



The “Bummers” Saga



Getting Fired

By George Weeden

There was a crew, not a bad crew, just three jeeps and a short timer as the crew chief who was a pretty good three man and “J” driver in his day. Trouble was this was the first crew he was the leader of and he expected the FNG’s (Fucking New Guy) to know what they were doing without asking all the time.

Anyway they went through training and certification in the P.I. (Philippines) and then shipped out to Phan Rang. Things went slow at first and were starting to get better, loads were going pretty smoothly. Then the Monsoon rains started, the crew was loading four napalms on the wings and four 750’s in the bay.

The MJ-1 driver picked up a 750 off the trailer, backed away from the trailer and tried to stop going backwards. The brakes were wet from going thru the rain puddles, but it didn’t stop and he backed into the side of the airplane, making a nice big hole in the aluminum skin of that B-57.

There was a pretty big to-do about the accident, and it really wasn’t the kids fault but, you know Badger, he really liked to show the higher ups that he had things under control. He fired the crew and sent them back to the P.I. to recertify. Well the load crew was broken up and retrained with another crew. That was the first and only time I was fired from any job I’ve ever had. I was the crew chief.

Hung Bombs

By George Weeden

Back in October or November, 1966, I was on the load crew of Bob Watson, along with Donny Starett and Bob (I can’t remember his last name). We were called out to the end of the runway because a plane was returning with hung napalm on its wings. All four found were on the wings

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and the pilot could not shake them off. They had him bring the jammer out and wait until he came in. There were more than a few people out there, MSgt Badger, the line chief and along with Bomber One, EOD and Air Police.



MSgt Badger

After the plane landed it taxied off the runway to de-arm. The pilot was really PO'ed and I think the navigator had wet his pants. They had us pull the fuses, or maybe EOD did, I don't recall. Then we manually released the bombs onto the jammer. The plane had just come over from the P.I. and the load chief and his

band of outlaws had loaded the plane without doing a test on the pylons.

Badger had us open the hatch on the side of the pylons and guess what, none of the cannon plugs were connected. I never heard what happened to that load chief and his guys, but I'm glad I wasn't one of them.

William Ingles Decorated

(Journal, Hamilton, Ohio, Wednesday November 2, 1966)

PHAN RANG. Viet Nam — Senior Master Sergeant William S. Ingles, son of Mrs. W. K. Ingles, 211 College Ave., Oxford, Ohio, has been decorated with the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Viet Nam.

Sgt. Ingles, a maintenance supervisor, was awarded the medal for meritorious service. The sergeant, a graduate of Ironton (Ohio) High School, is a veteran of the Korean War.

His wife, Anne, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Nigels of 2020 Nigels Drive, Dunedin, Fla.

Sgt. Ingles, received the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal from Lieutenant Colonel Francis J. Burkhardt, his commander at Phan Rang AB, Viet Nam.

Tower View - Then and Now



This is a comparison view from 1971 and 2014 from the control tower composed by Prab Vet.
Top image by John Dobridge from his home movie titled Phan Rang Air Base 1971. The
bottom image is from a photo posted by Bùi Tú on his Facebook page.

**Meet the
NEWBIES!**

A1C **Tom Rimes**, 435th MMS, Nov. 70 to June 71; **Mark Walker**, 35th FMS; **Nghia Ngoc Le** a Vietnamese artist whose uncle was at Phan Rang and currently resides in Ho Chi Minh City; **Debora Barret** who is the wife of Donald Poiner; A2C **Ken Goodbread** 37th FMS Jet Engine Mech. From Sept. 66 to June 67; **Cyndi Carley** the wife of Fred Carley; **Craig Holly** 504th TSAG, FACU NCOIC Weapons Shop from 68 to 69; 1st Lt. **Dave Hubert** 315th TAW Pilot C-123 Sept. 69 to Sept. 70; SSgt **Carl Covey** 8th TFB B-57 Life Support, **Don Deaton**, 435th MMS, April 1967 to

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November 1968 as a Munitions Maintenance Sergeant, **George Jennings** 35th SPS Panther Flt., and **Stan Liebert** 614th & 615th TFS as a weapons release technician from 67 to 68.

Notice to Reunion Attendees.

Dates:	11-13 Oct 2019	
Location:	Homewood Suites, 149 West Mulberry Blvd, Savannah, Georgia 31407	
Tele No. to Homewood	(800-2255-4663). You need to mention the three letter group code: PHA to get the group rate.	
Reunion Fee:	\$20	
Banquet (12 Oct):	\$55.41	
City- Tour-Dinner Cruise (11 Oct): (See schedule below)	\$77**	
HERE ARE THE TOTALS		
	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. S.E.
Auburn, WA 98092

Remember the funds are refundable up to a certain point. If you don't remember if you paid, look in your checkbook because the only way to pay is by check. Proof of payment by check sometimes could come in handy at registration if there are ever any questions because people sometimes make mistakes.

I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter and if you have any comments or would like to submit a story, 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:<mailto:dougsevert@cox.net> and put ‘**unsubscribe**’ in subject line.