

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang AB News No. 175 **“Stories worth telling”**

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One seventy Five...Wow! I can remember certain milestones doing the Phan Rang Newsletter and wondering how was I going to keep doing this? Are there that many stories out there that haven't already been told, after all Phan Rang AB had a relatively short history? Yes, there are more stories that haven't been told, but they need to be. Phan Rang had thousands of average people doing just what they were trained to do under adverse and sometimes very dangerous conditions, but they never complained and many today would say that if they had it to do all over again, they would gladly and proudly go again because we felt we were serving our country by defending democracy. It didn't matter that they were scorned when they returned to the states, but they all held their heads up high because they were all HEROES.

As I begin working and assembling the stories for '175' I think about all of the stories that have been told so far. With all of the information published to date, it most likely provides a greater source of historical facts about Phan Rang and the people that worked there than any other base in Vietnam.

Previous issues have included hundred of profiles of the airmen assigned to the base along with their commanders; time-line of the base from the beginning to the end, hundreds of their stories told in their own words, very in-depth reporting of our Australian ally including their very important contribution to the war effort and their wonderful ingenious off duty activities; a complete issue devoted to the remembrance of all the fallen from the base including those killed in the Ninh Thuan Province; stories and complete books from the many published authors from Phan Rang telling of their exploits; probably every issue has a story that demonstrates the generosity and compassion for the locals through the many civic action programs, and the list just goes on and on. If you have a story, please send it to me because it needs to be told!

The strength and compassion of the Phan Rang group is shared by every member.

It Could Have Been My Time to Meet the Grim Reaper

by First Lieutenant Thomas Gates



One story I can relay regarding a night mission in the B-57 assigned to the 8th Bomb Squadron in 1969 over a very hot area of Laos on a night mission.

I became a true believer in religion as it could have been the time to meet the grim reaper. The flack over Tchepone, Laos "(Chapone to us)" was extremely heavy this particular night. We had made a couple of runs on 57mm AA weapons. As a prelude, Confucius say "He who sees bright light looking like beer can not moving on canopy, will bite you in the ass".

On one of our runs I saw a dual stream of 57mm coming up that the “beer cans” did not move on the canopy. To this day, I can still see the tracers, one in seven rounds, on a collision course. At the last minute, we executed a strong left rudder with a maximum turn to the left, left wing down in about a 70- 90 degree turn. The rounds literally split the aircraft.

It was not our turn to meet the grim reaper.

One string went above the canopy which I can still see today and the second went under the fuselage. I could hear the rounds as they passed over the canopy. I felt like I could reach out and catch one, they were that close. They exploded a few hundred feet above us. We were hit with a few pieces of shrapnel, no major damage.

I did not know about the shrapnel until we got back to Phan Rang. I kept one of the pieces in a plastic bag that I hung around my neck throughout the remainder of my tour. (Thought of it as a good luck symbol - I still have it).

Out of the more than 100 missions flown in the Canberra, this one has stuck with me. I still have dreams that my combat history could have had a completely different outcome should we have taken direct hits with one or more of those rounds. The overall look that night was very similar to the initial Iraq night bombing raid that was shown on CNN. That is one dream that never seems to go away.

Terry Brodt Remembers Early Days at Fighter Base

(The Van Nuys Valley News, Van Nuys, Calif., Thursday, November 9, 1967)

Airman first Class **Terry Brodt**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent R. Brodt. 8530 Cedros Ave., Panorama City, was one of the few veterans around when his unit, the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron, celebrated its first anniversary of combat operations in South Vietnam at Phan Rang Air Base.

Base Was Rugged

Airman Brodt was with the squadron when it first went Southeast Asia from England AFB, La. All

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of the original pilots have departed for new assignments, with only a few enlisted men left.

The young operations clerk recalls that ". . . it has been most interesting and fruitful year and I have-learned quite a bit about Air Force operations in Southeast Asia."

"The men just coming Phan Rang cannot appreciate how good it is," said Airman Brodt "We lived in tents, walked in ankle deep mud and choked on dust. There were no paved roads. It was an adventure that all who were deployed with the squadron will never forget."

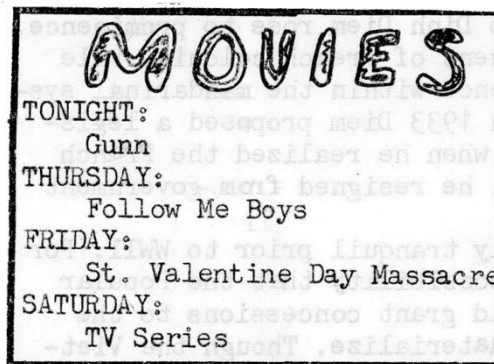
The squadron, originally a bomber unit in World War II, averaged 1000 hours of fighter time each month during the past year and flew 8000 sorties during the same time.

The past year also has seen the squadron fighting the Vietnam war in one other way —that of humanitarianism.

Help With Schools

Airman Brodt and the other men of the 614th have donated more than \$1700 in the past year to schools in Phan Rang and Thap Cham for scholarships and improvements. Presently they are giving special support to one school, the An Phuoc High School in Thap Cham.

The airman was graduated from Thousand Oaks High School in 1964. He entered the Air Force in March 1966.



(The Phan Rang Weekly, April 17, 1968)

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1000 Yard Stare

If you've been there
you know this well
the stare of a man
who's been through hell

in search of a friend
who can't be found
only to be told
he's homeward bound

ain't nuthin' to it
it don't mean a thing
another brother flying
upon silver wings

push it back
try not to care
bury the emotion
with the 1000 yard stare

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Capt. McGovern Awarded Air Medal at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam

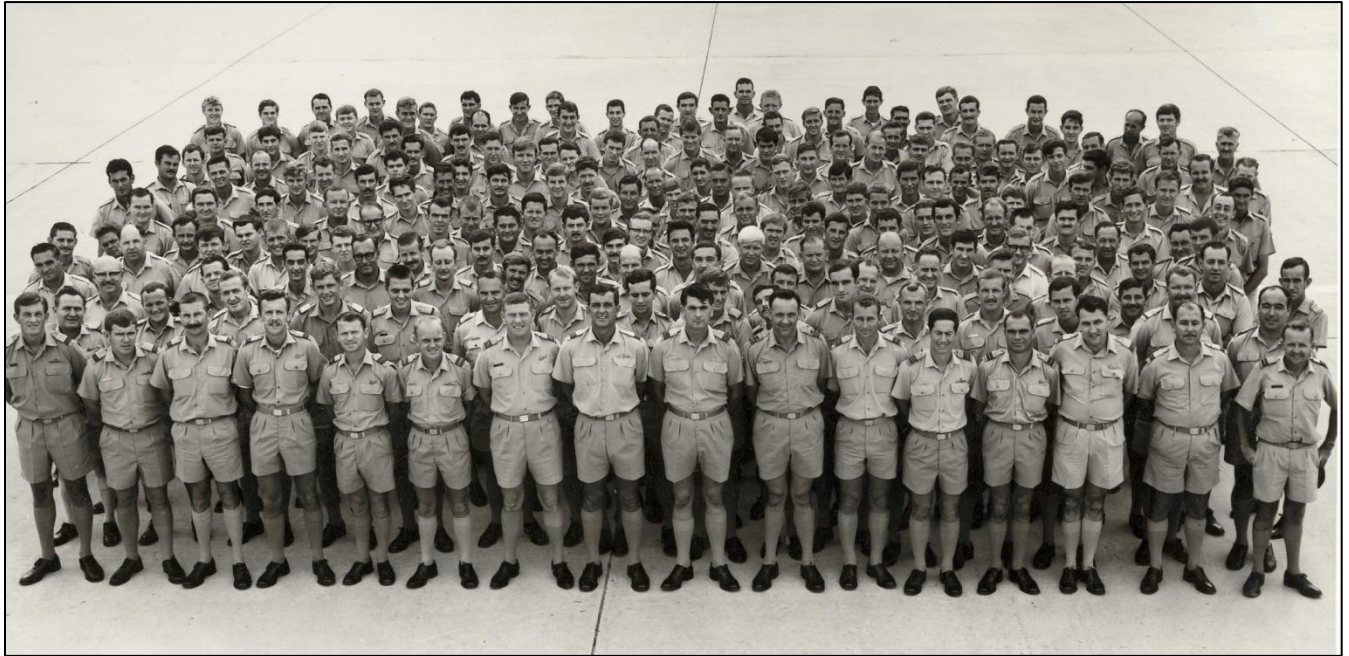
(The Rockland County Times, Haverstraw N. Y. January 21, 1971)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — U.S. Air Force Capt. **Michael D. McGovern**, whose wife, Ann, is the daughter of Mrs. Anna Hessian, 27 Broadway, has received the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Capt. McGovern, an F-100 Super Sabre fighter bomber pilot at Phan Rang, was decorated for his outstanding airmanship and courage on important and successful missions completed under hazardous conditions. He is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces.

Captain McGovern, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin McGovern of Stony Point, is a 1959 graduate of Haverstraw High School. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1963 from Manhattan College, Riverdale, N. Y., where he was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

No. 2 Squadron (RAAF) Group Photo



Nearly the entire Aussie contingent assigned to Phan Rang AB during a period in 1970. There were approximately 290 personnel needed to support the infrastructure necessary to keep eight Canberra Bombers flying.

(Source: Tony Thompson)



Letter From Viet Nam

(Burkburnett News, Thursday, April 25, 1967)

Dear Folks

I received your letter today. I hope everything turns out O.K. I'm enclosing a map with the places marked where I have been since I have been here. I've been working seven days a week and a lot of time is spent away from Saigon. We do our traveling in C 130's, C123's C47's. C54's. Helicopters and Jeeps I've been here 6 ½ weeks and have done more traveling around Viet Nam than anyone working for Univac except one. I've tried to call Dick (Captain Richard Sarcione of Midwestern) three times but have had no success. I will go to Can Tho and see him some time.

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I know you want to hear about my travels so here goes. The second day I was here the Air Force chartered a C130 for myself and one other (John Moler) and flew us to Can Phan Bay (Cam Ranh Bay) to work on their computer. It is a very large military installation on a huge same pile. We have the Army, Navy and Air Force there. It gets very hot, right now upward of 105 during the day. Later on this year it will climb to 125. The bay opens up to the South China Sea and the hues of the water are beautiful. I have been here four times now. The places I will talk about will not fall in sequence with my travels. We were in Can Phan the other day and needed to get to Phan Rang, an Air Force and Army base located about 50 kilometers south of Can Rhan on the coast. A plane did not leave until 7:30 at night so we went out to “Check Point Charlie”, an army guard post on the road to Phan Rang and hitched a ride with two medics. They had their rifles with them in their laps and we went by “White Horse”, one of the Korean Army tent camps and within one mile of there they had fought the V.C. the night before. We crossed a temporary bridge, because the normal one had been blown up by the V.C. and we could see Vietnamese Regulars in a machine gun nest hidden in the trees along the banks of the river.

When we finally arrived in Phan Rang, the Air Force sent a vehicle over to the Army compound to pick us up. We had a meeting with the Colonel and his sidekicks about their forthcoming computer installation and when we told him we had driven up from Can Phan he like to have flipped.

Da Nang is another interesting city. It is off limits to the military, but U.S. Civilains stay in town because it’s safer than the air base. I was there the night after the second shelling of the base. We have no problem here because Charlie does not raise hell until 2:45 a.m. sharp, so we make sure we are down town in bed at that time.

There is really a lot to write about because each experience has been different. I am getting a camera today because several times I have good chances for pictures on the trip to Phan Rang by Jeep and the trip by Armored Helicopter to “Bearcat” (Camp Bearcat) where the 9th Infantry is fighting “Operation Junction City.”

If I don’t stop and mail this letter now it will be around my desk, so I’ll stop short and mail it.

Love,
Waddy

(Note: Walter S. Lacy (Waddy) who was an Equipment Manager for Univac with headquarters at the Embassy Hotel in Saigon. The letter was sent to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lacy of Burkburnett. Source: Burkburnett News, Thursday, April 25, 1967)

Air Force Man Trains Children to Farm Land

(The News, Van Nuys, California, Thursday, June 17, 1971)

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

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

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

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

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

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

"AND THEN IT IS WINTER"

You know, the time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But here it is – the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine what it would be like.

But here it is – my friends are retired and getting grey – they move slower and I see an older person now.

Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant – but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks who we used to see and never thought we'd be. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore – it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But at least I know, that although the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last; this I know, that when it's over on this earth – it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done and things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put

things off too long!!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life – so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember – and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after.

Make it a fantastic one.

Live it well!

(Thanks to Woodie Hall, CMSgt, USAF, Retired, President 57th Alumni Association)



The “Bummers” Saga Continues

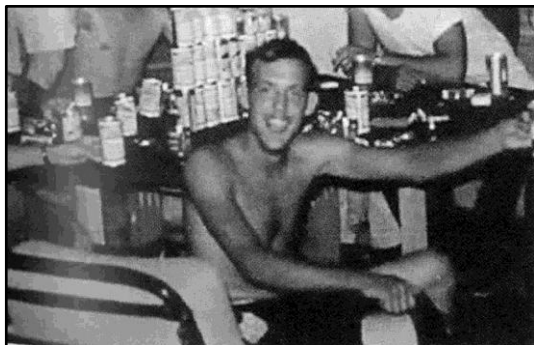


The “Bummers” Saga



PLEASANT MEMORIES

BY A1C ROBERT ZELSKI



A1C Robert Zelski

Memories of Clark AB: Wearing my Black Bummer shirt and grabbing a jeepney (Jeeps leftover from WW II and converted for passenger transport) and heading into Angeles City, PI. to watch Chit and her band perform at the Stork Club while downing one or two San Miguel’s. Weapons ground crews worked hard, but also played hard!

The great friends I made at Clark and Da Nang were friends I will never forget. We helped boost each other’s morale when hitting rock bottom and doing whatever it took to get our

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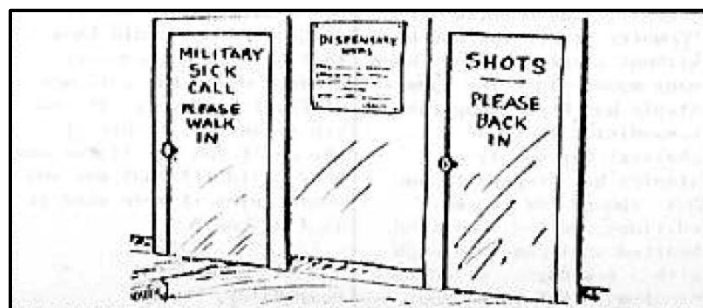
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minds off the war and thinking of home. We shared a lot of good times at the Airman’s Club with jokes, laughter and sometimes tears from stories of our personal experiences. We spent 25 cents of military script to buy mediocre rounds of cold beers and sometimes getting a 12 inch pizza with pepperoni, mushrooms, extra cheese and an ice cold coke every time I returned to the PI form Vietnam.

Memories of Vietnam: I enjoyed the beauty of South Vietnam and the South China Sea beaches and the distant view of the mountains; getting to eat c-rations when the mess hall was closed due to the constant power losses. “Anyone want my can of ham and lima beans?”; the night trading of booze for c-rations with the Marines that didn’t have access to the hard stuff...”now that’s I call military team work at its best!”; our B-57 pilots flying San Miguel beer to Da Nang from Clark loaded in the bomb bays at just the right altitude to chill the precious cargo. In some cases, boxes of t-bon steaks and lobster tails and I only wish I had photos of the bomb bays loaded with the golden brew; having parties every once in a while helped forget about the war for a brief time; taking the pink salt tablets as you entered the mess hall to help keep from dehydrating due to the intense heat and humidity; the thrill of arming and de-arming the 20mm and 50 caliber machine wing guns at the end of the runway prior to takeoff and returning home from a mission; the great Da Nang AB movie theater...you could buy a cold pop and a bag of freshly made popcorn (if they didn’t run out) and a movie for under a buck!; Movies like James Bonds’ “From Russia with Love” and “Gold Finger” was my temporary R&R, Being told that you TDY days has expired and find any aircraft heading back to Clark Air Base. I always tried to find flight that had other stops on the way and that way I had an opportunity to fly into Taiwan.

I know there are other stories I could add or think of later, but these are the ones that prevail in my mind the most and hopefully some will help other recall some of their memories.



(The Happy Valley Weekly, March 6, 1969)



This collage represents the casualties of Phan Rang AB assigned men as well as casualties that occurred in the Ninh Thuan Province. Phan Rang Newsletter 155 lists all of the casualties along with other information gleaned from the Coffelt Data base, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) and The Virtual Vietnam Veterans Wall of Faces.



Air Force Maj. **Raymond A. Malacarne**, son of Victor Malacarne, 1625 Eighth St., has been decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross for aerial achievement in Vietnam, Malacarne, an F-100 Super Sabre fighter bomber pilot at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, provided close air support for friendly forces at Dak Seang, Vietnam, which were being attacked. (Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Sunday, December 20, 1970)

Staff Sgt. **Walter A. Roche**, son of Mrs. Rose Roche, 3113 Cortez Road, W, Bradenton, has received the Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Roche was decorated for meritorious service as a fire protection supervisor with the 35th Civil Engineering Squadron at Phan Rang Air Base. (Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Sunday, December 20, 1970)

Oceana Man Gets Air Medal Air Force Maj. **Charles B. Haskins**, son of Mrs. Louise Smith, Oceana, has received the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Maj. Haskins, an F-100 Super Sabre pilot, was cited for his outstanding airmanship and courage on successful and important missions under hazardous conditions. He is assigned at Phan Rang in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. The major, a 1954 graduate of Oceana High School, received his commission in 1957 through the aviation cadet program, His wife, Elinorer, is the daughter of Earl Cook of Oceana. Lt. Col. Len C. Russell, commander of the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron presented the award. (Post-Herald and Register, Beckley, W. Va. Sunday, August 3, 1969)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Transferring an abandoned building from Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, to the Ngoc Ninh Orphanage in Phan Rang City proved to be a rewarding experience for Air Force Sgt. **Jackie L. Cooper**, formerly of Bernie, Mo.

Sergeant Cooper and 15 other volunteers from the 315th special operations wing at Phan Rang reassembled the building at the orphanage where it now houses 40 formerly homeless Vietnamese children.

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The consensus among the air force volunteers is that participating in this effort benefitting the homeless children was a gratifying experience, so much so that they again volunteered and now are busy in off-duty hours helping to build a school in another Vietnamese village.

Sergeant Cooper, whose wife, JoAnn, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Moore of Bloomfield, Mo., is an administrative specialist. He previously served at Offutt AFB, Neb.

The sergeant, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Cooper, is a 1962 graduate of Bernie high school and studied at Arkansas State College. (The Daily Standard, Sikeston, Mo., Thursday, October 30, 1969)



Airman Yaun

LIBERTY - Former Airman **Richard H. Yaun Jr.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Yaun, 29 Yaun Ave. Liberty, has been promoted to airman first class. The airman is stationed at Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam. He is a graduate of Liberty Central School and attended Clarkson College of Technology at Potsdam before entering the Air Force in 1965. (Middletown-Times-Herald Record, November 10, 1967)

SUSSEX. N.J.

Airman/1C **Gene R. Elliott**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey A. Elliott of R. D. 3, Sussex, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Elliott, an aircraft mechanic, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to Williams AFB, Ariz. The airman is a graduate of Sussex High School. (Middletown-Times-Herald Record, November 10, 1967)

MIDDLETOWN - Airman/1C **Arthur C. Nielson**, whose mother is Mrs. Rita Benforte oA1CCaptCaf Middletown, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Nielson is an aircraft loadmaster, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to Travis AFB, Calif. The airman attended Middletown High School and completed requirements for his diploma after entering the service. (Middletown-Times-Herald Record, November 10, 1967)

Sgt. **Clifford R. Bates**, whose wife Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Cox of 2019 41st St., has received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He was decorated for meritorious service as an aircraft mechanic at Phan Rang. (Lubbock Avalanche-

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Journal, Friday Morning, August 30, 1968)

Airman 1.C **Rafael Velasquez Jr.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Velasquez of Wilson, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He is a security policeman. (Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Friday Morning, August 30, 1968)

MSgt. **James R. Kirkland**, son of Mrs. Mary Kirkland, 409 North St., Crestview, has received the Air Medal for aerial achievement in Vietnam. Sgt Kirkland, an airborne aircraft maintenance technician at Phan Rang Air Base, was decorated for his outstanding airmanship and courage on successful and important missions completed under hazardous conditions. The Korean War veteran is a 1950 graduate of Baker High School. His wife, Vera, is the daughter of Mrs. Sarah I. Helms, Rt. 1, Niceville, Mrs. Kirland’s father, Sam E. Helm s, resides in Crestview. (Playground Daily News, Thursday Morning, December 16, 1971)

Capt. **William K. Turpin**, son of Mrs. Mary Turpin , 200 Bayshore St., Fort Walton Beach, has received the Meritorious Service Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Capt. Turpin distinguished himself as staff security officer and chief of the installations security division at Ent AFB, Colo. He is now at Phan Rang as security police officer. A 1956 graduate of Bay High School, Panama City, he received a B.S. degree in criminology in 1962 from Florida State University. His wife is the former Sharon M. Demarest. The captain’s father, Gordon K. Turpin, resides at 1118 Magnolia Ave., Panama City. (Playground Daily News, Thursday Morning, December 16, 1971)

Captain **Richard E. Weizenegger** Jr. of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, son of Mrs. Patricia S. Weizenegger, 1821 Valrnont Ave., is a member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam that has been honored by the Vietnamese Armed Forces. (Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, Tuesday June 1, 1971)

Technical Sergeant **William R. Krach** of Owen, Wisconsin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike J. Krach, is a member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam that has been honored by the Vietnamese Armed Forces. Sergeant Krach is an aircraft maintenance technician. (Eau Clair Leader-Telegram, Tuesday June 1, 1971)

Major **Jack W. Graf**, son of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Graf, Rt. 1, Barronet, Wisconsin, is a member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, that has been honored by the

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Vietnamese Armed Forces. He is a maintenance staff officer. (Eau Clair Leader-Telegram, Tuesday June 1, 1971)

Staff Sergeant **William A. Perrine**, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Perrine, 2204 Black River Road, Neillsville, Wisconsin, is a member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam that has been honored by the Vietnamese Armed Forces. Sergeant Perrine is an aircraft maintenance technician. (Eau Clair Leader-Telegram, Tuesday June 1, 1971)

Staff Sgt, **James D. Bulen**, son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Bulen of 4512 22nd, Lubbock, is member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam that has been honored by the Vietnamese Armed Forces. The 35th has received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm for its contribution to the military forces and local citizenry of the country. The wing, which operates F100 Super Sabre fighter bombers, was cited for flying more than 53,000 missions during a two-year period in support of U.S. and Vietnamese ground operations. The 35th was also recognized for its community service programs which included establishing a medical dispensary for treatment of villagers and orphans in the area. The sergeant is a 1965 graduate of Lubbock School. (Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Thursday Evening, May 27, 1971)

Airman 1C **Jerome W. Schmidt Jr.**, son of USAF Chief M.Sgt. and Mrs. Jerome Schmidt, Clovis, N.M., is a member of the 14th Special Operations Wing in Southeast Asia that has earned the Presidential Unit Citation. Airman Schmidt, assigned at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, is an aircraft mechanic with the wing which has received the highest U.S. organizational award for its performance as the only USAF unit of its kind in the combat theater. The 14th is headquartered at Phan Rang and operated from nine major locations in Southeast Asia. Wing aircrews fly seven types of aircraft. (Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Thursday Evening, May 27, 1971)

Air Force M.Sgt. **James M. Martin**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Martin, 217 River St., Hudson, Wisconsin has been decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. Martin distinguished himself as a crew chief while assigned at Beale AFB, Calif. He is now at Phan Rang with a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. He is a 1954 graduate of Glenwood City High School. His wife, Lois, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Benoy, Hudson. (Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, Wednesday, August 25, 1971)

Sgt. **Robert M. Everson**, son of Mrs. Beatrice M. Everson, 3016 Douglas Lane, Eau Claire,

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Wisconsin is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. Everson, an aircraft mechanic, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned at Offutt AFB, Neb. He is a 1967 graduate of Eau Claire North High School and attended Wisconsin State University and District One, Technical Institute Technical institute. (Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, Wednesday, August 25, 1971)

Maj. **Richard L. Stoner**, graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology, has been assigned as a navigator at Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Stoner of 118 Broadway, his wife, Linda, is the daughter of Mrs. Edgar Zepp of 606 Oak Hill Ave. (The Daily Mail, Hagerstown, Maryland)

Sgt. **William L. Cover**, an automotive repairman, has been assigned to Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam. His wife, Sharon, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gilbert of Greencastle, Pa. (The Daily Mail, Hagerstown, Maryland)

A1C **David M. Higgins**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Higgins Sr. of Williamsport, has been assigned as a supply inventory specialist at Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam. (The Daily Mail, Hagerstown, Maryland)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Master Sergeant **Clyde W. Jackson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clare Jackson, Andover, has received his second award of the U.S.-Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Jackson, a data systems supervisor, was decorated for meritorious service while assigned to Headquarters, 1005th Special Investigations Group, Washington, D.C. He is now at Phan Rang with a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. The sergeant is a 1952 graduate of Andover Central High School. The award was presented by Col. Robert E. Flynn, 315th Tactical Airlift Wing Vice Commander. (Wellsville Daily Reporter, Wellsville, New York, Saturday, October 9, 1971)

Pfc. **John J. Mangano**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic J. Mangano of 129 Plunkett St., is stationed in Phan Rang, Vietnam, with the, serving as a medic in the Headquarters Battery Aid Station. Phan Rang is about 300 miles north east of Saigon. Pfc. Mangano entered the Army in August 1969, completed his basic training at Ft. Dix, N. J., and took advanced training at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex. He left for Vietnam in Jan. 29. He is a 1968 graduate of St. Joseph’s High School and was employed by the General Electric Co. before entering the Army. (Pittsfield Berkshire

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Eagle, Friday, March 27, 1970)

Airman 1.C . **Stephen V. Mole**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Mole of 58 Hollister St., is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Mole, an aircraft mechanic, is with the 35th Field Maintenance Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and Pacific. He previously served at Griffiss AFB, N. Y. He is a 1968 graduate of Pittsfield High School. (Pittsfield Berkshire Eagle, Friday, March 27, 1970)

Rhett O. Webber At Phan Rang AB. The safe takeoff and landing of aircraft using either of the two runways at Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam, is the job of S.Sgt. Rhett O. Webber of Knoxville. Situated in a glass walled room atop a five-story tower, resembling a lighthouse, Sergeant Webber works to keep in communication with aircraft landing, taxiing, or taking off. If an aircraft is unable to land visually due to darkness or bad weather, he brings it in by radar with the aid of the Ground Control Approach system. The 24-year-old air traffic controller, son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Weber of Knoxville is assigned to the 1982nd Communications Squadron at Phan Rang. A graduate of Brunswick High School, Sergeant Webber attended Louisiana State University at Alexandria, La. (The News, Frederick, Maryland, Wednesday, March 15, 1967)

Maj. **Richard L. Stoner**, graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology, has been assigned as a navigator at Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Stoner of 118 Broadway; his wife, Linda, the daughter of Mrs. Edgar Zepp of 606 Oak Hill Ave. (The Morning Herald, Hagerstown, MD, Thursday, July 17, 1969)

Sgt. **William L. Cover**, an automotive repairman, has been assigned to Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam. His wife, Sharon, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gilbert of Greencastle, Pa. (The Morning Herald, Hagerstown, MD, Thursday, July 17, 1969)

A1C **David M. Higgins**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Higgins Sr. of Williamsport, has been assigned as a supply inventory specialist at Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam. (The Morning Herald, Hagerstown, MD, Thursday, July 17, 1969)

M/Sgt. **John Nezart** In Post Office Duty, Phan Rang, Vietnam

VIETNAM - U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant John G. Nezart, son of Mrs. Laurience Nezart of 3006 Roland Street, Houston, is helping insure the delivery of all mail received for military personnel

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at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Nezart is a postal superintendent at the new air postal office. During an average month, the Phan Rang facility processes approximately 60,000 pounds of incoming and 25,000 pounds of outgoing mail, sergeant Nezart and his fellow specialists sell about 600,000 worth of money orders and \$10,000 in stamps for partial post, each month, for Air Force, Army and civilian personnel. A graduate of Colbert High School, Dayton, he attended Riverside (Calif.) City College. Sergeant Nezart served in the South Pacific during World War II. (The Liberty Vindicator, Liberty, Texas, Thursday February 9, 1967)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam — Pfc **George M. Duke**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Duke of Coalport, arrived here last month with his unit, the 529th Transportation Company. The company, previously located at Ft. Eustis, Va., will provide transportation for Headquarters, Phan Rang Sub Area Command. Pvt. Duke, a truck driver in the company, entered the Army in November 1965 and completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C. (The Altoona Mirror, Altoona, Pa., Friday, February 10, 1967)

PHANG RANG, Vietnam — Sp. 4/c **Gary L. Rockey**, son of Mrs. Emma Rockey, Winburne, arrived here last month with his unit, the 529th Transportation Company. The company previously located at Ft. Eustis, Va, will provide transportation for Headquarters, Phan Rang Sub Area Command, Spec. Rockey, a truck driver in the company, entered the Army in November 1965 and completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C. The 20-year-old soldier was graduated from West Branch Area High School, Allport, in 1964. (The Altoona Mirror, Altoona, Pa., Friday, February 10, 1967)

U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant **William L. Adams**, son of Mrs. Vivian Hargrove, 1311 Presstman St. Baltimore, has been decorated with the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Adams, an aircraft loadmaster, 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 Rang. The sergeant, a 1954 graduate of Douglas High School, served during the Cuban crisis. His wife, Ruth, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Salis Garrett, 2214 Bassett Ave., El Paso, Tex. (The Baltimore-Afro-American, July 1, 1969)

U.S. Air Force Sergeant **Eddie J. Holloway III**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie J. Holloway Jr., 2711 Delk Court, Baltimore, Md., is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Holloway, a security policeman, is in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was

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assigned to the 1002nd Security Police Squadron at Andrews AFB Md. He has previously completed a tour of duty in Vietnam. A graduate of Patapsco Senior High School, the sergeant attended Morgan State College. (The Baltimore-Afro-American, July 1, 1969)

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. (The Daily News, Hamilton, Ohio, Journal, Wednesday, November 2, 1968)

Gunn Assigned Near Phan Rang. PHAN RANG, Vietnam - Army Pfc. **Roy S. Gunn**, 25, son of Floyd S. Gunn, 1020 N. Aransas, Alice, Tex., was assigned to the 589th Engineer Battalion near Phan Rang, Vietnam, January 6th as a finance clerk. His wife, Carol, lives at 4008 Douglas, Farmington, N.M. (Farmington (N.M.) Daily Times, Sunday, January 26, 1969)

Notice to Reunion Attendees.

Dates:	11-13 Oct 2019	
Location:	Homewood Suites, 149 West Mulberry Blvd, Savannah, Georgia 31407	
Homewood Suites	(800-2255-4663). You need to mention the three letter group code: PHA to get the group rate.	
Embassy Suites	There are still some rooms left. Click here to book.	
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

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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.

Doug’s Comments: I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter and if you have any comments or would like to submit a story, just send it to me. This newsletter was composed and all graphics 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. I would like to remind everyone that we have services available to all Phan Rang AB veterans like the **Roll-Call** that [Bob Tucker](#) maintains. The ‘Roll-Call’ is a list of everyone that we’ve known to have been stationed at Phan Rang AB, including their grade, organization, time served and other information that may be helpful in searching for a buddy. If you are not on Facebook and would like a copy of it, contact Bob Tucker and he would be glad to send you a digital copy of it, but please remember that this is a work in progress and only contains the names that the members have captured through the years and it is not a complete list of everyone to have been stationed at the base. Another list that we maintain is the ‘**Remembrance Board**’, which is a list of all Phan Rang Veterans that have passed. [Joe Kaupa](#) maintains that list and it contains the veterans name, unit/organization and year of death and that list is also available upon request.

Phan Rang AB Challenge coins are still available for eight dollars each. If you would like to purchase one, send a check to Jack Anderson to the address listed in the reunion section. Please make your check out to ‘**Phan Rang Reunion**’. The 2019 Reunion shirts are on sale [here](#) along with hats and many other Phan Rang related products.