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Grand Opening - Phan Rang's new Fire Station



At a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the new base fire station, at Phan Rang AB, Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Evans, is assisted by Col. Frank L. Gailer Jr., 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, commander. The combination structural and crash fire-fighting station was built by engineers of the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (RED HORSE). Others at the ceremony are (left to right) Lt. Col. Niels H. Lund, 554th Civil Engineering Squadron, commander; Lt. Col. Joseph F. Herrmann Jr. deputy base commander; and Lt. Col. James B. Roberts, base civil engineer.

(Photo by MSgt. Roman Contos, Seventh Air Force News, January 8, 1969)

Sabremen Silence Enemy (*Seventh Air Force News, January 8, 1969*)

PHAN RANG — Two F-100 Supersabres of the 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Phan Rang AB, recently hit an enemy target deep in IV Corps, where enemy soldiers were reported firing at a forward air controller.

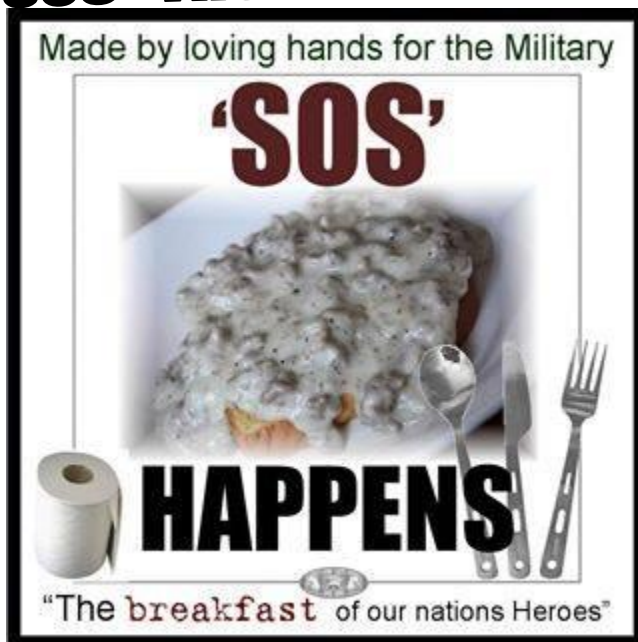
The pilots were Captains Sloan L. B. Brooks, Houston, and Omer D. Fahey, Selma, Ala.

"When we got to the target," commented Captain Brooks, "it was almost dusk. We went on the target low because of a 4,000 foot cloud ceiling.

"The target was a complex of enemy structures on a river bank," he continued, "with a cluster of sampans nearby. After we got the gun site, the FAC marked another target and we went in again, circling to avoid any unexpected ground fire."

The FAC reported seven enemy soldiers killed, one sustained fire, one antiaircraft position suppressed, two secondary explosions with 1,250-foot fireballs and 150-foot column of smoke, seven enemy structures destroyed and seven damaged, five sampans destroyed with one damaged, two enemy bunkers destroyed and three damaged.

SOS "The breakfast of our nations Heroes"



George Haskett: I remember about 30 yrs ago, a Nam vet buddy and I were talking about SOS and next thing....we're buying two lbs of hamburger at Safeway. We whipped up a batch and ate it the whole mountain of glop in one sitting.....along with several brewskis

John Ryan: In a Nesco roaster pour 2 gals of hot water (as hot as possible out of the tap). Mix in two envelopes of LeGout powdered cream soup base. Yield is approx 3 gals of sauce. Sauté 3 lbs ground beef, mixed with 3 pounds of sausage. I use 1 lb sage and 2 lbs regular breakfast sausage. Skim of most of the grease but leave some to add flavor to the sauce. Add the pan of meat to the sauce and is better if left overnight for all the flavors to mingle.

John T. Weigelt: SOS with ground beef, Pork Sausage Gravy, or creamed chipped beef.....all great stuff. Breakfast of Champions.

Robert MacAvoy: Sausage gravy and hot biscuits!! Better than mother's milk!!!

Larry McCabe: Hey Mike I think I seen you eat SOS a few times at the alert hanger chow hall, I know I did...

Archie T Pinkley: Cook your SOS in a Burlap sack, when ready throw out the SOS and eat the sack. [Old Navy Recipe] !!!

David Knighton: Eggs and bread with lots of bugs doing the Egyptian dance.

George Carrie: You're scaring me here with bugs! No wonder I couldn't gain any weight with just protein!

Larry McCabe: Chow was good at the alert hanger chow hall vs regular chow hall. Was also air conditioned & could watch movies thats why I always volunteered for alert.

David Knighton: We liked to go to the East side over by the C-123 area for midnight chow. We only got to go once in a while and usually just went to the snack bar near the Aerial Port for a hot dog. Every night we would frag all the locations for the next days festivities and then be on standby for any re-frag needed on the Alert Row or Shadow. We usually got to grab a quick 1/2 to 45 minute nap around 3 am and then it was frag all the added missions that came down. Taking a nap wasn't as easy as you might expect in the bomb dump. I would go to one of the trucks and lay down but usually someone (Koreans or AF) would find a reason to fire off mortars or 105mm right over us. Fun, fun, fun.

David Knighton: One night when coming back from the 123 area we were standing up in the back of our deuce 1/2 truck and Shadow happened to be flying overhead. They lit us up with their spotlight and followed us down the road for a while. About all we could do was wave and think about how much fun it must be for the VC to get lit up by that light.

Robert MacAvoy: Since I was on the midnight to noon shift in '67/'68 we would eat at 4 or 5 AM over at the RMK/BRJ mess hall near the flightline. I always thought that was the best meal of the day.

John Ryan: I lived in RMK-BRJ. Ate a lot of meals there and the Mess Hall on the other side was good too.

Jack Cooper: That was a good mess hall for breakfast.

Russell Huggins: With two eggs over light piled up in the middle ~

George Carrie: My Mom used to use that bottle dried beef and it was a little too salty but it was always great for a meal. My cousin in York, PA had access to great dried beef from there and supplied me with good SOS for years. Then he moved to FL - boo! HA, Archie, you goof! My burlap bag in the garage still smells like big Striped Bass I brought home. Would that work?

News From many sources from "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

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John Ryan: You either love it or hate it.

John Hennigar: Andrews Hall Alert Shack/Diner, early morning, 70-71.

Archie T Pinkley: SOS is truly a Military remembrance, Everybody experienced it !!!!

David Knighton: One thing I can guarantee everyone. Each of those places was better than C Rations out on the perimeter. Some guys liked Ham and Lima Beans (or Ham and Mother F*****s) as some called them. If I got those I would try to trade if I was on a two man post, otherwise I would just go without. Yuck!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jerry Hartley: Tasted good on Toast. Didn't care what it was made of just that it wasn't rice and didn't have rice bugs for meat.. LOL.

John Rowston: Will this be served at the reunion?

David Knighton: I hereby bequeath my share of SOS to all those who like it.

C Dan Brownell: Actually I always thought SOS was puke on a piece of toast.

Robert MacAvoy: Just got home from eating breakfast out. SOS, scrambled eggs, home fries with extra onions, and good coffee! I am truly blessed!!!

Jerry Leonard: Can't trust a Man that don't eat SOS!!!! Shittt

Archie T Pinkley: Being German I guess you'd have to call it Scheisse on a Shingle !!

Bob Rudasill: Y'all must have cast iron stomachs...Just reading this is making me nauseous and feeling like heaving a load.

John Ryan: C'mon guys, haven't we about beaten the SOS to death?

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The 2014 "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB Reunion

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton, Reid Park, 445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson AZ

When: October 9-11

Single/Double rate \$99

Banquet 11 October in the Bonsai Room



You may now make your hotel reservations for the reunion. Click on the Double Tree logo above and it will take you to the Phan Rang AB Reunion Web Site. Please make your reservations early which will help us greatly in the planning process and also to insure that everyone that wants to attend gets the reunion rate. This is a smaller hotel than the previous year, so we have to watch it very carefully. Remember if circumstances prevent you from attending you can always cancel within 24 hours of your check-in date. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact [me](#).

It's Charcoal-Broiled Steaks! Flightline Innovation (*Seventh Air Force News, January 8, 1969*)

PHAN RANG—The men of the 315th Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang AB, were recently promised something special to look forward to after a long day of flying C-123 "Providers" throughout Vietnam—charcoal broiled steaks for supper.

The idea of charcoal-broiled steak in a combat zone might seem farfetched to some, but TSgt Robert G. Lasko, Portsmouth, N. H. NCO in charge of the flightline dining hall thought it worth the effort.

With a borrowed grill, and charcoal purchased on the local market, he began the project. A much larger, specially-built grill has since replaced the borrowed one as his cookery proved an overwhelming success.

The menu in Sergeant Lasko's kitchen now includes a variety of food steak, chicken, pork chops with a delicious charcoal taste to wrap up a long day for the air and ground crews.

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NCO's Project 'Mushrooms' (*Seventh Air Force News, January 8, 1969*)

PHAN RANG — "Operation Father" is a personal and family project for MSgt. Robert E. Pohlod, Wichita Falls, Tex.

When the 1882nd Communications Squadron at Phan Rang AB launched the program to help children at the Go Dinh Orphanage, he enlisted the help of his wife and it mushroomed into what could be one of the best ever for the children.

"I asked my wife to gather what she could in toys and clothes around the neighborhood," said Sergeant Pohlod, "and from there the whole thing just grew and grew."

Mrs. Pohlod related her husband's request to Mrs. Charles Shields, a friend and neighbor. Together they collected parcels of toys and clothes from a church. Then they disclosed the program to a local- newspaper, and Mrs. Shields went on television to enlist the aid of local people.

"Soon packages were pouring in at such a rate that Mrs. Shields and my wife couldn't handle them," the sergeant said. "An employment agency volunteered their services to answer any inquiry on the program."

Over 400 packages are now in the mail to Sergeant Pohlod for the children of the Go Dinh Orphanage, spokesmen said.

Most Decorated Gunner Ends Viet Combat Tour (*Seventh Air Force News, January 8, 1969*)

BIEN HOA — Sgt. Floyd L. Jones, Springdale, Ark., one of the most decorated gunners in Flight C, 3rd Special Operations Squadron, Bien Hoa AB, recently completed his year-long combat tour.

The sergeant earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and 10 Air Medals while flying over 270 missions in AC-47 Dragonships.

SERGEANT JONES earned one of his DFCs and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Feb, 17 when his crew attacked a fleet of enemy sampans in an early morning strike. The sampans were attempting to resupply Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces operating in the area during the het Offensive.

Hitting hard with 7.62mm miniguns. The sergeant and his fellow crewmen destroyed all 69 of the enemy craft and touched off 22 secondary explosions.

Allied ground forces combing the wreckage the next day recovered four pounds of enemy

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documents and numerous supplies and ammunition.

The sergeant, in his two and one half years of Air Force service, logged more than 1,000 combat flying hours. He has been reassigned as a gunnery instructor at England AFB, La.



35th SPS Grid Men Win Title (*Seventh Air Force News, January 8, 1969*)

PHAN RANG — Lawrence Phillips, star quarterback of the 35th Security Police Squadron, led the SPs to a 21-7 flag football victory over the 35th Civil Engineering Squadron team here recently.

The game decided the Phan Rang AB championship for 1968.

Ed Timmons made the first touchdown when the game was just five minutes old when he intercepted an Engineer pass and scored all the way from the CE 20-yard line.

But it was the dazzling passing and evasive speed of 23-year old Phillips that led to the SP record of 6-0 this year. The 5'10" Houston, Tex., quarterback affectionately earned the title of "rabbit" from the stunned engineers.

Fans were equally enthusiastic: "Bring on Green Bay!" they cheered from the sidelines.

A trophy presentation was made for the winning team at the **Happy Valley Drive-in**

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Phan Rang AB Heroes



Scramble At Phan Rang (uploaded to Facebook by Mike Oliver - Phan Rang News 17 had an article "Real Pros" about the Air National Guard's contributions to the war effort.)



South Vietnam May 1968.

The 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Colorado Air National Guard arrived at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. during she concluding days of the second Viet Cong offensive of 1968. The squadron was ordered into active Federal service as a result of the Pueblo incident in January 1968, along with three other F-100 tactical fighter squadrons 136th TFS, New York, 174th TFS, Iowa, 188th TFS, New Mexico. The 120th TFS entered combat on 5 May 1968, two days after its arrival, and completed its 1,000th mission 51 days later.

During the Air National Guard's eleven months of service in Vietnam, the four F-100 squadrons flew 24,124 combat sorties and accumulated 38,614 combat flying hours. The Air Guard's record proved, once again, the combat-ready status and professionalism of the Air National Guard.

Got Photos or Stories that you would like to share with Phan Rangers and other interested Vietnam veterans? If you do, send those treasured pictures and stories to me and I'll include in this newsletter, that reaches out to over 200, or post on Facebook where we have over 550 former Phan Rangers, their families and friends. You can contact [me](#) and I will provide further instructions. Share the Phan Rang story and keep the memories alive.

Doug's note: I know not all of these stores have a dateline of Phan Rang, but we have a lot of members and readers that have an interest in stores dealing with the B-57, F-100, C-119, C-47 and C-123 aircrafts. Some may have friends or may have even been stationed at one time at these other bases.

Also if you are new to the Phan Ranger mailing list and you would like copies of previous issues of the Phan Rang News, they are all available [here](#) for downloading. If you have any difficulties, just send [me](#) a note and I'll will send one your way. If you know of a Phan Rangers that would be interested in receiving news about Phan Rang AB, please let [me](#) know and I will add them to the mailing list.