

Phan Rang News No. 21

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**Munitions Men Deliver the 'Goods' (Seventh Air Force News, January 1, 1969)**

**Never Ending Process**

PHAN RANG AB —Theirs is the responsibility of receiving; inspecting; storing; fusing and delivering the wide variety of ordnance used in air strikes out of Phan Rang AB. They are the men of the 435th Munitions Maintenance Squadron. Theirs is the task of keeping tally on the 750; 500; 250 and 220-pound bombs; 20mm; 7.62mm and .50 caliber ammunition; 2.75-inch rockets and a variety of flares used by Phan Rang's four squadrons of F-100Thunderchiefs; squadron of 13-57 Canberras; Royal Australian Air Force MK-20 Canberras and AC-47Dragonships. The ordnance is received via U.S. Army convoy from the port seven miles away. Each load of munitions is met on entry; inspected and directed to the proper revetment for unloading. An indepth inspection is given selected weapons in each shipment or to the complete shipment if there is reason to believe the ordnance may have deteriorated enroute to Phan Rang.

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**Initial Inspection**

A 250-pound bomb, selected from a load of newly arrived ordnance, is closely inspected for in-transit damage or deterioration by Sgts. David N. Brown, (left), Roman Cox, (right), Charles E. Gillford, Jr., (center), and Sgt. William F. Sate, (right) (bottom).



**Final Look See**

Bombs, ready to be trucked to the flightline for a nearby, are given a last inspection by TSgt. Joseph F. Bassett, (center), TSgt. William F. Sate, (right), and Sgts. Charles E. Gillford, Jr., (left) and Roman Cox, (right) of the 435th MMS.



**Move 'em Out**

A1C John H. Anderson, Jr., (left) North Fieldhouse, and Sgts. Leland, Jr., Lee Vegas, (center) and Sgts. Sate, (right) are in preparation for installing the bags by which the bomb will be slung under the wing of an F-100 Thunderchief.



**Big Ones Fitted**

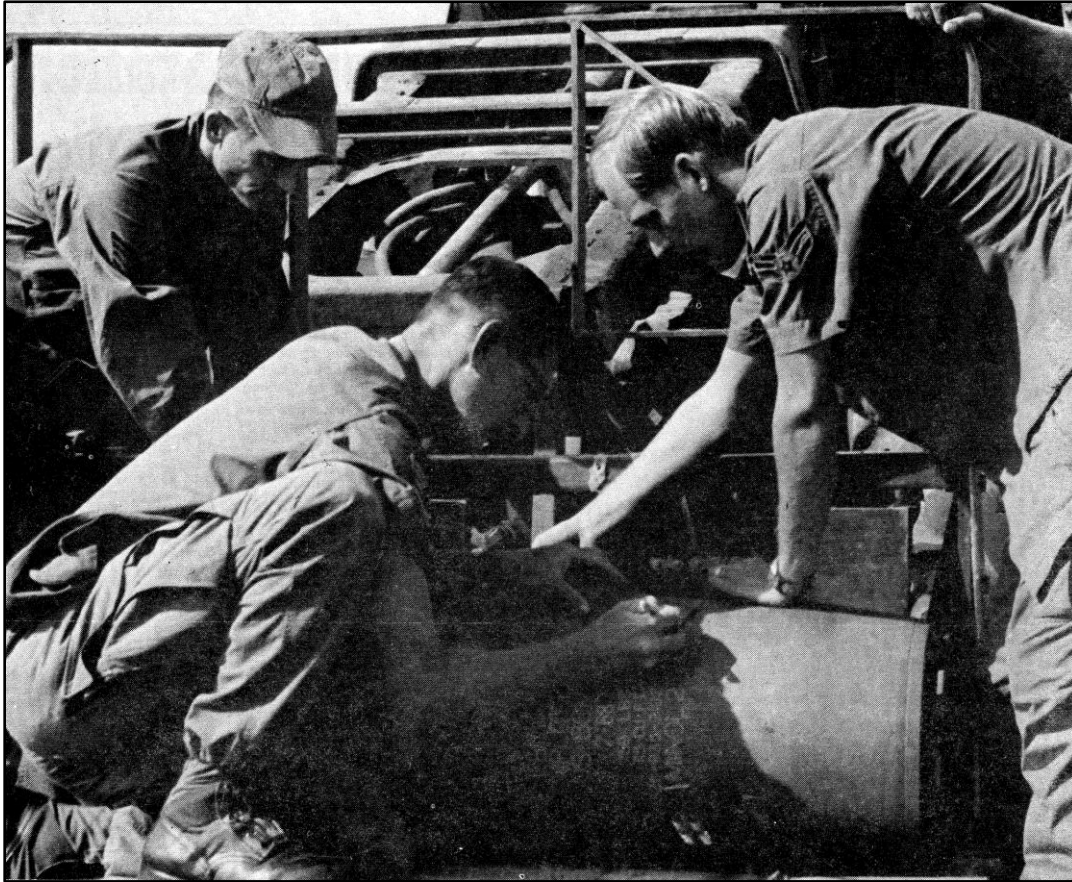
The are mounted on 750-pound big ones by A1C David E. Barrett, (left) and Sgts. Joseph F. Bassett, (center), William F. Sate, (right), and Sgts. Charles E. Gillford, Jr., (left) and Roman Cox, (right) of the 435th MMS.



**Rock Building**

High explosive bombs are hooked on a 40-foot derrick for delivery to the flightline and Phan Rang's six squadrons of fighters and bombers. Involved in the task are (from left) Sgt. Robert C. Fletcher, Fort Worth, Tex.; TSgt. Joseph F. Bassett, Navarre, Fla.; and A1C Richard A. Hiltbrand, Nashville, Tenn., operating the crane.

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**Initial Inspection** - A 750-pound bomb; selected from a load of newly arrived ordnance; is closely inspected for in-transit damage or deterioration by SSgt. Doyle N. Breedon; (left); Rome; Ga.; TSgt. Charlie E. Gifford Jr.; Beaumont; Tex.; and Sgt. William F. Suhr, (right) Denver.



**Final Look See** - Bombs, ready to be trucked to the flight line for a sortie, are given a last inspection by TSgt Joseph F. Ruscetta, Niceville, Fla., non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the munitions storage section of the 435<sup>th</sup> MMS.



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**Rack Building.** High explosive bombs are racked on a 40-foot flatbed for delivery to the flightline and Phan Rang's six squadrons of fighters and bombers. Involved in the task are (from left) Sgt. Robert C. Fletcher, Fort Worth, Tex.; TSgt. Joseph F. Rucetta, Niceville, Fla.; and A1C Richard A. Hillenbrand, Nashville, Tenn., operating the crane.



**Move 'em Out** - A1C John R. Anderson, Jr., (left) North Linthicum, Md., and Sgt. Leo L. Lambert, Jr., Las Vegas, turn a 750-1b., bomb in preparation for installing the lugs by which the bomb will be slung under the wing of an F-100 Supersabre.



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**Big Ones Finned** - Fins are mounted on 750-pound low drag bombs by A1C David C. Barrell, (left) Leesport, Pa.; TSgt. William J. Richmond; Hannibal, Mo.; and Sgt. Gerald D. Borman Jr.; (right) Mifflintown, Pa.

**How About That?** (*Seventh Air Force News, January 1, 1969*)



MSgt. Robert E Pohlod, Wichita Falls, Tex. (left), and SSgt. David W. Campbell, Malvern, Ohio, inspect some of the 200 boxes of toys received for 1882nd Communication Squadron's "ProjectFather." The toys and clothes were distributed to Go Dinh Orphanage near Phan Rang AB. (Photo By Leonard J. Parent)



New Photo Albums of Facebook Members





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

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### Phan Rang AB 'Gone But Not Forgotten' Patches



This patch is currently being manufactured in a 4 inch size and will be available soon on the Design Apparel web site. I will post a note in the Phan Rang News when it does become available. The owner was wondering if there would be any demand for a 12 inch patch, which would be suitable for the back of a jacket or something like that. The only caveat is they have to be ordered in lots of one-hundred and if only a couple of people would be interested, it wouldn't be worth it.

If you would like to visit the Design Apparel web site for other military and Phan Rang AB merchandise click [here](#).

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### **FAC Directs Strike** (*Seventh Air Force News, January 1, 1969*)

PHAN RANG — Two pilots from the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Phan Rang AB, recently had a good mission near Bien Hoa in South Vietnam.

The pilots were Captains Dudley L. Bailey, Rydal, Pa., and Elbert W. Gardner, Englewood, Colo.

Commenting on the mission, Captain Gardner stated, "The forward air controller had spotted some enemy soldiers in this area. When we got there the enemy troops were nowhere to be found, but we did find a large bunker complex. On one of my passes, my bomb caused a large fire and later I hit another."

### **Mechanic Receives Nov. Title** (*Seventh Air Force News, January 1, 1969*)

PHAN RANG — A1C Thomas L. Bolt, Grandville, Mich., a weapons mechanic with the 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron, here, was recently named Base Airman of the Month for November.

Col. Wallace C. Bosworth, vice commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, parent unit of the 8th TBS, presented the airman with a pair of binoculars, a tailored suit, steak dinners for two at the Airmen's Open Mess and a category "A" letter to be inserted in his promotion folder.

### **Package from New Haven, Indiana** (*Daily Bulletin, Number 277, 13 Oct 1968*)

A package with illegible address mailed at New Haven, Ind., 28 Sep 68, was received by this APO. Anyone expecting a package from New Haven contact the APO. Person who properly identifies contents can claim package (OL1502/3215)

## 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](#).**

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### **Airman Of The Month** (*Daily Bulletin, Number 277, 13 Oct 1968*)

A board was convened on 4 October 1968 to consider the nominees for Airman of the Month. Sgt Edward M. Maarkowski of the 35 Field Maintenance Sq. was selected as the Airman of the month for September. Congratulations to Sgt Markowski. We would like to remind all organizations that nominations for the October Airman of the Month are due CBPO-QC NLT 20 Oct 68. (CBPO-QC/3215)

### **'The Lost Colony'** (*Air Force Times, July 23, 1969*)

**PHAN RANG AB** — Operating Location Alpha (OLA), 1882d Comm. Sq, located on the edge of busy Cam Ly airstrip near Dalat, is the place of business for seven AF communications technicians.

The men call their operation "the Lost Colony," because of its remote location — 60 miles from the 1882d Comm. Sq. at Phan Rang. Their job, according to MSgt. Tonnie Simmons, is to "... provide all-weather arrival and departure control service for all aircraft in the area, using the Air Force ground control approach unit and the Army control tower here."

The men of OLA live in the heart of Dalat, a lush, central highlands city, sharing a villa with personnel of the 14th Aerial Port Sq. They have built up their radar location from a small, sparsely-equipped site to an efficient, consistently accurate unit.



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Since taking control of air traffic in the Cam Ly area in May 1968, the men of OLA have added sophisticated radar and radio communications equipment and expanded their area of operation.

C-123 and C-130 aircraft lumber in and out of Cam Ly daily, hauling everything from fresh vegetables to ammunition. The OLA provides pilots and crews with landing instructions during periods of bad weather. To keep proficient in their job, they practice ground control approach landings several times each day.

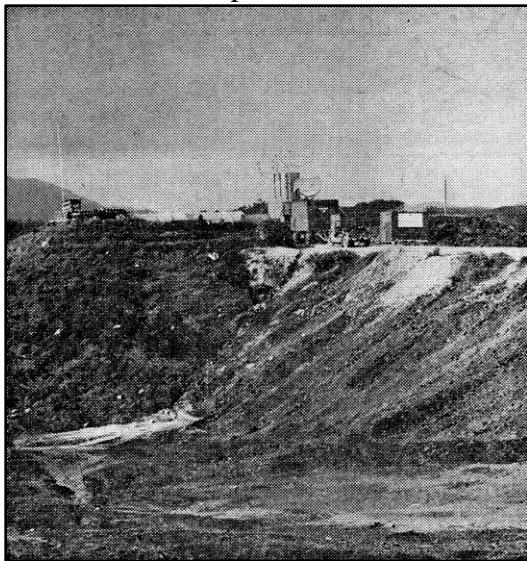
Such practice proved valuable last year when the men guided a single-engine 0-1 Bird Dog aircraft to a safe landing during hazardous weather conditions. At that time the site was using a small radar unit.

One of the veteran radar operators remarked that it was almost a miracle that they were able to spot the small plane on the radar screen. Thorough familiarization with the screen and the plane helped them spot the 0-1 and guide it to the strip.

At night, the men of this remote site devote their time to helping children of Villa Lance, an orphanage in Dalat.

TSgt. Clayton L. Palmer spends many of his evenings teaching English at Dalat's Vietnamese-American Association.

The men of OLA at Dalat have a lonely job, but pilots passing through the Cam Ly area will vouch for their importance.



Perched 5,000 feet above sea level in Vietnam's central highlands is Operating Location Alpha, known to the men serving there as "The Lost Colony" because of its remote location. Photo by Sgt. Donald B. Dirksing



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.