

# Phan Rang AB Newsletter

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.  
"Keeping the memories alive" Newsletter 218

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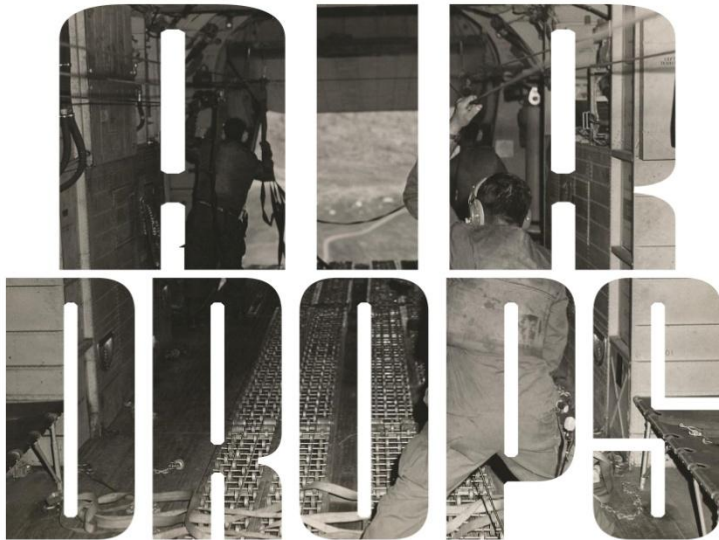
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## **BIG PART OF 315<sup>TH</sup> PROVIDERS**

**Instantly five tons of ammo laden parachutes tumble out the tail and quickly settle on the Mekong delta drop zone. Mission complete - - in seven seconds!**

## **Air Drops Big Part of 315<sup>th</sup> Providers**

**"Bookie 101 turning on final."**

**Moments later the C-123's nose suddenly snaps up, engines screaming, as Lt. Col. Leonard L. Brion, pushes his throttles sharply forward.**

Behind this seemingly short burst of action lie the efforts and teamwork of many people.

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**Nearly five tons of ammo laden pallets pushed out the back end of the Provider that parachutes down to the drop zone.**

Successful mission accomplishment depends on troops from the 91<sup>st</sup> Aerial Delivery Group (ADG, ARVN), 315<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing aircrews, Traffic Management Agency (TMA) and the scheduling section personnel for the 834<sup>th</sup> Air Division, and Forward Air Controllers.

These forces work together to airdrop needed ammunition to Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camps in the Mekong delta.

By their nature, these camps are removed from usual lines of communication and dictate re-supply of certain items by airdrop.

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Routine supplies are locally procured or brought in by helicopter, however due to large quantities and heavy weight, delivery of artillery shells by chopper is not feasible. Airdrop is the only secure and practicable method.



**Skidded ammo prepared for air drop.**

Requests submitted by District Chiefs are coordinated and approved by the Vietnamese Joint General Staff in Saigon. This initiates the paper machinery to produce delivery orders, which are sent to the 91<sup>st</sup> ADG parachute riggers and TMA.

Maj. Nguyen Ngoc Hoan, Commander, 91<sup>st</sup> ADG, directs his personnel to pack and rig the load. TMA, in turn, passes a request for 315<sup>th</sup> crews and aircraft, telling them when and where to drop.

At the designated time, aircraft, crews and rigged loads converge at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, where the supplies are loaded on board the Provider.

The 315<sup>th</sup> Wing averages 68 drops each month. During the last eleven months aircrews have delivered more than eight million pounds of ordinance for artillery tubes at these tiny, isolated camps.

During the same period, the 91<sup>st</sup> ADG has rigged over 4000 pallets for Air Force crews. They have also packed and rigged similar loads for Vietnamese Air Force aircrews, who in the future will assume the entire airdrop mission.

Until that time, the 315<sup>th</sup> SOW will continue to respond in their skillful and professional manner maintaining the CIDG's life line to security. (Source: 35<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, *Phan Fare*, The

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Happy Valley Weekly, August 22, 1969)

### **If at First- Commandos finish Job**

**SAIGON**, Jan. 15 (UPI) — Capt. Jon R. Zacharias of Glenwood City, Wis., and his crew of air commandos needed three airplanes to do the job of one. The other two were shot up.

The C123 Provider crew started the day from Saigon's huge Tan Son Nhut Airport, parachuting five tons of fresh meat to the Plei Me Special Forces Green Beret camp.

The twin-engine C123 transport returned to Saigon to reload for the second mission of the day.

The Special Forces troopers on the ground asked the Provider crew to airdrop the cargo bundles right on a road near the camp because there were mines- on either side of the road.

As the C123 circled for a second pass over the drop zone. Viet Cong ground fire put two holes through the plane. Lt. Col. James D. Edgington of Ponca City, Okla., pulled the Provider around in a tight turn and went in for a third pass.

On the third pass, the C123 dropped the second load of ammunition. Fearing damage to the wing, the crew set a course for Tan Son Nhut again.

Ground crews at the air base, said it would take time to repair the battle damage, so the commandos boarded a second C123.

The commandos made two air drops and returned to Saigon to reload. After landing they found a bullet hole in one of the propeller blades.

A third C123 Provider was cranked up on the flight line and the final flight of the day, in the third Provider of the day, was routine. The commandos made it without a hitch. (*Source: European Stars And Stripes, Darmstadt, January 16, 1967*)

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**..There I Was.,  
At 10,000 Feet  
Without a Paddle**

**By FOREST L. KIMLER**

*Pacific Stars and Stripes Staff Writer*

*(Pacific Stars And Stripes, September 5, 1965)*

**THE TROUBLE WITH HAVING A FLAT TIRE** while airborne in a C-123 is that you can't get out to fix it. Especially when the guy who gave it to you is trying to puncture you, too—with the same .30-caliber machine gun.

The Viet Cong gunner who riddled the C-123 in which I was riding over Vietnam the other day could have saved himself the trouble if he was trying to get me personally.

A few more minutes and I would have drowned.

All he did besides shooting up the tire was to provide a few much-needed holes to drain the water out of the plane.

**A C-123 is the only airborne shower room in the Air Force arsenal.**

The overhead ventilating ducts leak so much in the Providers that a loadmaster on our flight logged in 12 hours flying time and 6 hours Scuba time.

The pilot of the bullet-pierced C-123 congratulated me on being "shot at and missed."

What he may not have realized at the time was that I'm one of few men alive to have become victim of the rest that well-known statement.

For one of the bullets severed the relief tube in the men's room—and I just happened to be too close for comfort.

Landing on a rim and a prayer is no great trick in a C-123 if you happen to be one of the pilots of Italian ancestry flying with the Air Force in Vietnam, according to Capt. Valentino Bagnani, of

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San Francisco.

"All us Italian pilots practice such landings in Vietnam every day," he explained, setting me up for one of the local "inside" jokes.

"We just make Italian landings in such emergencies—Wop!"

According to "Bags," as the captain is known to his friends, "Bullets have little effect on the C-123, since it was built as a glider and the motors were added as an afterthought.

"Of course, we might be in trouble if the VC start throwing rocks."



There's one consolation to being shot in a C-123, however. They carry such variety of cargo that if you squeal with fright, you can always blame it on a pig.

I don't suppose the pigs knew what was going on when the Viet Cong started shooting up the plane, but when they started strapping a parachute on one to drop it into a Special Forces camp, I could have sworn it smiled.

I DIDN'T TAKE the next flight to see how they dropped a cow to the troops in the isolated

hamlets, but I asked a commander back at the base. how it was done.

He scratched his head and replied: With great difficulty."

Which is how they got me back on the next flight of the **Punctured Provider**.

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### **1882nd Tops In PACCOMM**

The 1882<sup>nd</sup> Communications Squadron has been selected to represent the Pacific Communication (PACCOMM) Area at Headquarters Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) for the annual Air Force Maintenance Award.

The selection, based on the squadron’s performance from July 1970 through June 1971, “reflects the high quality work, professional attitude and dedication of maintenance personnel,” stated Maj. Glenn G. Giddings Jr., 1882<sup>nd</sup> commander.



**ZAP!!! - MSgt. Horst Koehler, a radio repair technician, puts the final repair touches on a radio amplifier in a radio maintenance shop of the 1882<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Sq. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Keith Leberat)**

In earning this nomination, the Phan Rang squadron had to complete in over-all performance throughout the year with every other communications squadron in the PACCOMM area. This performance involved promptness of reports and service, improved services and maintenance, and equipment downtimes and outages.

The mission of the squadron is to provide telecommunications and air traffic control services for units in the Phan Rang area of the Republic of Vietnam. And until March 1971, the 1882<sup>nd</sup> also provided the air traffic control support to U.S. Army and Air Force units operating the Cam Ly Airfield at Dalat.

To accomplish its mission, the squadron operated four separate communications centers until the latter part of 1970 when two of the centers were deactivated.

In addition, the squadron operated and maintained the Federal Aviation Agency Control tower at Phan Rang, two runway supervisory units, two ground control approach units (one located at

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Dalat) and a host of other complicated, technical equipments.

The 1882<sup>nd</sup> also operated and maintained the base MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System) station, the ground portion of numerous air-to-ground radio systems, two facsimile recorders, the Giant Voice Warning System, the base weather teletype and teleautograph systems, a 1500 line Stromberg Carlson Telephone Exchange, a five-position switchboard, 23 telephone key systems, more than 2,000 telephone instruments, and more than 8,000 pair miles of telephone cable, cables for four weather sensing devices, an AFVN television translator, and the base commander’s Emergency Broadcast FM Radio Station.

The squadron also managed the second largest non-tactical radio account in the Republic of Vietnam.



**LINE TROUBLE - - Sgt. Thomas C. Bauer (front) receives an incoming trouble call, while MSgt. Julius V. Reid checks the circuit status board in the NavAids Communications Management Office. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Keith Legerat)**

The sections of the 1882<sup>nd</sup>, which worked to keep the equipment under their control working or if it did go out to repair it as quickly as possible, were the Maintenance Management Staff, Maintenance Control, NavAids Communications Management Office, Wire Maintenance, Navigational Aids Maintenance, Radar Maintenance, Radio Maintenance Teletype Maintenance, Cryptographic Maintenance, and Computer Maintenance.

In addition to normal and routine maintenance, the 1882<sup>nd</sup> also responded to emergencies such as when the severe storm severed the main cable to the southwestern side of the base; the 192<sup>nd</sup> Assault Helicopter Squadron and the 315<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing were totally without telephone communications.



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In notifying the 1882<sup>nd</sup> of the nomination, Col. Forrest K. Looney, 1964<sup>th</sup> Communications Group commander, stated, “I am proud of the 1882 ‘Happy Valley Squadron’ and the high caliber of personnel who have worked to earn this award. It is with this spirit that I convey a hearty ‘Well done’ for your exemplary performance and wish you the best of luck in the competition at Hq. AFCS and USAF.” *(It isn’t known whoever won the award. Source: Phan Fare, 315<sup>th</sup> TAW, August 8, 1971)*



**In-country passengers walking to the Cam Ranh Bay Passenger terminal after arriving on a Phan Rang based C-123 Provider.**

*(Screen shots from the video “A Day In the Life of a C-123 Crew” by Paul Wager)*

**We were both Phan Rangers, this story spanned a few locales but I thought it would be a funny story to share. Will be a new addition to the book; which is progressing nicely.**

# **COYOTE UGLY**

**by Jim Mattison**

## **COYOTE UGLY**

It was Fall of 1968, we were at Lockbourne AFB, Oh for our initial gunship training. Lockbourne was just outside Columbus, OH. We had been there for over a month and we were getting to know the area better. My fellow gunner, being a Texan, regarded himself quite the Casanova. While we were in Ohio for training, he was spending time with a local woman. I remember one Monday morning, he regaled his weekend escapades with the lady.

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He admitted to a problem developing, in that her daughter was home from college. I asked why that was a problem, he responded that her “daughter was beautiful” and he didn’t know if he should attempt going out with the daughter. I expressed my concern that it could be a dangerous situation to put himself in.

I chose to distance myself from this “situation”.

Fast forward to Nha Trang Vietnam, January 1969. The Texan and I went to an off base bar to explore the “nightlife”. We went to a bar that was recommended by some of the guys on base. We both went in and were seated at a love seat. Immediately two “hostesses” descended upon the two of us, taking up seats between us. The first statement from the hostesses was, “buy me a Saigon Tea”? Saigon Tea was merely a glass of tea equal to a shot glass in size. This was the well storied gambit played by the bar girls in Vietnam. For \$5 US, you would be afforded the opportunity to sit with a girl and talk while she sipped the tea.

In no time at all, her tea was gone and she would petition you to buy another. The proceeds would go to the owner of the bar, frequently referred to as “mama-san”. If this reminds one of a “madam in a bordello”, you are correct. The ultimate goal was to ply the GI with real alcoholic drinks, all the while buying the hostess “tea”.

Eventually the GI would be persuaded to take a trip upstairs with the hostess. This involved further separation of the GI from his money. Sexual favors were dispensed upstairs as the mama-san counted the money.

Meanwhile, back at the love seat, the hostess that sat between us suddenly reached out and grabbed my crotch and then grabbed the Texan’s crotch. She immediately looked at me and said “you numbah one” and looked at the Texan and said “you not so numbah one”. This immediately deflated the Texan’s ego and shortly he suggested we go somewhere else. We wandered around a short bit and then decided to take a cab back to base.

A few days later the Texan told me that he found a good place to go for drinks. It was the South Vietnamese Officers Club off base. He talked me into going with him later that evening. It was a pretty nice place, with a small band and a female singer. Pleasant music, fair priced drinks and we were welcomed by the patrons. I spent some time there and was ready to call it a

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night. The girlfriend of the singer said she had a car and would give me a lift back to base.

We all piled into the car and I was dropped off at the main gate. The Texan sped off with the two women and I drunkenly wobbled my way up to the gate. It was after midnight and I was challenged by the guards at the gate. As they were frisking me one of the guards was calling my First Sergeant to confirm I was legit. One of the other guards had some issues with organic material he found in my shirt pocket. I was queried what the substance was, and I responded that it was tobacco shards. I had run out of smokes and that was refuse from the empty pack.

Shortly afterwards I was released to return to my quarters, with no further problems.

The following morning, the Texan came dragging into our quarters with a look on his face like someone just shot his dog. He said to me “Matt, I can’t believe I spent the night with that woman”! He continued that he managed to talk the singer into taking him home, wherein he spent the wee hours of the morning relieving sexual urges.

He added that he awoke with the singer sleeping on his arm. He looked over and panicked at the hideous looking woman asleep at his side. He couldn’t believe that she looked so good in the club but looked so bad in the light of day. I reminded him that we were both pretty drunk at the time. He said he struggled to get his arm out from under the woman and ran out of her apartment, dressing as he hailed a cab back to base.

**Twenty years later there would be a movie based on a similar premise “Coyote Ugly”.**

**(Jim Mattison has authored many stories for the Phan Rang Newsletter, including these: Phan Rang News 62 “AC-119 Tails by Jim Mattison: Longest Mission”; Phan Rang News 64 “AC-119 Tails by Jim Mattison”; Phan Rang News 64 “AC-119 Tails by Jim Mattison: Smoke Float”; Phan Rang News 67 “AC-119 Tails by Jim Mattison: Another Short Shadow Story”; Phan Rang News 202 “Aussies - By Jim Mattison” and Phan Rang News 216 “Yaw, Pitch, Roll & Gravity - by Jim Mattison”. Wow, I guess I didn’t realize what a prolific writer he is. I’ve heard some rumors that he is going to be publishing a book of his exploits soon, so we can look forward to that.)**

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# **Whole Spectrum of Opinion Available to GIs in Vietnam**

By JOHN T. WHEELER

**SAIGON** (AP) —Thanks to military radio and television, American fighting men get a complete and unvarnished view of what the home front and the world think of the Vietnam war.

News programs are complete with the arguments of antiwar factions, news of draft demonstrations and reports of polls showing dissatisfaction over the war and President Johnson's popularity.

Military men here who have been in uniform since the beginning of World War II say military stations in Vietnam are lower than ever before on propaganda and longer on controversial issues that touch on the morale of fighting men.

An official at one station deplored when he called "the extremes" of balancing the official view on Vietnam and other issues with full reports on the sayings of domestic and foreign critics.

## **Hippies Out**

The official didn't want censorship. He just felt the troops didn't really want to hear all about the hippies, Lord Bertrand Russell's war crimes tribunal and what antiwar critics had to say while they were assaulting the Pentagon or burning draft cards.

But it's all there, the whole spectrum of opinion, by Pentagon order.

Even the disc jockey shows pass up subtle forms of censorship. A favorite song for months invited listeners to put some flowers in their hair and head for San Francisco and a love-in sponsored by the antiwar hippies.

On military news, the stations never vary from the official line on how the war is going on reports from inside Vietnam. However they might quote congressional critic on just the opposite of the official line that the fighting goes well.

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One of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service's policy makers here said: "We give equal time on all the major issues. The thing we work hardest for is balance. Since we have no competition, we have an obligation to do just what we say we do, give our men both sides the issue and let them make up their own minds."

### **Rifle Controversy**

Riflemen got the argument for and against the M16, the rifle some GIs claim has jammed in critical moments, costing the lives of its owners. The official view is that there is no controversy on the rifle and it is the best ever devised.

When an interview with the U.S. Army's provost marshal disclosed the widespread use of marijuana among America troops here, the story, considered embarrassing by the U.S. command, was spread by radio and television.

The television news program even has a weather girl, Red Cross worker Bobbie Oberhansly of Tacoma, Wash. The pert blonde broadcasts after the end of her regular day's work.

Like most stations, the military network has its sales pitches. They urge men to brush their teeth with fluoride tooth paste, be on guard against rabies and malaria, save their money and re-enlist to qualify for bonuses. GIs repeatedly are warned not to try to take home grenades and explosives among their souvenirs.

One plug urges GIs to write for a fur catalog that will let them send that special girl "the gift that keeps on giving." Because of the U.S. dollar drain due to GI spending in Vietnam, here is a campaign on to get them to order luxury and other goods in the United States at special low prices.

Television carries back-issues of popular U.S. television shows. Probably the over-all favorite is "Combat," followed by "Twelve O'Clock High" and "Gunsmoke."

One senior U.S. officer tried to halt the erection of a television antenna in his area on the grounds that he didn't want his men engrossed in a television fight while the Viet Cong sneaked in with a real attack.

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He lost. The U.S. Command wanted and got some 85 per cent of all U.S. troops in Vietnam in television range. More will be added as new stations beam to sparsely populated areas.

GIs at the 25th Division near Cu Chi reported they were watching "Twelve O'Clock High" one night. The play came to a point where air raid sirens warned of an impending attack by German aircraft. At the same time the base's sirens went off too, announcing a Viet Cong mortar attack. Men on the outside had to go into the bars and lounges and get their buddies away from the sets and into bunkers.

Even the main station in Saigon has seen in real life some of the drama portrayed over the air waves. Attacking Viet Cong shot up the building during a night attack. (*European Stars and Stripes, Darmstadt, December 11, 1967*)

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## **Old Pilots Vital In Viet War**

**WASHINGTON** (UPI) - The Vietnam War has forced the Air Force to rely heavily on older pilots who normally would be grounded, Secretary Harold Brown said Thursday.

Brown said the Air Force has a serious problem keeping pilots in the service and added "in the past two years . . . we have been losing our younger pilots at higher rates than before."

About half the Air Force's pilots are over 36, he said.

The war created unforeseen demands for pilots which Brown said are being met "by relying heavily on older officers who normally would not be returned to cockpit duties.

"The measures we are taking will enable us to keep all cockpits manned in Southeast Asia for our projected operations, though some Air Force activities will be manned at lower than optimum levels."

Brown discussed the pilot shortage in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee

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and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on the \$10.7 billion Air Force budget request.

"The critical need for pilots has disrupted the career pattern for many of our officers," " Brown said. "We need more young pilots to man cockpits now as well as to provide a larger pilot resource in the years ahead when a large number of our pilots will be leaving the service."

(Source: *Pacific Stars And Stripes, Tokyo, February 4, 1967*)

## **366th Units In Viet Nam Shift**

**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 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 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 389th with two sister Phantom squadrons-the 390<sup>th</sup> and 480<sup>th</sup> - at Da Nang, the Air Force's most northern major air base in Viet Nam.

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

Col. George S. Weart, 46, 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 aluminum matting strip.

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Phan Rang has been used by the Air Force since March when Phantom crews of the 389th arrived from Holloman.

*(Alamogordo Daily News, Alamogordo, New Mexico, October 21, 1966)*



ELMER F. LEAGUE U.S. Air Force **T.Sgt. Elmer F. League**, son of Elmer League of 1301 Commercial Ave., Oxnard, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. League, an armament systems technician, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he served with an Air Force detachment at Phelps Collins Airport, Mi. *(Oxnard Press Courier, Oxnard, California, March 3, 1971)*

T.Sgt. **Wayne L. Tait**, husband of the former Roberta Code, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook, 104 Ben Swain drive, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, as an aircraft electrician. *(El Paso Herald Post, El Paso, Texas, August 31, 1968)*

U. S, Air Force Sergeant **Charles T. Vaughan**, son of Mrs. Esther B. Sykes of 119 S. Jones St., Petersburg, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Vaughan is an administrative specialist with the 1502<sup>nd</sup> Postal and Courier Squadron. *(Petersburg Progress Index, Petersburg, Virginia, June 11, 1971)*

Stf. Sgt. E6 **Junior I. Crutcher**, U. S. Army, 35, hot returned from Vietnam and Korea for a short leave before reporting again to Korea for further duty on July 24th. A career man in the Army, Junior has four years to go to achieve his 20-year retirement. The Trinity High graduate, Class of '52, has gained two years of college credits at the University of Maryland via the Army's educational system. Soft-spoken and modest in describing his experiences overseas, it was nonetheless revealed that he had been awarded the Bronze Star during his 14 month Tour of



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Duty in Vietnam for rescuing his entire platoon that had been hemmed in by N.V.A.s while on a search-and-destroy patrol. Ho "took chance" and ran under small-arm fire to a hidden cache of grenade launchers and opened up on the NVA's with an M79, opening a means of ambush escape. During his entire service in Vietnam he was engaged in patrol missions based at Phan Rang with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div. He is enthusiastic in describing the high morale of his platoon. "I deeply regret the loss of so many of our young men", he declares, "but, in my opinion, the war is justifiable to prevent the Communists from gaining control of Asia." After Vietnam, Sgt. Crutcher was deployed to Korea for a 14 month Tour of Duty attached to the 51<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion at Ui Jong Bu. He is returning to the same unit for further duty. The Athens soldier is the son of Mrs. Essie L. Crutcher and the late Percy Crutcher, 1204 Plate Jones St., Athens. He has one brother, Walter, 33, a teacher with the Athens School District, and a sister named Percy ("that was supposed to have been my name but she came first") whose married name is Mrs. J. C. Anderson of Chicago. Junior Crutcher "opines" that after his 20 year retirement, he will marry and settle down in his home town of Athens. A basketball and football player of note in the service, he may decide to coach. *(This text was part of a story for an advertisement for First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Decatur in the Decatur Daily, Decatur, Alabama, July 20-, 1969)*

Airman First Class **Richard A. Markel**, son of retired U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. and Mrs. Samuel R. Markel of Peru, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Viet Nam and Sgt. **James W. Shelton** is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Viet Nam. His wife, Karen, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Owen B. Johnson of Peru. *(Logansport Pharos Tribune and Press, Logansport, Indiana, March 27, 1969)*



Airman **Stephen Mattox**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Mattox, Rt. 1, Beloit has completed Air Force training at Lackland AFB, Tex., and will remain there for training in the security police field. Mattox, a 1964 graduate of Clinton High School, is married to the former Carol Shimanek, Beloit. *(Janesville, Gazette, Janesville, Wisconsin, May 3, 1972)*

Sgt. **David Woodman**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Woodman, Rt. 2, is a vehicle repairman on duty at Udorn Royal Thai AFB. Thailand. Before going to Thailand, the Craig High School graduate was assigned at Phan Rang AB. Vietnam. *(Janesville, Gazette, Janesville, Wisconsin, May 3, 1972)*

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**Gary D. Eutis**, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Eutis. Rte. Marseilles, recently was promoted to Army Specialist Five at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. His wife, Sue, lives at 119 N. Cash. St., Seneca. (*Morris Daily Herald, Morris, Illinois, October 5, 1971*)

Sgt. **Larry J. Proffitt**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul N. Proffitt of Midway, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Proffitt, a jet engine mechanic, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to Chanute AFB, ILL. The sergeant, a 1964 graduate of Sophia High School, attended the University of Illinois. His wife is the former Linda L. Shaw. (*Beckley Post Herald, Beckley, West Virginia, June 6, 1968*)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Sergeant **Larry R. Thompson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Berwin D. Thompson of Stratford, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Thompson, a security policeman, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to Malmstrom AFB, Mont. The sergeant is a 1965 graduate of Stratford Community High School. (*Boone News Republican, Boone, Iowa, August 19, 1968*)

S/Sgt. **Gerald A. Norton** whose wife, Karen, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond N. Nelson of Dwight, has received the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. An air operations specialist, Sgt. Norton was decorated for meritorious service at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. He was cited for his outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership. He is now at Phan Rang in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. The sergeant is a graduate of Hinsdale High School. His mother is Mrs. Betty M. Dresser of Berwyn. (*Morris Daily Herald, Morris, Illinois, January 29, 1968*)

# DESIGN APPAREL .COM



## PHAN RANG'S OFFICIAL OUTFITTER

**About Design Apparel:** Arnett Gill who runs Design Apparel has been a friend of the Phan Rang Veterans group for most of its existence and a friend and ardent supporter of all veterans no






## “Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 218 “...keeping the memories alive”

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matter their service affiliation or where they served. After years of plying his trade at VA Hospitals all across the country he probably knows more about the veteran’s sacrifices and can talk veteran better than the average veteran. The following are just some of the thousands of items that are for sale at Design-Apparel.com that have an interest to Phan Rang veterans.

 <p>Phan Rang Black Reunion Polo From \$28.00</p>	<p>This classic polo features the patch that was designed by Bruce Muller’s grandchildren that represents the four nations that served at Phan Rang AB. The shirt looks good in any situation.</p> <p><b>You can click on any of the products for more information.</b></p>		
 <p>Phan Rang Vietnam Veteran Cap \$20.00</p>	 <p>F-100 Super Sabre-Vietnam patch \$7.95</p>	 <p>F-100 Super Sabre Patch \$8.95</p>	 <p>7th Air Force 8" Round Patch \$5.95</p>
<p>The Phan Rang Vietnam Veterans do not have any financial or any other agreements with Design-Apparel other than to promote them because they carry products that are unique to Phan Rang AB and are desired by the members.</p>			

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The 2021 Phan Rang Vietnam Veterans shirt is expected to be available for ordering on 1 March 2021. The shirt features a patch designed by the grandchildren of Bruce Muller.

### Reunion Information

## PHAN RANG VIETNAM VETERANS 2021 REUNION



Here's the latest on the 2021 Phan Rang Reunion, Branson, MO.

**Date:** 14-17 October 2021

**Location:** Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, Missouri

**Rates:** \$99.95 Double Queen - \$104.94 King (These rates are good three days before and three days after the scheduled event)

**Reservations:** Call 417-335-2555, Monday - Friday 8am to 5 pm, ask for Renee

**Reunion fee:** \$25 per person

**Banquet:**

**Menu Choice 1** - Menu choice Roast beef and Chicken with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Fancy Green Beans, Dinner Rolls and Butter and Strawberry Salad, Coffee and dessert included.

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**\$50.00**

**Menu Choice 2** - Vegetarian meal, Vegetable lasagna **\$50.00**

**Showboat Branson Belle:** 15 Oct. Lunch cruise **\$40** per person, Includes tax & gratuity

**REUNION MAIN EVENTS**

**(OTHER EVENTS AND SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER)**

<b>14 Oct. (Thursday)</b>	Southern Style dinner (Time TBA), with fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, sweet buttered corn, fancy green beans, garden salad, dinner rolls and strawberry cake.
<b>15 Oct. (Friday)</b>	<i>Showboat Branson Belle</i> , a noon departure with dinner (Mixed garden salad with roll, Honey Citrus Chicken, Slow cooked Pot Roast in gravy, steamed green beans, garlic mashed potatoes, butter cake and drinks) and entertainment. Specific times to be announced (TBA).
<b>16 Oct. (Saturday)</b>	Banquet with pay as you go bar.
<b>17 Oct. (Sunday)</b>	Goodbyes & checkout.

In summary here are your options (**all costs are per person**).

Reunion w/reunion fee	Reunion w/reunion fee & banquet <sup>1</sup>	Reunion w/reunion fee & banquet & Branson Belle
<b>\$25<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$115.00</b>
<p>SEND CHECK TO: <b>Elizandro De Los Santos</b> <b>11705FM 775</b> <b>Floresville, Tx., 78114</b></p> <p>(Pease make your check payable to <b>“Phan Rang Vietnam Veterans”</b> and indicate your banquet meal choice and email or telephone number with payment.)</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT: ALL MONIES/REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021 AND REFUNDS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL THAT DATE.</b></p>		

<sup>1</sup> All meals are included in the cost of the banquet.

<sup>2</sup> By sending in your money, you are then registered for the reunion.

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# **LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE REUNION!**

### **Doug’s Comments:**

Many Facebook members, including myself, are gradually transitioning to our Phan Rang group on MeWe. [Click here to join](#). This newsletter was composed and all graphics by Douglas Severt unless otherwise stated. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, mailto: [dougsevert@cox.net](mailto:dougsevert@cox.net) and put ‘unsubscribe’ in subject line.