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**FAC School Shifts to Phan Rang** (*Air Force Times, April 3, 1968*)

PHAN RANG AB — Det. 1, 504th Tactical Air Support Gp., recently moved from Binh Thuy AB to Phan Rang AB.

The detachment operates the Theater Indoctrination School for all forward air controllers (FACs) reporting for duty in Southeast Asia.

At the school, each FAC receives proficiency training in either the 0-1 Bird Dog or the 0-2 Super Skymaster.

He also learns such tools of the trade as map reading, effects of various ordnance carried by fighters, and organizational and communication structures that are pertinent to him as a FAC.

**Viet Communique** (*Air Force Times, April 3, 1968*)

SAIGON — Overcast skies covered much of North Vietnam during the week March 7-13, as Air Force tactical fighter-bomber aircraft concentrated on enemy supply routes, truck parks and storage areas along the country's southern panhandle. The pilots and crews also hit army barracks, airfields and railroad yards in the northern regions.

A total of 260 armed reconnaissance and strike missions were flown north of the 17th parallel.

AF pilots and crews reported causing 13 secondary explosions and 15 sustained fires. Roads were cut in six places. Two bridges, 13 cargo craft, 40 trucks, five military storage structures and three bunkers were destroyed or damaged. The pilots and crews also silenced six radar sites, one SAM site and one AAA position.

Air Force tactical fighter-bombers were airborne 2433 times throughout the week in South Vietnam hitting enemy base camps, fortified positions, bunkers, troop concentrations, sampans and gun emplacements. Of this total, 880 tactical air strikes supported Operation Scotland in the western portion of Quang Tri Province. An average of more than 347 air strikes were made each day in bombing and strafing enemy positions.

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AF pilots and crews were credited by forward air controllers with killing 212 of the enemy and causing 147 secondary explosions and '78 sustained fires. They also destroyed or damaged 138 sampans and numerous fortifications and bunkers.

AC-47 Dragonship crews, assigned to the 14th Air Commando Wg., were airborne more than 149 times throughout the week, providing flare light and fire support for friendly ground forces.

An AC-47 crew from Bien Hoa AB provided flare light and fired into rocket positions of the enemy hitting Bien Hoa on March 12.

AC-47 crews from Binh Thuy AB were airborne throughout the night of March 13-14, supporting their installation, four outposts and a district town under enemy attack and ARVN forces in contact with enemy troops. The crews received enemy automatic weapons ground fire while firing their mini-guns into the enemy recoilless rifle positions.

B-52 crews struck enemy base camps, storage, supply and bivouac areas, trenches, bunker complexes and weapons positions during 49 bombing missions during the week. All of the missions were carried out in South Vietnam.

AF psychological warfare crews assigned to the 14th Air Commando Wg. dropped about 83 million leaflets urging the enemy to return to the side of the government of South Vietnam. The crews also broadcast nearly 222 hours of tape-recorded messages over their aircrafts' loudspeaker systems as they flew over suspected enemy positions.

Tactical airlift crews, under the direction of the 834th Air Div., and Royal Australian Air Force airlift crews made 8928 stops as they delivered 81,668 troops and other passengers and 21,479 tons of mail, supplies and equipment throughout South Vietnam.

### **Not a Lawnmower**



A1C William Shreve, a member of 1882 Comm Sq., Phan Rang AB, tries to convince GTO (goat) that everyone must earn his keep. Squadron member MSgt. Charles Spears purchased the goat for a squadron mascot as well as an easy means to keep the grass trimmed. but if GTO has anything to say about the situation, the squadron's airmen will continue to push the mower.

**The Wingmen From Phan Rang\***

When time passes on, and we have  
reached the twilight of our lives,

I shall harken back to over a hundred flights  
in these war-torn Asian skies and,

Once again, I'll hear that roar of burner,  
blast of cannon and screech of tires.

Through weak and misty eyes in vain will I look  
and search the skies

For those wingmen no longer here;  
And always, my heart, my soul and my memory  
will take me back-

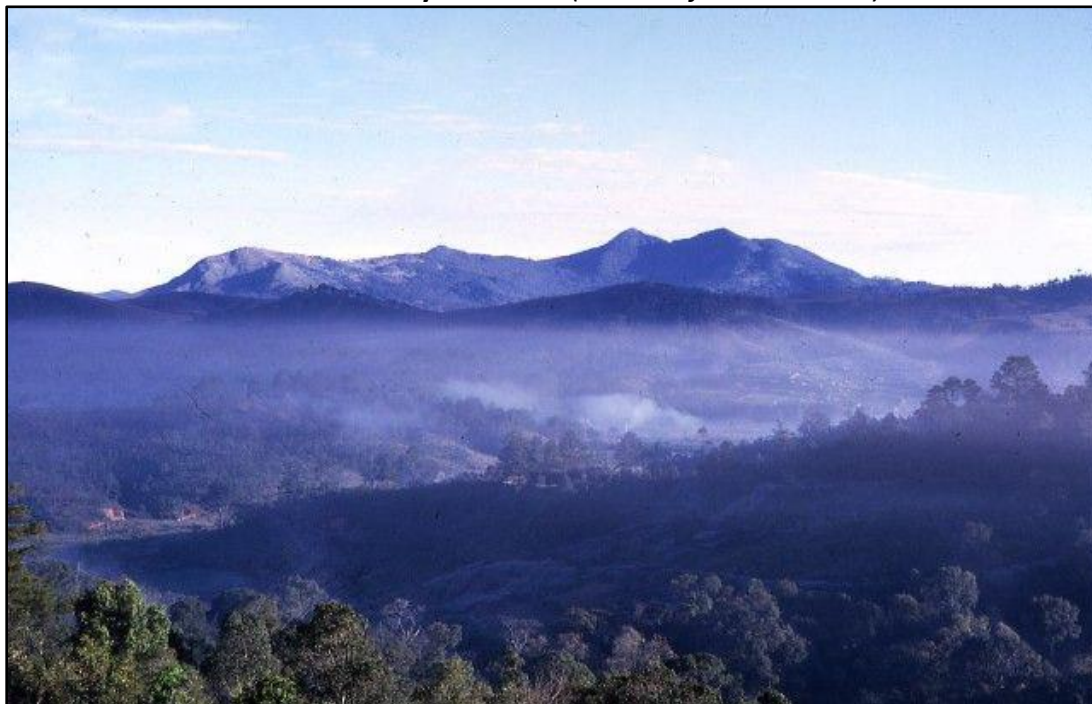
- Perhaps to the DMZ, or maybe Vinh Long City  
Always

To those wingmen from Phan Rang

\*Original title "The Wingmen From Takhili" by Maj. Eugene Grillo, 355<sup>th</sup> Tac. Fighter Wing, Takili RTAFB, Thailand published in the 'Air Force Times' July 23, 1968.

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**The Lost Colony Revisited** *(Pictures from Ed Brace)*



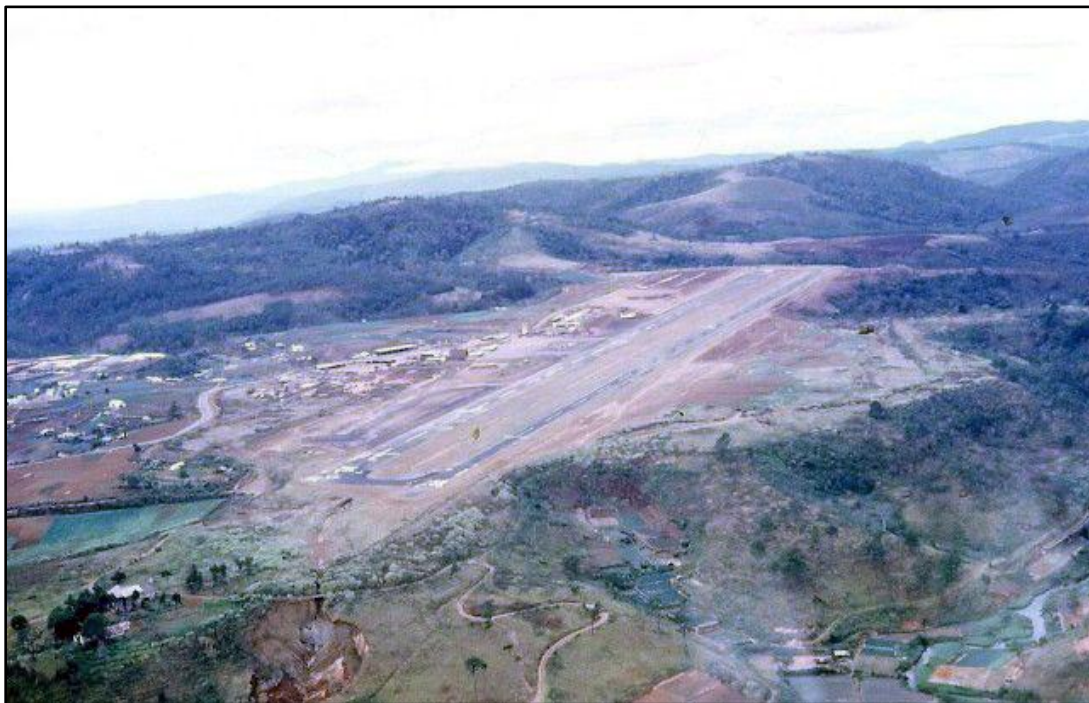
**Morning in Dalat**



**C-123 landing at Dalat Cam Ly Air Field**



**Dalat Cam Ly GCA Revetment**

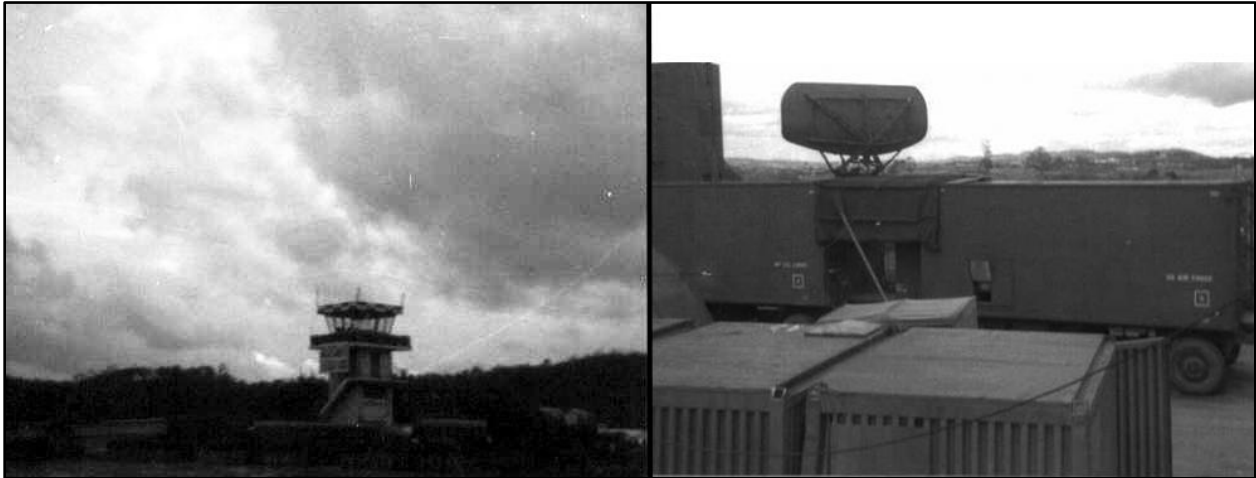


**Dalat Cam Ly Air Field**

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

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Control tower, 1969 and Dalat Cam Ly GCA unit 1969



OLA 1882 Comm. Sq. Compound, Dalat, 1969



**Sgt Ed Brace, TSgt Carl Powers and TSgt Clay**



**TSgt C. Powers and Sgt Ed Brace, Dalat, 1969**

The Phan Rang News 21 featured a news story about 'The Lost Colony', a term for the 1882d Comm Sq. OLA at the Dalat Cam Ly airport. These are pictures from the guys that experienced it. Click [here](#) to see a link to the 1882<sup>nd</sup> history web page.

### **NCMO Vital Nerve Center For 1882d At Phan Rang**

Phan Rang AB, RVN - Nestled deep in the electronic complex of the 1882d Comm. Sq. here is the nerve center for the entire communications network on this coastal Vietnam air base — the NCMO.

According to MSgt. Harold A. Smith, NCMO supervisor, "Our NCMO is the watchdog of the 1882d." Whenever any vital outage occurs at Phan Rang AB, It is immediately reported to the NCMO.

Once notified, they in turn find out what secondary capabilities are available to accomplish the mission. The NCMO then notifies the proper maintenance shop to have them check to see where the problem lies, find the exact trouble, and restore the primary equipment or circuit as soon as possible.

Once this is accomplished, NCMO is again notified that the facility is back in commission, the outage logs are then cleared and normal operations are resumed. All communications circuits and equipment are repaired on a priority basis, depending on how vital the circuit, cable, or equipment may be to perform the mission on Phan Rang AB. Each facility and circuit has been assigned a restoration priority.

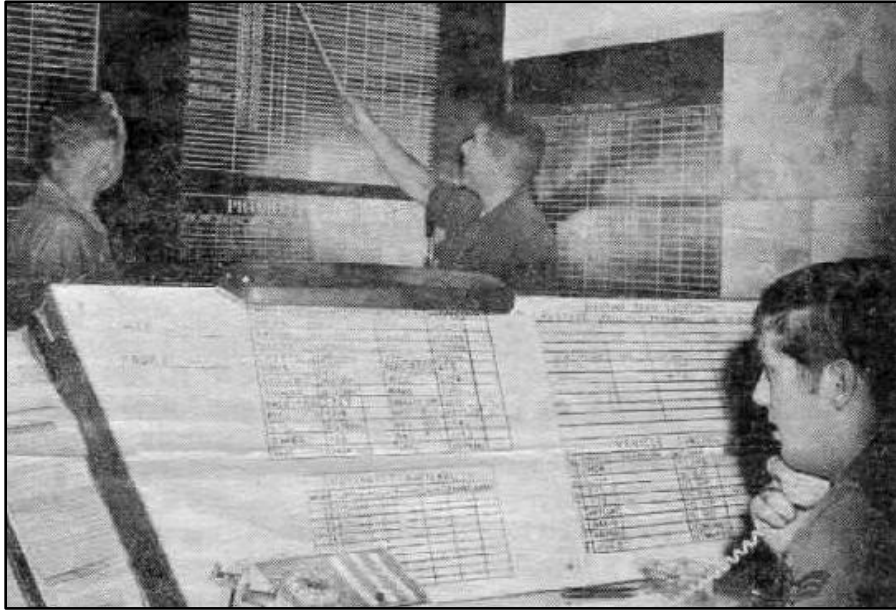
The section is in 24-hour contact with Maj. Glenn G. Giddings Jr., squadron commander, and other key personnel. The NCMO is the commander's action, reaction and coordinating agency for accomplishing the mission. It constantly monitors the status of approximately 80 communications circuits and several major facilities, including the Ground Control Approach (GCA) radar, the non-directional homing beacon units here and the Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) systems at Phan Rang and at nearby DaLat (The Lost Colony).

NCMO also monitors the supply computers and the AUTODIN computer for which NCMO has maintenance control responsibility.

Radio systems under its maintenance control include both the 35th Tactical Fighter and 14th Special Operations Wings' tactical unit's operation center (TUOC),



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**NERVE CENTER** - Msgt. Harold A. Smith (center) points out 1882d Comm Sq. facility on the NCMO status board to TSgt. Neal R. Wolfe (left), while Sgt. Hugh Parker takes a trouble call on the telephone.

### The 2014 "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB Reunion

### **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](#).



This postcard along with the next one of Superstition Mountain is a little teaser of what we will be seeing in October. **John Goss** our man on the ground in Tucson along with **Felipe Ludin** are working out the detail of our visit to [AMARC](#), the Air Force bone yard.

**Ken Miller** another of our guys on the ground at Tucson writes this:

Old Tucson is about 1/2 hour drive from downtown and is also a fun place. It was where many old movies were shot. It burned down (the main area) some years back but was rebuilt and is a decent visit.

Pima Air Museum and the Bone Yard are the best. Nothing compares. (Note: We will go as a group...Doug)

Sabino Canyon is a very nice hike and a tram can take you to the top, and back. Lots of side trails.

The Biosphere is the largest "greenhouse" ever built and it was the place that scientists stayed in using only the food grown and air breathed, cycling water and wastes. It is a great tour. About 45 minutes from down town. It was the basis for the Pauly Shor film "Biodome".

Many other sites. Best Mexican food around you ever had.

It's hard to believe, but Ken won't be able to make the reunion because he has a more important commitment...his daughter's wedding in another state.



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

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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.