

Phan Rang News No. 23

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Army Unit Shifts To Phan Rang (*Air Force Times, October 14, 1970, Europe*)

PHAN RANG AB — With the whine of diesel engines and the popping of rotor blades, the U.S. Army's 192d Aviation Co. (Assault Helicopter) arrived here-recently from Phan Thiet in Binh Thuan Province.

Within 48 hours the entire helicopter company had moved into their new headquarters at this 35th Tactical Fighter Wing base. Personnel and essential operational equipment were ferried in by the unit's AH-1 gunships, while the vehicles, pallets and support equipment made the trip by U.S. Navy vessels up the coast from Phan Thiet.

The 192d advance party had arrived a few weeks ahead of the main party to prepare the site, flight line, billets and support facilities for the rapid transfer. The unit remained operational during the entire move.

Ill Pair Given \$54,000 (*Air Force Times, June 16, 1971, Europe*)

By Maj. Robert Thatcher
and SSgt. Ken Garrett

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam — The successful Phan Rang AB Holt Fund Drive drew to a close at "Holts' Place" with the announcement that the campaign had collected a grand total of \$54,000 for Paula and Gary Holt, the Austin, Tex., brother and sister afflicted with a rare hereditary kidney disease. The majority of the base's 10,000 airmen and Soldiers are credited with the successful humanitarian feat.

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Nearly 700 men turned out for the dedication of the former All-Ranks Club. which kicked off the night of fun and entertainment. The party capped the month-long fund-raising drive at this base. It was estimated that more than 2000 American, Australian, Korean and Vietnamese airmen and soldiers enjoyed the festivities at "Holts' Place" that night.

Gary Holt, 20. a sophomore at Southwest Texas State University, and his 17-year-old sister, Paula, are victims of acute nephritis that requires them to spend 15 hours a week channeling their blood through a purifying machine in order to keep alive, The machine consumes- a nonreusable liquid chemical which costs the H.V. Holt family at least \$360 a month for each youngster.

Gary and Paula cannot live without the costly medical supplies. The disease has already taken the lives of three of their 10 brothers and sisters, and, three other Holt children are still in the age range, 16-20, during which acute nephritis usually strikes.

Master of ceremonies for the dative evening. SSgt. Donald E. White of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wg's. Office of Information, who had conducted a radio marathon for the Holts, introduced Col. Cregg P. Nolen Jr., 35th TFW commander, who said, "I must admit I've never been more proud of a group of people than I am of you because you have made the Holt campaign work."

Col. Donald E. Libby, Phan Rang AB commander, performed the official dedication. He said, "There is no greater satisfaction than the realization that one has done something really great for someone else . This spirit was truly exemplified on that night a couple of weeks ago, when, with just a suggestion over the radio, you men poured out about \$37,200 in less than 25 hours for Paula and Gary. I'm not sure, but I'll bet that hasn't been done anywhere else in the world, and I'm awfully proud to have been here to have seen it happen.

"It is my very great pleasure to help in the dedication and the renaming of this club tonight to 'Holts' Place'. I think you did a great job choosing that name and I'm sure that the Holts, Gary and Paula, are going to be very proud to have their name on yet another plaque at Phan Rang.

The name "Holts' Place" was suggested by SMSgt. Roger D, Byerly of the 14th Field Maintenance Sq. A campaign to find a name for the new All-Ranks Club was being held at the same time the fund drive was in progress. Sergeant Byerly donated his \$50 prize to the Holt Fund.

Airman Delivers \$30,000 In Mercy Mission (*The Bulletin, Bend, Deschetes County, Oregon, Tuesday, April 13, 1971*)

Austin, Tex. (UPI) - Sgt Robert L. Jones traveled half way around the world to personally deliver a \$30,000 check that might help save the lives of Paula and Gary Holt.

"I don't know what to say," Paula said Monday night as tears swelled in her eyes. She turned and hugged the Vietnam Veteran who had just arrived at the airport.

"I just want to thank you," said Gary, hold the check tightly in his hands.

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Paula, 17, and Gary 20, are suffering from a hereditary kidney disease that has killed their grandmother, two aunts and three sisters. They must spend 15 hours a week in a machine that purifies their blood. The money donated by the soldiers in Vietnam and delivered by Jones will be used to pay for the machine and other medical expenses.

"We watched two of those other die and it was hard," said the children's father, L. V. Holt, who drives a bread truck. "That's why we've been so excited about this."

The \$30,000 was raised from donations from 8,000 servicemen at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. Sgt Jones, 22 of Turlock, Calif., carried the personal check in a black satchel. We was accompanied on the last leg of his trip, from San Francisco to Austin, by his wife Norma.

"You must be pretty proud of your husband," a city official said at the airport as he presented a bouquet of roses to Mrs. Jones.

"I am," she beamed.

Sgt Jones said he first heard about the Holts' troubles from reading a newspaper story. He said he collected the \$30,000 within 12 hours. One soldier gave \$1,000 from his reenlistment bonus and another donated \$450 Auctions were held at the base to help build the fund.

"It was the thing the base really needed," he said. "It helped morale a heckuva lot. The people just felt it was something they could do to help. And it helped."

"It will put us in good financial shape for now," Hold said. "We figure we'll need \$150,000 for the next three years and then two transplants. We're well on our way but we've still got a ways to go."

(Note, I'm unable to determine why there is a difference in donated amounts between articles and publications.)

Let's Get the Word Out - Our third reunion is coming up and we would like to contact as many people as possible. Our Happy Valley, Phan Rang AB Facebook group has almost 610 members and most of them are very active by contributing pictures and comments almost on a daily basis. The mailing list for this newsletter reaches out to over 200 so if you know anyone that isn't receiving this letter, please let [me](#) know so that I can add them and by all means if they are on Facebook please recommend them to join our 'Happy Valley' group. The group is closed and they have to ask to join, but that isn't a problem. The general criteria to join are anyone that was stationed, PCS, TDY, etc. at Phan Rang or a spouse or other interested family members are welcomed to join. One of the reasons I want to push now for membership is because after every reunion I get contacted by someone that just heard about it and wishes they would have known and I feel like we didn't do a good enough job of getting the word out.



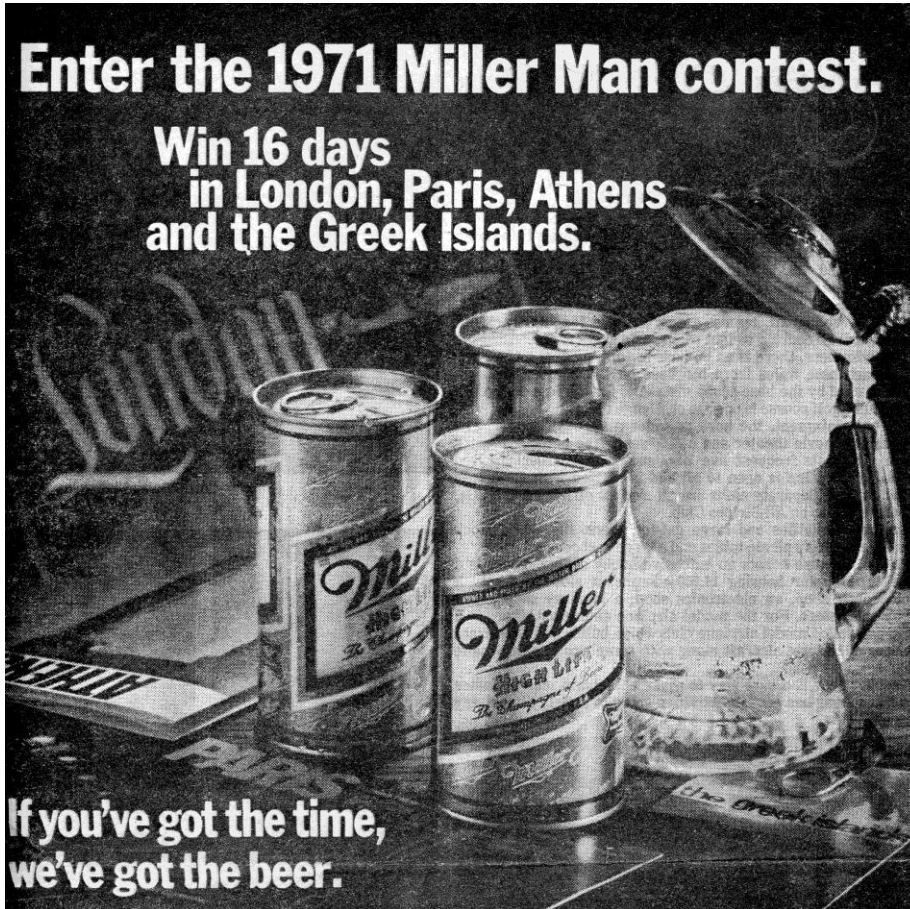
Enter the 1971 Miller Man Contest (*Air Force Times, June 16, 1971 Europe*)

The big contest is back! Win the 1971 "Miller Man" Contest and join the jet set for sixteen days at Miller's expense: Travel to London, on to Paris, to Athens: then tour the Greek Islands in style!

Contest begins May 1 and ends August 31. You could be the winner! There are two grand prizes; The unmarried winner may choose his date from among three lovely young ladies, or he may select his favorite girl friend. The married winner and his wife can make it a second honeymoon, with babysitter expenses provided.

100 Second prizes. A year's supply (24 cases) of Miller Beer, delivered stateside. All winners' names will be published.

Are you the Miller Man of '71?



Miller Man Contest Rules:

- 1) Complete entire entry blank. (Incomplete blanks will not be computed.)
- 2) Drop in contest box at your Military Club . . . or . . . Mail to . . . MILLER MAN, P.O. 2027, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201, U.S.A.
- 3) All entries must be submitted to your Military Club or postmarked no later than Aug. 31, 1971.
- 4) Grand Prize: There will be two (2) grand prize winners . . . one single winner and one married winner. Each grand prize winner will receive an all-expense-paid FABULOUS FORTNIGHT (16 days and 15 nights), divided between London, Paris, Athens and a cruise to the Greek Islands. Previous MILLER MAN contest winners have traveled as scheduled since this program began in 1969. However, the Miller Brewing Company reserves the right to alter itineraries if such alterations are made necessary by conditions beyond Miller's control existing at the time of travel.
 - a) Single winner will select his escort from among three lovely young ladies, or he may select his own escort.
 - b) Married winner will have a second honeymoon and a babysitter allowance of \$15.00 per day, if needed, for the 16 days travel.
- 5) Runner-up prize winners will receive a one year's supply of MILLER HIGH LIFE. (24 cases to be picked up in the Continental United States.)
- 6) Winners must give the Miller Brewing Company 60 days advance reservation notice for planning accommodations. Winners must use their FABULOUS FORTNIGHT within 13 months of being notified that they are winners.
- 7) "The acceptance of this entertainment of military personnel of the United States Armed Forces does not constitute an endorsement of the product's sponsor by the Department of Defense."

Names of Winners will be Published by October 15, 1971.

Miller Man Contest Entry Blank *Fill Out and Send In*

Name _____

Age _____ Married Single

Rank _____

Serial No. _____

APO/FPO Address _____

Permanent Address _____

Name of Your Club _____

Height _____ Weight _____

Hat Size _____ Neck Size _____

Chest Size _____ Waist _____

Color of Hair _____ Eyes _____

Favorite Color _____

Type of Girl Liked Best (Circle One) Shy Sexy Bold Homey Reserved Swinger

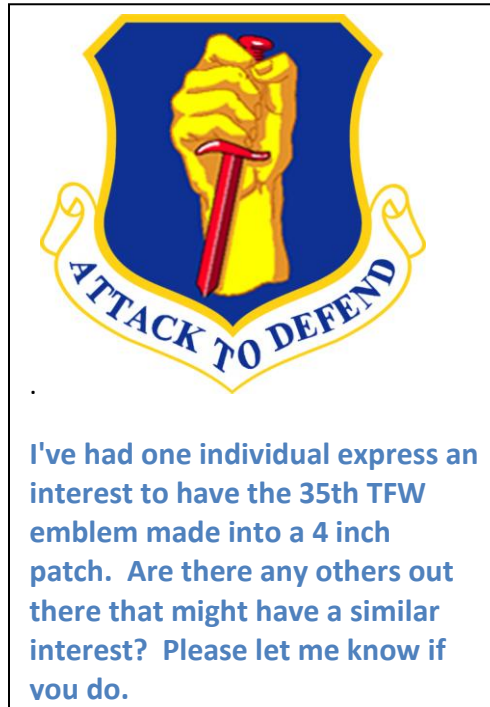
Hair Color of Girl Liked Best (Circle One) Blond Dark Redhead

* Name of club you frequent most. ©1971 The Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

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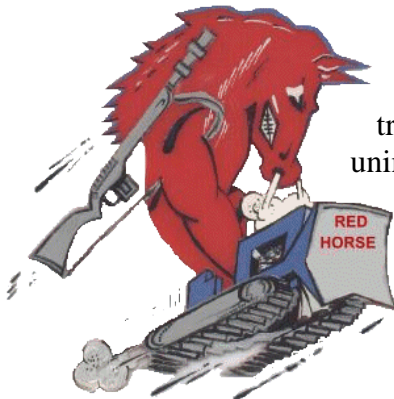
Shout Out to Antonio Salazar

Congratulations go out to Antonio (Tony) Salazar for assuming commandership for his district in the American Legion. They presently have a membership total of over 3,400 Legionnaires. Tony will be busy, but he has his lovely wife Mary for support. Once again, former Phan Ranger, we are proud of you and as always looking forward to seeing you and Mary at our reunion in Tucson!



Red Horse: The Base Builders (*Jet Journal*, July 5, 1968)

The 554th Civil Engineering Squadron, Rapid Engineer Development, Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineering (RED HORSE), is called on when the job is too big for local Civil Engineering squadrons.



The 554th, a 400-man unit commanded by Col. William T. Meredith, played a major role in transforming Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, from a base with an unimproved runway and a few tents, into a modern complex that this year was named "Best Base in Vietnam."

Current projects include building an air passenger and freight terminal, and several new barracks and aircraft maintenance buildings.

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All RED HORSE projects at Phan Rang AB are coordinated through the 554th CES Engineering/Operations section. Logistical support includes food service, supply units and vehicle and construction equipment maintenance personnel.

Prior to coming to their RED HORSE squadrons, personnel are sent to the 560th Civil Engineering Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla., for 60 days of combat training.

Crew Chief Readies 1,200 Missions (*Jet Journal, July 5, 1968*)

Phan Rang - Sgt. Dennis C. Lippl, an O-1 Bird Dog crew chief at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, who extended his tour in Vietnam by six months has reached 1,200 combat missions flown by forward air controllers of the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron. He readies an average of four such missions a day.



Sgt Joe Burkhart with FAC courier bird, Phan Rang AB, mid 1968.
Photo by Joe Burkhart.

aircraft against enemy targets.

"You may have only five or ten minutes to get the aircraft refueled, oil in it and back in the air again," he commented. Getting the O-1 ready, includes installation of smoke rockets used for marking enemy targets and a check on the aircraft engine.

As a volunteer Sergeant Lippl has flown 30 combat missions with the FACs, whom he described as "a great bunch of people." Their mission is to direct air strikes by combat

Officers Reunited After 17 Years (*Jet Journal, July 5, 1968*)

It isn't unusual to find two people from the same hometown stationed on one base. However, Maj. Gerald B. Youmans, and Maj. Robert W. Shane Jr., have expanded on the similarities.

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The Florence, S.C., majors were graduated from the same high school and attended church together in Florence before entering the Air Force.

Seventeen years ago they parted company and didn't see each other until both were assigned to the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing's 8th Bomb Squadron, flying B-57 Canberra bombers. Appropriately enough, Major Shane's first mission with the 8th was flown with Major Youmans.

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.