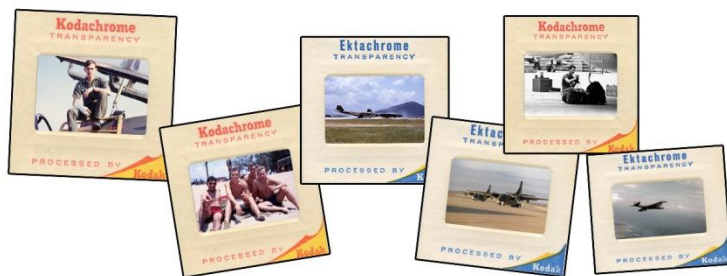


Phan Rang AB Newsletter

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.
"Keeping the memories alive" Newsletter 236



A Snapshot in Time



21 March & 9-23 May

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

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9 MAY - 'Yellow Water Still Drinkable' Says Engineer

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23 MAY - Phan Rang AB Physician Selected PACAF Surgeon Of The Year

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23 MAY - 35th Records Bonanza Month

23 MAY - 20 Civilians Complete Supply OJT

More Significant events at Phan Rang AB and the Republic of Vietnam



21 MAR - President Honors 14th SOW

The President of the United States, **Richard M. Nixon**, has bestowed the

highest unit award, the Presidential Unit Citation, upon a Phan Rang AB unit--the 14th Special Operations Wing (SOW). The award was presented Mar. 14 by Maj. Gen. **Ernest C. Hardin Jr.**, 7th Air Force vice commander, during morning ceremonies at this coastal Vietnam Air Base.

The citation accompanying the honor read: "The 14th Special Operations Wing, Pacific Air Forces, distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against opposing armed forces in Southeast Asia....Crew members of the Wing flew one of the most versatile missions in Southeast Asia which included reconnaissance, escort for search and rescue, close air support, psychological warfare illuminations, airlift and resupply. Despite intensive hostile air defenses, inclement weather and treacherous terrain, crews of the Wing, night and day, risked their lives to further Allied goals in Southeast Asia.

"As a consequence of the flight crews' courage, over 33,000 hostile troops defected to friendly forces, more than 3,600 Allied installations were successfully defended, and hundreds of

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friendly ground teams and patrols were saved from annihilation.

"The professionalism, dedication to duty, and extraordinary heroism demonstrated by the members of the 14th Special Operations Wing are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States."

The 14th is unique because its fighting units are the only Air Force units of their kind in Vietnam. Two of the three fixed wing USAF gunship squadrons, the only USAF psychological warfare squadron, and the only USAF armed helicopter squadron are all part of the 14th SOW. With this special force operating seven different types of aircraft from nine major airfield locations throughout Southeast Asia, the 14th has played a versatile and significant role in the fight against Communist aggression in this part of the world. Flying an average of 137 missions every day, aircrews of the wing have participated in every major ground operation in the Republic of Vietnam since March 1966. The Wing's 17th SOS is now training Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) aircrews in the twinengine AC-119 Shadow gunships at Phan Rang AB under the VNAF Improvement and Modernization Program.

All personnel of the 14th SOW including the 14th Field Maintenance Squadron, the 9th, 17th, 18th, 20th, and 90th Special Operations Squadrons may wear the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. However, only the individuals serving with Wing units during the period covered in the citation can wear the ribbon once leaving the Republic.

At the same awards ceremony, command of the 14th SOW changed from Col. **Alfred F. Eaton** of Holly Bluff, Miss., who has completed an 18-month combat tour in Vietnam, to Col. **Mark W. Magnan** of Wauwatosa, Wisc., the 14th's vice commander. General Hardin also pinned the coveted Legion of Merit and the first oak leaf cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross on Colonel Eaton before the formation was dismissed.

March 14th was a big day for the 14th Special Operations Wing.

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21 MAR - 35TH TFW Awarded Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm was presented to the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) Mar. 18, in a morning ceremony at the bases’ four nations’ flagpoles.

Col. **Cregg P. Nolen, Jr.**, 35th TFW Commander, accepted the award in behalf of the 35th TFW Wing and its subordinate units from Brig. Gen. **Vo Van Canh**, commanding general of the 23rd Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). General Canh represented Maj. Gen. Ngo Dzu ARVN commander of Military Region 2, who was unable to attend the formal presentation.

During the same ceremony Colonel Nolen received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with gold star from General Canh, and a Certificate of appreciation and plaque from Col. **Tran Van Tu**, Ninh Thuan Province chief.

The citation accompanying the award of the Cross of Gallantry streamer stated, in part, that the Wing, from Sept 1968 to Oct. 9, 1970, had performed in a fantastic manner because of its dedicated support personnel and heroic pilots who, under extremely difficult mission situations and with personal disregard for the dangers involved, have conducted air strike missions against Communist strongholds and provided air support to operations organized by both the Armies of the Republic of Vietnam and the United States of America in Military Regions 2, 3 and 4.

"Heavy losses to the enemy were inflicted by more than 53,000 air strikes and air support missions flown by the F-100 Super Sabre and Canberra bomber units of the 35th TFW. Their extremely hazardous missions account for over 2,800 enemy killed in action, thousands of enemy installations, artillery towers, boats, crew served weapons locations destroyed and many miles of communications and fighting trench completely disrupted.

"Moreover, in another area of achievement, the 35th USAF Dispensary has assisted the medical civic action program at Thap Cham, Hai Chu, Dong Giang, and An Xuan villages, as well as the Phan Rang village orphanage, so that thousands of people have been provided life-saving medical treatment.

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"The Cross of Gallantry ribbon with palm is also presented to all personnel of subordinate units of the 35th TFW." Colonel Nolen was personally cited at the ARVN Corps level and was presented the Cross of Gallantry with gold star. The citation read in part, "This, remarkable field grade officer, air commander, and seasoned fighter pilot with meritorious combat experience, who, during his tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam as 35th TFW commanding officer, has devoted his full energy, without ceasing, to the highly effective management of the 35th TFW units in successfully supporting ARVN units operating against the enemy.

"During operations conducted in the Vietnam-Cambodia-Laos tri-border area, Colonel Nolen is especially cited for providing maximum fire support from the F-100 units, which have resulted in many enemy killed by air strikes, over 3,700 connecting trenches disrupted, 800 enemy fortifications destroyed and over 1,000 secondary explosions.

"Colonel Nolen's devotion to the ground support mission, enthusiasm, and inspirational leadership have contributed greatly toward the destruction of Communist forces in the Republic of Vietnam."

In accepting the awards, Colonel Nolen stated, "It is with deep humility and pride that I accept these honors in behalf of the entire 35th TFW contingent, both the people that are here now and those who have served in the past.

"This award does far more than recognize the efforts of thousands of American airmen. It is symbolic of the fact that we have been close Allies --fighting and dying together with singleness of purpose-- to defeat Communist aggression and terrorism in this great nation, the Republic of Vietnam.

"The battle will be won, and the victory will be yours. Of this I am certain. "General Canh, Colonel Tu, I accept this honor and award in behalf of all the men of the 35th TFW who have served here with pride and honor, and in memory of our comrades in arms who have died here for our common cause."

Also attending the formal ceremony were other province and base officials including Mr. **Richard Owen**, senior U.S. advisor to the Ninh Thuan Province chief; Col. **Kenneth T. Blood Jr.**,

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315th Tactical Airlift Wing commander; Col. **Mark W. Magnam**, 14th Special Operations Wing commander; Lt. Col. **Nau Suk Lee**, the Phan Rang AB Republic of Korea battalion commander; and Squadron Leader **Arthur Barnes**, acting Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Squadron commander.

21 MAR - Vice President Ky Visits Phan Rang: Attends 'Shadow' Crew Graduation

The Vice President of the Republic of Vietnam, **Nguyen Cao Ky**, was the honored guest at Phan Rang AB Mar. 12. He journeyed from Saigon, 165 miles southwest of this coastal base, to attend the 14th Special Operations Wing (SOW) graduation of the first Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) AC-119 Shadow gunship class.

Vice President Ky was welcomed to Happy Valley by an old classmate, Col. **Cregg P. Nolen Jr.**, commander of the base's host 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. Both men were students together at the U.S. Air Force Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., as majors in their respective Air Forces in 1959. Since then, Ky rose to the grade of major general, commanded the VNAF, became his country's premier in June 1965, and was elected vice president in 1967.

Also on hand to welcome the South Vietnam statesman were Cols. **Alfred F. Eaton**, departing 14th SOW commander; **Kenneth T. Blood Jr.**, 315th Tactical Airlift Wing commander; and **Donald E. Libby**, base commander.

The primary purpose of General Ky's visit was to attend the graduation ceremony and reception for the 18 VNAF officers and enlisted men who are completing combat training as aircrews in the twin-engine AC-119 Shadow gunship with the USAF's 17th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) here. This is the first class to complete the rigorous course which began at Phan Rang AB on Feb. 1 as part of the VNAF Modernization and Improvement Program.

General Ky spoke to the more than 600 American, Australian and Vietnamese guests about his memorable days as the VNAF commander, stating, "It is my happiest moment when I am again with airmen." The Vietnamese Vice President went on, "Our two countries stay together, fight together, and die together against a common cause We will never give up the fight as

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long as there is Communist aggression in our land, and I'm certain all airmen, will follow me to this end."

Turning to the Americans and Australians in the audience, he concluded, "For generations to come, we will remember your names, your faces, and your sacrifices for us."

The first three graduating classes of pilots, navigators, flight engineers, weapons system and illuminator specialists will form the nucleus for the first all-VNAF AC-119 Shadow unit, the 819th Combat Squadron, which will be activated in the near future. The senior VNAF officer in this first class, Maj. **Dang Van Duc** having logged more than 11,000 flying hours in his 16 year VNAF career, will command the new gunship squadron.

The AC-119 flying battleship provides devastating firepower for close air support of ground forces from its four side-firing 7.62mm miniguns, each capable of spewing out 6,000 rounds per minute. It is also equipped with a computerized fire control system, flare launchers, a twomillion candlepower white light and infrared illuminator, plus various other sensor and electronic gear.

The evening affair also honored departing Colonel Eaton, who has served with the 14th SOW for the past 18 months, six of which as its commander. The 14th SOW developed the entire curriculum for this first VNAF gunship aircrew training course, under the watchful eye of Colonel Eaton, Lt. Cols. **Wendell E. Cosner**, the 14th's VNAF training officer; and **Canard A. Elbert**, 17th SOS commander.

According to Colonel Eaton, the professionalism, enthusiasm and outstanding airmanship of this first class has kept them ahead of their training phase points throughout the three-phase program.

During the course of the reception, Colonels Eaton and Blood presented 14th SOW and 315th TAW scarves to General Ky, who is famous among aviators the world over for his own violet scarf and black flight suit, and to Maj. Gen. **Fran Van Minh**, present VNAF commander. Mementos were also exchanged among the VNAF class the 17th SOS and the 14th SOW.

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21 MAR - Marathon II Races Set For Apr. 4

Phan Rang AB personnel will again be given a chance to prove their endurance with the running of the second Happy Valley Sunshine Marathon scheduled Apr. 4. The event, sponsored by Detachment 22, 30th Weather Squadron, will again be divided into three classes but the distance for each class will differ from Marathon I. Class “A” or the under 30 group, will be required to run three miles. Class “AA”, the 31 to 40 group, will run one and three-quarter miles, while the over 40 “AAA” class will hoof it over a one and one-half mile course.

According to Capt. **Douglas Kibby**, creator of the Happy Valley Sunshine Marathon, the purpose is to stimulate more interest in long distance running, to create a competitive spirit among personnel of the base and to promote the physical fitness goals of the Air Force.

The course will also differ from Marathon I. The race will begin on the new quarter-mile track and progress to Skoro Street; then left on Carolina to Knusen Avenue. A right turn to Knusen Avenue and a four block run to Kansas Street will bring the runners to the half-way mark. A right turn and a one block jaunt on Kansas will bring the runners to Skoro Street headed for the finishing lap on the track.

Everyone assigned to Phan Rang AB is eligible to complete Deadline for registration is Mar. 31. Entry can be made by calling 2105 or 2187. Trophies will be presented to the first and second place finishers of each class.

21 MAR - Five Super Sabre Pilots Honored During Flagpole Retreat Ceremony

Five Air Medals and four Air Force Commendation Medals were presented to Phan Rang AR airmen in a pre-retreat awards ceremony Mar. 16 at the base flagpoles.

Col. **Cregg P. Nolen Jr.**, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, presented the medals during the late afternoon formation.

The Air Medals were presented to Dr. (Lt. Col.,) **Royce Moser Jr.**, 35th USAF Dispensary

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commander; Maj. **Alan M. Edwards** and Capt. Carl V. Lyday, 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS); and Capts. **Charles R. Chadwick** and **Joseph A. McGrath**, 615th TFS. The 35th's flight surgeon and the four F-100 Super Sabre pilots were cited for outstanding airmanship and courage in the successful accomplishment of important missions under extremely hazardous combat conditions in the skies over Southeast Asia.

Receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal were MSgts. **George D. Martin** and **Norman M. Olney**, SSgt. **Robert V. Daniels** and Sgt. **Gary A. Bergquist**.

Sergeant Martin, currently NCO in charge of the 35th TFW Office of Information, received the first oak leaf cluster to the Commendation Medal for his meritorious service as NCO in charge of the Information Branch, Plans and Information Division, USAF Orientation Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, from Sept. 1, 1967 to Nov. 13, 1970.

Sergeant Olney, a flight chief with the 35th Security Police Squadron, was awarded the Commendation Medal for his performance as an Armed Forces Entrance and Examining Station liaison representative with Air Force Recruiting Detachment 702, Headquarters 3507th USAF Recruiting Group, Des Moines, Iowa, from Nov. 7, 1966 to Dec. 31, 1970.

Sergeant Daniels received the first oak leaf cluster to the Commendation Medal for outstanding service as Environmental Systems shift chief, 35th Field Maintenance Squadron, from Mar. 21, 1970 to Mar 26, 1971.

Sergeant Bergquist was awarded his Commendation Medal for meritorious service as an Intelligence operations specialist with the 35th TFW from Dec. 12, 1969 to Dec. 12, 1970. He is currently serving on six-month voluntary extension.

21 MAR - 10 Awarded Vietnamese Medals

Ten U.S. Air Force officers were decorated by Maj. Gen. **Tran Van Minh**, commander of the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) during a formal ceremony at Phan Rang AB on March 12. The Americans were cited for their outstanding contributions to and support of the VNAF Improvement and Modernization Program which began at this coastal base on Feb. 1.

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The Vietnamese Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class) and the Air Service Medal (Honor Class) were awarded to Cols. **Cregg P. Nolen Jr.**, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) commander; Kenneth T. Blood Jr., 315th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW) commander; **Alfred F. Eaton**, 14th Special Operations Wing (SOW) commander; **Donald E. Libby**, base commander; **Allen S. Nelson**, 35th TFW vice commander; **Robert E. Flynn**, 315 TAW vice commander; **Mark W. Magnan**, 14th SOW vice commander; Lt. Cols. **Kenneth A. Dyer**, 315 VNAF Training Flight commander; **Wendell E. Cosner**, 14th SOW VNAF training officer; and **Paul D. Glanville**, 35th TFW Logistics Plans officer. The first nine officers are rated and were also presented VNAF pilot wings by General Minh.

The citation accompanying the award stated that these U.S. Air Force officers provided invaluable assistance to the VNAF 5th Air Division (AD) in the training of the C-123 and AC-119 aircrews, thus supporting the VNAF development and improvement plan. It went on, the officers concerned, by establishing high priorities for this training program, and devoting their time and attention to all matters relating to the program, including the selection of highly qualified instructors and increasing the air training missions, have particularly assisted in insuring the activation of the 421st, 423rd and 819th Squadrons of the 5th AD as scheduled.

“These officers have additionally demonstrated their sincere concern and goodwill for the Vietnamese students by providing excellent support facilities and services during the period of training at Phan Rang AB.”

General Minh added his personal thanks to the award recipients, and said, “As you know, back in 1969 our Air Force began its Improvement and Modernization Program. Through this program, we planned to develop the 33rd Wing of the 5th AD with the C-123 transport and AC-47 and AC-119 gunship aircraft. The 5th AD will be fully operational according to plan and on time, thanks to your efforts. I convey my gratitude and the thanks of the officers and airmen in the Vietnamese Air Force.”

Colonel Nolen acknowledged the awards in behalf of the 10 officers. He said, “Most of us have served in three wars during our lifetime and we have served with gallant allies. I have never been more privileged, or served with a more gallant armed force than the VNAF. It’s with great

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admiration that we view the accomplishments of the VNAF and the people of the Republic of Vietnam. We know that it hasn't been in vain, and that this brave country will continue. It will continue primarily because of the capabilities exhibited by the free and determined people of this great Republic.”

The 315th TAW is training VNAF pilots, navigators, flight engineers, loadmasters and maintenance personnel in the jet-assisted C-123 Provider transport aircraft at their Phan Rang and Tan Son Nhut AB facilities. The 14th SOW is providing combat training for AC-119 Shadow gunship aircrews gunners, illuminator operators and mechanics with the 17th Special Operations Squadron here. As host wing, the 35th TFW provides all logistical support for the VNAF I & M Program at Phan Rang AB.

General Minh arrived at Happy Valley on the morning of Mar. 12 with Brig. Gen. **James H. Watkins**, chief of the USAF Advisory Group, Vietnam, and 16 VNAF staff officers, including Col. **Phan Phng Tien**, VNAF 5th AD commander. Prior to the 11:20 a.m. ceremony, the party inspected the 315th TAW and 14th SOW VNAF training facilities and billeting area.

The visitors remained through the day to join Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, who came to Phan Rang that afternoon for the graduation ceremony of the first VNAF AC-119 gunship class that same evening. More than 600 Americans, Australians and Vietnamese guests attended the graduation and reception that followed. The party departed Happy Valley the next morning

21 MAR - 35th TFW Tops RECON Goal

A Resources Conservation (RECON) savings action submitted by Detachment 8, 14th Aerial Port Squadron here recently pushed the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing \$4,000 over its fiscal year 1971 RECON goal of \$395,000.

Capt. **Earl D. Cauthen Jr.**, Det. 8 Commander, reported a \$63,399.92 RECON saving for the remainder of FY71 by initiating a supplemental program of using U.S. Army trucks to transport air eligible cargo to nearby Cam Ranh Bay AB instead of airlifting it.

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Before the action all eligible cargo was airlifted to Cam Ranh Bay by C-123 Provider aircraft. The operating cost for a C-123 for the 64-mile round trip is \$354 compared to \$34.56 for an Army 10-ton tractor and trailer. Captain Cauthen stated that the service is just as fast using the service is just as fast using the available trucks on the established truck run. Approximately one quarter of the cargo passing through Phan Rang’s aerial port facility is trucked to Cam Ranh Bay.

During the month of February, 4 11 tons of air eligible cargo was trucked at a savings of \$11,914.08. The estimated savings for a full year is \$155,000.

21 MAR - AF, Army Engineers Build Bridge

The Air Force’s 35th Civil Engineering Squadron and the Army’s 589th Engineers Battalion teamed up recently to build a bridge on a highway connecting this central coastal base with My Son Village in Ninh Thuan Province.

Located approximately a mile from the perimeter of Phan Rang AB, the old bridge was infested with cracks and holes which made even the most fearless truck driver wince.

Heading up the project were Capt. **Charles E. Genningsgaard** 35th CES chief of operations and maintenance, and Lt. **James G. Cox**, 589th “A” Company commander.

The 60-foot bridge took 20 Army and Air Force volunteers six hours to build. The Air Force provided the heavy equipment needed and the Army provided the materials. The bridge dedication ceremony was conducted by Col. **Donald E. Libby**, Phan Rang AB commander.

21 MAR - 600 See ‘Barefoot In The Park’

The New World Committee’s latest production, “Barefoot In the Park,” drew over 600 Phan Rang AB residents to the Red Cross Recreational Center, the Du Drop Inn, for the four performances Mar. 11, 12, 13 and 14, according to Sgt. **Gary W. Gilmore**, play director from El Paso, Tex.

Written by **Neil Simon**, the comedy featured a newly-we couple taking up residence in a sixth floor apartment on 48th Street in New York City.

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Paul Bratter, played by Air 1st Class **Richard P. Goldman**, from Brooklyn, N.Y., and his wife Corie, played by **Sara Porter**, Richmond, Ind., Red Cross Center director, met world traveler and gourmet **Victor Velasco**, played by Sgt. **Danie Snyder**, Lebanon, Pa., who used the Bratter bedroom as a staircase to his attic apartment.

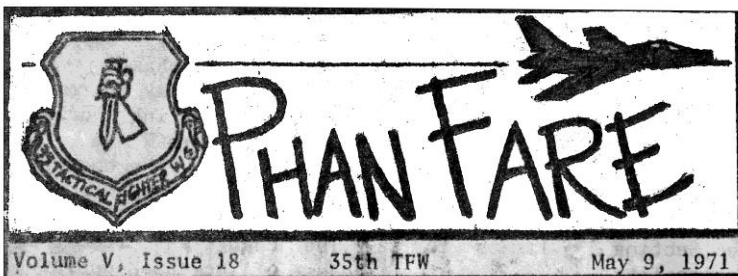
Corie, who sees Mr. Velasco as a possible mate for her mother, Mrs. Bankds, played by **Carol Clarke**, Austin, Tex., Red Cross recreational aid, sets up a dinner engagement which ends up in havoc for the new marriage.

Other individuals, who played key parts in the productions, were PFC **David Moorhouse**, Indianapolis, Ind., as the tired but enthusiastic telephone man and **Gary Fernandez**, as the not so-young delivery man.

Sergeant Gilmore, who extended his tour for three days to direct the play, commented, “It seemed to go perfectly and the cast and crew were fantastic. I want to thank all the crew and everyone who supported this production for a job well done.”

“We are real happy that we were able to do a play like this one,” explained **Sara Porter**. “It took us two months and we rehearsed every night since Jan. 26. We’ve had about 125 persons attend each night and they were really great.

David Moorhouse, whose weary jaunts up the six flights of stairs to the Bratter apartment were the high point in his performance, summed up the feeling of the entire troupe when he added, “It was quite a climb.”



9 MAY - 11 Super Sabre Pilots Get Air Medal at Four-Nation Flagpole Ceremony

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Twelve Phan Rang airmen received medals in an awards ceremony conducted at the base's four-nation flagpoles April 27 by Col. **Creg P. Nolen Jr.**, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) commander, made the presentations.

Eleven pilots were awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in combat flights over Southeast Asia. They were cited for their outstanding airmanship and courage in the successful accomplishment of important missions under extremely hazardous combat conditions.

Those receiving Air Medals were Lt. Col. **Leland A. Schomoker**, 35th TFW; Dr. (Maj.) **Donald E. Novicki**, 35th USAF Dispensary; Capts **Harold M. Cochran**, 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS); **Charles W. Friend**, 352nd TFS, **Lesley L. Seymore** 615th TFS; **Gary H. Silence**, 614th TFS; **Allen A. Struthers**, 612th TFS; **Richard S. Weizenegger Jr**, 614th TFS, and First Lts. **William Scott Madsen** 614th TFS; and **Kenneth R. Alm**, 614th TFS.

SSgt. **Harry Overend Jr.**, 35th Field Maintenance Squadron, was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal during the same ceremony for meritorious service as assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the Air Frame Structural Repair Shop at Kelly AFB, Tex., from July 14, 1969 to Feb. 26, 1971.

9 MAY - Fund Drive Ends; Nets \$53,888

At the stroke of midnight May 3, the successful Phan Rang AB Hold Fund Drive drew to a close at “Holts’ Place” with the announcement that the campaign had collected a grand total of \$53,888.29 for **Paula and Gary Holt**, an Austin, Tex., brother and sister afflicted with a rare hereditary kidney disease.

Nearly 700 men turned out for the dedication of the former All-Ranks Club, which kicked off the night of fun and entertainment at 7 p.m. Throughout the evening, a gala feast and party capped the month-long fund raising drive. It was estimated that more than 2,000 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,

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Paula, are victims of acute nephritis that requires then to spend 15 hours a week channeling their blood through a purifying machine in order to keep alive.

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

Master of ceremonies for the festive evening, SSgt **Donald E. White** of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing's Office of Information, who had conducted an Apr. 6-7 radio marathon for the Holts, introduced Col. **Gregg 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. It's your drive; you did it, and I take my hat off to each man here.”

Col. **Donald E. Libby**, Phan Rang AB Commander, was introduced next to perform the official dedication. He said “There is no greater satisfaction than the realization that one has done something really great for someone else. Everyone of us has felt, on occasion, that sense of satisfaction. I don't think it's particularly one of the great personal pride for having done something more; it's the feeling that comes from inside your heart.

“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's my 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 Air Base.”

The name “Holts' Place” was suggested by SMSgt. **Roger D. Byerly** of the 14th Field Maintenance Squadron. 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 the \$50 prize.

Following Colonel Libby's dedication, Sgt. **Robert L. Jones**, the security policeman who initiated

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the fund drive here presented a plaque to colonels Libby and Nolen. It was from the Los Angeles chapter of the National Kidney Foundation, and it recognized the meritorious service of the men of Phan Rang during the campaign. The plaque and other articles related to the drive will be permanently displayed in a special showcase at “Holts’ Place.”

With the official ceremonies out of the way, the crowd, largest ever to assemble at the club, settled down for a night of good entertainment and food.

A complete Western barbecue buffet was served from 4 p.m. until the food ran out at 9:30 p.m. Starting at 7:30 p.m. a Battle of the Bands raged on stage between two Filipino groups, the Klansmen and the Scarecrows, who volunteered their time and services for the campaign. At midnight, a poll was taken and the Klansmen emerged victorious.

Interspersed between the Battle of the bands were amateur talent performances. TSgt. **John Thompson** of the 35th Security Police Squadron sang several popular country and western ballads, and Sgt. **Gilbert Holmes** of Korat RTAFB, Thailand, captivated the crowd with his soulful singing and dancing.

While the bands battled on stage, spirited completion raged on the floor as challenges bounded back and forth for contributions to the fund. Tables raised hundreds of dollars and challenged other tables to match it. Sgt. **William D. Baisley Jr.** of Detachment 5, 600th Photo Squadron, offered \$100 to the fund, raising his total donations to \$550, if the Base Commander would give up his “eagles for the evening and make Sergeant Baisley, alias “Cloudy” honorary Base Commander until midnight. The colonel readily agreed and soon “Colonel Cloudy” was being saluted by “Airman Basic Libby” to the delight of the crowd. Floor and food donations for the evening totaled \$3,223.44.

The highlight of the night came when “Colonel Cloudy” graciously let “Airman Libby” announce that because of the interest generated at Phan Rang AB, the president of Word Airways, Inc., Mr. **Edward J. Daly**, and his wife had donated \$6,000 to the campaign which was matched by another \$6,000 from World Airways, Inc., boosting the drive over the announced goal of \$50,000 to its present grand total of \$53,888.29.

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A check for \$30,000 was delivered to the Holts in Austin, Tex., on Apr. 12, by Sergeant Jones, also courtesy of World Airways, and soon the remaining money will also be winging its way across the Pacific to the brother and sister in Texas whose plight touched the hearts of the men of Phan Rang AB, and who now have a chance for a full life. In addition to paying off their \$20,000 medical debt, the drive will enable Paula and Gary to have the kidney transplant operation they so desperately need to stay alive.

9 MAY - Confirmed Rabies Case Spurs Action by Base Medics, Security Police

An outbreak of rabies has recently occurred here, resulting in 23 Phan Rang AB airmen now undergoing the painful treatment and 21 dogs under strict quarantine.

The outbreak is due to a large number of unvaccinated stray or unattached dogs roaming free on base. To counter the health threat, Phan Rang Base Regulation 161-3, Zoonosis Control, is being strictly enforced and all the stray dogs are being disposed of on sight.

“Previous controls of the disease through vaccination of animals has proved unsuccessful due to a lack of cooperation from their owners,” Dr. (Capt.) **Victor E. Anspaugh**, base veterinarian explained. “Since a confirmed case of rabies is already present on Phan Rang AB, the elimination of all unvaccinated animals must be accomplished to stop the spread of the deadly disease. Before a more serious outbreak begins, all animals should be vaccinated to prevent the spreading of the disease to other animals.

“Once an individual is exposed to rabies, he must be treated immediately,” Dr. Anspaugh said, “Introduced into the victim via the saliva of an infected animal through an open wound, it attacks the nervous system and causes a very painful death. Depending on what part of the body the rabies virus is introduced the number of days varies before the symptoms become prevalent.

“Immediate and thorough local treatment of all bite wounds and scratches is probably the most

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effective method of preventing rabies. When bitten or scratched, the victim should immediately flush the wound with water, soap and water or detergent and water.”

“The problem of whether or not to immunize those bitten or scratched by animals suspected of being rabid is decided by a board of physicians and veterinarians here at Phan Rang,” according to Dr. (Lt. Col.) **Royce Moser Jr.**, base director of medical services. “Every exposure to possible rabies infection must be individually evaluated, due total number of factors deciding the treatment. Some of these factors include the extent and location of the wound, vaccination status of the biting animal, and the presence of rabies in the region,” he said.

“A dog that bites a person, should be captured if possible, confined, and observed by a veterinarian for at least seven to ten days.

“The treatment for rabies is very painful. It consists of at least 14 daily injections given in the muscle of the abdomen, lower back or thighs. In the case of a severe exposure to the disease, 21 doses may be necessary. In addition, two booster shots are required, one 10 days and the other 20 days after completion of the initial series of injections.

“The only way to eliminate rabies is by strict control of all animals on Phan Rang AB.”

“There are two methods now used to eliminate the stray dog problem,” stated Capt. **Richard V. Hague** of the 35th Security Police Squadron. “The first is to capture the dog, which we try to do in all cases, and take the animal to the veterinarian for observation. At the same time we check to see if the dog has been registered with the pass and identification section of our squadron.

“The second choice, and only used if a dog cannot be captured, is to dispose of it. So far we’ve been able to capture half the dogs without injury to them. We have a third choice coming and that’s a tranquilizer dart gun. The gun, on order since January, shoots darts that contain a mild sedative which will disable but not harm the animal.”

“The problem of rabies can be solved, but the understanding of our problem plus the cooperation of all base airmen is necessary. Units that keep animals as pets are asked to have them vaccinated and registered.” He said. “Also if a person sees an animal acting in a strange

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manner, he should call the security police desk sergeant at Ext. 2000. A team will be dispatched to take it into custody.”

“Don’t be a victim of this deadly disease,” Dr. Moser emphasizes. “A little common sense can save your life.”

9 MAY - ‘Yellow Water Still Drinkable’ Says Engineer

Happy Valley residents may have noticed that the base water supply has been a bit yellowish lately, but base officials are quick to state that the colored liquid is perfectly safe for internal consumption.

Capt. **Donald R. Barrett**, deputy base civil engineer, stated that the colored condition of the water is a seasonal occurrence caused when local farmers flood their rice paddies and the muddied water drains back into the nearby canal which serves as one of the major sources of the base’s water supply.

The muddy water is harder to process through the base filtration plant and it takes longer to get it up to acceptable drinking standards. For this reason water pressure will be lower than normal during high use periods, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and as always excessive use is discouraged. It is not known how long the yellow appearance will persist, but Captain Barrett stressed that the tinted tap water is safe for consumption.

9 MAY - BX Hours Change

Starting Monday, May 10, the main Base Exchange will change its Monday through Saturday operating hours from 10 a.m. thru 7 p.m., to noon thru 7 p.m. The operating hours for Sunday will be 10 a.m. thru 2 p.m.

The change was required because of increased operating costs and the reduction in sales as a result of the reduction of U.S. troops in the Republic of Vietnam.

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9 MAY - 1882nd Comm Saves Bundle In Resources Conservation Program

The total Resources Conservation (RECON) management savings for the 1882nd Communications Squadron for fiscal year 1971 has reached \$345,100 with the recent validation of a \$114,900 savings. This latest action resulted from a proposal to deactivate the 315th Tactical Airlift Wing's (TAW) sole user Communications Center.

Personnel of the 1882nd provided message processing and delivery service using a full duplex secure teletype circuit. Maj. **Glen G. Giddings Jr.**, commander, reported that the proposal eliminated \$90,400 in equipment and proposed installation and modification charges and \$24,500 in military personnel costs.

Traffic studies conducted by squadron personnel revealed that most of the operational traffic being received at the 315th TAW Comm Center was also being received over the 834th Air Division AUTODIN (automatic digital network) Terminal. An alternate method of message receipt and delivery was agreed to by the 315th TAW and the 834th Terminal and the new system was implemented late in 1970.

Validation of this RECON savings puts the 1882nd Communications Squadron \$326,200 over their allocated RECON quota of \$18,900 for fiscal year 1971.



23 MAY - Phan Rang AB Physician Selected PACAF Surgeon Of The Year

A Phan Rang AB physician has been named the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) flight surgeon of the year. Winning the command's top medical achievement award from among 113 flight surgeons

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in the Pacific is Dr. (Capt.) **James P. O'Neal**, of Augusta, Ga.

The announcement was made by Dr. (Lt. Gen.) **Alonzo A. Towner**, Air Force surgeon general, during a recent meeting of the Society of U.S. Air Force Flight Surgeons.

The 29-year-old physician is assigned to the 35th USAF Dispensary here, and serves as the "family doc" for the F100 Super Sabre pilots of the 352nd Tactical Fighter Sq. O'Neal has been in the Air Force two years, serving the past 11 months at this coastal base, 165 miles northeast of Saigon, He came to Happy Valley, home of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, from Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Towner cited O'Neal for his "outstanding medical accomplishments within his command, and his demonstration of the highest standards of professional skill, personal integrity and unselfish concern in serving the men who fly."

The quiet, soft-spoken bachelor graduated from Pompano Beach (Fla.) High School in 1960 and went on to earn his bachelor of science degree in chemistry and biology from Davidson College, Davidson, N.C., in 1964. He received his M.D. shingle in 1968 from the Tulane University School of Medicine at New Orleans, La.

While stationed at Ellsworth AFB as a flight surgeon, he actively participated in the base's disaster response medicine program and developed the skills necessary to effectively direct a disaster response medical team. These qualifications were put to a severe test when several B52 Stratofortress bomber crewmembers were trapped in the wreckage of their plane in a crash at the base. O'Neal directed the medical rescue operation and personally assisted in pulling out the trapped fliers. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for his lifesaving efforts.

Realizing it took more than sick call consultations to gain a rapport with the fliers and an appreciation: of the unique mental and physical stresses placed on aircrew members, the young physician initiated a program of daily visitations to the base's B52 alert facility. These calls usually took place after his normal hospital duty hours. At Ellsworth, he also developed a new and comprehensive system for occupational medicine inspections of base facilities, which repeatedly disclosed and resolved significant hazardous health situations.

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Since his arrival in Vietnam, O'Neal has become a flight surgeon in the true sense of the title, logging more than 34 missions in the F100 fighter while accompanying 35th TFW pilots on combat strikes against enemy targets throughout Southeast Asia. He also has flown an additional 11 missions in other base aircraft for a total of 85 flying hours in Vietnam. Whether flying combat missions, participating in squadron activities, being available around-the-clock to provide medical care, O'Neal has become accepted as a true member of the fighter pilots' fraternity here.

At Phan Rang, the PACAF flight surgeon of the year has developed a disease monitoring system for the outpatient clinic. The system has been particularly effective in enabling the dispensary staff to detect and investigate disease outbreaks during the initial stages rather than after the majority of the patients have been treated. The value of these public health principles in this tropical area is self evident. He also has been very active in the wing's flying safety, life support, and newcomers' orientation programs.

23 MAY - Use of U.S. Coins to Begin June 1

U.S. quarters, dimes and nickels will be placed in circulation Vietnam-wide effective June 1, according to Capt. **Frederick L. Ashworth**, base finance officer.

The first installment of coins, worth \$5,000 will be distributed to the base exchange, snack bar, officer and enlisted clubs, and the mess halls. The coins will not be available at the American Express banking facility. Pennies are presently in circulation and will not be affected by the change-over.

Phan Rang AB personnel are requested to keep the coins circulating so that the change-over will proceed smoothly. It will occur gradually over the next few months, and both the U.S. coins and the present MPC paper money will be honored until the conversion is completed.

Base Exchange officials caution that the cashier lines will move slowly until the employees become proficient in handling the coins.

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23 MAY - Thompson Takes Command of 311th TAS

Command of the 311th Tactical Airlift Squadron (TAS) changed hands during May 12 ceremonies at this coastal Vietnam Air Base.

The new commander, Lt. Col. **Earl D. Thompson** of Honolulu, Hawaii, has been assigned to the 311th TAS since February as assistant to the commander. He thus assumes the commander’s job with experience in the squadron’s operation and in flying the C-123 Provider assault transport in Vietnam.

Colonel Thompson is a command pilot with over 8,000 flying hours, of which 440 are combat hours flown in Korea and Vietnam. Prior to his arrival in Vietnam he was the chief of Project PRESS, Electronics Systems Division, Air Force Systems Command with duty at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Thompson, who has been in the Air Force for 24 years, received his commission through the Aviation Cadet Program in 1944. He was released from active duty after WW II, to be recalled in 1951 during the Korean conflict.

Colonel Thompson succeeds Lt. Col **Paul R. Zavitz** who has commanded the 311th since October 1970. Colonel Zavitz has been appointed Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations for the 315th Tactical Airlift Wing here.

23 MAY - Security Policeman NCO of Month

The ability to communicate with younger airmen was a decisive factor in the selection of the Phan Rang AB NCO of the Month for April. SSgt **Arthur H. McCain**, an Air Force security policeman from San Antonio, Tex., was presented the coveted plaque by Col. **Donald E. Libby**, base commander, at a 35th Security Police Squadron ceremony on May 13.

He was selected for perfection in his work as an NCO with the administrative security branch and for his ability to communicate with younger airmen in his additional duty role as unit career

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counseling NCO.

Selection for this award entitles Sergeant McCain to a \$25 check, free suit, certificate of achievement, 60 days credit on the squadron duty roster, two free steaks at the NCO Club and an out of country three-day leave to Singapore, Bangkok, or Hong Kong.

Maj. **Lewis M Hard** from Worthington, Ohio, 35th SPS commander, credits his “intelligent ability” to read and interpret the spirit and intent of security regulations for eliminating a several month backlog of security access applications.

In his role as unit career counseling NCO, Sergeant McCain is very active in assisting supervisors in their efforts to counsel squadron personnel on the benefits of an Air Force career. “He accepts any challenge and strives for perfection in all his endeavors,” commented Major Hard. “He is a highly motivated NCO with the military bearing and appearance that set an example for subordinates and superiors to follow.”

23 MAY - 35th Records Bonanza Month

It took the efforts of everybody pulling together, but when it was over it couldn't be doubted: March was a bonanza month for the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) here.

The 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS) set a Wing aerial record for the number of sorties and flying hours; the Propulsion Branch of the 35th Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS) doubled their normal output and turned out 44 rebuilt jet engines; and the 435th Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS) processed and loaded nearly six million pounds of ordnance, also a record.

Of course, each milestone is interrelated. Without the jet engines functioning properly, the flying squadrons would not be able to fly a single combat mission, and without combat missions to fly, the munitions men would not be able to load the bombs and shells.

The 615th TFS, one of the four F-100 Super Sabre squadrons in the 35th TFW, shattered the Wing's monthly flying totals by logging an undisputed 1189 combat hours on their aircraft for the month of March. For comparison, they flew 887 hours during February. The March high

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flyer for the 615th was First Lt. **Lee R. Howard** who flew 42 missions for a total of 66.9 combat flying hours.

For Lt. Col. **Paul Kasarda**, March 1971 will be remembered as a very special month, for it was his last month as commander of the 615th TFS. Immediately following the milestone ceremony at the flightline with Lieutenant Howard, Lt. Col. **Kenneth S, Schroder** took command of the 615th from Colonel Kasarda who moved up to take over as the Wing’s assistant deputy commander of Operations.

Col. Kasarda stated, “The month’s accomplishments couldn’t be reached without the total determination from everybody in the 615th TFS. Good leadership and good supervision by the noncommissioned officers and honest day’s work with everybody pulling together made this bonanza month possible. We established a goal and we were determined to reach it. The combat hours record for March is an all-time high for a tactical fighter squadron in South-east Asia, and each man in the 615th deserves credit for the part he played in achieving this milestone.”

The 35th TFW’s four F-100 squadrons flew 4,374 total flying hours during the month, bettering February’s figure of 3,232 hours by 1,142 hours. A significant portion of these combat hours were flown in close air support of friendly ground forces in the Lam Son 719 and VietnamCambodia-Laos tri-border area. The wing’s 4,374 flying hour mark could also be achieved by one man if he took off at the stroke of the New Year, Jan. 1, and stayed in the air until 6 a.m. July 2 - more than six months.

615TH TOPCAT - - “Topcat” of the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron “Bobcats”, First Lt. Lee R. Howard leads his squadron’s accomplishments during March after touchdown at Phan Rang AB after completing his 42nd combat sortie for the month. There is a sign on his F-100 Super Sabre indicating 1,171 hours plus, but before the day was over, the 615th had shattered the 35th TFW monthly flying record by logging an undisputed 1,189 combat hours for March.

But the pilots couldn’t fly without engines in their fighters, and the jet engine ship pulled their weight and then some during the month.

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Although their normal workload is 20 to 24 rebuilt engines per month using two 12-hour shifts, the men of the Propulsion Branch, under the leadership of CMSgt. **Fred Williams**, NCO in charge of the Branch, were able to double their efforts and rebuild 44 J-57 jet engines during March.

Col. **Alton J. Thogerson**, 35th deputy commander for Materiel, stated that they were able to set this record by adding four engine docks in the branch so they could work on 12 engines at a time by working harder and longer under the fine leadership of men like Sergeant Williams, and by getting special assistance from 7th Air Force and the Pacific Air Force (PACAF) for getting engine parts and supply support.

As a further handicap, the branch was working on a Time-Compliance Technical Order (TCTO) during the same period which required checking the condition of a compressor rotor on each of the more than 100 J-57 jet engines in the 35th TFW. A compressor change entails more than 450 man-hours and to assist the Propulsion Branch 23 men from other bases in Southeast Asia were temporarily assigned to the wing.

But even with properly performing aircraft, the pilots couldn't cause much damage to the enemy without something to drop on them, and this is where the 435th MMS comes in.

According to Lt. Col. **Robert P. Cady**, 435th MMS commander, his squadron processed, assembled, delivered and loaded 5,885 pounds of bombs during the month of March. They also processed and loaded 420 cluster bomb units, 569,150 rounds of 20mm high explosive incendiary ammunition for the Super Sabres' internally mounted cannons, and 346 two-million candlepower flares.

Totaled up, this equals more than 10,000 pieces of droppable munitions for delivery to the enemy. These munitions were loaded by 26 load crews at a average rate of 28 ½ minutes for each complete aircraft load. Considering the total weight of all munitions loaded, each crew loaded an average of 130 tons during the 31-day period.

Of particular significance, noted Colonel Cady, the overall munitions reliability rate for the month was at an all time record high for F-100 operations at 99.10 per cent. Along with this

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exceptional rate, the F-100 weapons release system had a 99.50 per cent reliability rate.

A combat wing is like a chain, made up of separate links, each dependent upon another. If one link fails, the mission cannot be accomplished, but when they all pull together they can move mountains of ordnance to the enemy’s strongholds and stop him cold through the pin point bombing techniques that have made the F-100 Super Sabre famous in Southeast Asia for the past five years. This is the job of the airmen of the 35th TFW at Phan Rang AB.

23 MAY - 20 Civilians Complete Supply OJT

Twenty Vietnamese employees of the 35th Supply Squadron here recently received graduation certificates recently after completion of an 18-month supply training course. The students, including six women, are from nearby communities. The certificates were presented by Capt. **Richard E. Hudgins** from Longview, Tex., supply management and procedures officer.

The course, divided into receiving, storage and issue and document control, was an on-the-job type course supervised by Captain Hudgins and his predecessor. In the receiving portion of the course, the employees were instructed on the necessary forms needed to process newly arrived items into the supply system for later distribution. The other two sections of the course, storage and issue, and document control are closely interrelated. In storage and issue the students learned the necessary codes used for storing and issuing the supply items, the document control section of the course consisted of teaching the filing system used for the coded cards once they have been run through the computer system.

Through an interpreter, Mr. **Ngan Do Van**, TSgt. **James L. Hoffheins** from Fort Walton Beach, Fls., instructed the classroom sessions. In conjunction with the supply training, the employees were also enrolled in the base English language classes available to the Vietnamese workers on Phan Rang AB.

More Significant events at Phan Rang AB and the Republic of Vietnam

- **Troop withdrawal** - President Nixon announced on 7 April that he intended to withdraw

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100,000 more US troops from South Vietnam by 1 December 1971.

- **Transfer of last O-1.** In June, the last O-1 Birdog in USAF service was transferred to the Vietnamese Air Force. During their Southeast Asia service, the O-1s had flown 471,186 combat sorties, and suffered 119 losses.

- **Departure of Last F-100s.** The last F-100 unit in Southeast Asia, the 35th TFW at Phan Rang Air Base, ceased operation on 26 June. The last of the F-100s departed the Republic of Vietnam for the continental United States on 30 July, ending a combat employment which began in 1964, encompassing 360,283 combat sorties and the loss of 243 aircraft.

- **Gunship Transfers.** On 8 September, the final AC-119G gunship was transferred to the Vietnamese Air Force. PACAF retained the jet augmented AC-119Ks.

- **Vietnamese Air Force Status.** The improvement and modernization program for the Vietnamese Air Force continued during the year. By 31 December, the Vietnamese Air Force had 1,202 aircraft assigned and 1,109 formed aircrews, and had flown a total of 524,152 sorties, 59,805 of which were combat sorties. The Vietnamese Air Force lost 57 aircraft to combat and operational causes in 1971.

- **Southeast Asia Combat Operations.** USAF tactical forces in PACAF flew a total of 450,031 combat sorties and expended 642.9 thousand tons of munitions in Southeast Asia operations, with a loss of 87 aircraft. Sorties included 87,052 attack sorties and 12,554 B-52 sorties. KC-135s performed over 62,500 refuelings. Tactical airlift operations within the Republic of Vietnam moved 2,282,883 passengers and 283,556 tons of cargo. A total of 87 USAF aircraft were lost in the year, 70 to combat causes.



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Doug's Comments:

I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter. These three issues of the Phan Fare are the only issues that I've been able to find for all of 1971. From 1971 forward the news articles in the Phan Fare seemed to take on a different tone. In the early years there were always reports of mission

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accomplishments by the aircrews and articles about the modernization of the base. By 1971 the troop draw down had begun and many of the aircraft were being turned over to the Vietnamese and others flown back to the states and all the optimism was gone. On another note, the Konica camera pictured in the lead graphics is a ***Konica Autoreflex ‘T’*** Vietnam era camera in pristine condition given to me by **George Varney**. If you have a story to tell, please write it down and send to me so that your unique experiences can be saved for posterity. This newsletter was composed by Douglas Severt and all photographs by Bob Howe and all graphics by Douglas Severt. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, mailto:mailto:dougsevert@cox.net and put ‘unsubscribe’ in subject line.