

Phan Rang AB Newsletter

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.
"Keeping the memories alive" Newsletter 285

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Missing in South Vietnam

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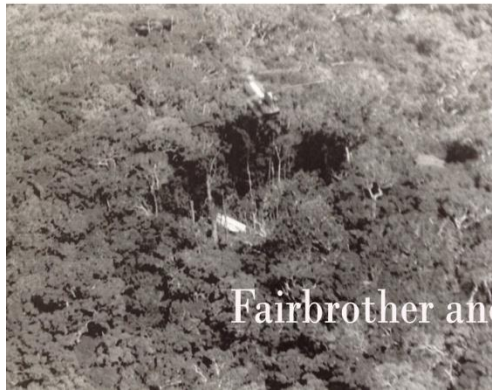
Some Vietnamese Unaware of War

These records create a very accurate timeline of my journey to Phan Rang Air Base

Cheap Charlie

Serving Our Country

MISSING IN SOUTH VIETNAM



Fairbrother and Aldridge SURVIVED
50 Souls PERISHED

Fairbrother "Then & Now"

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1970

Two U.S. Airmen in Vietnam Crash Are Rescued

The two rescued airmen were taken to a military hospital at Cam Ranh Bay. There Aldredge was reported in fair condition and Fairbrother as seriously ill. Officials said Fairbrother had a fractured knee with infection and Aldredge a broken leg.

One of the two men, which one was not immediately known was reported to have crawled up and down the jungle slope looking for survivors. The other man was pinned in the wreckage of the transport until a search party reached the scene Friday.

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

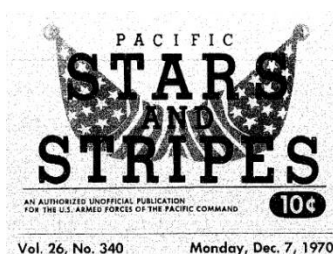
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Their plane had taken off from Phan Rang Air Base, November 29, enroute to Cam Ranh Bay. It was one of two U S military transports that vanished last weekend. The other, still missing was a C-123 with 73 South Vietnamese and six Americans on board.

The aircraft with Aldredge and Fairbrother was found by South Vietnamese army unit with two U.S. Army advisers summoned rescue helicopter teams to the area.

(Corpus Christi Caller Times, December 06, 1970, Corpus Christi, Texas)



2 GIs Survive Viet C123 Crash

By PFC DAN EVANS

S&S Staff Correspondent

CAM Ranh BAY, Vietnam- Rescuers Friday found two survivors at the crash site of a U.S. Air Force C123 transport after a frustrating six-day search which saw helicopters repelled again and again by low-hanging monsoon clouds.



Pictured shortly after Fairbrother (top) and Albright were rescued.

The men were lifted out of the jungle by an Army helicopter Saturday after lying injured without food or medical aid for nearly a week.

They were among 44 persons whose fate had been uncertain since the plane disappeared Nov. 29.

Air Force S.Sgt. Vincent Fairbrother, 20, and Gary Aldredge, 22, were both tangled in the wreckage of the C123 following the crash.

"When I finally got unpinned and tried to get up I realized my left leg was broken," Aldredge said as he waited to

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undergo surgery here. Fairbrother was pinned in the wreckage until the rescuers arrived Friday.

"Both Vince and I yelled and knew each other was alive. It took me two or three days to get to him. I crawled to him but couldn't help. We stayed together for several days. Then I tried to crawl for help, I was weak and kept passing out."

Both men said they heard helicopters flying near the crash site several times, especially during the latter part of their long wait. Aldredge said he never gave up hope.

"I laid up there and screamed for all I could scream," he said. "It was a nightmare."

"We are the only ones alive," said Aldredge. A spokesman for the U.S. Command in Saigon reported that Sunday that search teams had not accounted for all the 44¹ persons aboard the plane.

"The plane encountered heavy turbulence just before the crash", Aldredge said. "I realized it was going to happen. I don't know why but I knew" he said.

"The only thing I had to drink was rain water; I got by laying my handkerchief on my chest," he said. "I chewed the handkerchief dry and then laid it on my chest again" he said. I guess the only water Vince got was dripped in his mouth from the rain.

The rescue team was lowered into the jungle some distance from the crash site by an HH53 helicopter, according to sources here. The team consisted of about, five Americans and 10 Vietnamese, Aldredge said.

When the team arrived late Friday afternoon, Aldredge said the first man he saw was a Vietnamese carrying a rifle. "My imagination, started playing tricks on me," he said. He said he first feared the man was a Viet Cong. The two men were carried up the side of the mountain and had to wait nearly 24/hours to be airlifted out due to bad weather.

Doctors here said Aldredge suffered a broken left leg and abrasions while Fairbrother received leg injuries and infections of a hand and foot. Both men were in satisfactory condition, physicians said.



¹ There are many conflicting accounts of the number of souls on board at the time of the crash. The Coffelt Database of Vietnam Casualties list a total of 30 casualties for that day which includes 5 crew members, 11 Air Force personnel and 14 Army personnel and the number of ARVN troops vary widely but the Vietnam Air Losses by Chris Dobson lists 20 ARVN troops. To conclude that total would be 52 souls, which include the two survivors, however in the same report in Vietnam Air Losses they list 39 US and ARVN troops (KIA) and it then goes on to say that "Eleven USAF personnel are recorded as being killed in the accident along with 20 ARVN troops.

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U.S. spokesmen said search and rescue operations were continuing for a second C123 missing since Nov. 27 and presumed down somewhere in the Central Highlands. The plane was carrying 79 persons.

<p>This is transcribed from the original letter sent to Vincent’s parents shortly after the aircraft went missing and before he was rescued.</p>	<p>This is transcribed from what appears to be an original signed document, dated 1 December 1970 from the 315th TFW. There are many typos in the letter.</p>
	
<p>It is with deep personal concern that I officially inform you that your son, Sergeant Vincent J. Fairbrother Jr., is missing in South Vietnam, on 29 November 1970. He was on board a C-123 aircraft that departed Phan Rang Air Base enroute to Cam Ranh Bay South Vietnam. Radio contact was lost with the aircraft and fuel exhaustion time has elapsed. It is presently raining and low cloud ceiling is hampering the search operation. Pending further information he will be listed as officially missing. A representative from Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts will contact you within 24 hours of this notification for an appointment for a personal assistance visit at your convenience. If you have questions you may call my personal representative at area code 512-652-3505. Please accept my sincere sympathy during this period of anxiety.</p> <p>Major General R. G. Dupont Military Personnel Center Headquarters, U.S. A. F.</p>	<p>It is with deep regret that I inform you that your son, Sergeant Vincent Fairbrother Jr., has been missing since November 29, 1970.</p> <p>On this date, Vincent was a passenger aboard a C-123 aircraft that departed Phan Rang AB, Vietnam for Cam Ranh Bay AB at 7:25 A.M. Last radio contact was made with the aircraft at approximately 7:34 A.M. when it was determined that the aircraft at approximately 7:34 A.M. when it was determined that the aircraft was overdue. Search and rescue operations were immediately imitated. Due to poor visibility and bad weather conditions observations of the area was impossible. Electronic and visual search over the area will continue in hopes that contact will be made.</p> <p>Vincent is an airman and a respected friend of all who knew him. He has both the training and equipment to afford him the best possible chance of survival under any circumstance. Vincent will be carried as missing and you will be advised immediately of any subsequent change of his status. You can expect a representative from a nearby Air Force base to call on you to assist you in any way possible.</p> <p>My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. C. S. Reed, Colonel, USAF Commander</p>

C-123K, (#54-0649), "Bookie 540", flight from Phan Rang AB to Cam Ranh Bay AB. There were

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2 survivors, the other personnel were lost on impact, and were recovered between 12-16 December 1970.



Cecil Gerald Moyer Jr.
Air Force



Norbert Albert Podhajsky
Air Force



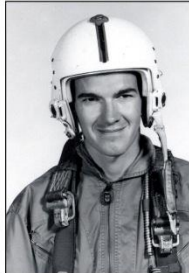
James Francis Saxby
Air Force



Grayson Henry Newberry
Air Force



Harry Allen Watson
Air Force



Elmon C. Caudill II
Air Force



1LT Jon M. King
Air Force



Charles Louis Kollenberg
Air Force



Ronnie Carl Teschendorf
Air Force



Billy Jack Hogan Jr.
Air Force



Bobby Darel Seay
Air Force



Robert Bruce Johnson
Air Force



James Cecil Starnes
Air Force



Ralph Stephen Guck
Air Force



James Edward Stubblefield
Air Force



James Bruce Young
Air Force

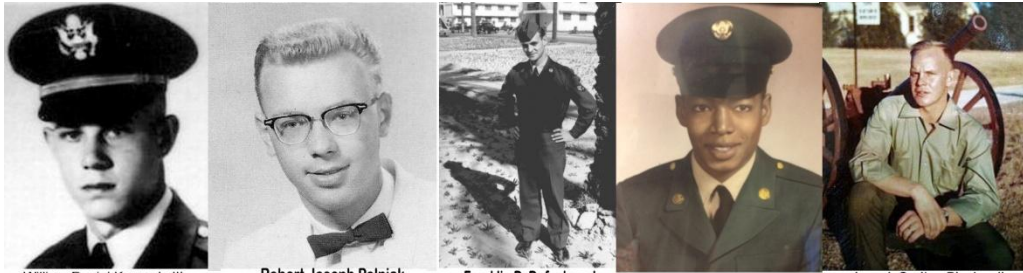


Air Force Crew losses: Capt. Cecil Moyer, Pilot/Crew, Capt. Norbert Podhajsky, Crew, 1LT James Saxby, Crew, Sgt Grayson Newberry, Crew, SSgt Harry Watson, Crew, **Air Force non-crew losses:** 1 LT Elmon C. Caudill, 1LT Jon King, 1LT Charles L. Kollenberg, Sgt Ronald C. Teschendorf, Sgt Billie Jack Hogan, MSgt Bobby Seay, TSgt Robert B. Johnson, SSgt James C. Starnes, SSgt Ralph S. Guck, SGT James Stubblefield and A1C James B. Young

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William Daniel Kennedy III
Army

Robert Joseph Polniak
Army

Franklin D. Defenbaugh
Army

Raymond Henry Gray
Army

Joseph Carlton Blackwell
Army



Jack Ronald Gibbs
Army

Samuel A. Grayson III
Army

Charles A. Johnson
Army

Donald Anthony Slate
Army

George Beedy
Army



Ronald Raphael Greenhouse
Army



Gary Anderson
Army



Joseph Arthur Jacques
Army



Arthur John Menn
Army



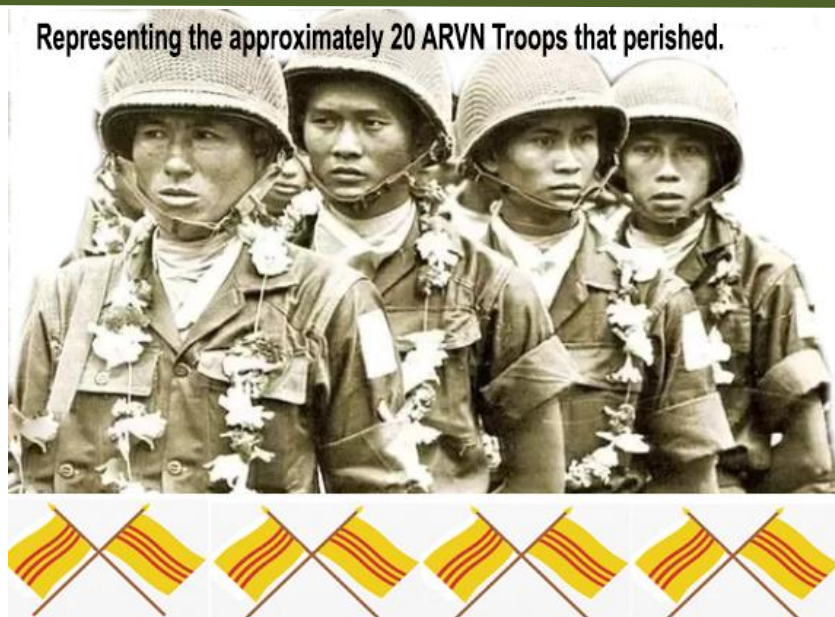
U.S. Army losses: Capt William D. Kennedy, Capt Robert J. Polniak, CW2 Franklin D. Defenbaugh, Sgt Raymond H. Gray, Sgt Joseph C. Blackwell, SP4 Jack R. Gibbs, SP4 Samuel A. Grayson, III, SP4 Charles A. Johnson, III, SP4 Donald A. Slate, SP4 George Beedy, SP4 Ronald R. Greenhouse, PFC Joseph A. Jacques, PFC Arthur J. Menn and Pvt. Gary Anderson.

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Representing the approximately 20 ARVN Troops that perished.



From a journal of a Walt" FAC (O-2) pilot looking for C-123K 54-0649

Sun 29 Nov - Bookie 540 [tail number 54-0649] crashed today at 0820, 15 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay. There were 44 people aboard, including 14 U.S. on their way to catch their freedom bird. I flew 2.2 with the "Walt" FAC (O-2) looking for Bookie 102. Didn't find them. Bill Pantle flew the second sortie with the FAC. Didn't find them. At the bar that night, some idiot said, "Why are you and Bill busting your humps flying with the FAC? They're probably all dead anyway." I blew my top: "Look, Mac, if it's you laying out there in the weeds all busted, what're you thinking?" He said, "I guess I'm hoping somebody's coming to get me." I said, "Right! That's why Bill and I are looking for them. We've got to keep the faith." He put his head down and nodded.

Mon 30 Nov - Stood by all day to search for Bookie 102² and 540. Total of 123 people, 38 U.S. Weather in the hills was impossible. No use losing another bird. But hard waiting. Glad to hear that Dusty Rhodes wasn't on Bookie 540. [He had finished his tour and was going to Cam Ranh Bay to catch his freedom bird. As he was walking out to Bookie 540 a friend of his said "Why don't you come and ride with me?" so he changed aircraft at the last minute.]

² 27 November 1970, 'Bookie 102' a provider on a flight from Tan Son Nhut to Nha Trang crashed into a mountain in Khanh Hoa province while in thick low cloud about 15 miles southwest of its destination. The aircraft (call sign Bookie 102) crashed at an elevation of 4,600 feet, some 500 feet below the top of a ridge. All six crew and 73 ARVN troops on board died in the accident. The aircraft's burnt out wreckage was not found until nine days later.

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Fri 4 Dec - Packing and clearing. Bookie 540 was found today on a mountain south of Cam Ranh Bay at 2600 feet. GCA operator flew him into the mountain -- 5 nautical mile radar range error. There were two VN survivors, found making their way West toward the highway, no American survivors. [37 years later, I learned there were two American survivors. They were found the next day, 5 December, at the crash site.]"

Note: November 1970 was a horribly tragic month for transport aircraft losses in the Vietnam War. The crash of DC8-63F, Cat-B MAC charter on 27 Nov., the crash of Bookie 102 also on 27 Nov., and the crash of Bookie 540 on 29 November. These three tragic days in November are chronicled in Phan Rang Newsletter 150.

Troops 'Serenading' Charlie by Night

35th Security Police Squadron

By SGT. DOUGLAS L. CHRISTY

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam (Special) — Harassment and interdiction is the name of the game.



Airman I.C. John S. Gorto, 20, of Bedford, N.J. covers his ears while firing a mortar round to disrupt Communist activity outside the perimeter of Phan Rang AB. (Photo by Airman I.C. William Diebold)

Preparedness is the byword. Keep the enemy's head down and his feet moving, but be ready to use your firepower when he stops and attacks.

This is the mission of the heavy weapons section of the 35th Security Police Sq, at Phan Rang Air Base.

Every night, all night, security police armored personnel carriers (APCs) and mortar teams disrupt the enemy's movements by firing into the darkness he hides in.

Planning each night's tactics is the responsibility of U.S. Army Ranger - trained S.Sgt. **Lawrence S. Kirk**, 33, of Tye, Tex., the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the section.

"The night begins for me when I coordinate the firing tactics of our APCs and mortar pits with Central Security Control," Kick said. "This includes checking the position of friendly ambush patrols and posts outside the perimeter, so our firing into 'no Man's Land' won't interfere with

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their operations.”

When ready, APCs begin roaming the perimeter and mortar crews take their positions. Sgt. **Leon B. Fuller**, 21, of Houston, Tex., is in charge of one of the APCs. "During our nightly rounds we stop at designated spots along the concertina wire perimeter, check the schedule and proposed target direction and wait for final clearance to fire.”

A machine gun thunders, sending its fire into the darkness, sometimes accompanied by a recoilless rifle shell or anti-tank rocket. "All this is done not only to harass enemy soldiers but also to keep us prepared and practiced at using all our weapon.”, Fuller explained.

Meanwhile, the four mortar pits around the base stay similarly active. "We throw our high explosive ordnance where the enemy might be moving," said Sgt., 22, of Quincy, Mass., who heads one of the mortar pits. (*Pacific Stars And Stripes*, July 08, 1969, Tokyo, Japan)



Kirk Receives the ‘Silver Star’

Lawrence ‘Larry’ S. Kirk was SrNco in charge of the 35th Security Police Squadron at Phan Rang Air Base on the night of 25/26 Jan 1969. He had recently mounted a 7.62mm minigun on a jeep (see photo right) and was taking it for a run to try it out. Additional to that I believe he carried quite an arsenal of other weapons and ammo. Armed for Bear would be an understatement. Whilst cruising Juliet Sector on the eastern perimeter he happened on the scene of a CO size sapper attack. At 6400-rounds-per-minute, let your imagination do the rest. After the mini malfunctioned, he then expended most of the rest of his arsenal. Between himself, a half dozen doggies and a few other cops in towers and bunkers they ruined Charlie's plans in quick-time.

Larry's Silver Star was well earned. Like most heroes, he was a real nice guy and although an extreme "pro" did not seem to cut the figure of the man in action that night.

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Some Vietnamese Unaware Of War

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Chams are Vietnam's disinherited ones, a vanishing race, the Chams who once ruled the land, believe that God is a woman, and now live virtually unaware of the war around them. When Susan Bauernfeind, of Menasha, Wis., served with the American Red Cross at Phan Rang, she paid a visit to a nearby village and wrote this report.

PHAN RANG Vietnam — Nearly 2000 years ago this land was ruled by a handsome and tough people—the Tchampa Chams. A mixture of Indian and Khmer Cambodian indigenous tribes, they settled uninhabited lands between Saigon and Canton, China.

The Chinese called the Chams "Lin-y," forest savages, because they almost always chose land that was bordered on one side by impenetrable forest.

These people were farmers essentially, and their lives were dominated by religion. In the year 353 started a series of invasions that lasted 16 centuries- In 1822 the Chams were once and for all considered conquered. They became the disinherited ones of Vietnam.

One of the last Cham strongholds was in Phan Rang, 165 miles east-northeast of Saigon, where many Chams still live, separate from their Vietnamese countrymen.

A 1,200-year-old three-tower temple, built in homage to the godking of irrigation, overlooks their villages and vast green valleys.

Chat Thuong, 8 miles southwest of Phan Rang, is a typical Cham village. The road leading to this community of 400 people winds through rich rice fields set against Jagged mountains.

Inside the village gate is the home of a hamlet elder, 64-year-old Quang Dai Minh, a farmer national assemblyman representing the Cham people.

He wears the long skirt and turban traditional for Cham men, and as is the custom, wisps of hair hang down his neck.

He said he was born not far away but moved to his wife's village when they married. Still

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practiced, he said, is the custom of a girl choosing a husband and sending her parents with two kinds of cake as a proposal of marriage.

If a young man eats the cakes, he returns to the girl's village with her parents and they are married. After that the husband is head of the household.

Elder Quang Dai Minh wore two gold rings with a black stone in each for protection from evil spirits after he dies.

His granddaughter-in-law wore four rings, but only for decoration. "Perhaps," she said, "I will believe in the evil spirits when I am bid."

Their religion is based on respect for the queen that came from the sky, their ancestors who have the power to protect, and their kings.

Four times yearly, the Brahmin Chams must visit their temples, once in celebration of the new year, once to pray to ancestors, once to pray for crops and once to pray for peace.

On any day, however, Cham women religious dancers may be called to a home to appease an offended ancestor or to ask for a special favor.

Chat Thueon village was neat and well designed. Each home of wood, mud or cement—had a courtyard and fence with a gate.

All streets were hedged with interwoven branches. Children skipped along, looking happy and healthy.

So it is in one village of the vanishing Chams—a people whose temples once awed Marco Polo who have no written history of their own, but who teach their children Sanskrit, the ancient language of scholars.

The Chams have a saying that "love has no limit," but do not intermarry. Their numbers dwindle and the land once theirs is torn end to end with a war they hardly know exists. (*Newark*

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Advocate, February 20, 1968, Newark, Ohio)

Note: Additional stories about the Chams can be found in Phan Rang Newsletter 124 “Vietnam Chams - A Vanishing Race” and newsletter 170 “The Chams are Moving into Modern World”.

These records create a very accurate timeline of my journey to Phan Rang Air Base by Robert Ward



12 Nov 1968: Completed Sea Survival Training in Florida, while in the F-111 program

10 Feb 1969: Completed F-111 Operational Training program at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.



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27 May 1969: Completed Land & POW survival Training at Fairchild AFB. I believe this was a pre-requisite to begin F-100 training. I had left the F-111 program at this time.

23 June 1969 - 23 June 1969: Completed the AT-33 Training program at Myrtle Beach AFB. I had very little flying time in the F-111 due to several aircraft grounding issues related to the new aircraft systems. So, they wanted to give me a refresher course before heading to the F-100.



8 Dec 1969: Completed F-100 Operational Training program at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.



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9 Feb 1970: Completed Jungle Survival Training at Clark AFB, Philippines

About 10-12 Feb 1970: Arrived in South Vietnam



CHEAP CHARLIE

Uc-da-loi, Cheap Charlie, He no buy me Saigon tea, Saigon tea costs many many P, Uc-da-loi he Cheap Charlie.

Uc-da-loi, Cheap Charlie, He no give me MPC, MPC costs many many P, Uc-da-loi he Cheap Charlie.

Uc-da-loi, Cheap Charlie, He no go to bed with me, Bed with me costs many many P, Uc-da-loi he Cheap Charlie.

Uc-da-loi, Cheap Charlie, Make me give him one for free, Mamma-san go crook at me, Uc-da-loi, he Cheap Charlie.

Uc-da-loi, Cheap Charlie, He give baby-san to me, Baby-san costs many many P, Uc-da-loi, he Cheap Charlie.

Uc-da-loi, Cheap Charlie, He go home across the sea, He leave baby-san with me, Uc-da-loi he Cheap Charlie

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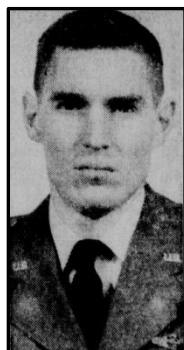
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(Thank you Bob Howe for sharing this. This is a challenge to anyone attending the reunion in September if you would like to sing this little ditty, we will give you the stage.)

Award Clusters for Asian Duty

(Fairborn Daily Herald, November 12, 1969, Fairborn, Ohio)

Capt. **Joseph K. Jarboe**, an engineer with the deputy for engineering, aeronautical systems division, has received the first through fourth oak leaf clusters to the air medal. Col. Herbert A. Lyon, deputy for engineering, made the presentation at Wright-Patterson AFB. Jarboe, 2499 Brown Bark dr., earned the decorations for meritorious achievements as a pilot with the 310th special operations squadron in Southeast Asia. Flying out of Phan Rang air base, Vietnam, during the period June 22, 1968, through April 3, 1969, Jarboe exhibited outstanding airmanship and courage in successfully accomplishing important missions under hazardous conditions.



EARNNS WINGS — Second Lt. **Jack E. Gray II.** son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. Gray of Fairland Route 2, has been awarded Air Force silver pilot wings upon graduation at Vance AFB, Enid. Following specialized training at other bases, he will be assigned to Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Gray, a graduate of Fairland high school and Northeastern A&M, earned his B.S. degree in aerospace engineering in 1965 at Oklahoma State University. *(Miami News Record, December 25, 1966, Miami, Oklahoma)*

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The Cullman Times

Cullman Times Democrat, February 16, 1967, Cullman, Alabama



Valentine's Greetings

PHAN RANG, S. VIETNAM: “Happy Valentine” and “Love and Kisses” are the Valentine messages being sent to the Viet Cong through the 105 mm howitzers of the Second Battalion, 320th (Airborne) Artillery, from the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division’s First Brigade. (UPI PHOTO)



TACOMA, Wash, - - Staff Sergeant **McKinley D. Henry**, son of Mrs. Mary E. Span of 2546-A N. 17th St. has been decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal. Sergeant Henry distinguished himself by meritorious service as an aircraft maintenance technician at Phan Rang

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AB, Vietnam. He was honored during ceremonies at McChord AFB, in Washington, where he now serves with the 52nd Military Airlift wing, a unit of the Military Airlift Command which provides global airlift for U. S. military forces. (*The Milwaukee Star, May 23, 1970*)

Men in the Military - Tech. Sgt. **John D. Godwin**, brother of Jimmie L. Godwin of Blounistown has received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Tyndall AFB. Godwin was decorated for his service as an aircraft maintenance technician at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He is now at Tyndall AFB with the Air Defense Command. The sergeant, who served during the Korean War, attended Altha High School. His wife, Vivian, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe D. Bodiford of Altha. (*Panama City Herald, November 23, 1967*)

M.Sgt. Landry Returns to U.S. WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. — Master Sergeant **Russel M. Landry** has arrived for duty at Suffolk County AFB, N. Y. Sergeant Landry, a weapons technician, previously served at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He is assigned to the Air Defense Command which provides aerospace defense against hostile aircraft and missiles. The sergeant, a graduate of Derby (Kan.) high School, is a veteran of the Korean War. His wife, Betty, is the daughter of Mrs. Pauline Koehler of Argonia. (*Wellington Daily News, July 14, 1967, Wellington, Kansas*)

Airman Roy in Vietnam WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — Airman First Class **Roger J. Roy**, whose wife, Mary, is the daughter of Leonard Davis of rural Argonia, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Airman Roy, a food service specialist, is member of the Pacific Air Forces, America’s overseas air arm in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to the 835th Tactical Hospital at McConnell AFB, Wichita. (*Wellington Daily News, July 14, 1967, Wellington, Kansas*)

Sgt B. E. Nichols Sent to Vietnam Sgt. **Brent E. Nichols**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Nichols of Lorraine RD 1. is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sergeant Nichols, a security policeman, is a member of the Military Airlift Command in support of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to Pease AFB, N.H. The sergeant was graduated From high school in Adams. His wife, Judity, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Tuttle of Adams Center. (*Syracuse Post Standard, December 02, 1967, Syracuse, New York*)

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Air Force Lt. Col. Jack L. Goodman, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Goodman, 3717 N. Meridian, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while commander of the 310th Special Operations Squadron at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. (*The Daily Oklahoman, Tuesday, October 22, 1968*)

Pilot at Tinker Awarded Medal for Vietnam Duty - A pilot at the headquarters of the southern communications area at Tinker AFB has been awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Cluster for missions he flew in Vietnam. Lt. **David A. Bagley** received the award from Col. Wallace J. Jarman for missions he flew in 1971 out of Phan Rang Air Base. He piloted his C123 “Provider” in combat air drops, spray missions and tactical airlifts in support of allied forces. Since January, Bagley has been assigned to the flight facilities agency of the southern communications area. (*The Daily Oklahoman, Tuesday, March 28, 1972*)

Air Force Sgt. Pierce A. Newton has received the Air Force commendation medal at Phan Rang Air base in Vietnam. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Pierce H. Newton of Midwest City, he was cited for outstanding service as a munitions specialist. (*The Daily Oklahoma, Friday, December 27, 1968*)

Receives Bronze Star Medal



WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — U. S. Air Force Master Sergeant **Orville L. Hutson** (right), son of Mrs. Lucille L. Hutson of 708 South Jackson St., Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, receives the Bronze Star Medal at Phan Rang. AB, Vietnam, from Colonel Charles E. Hoffman, commander of the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — U. S. Air Force Master Sergeant Orville L. Hutson, son of Mrs. Lucille L. Huston of 7014 S. Jackson St., Mt. Pleasant. Iowa, has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, for meritorious service while engaged in military operations against Viet Cong forces. Sergeant Hutson distinguished himself as a site development superintendent with the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron at Phan Rang. He was cited for his outstanding professional skill, leadership and devotion to duty. The sergeant who

“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. 285 “...keeping the memories alive”

attended Mount Pleasant High School, served during the Korean War. His wife, Shiela, is the daughter of Mrs. Eula M. Vicker of Rt. 4 of Mt. Pleasant. (*The Mount Pleasant News, November 28, 1969, Mount Pleasant, Iowa*)



Doug’s Comments: I would like to remind anyone that might want to have their bio’s included in the Phan Rang Newsletter. The next issue is slated to be all bio’s from the heroes of Phan Rang AB, so if you haven’t already had yours published and want to get it included, please send to me soon. We are still on the lookout for speakers/presenters for the reunion. Our key-note speaker is lined up for the Saturday banquet and its going to be an encore performance because he spoke at the Oklahoma City reunion and he enthralled the audience with his story and I’m sure he will do it again. If you have an idea or would like to speak, please let me know. I hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, dougsevert@gmail.com and put ‘unsubscribe’ in subject line.