

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang News No. 47

“Stories worth telling”

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Army Plane Crash in Storm Kills 4 (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Friday, Oct. 22, 1971*)

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Four American soldiers died late Tuesday morning when their single-engine plane crashed in a storm 30 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay, U.S. Army spokesmen said Wednesday.

The U6A Beaver aircraft was attempting to return to Phan Rang AB after a flight to Ban Me Thuot was aborted by bad weather.

All aboard the craft, two captains, one lieutenant and a sergeant first class, died in the crash, the spokesmen said.

The plane, from the 35th Eng. Group Aviation section at Cam Ranh Bay, was reported missing at 11:53 a.m. Tuesday by Phan Rang air traffic control.



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Members of Det. 1, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery group at the air base later found the wreckage.

Cause of the crash is undetermined, spokesmen said. Identity of the dead soldiers was being withheld until their families are notified,

B52s Keep the Heat on Reds (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Thursday, May 22, 1969*)

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — U.S. Air Force B52s kept up their pressure on the enemy Monday, pounding targets in six provinces as they flew 10 missions over South Vietnam.

Targets ranging from troop concentrations to storage areas were hit in the provinces of Quang Nam, Kontum, Tay Ninh, Long Khanh, Binh Long, and Bien Hoa. The closest strike to Saigon came in Bien Hoa Province, 28 miles east of the capital.

To the north, four A1 Skyraider pilots from the 633rd Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang and F100 Super Sabre pilots from the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Tuy Hoa pounded an enemy position 31 miles northwest of Kontum City.

The pilots destroyed 80 bunkers, four fortifications, and an antiaircraft position.

In other action Monday, F100 pilots from the 35th TFW Phan Rang struck a Viet Cong location six miles north-northwest of Ben Tre.

The forward air controller (FAC) credited the pilots with destroying six fortifications, three bunkers and killing three enemy soldiers.

Capl. **Robert T. Renner**, one of the pilots, said, "The FAC saw some Viet Cong running down, a road and called us in to drop some heavy stuff on them." "Minutes later, he spotted some more, running down a foot path, and we strafed them with our cannons. Ground forces nearby counted three enemy dead," he said.

Navy jets from the aircraft carrier Oriskany and Carrier Air Wing 16 flew 27 sorties against enemy targets in I Corps in support of ground operations Monday.

They destroyed four enemy bunkers and two military structures, caused two cuts and one slide across an enemy supply route, ignited one secondary fire, and destroyed 60 feet of trenchline.

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It’s All Greek to Me, Mate (*Pacific Starts & Stripes, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1971*)

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam

(Special) —Pitting a baby buggy , against a coffin may seem mighty strange, but that's what happened (among other, things), here recently during the second annual ASGRO (Australian, Scottish, Greco-Roman Olympics) games held here. The games are sponsored by the Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Sq.

The pram and coffin were two of 10 "soap box' cars that raced down a near mile-long hillside course from the Officers' Open Mess to the rear of Phan Rang's base exchange. The oversized pram and the "Speed Kills" coffin both lagged, behind in competition, while the weighteddown "Flying Virgin' driven by Cpl. Robert W. Rose, scurried away with all the honors including a little congratulatory lip smacking from Red Cross "Donut -Dollies' Miss Polly Ingram. Designer of the winning vehicle was leading Aircraftsman Dick Turbin.

Other awards went to Cpl. Dennis Wilson for the best prepared vehicle, the "Gecko Special," and a special judges' commendation went to Flying Officer Thomas Morrissey for his entry, "Ettamooga Racer" Other entries, now famous, at the base speedway are the "Purple People Eater," the "Love Bug", and the "Time Machine,"

Other events in the day-long games included the Nui Dat foot marathon, shot put, tug of war and tossing the caber.

Jaunting up Phan Rang's mini-mountain, Nui Dat, Australian contestants participated in a foot marathon. The distance of the run was determined by the age of the participants, with the youngest having to run the farthest. Cpl. Lin Clark literally ran away with the trophy-of this event,

Putting'the, shot at 48, feet, 9 ½ inches, Cpl.Frank Hodges, took the shot put event. Each contestant was given three throws, with the option of throwing overhand or underhand.

An event seldom seen in American sports is the caber toss. The caber is a 10-foot long, four-by-four inch wide log, The "toss", is throwing the caber so that it turns 180-degrees before it strikes the ground." Each contestant is allowed three throws. The longest throw of the event determines the, winner of the trophy, which this year was won by flying officer Harry Bradford.

Australian teams tested their muscle (and weight) in the final event of the afternoon, the tug of war. The teams consisted of eight persons each, with a total weight not to exceed 1,260 pounds on each team. The winners were a team from the Canberra armament shop. They were leading aircraftsmen Rod Barnard, Joe Wilson, Col Holl, Rod Pyn, A.B. Smith, and Les Fullon, Sgt. Ned Bennett and Cpl. Jim Richards.

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Airmen Aid Viet Children (*Pacific Stars & Stripes Friday, March 22, 1968*)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam (01) During the past few weeks, about 1,500 youngsters in eight Montagnard and Vietnamese hamlets near Phan Rang AB have received toys and clothing from members of the 1882nd Comm. Sq. under a program called "Project Father."

Capt. Donald Terrell, 28, Richmond, Va., telecommunications officer of the squadron, said the toys and clothing are the gifts of people in the U.S. who were contacted by squadron personnel.

Sleepless Nights at the Delta (*Pacific Stars & Stripes Friday, March 22, 1968*)

DONG TAM, Vietnam — What does a man do when he can't sleep at night?

At this Army base deep in the Mekong Delta, the problem is paramount. Several nights a week the men are awakened and rushed to bunkers to sit out a mortar attack.

"Most of us," says Pfc. Walter Ivey, "just sit there and talk about home. We're scared . Some of us pray. I saw a guy cry once, not because he was scared. He was just plain mad because he couldn't do anything about it."

Some of the men get card games going. Some even have a beer while they sit it out. "I just sit there thinking about that soft bed I had to jump out of," says Spec. 4 Joe Bacile.

A group of civilian engineers even use their sleepless nights for practical jokes.

An old veteran who automatically jumps up and starts running when he hears the familiar "mortars!" was already asleep in his bunker when the attack started. A fellow worker shouted in his ear and he was up and out of the bunker in a second — right out where the mortar rounds were falling.

Do-It-All Wing Has Many Duties at Phan Rang AB (*Pacific Stars & Stripes Sunday, Oct, 31, 1971*)

By CAPT. WAYNE A. TONGUK

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam (Special) — A tactical airlift wing, as its name implies, usually is in the business of transporting troops and cargo. That is unless it happens to be the 315th Tactical Airlift Wing at Phan Rang AB.

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Would you believe that the 315th has a fighter squadron, a psychological operations squadron and an airlift squadron, plus being the host unit responsible for the operation of Phan Rang AB? And the wing commander, Col. Kenneth T. Blood Jr., also has the title of installation coordinator, which usually is an Army responsibility in Vietnam.

Then have you noticed that peculiar odor that may have awakened you at dawn about once every 10 days or so? Spray aircraft of the 315th TAW are a familiar sight (and smell) as they spread insecticide over the landscape in a widespread malaria control program. The specially equipped C123 Providers dispensed 105,205 gallons of insecticide in 1970 alone in making living conditions safer and more pleasant both in the field and at established bases in Vietnam.

The 315th also has been responsible for in-country training for Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) aircrew members in the C123 aircraft.

As for aircraft, there is variety here, too. The 315th crews fly C47 Skytrains, A37 Dragonflies and O2 Super Skymasters in addition to the C123s.

However, strictly from the airlift aspect, the 315th still has a few records worth noting. During 1970, C123s headquartered here airlifted 937,708 passengers throughout South Vietnam. Besides passengers, 143,433 tons of cargo were moved.

The 315th also is charged with the task of dropping combat paratroops and assisting the ARVN in jump training. During the last year, 34,242 troops "hit the silk" from the 315th Providers.

What more is there to say about this versatile unit? How about the fact that one of its airlift squadrons was the first to enter the Vietnam conflict and that it is probably the only airlift unit to boast of a Medal of Honor winner. In addition, the 315th has the Air Force's oldest fighter outfit on active duty, the 8th Special Operations Squadron.

In the words of Col. Blood, "We try to convince the enemy to give up by words and leaflets (psychological operations), and, if that doesn't work, we will haul the troops and ammo to help persuade them, and then send in our fighters to support our ground forces. All this time we are training the VNAF to do the same. We can do it all."

Pilots Rescue Buddy (Pacific Stars & Stripes, Monday, Sept. 16, 1968)

DA NANG, Vietnam (UPI)—Two airmen piloting a "Jolly Green Giant" rescue helicopter pulled



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their roommate out of the Tonkin Gulf when his jet was downed Wednesday.

Maj. Lawrence E. Bustle, 33, Bradenton, Fla., had ejected from his supersonic fighter five miles off the coast of North Vietnam. His leg was broken. He was entangled in his parachute and flying gear and a Navy "Big Mother" helicopter was having trouble scooping him up into her rescue basket.

When the HH3 Jolly Green arrived on the scene, Maj. Don P. Olsen, 37 of Alexandria, Va., and Maj. Robert D. Shular, 37, of Laguna Hills, Calif., landed it the water beside the downed pilot. When they taxied up close enough to see his face, they recognized their roommate.

The pararescue man flung himself into the seas to help the wounded airman.

"It seemed like it took forever, but actually I guess it took only a few minutes," said Sgt. John J. Eldridge, 23, of Fayetteville, N.C.

With a sling and hoist, Bustle was finally hauled to safety, and he seemed to be in good spirits although he was in some pain," Olsen said.

"We joked with him and told him that it wasn't everybody that had his own two private chauffeurs in Vietnam," Olsen added.

Move Completed by Guard Unit (Pacific Stars & Stripes, Monday, Sept. 16, 1968)

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — The largest U.S. Army National Guard unit activated for duty in Vietnam has completed its move to the war zone, U.S. military spokesmen said Saturday.

Sources said the 116th Combat Engineer Bn. is the first battalion-size National Guard unit to serve in South Vietnam. The last elements of the unit arrived Friday at Phan Rang in the lowlands, about 165 miles northeast of Saigon.



The engineers will support combat units in the southern II Corps tactical zone and will be responsible for the upkeep of Highway QL120, a key route from Da Lat to Bau Lat.

The 750-man battalion was activated April 13 at Idaho Falls, Idaho. An advance party, led by Lt. Col. Donald R. Ghormley, commanding officer, arrived in late August.

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The last planeload of engineers to arrive was greeted at Phan Rang AB by Lt. Gen W.R. Peers, commanding general of the 1 Field Force; Maj. Gen. Davis S. Parker, staff engineer, U.S. Army Vietnam Engineer Section; and Brig. Gen. Willard Roper, commanding general of the 18th Engineer Brigade.

The 116th has served combat tours during both world wars and in Korea.

B52s Blast Buildup in 17 Raids (Pacific Stars & Stripes, Monday, Sept. 16, 1968)

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — With the expected target date for the third Communist offensive approaching, Air Force B52s Friday and Saturday morning struck all four tactical zones in 11 bombing raids aimed at enemy buildups and infiltration routes.



U.S. military officials said the Reds had set Sept. 15 as the kickoff date for a new thrust against South Vietnam's major cities. In response to this, the Stratofortress crews blasted enemy troop concentrations 54 miles northwest of Saigon and as close as 17 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Six missions were directed against the possible movement of enemy soldiers from Tay Ninh City near the Cambodian border, where heavy fighting was reported earlier this week. Crews returning after two strikes Friday night nine miles northeast and 26 miles northwest of the provincial capital said their

bombs set off three large secondary explosions, indicating they may have hit a big ammunition storage area.

GI-Viet Allies Meet the Test Of Friendship (Pacific Stars & Stripes, Friday, Jan. 7, 1972)

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam (Special)—Americans at this base and Vietnamese from the local province of Ninh Thuan have been allies since the base opened in 1965. Equally as important, they have become friends.

With the current relative quiet in the province, the community relations program is flourishing.

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Although the establishment of an American-Vietnamese community relations committee and friendship council has led to improved understanding and friendship, the real success of the program has been in the interest taken by the individual men of the base and their friends in the province.

For their part, the men of Phan Rang have supported orphanages, helped students stay in school, held parties for the children of the local hamlets, arranged tours of the base and aided in construction projects.

Airmen have acted as advisers to the local Boy Scout program. Some black airmen formed a band, the Black Coalition, and have played in the local province to give the Vietnamese a

sample of soul music. Cartoons have been shown in the city of Phan Rang to the delight of the community's children. Funds have been donated to buy toys and candy to be distributed during Tet to orphans of Vietnamese soldiers.

DoD to Demobilize 13,000 Reservists (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tuesday, Jan 21, 1969*)

S&S Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department has announced the demobilization schedule for some 13,000 Air Reserve and National Guard personnel called to active duty last year following the capture of the U.S. intelligence ship *Pueblo* by the Communist North Koreans.

Involved in the demobilization are many officers and enlisted men now in units in Vietnam, South Korea and Japan.

The Air Force said it did, not know how many of the 13,000 guard and reserves are serving Overseas.

Here is a list of the overseas units, their present location and the dates they will be released from active duty:

120th Tactical Fighter Sq, Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, April 30. 174th Tactical Fighter Sq, Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, May 28; 166th Tactical Fighter Sq., Kunsan AB, Korea, June 18; 127th Tactical Fighter Sq. also at Kunsan, June 18; 188th Tactical Fighter Sq., Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam, June 4; 138th Tactical Fighter Sq. also at Tuy Hoa, June 11; 150th Comm. Support Sq., Taegu Air Field, Korea, June 4; 71st Special Operations Sq., Nha Trang Airport, Vietnam, June 18; 107th Comm. Support Sq., Kwang-Ju, Korea, June 11; 107th Tactical Dispensary, also at Kwang-Ju, June 11; 152nd Comm. Support Sq., Suwoa, Korea, June 9, and Aeromedical Evacuation Yokota, Japan, June 18.

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An Air Force spokesman said the men will be rotated to the U.S. sometime before their release Date.

Youth Farm Plants Seeds For Better Citizenship (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Saturday, April 10, 1971*)

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam (Special) — A youth farm has been developed in nearby Kien Kien Hamlet to teach Vietnamese boys and girls of the local Rural Development Youth Club improved agricultural methods. This multi-sponsored civic action program includes the local government. MACCORDS (Military Assistance Command Civil Operations and Rural Development Support) and the Phan Rang AB Military Civic Action office.

Youngsters from six to 18 have been selected to learn farming on the two and one-half acre plot of land donated by the Republic of Vietnam government. They will work in cooperation with the local Popular Self-Defense Force and the Phan Rang AB Military Civic Action team consisting of Capt. Michael J. Selby and S. Sgt. Larry W. Morris.

The first step in the development of the farm, an isolating fence, is nearly complete. The youngsters will then level the land and prepare it for planting. Planned crops include corn, watermelon, sugar cane and banana trees.

To start the farm the base Military Civic Action Program donated tools, a water pump, a sprayer, insecticides, seeds, clothes and barbed wire for the fence. The "new farmers" provided the fence posts and will share the future labor.

Pinkley-Kravitz Reunion in Richmond (*From Facebook*)

“It’s great to see old friends getting together”...Kenneth Rowsey

“The only real change, they haven’t been eating chow hall food!”...John Reeves

“It really doesn’t matter who looks different! That’s just great you two still see each other!”...George Carrie

“Archie has cooler glasses now”...David Knighton

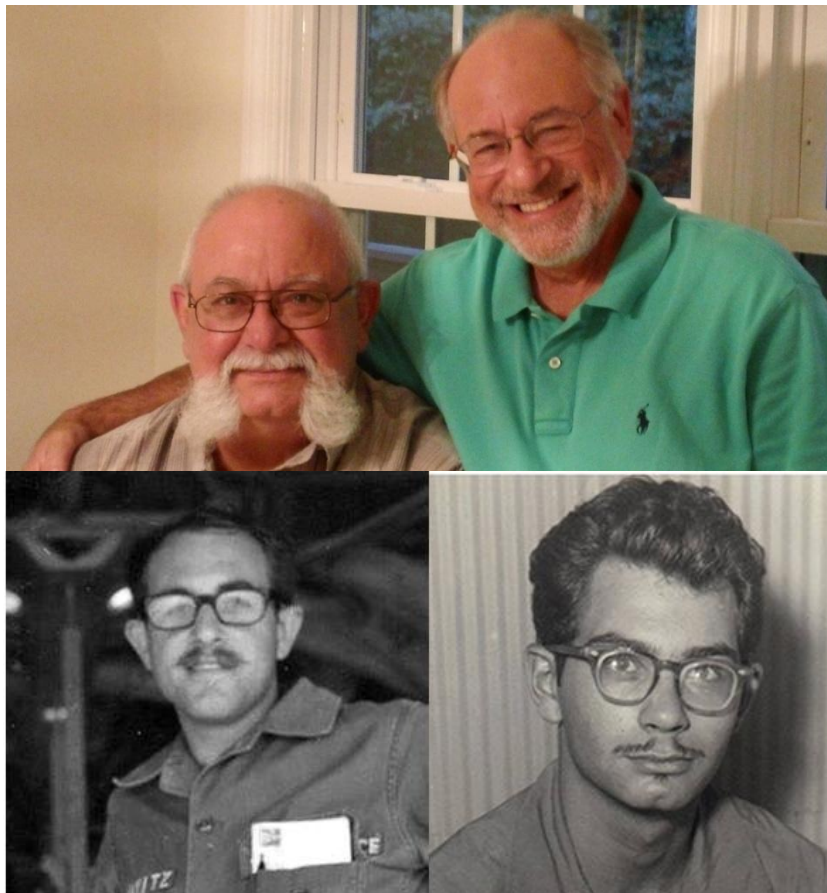
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“I think David had more forehead!” ...Archie T. Pinkley

David Kravitz had a very nice surprise this past weekend (20 Sep. 2014). Archie T. Pinkley, his wife and son visited me and my wife on Saturday in Richmond Va. We have not seen each other for 43+ years. We both worked in the Aerial Port (Det. 8, 14th Aerial Port) at Phan Rang AB. David also reported that Archie was on his best behavior and he also went on to say that Archie is all bark and no bite. I think we all suspected that he was a pretty nice guy David said we are going to get together again.



Robert Kellington Appears in another Movie

Former ‘Lucky Devil’ crewman, Robert Kellington, appears in another movie that was recently filmed in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma City Railway Museum. The Chickasaw Nation film “Te Ata’ follows the life of the performer from her childhood in Emet in the Chickasaw Nation to her

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years at the Oklahoma Women’s College, her marriage and how she overcame opposition to rise to stardom.

“Te Ata is the universal story of someone who has a story inside themselves and wants to express it,” Frankowski, the director, said Tuesday on the movie set in northeast Oklahoma City. Te Ata’s father is played by Gil Birmingham, who “Twilight” saga fans will know as Billy Black. Oscar nominee Graham Greene, who starred in “Dances with Wolves,” plays Chickasaw Nation Gov. Douglass H. Johnson.

The former member of the 614th TFS has appeared as an extra in many movies, the most recent was “America: Imagine a World without Her” will be at the reunion in Tucson.



Robert Kellington, left, in a screen capture from the movie *Te Ata*.

Gloria Powel also let the cat out of the bag that her husband Joe was an extra in the movie “Bagger Vance” which was filmed in Jekyll Island, Ga.

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HOMER CITY — U.S. Air Force **Airman 1.C. George T. Smith**, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Smith of Homer City R. D. has arrived in Vietnam for duty and will be stationed at Phan Rang Air Base.

Airman Smith is a member of the 821st Combat Security Police squadron and a graduate of Homer-Center High School. (*Indiana Evening Gazette, Sat., Sept, 28, 1968*)

Airman First Class Harry L. Edmonds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Edmonds of Eden, N. C., Rt. 2, has been named Outstanding Airman in his unit at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He was cited for his exemplary conduct and duty performance.

An aircraft mechanic, he is 1965 graduate of John M. Morehead High School. His wife, the former Sandra L. Price, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Price of Henry St. in Stoneville, N. C. (*The Register: Danville, Va., Sunday, Feb. 2, 1969*)

Sergeant Paul R. Lovell, a 1965 graduate of Martinsville High School, is a supply inventory specialist on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Before going overseas, he was stationed at Travis AFB, Calif. (*The Register: Danville, Va., Sunday, Feb. 2, 1969*)

U. S. Air Force **Airman First Class Joseph N. Luther**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Luther Jr., of Kerrville, has received the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB. Vietnam.

Airman Luther, an aeromedical specialist, was decorated for his meritorious achievement during aerial flights at Phan Rang. He was cited for outstanding courage during medical evacuation of wounded Vietnamese soldiers from a hostile area. The airman left the rescue helicopter to help bring the wounded aboard and to administer medical aid to them. He is a

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member of the Pacific Air Forces, America's overseas air arm in Southeast Asia, the Far East and Pacific.

The airman, a graduate of Tivy High School, attended Sol Ross State College in Alpine, and the University of Texas. (*Kerrville Mountain Sun, July 5, 1967*)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — **Technical Sergeant Thomas V. Ayris**, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Buttner of 524 E. Hillsdale Ct.. San Mateo, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Sergeant Ayris, an aircraft maintenance controller is a member- of the Pacific Air forces. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to Holloman AFB, N.M. (*The Times, San Mateo Times and Daily News leader, Friday, July 12, 1968*)

PHAN RANG AB - I **Lt. Marvin E. Bruce**, son of Mrs. Edna Bruce, Greeley, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Bruce is an aircraft officer in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival Southeast Asia, he was assigned at McChord AFB, Wash. The lieutenant, a 1960 graduate of Gill High School, earned his A.B. degree at CSC, where he was commissioned in 1966 through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program. His wife is the former Jane L. O'Brien. (*The Greeley Tribune, Wednesday, September 17, 1969*)

Sgt. JACK N. MILLER,. son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller of 2228 W, Sullivan St., Is a member of the F-100 Super Sabre Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, that has been selected as having the best maintenance complex in the U. S. Air Force.

Sgt. Miller is an aircraft mechanic with the combat-proved 35th Tactical Fighter Wing that has been named to receive the 1967 Daedalian Maintenance Trophy.

The award is presented annually to the organization chosen as best by the Air Force Chief of Staff on the basis of maintenance effectiveness and efficiency in being operationally ready. The trophy was established by the Order of Daedalians, an organization founded by World War I pilots.

Wing personnel earlier won top honors for maintenance proficiency in the U. S. Seventh Air Force in Vietnam that led to similar recognition throughout the Pacific Air Forces and then Air Force-wide. The Phan Rang Flying and maintenance crews and support personnel in diversified areas were cited for their close teamwork in keeping three squadrons of the supersonic jet fighter wing combat ready around the clock.

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The sergeant attended Union High School, College Corner, Ohio, and completed requirements for his diploma after entering the service. (*Kingsport News, Thursday, May 16, 1968*)

Master Sgt. Truman E. Paugh, whose wife, Margaret, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bosley, Bloomington, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, as a maintenance supervisor.

Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, Paugh was assigned to Webb AFB, Texas, and served during the Korean War. He attended Elk Garden High School. (*The Cumberland Sunday Times, Sunday, January 14, 1968*)

Sgt. Baron M. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. White, RD 1, Hyndman, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, as a construction equipment operator. Previously assigned to Lackland AFB, Texas, he attended Hyndman High School. (*The Cumberland Sunday Times, Sunday, January 14, 1968*)

Ralph J. Maroni, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marino Maroni, 3006 Ferry Lane, is a member of the F-100 Super Sabre wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, that has been selected as having the best maintenance complex in the U.S. Air Force.

Maroni is an airframe repairman with the combat proved Tactical Fighter Wing that has been named to receive the 1967 Daedalian Maintenance Trophy.

The award is presented annually to the organization chosen best by the Air Force Chief of Staff on the basis of maintenance effectiveness and efficiency in being operationally ready. The trophy was established by the Order of Daedalians, an organization founded by World War I pilots.

Wing personnel earlier won top honors for maintenance proficiency in the U.S. Seventh Air Force in Vietnam that led to similar recognition throughout the Pacific Air Forces and then Air Force wide.

The Phan Rang flying and maintenance crews and support personnel in diversified areas were cited for their close teamwork in keeping three squadrons of the supersonic jet fighter wing combat ready around the clock.

Maroni is a graduate of Perkins High School. (*Sandusky Register, Wed., May 15, 1968*)

Sergeant August J. Fiesel, son of Mr. and Mrs. August J. Fiesel Jr. of 2710 John Drive, was recently decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Sergeant Fiesel distinguished himself by meritorious service as an aircraft support equipment repairman at Phan Rang. He serves with the Pacific Air Forces .

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The sergeant is a 1968 graduate of Kirwin High School, Galveston. His wife, Joan, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M.V. Ellis of 202 10th Ave. W, Texas City.

Colonel Cregg P. Nolan Jr., commander of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, made the presentation. (*The La Marque Times, Thursday, June 17, 1971*)

AT PHAN RANG VIETNAM WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — **A1C. Kenneth L. Ostrander**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ostrander, Rt. 2, Evansville, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Airman Ostrander, a finance specialist, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to Minot AFB, N.D.

The airman is a graduate of Evansville High School. (*Jamesville Daily Gazette, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1967*)

Sgt. Clifford R. Bates, whose wife Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Cox of 2019 41st St., has received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He was decorated for meritorious service as an aircraft mechanic at Phan Rang. (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Thursday Evening, August 29, 1968*)

Airman First Class Rafael Velasquez Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Velasquez of Wilson, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He is a security policeman. (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Thursday Evening, August 29, 1968*)

Airman First Class James F. Anders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omer F. Anders of Rt. 5, London, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Airman Anders, an aircraft mechanic, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. He previously served at Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C.

The airman is a 1968 graduate of Lily High School. (*The Corbin Daily Tribune, Monday, November 30, 1970*)

U. S. Air Force **Airman First Class Dennis G. Adams**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Adams of Rt. 1, Healdton, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Airman Adams, a security policeman, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area.

Before his arrival in Vietnam, he served at Loring AFB, Maine.

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The airman is a 1970 graduate of Velma-Alma High school. (*The Daily Ardmoreite, Ardmore, Oklahoma, Sunday, August 8, 1971*)

Sergeant Ronald H. Wilmond, son of Mrs. Ella M. Wilmond of 4601 Afton St., Dallas, is duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Sgt. Wilmond, a security policeman, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and Pacific area.

Before his arrival in Vietnam he was assigned at Kadena AB, Okinawa.

The sergeant is a 1968 graduate of Chillico Indian School. His wife is the former Sharon Y. Wilson. (*The Daily Ardmoreite, Ardmore, Oklahoma, Sunday, August 8, 1971*)

Airman 1C Jerome W. Schmidt Jr., son of USAF Chief M.Sgt. and Mrs. Jerome W. Schmidt, Clovis, N.M., is member of the 14th Special Operations Wing in Southeast Asia that has earned the Presidential Unit Citation.

Airman Schmidt, assigned Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, is an aircraft mechanic with the wing which has received the highest U.S. organizational award for its performance as the only USA unit of its kind in the combat theater.

The 14th is headquartered Phan Rang and operated from nine major locations in Southeast Asia. Wing aircrews fly seven types of aircraft. (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Friday, May 28, 1971*)

Staff Sergeant Lloyd E. Hayes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hayes, Sherman, Tex., is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Sgt. Hayes, an electrical power technician, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces, the nation's combat-ready air arm guarding the 10,000-mile Bamboo Curtain.

Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

The sergeant attended Howe Tex. Public High School.

His wife, Sue, is the daughter of Mrs. Essie Russel Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Hayes' father, Charlie Russel, resides in Madill. (*The Daily Ardmoreite, Ardmore, Oklahoma, Sunday, July 23, 1967*)

Technical Sergeant Carrell T. Hallmark, son of Mrs. Lilly F. Hallmark of Rt. 1, Madill, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

Sgt. Hallmark, a jet engine technician, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces which provides offensive-defensive air-power for the U.S. and its allies in the Pacific, Far East and Southeast Asia.

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Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to the 96th Field Maintenance Squadron at Dyess AFB, Tex.

The sergeant is a graduate of Blackwell High School.

His wife, Joyce, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur C. De Camp, Blackwell. (*The Daily Ardmoreite, Ardmore, Oklahoma, Sunday, July 23, 1967*)

Staff Sgt. James D. Bulen, son Mr. and Mrs. James L. Bulen 4512 22nd, Lubbock, is a member of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, that has been honored by the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

The 35th has received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm for its contribution to the military forces and local citizenry of the country.

The wing, which operates F100 Super Sabre fighter bombers, was cited for flying more than 53,000 missions during a two - year period in support of U.S. and Vietnamese ground operations. The 35th was also recognized for its community service programs which included establishing a medical dispensary for treatment of villagers and orphans in the area.

The sergeant is a 1965 graduate of Lubbock High School. (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Thursday Evening, May 27, 1971*)

Airman First Class William N. Isgrigg, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Brundy of 208 Moren Road, London, Is on duty at Phan Rang AB. Vietnam at Det. 8, 14th Aerial Port Squadron, Passenger Service.

Airman Isgrigg, an air passenger specialist, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces.

Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he served at Travis AFB, Calif.

The airman, a graduate of London High School, attended Sue Bennett College in London.

His wife, Donna, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Ferguson of Rt. 8, Zanesville, Ohio. (*The Corbin Daily Tribune, March 4, 1969*)

Doug’s Comments: I previously told you that ‘*Brave Warriors, Humble Heroes: A Vietnam War Story*’ was going to be available soon, well, it was released on 20 October and can be ordered from Amazon or your regular distribution channels. Marge's youngest son, Chris, wrote the "First Book Review" for his mom after reading her manuscript.

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From the first sentence of the book—“We stood on the runway at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base (NKP) February 3, 1972, holding each other as I fought back tears and desperately tried to smile as we said good-bye,” *Brave Warriors, Humble Heroes* is a unique journey into one of the most divisive and turbulent periods in the nation’s history told by Charlie Hansen in his letters to Marge written in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. From Charlie’s letters and Marge’s accompanying words comes a historically accurate reminder of what was happening on both the war front and the home front in 1971 and 1972.

His letters, the heart of the book, give the reader a glimpse into the great love that two people had for each other even though they were 8,000 miles apart and provide a tender look at a loving husband and father who yearned to be with his wife and his young sons. From describing combat missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail to the heartbreaking scene watching Vietnamese widows grieve over the bodies of their fallen heroes, the letters also give the reader an intimate view of a military family dealing with adversity, loneliness, fear, and sacrifice like thousands of other families who waited at home during the Vietnam War.

Through the eyes of an air force wife, Marge tells their love story that played out all over the world from the campus of Florida State University to Japan; from Florida’s white sand beaches to the rugged California coastline; to Hawaii, to South Vietnam; and to a remote jungle base in the war zone on the Laotian border in Thailand; from the frozen plains of North Dakota to deep in the heart of Texas. Marge lovingly tells Charlie’s story – about his commitment he made to a life of service when he was a child growing up in East Point, Georgia serving as an acolyte in the Episcopal Church when he was only nine years old. Charlie received an honor appointment to the United States Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1956, Company 13. He was commissioned into the United States Air Force which led to a twenty-year air force career and a twenty-year engineering career after his retirement from the air force. His life of service to others made a difference.

The book will grab you and hold you close much like Marge and Charlie held each other on the hot, humid NKP runway in 1972.

Brave Warriors, Humble Heroes: A Vietnam War Story is not only about a disastrous war and an enduring love, it introduces an important story that is far from over. The powerful book will bring about a renewed dialogue on current national policies affecting Vietnam War veterans and families. For many, the Vietnam War will never end.

The Happy Valley, Phan Rang AB Reunion now has a green light. The contracts have been signed for the banquet, transportation and entertainment so I guess I can now just sit back and manage the little problems that usually crop up as we get closer to curtain call. There still is a

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slight problem about the base and bone yard tour having too many passengers. We currently have 57 people for a 54 passenger bus but that might work itself out as we get closer to departure date because there are some, like my wife that opted out of this all day tour. Not only that, but it has to leave the hotel so early to be at the appointed base gate by 8:30 A.M. I don't know where I went wrong in explaining that I was keeping the list for the tours and Jack was just collecting the money. Most told me of their desires, so I was sitting here fat, dumb and happy thinking we could accept more passengers, but then to find out weeks later that we were over booked because some told only jack when they sent in their payments.

We are close to having 700 members of our Facebook group. If you have computer access and don't mind joining Facebook, even if all you want to do is join our group, it would be worth the effort. We have a very active group of people and so many pictures and documents that depict almost every aspect of Phan Rang life, so come and join us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in TUCSON!