

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

Phan Rang News No. 49

“Stories worth telling”

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**THESE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT MADE THIS REUNION A SUCCESS!
PLEASE JOIN US NEXT YEAR IN CHARLESTON.**

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE REUNION



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“Veterans have an invisible line connecting them together forever and that only they can understand that fact...others will never get it” WWII Vet

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Reunion Committee Members

Joseph Burkhart: Master of Ceremonies

Robert Kellington: Tour Coordinator

Jack Anderson: Treasure

Lou Ruggerio: Site coordinator/Contract negotiator

Douglas Severt: Reunion Coordinator

Mike Maleski: Chaplain

We still need a volunteer to post reunion notices in all of the veterans publications. Please let [me](#) know if you are interested.

Paula Holt Dies-She Had an Army of Rooters (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Friday, April 7, 1972*)

Note: Paula’s story had been previously reported in Phan Rang News 14 **“From Vietnam, With Love, Hope and Cash”**.

SAN FRANCISCO — Paula Holt, 18, who a year ago was the object of an inspired fund drive by GIs in Vietnam, died Wednesday at the University of California Hospital in nearby Berkeley.

Miss Holt and her brother Gary, 21, were suffering a hereditary kidney ailment in their home town of Austin, Tex., when Air Force Sgt. Robert L. Jones of Turlock, Calif., then stationed at Phan Rang, Vietnam, read about their plight in Pacific Stars and Stripes.

When Jones, a security policeman, learned of the family's financial problems in April, 1971, he gained the assistance of the base commander, and a fund drive was launched at Phan Rang AB. The response was immediate and overwhelming.

One airman who had just reenlisted chipped in \$1,267 of his bonus money.

When \$30,000 had been collected, Jones flew to Austin and presented the money to the Holt family to help finance the costly medical care for Paula and Gary.

Gary and Paula's survival hinged on a process that channeled their blood through a machine, using a costly chemical. They spent 15 hours a week hooked to the life-giving machine, and the bill came to at least \$360 a month for each.

Last fall Gary received a kidney transplant here. He is now healthy and living in Mountain View, Calif.

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Paula came to the hospital in mid-March and also received a kidney transplant.

A hospital spokesman said her new kidney was "functioning perfectly." She died from viremia, a flu-like virus infection which she contracted about a week, ago, the hospital spokesman said.

Thieu Sees ‘Final Battle’, Urges All-Out Struggle (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Friday, April 7, 1972*)

SAIGON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu said Wednesday night that the North Vietnamese invasion across the Demilitarized Zone is an attempt to capture South Vietnam's two northern provinces and use them to bargain for a settlement ending the war.

Thieu called the fighting below the DMZ "the final battle to decide the survival of the people" and said the North Vietnamese have suffered heavy casualties. But he warned that if the tide of battle goes too severely against them, Hanoi might use its air force in attacks against the South.

"I have asked the United States to support us by air and other logistical facilities," he said in a 10-minute radio and television address, "I have ordered the army, at any cost, not to let the two provinces fall into the hands of the Communists."

Thieu said defeat would mean much more to South Vietnam than the loss of the two provinces, Quang Tri and Thua Thien, and "we cannot let the Communists force us to accept any unfavorable solution.

"I am sure they will fail," he declared.

"This is the decisive battle. I call on the army to defend our country. I call on the people to do your best to support the battle front."

Thieu told the nation that Hanoi had committed five divisions to the battle below the DMZ and had sent two fresh divisions into Laos and one into Cambodia, apparently referring to the enemy buildup in the central highlands.

The North Vietnamese are using regular troops and antiaircraft, missiles in a conventional type of war, Thieu declared, "and no one can argue that the North Vietnamese are not invading South Vietnam."

U.S. officials say there are three divisions involved in the invasion across the demarcation strip, plus the equivalent of another in independent regiments and sapper battalions in the area of the fighting.

Thieu did not spell out what air and logistical support he had asked of the United States, and it was not clear whether he had asked for more than South Vietnam is now receiving.

Observers said it was possible Thieu meant only to emphasize the need for U.S. support if the South Vietnamese are to win.

Thieu had met earlier with U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker to discuss the war situation.

The president said the North Vietnamese had chosen this year for the showdown battle because it was an election year in the United States and because President Nixon is making a visit to the Soviet Union.

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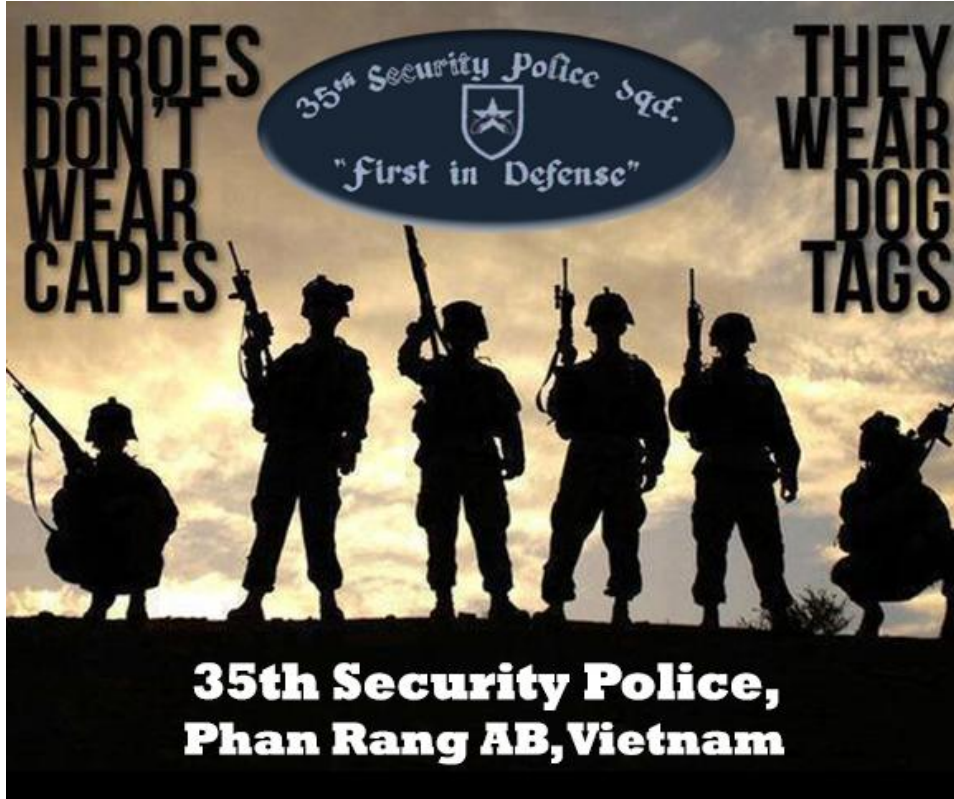
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Troops ‘Serenading’ Charlie by Night (*Pacific Stars & Stripes, Friday, April 7, 1972*)

By SGT. DOUGLAS L. CHRISTY

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

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 APC's 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 their operations."

When ready, APCs begin roaming the perimeter and mortal 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.'

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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 weapons." 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. Paul A. Plant. 22 of Quincy, Mass., who heads one of the mortar pits.

Marines Look Homeward: ‘We Don’t Expect Much’ (Pacific Stars & Stripes, Friday, April 7, 1972)

By Rick Merron

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE, Vietnam (AP) — From a Medal of Honor officer to the lowliest "grunt," - U.S. Marines preparing to pull out of South Vietnam appear to have no illusions about what they will find when they get home.

The grimy veterans at this mountain valley base of the 9th Marine Regiment don't look forward to a hero's welcome.

None of us are expecting much when we get back," said Capt Harvey C. Barnum, 29, of Cheshire, Conn. "We know there will be no parades up Fifth Avenue. We're aware of the political situation back home. But neither do we expect to get attacked for what we've done, and which we're proud of. We've served our country."

Barnum, an artillery officer, won the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, on his first Vietnam tour in 1965-66.

"The first wise guy who spouts off in front of us will get his teeth knocked out," he said. "None of us will ever forget the Smiths, the Davises, and the Jabloaskis who didn't make it.

"The men who fought here—and I say men—will be the leaders of their communities in the future."

Lance Cpl. Daniel Hogan, 19, of Minneapolis, Minn., said he doesn't expect any thanks either when he returns to the United States. Of the antiwar movement, he said: "I don't care what the protestors do, as long as they let me do what I want. That's what freedom, democracy and what we're fighting for are all about." Seven thousand of the 9th Marines are slated to leave Vietnam before the end of August as part of the first 25,000 American troops to be withdrawn from the war zone.

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The regiment will go only as far as Okinawa, its home base, but its members will return to the United States on an individual basis on leave, reassignment or as their enlistments expire.

Few of the Marines who have spent most of the last few months living in the mountainous, insect-infested jungles of this region speak ardently in favor of the war. But they talk of their friends, and of a loyalty forged by the rigors and terrors of combat.

"Our families, will be happy that we're coming home, and they will greet us warmly. That's all we care about," said Pvt. Ronald Rydman, 19, of Toledo, Ohio. "But I had just better not see anyone raise a Viet Cong flag, because I've lost too many good buddies over here."

Second Lt. Charles Milligan, 22, of Ocean City, N.J., recalled that some of his friends had fled to Canada rather than submit to the draft.

"I can never respect them again, nor anyone else who has avoided their duty," he said. "I don't know if this war is right or wrong, but I do know it is" my duty to serve my country, I couldn't face myself if I didn't."

(This story probably reflects the beliefs and opinions of 99.9% of Vietnam veterans, no matter your branch of service.)

AF Academy Grads Honor Dead Limaite

The Air Force Academy's Association of Graduates has donated \$100 to a Vietnam orphanage on behalf of the family of former Limaite, Maj. James R. Weaver, who was killed when he bailed out of a disabled aircraft off the coast of England last May 1.

The late Maj. Weaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin E. Weaver, 135 S. Dewey , was a member of the first graduating class at the Air Force Academy at Colorado in 1959.

The contribution came from the Major James R. Weaver Memorial Fund.

The money was presented to the Tan Tai Catholic Orphanage near Phan Rang City, Vietnam, by three academy graduates stationed at Phan Rang Air Base.

In a letter accompanying the donation, Cap. Frederick Metcalf, executive secretary of the association, said Maj. Weaver actively supported the Tan Tai Orphanage through the base's civic action program while he was stationed at Phan Rang.

The orphanage cares for 68 Vietnamese children and is run by four Roman Catholic nuns.

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Maj. Weaver, a 1955 Lima Senior High School graduate, was killed when he parachuted from an aircraft on a routine test mission when an in-flight emergency developed.

He was married to Adele Joy. They have two daughters, Kathleen and Suzanne.

Ye Old Crapper (Photo by Hank Valentine)

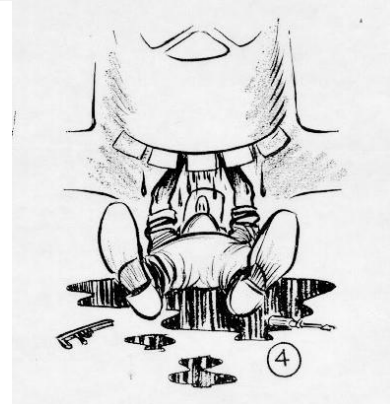
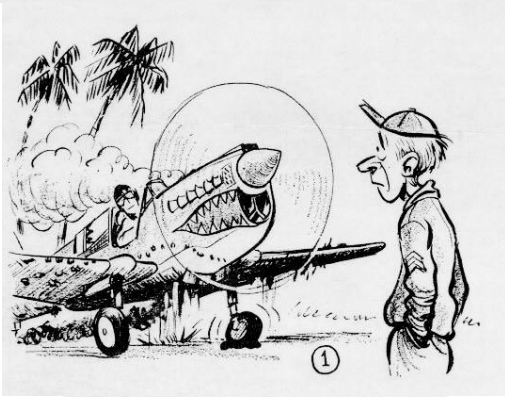


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Bob Stevens'
"There I was..."



A crew chief's idea of heaven must be the Air Force Museum, where planes are polished to perfection and never flown again. But then, what else could match the pride he felt in pasting another meatball or swastika on the cockpit of his personal instrument of war, which he occasionally loaned out to some thoughtless pilot . . .



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