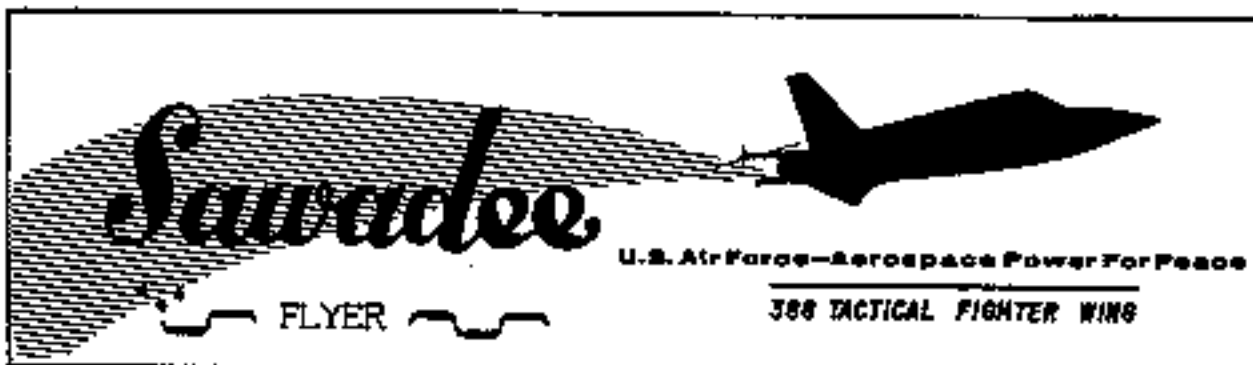


# Midnight Curfew Begins Monday



Vol. 1 No. 36

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1968

## Only Act of Nature Mars Aircraft Readiness Record

The zero NORS-G (Non Operationally Ready Supply - Grounded) record that has been a topic of conversation at Korat RTAFB for more than three months has been shaken by mother nature, but still stands, in part.

The Lockheed SC-121R Super Constellation aircraft of the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing have experienced no NORS-G since Feb. 6, once again breaking the base record with four months' NORS-G-free operation.

Attempts to extend the record of the Republic F-105 Thunderchiefs of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, however, were foiled by high winds that hit the base April 22.

### Wind Blasts Record

The unexpected winds severely damaged two P-105 stabilizers which were to be re-installed on aircraft undergoing repair, and had to be replaced with new ones. The NORS time accrued waiting for parts resulted in a NORS-G rate of .4 per cent in April and May.

"The stabilizer can be repaired locally, even after battle damage, in our normal operations," SMSgt. Warren Robson, NCOIC of 388th TFW Material Control, said. "But the high winds damaged two stabilizers beyond local repair capabilities."

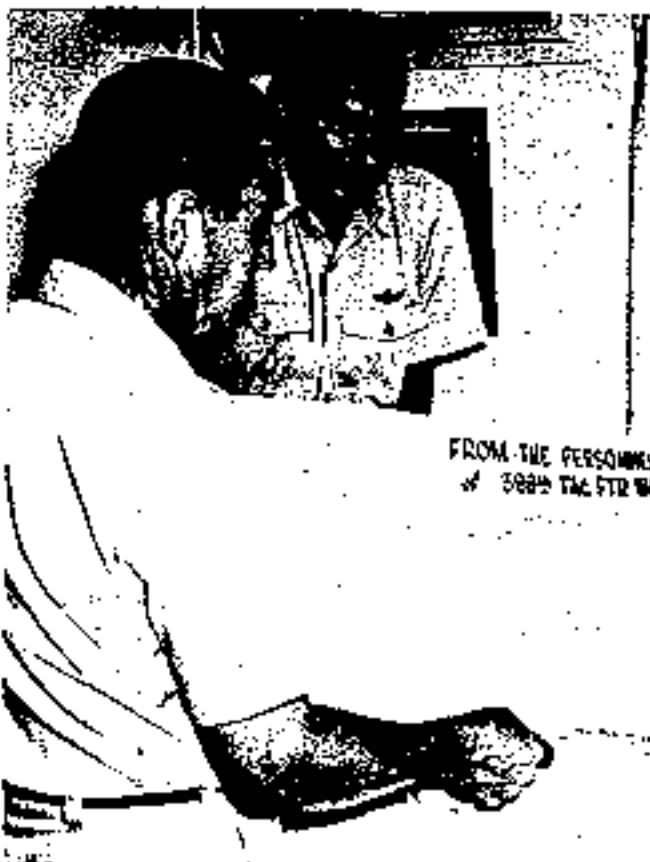
TSgt. Thomas York, NCOIC of the Supply Control Center, injected, "But the stabilizer NORS-Gs only slowed us down; we haven't had a NORS-G since they were replaced."

Last month the repair capability of the 553rd RW was 97.8 per cent and the 388th TFW's 98.9 per cent. At the same time, the expediter supply overall effectiveness rate reached an all-time high of 90.8 per cent; and the Supply

Demand Processing Center averaged more than 1,000 demands a day during May for another record.

All this shows the tremendous

joint efforts of maintenance and supply which are required for such a NORS-G record, the various supervisors agreed.



**GET WELL SOON** — A giant "get well" card, signed by several hundred base personnel is presented to Col. Norman P. Phillips, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing vice commander, at the base dispensary by Col. Paul P. Douglas, wing commander, (left) and Maj. Gen. William C. Lindley Jr., deputy commander. Seventh/Thirteenth Air Force Colonel Phillips departed the base this week for convalescence in Massachusetts after he was injured bailing out of his disabled Republic F-105 Thunderchief on May 30. Related editorial, page 2. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY A1C NOLAN RECKER)

## River Rats To Re-unite Friday; Colonel Sams Is Honored Guest

Members of one of the most select clubs in the world, the Red River Valley Association, will invade Korat RTAFB Friday to participate in the fifth practice reunion of the organization.

Current combat crew mem-

bers of all Thailand-based tactical fighter wings, former combat crews now stationed



throughout the Pacific Air Forces, and "honorary" River Rats from air rescue, air refueling and airborne control and warning units will descend on the base around noon Friday to begin two days of festivities which will end-up Saturday night at the Stam - Intercontinental Hotel in Bangkok.

Even the Navy will be re-

presented, with two pilots from the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Enterprise, flying in to make the scene.

The idea of the "River Rats" originated at Korat over a year ago and the first practice reunion was held here on May 22, 1967. It was the brainchild of Col. Howard "Scrappy" Johnson, former deputy commander for Operations of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing. Membership in the Red River Valley Association is made up solely of those who have flown into combat over the Red River valley of North Vietnam, agreed by military experts to be one of the most heavily defended targets in the history of air warfare.

Previous practice reunions have been held at Ubon, Takhli and Udorn RTAFBs.

Guest of honor this year will be Col. Monroe S. Sams, the first commander of the 388th TFW when it was organized at Korat RTAFB on April 8, 1966. Colonel Sams

## Reg To Clear Streets; Exceptions Will Be Few

A nighttime curfew on the "out-of-door presence" of Air Force personnel within the Korat area has been imposed by a new regulation — Base Regulation 125-1 — which goes into effect Monday.

The regulation applies to all personnel, of all grades, present in the area of operation (defined as Korat Province) with the following exceptions:

\*Personnel performing official duty

\*Persons who must be off U.S. military installations due to bona fide emergencies when their travel is approved in writing by their unit commander.

\*Those persons who have been directed by competent authority to occupy off-base quarters and who are in direct transit between duty and quarters or vice versa.

Air Force military personnel are not authorized on any street, road or public thoroughfare in the area of operation between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and 1-6 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Those found in violation of the new curfew will be subject to disciplinary action under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice, the regulation states.

## Project PET Volunteers Needed Now

An all-time record number of classes has left the base community relations program Project English Teacher (PET) short of the number of volunteers needed.

A total of 76 classes in three Korat city schools have requested volunteers for the current term to assist in teaching English to children in grades one through seven. Classes are held twice weekly on a Monday-Tuesday, Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Wednesday schedule, except for one session of 10 classes on Tuesday and Thursday at the Muang School.

Twenty classes are available in grades 1-4 at the Yothin School, located just outside the gate to Fort Suranaree, from 3 to 4 p.m. Remaining classes are grades 5-7, including 12 at Yothin, 15 at Wat Sakeo (near the new Provincial Police Headquarters) and 29 at Muang School on Friendship Highway. Transportation is provided by the base motor pool to and from all classes.

Only 41 base personnel have signed up for PET. Twelve began to teach this week at the Yothin School and the remainder have been contacted by the Office of Information. They will begin teaching Monday.

Capt. Jon W. Alquist, chief of information, noted that if

(Continued on Page 2)

## CPO Makes Move To Gate Three

The Civilian Personnel Office moved into its new building near gate three Tuesday and is now open for normal operation.

The downtown Korat recruiting office was also closed on Wednesday.

Applicants will now visit CPO at the new gate three location or may review vacancy announcements which will be posted at the Korat town hall.

## Lt. Karl Richter Honored With Memorial Scholarship

The late Lt. Karl W. Richter a former 388th Tactical Fighter Wing pilot who flew more than 200 combat missions over North Vietnam, has received yet another honor.

The dedication of a memorial scholarship in Lieutenant Richter's name and the presentation of a static Republic F-105 Thunderchief display highlighted ceremonies in his commemoration at the Air Force Academy last week.

Lieutenant Richter, himself an Academy graduate, died of injuries after ejecting

from his disabled Thunderchief on July 27, 1967. He was the second pilot to have completed 200 combat missions over North Vietnam, and also was the youngest pilot to down an enemy MIG over North Vietnam.

Ironically, an F-105 disrupted the ceremony when it made a low, super-sonic pass during a Thunderchief flyover finale. The jet streaked low across the Academy, and its sonic boom blew out some 300 windows in surrounding buildings.

(Continued on Page 2)

**COOPERATION FOR EDUCATION** — Lt. Col. Arnold S. Hooks, 388th Combat Support Group civic actions officer, shakes hands with Sawaswong Patitas, governor of Korat Province, to mark the formal dedication of the Ban Han village primary school about 15 miles south of the base. The civic actions program helped villagers add an additional wing to the school by contributing lumber and building materials to the project. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO)



**ALARM MAN** — A1C Russell D. Mutter mans the fire alarm control room, taking all incoming calls over the emergency lines and plotting the exact locations of each incident.



**LINE DUTY** — A1C Kenneth Brown hands protective gear to Sgt. Manuel Lewis as he prepares for flight line patrol duty. Two men stay with the huge crash truck for continuous two-hour shifts on the flightline, while the third crew member patrols in a smaller truck.



**DEPARTMENT SECRETARY** — Miss Sakarnta Oupasarn fits right into the concept of a modern fire department. She handles routine calls and paper-work while also fulfilling the duties of translator.

## Preventing, Polishing, Planting; And They Also Put Out Fires

BY SGT. JIM CRAWFORD

The days of little red firehouses with shiny brass poles are long past, and fire fighters of the Korat RTAFB fire department are quickly erasing forever the image of the card-playing, engine-polishing fireman.

In fact, the men at Korat are taking on every task short of setting their own fires to keep themselves completely immersed in work. A spotless

fire department; a self-help constructed lounge, kitchen, screened porch and office; a huge flower garden on manicured lawns; and ever-improving ideas for safety and fire prevention are but a few of the results. Outstanding ratings from both Thirteenth Air Force and Pacific Air Force inspection teams are more indirect results.

### Just A Shell

The fire department building was nothing more than a shell when the 50-man force moved in. Go ahead was given on several self-help projects and the structure was transformed into an attractive and comfortable facility with the obvious benefit of good planning — all in less than a year.

The men haven't stopped there, however. The building has been painted several times, and a large flower garden is still getting daily attention. The extra work keeps department morale consistently high, NCOs report.

### No Major Fires

Korat RTAFB has had only four chargeable fires in more than a year that have involved real property loss. These were mattress fires caused by individual neglect. The record is a credit to the department's fire prevention program which calls for monthly inspections of the more than 600 Korat buildings; and the weekly inspection of all

high hazard areas such as fuel storage, ammunition areas and flightline shops.

Of course, the regular duties of a firefighter still dominate most of each man's 24-hour shift. Aircraft standby calls — for aeromedical flights, fueling operations, engine tests and emergencies — required more than 1,200 runs for the department in February alone. There were 655 in March.

SMSgt. Alwyn B. Coleman, base fire chief, calls the Korat RTAFB fire department workload greater than that of Eglin AFB, Fla., one of the world's largest bases, where he was fire chief for 4-1/2 years.



**PROTECTING PROTECTIVE GEAR** — A1C Oliver Joseph Jr., hand line operator for the base fire department, inserts the gold face plate into one of the fire department's heat shielding helmets. Base firemen designed and constructed the metal rack for their protective gear.



**ALWAYS THE POLISHING** — There are still the traditional chores of the fireman, of course, as hand line operator A1C Albert M. Finocchiaro demonstrates. Aside from keeping everything shiny, the fire department boasts its own maintenance section which has literally rebuilt each of the 16 pieces of heavy fire fighting equipment over the past few years.



**MORALE BUILDER** — The fire department's large flower garden is a pet project and high morale builder for the base fire fighters during their long 24-hour shifts. SMSgt. Alwyn B. Coleman, base fire chief, inspects latest contributions to the garden.

U.S. Air Force

Photos by

A1C Gregory Dultz





**HISTORIC RESCUE** — Maj. Michael Muskat (center) and Capt. Kyle Stouder (left) buckle into an HH-53B Jolly Green Giant helicopter shortly after being snatched from the jungle. This photo, taken by A1C Gregory Dultz, 601st Photo Flight, Korat, during the February rescue of the two 388th Tactical Fighter Wing pilots, was named "Photo of the Month" for March by Pacific Air Forces. Major Muskat and Captain Stouder completed their 100th combat mission last week. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO)

## Three Pilots Join 100-Mission Club

Three Republic F-105 Thunderchief pilots of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing recently completed their 100th combat missions over North Vietnam.

Flying with the 34th Tac-

tical Fighter Squadron, Maj. Almer J. Barner Jr., 37, Ruleville, Miss., participated in strikes against many targets in the heavily defended Hanoi area which included Kep and Phuc Yen airfields and the

Hanoi railroad and highway bridges.

Major Barner, who has been reassigned to Eglin AFB, Fla., received four Distinguished Flying Crosses and 10 Air Medals during his tour of duty here.

Capt. Harry G. Paddon III, 28, Silver Springs, Md., a 1962 Air Force Academy graduate, flew many of his missions in the Hanoi area prior to the president's announcement of a bombing curtailment.

During his tour Captain Paddon received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 10 Air Medals. He has been reassigned to Moody AFB, Ga.

Capt. Arthur A. Powell, 29, Enid, Okla., flew 19 missions in the Hanoi area, considering his part in the raid on the Hanoi railroad and highway bridge the highlight of his tour.

Captain Powell received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. A graduate of Kansas University, Captain Powell has been reassigned to Williams AFB, Ariz.

## Thai Tips

BY TOM KOONSAKDA



Thai people look to the elephant as being the highest class of animals.

Not only its docility in addition to its enormous size, which enables it to do hard work for men, but the elephant's graceful and kingly appearance as well has earned the respect and admiration of all Thais. A traditional Thai belief to evolve from this attitude toward the elephant holds that a king, in whose reign a white elephant is caught, is a blessed king.

When a white elephant is captured, it is presented to the king in a grand official ceremony, and an official title is given the elephant. During the reign of the present king of Thailand, many white elephants have been captured. The most recent, caught in southern Thailand, was presented to the king in April.

In the days before mechanization, the elephant played an invaluable role in all Southeast Asian wars. A warrior who killed his enemy in an elephant-back duel was highly honored.

One of the greatest elephant-back duels in Thai history was that of Prince Naresuan (later King Naresuan the great of Thailand) who killed the crown prince of Burma in a battle to determine the victors in the Thai-Burmese war more than 300 years ago.

Elephant contests can still be witnessed each November at Surin, site of the annual

elephant round-up, about 45 miles by train from Korat.

In Thailand's northern provinces, elephants are still being trained to drag logs from the jungles and to entertain in the famous Chiangmai elephant shows.



**INSTRUCTOR OF THE MONTH** — TSgt. Robert F. Labier, Aerospace Ground Equipment instructor with the 907S Field Training Detachment, has been chosen by his organization as Instructor of the Month for June. Honors included a three-day pass and a gift from the detachment commemorating the event. The Paducah, Kentucky native is a 10-year Air Force veteran. — (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO)

## Gen. Ryan Receives Orders

HQ. PACAF, Hawaii (PACAF NS) — President Lyndon B. Johnson has announced that Gen. John D. Ryan, Pacific Air Forces commander will become Air Force vice chief of staff on Aug. 1.

Gen. Joseph J. Nazzaro, present Strategic Air Command Commander, will assume the top PACAF post.

General Nazzaro was born in New York City, March 21, 1931. He attended high school in New York and Millard Preparatory School, Washington, D.C., prior to attending the military academy. After graduation from advanced flying school at Kelly Field, Tex., he was transferred to the Air Corps from the infantry. His first assignment was in the Philippines.

## IM Teams Stage Pitcher's Duel In Fast-pitch Race

Spectators at the base diamond witnessed a pitcher's duel last week between 553rd Reconnaissance Wing Headquarters' Al Toney and 553rd/554th Reconnaissance Squadron's Ron Griebel.

Toney struck out 15 of his opponents and allowed no hits to emerge the victor in the fast-pitch game. Final score was 2-0.

Griebel gave up only three hits.

Headquarters' first run came in on a walk and error. A walk was also involved in the second score of the evening.

Don Peyton, who pitched part of the first inning for the headquarters team, allowed one hit.

The victory moved 553rd Headquarters ahead of 553rd/554th in the league standings. The team now has a 3-1 season record.

Fast-pitch league standings

## FMS Topples Unbeaten Nat'l League Leaders

The 388th Field Maintenance Squadron slow-pitch softball team moved into a third-place tie in the National League standings last week with a resounding victory over the previously unbeaten Kaboomers, 10-4.

At the same time, the mechanics yanked the Kaboomers out of a first-place tie with 553rd Field Maintenance Squadron.

Winning pitcher Lawrence McDonald gave up only four hits.

Slow-pitch league standings as of Tuesday were: American League — 553rd EMS, 4-0; Det. 7 sec. wg., 2-1; 388th Supply Sq., 2-2; 469th TFS, 2-2; 388th MMS, 2-2; 553rd/554th Recon. Sqs., 2-2; Det. 2 TAWC, 1-3; USAF Dispensary, 0-3. National League — 55rd FMS, 3-0; Kaboomers, 3-1; 1998th Comm. Sq., 2-1; 388th FMS, 2-1; 388th Trans. Sq., 2-2; 388th CE Sq., 1-2; Finance, 1-3; 553rd OMS, 0-4.

as of Tuesday were: American League — 388th FMS, 4-0; 469th TFS, 4-1; 388th Supply Sq., 2-1; 553rd OMS, 2-2; 1998th Comm. Sq., 2-2; Det. 2 TAWC, 1-3; 553rd FMS, 0-4. National League — 553rd EMS, 4-1; 388th CSG, 3-1; 553rd Hq., 3-1; 553rd/554th, 2-2; 388th AEMS, 2-2; 44th TFS, 0-4; 388th SP, 0-3.



**TENNIS ANYONE?** — Lawrence Hegeman, base tennis team member, warms up while awaiting to start action against the Camp Friendship team last Saturday. The Army netters didn't show, however, and the match was forfeited. The tennis players will meet again at Camp Friendship Saturday at 9 a.m. — (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY A1C NOLAN RECKER)

## Sport Notes

An intramural horseshoe tournament is slated to begin June 17. Those interested in participating should contact SSgt. Bill Phinney, Physical Conditioning Unit, ext. 3674. All participants must attend a special meeting Friday at 1 p.m. in the PCU.

\*\*\*\*

A summer basketball league for base teams will open on or about June 17, PCU officials report. Squadrons forming teams are requested to report to the PCU by Monday.

## Cobras Coiled For Today's Game

After being rained-out last week, the Cobras are anxious for today's fast-pitch softball game with U-Tapao Airfield's team.

The game begins at the base diamond at 1 p.m.

Thailand Sports League softball standings are: Ubon, 6-0; Korat, 3-3; Udon, 3-3; U-Tapao, 2-2; Don Muang, 1-3; Takhlai, 4-4; Nakhon Phanom, 1-5.