

# Caribou Courier

**483<sup>rd</sup> TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING**

**APO S. F. 96326**

Issue No. 7

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## **CAPT HARRIS LOGS 1000 C-7A HOURS**

For Captain Robert W. Harris, 536th Troop Carrier Squadron, Vung Tau, Vietnam, July 25th was a day to look back over a years flying in Vietnam and feel particularly proud.

On that day, as he had done many times in the past year, he was guiding his C-7A Caribou into small "cow pasture" airfields throughout the vast Delta area, bringing a variety of cargo and supplies needed to sustain the Army Special Forces Camps which dot the region. For him, his squadron, and the 483rd Troop Carrier Wing, it was a day of special significance. On that mission Capt Harris became the first USAF pilot to log over 1000 hours flying time in the Caribou, flying under combat conditions.

In August of 1966, Harris was assigned to an Army Caribou unit in Vietnam, where he flew as an Air Force pilot in the Army Operation. Capt Harris and the other USAF pilots assigned to the Army were pioneers who learned first hand about the mission of the Caribou, and served as a nucleus for training other USAF pilots as more arrived in Vietnam.

On January 1, 1967, when the 483TOW PACAF took over operation of Caribou flying in Southeast Asia, Capt Harris remained on detached duty with the Army Special Forces at a remote site where he continued to fly support missions and work as part of an on-site team providing coordination and liaison between the 483TOW and the outlying Special Forces Camps.

In April 1967, Capt Harris returned to his parent unit, the 536th Troop Carrier Squadron where, in addition to flying support missions, he served as an instructor pilot.

Harris' tour in the Caribou has not been without its moments of crisis. He has had his aircraft hit by enemy ground fire on seven occasions, two of which wounded crew members. He has been awarded the Air Medal and nine Oakleaf Clusters and has recently been recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The mission which prompted this recommendation was one on which he and his crew delivered badly needed ammunition to an Army Special Forces Unit locked in battle with the Viet Cong. The delivery was made by air drop on a jungle covered hillside.

Continued next column

## **WING CO RECALLS 1st YEAR AT 483<sup>rd</sup>**

Each man, because he wants to succeed in his mission, has anxious moments when he assumes command of a new military unit whether it is a Flight, a Squadron or a Wing. Similarly each man as he leaves his command anxiously asks himself the question "Did I do my job while I was here"? All of us, regardless of our positions in a successful unit also have one other feeling when we must leave - that of regret.

The Commander of a unit in war occupies an unusual position. He gets the glory when the men under him produce, but he also accepts full blame when the opposite occurs. I have been fortunate to be the Commander of this Wing of professional Air Force men. The Wing has delivered the goods and has performed its assigned mission from the first day.

The 483rd Wing is a fine team, a group of close friends, and an official family all in one. The experiences shared by each of us officers and men in accomplishing our assignments have made the 483rd unique in U.S. Air Force history. I know of no other military unit that was transferred lock, stock and barrel or perhaps we should say prop, tail and wheel jack from one service to another while it was engaged in a war, without losing a single day's effective operation. To paraphrase one of our U.S. Naval heroes, "We have met the competition and they are ours".

As I say my farewell to the officers and men of this Wing I remember our lost brothers-in-arms and ask that you remember them as well.

To you who are here now I say - well done. I am proud to have had the privilege of serving with brave men who do their jobs well. I know the 483rd Tactical Airlift Wing will remain the finest and will continue to abide by its motto "Effective Airlift Support".

- Colonel Paul J. Mascot -

Working with only an approximate knowledge of the Special Forces position, Harris found them, and under heavy ground fire, made a successful drop. Resupplied with ammunition, the Army routed the enemy.

His tour in RVN now over, Capt Harris will go to Castle AFB, for SAC B-52 pilot



## FLIGHT MECH'S ACT SAVES A LIFE

Recently during a normal flight mission, a C-7A Caribou crew assigned to the 535th Tactical Airlift Squadron, consisting of Capt Harry G. Russell, Aircraft Commander, 2d Lt Stephen B. Emmett, Co-Pilot and SSgt Larry E. Welty, Flight Engineer were flying from Lam Son to Song Be (III Corps), Republic of Vietnam. At the time, due to weather conditions, the aircraft had to fly at low level, below clouds, which created a hazard because of enemy personnel on the ground who fire at aircraft whenever they can.

SSgt Welty was standing between the pilots scanning for helicopter traffic as well as enemy action on the ground, when automatic small arms fire was heard being directed at the aircraft. Upon hearing the firing, Sgt Welty immediately left his position and returned to the rear of the aircraft where there were several ARVN personnel. Sgt Welty noticed one of the passengers slumped against the man next to him and the other passengers near panic due to the firing and their unfamiliarity of the aircraft being flown so low.

Sergeant Welty immediately grabbed a First Aid Kit and opened some compresses to apply to the man's wounds. The passenger next to the wounded man was asked to sit down and the wounded man was laid on his knee to help hold firm the compress on the wounded man's back while Sgt Welty held the compress on his chest. This also was used to prevent shock in the patient.

At Song Be, the doctor directed the man be taken to Phuoc Vinh which was the nearest available hospital. He also advised the Aircraft Commander, Captain Russell, that the man was in critical condition. So again the aircraft took off with the wounded man and the two medics, still being assisted by Sgt Welty.

The Army doctor and the medical technicians at Phuoc Vinh praised Sgt Welty on his quick thinking and action which saved the man's life until they could get him to the hospital.

Sergeant Welty's action is typical of unforeseen incidents which tend to add variety in the day of a Caribou Crew. The quick action of Sergeant Welty was performed under strain due to the language barrier, near riotous passengers who were unfamiliar with the procedures of the Flight Engineer and low-level flight of the aircraft. These problems are faced daily by the crews of the Caribou and they have additional problems whenever enemy action or ground fire is encountered.

The action taken by Sergeant Welty was without the aid of the pilots who were faced with operational control of the aircraft. Upon transporting the patient to the hospital, the pilots praised Sgt Welty for his actions and quick thinking.

## FLT MECH TOPS 1000 C-7A HOURS

SSgt Octave Williams, Flight Mechanic in the 536th Tactical Airlift Squadron, Vung Tau, has just mastered the rare feat of acquiring 1000 hours in the Caribou during his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Sgt Williams tour of duty with the C-7A has been one he can look back upon with justifiable pride. During his missions in Vietnam his aircraft has received 33 hits. Fortunately, his personnel injuries have been limited to those from fragments of flying glass and were not serious. Prior to checking out as a Flight Mechanic, Sgt Williams worked long hours on the line as a Crew Chief. This experience made him doubly valuable as a Flight Mechanic, able to do maintenance trouble-shooting at remote sites.

The 536th TAS is proud to call SSgt Octave Williams one of its own. For his professional performance and airmanship under combat conditions, Sgt Williams has received the Air Medal and five Oak Leaf Clusters.

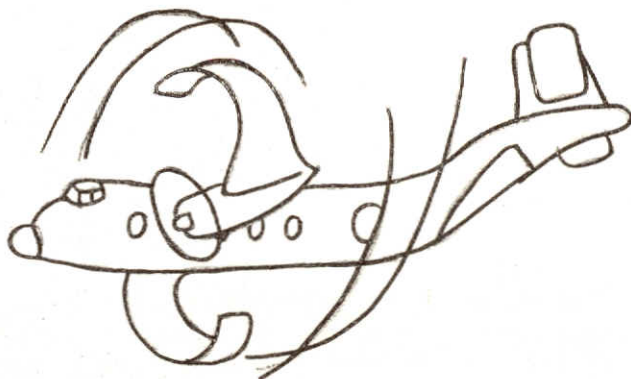
## LT. COL. LARSON NEW 457TH COMMANDER

The quiet and everpresent march of time has brought to the 457th a new commander. Col Henry L. Glover handed over the reins of the 457TAS to Lt Col Milo G. Larson of Biloxi, Miss., in a Change of Command ceremony in front of the 483 CAM maintenance hangar.

Col Glover has been the commander of the 457TAS since its beginning on 1 Jan 1967 and was a member of the unit when it was the Army's 134th Aviation Company in Can Tho.

Col Glover returns to the CONUS to train new crews at Seward AFB for the 483TAW. His experience here will be of great value to the new men bound for the 483rd and we would like to add our best wishes to Col Glover.

To Col Larson we bid welcome aboard. Col Larson comes to the 457th from 2874 GEEIA Sq at Ramstein Germany, and we hope he will enjoy his tenure at Cam Ranh Bay.



"THERE, WHO SAID I COULDN'T DO A SNAP ROLL IN CARIBOU!"



# IN THE 536TH JUST ASK FOR COL. "Z"

A new man reporting to the 536th TAS is apt to have trouble getting straight on his Squadron Commander's name.

Ordinarily the name of Lt Col Zweifel, 536th Commander, would not be difficult to remember. Hardly a common name, and it begins with "Z", also somewhat uncommon.

But when you consider that the 536th has another Lt Col by the name of Zweizig, Commander of B Flight, you can understand the perplexion of the newcomer trying to get all the names of his new associates mentally filed in the right places.

About the time he thinks he has it straightened out someone asks him if he has seen Col Z. Our friend replies "Oh, you mean Col Zweifel" "No?", then he knows it must be Zweizig. . . but he's wrong, the Col Z being sought was Lt Col Zimmerman, 536th Assistant Ops Officer.

In a few days our arrivee notes that Col Zweizig is scheduled by Col Zimmerman to fly with Col Zweifel and, lo and behold, the Flight Mechanic is Airman First Class Zumbrun. . . truly a crew of "flying dutchmen".

The 536th TAS has an impressive record. No one can say they do not know their business from A to ZZZZ.

## 459TH TAS GETS NEW SQ. COMMANDER

Lt Col David P. Hopwood assumed command of the 459th Tactical Airlift Squadron Thursday, 24 August 1967, during a change of command ceremony held at Phu Cat AB, RVN. Lt Col Hopwood replaces Lt Col Edward J. Thielen.

Lt Col Thielen joined the 92nd Aviation Company at Qui Nhon on 12 December 1966, from the 135th Army Aviation Company. When the 459th was activated on 1 January 1967, he assumed command of the squadron.

Lt Col Thielen, who names Milwaukee, Wisconsin his home, departs Vietnam to join the 1002 Inspector General's Office at Norton AFB, California. He takes with him the Bronze Star and his 1st through 4th Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal which he earned during this tour in SEA. They go well with the three Silver Stars and four Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded him during WW II.

Other personnel receiving awards at the ceremony were Lt Col Clarence W. Griffith, TSgt James L. Touchton, SSgt Benjamin G. Pimental, and A1C Elden R. Sapp, who received the Air Medal; also MSgt Lyn Jowers and A1C Frank Barber who received the Air Force Commendation Medal.

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**EDITOR..**

# 458TH LOOKS OVER A RECORD YEAR

"This record is going to be a difficult one to beat, but I feel the 458th will be the first ones to top it", commented Lt Col Robert Scudder, Commander of the 458TAS, after "F Troop" experienced the lowest number of cancellations and delays in the 483 TAW, for the month of August, and at the same time flew a record number of hours.

During August the 458th chalked up a record 1603 hours with no cancellations, only 34 delays and 11 deviations. In deviations "F Troop" was second lowest in the Wing.

Lt Col Scudder went on to say, "I want to thank the maintenance and flying personnel for this outstanding record which I believe is the best ever achieved by any Caribou squadron in Vietnam."

The orphanage of the village of Lang Bin, for over a year one of the aid projects of the 458th TAS, has become the object of renewed efforts on behalf of "F Troop".

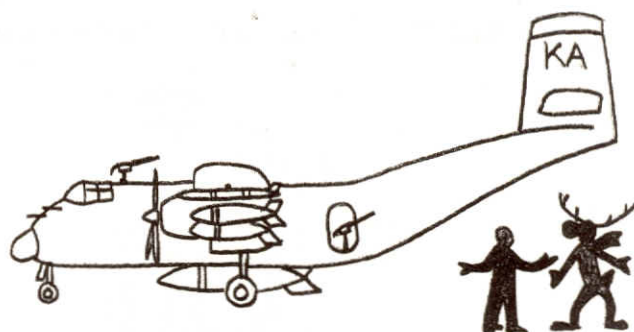
On September 17 the first in a series of bi-weekly truck-loads of firewood was sent to the Catholic orphanage. The scap-wood used for cooking at Lang Bin, was collected from around the base and is estimated to be saving the institution some 6000 piasters a month.

Further, plans are under way for a hot dog party for the children at the orphanage.

Among the many new flying personnel assigned recently to the 458TAS is Lt Col Bascom P. Smith, who is presently preparing himself to assume duties as Operations Officer for the squadron.

Lt Col Smith arrived at Cam Ranh Bay on September 11 after serving in Headquarters PACAF Plans and as Executive Officer, PACAF Base Command at Hickham AFB.

Other officers who have recently taken their places in "F Troop" are Lt Col Elvin Sheffield, Capt Richard B. Sankey, Capt David M. Rogers, Capt Harold G. O'Donovan, Capt James A. McHollan, 1st Lt John F. Mauss, 2d Lt Hugh W. Nixon, 2d Lt Charles W. Close, 2d Lt John L. Stuart and 2d Lt Darrel I. Cohoon.



"UH, CAP'N SEVEN, YOU'LL FIND A  
SLIGHT CHANGE ON YOUR MISSION  
ITINERARY TODAY!"



## MAJ. LIBBY ASSUMES CAM SQ. COMMAND

The 483 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, at Cam Ranh Bay, welcomes Major Kenneth N. Libby as the new Squadron Commander.

Major Libby comes here from Wright-Patterson AFB, where he was acting Deputy Commander for Maintenance with the 2750th Air Base Wing. He also performed duty as Chief Quality Control with the 2750th.

Of his 18 years in the service, Major Libby can claim 9 years of maintenance experience. He is also rated as a Command Pilot and has 6,200 hours flying time.

Major Libby says, "With the high quality of personnel in our squadron, I am confident that we will maintain our high standard of maintenance and establish even more records of quality in the year to come."

## BROTHERS MEET IN P.I. AFTER 11 YEARS

SSgt Alvin R. Bowser of the 483rd TAW Material Control Section just recently returned from R & R to Clark AFB, P.I. While there he visited with his brother TSgt Harry A. Bowser, of the 773rd Troop Carrier Sq. The two brothers hadn't seen each other for a period of eleven years, prior to Sgt Alvin R. Bowser's visit to the Philippines.

Sgt Bowser has two other brothers who are presently serving with the USAF. They are A1C James H. Bowser, who is stationed at McGuire AFB, New Jersey and A1C Walter B. Bowser who is stationed at Moron AB, Spain. Two other brothers who have served with the U.S. Armed Forces but are now honorably discharged, are A1C Charles E. Bowser and PFC Vernon L. Bowser.

The Bowsers are all graduates of the IC Norcom High School in Portsmouth, Virginia, and are the sons of Mr & Mrs Harry A. Bowser, of 2621 Portsmouth Blvd., Portsmouth, Virginia.

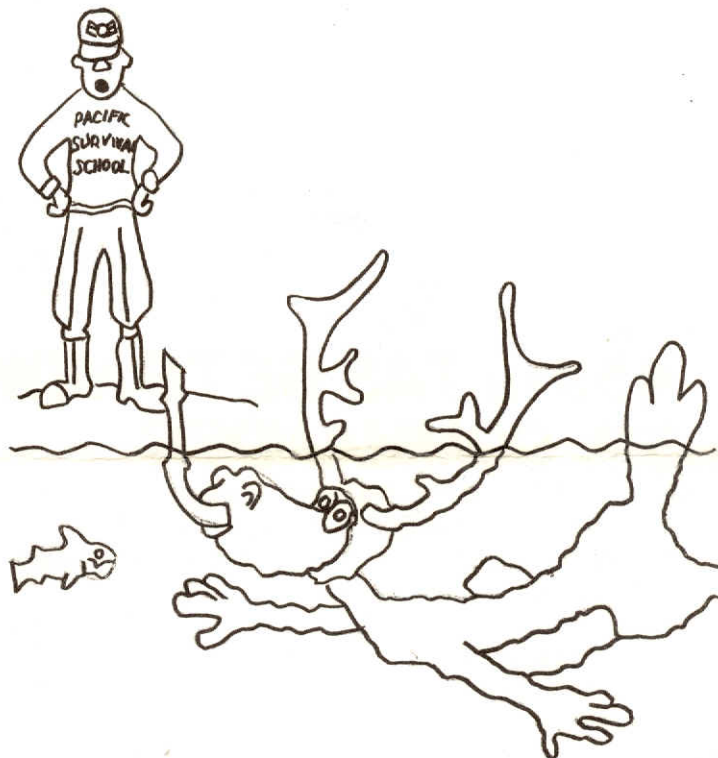
Sgt Bowser left the 483rd for his new assignment at Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, in September.

## 535TH NAMES AUG. TOP CREW CHIEF

SSgt Lawrence W. Caine, A1C William A. Wilkins, and A2C Eugene J. Bartoletti were awarded the Crew Chief of the Month Award for the month of August 1967.

This award is for excellence in maintenance during the month and is presented at the monthly Commander's Call. The award was presented by Lt Col Owens, Squadron Commander of the 535th Tactical Airlift Squadron.

This award is presented to the top chief and his assistants, based on such factors as maintenance aborts, forms errors, flight crew evaluations, house-keeping, number of days operationally ready and ground safety.



"GOOD EVASION TECHNIQUE, CAPT SEVEN - JUST ONE SMALL COMMENT."

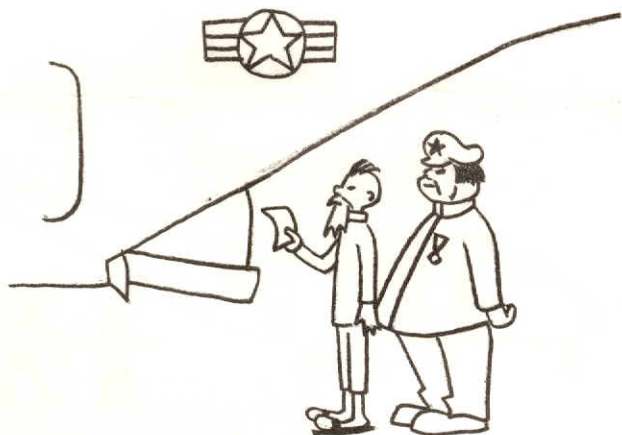
## 536TH TAS LONELY AT TOP OF HEAP

With the pride of a confident front runner, the 536th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Vung Tau, has issued a challenge to all 483rd Squadrons.

The 536th has carried more tonnage in the past six months and more passengers in the past three months than any of the other squadrons.

Riding "on top of the heap" for a long period can be lonely without a little competition, thus the challenge. They say they can't be topped, but would welcome the competition.

Lt Col Harold J. Zweifel, 536th Commander, says "The secret to our success is professional and dedicated aircrews delivering the



"WE HAVE PAPER - WE GO SAIGON?"