

	<p>THE NIGHT HAWK BATTALION NEWSLETTER 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery (HAWK) Ft. Bliss, Texas & Vietnam 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery (C/V) Germany</p>	
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The first edition of the "Night Hawk", the battalion newspaper, was published on 18 January 1963 at Fort Bliss, Texas and continued throughout the battalion's time in Vietnam. Throughout the years it kept the personnel informed on all events, especially those within the battalion.



Merry Christmas
6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

The month of December in the life of the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

1. 16 December 1940 redesignated as Battery F, 56th Coast Artillery.
2. 15 December 1966, Battery A, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery made a tactical move from Tan Son Nhut Airbase to the Hoc Mon District of Gia Dinh Province (XT808029)
3. 20 December 1966, Battery B, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery made a tactical move from Bien Hoa Airbase to Long Binh (YT079119).
4. 6 December 1967 through 14 December 1967 several penetrations of South Vietnam border, from Cambodia, were made by unknown aircraft. These penetrations were an attempt to evaluate U.S. detection and reaction capabilities against high performance aircraft.
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6. 3 December 1967 an intelligence warning of a possible North Vietnam (NVM) air attack on South Vietnam caused an extensive increase in the air defense posture. COCKED PISTOL (exercise increased alert condition) was declared at 031000H for MSEA air defense region. The MARINE and Army HAWK Missile Batteries were placed on “Battle Stations”.
7. 9 December 1967 the USMC HAWKs were relieved from “Battle Stations and on 12 December 1967, the Army HAWK batteries were relieved from “Battle Stations”.
8. During the period from 040125 December 1966 to 060700 December 1966, three units of the 97th Artillery Group (AD), the 79th Ordnance Detachment, 459th Signal Detachment and C Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery (HAWK) participated in the defense of Tan Son Nhut Air Base against determined Viet Cong attacks. They assisted in the successful allied defense by manning an exposed sector of the Tan Son Nhut defense and by constant surveillance and intelligence reporting.

Christmas In Vietnam

Christmas in Vietnam is a huge event, especially in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Vietnamese Christmas celebrations here are like any other city in the western world. The Christians in Vietnam attend a Midnight mass on Christmas Eve and return home to a sumptuous Christmas dinner. The Christmas dinner usually consists of chicken soup while wealthier people eat turkey and Christmas pudding.



Christmas tree at Fortuna Hotel (Hanoi)

On Christmas Eve, Vietnamese people in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, especially young people, like to go into the city

centre, where there is a Catholic Cathedral. The streets are crowded with people on Christmas Eve and in the city centre cars are not allowed for the night.

People celebrate by throwing confetti, taking pictures and enjoying the Christmas decorations and lights of big hotels and department stores. Lots of cafes and restaurants are open for people to enjoy a snack!

Vietnam used to be part of the French Empire and there are still French influences in the Christmas traditions. Many Catholic churches have a big nativity crib scene or 'creche' with nearly life size statues of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds and animals. In some areas of Ho Chi Minh City, usually in Catholic parishes, people have big crib scenes in front of their houses and decorate the whole street, turning it into a Christmas area! These are popular for people to visit and look at the scenes.

Also like in France, the special Christmas Eve meal is called 'reveillon' and has a 'bûche de Noël' (a chocolate cake in the shape of a log) for desert. Vietnamese people like to give presents of food and at Christmas a bûche de Noël is a popular gift. Other Christmas presents are not very common, although some young people like to exchange Christmas cards.

The Yuletide spirit of giving and sharing has been embraced with an earnest by the Vietnamese. Generous as they are, the Vietnamese give out gifts and presents in plenty during the Christmas celebrations in Vietnam. However, the children are more keen to have their stockings and shoes stuffed in with goodies from Santa's bulging sack. The European customs of

Santa Claus and the Christmas tree were popular and children would leave their shoes out on Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas in Vietnamese is “Chúc Mừng Giáng Sinh”!

Christmas Memories

Christmas is a time of joy and memories. May this holiday season find each and every one of you reaching out to family, love ones, friends and old enemies. May your old bad memories flow away quickly like rushing water under a bridge. Leaving you only with the warm memories of good friends, great times and the desire and will to see the new day.

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I look forward to publicly recognizing great events in your life, your stores and pictures. I am anxious to publish your submissions. Email: john@6thbattalion56thartillery.com Mail: John Mayfield, PO Box 901358, Palmdale, CA 93590-1358

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