

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

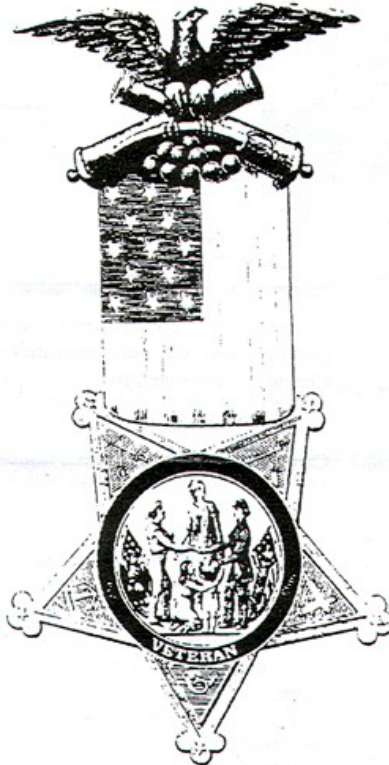


"All Included - Non Excluded"

Volume 2, Number 11

The Tan Son Nhut Association, Washington, D.C.

August, 2000



Retention Is Not A Military Program

... it is a personal decision based
on what a person
finds worthwhile in life



(See Editorial, Page 4)

It's Time To Get Moving!

We think that our *Revetments* readers may like some of the things in this month's issue. We at least catch a glimpse of what Reunion 2000! was like. Chaplain Warrington always writes a great and thoughtful piece, and there's a long-winded hot air Editorial that can be ignored.

But our Communications Center on Page 7 has been the inspiration for this page. Several new members express sincere joy at finding us and being able to join (another Army man!) and Lt. Col. Keeler thinks that with the thousands upon thousands of TSN-related people out there we should not have any trouble growing bigtime.

But the letter that gets us, and we hope will get you, is from an obviously young guy named Kowalski from Hammond, Indiana, who tells us "society wants to know what went on at Tan Son Nhut." And, he's right!

The seeds are there, nourish them ...

Summer is nearly over, and nobody likes to exert much effort in the heat, but when Fall comes most individuals work up a lot more gumption.

As the map shows, we are spread all over the place. But the cells are growing and Texans have taken the first step to form the Lone Star Chapter. Major Taylor McKinnon has promised to tackle the



Great State of California with its nearly 30 members and we may soon have our Chapter Forty-Niners (with the Fruit and Nuts Chapter as an alternative?) Florida, Virginia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan all have sufficient members to move toward Chapter status.

An arrogant ruler once stated, "Where I stand is the center of the world." Looking at it positively, where one TSNA member stands is a spot that represents all of us, our honorable service to our country in the past, and our hopes and desires for America's future. The tiny febrile roots support the growth of the great massive tree trunk and it's millions of leaves.

The seeds are there all we have to do is nourish them. Member Jim Stewart recently reported an informal get-together in Michigan, that he reports was not only a rewarding and pleasant occasion for he and the other men, but for their families too.

Where do we start?

Well, to begin with, the present provisional (no Constitution yet) national headquarters can help, but cannot do it all. Members wanting a directory of members in their states, or the entire membership can write or call Public Affairs any time and a copy will be immediately returned. This Fall we are planning a public

relations program far more aggressive, and hopefully impressive, than we've ever been able to mount before.

In a recent discussion, Vice President John Peele and Public Affairs discussed approaching many of the other Vietnam veterans' organizations with a concept of "federation" that would provide for close association with unit and/or skills organizations (police, aircraft mechanics, headquarters 7th AF, etc.). We need your input on such ideas. We are getting Navy, Army, Marine, and Air Force individuals who are showing that wherever and whenever they served, Tan Son Nhut was the hub of their activities. Many affectionate letters to *Revetments* have made the case in point.

There is no intent for the TSNA to ever presume to over-shadow any one else at all. Instead, as the years go by and the numbers in unit/skill groups decline, the Tan Son Nhut Association can provide the perpetual memorial for them all.

Remember, we opened this article by referring to Kowalski's letter. This young man found us, how he doesn't say, probably on Member Charles Penley's superb website. And maybe he's thrown down the challenge that we cannot refuse.

He demands knowledge that he does not find available now. Each one of us holds the stories of America's finest hour.



377th Security Police Squadron
Tan Son Nhut AB, (1966-71)

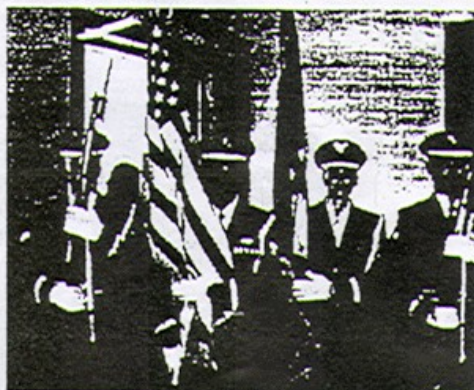
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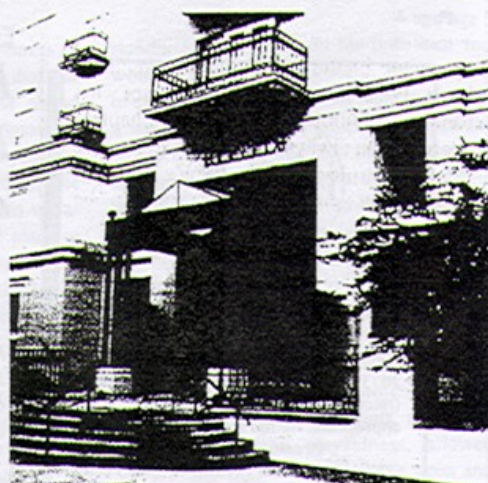
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The Color Guard from Lackland AFB opens the Banquet ceremonies, June 17, 2000

REUNION 2000!



The Historic Menger Hotel
Headquarters for TSNA Reunion 2000
Teddy Roosevelt recruited his Rough Riders here for the Spanish American War



... and it wouldn't be a Vietnam reunion without good, old ba-moui-ba (33) Beer!

Thanks to CMSgt. Bob Powell, who didn't have to travel very far, he lives in San Antonio, we have a little idea of what went on during the Tan Son Nhut Association Reunion 2000, June 15th through 18th. A large, and fine collection of Powell's color photos of the reunion can be found on the internet, at website:

<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/AlbumIndex?u=895569&a=6849442>

Revetments is very grateful to Bob for sending these to us, but our ability to faithfully and attractively reproduce them is sadly lacking. So, gentle readers, in the spirit of Shakespeare, "... on your imaginary forces work."



TSNA Lone Star Chapter President Frank Ybarbo, whose Chapter hosted the reunion.



Noted author, B.G. "Jug" Burkett, the Banquet speaker, received rapt attention during his talk on military "wannabes" from his best-selling book *Stolen Valor*.



TSNA National Vice President John Peele (c), receives a Lone Star wristwatch from Texas Region Director Norman Whitlow, and Reunion Coordinator Joe Montag.



"All Included - None Excluded"

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Thoughts of Our Sky Pilot

by
Chaplain
James M. Warrington

Shall We Change?

One of the deep sources of anxiety in our modern world is our fear of change. Part of this resistance to change is our reluctance to make new adjustments and alterations in familiar patterns of thought and action. New conditions keep demanding our response. Our reluctance is a human weakness we cannot afford in these demanding times. But part of our resistance is a commendable concern. We could lose something valuable that has come down to us from the past. This concern deserves our careful consideration.

It is important in every area of life that we distinguish between those essential and basic values which are eternal, and the forms in which these values are expressed. Forms must be adopted to new times and circumstances. For example, we as a nation have certain basic convictions about

Editorial:

Retention, Reality and Respect

by
Robert Stanley Need, Editor

In a recent article in *Revetments*, Member Thomas Joyce made a number of outstanding comments in his article, *Relight The Torch and Tell Them Why*. Today, Chaplain Warrington, elsewhere on this page, provides a sound buttress to Joyce's comments regarding dedication to God, our country, our duty and our honor.

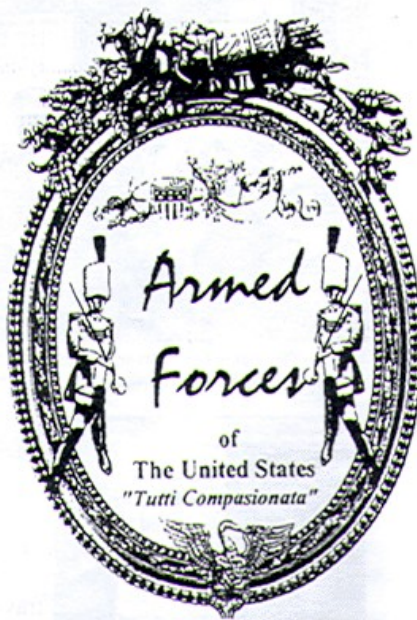
There is concern at all levels of command in the armed forces of the United States regarding the alarming loss of pilots, trained officers and NCOs, that appears to be accelerating at an alarming rate.

Ships leave port with often less than two thirds of their complement; pilots receive only a few sparse monthly hours of flight familiarization; trucks are used to simulate tanks, and so forth. Mechanics have been turned into scavengers, and combat personnel urged to perform more and more of something called

"community service."

So, of course the Pentagon, Congressmen, and droves of the plethora of *avant* social engineers we have running the show these days scream for an effective retention program.

(Continued) See Retention, Page 5



New seal of the Unified Forces
(Proposed)

freedom, the rights of the individual, and justice for all. If we lose these, we shall lose a precious part of our heritage. But on the other hand, we cannot keep these fundamentals unless we keep adapting them to the needs of our rapidly changing world. We say that this is "the land of the free and the home of the brave," and we pledge our allegiance to the flag promising "liberty and justice for all." But without revised laws and sound policies in our dealing with one another, these could be empty words. Then we will have lost our heritage.

We have the same problem in the area of our moral and spiritual life. There are certain God-given moral laws and truths which have come down to us through our religious writings.

These are fundamental and do not change anymore than do God's natural laws. But the way we express these ancient truths requires constant flexibility in order that they may be relevant and meaningful in our time. We do not make much impression on youth today with mere legalism or baseless morality. But we do desperately need to find ways to make clear that God's moral standards and teachings still exist; we cannot ignore them with impunity.

These words still ring true: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

• • •

Retention. Continued from Page 4

There can never be anything like an effective retention program in a country that supposedly respects the freedom and individuality of its citizens. "Effective" retention could be applied through involuntary servitude and slavery, and has been successful during various times in various places in history. The Navy could solve most of its problems with an efficient restoration of impressment gangs, recalcitrants receiving periodic keelhaulings.

Retention is not, and can never be a military program, it is a personal decision of the individual based on what a person finds worthwhile in life. Many of the new military slogans are stupid and insult the intelligence, but the Marines used to ask, "Give us a few good men." And, for many heroic years, they appear to have received them.

The military is not alone ...

It's time for a reality check, not just inside the Pentagon, but outside in all the towns and cities of the United States. The military retention situation is not an entity by itself, it is endemic to a vast and troubling phenomena that is leading the entire American society towards fatal dissolution. The military is not alone in facing the retention of its people, the entire nation is facing retention of its institutions, its beliefs, its intelligence and its strength.

In thousands of disguises, hidden deeply within hypocritical "movements" and "causes," the seeds of total totalitarian socialism are nurturing and bursting into flowers that breathe their noxious scents in poisonous gusts across America.

To socialists, the highest priorities within a society to subjugate, conquer and control are the institutions of education, the military establishment, and the bastions of decency, brotherhood and morality. This accomplished, the government falls weakly and totally submissive to them.

Right up into Abraham Lincoln's face they spit at his "a house divided cannot stand," and instead proclaim "divide and conquer."

It is happening with vehemence as we sit here now. No, there is no attack in this article on any one person or political party,

for it has been the apathy and selfishness of all the parties and of all the citizens that has led this great nation to the close ahead dissolution of America as we have known it for the past two hundred and some years..

This periodical is no place to air the ramifications of the current situation vis-a-vis the civilian sector, but it is the place to view the spectacle of the armed services.

Who wants to stay around this?

An American soldier, enlisting and serving honorably in his unit, is court martialed because he refuses to wear the United Nations beret. He did not enlist in the UN, he knows the UN is comprised of a majority of members inimical to the best interests of the United States, the country he loves and has sworn to defend with his life..

Airmen are sent to Lackland for "basic training" and receive little more than a few weeks of classroom lectures. There has been no grueling field training that they must survive, no competition and challenges, that when they fail them, they learn something about themselves; and when they win them, they feel triumphant and proud of their minds, their bodies and their uniform. I am a man! I am an Airman!

Would be officers attend the once proud academies, the envy of the world, and find just as luke warm a curriculum as the enlisted class. The Naval Academy poo-pooes tactics and strategy as "something to be learned later in tech and field situations." John Paul Jones must shudder in his crypt in the Chapel. He would have taught them that the sword, the cannon, and the vital adroitness of maneuvering ships at sea, come first and foremost.

Women have served more than honorably, frequently heroically, in the military for practically throughout our entire national history in one capacity or another.

Some of the finest officers this writer served under were WAFs, and they did a superior job on each occasion. But the concept today has been deliberately and hideously askewed. God's magnificent determination for the division of responsibilities between men and women has been perverted into a macabre sexless and soulless unisex concept that lowers the

standards of expectation for both men and women. For males, in general, the prospect of challenge and victory has been reduced to a watered down pass-fail exercise; and for women, realizing this, they have an unconscious uneasiness in the knowledge that they are being blamed for diluting the standards of combat and defense.

Military men and women are certainly not angels and never have been. But history thunderingly records that the majority of military personnel, apart from overwhelming records of heroism, have also for the most part been gentlemen, and yes, ladies. Inner moral constraints, and at the same time human playfulness, allowed service men and women to have open and respectful relationships.

At the workplace there were members of either sex who made it clear that they did not enjoy ribald or teasing actions; but on the other hand there were those who enjoyed teasing and a risqué joke or two every now and then. Betty Grable could hang half-naked and Gypsy Rose Lee totally naked in the mechanics' shop, and Elvis and musclemen could grace the halls of the WAF barracks. For the age group, it was healthy, not immoral, and ninety-nine percent of the commanders, male or female, never felt any compulsion to prefer charges.

Socialist "political correctness" has changed all this by contorted and perverting healthy male and female relationships. They've ended up having men generals and lady generals arguing over who patted who on the ass in an open-door office in the Pentagon three years ago. At the same time they are trying to jam nubile young women into three-in-a-bunk submarines, reveling in the fact that the judge advocate's office will soon be overflowing with "sexual harassment" charges. No wonder modern naval vessels are being reconfigured to provide for maternity care.

But much more serious erosion of military standards is destroying morale.

The government with increasing frequency is sending sparsely trained officers, men and units into harm's way as nearly undisguised tools of the United Nations. Somalia, Haiti, now Bosnia and Kosovo have become "peace-keeping" units

Continued) See Retention, Page 6

Retention Continued from Page 5

mandated with the totally inappropriate, yea, improper and illegal task of attempting to regulate and police political controversies between nationalistic and racial political entities.

The demise of brotherhood

This writer came into the service when President Truman was integrating the armed forces in the late 1940s. Of course, for a couple of years there was a continued voluntary segregation in the mess halls and clubs, and red neck elements on one side and militants on the other protesting the integration program. But it was actually surprising the rapidity with which the program succeeded. The races began to share barracks and officers' quarters and sound and lasting friendships arose. Offices, line activities and service units functioned smoothly, their personnel forging strong and productive bonds and, in most cases, totally eliminating racial antagonisms.

Not any more.

No, there are no records of race riots or serious clashes, per se, at present. But what we do have is a situation that is redolent of Nazi Germany where Jews wore a yellow star, homosexuals wore pink (possibly), and gypsies wore red. Of course, in this situation most of them ended up in Auschwitz and the ovens.

Such badges have not yet been issued in the armed forces, although are probably on somebody's drawing board, they are already present in spirit. And, contrary to the Nazi resolution, the recipients are lionized and go to the head of the class.

There is not a reader of this periodical who was not aware at one time or another, during their service career, of someone who was, or gave the impression of being sexually disoriented. If those persons attempted to act on their impulses and impose themselves against the will of others, they were identified and discharged from the service. And that was it.

Today, the military has arrived at the obvious conclusion, that there are probably considerable numbers of such persons on active duty. And, though still officially considered a dischargeable offense we have spawned programs of "consideration and compassion" that must be enforced by attendance at "sensitivity sessions" that attempt to nullify the "homophobia" of normal troops. Of course, physical violence is inappropriate on any occasion, but let a homosexual be assaulted and we sail right by the battery clauses of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and haul responsible commanding officers before the mast for

condoning something the Marxists have chosen to describe as "hate crimes."

The "divide and conquer" program gets into high gear when we get to religion. Preferably, to our socialist friends, there should be none. But since most retrograde Americans still recognize, if not fully practice some form of observance, religion can be ridiculously splinted sowing seeds of dissension among the troops.

Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are definitely passe, although such expression is still at least tolerated on the base. But those old superstitious rituals now, by fiat, must accept the Wiccans and devil worshipers dancing by the light of the moon at the end of the runway every Saturday night.

In other words, brotherhood and fraternal bonds are no longer acceptable. Although it is a broad generalization, it now appears that the white, male European descended troopers must face the fact that they are pariahs and must recognize that group after group bear precedence, by virtue of their racial or sexual or religious proclivities, far ahead and above them. To resist means disgrace, possible punishment, and even discharge, and this applies to all grades and ranks.

CUNY Professor Gertrude Himmelfarb is quoted in *The Washington Times* as having written, "Marxism has succeeded ... in demeaning and degrading political events, institutions, activities and ideas." She is right and the best example of an institution so contaminated are the Armed Forces of the United States.

Respect among ranks, for superiors or subordinates, is rapidly dissolving, not due to overt coercion but by the insidious lowering of standards in military education and training. Basic training cannot even be described as a mere shadow of its former self.

Recently a TSNA member and a close friend of the writer reviewed the lengthy video tape his son brought back from U.S. Army basic infantry training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The tape was furnished to each graduate, and made a point of personalizing it with individual spots featuring each graduate.

It was absolutely appalling. The brief six weeks were nothing but a sexually integrated raucous frat party at a third class college. There were laughable attempts to provide physical combat training in jackets so padded the opponents could hardly move their arms to swing the equally heavy padded club. And the actual contact session lasted a mere few minutes.

Talking to our friend's son revealed that he had learned nothing at all comparable to basic training as late as only ten years ago.

A Navy chief, who had been a quartermaster on one of the Navy's larger

supply vessels, was employed for a time at the local CompUSA computer center, and was a frequent visitor at TSNA Public Affairs for computer servicing. He was proud of the Air Force and other military memorabilia in the office, and remarked, "You were in when it was rewarding to be a serviceman."

He was helmsman on his last trip home from the Mediterranean on a ship that came to be dubbed "the love boat." He reported that over a third of the assigned enlisted females returning home were pregnant. He got out with eighteen years behind him, but he said he just couldn't stand it any more because it wasn't the Navy he joined.

All the money in the world will not provide for an effective military retention program. The Marxist doctrines must be clearly identified, attacked and destroyed. Only then can a restoration of military practices and conduct provide an incentive for any man or woman to desire and sustain a military career.

The restoration must provide:

1. Subsequent to induction, the service members must be provided with a rigid course of instruction in current arms, strenuous physical exercise and in violent physical combat.

2. The service members must be provided with intelligent and truthful accounts of military history and the accomplishments of the armed forces in the defense of liberty.

3. The service members must be introduced to the mutual courtesies and respect due all members and ranks, and how this will be reciprocated to them.

4. The service members must be provided with state-of-the-art technical training that is detailed and totally comprehensive.

5. The service members must be promised promotion and advancement, not as an entitlement, but based solely on achievement and merit.

6. It must be explained to the service members that, as with society in general, the armed forces are an institution that recognizes diverse individuals and cultures. But that military effectiveness depends on unity of purpose and the total equality of performance.

The experiment must end ...

Social and socialist experimentation with the armed forces is as heinous a crime as the vaccinating of those poor people in Mississippi with syphilis to watch the progress of the disease. Yet for ages, intensifying during the last decade we have sat by and observed it eating at the vitals of the once mighty shield we had for this Republic, that Thomas Jefferson called, "The last great hope of mankind."

It must stop, and stop now!

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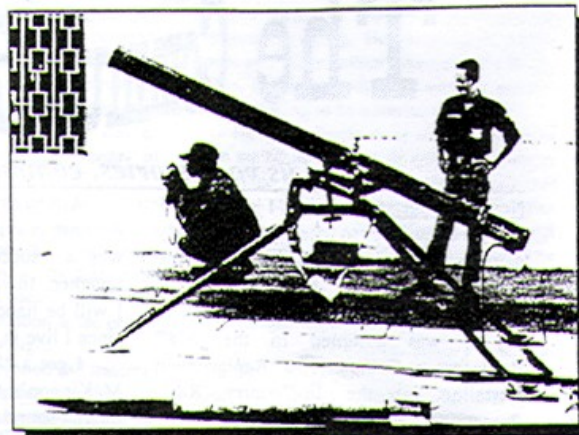
Revetments will never last!

Au contraire, mon cher!

Priceless photographs, like the one to the right from SMSgt. Lance Coar (Penllyn, Pennsylvania), the columns of Major McKinnon and Ira Cooperman, the kind words of Chaplain Warrington, and the great letters and messages from members, and often, non-members, are what has made *Revetments* grow.

It approaches the end of its second year of publication with the September issue. But basically there's no difference between *Revetments* and *The New York Times*. A publication has to have fuel for the presses, or all we'd get would be blank pages.

Not just every member, but everybody reading *Revetments* have stories, anecdotes, and pictures that we are dying to get our hands on. Tan Son Nhut had literally millions of visitors (besides you), and that means millions of tales we want to share. So, quit hiding them in your attic: if they're funny, let us laugh with you; if they're sad, let us cry along with you ... and remember too. But don't trip on that last step in the basement, it's a lulu!



Captured Russian 122 Rocket & Launcher
Tan Son Nhut 1968, from the Lance Coar Collection

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