

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



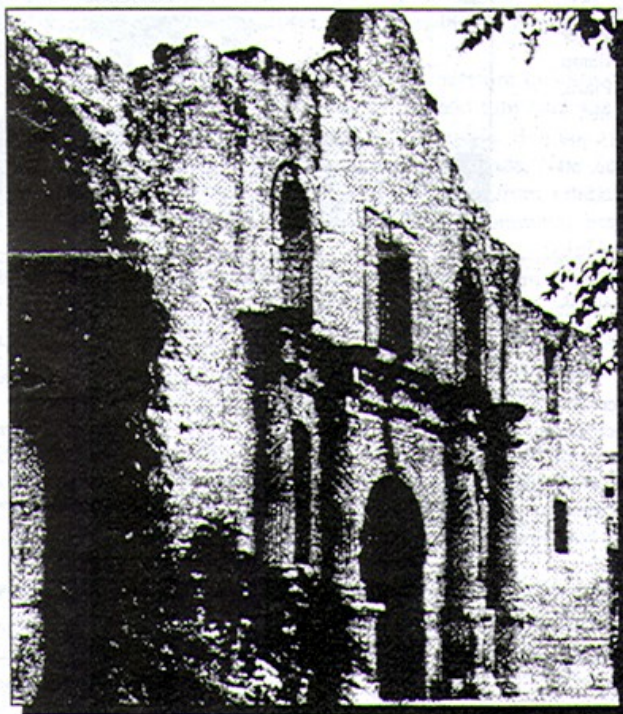
"All Included - Non Excluded"

Volume 2, Number 6

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

March, 2000

Fiesta!



in Ole San Antonio!

Dates reset to obtain suitable lodging . . .

Reunion Time 2,000!

Thursday, June 15
through
Sunday, June 18

Thanks to Member Joe Montag, Carrollton, Texas, and other members of the Lone Star Region, TSNA (See Story, Page 8), we are going to be living and dining in style while in San Antonio for our Tan Son Nhut Association 2000.

Lodging

Joe has cornered seventy-five (75) rooms at the famous historic Menger Hotel, just a step away from the Alamo and the River Walk, at 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio 78205. He has negotiated a terrific convention rate of only \$85 per night, with 16.3% tax. To get this rate, all reservations must be made by May 15th. Reservations can be made by calling: 1-(800)-345-9285 or (210) 223-4361. Members may wish to lodge elsewhere as they desire, but the assembly point, hospitality suite and the banquet will be held at the Menger.

From the hotel guide we hear, "More than 130 years of refinements have created a masterpiece of traditional elegance and atmosphere. Now a modern 350-room hotel, The Menger remains faithful to the integrity behind its authentically restored 19th Century section ... equal to any hotel in the West."

The Program

Subject to change, the Program proposed is as follows:

Thursday, June 15:

1. Getting arrivals settled in lodging.
2. President's Reception in the Hospitality Suite.

Friday, June 16:

1. 8am.-10:30am. TSNA Breakfast Meeting
2. 11am-3pm. Tour of Lackland AFB with lunch.

3. 6pm. Hospitality Suite Reception
4. 7pm. Open dinner hour

Saturday, June 17:

1. 8am.-10am. Breakfast
2. 10am. TSNA Wreath-Laying at a war memorial.
3. 12noon - Guided Tour of San Antonio
4. 6pm. Reception in Hospitality Suite



The Menger Hotel

5. 7pm. Tan Son Nhut Association Banquet. Awards and Presentations. Speakers will include: B.G Burkett, author of *Stolen Valor*; retired Major Thomas Joyce on what Tan Son Nhut means today; and Ray Bows, author of *Vietnam Lore*.

Sunday, June 18:

1. 8am. Memorial Breakfast with Chaplain.
2. 11am. Departure

The final package price (to include the TSNA Banquet, and any and all other program items or change will be in next month's *Revelments*.



Member Urges Korean Conflict Recognition

(Editor's Note: Jefferson and Madison weren't the only Americans who knew how to pen moving and proud documents. Tan Son Nhut Association Member, Richard Fulton, Pittsburg, Kansas, has been wielding quite an inspired pen for many years, and has sent the following to us. He says, "This June marks the 50th anniversary since the north's invasion of the Republic of Korea. Since so many of you were there in Korea, at one time or another, I want to share a proclamation written and sent to Governor Graves (of Kansas). This is one of those time the message far exceeds the authorship. Share it with whomever you like." We suggest that our members consider sending it to all of our governors.)



The State of _____

Proclamation by The Governor

WHEREAS, Fifty Years Ago, on June 25, 1950, massive North Korean military forces, equipped by the Soviet Union with state of the art weapons of war, made a totally unexpected surprise attack against the people of the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America therefore quickly ordered movement of air, sea and ground elements to the peninsula of Korea to halt and turn back the aggression, with these American forces, soon joined by combat contingents of Australia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, Columbia, Ethiopia, France, Great Britain, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey, and by medical units from several other Nations, to collectively form the United Nations Command; and

WHEREAS, the costly, brutal and intensive fighting swept from the Naktong River in the south to the Yalu in the north, but for most of the war's thirty-seven months, centered near and just to the north of the Han, in a conflict which inflicted great suffering for the Korean People and which also drew in participation on the side of the north by the vast armies of the Democratic Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from *State of _____* served should to shoulder with fellow Americans and allies from other Nations, stood tall, fought bravely and paid a high cost in many different kinds of sacrifice from the time of TASK FORCE SMITH through the signing of the Armistice Agreement at Panmunjom in July 1953; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of _____ serving in Korea since the cease-fire to help ensure no renewal of the fighting have proudly made many important contribution to the defense of the Korean People to live their lives freely in peaceful security;

NOW, THEREFORE, I _____ GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF _____, do hereby recognize the great truth that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE, and hereby issue this proclamation to honor the many citizens of our Great State of _____ who have significantly contributed in the warmth of that philosophy to promote democracy and peace on the edge of freedom for all the people of the Land of The Morning Calm, and in so doing have promoted and protected what the United States of America is all about.

DONE, At The Capitol In _____
Under The Great Seal of the State
this 25th Day of June, A.D. 2000

BY THE GOVERNOR _____



Revelments is an official publication of the Tan Son Nhut Association, 6203 57th Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland 20737. The Association is a non-profit fraternal organization chartered under appropriate statute and law.

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Vice President/Treasurer, John Peele

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*Thoughts of
Our Sky Pilot*
by
Chaplain James M.
Warrington

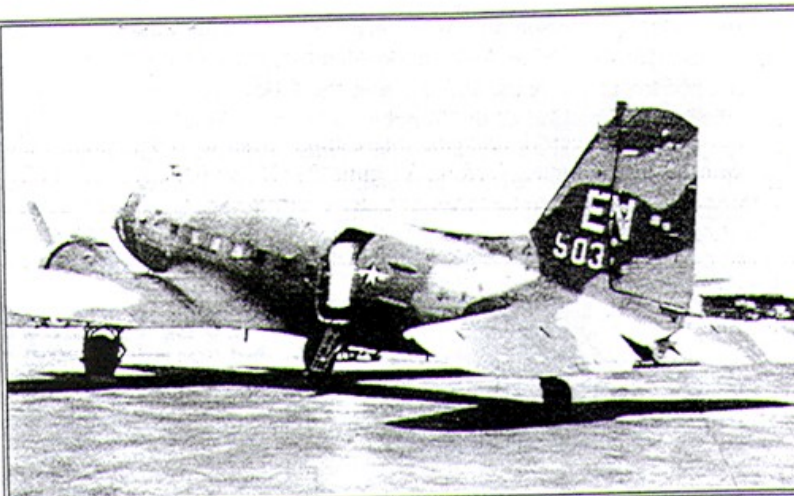
The Double Search

"Can'st thou by searching find out God?" This is a question Job asked many centuries ago, but it is a question that continues to be asked by people on their spiritual journey. It is asked by young men and women in the inquisitive days of early adulthood or college studies. It is asked by those who face the sunset of life, and are looking for comfort and assurance.

The Bible answer to the question is a paradoxical one. In a sense, it is "NO;" for it is made clear that the creature can never fully discover or understand the Creator; the finite cannot fully grasp the infinite; the natural man cannot exhaust the meaning of the supernatural.

But in another sense, the answer is "YES," for the Bible sets forth the testimony of those who have encountered God and in discovering God's presence have found the meaning and secret of life.

The truth of the matter is that there is



C-47 at Tan Son Nhut. Courtesy of Member Lance Coar

a double search. First and foremost, God is seeking to reveal Himself to His people; God wants men and women to know Him and to love Him. If it were not His desire for us to know Him, it would forever be impossible. But God has also planted a hunger, a thirst, and a restlessness within our souls. God has also made it impossible for us to find the fullness of life apart from Him. So we continue seeking Him, in response to His loving search for us.

How good it is to truly understand and know this double truth about God! God is seeking to make us His people even before we seek to obey Him. God is seeking to give us guidance and peace, even before we cry out for these gifts. It is God's will for us to have friendship, brotherhood, and peace, else what hope would there be for us to seek and to strive toward such a goal.

There is a legend concerning the origin of the name of the Susquehanna River. In the early days it is said that an Indian chief named Susque would go down the river, leaving his wife Hanna behind. Days later, as he returned, Hanna would spy his boat through the mists on the water and would cry out, "Susque! Susque!" From the distance would come his reply, "Hanna! Hanna!"

So through history, God's loving call has gone out to His people, and God has waited for them to respond in thanksgiving and devotion.

Chaplain Warrington is available to all for private consultations and pastoral services. Please call or send requests to the Office of Public Affairs, Tan Son Nhut Asse.

Cleared for Takeoff ... !

by Robert Need, Editor

On Page 8 we have the honor to report the formation of the Lone Star Region, Tan Son Nhut Association, in Texas.

This step, made by the members in Texas, brings us all a new resolve to move closer together all over the country. The Texans are looking forward to building a strong localized organization, in great part, possible through the use of the myriad means for modern communications. Meetings, notices, planned get-togethers all over Texas can be accomplished through e-mail, fax and telephone.

As Vice President Peele points out, a great organization derives its strength and growth from below. An effective Air Command, as we all know, is only effective because it is composed of strong divisions, groups, squadrons and flights.

Many members have expressed the desire to assist in forming regions and eventually local chapters of the Association. Well, Texas has pushed us out on the runway and it's time we all prepare for takeoff. The Public Affairs Office stands ready to provide the membership files by state to any member who wants them.

Contact your fellow members around the state. Plan programs that will attract new members including active duty military members who show an interest in the proud heritage that those of us from Tan Son Nhut are preserving for posterity. "Let's get this crate in the air!"

The Communication Center Send us your letters, stories, announcements, etc., we need them to keep *Revetments* interesting. Mail to: TSN Assoc., Public Affairs, Suite 709, 330 West Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23510, or FAX to: (757) 627-0878.

Member Bob writes to

Member Jim ... I remember the C-47 gun ships out there. I didn't get out on the flight line as much as I'd like, but I really enjoyed the airplanes (that's why I joined the Air Force). We were also in charge of the arresting barriers which were hardly ever needed.

The first F4 I watched take off while sitting on the edge of the runway, was so loud I thought my ear drums were damaged before I could cover my ears.

Remember the ramp where Air America parked their airplanes? Now they had a variety of aircraft, C46, C47, Heli's, turbo Porters, Skymasters and a variety of other Cessnas, plus others.

I wish my memory was better but it has been a long time. The Lucky Dragon was across the road from an Army helicopter outfit. I enjoyed watching these guys fly especially when the Skycrane came in with something on the hook ... caps flew everywhere from the down wash.

Robert Etherton
Joplin, Missouri

And Jim replies ...

I remember the F-4's out of DaNang from a TDY up there, the 366th TFW, the Gunfighters. You could feel it in the pit of your stomach!

When I was at Tan Son Nhut, I lived in Splinter Village across the street from Camp Gaylor, and about a mile from the main gate. There was a VNAF M-24 tank parked in front of our hootch area.

But the compound was right in the glide path of helicopters who would come in at all hours. I remember

watching the crews get out of a snake, take off their flight helmets and put on their stetsons.

The Air America ramp had a few small birds by the time I was there, but they did have 6 Porters lined up at a quarter mill a copy!

I took ground school for private license from Reed Chase who had spent six years in Vientiane flying for Air America and came down to Tan Son Nhut to get a desk job and fly part time. He had a house down in Kuala Lumpur.
Good Luck.

James French
Torrance, California

↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑
What is so special about those letters?

They came to *Revetments* via the OneList Communities system on the internet.

We have our own Tan Son Nhut Community at this site. This has been discussed before, but we only have twelve members on line at present.

We would like to see as many members as possible subscribe (free) to this service. This would enable the Association to post informative bulletins, notices and comments at any time, and they would automatically be received by all of the members (subscribed). And at the same time a member could post information and comments at any time and all would receive them.

It could be a terrific tool for Association communications. Please go to: <http://www.onelist.com/search?query=Tan%20Son%20Nhut>



Hercules, C-130 at Tan Son Nhut
Courtesy of Member Lance Coar (See Story, Lower Right)

This Member refuses to read The Chaplain's Corner ...

I am writing so that the appropriate information can be published to all hands through *Revetments*.

Are any activities for the Tan Son Nhut Association being planned for Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area on the following dates:

30 April - Anniversary of the end of Viet Nam action.
20 May - Armed forces Day
29 May, Readjusted Memorial Day.
4 July - Independence Day
11 November - Veterans Day

I will try to be present for any such activities if notified before I get scheduled by other veterans organizations.

Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery is being sponsored by the VVA, so there is likely to be a larger number of 'Nam vets this year to participate.

Your article about the USO at Tan Son Nhut was great. I read every issue completely, except for the chaplain's corner.

Chaplain James Warrington
Falls Church, Virginia

(Continued, See Letters, Page 7).

An Open Letter to Member James Padgett

(Editor's Note: A couple of months ago, Member Padgett, of McConnells, South Carolina, found that *Revetments* appeared to be cool to Hercules C-130s. When we came across the following, we howled with delight and vowed to print it in honor of Member Padgett.)

A couple of A-10s are escorting a C-130 Hercules and their pilots were chatting with the pilot of the transport to pass the time. Talk fell on the subject of relative merits of their respective aircraft with the fighter pilots holding their planes were better because of their maneuverability, weaponry and the like.

The C-130 pilot replied, "Yeah? Well I can do a few things in this old girl that you'd only dream about."

Naturally, he was challenged to demonstrate. "Okay, just watch."

The C-130 continues to fly straight and level, and after several minutes the Herk pilot returns to the air and says, "There! How was that?"

Not having seen anything, the fighter pilots say, "What are you talking about? What did you do?"

The Herk pilot replies, "Well, I got up stretched my legs, got a cup of coffee and then went back and took a leak."



Mea Culpa

Regarding the January 2000 *Revetments* Issue, and the letter from Colonel Wayne Pittman, in which he gave me a "classy" chewing out for mislabeling former Chief of Staff McPeak as an academy graduate (the rescinding of Air Force Regulations), I hereby rebuke myself for inaccurate authorship and apologize to all Air Force Academy grads, and ROTC grads as well.

General McPeak did a fine job during a difficult period of transition for the Air Force. Having been the commander of a 1,000 man Field Maintenance Squadron I perhaps had forgotten that when a commander has to make one of the "hard calls" he seldom will find that all his subordinates will be happy with his decision.

Nothing wrong with ROTC grads either. My hero, General LeMay, was an ROTC product of Ohio State. Before the great war and before the creation of navigator rating the pilots were dual qualified and would draw straws to determine who would be the navigator on a particular flight. LeMay drew the short straw on a mission to intercept the Italian liner *Rex* out over the Atlantic, and hit it dead on, which really angered the Navy who contended that airplanes could never find a ship far out at sea. LeMay was only a lieutenant at the time.

We used to poke gentle fun at the Academy grads in their first little school housed in old decrepit G.I. barracks at Lowry Air Force Base back in 1954. But they have now proved their mettle as well as given their lives in Viet Nam, as well as subsequent wars and

deserve only praise.

Speaking of General McPeak, he was probably ahead of his time on the airline uniform for officers with the stripes on the lower sleeves. The idea was just poorly carried out with those Gilbert and Sullivan offensively glaring silver stripes. Had the specifications called for subdued blue ringstripes outlined with silver thread, as used by many of the world's air forces, as well as the British Royal Air Force, from whom we took many of our traditions, the new uniform would not have been nearly as offensive (and we would not have looked like admirals) the uniform would have been a goer.

My apologies also to Leland Williams who in the February *Revetments* issued me a mild, but well deserved, rebuke for my "foul" language and for my off the mark references to Academy grads. Leland, consider my reply to Colonel Pittman concerning that subject to apply to your letter also.

Dang it, Leland, can't I cuss just a little bit "Heavens to Betsy"! Unfortunately the editor already has a half dozen of my stories for future use and perhaps he will be kind enough to ferret out the offensive parts before he prints them.

You licentious old "hundred pee alley" rats out there will not get the unexpurgated version of my R&Rs to Hong Kong and Taipei (remember Pei Tuo), but you can just have an extra beer and run the memories of your own trips through your minds and assume that I did the same things you did.

(Editor's Note. Major McKinnon does not bear the responsibility for the contents of this publication. He has contributed valuable information in his own style. It is the Editor's duty to maintain the standards of the publication. We appear to have failed to do so and deeply and sincerely apologize to all of our readers.)

Why Renewal Is So Important!

The Tan Son Nhut Association has never been a "dun the members" type of organization, and we're not going to start now.

Revetments, we are told by many is becoming a success with the membership, and has been described "as the catalyst that is bringing us closer together."

But even a humble little newsletter like this costs money. In fact, it costs a lot of money, in our case, some \$2,516.60 a year.

At \$16 for paper, \$94.05 for postage and \$58 for copy machine toner, per monthly issue, we have a total of \$168.05 for production costs. That's \$2,016.60 per year.

The composition, the photography and all the other editing and layout functions are donated, including the reproduction machines.

The Pitney Bowes postage meter costs us \$225 per quarter, or 900.00 a year. And the technical maintenance of the reproduction machine is \$500 per year.

Member Charles E. Penley over in Kingsport, Tennessee, created and maintains our top professional quality website on the internet. It requires constant attention and Charles donates his time and creative ability gratis. We still pay \$120 a year to the network to keep it on line.

But actually, this is "no sweat" if we're relying on our membership to pay their \$20 a year dues. We have 282 active members on the books at this time and if they're paid up we are looking at \$5,640. That's enough to pay for the publication of *Revetments* and allow us to plan more reunions, set aside funds for the Tan Son Nhut Memorial in the new Air Force Memorial and provide



for other service and functions to benefit all of you.

We are a growing organization and can afford to be very optimistic about the Association's future. But the only thing that can keep us moving ahead is the continued faith, support and regular payment of dues.

The following are listings of the current renewal month (March 2000) and those past due. If you have paid and your name still appears, please advise the Public Affairs Office as soon as you can and your record will be immediately corrected.

Our 1999 Bargain Basement

The following should have renewed during the year 1999. In a one-time Forgiveness Sale, only \$20 will bring you up-to-date for your annual dues, becoming renewable in March 2001.

Bird, David
Bittle, Ronald
Buckland, James D.
Bunce, Fredrick J.
Clark, Ken
Freney, Thomas
Garner, Paul
Hammon, Larry
Harling, Mike
Lester, Harold E.
Nix, Randy
Roberson, Johnie S.
Schantz, Kenneth
Slavens, David
Taylor, James L.

Past Due: January 31, 2000

Agnew, Lewis B.
Anderson, William G.
Andrews, Bruce L.
Austin, George N.
Barnette, Lewis C.
Bessette, Carol S.
Blaha, Michael J.
Boldrini, Nik
Brown, Charles V.
Buckhalter, William M.

(See Renewals, Next Page)

Renewals, From Page 6

1/31/2000 Continued -

Cox, Robert B.
Davis, Arthur L.
Dearing, Dean
Duval, Richard
Eckhoff, Jim
Emerson, Thomas F.
Evans, John
Fitzpatrick, Thomas B.
Glass, Thomas A.
Grayson, William C.
Greethhead, Phillip Eric
Hagler, John
Hanson, William T.
Helms, Fredrick W.
Houck, Ross B.
Ingoglia, Richard P.
Ingram, Elmer W.
Joyce, Thomas
Joyner, Nancy D.
Kennedy, Don
Kettenhofen, Dave
Kinnaird, George C.
Krebs, Roland C.
Maranville, James I.
Marshall, Harley T.
McClellan, Thomas W.
McDonald, Robert J.
McElwee, Rod
Mickle, William
Minnish, Don
O'Krusky, Paul R.
Pachinger, Charles E.
Padgett, James
Pittman, Wayne C.
Prendergast, Patrick T.
Randles, Fred C.
Reynolds, Richard F.
Schirmer, George E.
Schoenhals, Larry M.
Scime, Joseph F.
Sheldon, Doug
Sherrett, Roy J.E.
Sherrill, Bryant R.
Shoemaker, Michael D.
Smith, Gregory Clark
Smith, Paul, M.
Sweetland, John J.
Tennermann, Herbert E.
Welsh, Paul J.R.
Wilcoxon, Jerry
Wilhelm, Robert Blair
Woods, Roy F.

Past Due: February 29, 2000

Anisko, Robert G.
Anundson, Arlie
Aufiero, Richard
Balliet, Albert L.
Bauer, James A.
Beckwith, Gregory C.
Chung, David O.
Church, Alan D.
Fleisher, Mark
Foster, Leland C.
Halbeisen, Gary
Harley, James A.
Hickman, Geoffrey R.
Ingalsbe, Gerald E.

Lerner, Vance
Line, Donald W.
Lyons, Lawrence E.
Masten, Barry
McKinnon, Taylor B.
Moore, Kenneth
Nellist, Leland N.
Neri, Don
Ness, Charles E.
Orzen, Morton D.
Peterson, Ioren
Rutherford, Charles E.
Sartin, Harry J.
Shotliff, Chuck
Spinellid, Mike
Starke, Richard A.
Stevenson, David F.
Stine, Raymond C.
Sutton, Charles A.
Waxman, Robert M.
Wells, Robert D.
Williams, Hugh

March 2000 Renewals

Allison, Joseph T.
Campbell, Thomas J.
Capener, Robert
Cervantes, James
Crespin, Robert J.
Croft, George R.
Dornbach, Jake
Graham, Robert P.
Griffin, Richard
Heitzman, John W.
Kimball, Lester T.
Kuzma, Robert W.
Langley, John
Lee, John P.
Masters, Richard L.
McLaren, Michael P.
Nichols, Franklin A.
Pendergrass, Daryl L.
Perko, Paul
Pierson, William
Puzach, Edward T.
Robbins, James Michael
Schefer, Wil
States, Stanley W.
Van Pelt, William E.
Wilgis, Harry J.
Wofford, Kenneth O.
Zohn, Edward W.



If everybody above
sends in their dues we
will have \$2,880-
Woweee!

Letters, Continued from Page 5



(Editor's Note: In reply to Chaplain Warrington's questions, I can definitely state that Memorial Day is established as a regular TSNA function, at The Vietnam Memorial ("The Wall"). We urge as many members as possible, within driving distance of D.C. to please come and join us this year. As for the others, they are definitely being thought about and will have some thoughts on them in a coming issue of *Revetments*.)

Desert Storm Veteran salutes us

all! Hello, my name is John Cook. My father, Harry Cook, flew a Huey helicopter with the Marine Corps (1967-1969).

He has many good memories of Tan Son Nhut. He returned to Vietnam in 1997 and said the old aircraft shelters still stand, along with the original control tower. There are still a number of C-130, C-123 and Chinook aircraft in one part of the field, still with their camouflage war paint on them which has been there since Saigon fell to the NVA. In the middle of the field there are derelict radar installations which all vets would remember. The southern boundaries which were mostly empty fields covered with barbed wire and mines have been well

developed, as there is an estimated six to seven million people living in Saigon now.

I served with the Marines in Desert Storm, but realize my experiences were nothing compared to what all Vietnam Vets went through. I would like to give a proud hand salute to all men who served in Vietnam and tell them Welcome Home!

Semper Fi

John Cook
Bernice, Louisiana

Member offers good advice ...

Yes, I am planning to attend the reunion with my wife, Mary Ann.

Tell John Peele that I (he calls me Wild Bill) am currently having some body repair done as after 5 sessions of biopsies they finally came up with some cancer in one of them. I just started 8 weeks, 5 days a week, radiation treatment on my prostate. I should be in great shape by June.

Most all Vietnam veterans are near the age or past that they should be having PSA tests. Anyone 50 and up should tell their doctor to include it in the blood test they have. Cancer of the prostate is also covered under Agent Orange.

Walter C. Carlson
Central Point, Oregon

★ Lone Star Region Forms in Texas

Dallas, Tx. ... On Saturday morning, February 19, at 9 a.m., a representative group of Tan Son Nhut Association members held an initial founding meeting to establish a Tan Son Nhut Association Region for the State of Texas. The three and a half hour meeting resulted in the naming of the organization as officially the "Lone Star Region, TSNA." They are planning the design of a Regional Texas TSNA logo and patch.

Called by Regional Director Norman Whitlow, of Lancaster, the meeting represents the favorable support of the majority of the thirty-eight TSNA Texan members. Planning to use e-mail, fax and other communication mediums the Region hopes to bring TSNA members closer together and more frequent meetings and get-togethers.

Member Frank Ybarbo of Azel, Texas, has been elected President. Member Joe Montag, Carrollton, Texas, was elected Secretary/Treasurer, and Member Larry Hammond was elected Membership Chairman.

TSNA President, Don Parker, will be issuing a Charter to the Lone Star Region shortly.

TSNA Vice President, John Peele, viewed this action with pride and joy. "Great organizations are built from the ground up," he said after being advised of the Texas meeting. "The closer our members get in their own locality, the stronger will be the support and growth of the whole Association. I cannot express enough my pride and gratitude to those people in Texas, I salute them as an example to all our members throughout the country. Being Texans, they are taking the bull by the horns and building a real, living monument to the memory of the men and women of Tan Son Nhut Air Base."

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