



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

AN ARMY REPLACE- MENT IN VIETNAM, 1965 TO 1973

**By
Jim Dugan
Life Member, TSNA**



I had heard stories about the 90th Replacement Battalion at Ft. Dix in 1968. I had not been to Vietnam then, but I knew the prospects of going were high. At the time, I was assigned to the Medical Company at Walson Army Hospital which afforded me an excellent opportunity to hear the stories from wounded vets who were undergoing further treatment there. And often in their conversations with one another, the 90th Replacement Battalion at Long Binh would enter their memories of Vietnam.

The 90th Replacement became an icon of the Vietnam War with me. Then, in May of 1969, my turn to go and see for myself had arrived. I didn't know it at the time, but my brief stay at the Army's Overseas Replacement Center in Oakland, California was a mirror image of what I would experience at the 90th Replacement. I had been in the

Army almost two years at the time and, although I was not an expert in all the ways of Army procedures, the constant formations and work details seemed no different to me from those I had experienced a few short years prior in basic training.

My arrival at Bien Hoa Air Base seemed rather fitting for Vietnam. A dark morning in a driving monsoon rain, followed by a fast ushering into a large tent where we were immediately given the MACV Handbook and a series of wallet sized cards which we were told would tell us everything we needed to know about Vietnam - for the time being. Then we were separated by branch of service, and Army personnel boarded buses for further transport to the 90th Replacement Battalion at Long Binh Post.

The ride was short, although it seemed long to me, my attention being focused on the

screens that covered the bus windows to keep hand grenades from being thrown inside. We drove through a Vietnamese housing compound, and arrived at the infamous 90th Replacement Battalion I had heard so much about.

I was curious, and wanted to take the compound in but, was immediately found myself in my first formation in Vietnam. A role with hundreds of names was called, and personnel files taken from us. We were told where we were located, and urged to write a letter home to family members to inform them of our safe arrival in-country. But, we were also told not to have letters or other mail sent to us at the 90th, because we would not be there very long. We were told that most of us would be elsewhere within three days. I found myself beginning to understand why this place, this experience at the 90th stood out in the memory of many who had come before. It was the uncertainty.

The 90th Replacement Battalion was a holding battalion for the United States Army Vietnam (USARV). With few exceptions, every soldier processed through the 90th in Long Binh would be

assigned to permanent units in III Corps or IV Corps. Our personnel files were sent to USARV Data Processing, and our MOS's and abilities would be hopefully matched to a unit's need for replacements. In civilian terms, USARV acted as an employment agency, and the 90th Replacement Battalion was the waiting room.

It was the waiting time that had everyone on edge. A large percentage of the waiting soldiers were fresh out of training. If they had an Infantry MOS, they had reason to be anxious. At each of the three formations each day, names and assignments were given. The guys who had come with me were practically all assigned by the second day at Long Binh. In between waiting and assignment, the 90th had the perfect way to take a soldier's mind off the future. It was the work detail. The waiting replacements were used in a variety of ways. Some pulled KP, while others helped with clerical duties. At least it took your mind off of where your assignment would be.

After four days had passed, my name was finally called for assignment. It seems I, and two others, had gotten lucky. We were assigned to the 90th's company at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, the 178th Replacement Company at Camp Alpha. We did the R&R processing for the 90th out of Tan Son Nhut.

My assignment was probably one of the best in Vietnam. While there were moments of concern, all things being said, it was an enjoyable experience.

The 90th Replacement Battalion arrived in Vietnam in August of 1965, and was posted on Tan Son Nhut until early 1967. Most of the early replacements have memories of the tent city that existed there at that time. After the battalion's move to Long Binh, it maintained its presence on Tan Son Nhut with the 178th Replacement Company at Camp Alpha.

In 1973 upon its recall from Vietnam, the 90th Replacement Battalion was deactivated at Oakland. The icon of the Vietnam War had ceased to exist on the Army's rolls. The battalion had served in five European campaigns during World War II, and all seventeen campaigns of the Vietnam War. It was there on May 29, 1973 as the last U. S. combat troops left Vietnam. Today, it has been reactivated by the Army with a different designation: the 90th Personnel Services Battalion with mission of Postal Services in Europe. I am proud to have been a part of its Vietnam history.

**Shown at the beginning of this article is the official unit crest authorized by the Army Institute of Heraldry in 1966 for the 90th Replacement Battalion.

<<<<<< TSNA >>>>>>

I received an article for Revetments which began, "This is what I remember of May the 6th, 1968 . . ." I have it ready for publication, but lost the name of the author! Please contact me at: lfry2@@dejazzd.com so everything can be done correctly.

Thanks. Larry Fry

RUB-A-DUB-DUB, RITS FIXES A TUB

By Richard Carvell

Tan Son Nhut AB, 23 July 1970
What does it take to fix a washing machine? A Tech Sergeant named Williams and a little time.

On the initial orientation tour of the Sanctuary de Phu My for the new RITS Civic Action Officer, Captain Richard Carvell, another RITS member in the visiting party, SSgt Lee R. Phillips, discovered that one of the three Phu My washing machines was out of order. How long the "out of order" sign had hung on the machine was an unanswered question. Mission: Fix the machine.

TSgt Joseph P. Williams was betting on a faulty timer switch after preliminary observations at the scene. But because he had more testing equipment and better repair facilities at the RITS, the maintenance NCOIC suggested bringing the machine here for a thorough check-out. And before the afternoon was over, the bugs were out of the washer. Literally!

Neatly tucked between two relays in the timer switch, TSgt Williams found a grasshopper. After the insect was evicted, the machine went through its cycles like a dream.

"They've got themselves a washer in good-as-new shape," commented the RITS Maintenance Chief. SSgt Phillips returned the washer to Phu My today.

Fixing it was a real international "incident": An American GI working on a Japanese model washing machine in a Vietnamese Sanctuary operated by French Roman Catholic Nuns.



Weather Support at Tan Son Nhut
By Dale Bryan
TSNA Secretary

All of us are concerned with, inquire about, and wonder about the weather. Will it be warm tomorrow? Will a snow storm keep me home from work tomorrow? Why did the temperature drop so suddenly this afternoon?

When you initially saw the title of this article, I can imagine your thoughts and silent response. Who needed a weather forecast in Vietnam? We all knew it was going to be (or stay) hot. We all knew that during the wet season it rained everyday. How did weather forecasters and observers contribute to the mission in Vietnam?

Remember history; weather impacts military operations. The Invincible Armada was defeated as much by weather as by the English. Weather conditions favorable to General Washington made his crossing of the Delaware a success and he was victorious at Trenton. D-Day was executed only after General Eisenhower had a favorable forecast. Yeah, but that kind of weather never occurred in Vietnam! No strong winds outside of a typhoon. No rivers to cross in winter. No waves and tides to consider. The last time tides were considered was likely at Inchon in Korea.

Ask anyone who has been there; Tan Son Nhut Air Base was always buzzing with activity. Lots of flight operations; it was the busiest airport in the World when most of us were associated with the place. An aircraft operates in the atmosphere where the weather impacts its operation at all levels. Even what the weather does at ground level is impor-

tant. Anyone who worked with the RF-4 knows that it had a propensity to hydroplane on a wet runway. Operations at 460th TRW had to know in advance when a heavy rain shower was going to occur. That's were base weather came on the scene. We had weather radar and could "see" the thunderstorms moving toward the base. Reconnaissance Operations Center (ROC) was notified, and an aircraft might recover at Bien Hoa instead of Tan Son Nhut. When I say weather radar, it was not like that seen on television today. We had a monochrome (one color) display of echoes in yellow on a black background. No "movies" to depict storm motion. We used a grease pencil to mark cells on the glass overlay of the screen and had to estimate motion.

A significant operation at Tan Son Nhut was aircraft fueling, and it had to be suspended when lightning was within three miles of the airport. How did those who fueled aircraft determine how far away the lightning they observed was from them? They called base weather. We had the radar and attempted to pinpoint the "cells" or thunderstorm centers. The correlation of cell echo intensity maximum on radar and the location of lightning is not a perfect correlation, but it was all we had. How much easier our job would have been had we had lightning detectors like those I worked with 20 years later in the late 80's.

Every aircraft that filed an instrument flight plan (IFR was the term used) had to have a weather briefing and a form signed by a forecaster, and it was filed with the other paper-

work. Every Military Airlift Command (MAC) aircraft that came through Tan Son Nhut had to have a formal weather briefing before departing. The Scatback's needed weather briefings. A T-39 courier flight with multiple stops required a weather form with many air base terminal forecast entries. A challenging weather briefing was for C-118 flights to Katmandu, Nepal. There were no terminal forecasts issued for Katmandu, so we had to make the forecast ourselves. That is not an easy task considering we had never been there. Forecasts for Calcutta, India were available, so we gave that as an alternate. Why the flights to Katmandu? Ambassador Bunker's wife was the ambassador to Nepal, and he was flown for a visit approximately every six weeks.

We in the Air Weather Service (AWS) were tenants at Tan Son Nhut. In fact, we were tenants everywhere we worked. AWS, a subcommand of MAC, was divided into wings with each supporting a major air command. 1st Weather Wing supported PACAF and was headquartered at Hickam AFB, HI. Wings were divided into squadrons that supported a numbered air force. 30th Weather Squadron of 1st Weather Wing supported 7th Air Force and was at Tan Son Nhut. Under squadrons were detachments at the local base level. I was in Detachment 2, 30th Weather Squadron, base weather at Tan Son Nhut. There is a bit more to this rundown of AWS bureaucracy. AWS supported the U.S. Army, a throwback to the days when the Air Force was part of the Army. There was also the

5th Weather Squadron at Tan Son Nhut, and it supported all Army operations in Vietnam. A third squadron supported USAF operations at the bases in Thailand, and all three of the squadrons were part of 1st Weather Group at Tan Son Nhut. Best thing about being at Tan Son Nhut with 1st Weather Group: We had great monthly commander's call with good barbecue and cold beer. Now a "war story".

My initial orders for Vietnam had me slated to be commander of an operating location of 5th Weather Squadron at Cu Chi to support the 25th Infantry Division. My initial response: I went to college to keep from being drafted to end up in the infantry! While in college, I signed up for ROTC, and to make sure I would not end up an infantry officer, I chose Air Force ROTC. Of course, I ended up at Tan Son Nhut, not Cu Chi. Why? My assignment before Vietnam was at a weather detachment that supported a Minuteman Missile wing, and as the wing weather officer to the missile wing, I held a high level security clearance and was not allowed in the field to support an infantry unit immediately after supporting SAC. That's how I ended up at Tan Son Nhut. No complaints.

Upon arriving at Tan Son Nhut, the commander of Detachment 2 met me at the terminal. He said, "You will not necessarily stay here. You will be sent to a detachment that needs forecasters." Truth be known, all detachments were short of forecasters. We then proceeded to 30th Weather Squadron to allow me to be introduced to the squadron com-

mander. Upon arrival in the colonel's office, the detachment commander said, "I found this lieutenant at the terminal; can I keep him?" The colonel looked at a board on the wall, studied it for a couple of minutes, and then said, "You can keep him." I felt wanted and needed.

During most of my tenure at TSN, I worked at 460th TRW in the intelligence area. I needed the security clearance that kept me away from Cu Chi to work there. Weather must be considered when selecting "targets" or areas for taking aerial photos. Radar can "see" thorough clouds, but visible or infrared cameras are useless when there is a solid cloud cover below the aircraft. Also briefed and debriefed the flight crews about weather conditions. Many of the "targets" were in North Vietnam where we had no routine weather observations or forecasts. We could not just call up "Hanoi Weather Center" and ask for weather conditions north of the DMZ. We had to make our own forecasts. Pilot debriefs and a few passes each day from the weather satellites that existed then were the only weather data available over the north. No satellite "movies" as seen on TV today.

This has been a short discourse of weather support at Tan Son Nhut. There were good times, and there were some very sad and trying times. The saddest occurred while supporting 460th. Approximately eight missions did not return during my time supporting them. Nothing compares to the gloom felt by all present when announcement of a mission not returning was made.

My time at Tan Son Nhut occurred during the beginning of a long, rewarding career in aviation weather and safety. Lessons learned there have been applied to trying situations in later years. I'm proud for many reasons to be privileged to identify myself as a Vietnam veteran.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY TAN SON NHUT/ VIETNAM

January 7, 1962—Ranch Hand's first three aircraft and crew arrived at TSN for what was expected to be a 120 day tour of duty. (Your VP was there)

During January 1962 a detachment of a dozen Fairchild C-123 transports arrived in South Vietnam to deliver supplies to distant outposts, like those established by the Army Special Forces along the border with Laos, and to drop South Vietnamese parachute troops in operations against the Viet Cong. Called **Mule Train**, the unit operated ten C-123s from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and two from Da Nang Air Base.

January 15, 1962: During a press conference, President Kennedy is asked if any Americans in Vietnam are engaged in the fighting. "No," the President responds without further comment.

January 31, 1968 Attack on Tan Son Nhut.

January 31, 1973, Paris Peace Accord signed.

**THE VIETNAM GALLANTRY
CROSS**

**By Robert R. Gales
TSNA President**

The Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Gallantry Cross was established by the Government of Vietnam by Decree No. 74-b/Qt, dated 15 August 1950 and Decree No. 96/DQT/HC, dated 2 May 1952. The unit version of the award was created in 1968. The medal was awarded by the Republic of Vietnam to military units and individually to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level.

U.S. Military units were individually cited for award of the RVN Gallantry Cross; however, the Republic of Vietnam issued the award to all units subordinate to Military Assistance Command (MACV) during the period 8 February 1962 and 28 March 1973. There is some confusion as to whether the award period actually commenced 1 March 1961 and ran until the fall of Saigon in April 1975.

Congressional authority has been given to the Armed Forces of the United States to accept decorations proffered by the Republic of Vietnam in recognition of service performed during the period. This permits all personnel who served in Vietnam to wear the RVN Gallantry Cross unit citation which is basically the Gallantry Cross Ribbon, with a metal palm device, enclosed within a gold frame.

Authorization for all U.S. Army personnel was confirmed in HDQA General Orders No. 8, dated 19 March 1974.

Pursuant to Air Force Instruction 36-2803, *The Air Force Awards and Decorations Program*, dated 15 June 2001, Air Force members may accept the RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation. Individuals assigned to the units cited during the time period of the award may share in the award. Air Force Pamphlet 36-2801, *Unit Citations, Awards, and Campaign Participation Credits*, lists the cited units.



The Individual Award

On February 18, 2007, the "Lunar New Years Day of the Year of the Pig," His Imperial Highness Prince Regent Nguyen-phuc Buu Chanh of Vietnam, Duke of Kien Hoa, Descendant of His Imperial Highness Prince Nguyen Phuc Mien Dieu, Duke of Kien Hoa, the

71st Prince of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Minh Mang, and Grand Master of the Imperial Order of the Dragon of Annam, issued an Imperial Decree of interest to all Vietnamese citizens of the Diaspora, and also all Vietnam Veterans who fought in the "Cause of Freedom" between the dates August 15, 1945 - April 30, 1975:

As of this date. . . all Vietnam Veterans who fought for the cause of Freedom during the (inclusive) period August 15th, 1945 - April 30th 1975, and who are in possession of their Nations Vietnam Service Medal; then they are of this Lunar date Valiantly Bestowed the Imperial Nguyen Family decoration of THE IMPERIAL VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY - (With Gold Star). The IMPERIAL VIETNAMESE NGUYEN CROSS OF GALLANTRY - (With Gold Star) is the Real, Personal, and Dynastic property of the Imperial Nguyen Dynasty of Vietnam, and may be awarded as the Imperial Nguyen Family choose to see fit.

(IN EXILE) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: On the most wonderful celebration of the Lunar Year of the Pig 2007, His Imperial Highness Prince Regent NGUYÊN-PHUC Buu Chanh of Vietnam, Prince Regent of the Imperial Nguyen Dynasty, and in complete agreement with the Sacred, Most Wise, and Much Honored members of the Imperial Nguyen Crown Council sends greetings to ALL Vietnamese citizens of our Diaspora, spread to all four corners of the World, and to ALL Vietnam War Veterans Worldwide who fought for the Free-

dom of Vietnam, and wishes one and all a safe and very happy time of celebration on this festive occasion.

BY THE COMMAND of the IMPERIAL NGUYEN DYNASTY OF VIETNAM, and the sacred succession of OUR beloved Imperial Nguyen Forefathers, and Ancestor Emperors, AND acting in pursuit of the cause of the COMPLETE LIBERATION OF OUR FATHERLAND from her modern day communist oppressors, and as of the auspicious date of February 18, 2007.

THE IMPERIAL VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY (WITH STAR) which was created by our Beloved ancestor, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Bao Dai on 15th August 1950, is on this day forth lovingly awarded to ALL military personnel (men and women), civilians, armed forces units, and other organizations for valour and heroism, for their service in Vietnam, the Land of Dragons since time immemorial, during the above mentioned dates.

History records that The Imperial Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Anh-Dúng Bôi-Tinh), was founded by our late and much loved Emperor Bao Dai on 15th August 1950. However, The Imperial Nguyen Family now decree by these Letters Patent and Brevet, that the IMPERIAL NGUYEN CROSS OF GALLANTRY (WITH STAR) is awarded "retroactive" from the date of the end of WWII; August 15th, 1945.

Eligibility for this Decoration:

(1) Vietnamese civilians and

military personnel who satisfy the criteria specified in the award of our own National Vietnam service medal. This includes Press, Red Cross, United Nations, Civilian Organizations and Entertainers.

(2) Citizens of other foreign countries who satisfy the criteria specified in the award of their own National Vietnam service medal; and this includes those Brave French soldiers, Nurses, Aircrew and Navy personnel. This includes Press, Red Cross, United Nations, Civilian Organizations and Entertainers.

(3) This award is Tri-Service.

WE charge that this Imperial Decree be RECOGNISED and RESPECTED by ALL Countries, Governments, Organizations, and Citizens who value and cherish FREEDOM and DEMOCRACY.

It is unclear if this decree has been recognized by the United States Government or if further action is necessary to permit individuals who would otherwise be eligible for the award, and who most probably have either retired or are near retirement from the Armed Forces of the United States, to accept and wear it.

MEMORIES OF TAN SON NHUT

**Joseph E. Davenport
Retired General Services Officer
Villa Rica, Georgia**

On February 12th, 1965 I was

dropped off from a deuce and half truck in front of "Tent City" on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, RVN, and told by the driver to "find a place to live" as he took off down the dirt road.

There I stood, 19 years old, dumb, wide-eyed, anxious, and thought I would live forever. I had arrived in Vietnam to serve as an "Advisor." A few months later the combat troops would arrive.

Times were tough at TSN in the early years. Spam sandwiches were popular in the Airmen's Club, and I remember several times when the Chow Hall ran out of food as you stood in line. I also remember powdered milk, powdered eggs (good with ketchup), Ba-Mi-Ba beer, rat meat sandwiches (so she said), and no ice cream.

Other memories were "no sweat pills," separate VD lines for officers and enlisted (although it had no respect for rank), heat, odors, long hours with very few days off, and fear of VC terrorist attacks. I cannot remember working less than 12-hour shifts.

After a few months in the tents we were moved to the "H" type masonry buildings located near the Communications Group headquarters, Airmen's Club, and the mailroom.

I left Vietnam in February, 1966, and was given an assignment to South Ruislip AS, England, as a reward for my Vietnam service. I stayed with the Air Force for over 22 years, and retired in 1986.

Within a few months after my military retirement, I was hired by the Department of State as a Communications Officer (I was a Commcenter Specialist, and later a Tech Controller in the Air Force). As a Foreign Service Specialist I served as a Comm Officer in Bamako, Mali; Seoul, Korea; Nassau, Bahamas, and Bandar, Seri Begawan, Brunei. Approximately ten years ago I grew tired of communications work and changed my entire working life around by becoming a General Services and Contracting Officer with State. I served in that capacity in Kingston, Jamaica, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Caracas, Venezuela.

Embassy work is interesting and rewarding, but there comes a time to hang it up. Upon completion of half of my tour of duty in Caracas, I did just that. I am now retired to golf until I drop in Villa Rica, Georgia.

I've had an interesting life, spending most of it overseas, but my time in Southeast Asia remains strongest in my memories. I made friends from that time so long ago whom I still think about today.

HIS LIFE IS OUR WAY

By Chaplain James M. Warrington

The goal of our journey is God Himself—not an “experience,” but God Himself, the One and only Reality. Each pilgrim, as he sets out on the way Knows that he may say, “I come from God, I belong to God, I go unto God.” Past, present and future are gathered up in Him. And during our life on earth, the highest expression of this, our final destiny, is in the act of worship. Here we touch

bed-rock; here we know that God alone IS, that God alone matters. Here, God manifests Himself in Christ, most majestic and most merciful. Apart from Christ Jesus, there is no meaning in life, no hope, no “way.” We only exist because of God. Hence, God has the supreme claim upon us, upon our whole being. Gently, but inexorably, God, who is perfect Love, asks from us a total response: all we have and are, and every sphere and activity of human life; for nothing lies outside the scope of God’s sovereignty.

It is by way of the humanity of Christ, that we are able to worship God the Transcendent. How can we follow the way Jesus led? How can we lead the Christ like Life? This journey will mean very different things to each one of us, according to our vocation; but one point comes out very plainly in the Gospel narration, that the “way” of Jesus, was a living and moving way. There was no stagnation, no withdrawal from the demands of life; although there were many periods of solitude and unrecorded experience. Whatever He was doing, and whatever He was, Jesus was always, “on the way.”

Jesus was born on a journey in a village inn— in a stable. As a baby He was carried away swiftly into exile in Egypt When his “hour” had come, He left home, and went out into the world; down to the Jordan Valley to be baptized; then away into the wilderness of Judea To be tempted of the evil one, Satan; from visits to Nazareth, he went away again to the Lake; again and again across the Lake to “the other side;” from the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, up through the wilderness to Jerusalem; from the turmoil of the city to the quiet of the Mount of Olives; from the Up-

per Room to the Hill of Calvary. None of these journeys was aimless; yet always He seemed to be a wanderer, a traveler without a home; until on the Cross he “inclined” His head and went home to the Father. There was an inner constraint about His life: there was no hurry, but there was purpose and urgency. He had a work to do, and He could not rest until it was accomplished.

We too are called, whatever our life may be, to be always “on the way” - the way that leads to God, the way of uttermost love and service to human beings. When we offer ourselves to God in Worship, we promise to follow wherever He may lead, without knowing what this will involve. Sometimes we shall feel afraid, like His disciples on the road up to Jerusalem. Sometimes we shall feel that we have lost sight of the track, like travelers in the Sahara, when a sand storm has blotted out the route. But we learn to keep on, regardless of feeling afraid, or uncertain, or perplexed. All these temptations to fear and anxiety can be met, by casting ourselves more resolutely then ever, into the merciful, loving-kindness of God, who has pledged Himself to bring us through.

To be like this, however, means being willing to go, where we would rather not, or to stay in a situation from which we would like to escape, or to live in circumstances we would never have chosen. Through this discipline we have come to have one desire and one only: to be entirely at God’s disposal, for whatever He may appoint to be done, or to be borne. This is the way of the Christ, this is the vocation of the Christian.

Tan Son Nhut Association

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NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

From new member **Joseph S. Kricho**, Switchboard Operator, 1876th Comm. Sq. Dec. 27, 1967—Dec. 19, 1968: "The switchboard was located in the Hq. 7th AF Compound. Arrived 30 days before the '68 Tet Offensive. I can't remember if it was Tet, the Spring Offensive, or the May Offensive, but one of our barracks took a direct hit. I've recently looked at some satellite photos of Tan Son Nhut and some of the facilities (7th AF HQ, swimming pool/tennis courts in the MACV Compound) are still there. Looking forward to being a member of your organization."

From new member **Nicholas F. Trachuk**, Cryptographer, USAF Det 1, 5th Comm. Sq. Div PACAF, Nov. 13, 1962—Dec. 13, 1962: "We were stationed at Tan Son Nhut in field tents for our living quarters! Our communications trailer was near the ammunition depot and near the air runway. I worked in Crypto with radio outfit Detachment 1, 5th Communication Squadron Div. During our deployment there were incoming mortars from Viet-Cong to the base. Our C-130 Hercules flew throughout Vietnam—combat cargo. We were their main communication source in Air Div. Route Support. Vietnam 1962, flag draped coffin of U. S. Soldier was on my C-130 flight when I left Vietnam for the Philippines."