



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



MAY 2016

HUNTSVILLE, AL SPACE PROGRAM

When Dr. Wernher von Braun arrived in 1950 in the tiny Alabama town which called itself the "Watercress Capital of the World," Huntsville boasted a population of 15,000. Today, it is forged forever in history as the place where America's space program was born; where the rockets were developed that put the first U.S. satellite into orbit and sent men to the moon; where the power for today's space shuttle was developed; where the modules for the International Space Station were designed and built; and where America's next great ship – the Space Launch System – is being designed.

During the final months that von Braun and his team of scientists were refining the giant rocket that sent Apollo astronauts to the moon, he was also preparing to launch another important project: a permanent exhibit to showcase the hardware of the space program. Von Braun was director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville when he approached the Alabama Legislature with the idea of creating a museum jointly with the U.S. Army Missile Command and NASA. After Alabama lawmakers and its citizens voted in 1968 to finance construction, the U.S. Army donated land on its Redstone Arsenal, which is also the site of the sprawling NASA center, and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center® was born.

Since opening its doors in 1970, nearly 16 million people have toured the Center. The vast majority of those visitors have been from out of state or from foreign nations. Many of the more than 600,000 annual visitors are school students on field trips to their future. Dozens of interactive exhibits encourage visitor participation, prompting one official to note: "Here, everyone can be an astronaut for the day!" Home to [Space Camp®](#), [Aviation Challenge® Camp](#), and [Robotics Camp](#) the U.S. Space & Rocket Center (USSRC) is the largest spaceflight museum in the world. Its large rocket and space hardware collection is valued in the tens of millions of dollars. From America's first satellite, Explorer I, to next generation space vehicles like Sierra Nevada's *Dream Chaser*, the museum showcases the past, present and future of human spaceflight. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center serves as the Official [NASA Visitor Center](#) for [Marshall Space Flight Center](#) and is an [affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution](#).

The USSRC is more than just artifacts! Experience the physics of astronaut training like never before in simulators like Space Shot™ and G-Force. Our [Spacedome IMAX® Theater](#) and our [National Geographic Theater](#) transports you to different worlds with amazing documentary films like

Hubble, and live demonstrations in the Discovery Theater will have you seeing space science in a whole new light. There's always something happening at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center!

Notable Artifacts

- National Historic Landmark Saturn V Moon Rocket
- Pathfinder – the world's only full-stack space shuttle display
- Apollo 16 Command Module
- Skylab Orbital Workshop
- Apollo 12 Moon Rock

(See photos on page 6)

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

When I arrived, I first worked at 21st Casualty Staging Flight for a while, as did all new 377th arrivals.

I did not live with 377th USAF Dispensary troops who lived up by Security Police next to BX. I lived with Army paper pushers near in-country terminal, I think.

I arrived on Feb 1, 1969, and everyone was tense due to Tet '68.

John F. Lee
377th USAF Dispensary
Feb 69 - Feb 70

Do not recall much, as when I recovered from a serious injury, I "lost" a lot of memory. It is slowly still in the process of returning. I will have some "stories" in the future. I was originally sent to Tan Son Nhut to prepare to start a new radio station in Laos. That never happened. I lived in Saigon at the (I think) "Astor Hotel" until the Laos deal did not happen, then on base.

SSgt. Patrick J. Santell
Hq 7th AF & 600th CFS
Dec 65 - Sep 66.

**NOTATIONS FROM
APPLICATIONS**

I left Blytheville AFB. AR on Jan 4, 1967 to Vietnam. I attended Camp Bullis for training in San Antonio, TX.

I arrived in Vietnam on March 15, 1967. Assigned to Phu Cat AFB; after 1 month reassigned to Tan Son Nhut in Saigon. I was assigned to Security and later assigned to 7th AF (HQ) Honor Guard and pulled entry point guard indoors and outside the compound. Our barracks (new) were near the flight line and the new BX. I pulled security and bunker duty during my time on the strike team squad. I can't remember the sector I pulled, but it was near the village on the base on Tan Son Nhut and was assigned to the Main Gate during Tet '68 and later put back to Honor Guard at 7th AF (HQ) Honor Guard. My supervisor at 7th AF (HQ) Honor Guard was Malvin C. Anderson, SSgt., USAF 377th Security Police Sq. My NCOIC, Law Enforcement Operations Section was Sgt. Patrick Bowden. My Law Enforcement Operations Officer was Frederick J. Reder, Capt., USAF 377th Security Police Sq. My Squad Leader was A1C or Sgt Roger Neal.

After Vietnam I went to Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM. I entered the U. S. Army National Guard of New Mexico after 2 years NM Air National Guard in Albuquerque, NM. I have qualified in the U. S. Army National Guard as a squad leader on the Chaparral Air Defense, Avenger, Stinger Missile Operator, Personnel and U. S. Army (Ft. Bliss) School in El Paso, TX as a Truck Driver (Heavy).

My education is BA in Physical Ed. Health (Minor); other minors are Special Education, Secondary Education, Drivers Training Instructor, and Nutrition.

Masters Degrees are in Physical Education (K-12), Special Education (K-12) specializing in Learning Disabilities and Guidance & Counseling and Agency (K-12) and retired from teaching after 25 years while coaching football, basketball, and track at the Jr. High level. I also was activated in December 2001/January 2002 and was assigned to Cannon AFB for 1 year (The NM Army National Guard took over Security on the Base in Clovis, NM. We all had to qualify as Security Force personnel while being stationed there. Retired from the NM Army in September 2005, and retired from teaching in May 2006.

God Bless America and the U. S. Air Force Security Forces forever. Retired as a SFC (Army), MSgt. (USAF).

Arthur T. Campos
377th Air Police Squadron
Mar 67—Mar 68.

I U. S. Navy had an office at 7th AF HQ at TSN. I was discharged from the Navy in 1969 in Saigon and went to work for a Department of Defense contractor named Alaska Barge and Transport (A B & T). For AB&T I worked in DaNang, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, and Vung Tao.

Married my wife in Saigon in 1970. Had three children born in Vietnam. We evacuated from Saigon in May, 1975.

Lee "Barry" Harris
USN Com 7th Fleet Detachment "C".
Apr 66—May 75

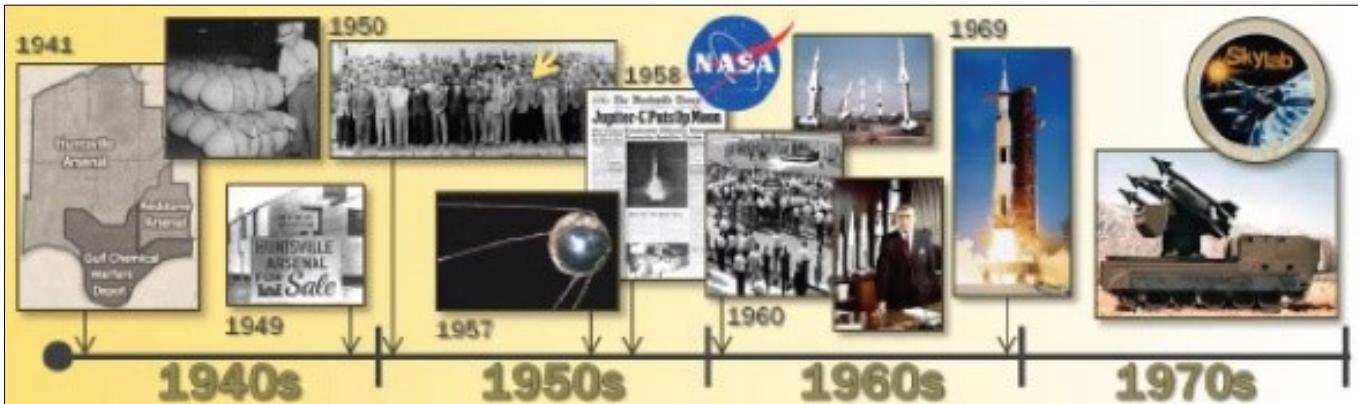
I was in the Army stationed at Camp Alpha on TSN. My job was to process people on R & R and returning from R & R and helping them get transportation back to their unit. I also made sure the planes were ready to board by ones going on R & R.

I was there during Tet - had extended day before Tet for 6 months. Was in the Pan American office when we were first hit.

Dwight D. Thomas
178th Replacement Co. 90th Replacement Battalion
Feb 67 - Jul 68

EDITOR'S NOTE: Below on this page, and at the beginning of the next page is a history of Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, AL, where a good number of us will be gathering in September for the TSNA Reunion.

I hope you enjoy reading this history. We will be visiting this facility as part of the reunion, so sign up now!



Pre-Arsenal Settlements:

The middle Tennessee River valley, now occupied by Redstone Arsenal, was originally inhabited by various American Indian tribes including the Creek, Cherokee and Chickasaw. By the early 1800's, Anglo-American farmers had established farming communities along this region of the Tennessee River basin. Over 550 families, mostly tenants and sharecroppers, lived in small farming communities on this land. Ultimately, the U.S. War Department purchased the farm land to build what is now known as Redstone Arsenal.

1940s:

Today's Redstone Arsenal was originally formed as three separate entities in 1941 and 1942 as part of the War Department's ramp-up for WWII. Huntsville Arsenal manufactured chemicals, Redstone Ordnance Plant (later Redstone Arsenal) manufactured munitions, and the Huntsville Chemical Warfare Depot (later Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot) stored the conventional and chemical filled munitions before being shipped out.

Once WWII ended, the focus shifted from production to the demilitarization and salvaging of munitions along with the deactivation of the huge manufacturing facilities at the arsenal complex. Some of the empty buildings were even leased to private enterprise. By 1949, part of the arsenal was advertised for sale by the Army Corps of Engineers. The sale never happened due to the Army's decision to consolidate its rocket and guided missile missions here in 1948 and 49.

1950s:

With the arrival of Dr. Wernher von Braun and his rocket team from Fort Bliss in 1950, the arsenal became the center of Army missiles and rocketry. During this decade, Redstone's scientists, engineers, and technicians transformed numerous weapon systems such as the REDSTONE, JUPITER, HAWK, PERSHING, NIKE AJAX, and NIKE HERCULES from dreams into realities. It was also during this time that the von Braun team made several notable contributions to the nation's space effort while working for the Army. Most notable was the Army's launching of America's first satellite, EXPLORER I, into space in January of 1958. This and other achievements by the Army helped lay the foundation for U.S. space exploration.

1960s:

In support of the newly formed NASA, a large number of Army employees, land and facilities supporting space and rocket programs were transferred to NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) was established. Army work continued to focus on developing and sustaining ground and air defense missile systems with a focus on the Cold-War and maintaining a technological edge over Soviet systems. Meanwhile, MSFC was focusing on the ultimate space prize of putting a man on the moon. Rocket motor test stands roared as MSFC worked around the clock to achieve manned space flight. The Saturn-V rocket that eventually carried our three astronauts to the moon in 1969 was ultimately the result of the work performed here.

1970s & 1980s:

Although the United States had won the Space Race, the Cold-War continued on. Redstone Arsenal activities continued to develop advanced weapon systems and train service members on the maintenance and repair. A few of these systems included the PERSHING-II, CHAPERRAL, Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), PATRIOT, and AVENGER.

After retiring the Apollo space missions, MSFC continued to focus on propulsion systems, space station operations, and numerous other programs. These included the Skylab space station, Space Shuttle development for routine space access, and Spacelab 1.

In 1988, a term that would later become part of the common local vocabulary, was first introduced as the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The 1988 BRAC round realigned the Test, Measurement and Diagnostics Equipment (TMDE) Center from Lexington, Kentucky and sparked a new era of growth only rivaled by the expansion seen previously with NASA's space programs.

1990s:

The Space Shuttle program throughout the nineties served as NASA's workhorse. Its many flights included the delivery of the Hubble Space Telescope which was another program developed at MSFC.

BRAC 1991 brought materiel and logistics readiness for the FBI and ATF, and various new programs within activities from Lexington, Kentucky, and the Presidio of San Francisco, California, which merged and later became AMC's Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA). Additionally, mission set, only found at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

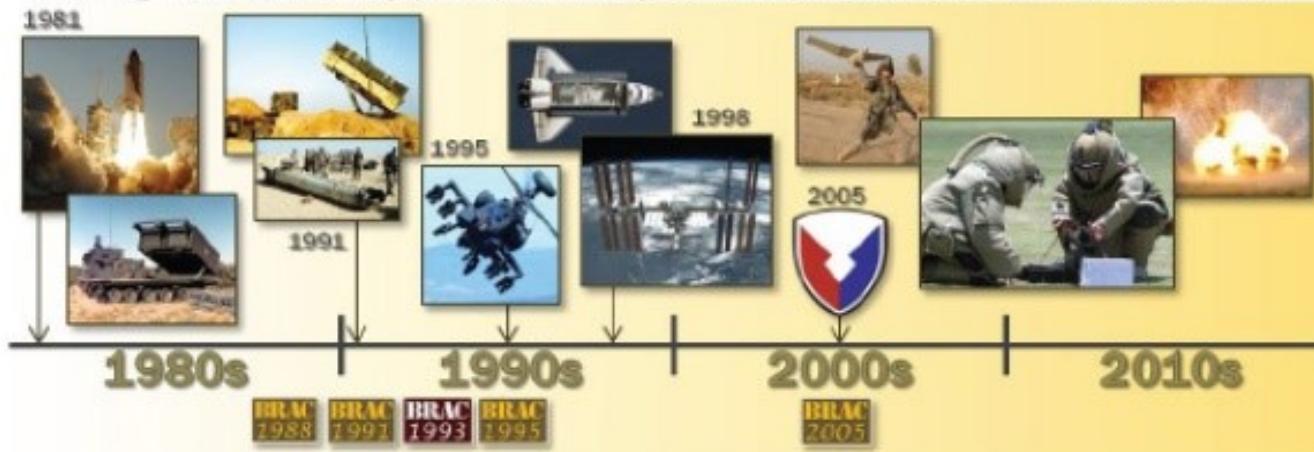
the Armament, Munitions and Materiel Command (AMCOM) was to relocate to Redstone, but this decision was reversed in the 1993 BRAC round. Another BRAC round was released in 1995 which realigned Multiple Army aviation activities and commands from St. Louis, Missouri, and merged them with Redstone Arsenal's Missile Command and other missile related centers.

2000s:

The synergies created by bringing aviation to Redstone Arsenal resulted in tremendous growth on the installation and in the local community as the results of the largest BRAC round to date were released. BRAC 2005 brought the Army Materiel Command's four-star headquarters, Space and Missile Defense Command's 3-star headquarters, the majority of DoD's Missile Defense Agency, and U.S. Army Security Assistance Command's 2-star headquarters from Northern Virginia. The Aviation Technical Test Center moved from Fort Rucker, Alabama and merged with the Redstone Technical Test Center to become Redstone Test Center. 2nd Recruiting Brigade and 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion were also realigned to Redstone from Fort Gillem, Georgia.

Other significant growth has occurred due to decisions outside of the BRAC process as well. The newly activated Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command, realignment of Department of Justice's explosives research and analytical centers

existing organizations have not only brought growth. They have added to the already diverse and dynamic mission set, only found at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.



MORE HUNTSVILLE, AL INFORMATION

Here is another good website address to find out more about our 2016 TSNA Reunion city: Just hold your CTRL button while clicking on the link..

http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/about/huntsville_history.html

Thanks again to our "Boots on the Ground, Kerry Nivens, for this information.



Editor's Note: Above is a picture from a Dedication ceremony at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial, which TSNA 2016 Reunion participants will be visiting on Saturday, September 24. Judging from the covered statue in the bottom right of the photo, this was the unveiling of this statue:

The title on the base of this statue reads:

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE"



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It happened again! A study of the days ahead reveals a great sense of events, traditions and history! The next four months hold a huge period of traditions. Start May with National Day of Prayer! We have just passed the religious day of Passover.

What is it all about? Well it is our history. The poet Shelley is quoted: "History is a cyclic poem written by time upon the memories of man!"

There are a lot of Memorials standing around our country. They call out the cornerstones of whom and what we are! We leave behind our personal histories and feelings. This year we add another Memorial of Service in Vietnam and those who served with us. As Harold MacMillan said about traditions and memorials, "Tradition does not mean that the living are dead: it means that the dead are living."

That means we are speaking to and for those we have served with those years ago.

Proverbs 22: 28 signals the wisdom of the traditions and memorials.

To quote one of my wife's ancestors Friederich Nietzsche, "The veneration paid the tradition accumulates from generation to generation while it at last becomes holy and excites awe".

This time "Not a Sermon", it's thoughts in being a member of TSNA.

Chaplain Bob Chaffee

TSNA Saturday afternoon September 24 Book Signing

David Carney served in the U.S. Army 1963 to 1970 as a nuclear weapons technician. During that time he was stationed in Germany, Italy, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Much later he joined to the National Guard as a Public Affairs Specialist with a deployment to Hungary and Bosnia and shorter tours at the Pentagon, Japan, Thailand, and Joint Base McCord, Washington.

In 2003 he was ordered to active duty by his brigade commander to "take care of the Soldiers and their families" during the deployment of the entire brigade which was located in 19 cities across Alabama. He quickly learned that what really mattered to both Soldiers and families was the welfare of the families, especially their children.

So he created many programs across the state such as interactive video tele-conferencing between families and Soldiers in Iraq, three radio shows interactive with both Soldiers and families, a weekend shopping trip to an outlet mall near the beach in Alabama, and many programs across the state. He created departure and return ceremonies for every unit in all nineteen cities.

His awards include mayor's keys to five Alabama cities and the Distinguished Service Medal of Alabama (the highest award the state offers.) He has been recognized by proclamation many times by both the state legislature and governor.

A virtual orphan, he was raised by grandparents, uncles, and aunts until he started looking for a "real" home. He quit school in the 10th grade to join the Army at age 17. Later he graduated Athens State University with highest honors and then earned a Masters in Business Administration from University of Alabama - Huntsville. He taught economics, accounting, and marketing at Faulkner University. He is also a retired banker.

He speaks frequently to various groups on attitude and service to others.

He is known for his upbeat attitude and outlook on life.

<http://davidcarney.com/>



OTHER
THINGS
TO
SEE
AND
DO
IN
OUR
REUNION
CITY,
SEPT.
22-25,
2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow TSNA Members,

As we start to approach the last few months before our next reunion, things are pulling together. A big thanks to Kerry, our Boots on the Ground in Huntsville. He has really been working hard to get everything lined up. We have some great speakers, book signer and entertainment lined up.

Rita and I will be heading to Huntsville in June for 4 days to finalize with Kerry and the hotel. We will be going over everything with Peggy, the Director of food service, the hotel, our sites for tours, etc.

You can start getting your reservations made now. Huntsville is a great city, very Military. Check elsewhere in this issue of Revetments for the Reunion Registration and Schedule.

We are hoping for a big turnout. Excited to see everyone and maybe some newbies too!

I have been out on the recruiting trail; I pledge each year to sign up 25 new members. I am now at 17. Still have time to reach that goal, working on 4 right now. Have you all signed up that 1 new member? Have you asked someone who is already a member to attend the reunion? Please do. We want to get them excited about TSNA and get involved also.

I want to shout out a big thank you to Joe and Bill for their great efforts for 2017 Reunion in Colorado Springs. They set everything up, got us a great hotel and again this is a wonderful Military city also, with lots to do. Joe and I will be meeting up in Colorado Springs to get things lined up there soon. Thanks Joe and Bill.

So mark your Calendar for Sept, 2016 in Huntsville, AL, then ahead for 2017 in Colorado Springs, CO.

I know Rich is getting a few applications for our Scholarships. If you have one you need to get this to Rich soon as the deadline is fast approaching. This is a wonderful legacy for TSNA to pass on for some deserving young people. It is a lasting thing also.

Throughout the year your board of directors has been busy working on things, so I want to thank all of them for their time as we email, call, etc to get things done. Next I want to thank Carol for all her time and expertise of getting our taxes and paperwork in.

Pack your auction things up and get them ready for another great fundraising for TSNA.

Just 5 months away, so it's time to get excited or as some say get fired up. I am!!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone, having some good visits and just good ol' fellowship.

Soon,

Randall W Brown

President TSNA

FAVORITE SAYINGS

There is so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us that it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us.

A positive attitude will not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.
(Herm Albright)

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing.
If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!



TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

2016 REUNION

September 22 - 25, 2016

Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport, Huntsville, AL

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (*Updated April 29, 2016*)

LOCATION	DAY	TIME	EVENT
Executive Salon	Wednesday	Noon	Hospitality Suite & Registration Opens
Executive Salon	Thursday	9AM	Hospitality Suite & Registration Opens
Executive Salon	Friday	9AM	Hospitality Suite & Registration Opens
	Friday	8:30AM	Buses leave for tour of Redstone Arsenal
	Friday	TBD	Buses return to hotel from Redstone Arsenal
	Friday	TBD	Buses leave for Bench Dedication and tour of U. S. Veterans Memorial Museum
	Friday	TBD	Buses return from Museum
Grand Salon	Friday	6PM	Cash Bar Opens & Seating is Available
Grand Salon	Friday	6:50 PM	Group Photo???
Grand Salon	Friday	7PM	Banquet Begins

(A SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR THE BANQUET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BANQUET)

Executive Salon	Saturday	9AM	Hospitality Suite Opens
	Saturday	TBD	Buses leave for tour of Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial
	Saturday	TBD	Buses return from Memorial
Executive Salon	Saturday	2PM	Book Signing By David Carney
Heritage Room	Saturday	5PM	Board Meeting
Executive Salon	Saturday	8PM	General Business Meeting
Grand Salon	Sunday	7:30AM-9:30AM	Farewell Breakfast Buffet

SPECIAL NOTE: The **DAYTIME** activities shown above will be held during the reunion. The exact timing, and day for each activity are still being worked out.

The evening schedule remains as shown.

Try to get to Huntsville on Thursday, because a lot of things start happening Friday morning, that you don't want to miss.

Tan Son Nhut Association 2016 Reunion Registration

OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF TAN SON NHUT AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport, Huntsville, AL September 22 - 25, 2016

NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$75. = _____
PRE-ORDER VIDEO OF 2016 REUNION _____ X \$15. = _____

PAYMENT to TSNA MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO THE "TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION" AND MAIL TO:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 236

Penryn, PA 17564-0236

Reunion begins Thursday, 9-22-2016

Reunion ends Sunday, 9-25-2016

ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

Please check the Master Schedule for the timings of the following!!

Access to the TSNA Hospitality Suite (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) (\$10. daily if purchased separately.)

TSNA Friday Banquet Buffet Dinner. (\$30. if purchased separately.)

(Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately, if you are not paying the full fee.)

Friday morning tour of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

Saturday morning Memorial Bench Dedication ceremony and tour of the U. S. Veterans Memorial Museum.

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Room rate has been group discounted to \$103.00 per night, including tax. This rate will be honored up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion. Hotel reservations must be made no later than September 14, 2016 to receive this special rate. Two breakfast coupons are included in the guest room rate, for a hot breakfast.

Here are links for you to access the site to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation. Hold on your CTRL button, then click your mouse button:

[Tan Son Nhut](#) (OR copy and paste the following link into a web browser):

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1602029501&key=D93685F>.

(Editor's Note: DO NOT type in the words "Tan Son Nhut" into a web browser - you won't get what you want. JUST CLICK on the wording Tan Son Nhut above, or the web address given. Either one will take you to the same place.)

Other hotel amenities include free parking and free Wi-Fi.



Our Honored Guest Speaker is Colonel John Reitzell, U. S. Army Retired.

4/14/16 Rev.

**Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
Penryn PA 17564**

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Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



A nighttime picture of some of the visitor attractions in Huntsville, AL.

NEW MEMBERS

John F. Lee Comfort TX texweb5@yahoo.com Feb 69 - Feb 70 377th USAF Dispensary/21st Cas.Stg.Flt.
Arthur T. Campos Santa Rosa NM Mar 67 - Mar 68 377th Air Police Sq-Security

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