

MAY 2008



**A Memorial to the American Experience
In Vietnam**

“All included, none excluded”

REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

ST. LOUIS HERE WE COME!

JULY 31—AUGUST 3, 2008

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

2008 REUNION

Renaissance St. Louis Grand & Suites Hotel

The Saturday night, August 2nd Banquet Speaker will be:

ADRIAN CRONAUER

Special Assistant to the Director, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office,
Office of the Secretary of Defense.

(Better known for, “Gooooooood Morning VIETNAM!”)

COME, GREET OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES

Make your reservation today with the hotel—only \$99. per night!

ALSO: Please send in your reservation form now to TSNA .

See Pages 2 and 3 for more details and the Reservation form.

Tan Son Nhut Association Reunion in St. Louis, MO
July 31 – August 3, 2008

Renaissance St Louis Grand & Suites Hotel, 800 Washington Ave.

Room Rate is \$99. per night, plus tax.

TSNA Registration is \$130. per person. Costs includes the following:

Thursday, 5PM Hospitality/Registration Opens.

Friday, 10AM – The Battle for TSN, Tet '68. Mini-Symposium hosted by members Bob Laymon (retired USAF CMSgt) and Charles Penley (retired US Army MSgt)

Saturday, 2:20PM – bus departs for brewery tour

Saturday, 7-10PM Banquet Buffet Dinner & Program

Speaker: Adrian Cronauer, Special Assistant to the Director, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense
(Better known for, "Gooooood Morning Vietnam!")

Sunday, 7AM-8AM, Farewell Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, 8AM-11AM, Business Meeting

Hospitality Suite is stocked with snacks and beverages all 3 days. No extra fee.

Other local activities include: Optional riverboat cruises that depart from the Arch. Cost is \$10. per person. See www.gatewayarchriverboats.com for more information. Also, the President Casino, the Casino Queen, Laclede's Landing (with restaurants, bars, stores and horse drawn carriage rides); St. Louis Zoo, Science Center, Missouri Botanical Gardens; see the Cardinals at Busch Stadium; Soulard Farmers Market; and Grant's Farm.

Call the Renaissance St Louis Grand & Suites Hotel no later than July 10 to receive the special reunion rate of \$99. per room.

Toll free 1-800-397-1282; Hotel Front Desk 1-314-621-9600; Fax 1-314-621-9601. Check in time: 4 PM

COME, GREET OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES

QUESTIONS?

Contact: George Plunkett
Phone: 803-463-7555
Email viet62@aol.com

Tan Son Nhut Association 2008 Reunion Registration

OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF TAN SON NHUT AND THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT

YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE REUNION!

NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION?: _____ (IF NO, WHAT YEAR(S) DID YOU ATTEND TSNA REUNIONS? _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$130. = _____

OPTIONAL SATURDAY BREWERY TOUR
NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$5. = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN JULY 19, 2008

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

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
C/O GEORGE PLUNKETT
587 WILLIAMS CIRCLE
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29172

NO ATTACKS ON TSN PART 4

By Richard Carvell
12th RITS
Tan Son Nhut
June '70—June '71

In the news business, we sometimes joke about Monday being a "slow news day." During my Vietnam tour, Monday was the busiest day for terrorist attacks, accounting for 13 of the 35 attacks or about 37 percent of all of the attacks. The VC were next most busy on Saturdays, with nine attacks on this weekend day. Thursdays accounted for six terrorist attacks during the year I was in Vietnam.

Off-base military housing was the target at least three times during my tour. The first occurred on Friday, July 31, 1970, when 50 pounds of explosives was detonated on a Honda motorcycle at the Ky Son BEQ, ripping open a fuel tank. The explosion destroyed a generator at the BEQ, and power also went off at the BEQ, the Plaza Hotel, Ky Son Annex, and Dai Ham Theater. Three floors of the BEQ were heavily damaged, along with three vehicles, two motorcycles, and two Vietnamese tailor shops. Fortunately, no American was killed in this attack, although official accounts said one was wounded.

On December 15, 1970, 35 pounds of TNT exploded on the steps of a U.S. Army BOQ just two blocks from the Vietnamese Presidential Palace, damaging about 50 percent of the building. Although no Americans were killed in this attack, two were injured along with two Vietnamese civilians. The Pacific Stars & Stripes reported in its Dec. 17, 1970, edition: "The blast ripped off a balcony and damaged rooms on six floors of the building." A jeep was destroyed by the blast. "The jeep, which had been parked inside the com-

pound, was blown across the street," Stars & Stripes reported. Why were no more people hurt? Because, Stars & Stripes reported, "...almost everyone on that side of the building had gone to eat when the blast went off at 7:05 p.m."

Then, on December 26, 1970 (the day after Christmas), an explosion destroyed two generators at Merlin BEQ. Two U.S. Military Police were wounded, two Vietnamese children were killed, and the fire spread to neighboring shacks of disabled Vietnamese veterans, destroying 70 of the make-shift shelters and shanties.

The USO near Tan Son Nhut was the target of terrorist attacks two times during my tour.



On June 22, 1970, a grenade exploded in the kitchen of the USO, slightly injuring a Vietnamese kitchen helper, according to Pacific Stars & Stripes. Again on November 12, 1971, a grenade was thrown against the USO front door, but there were no casualties and only light damage to the door and the USO.

Other targets included a Vietnamese police station on Saturday, June 20, 1970. It was hit with a fire bomb, but there were no casualties. The Vietnam Regional Exchange Office at 489

Retrus Ky Street was targeted with 35 pounds of explosives on Saturday, September 12, 1970, but the terrorists missed the Exchange Office, instead damaging two houses and an automobile. Two Vietnamese civilians were wounded. There was no damage to the Exchange Office. A Vietnamese tax office was blown up on Saturday, November 28, 1970, as the terrorists held a guard at the building while they planted the explosives. There were no casualties, and the three terrorists escaped on two motorcycles, a frequent mode of egress for the urban terrorists operating in Saigon.

On July 13, 1970, the VC apparently tried to kill the secretary general of Vietnam's National Assembly, Pham Duy Tue. Pacific Stars & Stripes reported that Tue was in his Saigon apartment when a grenade exploded under his car as the driver (a guard) started the vehicle. The guard and a maid were injured.

Other terrorist targets in Saigon during my tour included bars, restaurants, vehicles, a bookstore, and a railroad station.

After the Saigon attack of the Merlin BEQ on the day after Christmas 1970, things were quiet until early April, about two months from my DEROS. On April 8, 1971, a 40 pound plastic explosive device detonated, killing an American GI and a Vietnamese civilian, and injuring 12 Vietnamese civilians. This was to be the last attack in Saigon until I departed the country on June 2, 1971, to return to Travis AFB, separation from active duty there, and return to civilian life and a job at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

MORE →

Perhaps the most unusual attack during my tour occurred on Monday, July 20, 1970, a little over 16 weeks into my tour. The VC launched a rocket apparently aimed at Vietnam's Presidential Palace.



It fell short, however, hitting the fish pond on the front lawn of the Palace complex. There were no civilian or military casualties ... and no report on the number of fish which died in the terrorist rocket attack!

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

Some Tan Son Nhut Tour Memoirs

Part I

By: CMSgt Bob Jarboe, USAF, (Ret)
6220th/33rd USAF Dispensary
June 1963 – April 1964
SSgt, USAF "Med Admin"

The following is my version of some of the happenings as I recall them which occurred during my assignment at Tan Son Nhut Airfield, just outside Saigon, RVN.

Taking off from Clark Air Base, PI, we came in via C123, flying just above the tree tops. Prior to our leaving, it had been suggested that while flying we sit on one of the spare flak vests, which would help in the event of the aircraft receiving small arms fire from the VC on the ground. We had no problems although personally, I was a bit apprehensive until we landed. On our arrival at Tan Son Nhut, monsoon season was in full swing with the

usual heavy downpours.

Mail delivery from the states came in by Pan Am jet (747). Most of us referred to it as "Blue Ball". As I recall, it usually arrived about 1300 hours and the incoming mail made it to our individual mail boxes within 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Not everyone received mail everyday. I usually received mine every few days. I remember on one occasion my mom had sent me some chocolate fudge. The package took more than three weeks to arrive. When I returned to the dispensary, some of my troop friends could smell chocolate through the wrapping. Upon opening the box we discovered there was a little mold on the fudge. That did not discourage us from scraping it off and eating what was left. We all enjoyed the "home made fudge." Not one of us became ill from having consumed a few pieces. I didn't have the heart to mention the mold when I wrote my mom to let her know I had received her package and loved the great tasting fudge. After all, it was her thoughtfulness that counted the most.

There were those weekends when a team of volunteers was formed consisting of each discipline assigned to our dispensary: medics, dental, MDs, administrative, medical supply, veterinary, and preventive medicine. We visited an orphanage, which was located just a short distance outside our base. We transported items such as sample pharmaceuticals, clothing for tots thru teens which had been sent from our families back home in the states. We also brought food, medical supplies and other equipment. There was a large trailer carrying large tanks of water, bathing items, soaps/shampoos, portable shower stalls, folding chairs and tables, and more. The vehicles

were positioned, and two shower stations were set up. We had one shower for the children to strip off their clothes, soap themselves up, and then do the rinsing. Appropriate efforts were taken to protect the modesty and privacy of those we were there to help. Some chaperones were provided for the female orphans in the showering process. After drying off, clothing items as received were provided. Children were screened to determine any need for treatment of skin infections, scrapes, cuts, etc. Many did need some routine treatment and were also given some limited routine dental care. Each was very happy to see us when we arrived and felt a lot better as we departed. It was sad to witness the conditions under which these children had to thrive. Speaking for myself, it was quite fulfilling to have had the opportunity to give of my time to do what I could for the children. No matter how small it may have been. "All included – None Excluded."

One day, as I was walking from my tent area to the dispensary for duty, a woman riding a motor bike passed in front of me. She had a small child rider on the rear. Suddenly, I saw a small object fly up into the air. It was a thong slipper thrown from the foot of the young child riding on the back of the bike. The child's left foot was caught up in the spokes. I ran towards the bike, yelling to the operator. She slowly stopped and I was able to assist with removing the child's leg from the spokes. The child's heel was nearly severed from the foot. I helped get the child to the dispensary which was just a short distance away. Our on duty medical personnel immediately began to care for the child. There was a physician overseeing the care. He decided to do what he could and later decided

he would try to give follow-up treatment care of the child as an outpatient humanitarian case. Sadly, despite the early efforts and care by the TSN Dispensary personnel the child later developed osteomyelitis, and the injured foot had to be amputated

In a letter to me from home my dad wrote that he had met a retired Army colonel. They got to talking and discovered each had a son serving in Vietnam. His son, an army captain, was serving as an adviser. Me, an AF SSgt, assigned to the dispensary. The colonel wrote his son's name, service number and unit on the back of one of his business cards and gave it to my dad, who sent it on to me. I was able to locate the captain's unit. They informed me that he was out in the field and would be back in a few days. A day or so later I received a phone call from the captain. He told me a little about himself. I did the same. I let him know where I worked. He said he needed a couple immunizations, was coming to the dispensary and while there would stop in and see me. The next day he showed up. We talked for a while. It was nice. As he was preparing to leave, he asked me if I would like to have a VC flag. I said sure! He said he would be going back out soon and would bring me one back. He and his driver drove off and I never spoke to him again. A few days later we got a signal that two casualties were coming in to our dispensary. Both deceased. Routinely, we were provided a heads up as to what the rank, branch of service and names of each casualty when available. Sadly, I was informed that the captain whom I had just met turned out to be one of the two individuals killed. It was difficult for me. Something I had never before experienced. On my return to the states, my wife and I

visited the captain's parents as they lived within ten miles of my home town. It was a nice visit, meeting them and sharing with them about my visit with their son. They were great people.

On one evening, there was a large grass fire at the perimeter of the airfield, near the flight line. The base command requested volunteers to help with putting out the fires. All available personnel were out working with water fire extinguishers, rakes, shovels, etc., quenching, smothering or stamping out the flames as best we could. We had been at it for some time when the word came down from command that we should withdraw from the burning areas. On being debriefed, we were told that as we were fighting the fires, we were silhouetted against the flames, which made us perfect targets for possible small arms fire. It was quite an experience. I did not hear of any troops that participated in this operation receiving any injuries.

<<<<< TSNA >>>>>

WHERE IS GOD?

By: Chaplain
James M. Warrington
TSNA Chaplain

"Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord. (Book of the prophet Jeremiah Chapter 23, Verse 24).

There is nowhere in space whether within or without creation, where God is not. The great God, the eternal, the almighty Holy spirit, is as limitless in His presence as in His existence and power.

In condescension to our limited understanding, He is said to

dwell in Heaven. But strictly speaking, the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. He fills every part of His dominion.

What is the space occupied by a grain of sand, compared to that which is occupied by the starry heavens? It is a cipher; it is nothing, it vanishes away in comparison.

And what is this grain of sand compared to the whole expanse of space? The whole creation itself, when seen in proportion with the universe, is infinitely less than a grain of sand. And yet this expanse of space, to which the whole creation bears no proportion at all, is infinitely less, in comparison to the great God, than a grain of sand, yes, even a millionth part of it!

This seems to be the plain meaning of those solemn words which God speaks of Himself: "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" God acts everywhere and therefore is everywhere. It is utterly impossible that any being, created or uncreated, should work where it is not. God acts in heaven, in earth, and under the earth—throughout the whole compass of His creation—by sustaining all things. Without Him, everything would in an instant sink into primitive nothing.

John Wesley

<<<<< TSNA >>>>>



Have you noticed our updated logo? We would like to say a huge Thank You to TSNA member Craig Campen for the idea, and his professional artist son, Adam, for the wonderful job he has done for us.

Ride to the Wall-Southern Style

By: Larry E. Fry/Terry Longpre

TSNA member Terry Longpre will be making a motorcycle run from Daytona Beach, FL to Washington, DC. This run will be part of Rolling Thunder, which is their way to show respect for those who died in Vietnam and to help America to remember our POW/MIA's.



On this picture, if you notice just below the "Shamrock" (also his road name) you will see his TSNA patch, which he will proudly display every inch of the way.



He also attached this picture of his club "Leo". The club is made up of retired and/or full time military and law enforcement personnel, some of which are assigned to CENTCOM, McDill AFB, Tampa.

Terry will be leaving from Bradenton, Florida on the 21st of May headed for Daytona Beach. The actual ride will begin (Kick Stands Up) at 0700 hours on the 22nd of May. The ride will be two days of hard riding, as it is 887 miles from Daytona to DC. According to the ride promoters, they will have a Law Enforcement escort from Clermont, Flor-

ida to the front door of the Radisson Hotel in downtown Washington.

This ride is part of the "Rolling Thunder" Memorial Weekend festivities in which they will show respect and honor not only to those on the "Wall", but all veterans and the POW/MIA's. They expect to be part of 350-400,000 motorcycles that will descend on Washington for this particular weekend. He will be making notes which hopefully will become a short series of newspaper articles after his return, through his local newspaper. He is actually calling this ride, as far as the articles will be concerned "*The Call of the Wall*".

Terry rides with the Patriot Guard Riders and when he leaves a message on the website (www.patriotguard.org) he always sign off with the following;

Riding for POW/MIA's
"You Are Not Forgotten"
"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost."



"SHAMROCK"
(Terry Longpre)

He feels that we should stand behind our military and those that have given their lives for the rest of us, along with those that are missing or prisoners.

If you are interested in reading about the ride, the website is www.2008ridetothewall.com.

A FUNNY THING

By: Kerry Nivens
377th Combat Support Group
(POL)
Dec 66-Dec 67

A funny thing happened to me this past December 14th. I was sitting at my desk doing some reports, the phone rang and after finishing my conversation, I looked at my watch for no special reason and noticed it was 11:00 AM. I paused for a few seconds and wondered what made me look at the time at that particular moment. 40 year earlier at that exact time was when my flight left TSN and I was headed home. A lot of anniversary dates of that time had passed and I never really thought too much about it.

The phone call was from a friend of mine who was in Nam, and as always when I say hello he would reply "Welcome Home Troop".

I really enjoy reading the Revetment and looking for names that I might remember. So far no luck,, but will keep reading and some day maybe one of those names who I have so many faces and no names will come together. Hope to be able to make one of the reunions some day.

But for now let me say:
"Welcome Home Troop."

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

REUNION 2008

If you have not done so by now, please go back to Page Three, PRINT IT, FILL IT OUT, AND MAIL IT IN!

Come to St. Louis to visit with all your old and new Tan Son Nhut friends.

See you in St. Louis!!

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

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NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

From **Floyd E. Carmichael**: "I was assigned to the airframe shop which was comprised of both 377th FMS and 460th FMS personnel. Even though I was assigned to the 377th I worked on all the different birds assigned to Tan Son Nhut. I was in barracks #1244 which was right along the perimeter fence. My barracks was the last in the row and we had burial tombs right outside and overlooked an area full of conex boxes. One thing I remember most is going over to the little snack bar that was across from our shop and getting those 2 little donuts that were in a waxed bag and were usually hot enough that the wax from the bag melted onto the donuts. I left Tan Son Nhut on 9 April 1967 for reassignment to the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phu Cat AB. When I arrived at Phu Cat the base and runway were still under construction, and we didn't receive our first aircraft until almost a month later."

From **Nigel Nicholas Brooks**: "I arrived in Vietnam during mid-August 1966 and was assigned to HHC Special Troops, USARV which was located just off Tan Son Nhut—I was present during the December 4, 1968 attack—and served on the USARV reaction force which deployed to the Golf Course. I ETS'd from the Army in-country during the TET Offensive of 68 and initially began working for a trucking company at Thu Duc called Equipment Incorporated. When the company lost it's contract, I began work for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Hq. as a civilian investigator. I left Vietnam in August, 1971. Following that I worked for US Customs as a Special Agent/Investigator, retiring in 2001."

"SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS, LOUIE"