



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

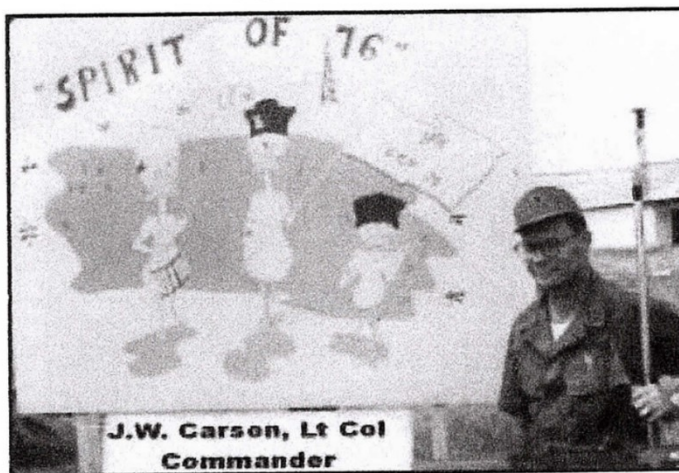
MARCH 2020

THE SPIRIT OF THE 1876TH COMM SQ TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, RVN 1968-1969



In 1968, after Tet, the morale of the 1876th Comm Sq (the largest active Communications Squadron in the world at that time) was down. When Lt. Col. John W. Carson assumed command, he recognized the low morale and began a series of actions to redirect the unit's focus. He bought rubber trees and had squadron details plant them on the road leading to the Squadron Orderly room. This was the beginning of the complaints that the "old man" was losing it. He then bought about 50 ducks and put them in the "rainy season" pond across from the NCMO (for you early comm troops and those who came later, the Sq Command Post) and had the NCMO staff count the ducks every morning and report before the Squadron daily "standup" meeting. One morning the majority of the ducks were missing and the word spread thru the squadron like lightning. The NCMO began receiving phone calls from the Air Police about complaints of Comm Sq members stealing ducks from the Viet Air Force areas, and from squadron airmen of where the ducks could be found. To go a step further, the Colonel also had all the Officers and Senior NCO's (Master Sgt thru Chiefs) report one Saturday morning in jungle fatigues to fill sand bags and replace the rotted sandbags around the airman's barracks. This really got the attention of all of us in the 1876th. However, Colonel Carson had achieved his goal. The unit began to shape up and in short order became one of the best units in the Air Force Communications Service. Some of the NCO's got the 7th AF drafting section to draw up the "ruptured" duck sign and had the Civil Engineers paint and erect the sign on the road leading to the Orderly room. At the 2004 AACS Convention/ Reunion in Scottsdale, Arizona, there was a mini reunion of some of the Officers, NCO's and airmen who served with the Colonel and he was recognized as being the "right person, at the right time in the right job." He surely was one of the best Squadron Commanders ever.

Submitted by Bernard Bucholz
1876th Comm Sq
Feb 67—Feb 68



CAN WE HELP?

Hello. I am trying to make contact with friends. I was with 377th Supply Squadron at Tan Son Nhut March 69 to April 70

Looking for Odell Surgick, Chris Banks and those who knew me.

We were here Mar. 69 to April 70. Some guys left sooner. Our hooch was the one closest to main gate.

Contact: rockepz@yahoo.com

602-686-0203

I live in Phoenix.

Thank you

Camillo A Pizii

Chaplain's Corner

I recently visited Rwanda and Kenya on a mission trip. Rwanda is a small beautiful country located in Central Africa with green hills and mountains, banana trees everywhere and is very clean. But Rwanda's beauty can hide a gruesome past.

In 1994 approximately one million Tutsi's (one of the ethnic groups in the country) were systematically killed by the Hutu's (another ethnic group in the country) in 100 days. Most were killed by friends and neighbors using machetes. Think about that, one million killed in 100 days, a great many killed up close and personal with machetes. If you read the details of this genocide you just cannot wrap your head around the brutality and how the government (run by the Hutu's) systematically demanded the killing continue until all of the Tutsi's were gone. By the way the movie Hotel Rwanda only gives you a little sliver of the big picture.

Of course after the genocide there were calls for retribution and justice. How did the country's new leadership deal with the aftermath? Since most of the Hutu's in the country were guilty of killing or facilitating the killing, who would be left to bring the country back? Certainly not the Tutsis, most of them had been killed. The UN was virtually worthless, although the UN General on the ground, a good man, said he could end the massacre with just 5,000 troops, however that request was denied by the Security Council.

They settled on a novel approach. If a person guilty for killing (this did not include persons in leadership positions) would get down on his/her knees and ask forgiveness of any survivors of the families killed they would be forgiven. It does not seem right that it would be this easy, but it was for the good, and the survival of the country.

So how does that relate to us? We have all done things that were wrong (it is called sin) and we need to ask forgiveness as well. We need to ask forgiveness of the person wronged (if possible) and ask God to forgive us. Through God's forgiveness we can have a peace that is beyond understanding. The darkness in our lives will be changed to a bright future.

Acts 13:8 tells us "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you". It seems simple, but I personally can attest to the fact that it works.

One last thought, I would encourage a deeper reading about the Rwandan Genocide if curious. It shows how evil man can be to other men, but there can be a future. Of course all actions have consequences, but God make your future much brighter no matter the circumstances.

Andy Csordas
Associate Chaplain, TSNA



CHEERS

My Classmate Ronnie Clamme, a pilot in Vietnam. is on the left, then, Dick "Tree" Fairlamb, and Toby Hughes, on the right - who is a singer now. His album is called InCountry.

Today (March 15, 2019) is the 51st anniversary of my good friend, Fairlamb's shoot down and recovery while on a mission in Laos in a F-4C Phantom. His back seater was also picked up. Do we look happy? Yes, the champagne did flow that night!

Randall Brown
Jan 67 - Feb 68
011508 Postal & Courier



Virtual Vietnam Wall: Complete Listing By State and City With Individual Details

Virtual Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. As of May, 2018, 58,350 names are listed on the wall, of which 58,320 men needlessly died during November 1, 1955 – April 30, 1975. (Women were not yet allowed in combat zones.)

Pass the link on to others, as many have relatives, friends or acquaintances whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>.



Doubletree Suites by Hilton

Tucson Airport

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2020 REUNION REGISTRATION

**Tucson, AZ
Sep 16 - 19, 2020**

**NOTE: This year's reunion starts on Wednesday and ends with a Saturday night banquet.
(Changes are underlined.)**

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL (____) _____ EMAIL _____

SPECIAL NEEDS (if applicable) _____

Choose one of the following:

1: FULL Reunion Registration

Number attending _____ x **\$85.00** = \$ _____

Pre-order Reunion Video: QTY _____ x **\$15.00** = \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____

2: PARTIAL Reunion Registration

Access to Hospitality Room (includes snacks & beverages):

Number of days: _____ x **\$12.50** = \$ _____ x No. of people: _____ = \$ _____

Banquet Only

Number attending _____ x **\$37.50** = \$ _____

Pre-order Reunion Video: QTY _____ x **\$15.00** = \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____

Mail this form with payment (check only) to:

**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 236
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236**

REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED

NLT AUGUST 30, 2020

Questions regarding Reunion Registration should be directed to:

Larry Fry

Director of Membership Email: lfry2@dejazzd.com



TUCSON 2020 REUNION UPDATE

Hotel Registration

First of all, I must apologize regarding the hotel registration procedures as published in the February 2020 edition of Revetments. We have run into some technical issues with the links as published. We are doing our best to sort this out so please bear with us. The only link that works, at this time, is the hotel's direct reservation line at **(855) 680-3239**. When calling this number, please mention our Group Code **TSNA**, or Tan Son Nhut Association. As for the other two methods outlined in the February issue of Revetments, please do not use the Direct Link or the URL shown for the hotel reservation desk. I am sure that they will be sorted by the middle of March. Another issue you may encounter is making extended reservations beyond our core dates of Wed 16 Sep – Sat 19 Sep.

When I negotiate contracts, I always reserve rooms based upon expected occupancy. Generally, this means I will reserve the most rooms for our core dates of the reunion. In the case of this year's reunion in Tucson, those core day/dates are Wed/Sep 16, Thu/Sep 17, Fri/Sep 18 and Sat/Sep 19. Our contract stipulates that members may receive our group rate for three days prior, and three days post our core reunion dates. However, I have no way of anticipating the number of our guests who will be arriving before, or, staying after our reunion. As a result, if you try to reserve your room for days before or after our core days, you may be told that nothing is available. Not to worry. The hotel Sales Manager has personally told me that if you encounter this situation and are told no rooms are available at our discounted rate, you are to call her. Her name and direct line is: **Ariann Hewitt, Sales Manager, (520) 225-0810**.

Hotel Amenities

I recently returned from a planning trip to Tucson. I spent four days working with the Hotel Sales Manager, Food & Beverage Office, and the Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB.) Everyone I encountered went out of their way to accommodate me, and to do their best to ensure the success of our reunion.

The hotel is something that I am sure will delight you. It is an All-Suite property built around a lush courtyard. In the courtyard are a swimming pool, hot tub, and fitness center. Also, there is a hacienda-like building that will be our hospitality suite. I don't think that we have ever had a stand-alone hospitality suite before.

Inside the hotel is a restaurant/bar called Finnegan's Pub. I ate there several times and all I can say is to watch out as the portions are huge and tasty.

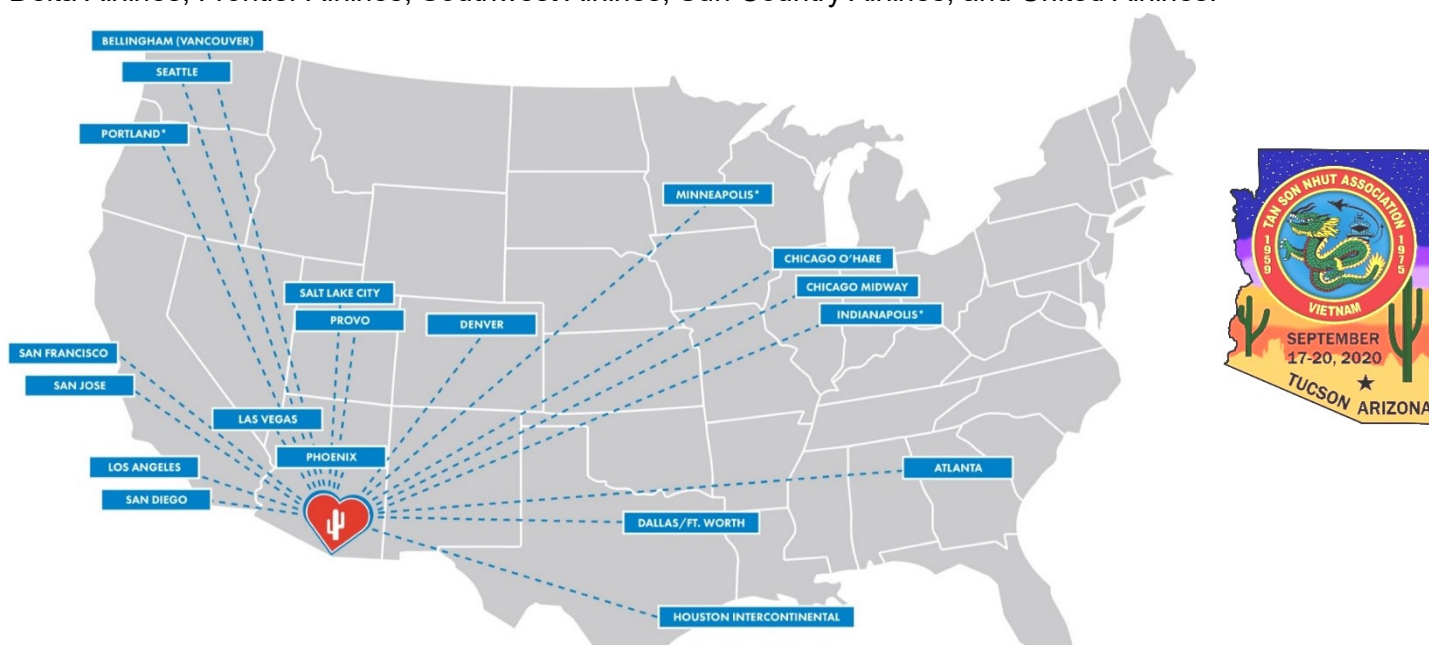
The morning breakfast buffet (2 per room included in our special rate) is sure not to disappoint. The main buffet includes eggs, potatoes, sausage & bacon, fresh fruit, toast, waffles, assorted juices & coffee. In addition, there are various dry cereals, milk, oatmeal, yogurt, & granola. And I am sure that I left a few things out.

Airport Transportation

The hotel has shuttle bus transportation to and from the airport, which is just a couple of minutes away. I will give more details about this in the next issue of Revetments.

Getting There

Tucson Regional Airport (TUC) is served by eight carriers: Alaska Airlines; Allegiant Air; American Airlines; Delta Airlines; Frontier Airlines; Southwest Airlines; Sun Country Airlines; and United Airlines.



Your other option is to fly into Phoenix Sky Harbor International (PHX) and rent a car there, and then drive to Tucson. It is straight thru on I-10. It takes about 1:45 to 2:00 hours. This is my preference as: 1. There are more flights. 2. The flights tend to be less expensive. 3. Rental cars are less expensive. The only thing you need to be aware of is what time does your return flight depart. You need to factor in driving time from Tucson; rental car return; transportation from rental car return to your departure terminal; and security.

Activities

I am looking into quite a few things to see and do in the Tucson area that I feel will appeal to most of our members. I am working closely with the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) as they are the experts with assisting visitors to the area.

I am tentatively thinking of a full day of scheduled activities on Thursday, with a half day schedule on either Friday or Saturday morning. Or maybe just a Thursday schedule. If you have any thoughts just email me at: 67vietvet68@gmail.com However, nothing is written in stone at this time. I want to leave plenty of time for our members to get out and explore on their own. And, as I learned the hard way, with last year's reunion, I want our guests to be back at the hotel in plenty of time to get ready for either the General Membership meeting (Friday) or the Banquet (Saturday.)

And a reminder. If you haven't yet ordered your Arizona and/or Tucson Visitors Guides, I strongly encourage you to do so. You can find the necessary info in the February issue of Revetments.

Well, that is it for this issue. Keep coming back every month for more details on this year's reunion, as well a peek into next years. I have a trip scheduled up east at the end of March to continue working on TSNA 2021. In the next issue, I hope to be giving more details on our Banquet and menu; comments about our Color Guard; activities & charter bus transportation; and more.

We hope to have a mid-month update on additional ways to register for Tucson 2020. In the meantime, just go ahead and book a room for September. You won't pay anything at the time of registration. Even if you aren't 100% sure, you can always cancel your reservation without penalty. The earlier you make your reservation, the more it helps TSNA. And me.

Joe Kricho

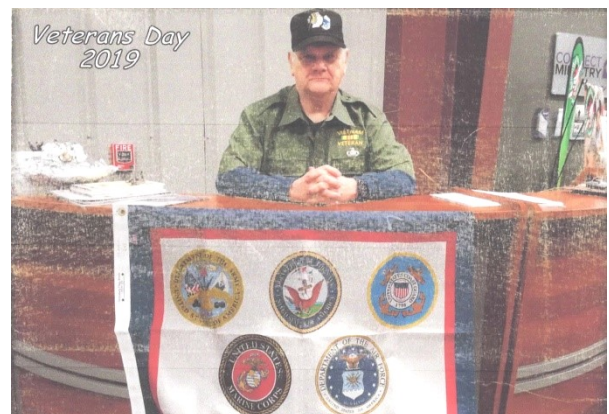
TSNA Director of Reunion Planning

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

State: Mississippi Rank: A1C Assigned: 3 March 1969 to 3 March 1970. Unit: 377th Combat Support Group, Supply Squadron, Cryogenics Technician and 377th Security Forces Squadron (Augmentee).

Like many other troops entering the war-torn country of Vietnam, and stepping off of our chartered aircraft you knew your world was about to change. We were all in for long duty hours and being a Security Force Augmentee the hours got longer, but the experience proved rewarding and though there were some close calls along the way. "Proud To Serve" 377th SPS.

Thomas W. Farris, Jr. CMSgt (Retired)
Hernando, MS



EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom found us "searching websites", and has joined as a Life Member!

Veterans Research

Dear Tan Son Nhut Association,

[Our research team contacted you several months ago requesting your assistance in spreading the word about the Health for Every Veteran Study. Thank you so much for your support of our study and willingness to share the information! It has been invaluable to our recruitment efforts.](#)

We are reaching out to see if you would once again be willing to pass on the advertisement below to your listserv group, newsletter, Facebook and social media groups, and any Veterans who might be interested. We anticipate that we will be actively recruiting over the next year, and word-of-mouth by supportive organizations has been an incredibly important and useful strategy. **Please see the bottom of this email for an advertisement that can be shared with a listserv or newsletter and a shorter version that can be posted on Facebook or social media.**

As a reminder, our study is designed to learn about the health and life experiences of diverse groups of Veterans from all backgrounds. We hope the data we collect will help us improve Veteran health. It includes filling out a web-based questionnaire once every 9 months for approximately 2 years (for a total of 4 questionnaires). All research activities are completed online, with no in-person visits required. This study has been approved by the VA Puget Sound Health Care System IRB, project #01672. The advertisement that has been approved for distribution is listed below.

At the end of the study, we will give your group a 1-page summary of the findings that you can share.

Please note that we are unable to respond to Veteran participants directly over email because of privacy and confidentiality concerns. If you or anyone interested in the study has questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at (206) 277-4328 or toll-free at 1-800-329-8387, extension 64328.

Thank you again for your support and consideration!

The Health for Every Veteran Study Team
Keren Lehavot, PhD, Principal Investigator
Michelle Upham, MSW, Study Coordinator
Krista Dashtestani, BA, Study Coordinator



Doubletree Suites by Hilton

Tucson Airport

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George Plunkett, President 2011-2015
Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



R.C. SCOTT, SR. PHOTO
Nov 69 - Jun 71
OL 1500 Postal & Carrier Service

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas W. Farris, Jr. Hernando MS tomusafchief@yahoo.com Mar 69 - Mar 70 377th CSG, Supply Sq. Cryogenics Tech

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