

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



Volume 2, Number 7

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

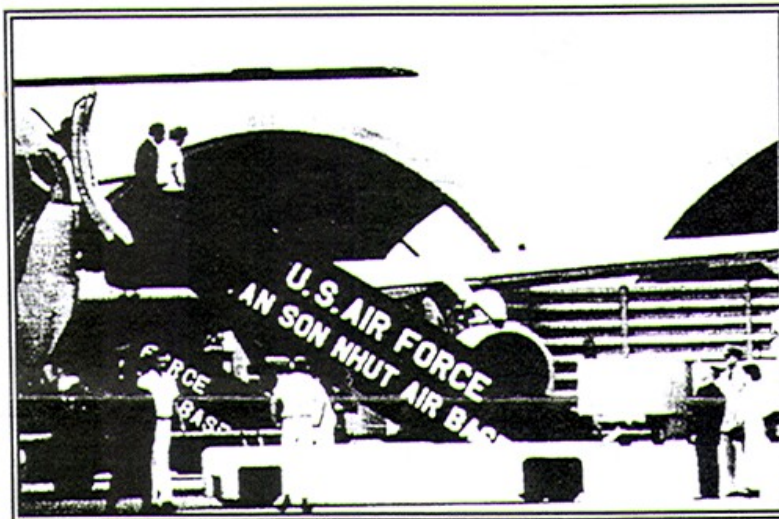
April, 2000

The Last Day of Tan Son Nhut, '75

Within minutes of the swearing in of President Minh the previous afternoon, it had become evident that this last political concession had been made in vain. Before the politicians had even dispersed from Doc Lap Palace, captured aircraft flown by North Vietnamese

pilots had begun dive-bombing the Tan Son Nhut airbase, destroying within a few minutes South Vietnam's last vestige of air power.

A few hours later the North Vietnamese forces had launched their heaviest rocket barrage of the war against Tan Son Nhut. One of the fleet of giant C-130 aircraft of the United States Air Force that had been ferrying out refugees to Guam was destroyed on the runway, there were many casualties among the thousands of Vietnamese still waiting in the processing center, and two young American Marines of the



President Nixon and the First Lady arriving at Tan Son Nhut
Courtesy of the Lance Coar Collection

evacuation security force were killed by the rockets. It was these American combat deaths coming two years after the United States withdrawal from Vietnam that had caused an anxious President Ford in Washington to abandon the airlift with fixed-wing planes from Tan Son Nhut and order the immediate launching of the helicopter evacuation, code-named "Operation Frequent Wind."

As a result the sound of axes and saws attacking the gnarled bole of the ancient tamarind tree on the front lawn of the American Embassy at midmorning had symbolized the United States' final

admission that its efforts to save South Vietnam from Communism had failed. The lawn was the only area within the embassy where the great helicopters could put down with safety.

Soon afterwards the prearranged secret signal for the start of the evacuation had been broadcast over the American Armed Forces radio. Every fifteen minutes the announcer intoned: The temperature in Saigon is 105 degrees and rising," and the announcement was

followed immediately by Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas."

From Saigon
by Reuters Correspondent,
Anthony Grey

All you ever wanted
to know about
Reunion 2000!
and More!

Starting on Page 3



"All Included - Non Excluded"

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

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

How Big Is Your God?

Some years ago a distinguished Princeton astronomer, Dr. Henry Norris Russell, gave a lecture on the cosmic phenomenon known as the Milky Way. He told of recent scientific discoveries. He explained the vast and almost incomprehensible distances represented in this galaxy of stars. At the close of his lecture, a somewhat agitated woman came up to the platform and asked him this question: "Doctor Russell, if our world is such a small part of the total universe, can we really believe that God would pay any attention to something as small as a human individual?"

"That, madam," replied Dr. Russell, "depends entirely on how big a God you believe in!"

Surely here is one of the great needs of our time; a concept of God that is big



Wash Day, Tan Son Nhut Style, Circa 1968
Courtesy of the Mark Reveaux Collection

enough to fit into the vastness of our universe and also big enough to give us hope as we face the complex situation we find in that part of the universe we call "our world." A small God is utterly inadequate for these times.

Unconsciously many of us reduce God to small proportions, we may think of God in terms of a particular race, or a God of a certain ethnic group or nation, or a God of power, or a God of money, or a God of influence, or even as the God of one specific congregation.

Nothing less than the God of majestic and almighty power who at the same time is the God of infinite and tender love is worthy to meet our needs. Such is the God of the crafty patriarchs, the judges, the prideful rulers, the clamorous prophets, devoted priests and scribes and evangelists.

How much time do you spend reading and studying to find out just how big is your God?

Chaplain Warrington is available to all Association members and their families for any and all pastoral services and consultation. Please call or send requests to the TSNA Public Affairs Office.



Communication Notes.

TSNA Communications Officer ISP Change

Tan Son Nhut Association's Communications Officer, Charles E. Penley of Kingsport, Tennessee announces the change of Internet Service Provider from Intermedia to Charter. E-mail address has changed to:

cepenley@chartertn.net

and the 377th Security Police Squadron Website is changing to:

<http://users.chartertn.net/cepenley/index.html>

The present Intermedia address will stop working on April 30. Please update your bookmarks and address book to reflect these changes.

* * *

Inquiries On The Onelist Group

There have been a number of inquiries regarding the Tan Son Nhut Association Group on the Onelist internet website that has been discussed in *Revetments* a number of times.

Please see the article about Onelist on Page 7 of this issue.

* * *

Joe's Pullout

Guide To



Coordinator Joe Montag

TSNA

REUNION 2000!

Texans Roll Out The Welcome Mat!

Reunion 2000!, June 15th through 18th, in San Antonio, Texas, promises to be a benchmark occasion for members of the Tan Son Nhut Association.

The members of the TSNA Lone Star Chapter have organized, planned and are ready to act as hosts for the rapidly approaching San Antonio Reunion.

Sharp salutes are well-deserved to members Norman Whitlow, Frank Ybarbo, and others. But Coordinator Joseph L. Montag gets the blood, sweat and tears award for the extensive research, coordination and just plain grueling work to assemble the reservations at numerous facilities, cost determination, and tying up all those other dangling strings to give us a first class act reunion.

Joe was an air freight specialist at Tan Son Nhut from October 1967 through November 1968. He is now a professional accountant with his own bookkeeping and tax service, operating all over Texas out of the near-Dallas city of Carrollton. We'll probably be meeting his wife, Lucille. They are grandparents to their daughter Rebecca's children, Jennifer and Clayton.

He has been an avid Lions Club member for 32 years, holding a number of high offices, 33 years with the VFW, 5 years in the American Legion, and 2 years in the Tan Son Nhut Association. He holds a BBA in Accounting from North Texas State University.

Revetments extends the gratitude and pride of all the membership to our Texan hosts for their exceptional contributions for a happy reunion.

☆ **Air Travel Information**

San Antonio Airport Shuttle
Open from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. daily

☎ (210) 281-9900

Cost: One-Way \$8.00, Round Trip \$14.00

Baggage Policy:

Two normal sized bags per person.

Each additional normal sized bag

\$1.00. Each oversized bag \$5.00.

Directions:

Exit terminal from Baggage Claim and go to the San Antonio Transportation Ticket Booth.

* * *

ACCOMODATIONS INFORMATION

The Menger Hotel

204 Alamo Plaza

San Antonio, Texas 78205

Sales: Ms. Marsha Shinegold

☎ Business Phones:

1-(800) 345-9285

(210) 223-4361

FAX: (210) 223-1328

Reservation Information

Use the Menger Hotel Reservation

Code: 5498

Accommodations Information

The Menger Hotel has offered the Association a complimentary

Hospitality Suite

Number of rooms booked:

Thursday night: 50

Friday night: 75

Saturday night: 75

Room Rate:

\$85.00

plus state/local taxes

of 16.75%

Other

The Menger will provide tables and chairs for Reunion Registration.

A breakfast will be served on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

(See the daily schedule for details.)

The Reunion Schedule

* * *

Thursday, June 15

Registration Set-up:

Reunion attendees begin arriving.

The Hospitality Suite

Hosted by members of

The Lone Star Chapter/Region of Texas,

Tan Son Nhut Association

Schedule:

Thursday, June 15 - Open

Friday, June 16 - Open

Saturday, June 17 - Open

Sunday, June 18 - Closed

* * *

Friday, June 16

★ **Lackland Day** ★

Transportation to be provided by
Daisy Tours & Conventions

Ms. June Bratcher

1505 E. Houston Street

San Antonio, Texas

☎ Business Phones:

1-(800) 285-8601

(210) 225-8600

FAX: (210) 225-8617

Tentatively arranged for two (2) buses for the Lackland Tour.

Schedule:

0730 hours: Buses arrive

0815 hours: Leave Menger Hotel

0850 hours: Arrive at

Lackland Air Force Base

* * *

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
REUNION 2000 ** JUNE 15 THRU JUNE 18, 2000
MENGHER HOTEL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
REGISTRATION FORM

IMPORTANT NOTES:

MAY 10, 2000. ALL REUNION PRE-REGISTRATIONS must be received or postmarked prior to this date.

MAY 15, 2000. ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS must be made by this date for special rate.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS for rooms and hospitality rooms should be made directly with the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Call 800-345-9285 or 210-223-4361 and identify yourself as a **TSNA member or Reunion/Convention Registration Code # 5498**. Rooms rates start at \$85.00 + tax. See Hotel Reservation requirements and Reunion information in *Revetments*.

Early Pre-Registration (Postmarked by/on May 10, 2000) # Tickets _____ @ \$135.00/person Total Cost \$ _____

Late Registration (after May 10, 2000) _____ @ \$175.00/person \$ _____

Check here if a vegetarian/dietary plate is desired. ☐ Total Costs Tickets \$ _____
Meal Comments: _____

Please check all that apply to your registration:

Travel Information

Events (Included in package)	Attending	Not Attending	Arriving SA by
Friday Lackland AFB Tour	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Date _____
Saturday Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Plane Time _____
Saturday Banquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	
Sunday Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	Leaving SA by
	Interested	Not Interested	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Date _____
San Antonio Tour(Separate cost)	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Plane Time _____

All Reservations must be accompanied by check or money order made payable to:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

.. and .. **MAIL TO:** JOSEPH L. MONTAG
TSNA REUNION COORDINATOR
1512 NORTHLAND ST.
CARROLLTON, TX 75006-1421

B: 972-245-0845
H: 972-245-6254
E-mail: montag@flash.net

Names: Member: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone #: () _____ E-mail: _____

Member # _____ TSN Unit: _____ Years at TSN: _____

Signature: _____

All tickets will be available at the registration desk Thursday, June 15, 2000

Date Postmarked _____ Amount Rec'D _____ Check # _____

LAFB Tour

Tentative Schedule

- 0900-0930 hrs. Viewing of Basic
Military Training Graduation
Ceremonies
0930-1000 hrs. Tour of the Air Park
1005-1035 hrs. Tour of History and
Traditions Museum
1045-1115 hrs. Tour of Security
Force Museum
1130-1300 hrs. Lunch at the
Gateway Club, LAFB
(Menu and cost to be confirmed.)
1315-1500 hrs.
Battle Force Protection Lab
Presentation
1500-1545 hrs. Return to
The Menger Hotel
* * *

The remainder of Friday will be open
time for members to tour and shop in
San Antonio.

Saturday, June 17

- Breakfast Meeting**
In The Menger Hotel
(Time to be specified in next issue.)
Menu
(See La Grande Menu)

- Business Meeting**
Call to Order
Old Business
New Business
1. Ratification of the
Constitution
2. Election of Officers
3. Appointment of
Annual Reunion Committee
4. Action from the floor
Adjournment
* * *

- Wreath Laying**
(Negotiations are being made at
The Alamo.)
* * *

Tan Son Nhut Association

Formal Banquet

(Male members are asked to wear
coats and ties, appropriate uniforms,
or generally acceptable dinner wear.)

Rio Rio Cantina

(On the famous River Walk)
403 Commerce, Suite No. 40
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Catering:

Senora Teresa Ferniz Vasquez

☎ (210) 226-8490

Time

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
(1800 hrs. - 2200 hrs.)

Menu

(See La Grande Menu)

Cash Bar

* * *

Banquet Program

- Posting of The Colors
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Toast to the Missing Comrades Table
Dinner
Guest Speakers
(See next issue)
Awards & Presentations
Benediction
* * *

Sunday, June 18

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Breakfast

The Menger Hotel
Catering: Ms. Carol Dolt

Menu

Deluxe Continental Breakfast
(See La Grande Menu)

* * *

Breakfast Program

- Invocation
Breakfast
Farewell by the hosts
Benediction
* * *

*Urgent
memo!*

**Please
fill out the
enclosed
Registration
Form**

and mail it as soon
as possible to
**Joe Montag
TSNA
Reunion
Coordinator
1512 Northland Street
Carrollton, Texas
75006-1421**

☎ Call -
Business Phone:
(972) 245-0845
Home Phone:
(972) 245-6254

or

E-Mail: montag@flash.net

**Here's to a great
Reunion 2000!**

La Grande Menu

Deluxe Continental Breakfast a la Menger Hotel

*Assorted Chilled Juices
Assorted Breakfast Bakeries
(Mini Croissants, Muffins, Mini
Danish, Fruit Breads)
Butter, Fruit Preserves, Honey and
Cream Cheese*

*Bowls of Assorted Cold Cereals,
Whole & Skim Milk*

*Fresh Fruit Salad and Berries
with Cream and Brown Sugar*

Regular and Lowfat Yogurts

Freshly Brewed Regular or

Decaffeinated Coffee

Assorted Herbal Teas

* * *

Plated Breakfast

a la Menger Hotel

Chilled Orange Juice

Fluffy Scrambled Eggs

*Sausage Links, Home Fried
Potatoes*

Assorted Breakfast Bakeries

Butter, Fruit Preserves and Honey

Freshly Brewed Regular or

Decaffeinated

Coffee and Tea



Banquet Dinner Selections

a la Cantina Rio Rio

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Caesar Salad

Kahlua Flan

Rolls & Butter

*Ice Tea, Coffee & Assorted Soft
Drinks*

* * *

*Bistec de Filete Arriba de Salsa
Chipotle*

8 oz. Filet of Beef on a Chipotle

Cream Sauce

serve with

Oven Roasted Potatoes

Seasonal Fresh Vegetable

* * *

Open Cash Bar



The TSNA Onelist Community

In several of the past issues of *Revetments*, we have mentioned the internet website Onelist. There has been a number of questions raised about how to get in and use it for the advantage of the Tan Son Nhut Association.

The Tan Son Nhut Group or "community" was established during August 1999 by the Public Affairs Office. It was, and still is, hoped that any and all TSNA members having internet access will register in this group. It could be a tremendous advantage for all members in speeding Association news, programs, and even serving as an on-line meeting facility.

Some members do not like

on-line chat rooms for a number of valid reasons. But the Onelist program is not composed of chat rooms.

It is closed "communities" that register only those acceptable to the manager of the group. The TSNA Public Affairs Office is the manager of our group.

No "spam" or other outside influences are admitted to the group.

When you register you will then receive all of the communications passing through the group, and your replies and comments will be passed throughout the group.

The Association has already received new memberships from those coming into the group.

The internet address for our group is:

<http://www.onelist.com/group/TanSonNhut>

This will bring you to the

website shown below. To the left you can make choices for information, reading messages, and sending messages and notices of your own.

We urge all internet user members to please register at the site soon.

Letters ...

Comments from a non-draft dodger ... I think *Revetments* is a really great newsletter. I read and save every issue.

I enjoy Major Taylor McKinnon's series of articles. *Revetments* is a good platform for TSN vets to exercise their freedom of speech and tell it like it is. TSN vets have heard language infinitely worse than anything that's ever been printed in the newsletter. So as long as things don't get any worse, keep it up!

Those who don't like Major McKinnon's act have the same freedom of speech, so let the rebuttals fly.

Like the vast majority of Vietnam veterans, I made it through the war in one piece and I consider serving at Tan Son Nhut, Da Nang, and NKP a very positive experience. I'm glad that I can tell people what I did in the war, rather than how I dodged the draft.

Paul M. Smith
Sterling Heights, Michigan

Warning from a new member and friend ... Thank you for accepting me into the ranks of a group of people whom I respect and admire greatly!

I don't usually pass on dire warning or chain letters, but in this case one is for real. I don't recall who sent it to me.

The subject is Telephone Repair Warning - DIAL 90#. The sender says, "This is scary to think that our kids are answering phones. This can happen at home and at work,

everyone should be aware.

"I received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician that was running a test on our telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test we should touch nine (9), zero (0), pound sign (#) and hang up. Luckily, we were suspicious and refused.

Upon contacting the phone company we were informed that by pushing 90# you end up giving the individual that called you access to your phone line and allows them to place a long distance call, with the charge appearing on your phone bill. We were further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails and prisons.

This was verified by UCB Telecomm and GTE.

Edie N. Straw
Norfolk, Virginia

(Editor's Note: Thank you, Edie. This is the second time *Revetments* has published this warning. The first instance in August 1999 was courtesy of member Alan Strauss, Azel, Texas. We feel it was worth another airing.)

An echo from Charlie Row

I think McKinnon is great. I worked on Charlie Row, out of the machine shop during 1965 and 1966.

Best job I ever had. Keep up the good work.

Richard Duval
Winthrop, Massachusetts



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TanSonNhut
Founded August 21, 1999

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Description

The Tan Son Nhut Association is dedicated to the memory of the service and accomplishments of the hundreds of thousands of military and civilians who worked at or passed through the base, just outside of Saigon. Membership is open to all branches of the military, U.S. and allies, and civilians. A monthly newsletter, *Revetments*, is sent to all members.

Message archive by month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2000	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1999											

Members: 14

For more information: <http://home.att.net/~hercules29>

Category: [Top](#) | [Society](#) | [History](#) | [War](#) | [Twentieth Century](#) | [Vietnam War](#)

Addresses:

Post message: TanSonNhut@onelist.com

Subscribe: TanSonNhut-subscribe@onelist.com

Unsubscribe: TanSonNhut-unsubscribe@onelist.com

List owner: TanSonNhut-owner@onelist.com

URL to this page: <http://www.onelist.com/group/TanSonNhut>

Options:

- Listed in directory
- Open membership
- Unmoderated
- All members may post
- Primary language English
- Public archives
- Email attachments are permitted

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Fifty Fathers at Tan Son Nhut

To the right is a photograph of fifty American servicemen playing fathers at the Thanksgiving Day party for Vietnamese orphans at the USO on Tan Son Nhut, during 1968.

Our staunch supporter and friend, Annette Amerman, Corporate Communications, USO World Headquarters, in Washington, D.C. has sent us another jewel from Tan Son Nhut.

Recently she was digging around in their historical files and she came across some old annual reports. While copying them she found this picture, which she immediately had scanned for us. She says she "hopes we enjoy seeing it as much as "she did.

Annette you can rest assured that we do! Thank you and another sharp salute to one of the world's finest organizations.



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