



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

JUNE 2011



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Chaffee
TSNA Chaplain

I may have really missed the mark in my "Corner" for May but some of the events during the month have made a forgiving history allowing for me to put together a very special few column inches.

As you all know I am a Scots Presbyterian. (Remember: it took me years to learn how to spell it!).

Well, I have studied the events leading to the beatification of John Paul II and have found that it has much meaning to all of us, not as for miracles but what he was and what he did and said. I realize that some of you will disagree but just listen to the one statement he made that none of us could challenge if we are to live today.

"You must be strong, my brothers and sisters. You must be strong with the strength that faith gives....You need this strength today more than any other period in history.... You must be strong with love, which is stronger than death....Never lose your spiritual freedom."

Yes, but many of us who physically hurt might listen to some more of his words as he suffered from Parkinson's disease. "We who are imperfect, who are not beautiful, who are in pain, we too are part of the human race and are worthy of God's love".

As I begin this "Corner" this is not about religious politics but who and what we are. Some time I will write quotes from John Calvin, John Wesley and Billy Graham. But beware, Calvin's sermon's were two hours long and there were no seats to

sit on in the "church".

But of course you expect words like this from the Chaplain--well, you got it.

Chaplain Bob



NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

Assigned TSN 9/66-9/67. 460th ATRW, Armament and Electronic Maintenance Squadron. Worked on RF-4C, RB-57E, ECM Systems, and the IR photo mapping systems aboard the RB-57E.

Aviation Week & Space Technology Magazine carelessly provided the VC with tail numbers and parking areas for the RB-57E.

I was there for Dec 4 '66, and yes, the barber in the airman's club was killed that night. I knew him personally, he was a New York Yankees fan (by day) and VC by night!

TSNA is a terrific organization, wish I could have made the connection much sooner.

As with a lot of the vets I am pursuing a claim with the VA for AO & PTSD.

My first barracks assignment was in the 800 area as I recall. The barracks were right across the street from where the C-123 (spray bombers) Ranch Hand's were parked. There was plenty of prop wash & rain runoff to spread the agent orange around.

We were relocated to new barracks (700 area?) near the new chow hall, south of the 2 big radar domes.

I can recall a small fire that erupted from a tunnel thru the French

graveyard behind our barracks about 1:30—2 am. Lots of tracers bouncing off the grave stones, ours and Charlie's. One of the guys claimed he saw a VC run right through his barracks!

Another incident involved some air commandoes supposedly playing catch with a white phosphorous grenade. It went off and one guy caught it right square in the chest. We saw the ambulance crew haul a guy off on a stretcher in bad shape. This unfortunate incident triggered a shake down to relieve the troops of any unauthorized weapons.

Do my recollections jar any memories? Hope to hear from some of the troops soon.

Respectfully,

Bill Donnelly

Other than regular harassment, the most memorable experience involved someone placing Christmas lights on an antenna to build morale? The antenna was just 2 hooches down from mine and I felt terribly vulnerable—looked like a good target to me and I do not like being a target. You can guess the rest—three incoming (record indicates 4). One went wide to Heliport on right, one went wide left to an army mess hall (5 wounded), one dud landed just behind my hooch (I think the dud was the same night) Lights came down pretty quickly!

Charles D. Dawkins
460th AEMS
Mar 69—Feb 70



MY U.S. ARMY SERVICE AT TSN

By: George Wurtzinger
509th RRCUV (Radio Research Communications Unit Vietnam), Davis Station
Oct 67—Oct 68

I was in country from Oct. 1967 – Oct. 1968 at the 509th RRCUV, Davis Station, adjacent to flight line and across the road from the ARVN airborne training school. Prior to that, I was at Clark in the Philippines. Over two of my four years enlistment were spent on Air Force bases. Both Clark and Tan Son Nhut distinguished themselves as premier military bases.

I would be remiss if I didn't first mention my service at Clark.

There were some "cultural" differences between Army and Air Force service. When I reported to Clark (77th USASOU), I was shocked to learn I was assigned to a room instead of a squad bay. The barracks, now a hotel, were far better than I anticipated. We had our own mess hall, day rooms, kiosks, tailor, etc. The real shock was when I entered my room for the first time: it was neat and clean. Louvers covered the windows and my room faced the street and the swimming pool. We were about 300 yards from the enlisted men's club. But, what really got my attention was my MATTRESS. It didn't resemble the Army's rendition of a mattress. It was thick and comfortable.

The Air Force treated us graciously. We only had about 250 Army on the largest air base with over 50,000 airmen.

I have always been awed by planes. Living with the men and women who keep our skies safe gave new insight to how much work is needed to keep our planes on the ready to defend.

At the risk of sounding political, I wish the people at the top would have allowed us to be more offensive in their use. 40 years later, we still don't use our planes as effectively as we could.

Sometimes we forget that the air efforts are supported on the ground by airmen and women who make life possible for our pilots and crews. The unsung heroes may not have the spotlight but without them, there would be no lights to shine.

Anyway, I requested a transfer from a tropical paradise to Vietnam. Why would I want to leave paradise? After all these years, I still ponder that from time to time. But, I joined the Army so I could serve in Vietnam.

As the plane approached TSN, the countryside looked so green and peaceful. The "spiral" landing was different than any approach I had experienced and it didn't take a genius to realize why landing in Nam was different.

The Air Force chartered civilian planes and it was a charter flight that took me to Tan Son Nhut. The flight attendant announced that the people in black pajamas were not dressed for Halloween. It was Oct. 31, 1967. When the plane stopped, reality struck and I realized this was the real thing.

TSN was already well established and seemed to be a city that would live forever. A jeep was sent to pick me up and take me to Davis Station. I was uneasy about my new environment. One of the advantages we had over those serving now was we knew we would leave in a year. I couldn't believe how long a year seemed as the jeep took me from the flight line.

I started my countdown and 365 days seemed like a lifetime. Yes. Indeed, it was a lifetime for some of us in many ways. Too many lives ended too soon. Too many casualties left their marks on our history. I know of many heroes and thank God for their sacrifices everyday.

We had compound dogs who stayed with us for their protection and to be fed. They adopted us as much as we adopted them. Having dogs around helped make the tour a bit more like home.

One of the dogs was Ursula. She stands out in my memory because she came to me for protection when the Tet offensive started.

I had CQ duty that night. The orderly room was actually a separate hooch. It was quiet except for visits from our 1st Sgt who kept coming by to tell me we were going to be hit that night. He was a good man and a short-timer. Short-timers had earned their way back to the world. We respected them.

Each visit brought a different time for the attack. I concluded his anxiety kept him from sleeping and he wanted to be sure I would stay awake.

Suddenly, the first explosion stunned everyone at TSN. I stood outside the orderly room to see what was happening. Everyone's attention was focused toward the flight line area. A commercial charter was taking off and tracers were following the tail of the plane. All I could do was ask God to get that plane out of range so the short-timers who earned their way home could make it.

The tracers stopped. The plane continued to fly and we watched until its lights faded. She was going home and I suspect we all wish we were going with her.

We stood in the compound and applauded when the plane reached a safe altitude. It sounds stupid but that was what we did. It didn't take long to realize where we were. I think we each thanked God for protecting the plane. I know we each asked God to help us!

[It wasn't until a few months ago that I realized the attack on that plane was the trigger for my Vietnam experience. My therapy helped me expose that after all these years. It was the moment I realized how real Vietnam was – how real the danger was.]

I stepped back into the orderly room and noticed a shivering Ursula. Yes. One of the compound dogs was standing beside me and she was just as scared as I was. She gave me a sense of responsibility and I allowed her into the orderly room. She walked toward a wall and laid there all night. With each explosion, she seemed more fearful. Yet, she didn't moan or make any noises at all. And, I thought she was there so I wouldn't die alone.

There was a fence behind the orderly room. I could hear Vietnamese talking but I couldn't understand what they were saying so I didn't know if they were good guys or bad guys.

At first, the rockets, mortars and gun ships were exciting to see. But, as I laid on the floor, I just wanted it to stop. It was like having a bad TV show on and wanting to turn off the set. But, there was no way to stop them.

We learned a lot about ourselves. When the incoming stopped, we were grateful. Then it continued and we realized the VC had changed position to evade the gun ships. We didn't want the incoming to continue but we were fearful when it stopped because we didn't know where they were. More importantly, the gun ship crews didn't know where the VC were moving.

The Army does many things well. What it didn't do was equip us with ammo. We were issued M-14 rifles (M-16's were in use but we had the older weapons and were told we were lucky to have them). We were fortunate that we didn't need to fire them but it's unnerving to be under attack with a weapon rendered impotent without its ammo.

When the Army fails, soldiers innovate. A group went to the ammo hooch to get ammo. The arms sergeant was drunk and couldn't find the key. He said he would shoot the lock off – that was just before he was removed from the area. The lock was removed and we had ammo - much to the dismay of the cadre. And, we weren't giving it back either!

It's fair to say I was scared most of the time.

I became a chain smoker. My rationalization was that family and friends aren't always available but no matter where I went, I could always have my cigarettes.

Subsequent attacks were a bit easier for me because I made it thru the first one and because I wasn't alone in the orderly room.

I suspect airmen can think of a thing or two the Air Force didn't do well. Here are a few the Army didn't do well:

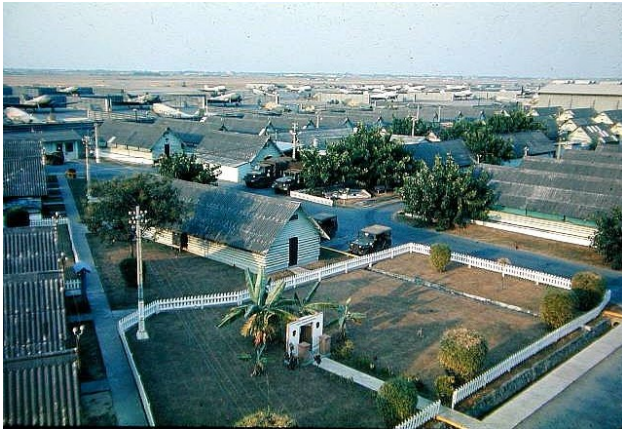
- no ammo was issued to us in a combat zone
- "procured" ammo was wrapped in tin foil packaging that shined in the moon light
- our compound had security lights that were focused into the compound instead of outside the perimeter
- the communications building supposedly had a \$1 million mortar wall. Rifle rounds penetrated the tin roof.

I am grateful for my duty at TSN. TSN united all branches of our service and many foreign branches as well. The Australians and Koreans stand out in my memory for things they did with us.

The men and women of the Air Force will always be special for all they did for me and continue to do today! We were a diverse group of characters. Yet, we are joined by love of our country and our duty to her.

God Bless and protect the members of the Tan Son Nhut Association!

George W (the original George W)



Here are photos of Davis Station – 509th RRCUV.

The work compound was down the road from this compound.

The Jim Davis Memorial was in our compound. It was dedicated to Jim Davis, the first soldier killed in Vietnam. He was a member of the 509th.

THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

2011 REUNION

OCTOBER 6-9

THE BLAKE HOTEL

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

The special TSNA room rate is \$109.00 per night (plus tax). This rate will be honored for up to three days pre and post event.

Check-in date: **10/06/11**
Check-in time is: 3:00 p.m., Thursday.
Check-out date: **10/09/11**
Check-out time is: NLT, 12:00p.m., Sunday.
Overnight parking is \$10.00 per night.

Tan Son Nhut Association 2011 Reunion Registration

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

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$125. = _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

Access to the TSNA Hospitality suite, (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) - \$15. daily if purchased separately.

TSNA Saturday Banquet buffet dinner. \$56. if purchased separately.

TSNA Sunday Continental breakfast. \$24. if purchased separately.

(Please circle which activities that you are paying for, if purchasing separately.)

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 25, 2011.

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

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!!

New Special Activity Friday October 7, 2011

Plans are now being formulated for us to go to the Charlotte "Monument of Valor", located behind the Charlotte Convention Center, for the presentation of a Plaque designating the TSNA 2011 Reunion. This monument has plaques hanging for all military organizations that hold reunions in Charlotte. Our ceremony is scheduled for 10 am.

So get on the phone to the hotel, make your room reservation.

Then fill out this form and send it in.

COLONEL JAMES C. HARDING, USAF Retired



Silver Star



Air Force Cross



TSNA 2011 REUNION GUEST SPEAKER

Colonel James C. Harding entered the Air Force in 1956 as a distinguished graduate of the Penn State University Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program where he was also selected as the outstanding Air Force ROTC cadet. His military career covered a variety of flying assignments as well as command positions. He served as squadron commander for a 400 person unit at Lackland AFB and as an A-1 combat squadron commander in Southeast Asia.

He is a command pilot with nearly 5,000 hours of military single-engine flying time, and a master parachutist with 69 jumps. Colonel Harding was shot down by a SA-7 Surface-To-Air Missile (SAM) while directing a rescue mission in Vietnam in 1972. United States Army helicopters rescued him after he successfully evaded North Vietnamese troops. While on the ground, Colonel Harding used his survival radio to direct the rescue of his wingman, who had also been shot down on the same rescue mission.

Upon retiring from active duty on July 31, 1979, Colonel Harding entered general aviation at Nueces County Airport, Robstown, Texas. In 1980, he turned his focus to the Air Force Junior ROTC program where he was instrumental in organizing and implementing programs in the continental United States as well as at Department of Defense schools overseas. He had two short breaks from the Junior ROTC program from 1985 to 1987 and 1990 to 1992 when he worked as an advisor to the Royal Saudi Air Force and developed a professional education program for Saudi Air Force officers. Colonel Harding retired from the Air Force Junior ROTC program in 1998 to take up tree farming in Bayview, TX. He moved his tree farming operation to Huntingdon, TN in 2001 and continued teaching as a substitute in Carroll County. He retired from teaching in 2009 to devote full attention to his family tree farm. He is an accomplished public speaker and has extensive writing experience. **He is a lifetime member of 15 national service organizations.**

ASSIGNMENTS: (Highlights Vietnam related—not inclusive)

1963-1967 - Plans Officer, 313th Air Division and the O-1, U-10, T-33 Pacific Air Forces Standardization Evaluation Flight Examiner, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. Of this time, he spent 2 1/2 years on temporary duty in Southeast Asia (SEA) as an air liaison officer/forward air controller (ALO/FAC) for allied forces. He flew **442** combat missions in the O-1 and U-10, **101** of which were over **North Vietnam**.

1967-1971 - Section Commander and Lecturer for Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL. Also completed Air Command and Staff College and Auburn University Masters Degree (**MBA**) program.

1971-1972 – Commander, 1st Special Operations Squadron AHobos@ and ASandy's,@ Nakon Phenom Royal Thai AB, Thailand. He flew **154** missions in the A-1 bringing his total combat missions to **596**. **38** additional North Vietnam missions brought that total to **139**, all in **propeller** aircraft.

2000-Present - Owner/Operator Harding Tree Farm, Huntingdon, TN

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command pilot, Master parachutist

Flight hours: Over 8,000 hours including civilian hours

Aircraft flown: T-33, F-86, F-84, O-1, U-10, A-1, A-7, various single and multiengine civilian propeller aircraft

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Air Force Cross; Silver Star with 2 oak leaf clusters; Legion of Merit with 1 oak leaf cluster ; Distinguished Flying Cross with 8 oak leaf clusters; Bronze Star with AV@ and 1 oak leaf cluster; Purple Heart with 3 oak leaf clusters; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal with 39 oak leaf clusters; Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster; Presidential Unit Citation with 4 oak leaf clusters; USAF Outstanding Unit Award with AV@ and 4 oak leaf clusters; Combat Readiness Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with 8 bronze service stars; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm;

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Royal Thai Supreme Command Forward Badge 1st Class



Awarded for actions during the [Vietnam War](#)

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Captain James C. Harding (AFSN: 0-57979), United States Air Force, for heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Forward Air Controller attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade, Pleiku, South Vietnam on 19 August 1965. On this date, while Captain Harding was flying escort for an armored column, he spotted hostile forces preparing an ambush ahead of the lead vehicle. Despite intense small arms fire and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Captain Harding dove his unarmed aircraft at the hostile positions, pinpointing their locations for the guns of the armored vehicles and causing the hostile forces to become disorganized and break for cover. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Captain Harding reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Action Date: 19-Aug-65

Service: [Air Force](#)

Rank: Captain



Awarded for actions during the [Vietnam War](#)

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Captain James C. Harding (AFSN: 0-57979), United States Air Force, for heroism as Air Liaison Officer and Forward Air Controller while engaged in ground operations against an opposing armed force near Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam on 14 September 1965. On that date, Captain Harding departed his command and control helicopter and accompanied the ground forces in a radio control jeep. Under constant harassment of sniper, small arms, and mortar fire, Captain Harding successfully led a patrol which denied the hostile forces use of extremely valuable explosives. By his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty, Captain Harding has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Action Date: 14-Sep-65

Service: [Air Force](#)

Rank: Captain



Awarded for actions during the [Vietnam War](#)

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 20 July 1942, takes pleasure in presenting the Legion of Merit to Lieutenant Colonel James C. Harding (AFSN: 0-57979), United States Air Force, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commander and Operations Officer, 1st Special Operations Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, from 8 January 1972 to 23 October 1972. During this period, the leadership, exemplary foresight, and ceaseless efforts consistently demonstrated by Colonel Harding resulted in significant contributions to the effectiveness and success of the vitally important Search and Rescue mission. His managerial ability, devotion to duty, and courage under fire were constant sources of inspiration to the men under his command. The superior initiative, outstanding leadership and personal endeavor displayed by Colonel Harding reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Action Date: January 8, 1972 - October 23, 1972

Service: [Air Force](#)

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Information on this page furnished by:

www.militarytimes.com

Ladies and Gentlemen! Brothers and Sisters! Are you getting excited? Are you making plans? Are you ready for the next TSNA family reunion in Charlotte, NC from October 6-9, 2011? Get up now and get going on making your reservations. The NFL has a scheduled game for that weekend and hotels fill up fast. From today, May 11-

Oct 6, is a mere 149 days. Yes, I know, you can hardly believe it is that close. We are going to throw a party for all the TSNA family that will include new members (friends) and friends that continue to come every year. You will hear plenty of war stories, new jokes and old jokes and feel at home. Ladies, please bring your

best cookies, brownies or candies that you wish to bring.

Thanks, Rena, for the homemade ginger cookies last year. Not a one was left. You were the talk of the refreshment tables. Gentlemen, bring any mementos or exhibits you may wish to show us. Thanks, Harold, for

your boots. They looked brand new. Oh, Harold, don't forget the Nam Vet era music and a player. We can still shake a booty. Right, people? Cameras are on the agenda, too. North Carolina is gorgeous in October. Look for further information in the Revetments or on the TSNA website. Larry and Charles do a great job on those. Thanks, Guys.

So, make your reservations now. Plug into the TSNA family. I am anxious to meet and greet each one of you. I'm not getting younger and my heart's battery needs its yearly charge. How about you? See ya there and y'all come!

Love,
Kid Sister Janice Jones

P.S. Y'all do realize that each of you is my "other Brother". Charles Penley is my only blood Brother, but, y'all are what I claim as my "other Brothers". Sisters, come with your men. We ladies have a ball!



Welcome Home! Thank You! You did good!

**SOMETHING ELSE TO DO IN CHARLOTTE!! SPEED ON DOWN TO THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME
(It's not very far from our hotel)**

**NASCAR
HALL OF FAME®

CHARLOTTE
NORTH CAROLINA**



If you're looking for some pedal-to-the-metal fun, look no further than the NASCAR Hall of Fame. The Hall is fueled with more than 50 interactive experiences like tire-changing stations, realistic race simulators, a broadcast booth, three floors of NASCAR history, 40,000 square feet of exhibit space, video interactive touch screens and games, thousands of authentic artifacts and more! And even a Kids Zone where children can be wide open. We guarantee to get your adrenaline racing.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame wasn't only built to honor the sport's history, its moments and its best drivers... it was built as a tribute to its passionate fans and offer a full-throttle experience for newcomers.

Whether you're a history buff, a die-hard NASCAR fan or looking for family-friendly fun, you'll find it all at the Hall:

Conveniently located in uptown Charlotte, N.C., the 150,000-square-foot NASCAR Hall of Fame is an interactive, entertainment attraction honoring the history and heritage of NASCAR.

The above information used with permission by the NASCAR Hall of Fame: <http://www.nascarhall.com>.

"Non-American" Names on The Wall

By: Carol Bessette
TSNA Treasurer

After the recent publicity about an Australian name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, I got so many questions from other Washington, DC tour guides about "*Non-Americans on The Wall? Really? How could that be?*," that I decided to try to research the whole question of "non-Americans" whose names are listed.

I knew it would be an exercise in frustration, and it was. Partly, it is the possibility of error in a data base of that size. Secondly, there are different ways of counting, and honest mistakes can be made. (The Korean Veterans Memorial in Washington has incorrect casualty figures because of honest and well-intentioned accounting differences.) Thirdly, "What is an American?" That is not as easy to answer as you may think. And, of course, there are a number of people with dual citizenship.

Military records include the "Home of Record" for each individual; that is what you see when you research these data bases. As we all know, "Home of Record" is not the same as "Legal Residence." It is the place one was living when he/she entered the military, and is used to determine travel entitlements when the person separates from the military. It has nothing to do with voting or paying taxes, registering vehicles, nor any of the other privileges of state residency. (This is totally confusing to the average civilian, as I have learned the hard way.)

So, if a young man had lived for 20+ years in Nebraska, went to spend the summer with a relative in California and enlisted while living there, his records would show "California," even though he may have been there just a matter of months.

There is a lot of confusion

about "Canadians on The Wall." If you go into the standard web sites that have analyzed and compiled data from the military records, you would say, "Ten Canadians died while serving in the US military during the Vietnam War."

However, if you go to the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Windsor, Ontario, you will see 108 names. It is estimated that 30,000-40,000 Canadians served in Vietnam; based on that, the higher number seems reasonable. Why such a great discrepancy?

Back to the Home of Record problem: many young Canadians came over the border for jobs in the US, particularly in urban areas like Detroit. They were subject to the US draft if they were living in the US. Or, they may have seen their American friends going to military training and decided to join the crowd. Their "Home of Record" would have been Detroit or Buffalo or Plattsburgh, NY, even though they were Canadian citizens.

There are so many ways that there can be this confusion. I know of one example from personal experience. In the mid-70s, my husband and I met a family living in rural France. The man was a retired US Army officer who married a French girl he met while passing through that area in WWII. After his retirement, they went to live permanently in France. They had a son, born in the US, a US citizen, who was killed in Vietnam while serving in the US Army. He is listed as one of the two names from France.

Another example: the name that is listed for Brazil is that of AF Colonel Frank Howard Briggs. He was a pilot, a Forward Air Controller shot down over South Vietnam. It is most likely (his rank and his position) that he was a US citizen, but--he was born in Brazil and apparently was living there when he joined the military.

I will list the numbers for each country, but--take these with a great grain of

salt. Each one of the names has a story behind it--and in a number of cases (definitely not all cases), I believe the story is that the man was actually a US citizen.

What does all of this tell us? I think we can say, with some degree of certitude, that "men from a number of countries served in the US military during the Vietnam war, and that the names of these men, as far as they are known, are reflected on the Memorial."

1 Each From: Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Bahamas, Costa Rica, Palau, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland
2 Each From: France, Jamaica, New Zealand, Panama
4 Each From: Great Britain
5 Each From: Mexico
7 Each From: Germany
10 Each From: Canada (but more likely over 100)
27 Each From: Philippines

WHY I JOINED TSNA

I just stumbled on the web site while Googling Vietnam-related subjects.

Then, I read the posted back issues of *Revetments*, and a lot of things came back that I hadn't thought of in many years; some good, some not so good, but shared experiences, nonetheless. No one could identify with that 12 months if they didn't pull the tour themselves. I don't know if that explains why I joined TSNA, but that's the best I can put it into words.

-- Larry Gates
377th Security Police Squadron,
Ramp Area and Customs Section



Courtesy may be defined as treating the other fellow as though he is as important as he thinks he is.

Tan Son Nhut Association
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Revetments is an official publication of the Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236
The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans' Organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Web Site: www.tsna.org

Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



This is the type of airplane that got me to TSN
(December 1961).

How did you get to TSN?

I need stories!!

NEW MEMBERS



This space is saved for the names of new members of TSNA added during the month. I am writing this on May 21, and as of this date, we have no new members this month.

So get going and find some of your old TSN friends and get them to join. Or sign up one of your kids or relatives so that this organization keeps going in the future.

We currently have close to a dozen members who are what I call "Second Generation" members. We need a lot more of them.

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