



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



MARCH 2018

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

To: TSNA Members

Ephesians is a wonderful part of the Bible. I like: "The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation in the knowledge of Him." That means a "disposition" consisting of wisdom, and revelation in knowing Him."

When the figurative terms are removed from "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened" then the clause means that "your mind's understanding may be fully enlightened." This clause further explains verse 17 "That ye may know" signifies that the believer comes to know three things upon being enlightened: 1) "What is the hope of his calling"; that is, he realizes how sure and certain is his heavenly destiny; 2) "What the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints"; that is, the "Illuminated Christian" recognizes more, and more, both the priceless value of his salvation, and what a priceless treasure he is to God; and 3) "What is the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe;" perceiving how God's power has changed us since conversion, we experiences to a greater extent this divine strength in daily living. Perhaps, brothers and sisters, that is the reason I have been able to survive a stroke, heart transplant, and kidney failure to discourage, and dissuade me from His path? It has not, and will not change my love, and desire to do God's work in delivering His Word to those of need, and who will hear.

Chapter 2 of Ephesians on Grace and Faith, are also wonderful: "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespass and sins; wherein in time past, ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience..... But God, who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He loved us."

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, so that by His Grace ye are saved."

There is so much more in Ephesians..I could go on..as it is a reaffirmation in our belief, and through His graces that our enlightenment is achieved, allowing us to see, and understand, so much more of scripture, and the true meaning of His Word.

God bless you all, and I pray you have a wonderful month.

By His Grace,

Associate Chaplain, Paul A. Subbie

We are collecting toiletries and paperback books to send to our troops.

The name of this project is: **"Goodies for our Troops"**.

So as you travel and stay in hotels, motels please save those toiletries to donate to us. Any unwanted paperbacks please save also.

We have a case of Toiletries and a case of paperbacks already collected.

We will also accept M&M's. They do not melt.

No large bars of soap, big jugs of shampoos, no hardcover books. We want to keep small and lighter.

We want to collect these at the Dayton Reunion. If you cannot or unable to make the reunion, you can send to me and I will get them to Dayton.

You can give these items to myself or George Plunkett.

George is heading this up, and he will have an extended van to carry back home to get ready to ship out to the troops.

This is a chance for you and us as a group to give back.

We are off to a great start.

Goodies for our Troops

My address is::

**Randall W Brown
213 W Grant St
Hartford City, IN 47348**

Thanks to all,

Randall W Brown & George Plunkett

NOTE: Please do not send anything before May 1st, when we get back from wintering in Arizona.



Task Force 35 / Tet 1968

Life for me in Vietnam for the first few months was not bad at all. We would see soldiers come in from other parts of Vietnam which would remind us of how bad things really were. I remember seeing an old high school friend, Tommy Bell, on the base who had just come in from the jungles. We talked for a short while and I realized how lucky I was to have the job I had and to be stationed inside a secure base.

And then comes the Chinese New Year of which they called Tet. Tet was a sacred holiday for these people or so we thought.

On January 30, 1968 I was to be part of a reaction platoon or a so called task force. Task Force 35 is recognized in the annuals of the battle of Tet. This was not unusual as everyone on base at one time or another had to be part of this. The platoon was to stand by on the ready in case hostile forces were to invade our perimeters. Nothing out of the ordinary was happening until about 0300 this is three o'clock AM, then we got a call that the base had been put on red alert. This meaning that our base was being invaded and we were to go out and stop the invaders. We were told that we had been hit by mortar and rockets and they were landing on the base. At some point we were told the west perimeter fence had been breached near gate 051 and that enemy forces were coming onto the base. Two platoons of Task Force 35 were dispatched to the area and deployed as the initial blocking force. My job was to drive one of the two five ton trucks that would take our men out to the area of invasion and stop the Viet Cong from invading our base where we were all armed with M14 rifles and an M60. There were a total of 29 men that made up the two platoons of Task Force 35 on these two trucks. When we got out to the perimeter of Tan Son Nhut we began taking fire from the Viet Cong. At this point we stopped the vehicles, dropped into ditches along side the road and returned fire. I can remember seeing Viet Cong in numbers just in front of our positions. I remember seeing and hearing a mortar round go off behind us. The truck I was driving was riddled with bullet holes and realizing how lucky I was to still be alive. I remember this one Lieutenant, Lieutenant Rojas who was directing us at what to do and the bravery he showed by his actions I'll never forget. I had no idea who this man was at this time, but I'll never forget how he got us through this.

The objective of the Viet Cong was to overrun the base and our objective was to see that this didn't happen. We held our position for seemed like forever. And then at daylight we saw some relief coming to help us. A number of Huey helicopters with their weapons came to our rescue and started firing on the Viet Cong positions. It didn't take long for them to wipe out our enemies. We later found out that our task force of 29 men had held back more than 600 Viet Cong. We lost two fellow soldiers in the battle and again I felt very lucky to be alive.

I know I was scared that morning but I can only remember doing what I had been taught throughout my tenure in the Army. I can remember after the battle was over the smell of dead bodies and how our army dug large trenches to place the bodies of the dead Viet Cong in. I remember seeing bodies cut in half, limbs missing and blood everywhere. I remember seeing a young dead Viet Cong who was shot and pictures of his family in his hand. It made me realize that these were people too, fighting for what they thought was right. I also remember that these dead bodies did not faze me at all. I kept thinking that this could be me or my fellow soldiers instead. I remember praying to God to help us get out of this. He answered my prayers.

A few months later myself and the other 28 members of this platoon were awarded the bronze star. I still feel we did nothing heroic. We only did what any good soldier would do and what we were trained for. God Bless our training. History says we were clerks, typist, truck drivers and signal men, but first and foremost we were soldiers. Our duty on that morning of January 31, 1968 was being Task Force 35 and to keep the enemy from penetrating the perimeter of Tan Son Nhut Airbase. We did that and along with the Bronze Star our unit also received the Presidential Unit Citation. This battle is recorded in the War Archives and recognizes Task Force 35 and the 69th Signal Battalion.

Life in Vietnam changed for me after that. Every day we were on alert that something like this could happen again. And it did but not at the magnitude it was during Tet. The Tet Offensive is one of the most talked about battles of the Vietnam war of which our enemies put an all out effort to take control of South Vietnam. They failed but we lost a lot of good soldiers and being in the heat of the battles makes me appreciate what we have here in the United States. Anytime you have doubts just remember you're in the best country in the world. God Bless America.

By: [G. Wayne Conner Aug 67-Aug 68, U.S. Army, 69th Signal Battalion](#)

Looking Back to the Year 1969

By: Harold Boone
460th TRW HQ Section
Sep 67 - Aug 68

The Vietnam War troop level has started to decline and was down to 475,200. Deaths declined also with 11,780 reported. Ho Chi Minh dies at age 79.

Former President Eisenhower died. The Selective Service begins a lottery system of selecting men for the draft. Those born on September 14 were to be first. Apollo 11 lands on the moon. Rubella vaccine introduced. Boeing introduced the 747 Jumbo Jet. The now famous outdoor concert "Woodstock" happened in New York. Were you at Woodstock?

The computers at four universities were connected through the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). This allowed the sharing of data between multiple computers. After years of advancement we now call this process "the internet". What a concept.

In the world of money, Chemical Bank began experimenting with "teller machines". The U. S. Treasury began a gradual withdrawal of the \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 bills from circulation. In the food industry, Wendy's and Captain D's opens. Won't need those big bills eating here.

For fun and games, we had movies, TV's sports, and listened to the best music of all time and did not know it then.

At the movies in 1969, we watched *Anne of a Thousand Days*, *Butch Cassidy*, *Hello Dolly*, *Midnight Cowboy*, *True Grit*.

The long running children's show, Sesame Street began. On TV, we were watching Laugh In, Family Affair, Mayberry R.F.D., Bonanza, Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.

Here are the top 10 songs of 1969 as listed by Billboard. How many of these classic sounds do you remember? Remember dancing to them?

Sugar, Sugar by The Archies
Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In by The Fifth Dimension
I Can't Get Next To You by The Temptations
Honky Tonk Women by The Rolling Stones
Everyday People by Sly and The Family Stone
Dizzy by Tommy Roe
Hot Fun in the Summertime by Sly and the Family Stone
I'll Never Fall in Love Again by Tom Jones
Build Me Up Buttercup by Foundation
Crimson and Clover by Tommy James and The Shondells

In sports, the amazing New York Mets defeated the Baltimore Orioles in the World Series. Texas was Champion in college football. Kansas City Chiefs were Super Bowl champions. UCLA defeated Purdue in College Basketball – UCLA is on a roll.

HERRERA RE TET

I was attached to the 377 CES and was part of the Power Production Section, for both mobile and fixed units. Most of my time was spent at the main Command Post Area. That is where I was when the fighting first started. My tour of duty was from March 1967 thru March 1968. I saw explosions close enough to see the multi colors. Really too close for comfort but I came back unharmed. Shaken but no physical wounds showing. The experience is one that I am not sorry about. The one thing I really remember is that for the length of the battle just before sundown heavy armor would drive up maybe 200 to 300 feet from where we slept and fire their 50s on and off through out the night. I really can not recall for how many days that took place, all I know is I got used to it. I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Safe and Prosperous New Year.

Jesus S. Herrera, 3/67-3/68 377th CES attached to 377th CSG

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION

- USA
- USAF
- USCG
- USMC
- USN
- CIV

NAME: _____ GUEST NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TEL: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____ @ _____
SPECIAL NEEDS? _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Number Attending: _____ x \$75.00 = \$ _____
Pre-Order Reunion Video: QTY: _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____
Total Remittance: \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN: August 31, 2018

Mail check to: TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 236
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236

Note: If not paying the full registration (\$75.00) then the following fees apply:

Access to hospitality suite (includes snacks & beverages): \$12.50 daily
Friday Banquet Dinner: \$37.50/person (Cash Bar not included)
Additional charges (TBD) for tours; transportation; outside activities; etc.

HOTEL INFORMATION

HOPE HOTEL & RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE CONFERENCE CENTER
Bldg. 823, Area A, Gate 12A
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5000
(937) 879-2696

Reservations must be made by telephone. Mention "TSNA" when making reservation.
(Please note: Military ID not required to access the hotel)

Room Rate: \$109.00 + Tax (includes breakfast)

NOTE: This special room rate is available three days prior and three days after the reunion
ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY: AUGUST 27, 2018!

All questions should be directed to:

Joe Kricho

Director of Reunion Planning

67vietvet68@gmail.com

Please put: "TSNA Reunion" in the Subject Line

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BEFORE, BUT WITH OUR CURRENT EMPHASIS ON THE TET 50TH ANNIVERSARY, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY APPROPRIATE FOR REPUBLISHING

"Task Force 35"
By: Gary F. Monahan
Task Force member

They came like thieves in the middle of the night
Even fired on an unarmed Free bird as it was taking flight
Westward down the runway we hurried that day
Perfectly aware we were about to enter the fray

"Task force 35" was our call name
Cooks, Clerks, and Truck Drivers were now in the game
We exited our transport with 14's at the ready
With the 377th guidance to keep us steady

A line of defense was accomplished in a hurry
We awaited the order to move forward, don't worry
We listened to our leaders and did what we were told
It was our best chance of making it to 19 years old

We surged forward, pulled back, then surged forward again
Then came the Huey's to help us with "Might and Main"
With the way cleared we pushed on through the dark
And as the dawn broke it was clear that they hit their mark

Enemy combatants all strewn on the ground
We approached and made eye contact not uttering a sound
Bodies maimed and bloodied were a horrible sight
So far we were thankful it was not our turn that night

As the battle raged on that fateful day
We knew not what happened at 051, we had no way
Westward we moved to help save your lives
Regrettably we did not make it, for this we apologize

At the end of the day the battle was won
The enemy was defeated and on the run
Cooks, Clerks, and Truck Drivers were happy to be alive
So ends the story of "Task Force 35"

ANOTHER EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are fortunate to have an article about Tet—a real "first person" personal account of activity during this special time period.

It is 6 pages long, so it has been suggested that I do it as a Special Edition—which is what I will be doing.

That Special Edition will also have pictures from the Tet timetable, from another member.

Coming soon!!

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

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Changing rotor on Chinook.
Photo from George Greenwood
Sep 66 - Sep 67
460th FMS Airframe Repairman

NEW MEMBERS

Rickey D. Masters	Afton	OK	we2masters@outlook.com	Apr 67 - May 68	USAFPCS Saigon Arrival Mail Terminal
William E. Presz	Grove City	OH	bpresz@att.net	Nov 68 - Nov 69	21st Casualty Staging Flight
Eugene V. Schulte	Snellville	GA	rvnvvet@gmail.com	Jul 70 - Jun 71	Radio Cable Co. Signal Support Agency
Mike Tiffany	Janesville	WI	mjt82949@yahoo.com	Oct 69 - Oct 70	1876th Communications Squadron

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

My barracks was in 1200 area. I worked night shift 1900 hours to 0700 hours. The year I was there I was working the flightline on a C-123 aircraft during initial Tet Offensive on 31 January 1968. I believe it was Charlie Row. I was usually on the flightline in various locations during most of the attacks during winter and spring of 1968.

Gale H. Pederson
460th FMS
Oct 67 - Oct 68

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