
Tan Son Nhut Association



6th edition T.S.N.A

March 22, 1997

Let's Celebrate Together For The 50th Year of the USAF! Sign Up Now For The Hampton Reunion October 8th-12th

Just a quick note to remind everyone that the reunion in Hampton, VA is just around the corner (or at least six months around the corner). It's time to get organized and put in your reservations for room, meals, and tours. Tours that are currently on the schedule include:

Colonial Williamsburg Overview Yorktown Battlefield site

The cost for this combined tour which lasts 7 hours, is \$30.00 per person. This includes a morning in Colonial Williamsburg with a guided tour through the past and events that helped shape America's history. There will be shopping, browsing, and the merchant's square is a great place to have lunch. Followed by a scenic ride on the Colonial Parkway to the village of Yorktown. You will visit the National Park Service Visitors Center and view the exhibits relating to the historic Battle of Yorktown, and a 12 minute film. Also a rooftop view of the battlefields. This tour is scheduled for Thursday morning on October 9th. We must have a minimum of 30 people to have a bus tour, which is designed for minimal walking.

We also have scheduled a tour of the Langley Air Force Base. This is the oldest operating Air Force Base in the USA. This tour will include a through the windshield tour by bus, a static display, and a hanger tour of an F-15. Followed by a lunch at the Officers Club with the base commander. The tour starts at 10:30 am with lunch at 12:00 pm.

The Holiday Inn, Hampton Hotel and Conference Center will be the host of our reunion this year. Special rates have been given to the T.S.N.A. for the reunion at \$69 a room for up to 4 people per room. Upgrades to the Executive Level is only an additional \$10.00. This rate is available for us three days before and after the reunion for those who want an extended stay in Hampton, and if you're a history buff and enjoy fall at its peak this is definitely the place to be! There will be complimentary shuttle service from the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport or the Amtrak Station to the Holiday Inn as well as complimentary baggage handling. Upon arrival there will be a hospitality room for everyone to gather. Hotel amenities include exercise room, whirlpool, game room, fitness course, sauna and gift shop, Showtime, ESPN, & CNN in each room, all major credit cards accepted. Also there are coffee makers in all rooms and 24 hour guest laundry. Check in time is between 3-4pm on any day during the reunion.

In keeping with tradition we will have the T.S.N.A. meeting during the day on Sat. to discuss future plans of the association (Memorial design, site for future reunions, election of officers, etc.) In the evening the T.S.N.A. will have their banquet dinner/dance which is enjoyed by all. Our tentative list of speakers includes: Col. Tex Peebles, Base Commander of Tan Son Nhut during TET of 1968, Rep. Sam Johnson, TX - Air Force pilot and POW 7 yrs, author of *Captive Warriors*, Adrian Croneaur - Of Good Morning Vietnam fame, and others. As usual we will have our fantastic door prizes, and our 50/50 **cash** drawing!

Donations are always needed and welcome at the T.S.N.A.. If you are able to donate funds, time, or equipment to the association please call our new T.S.N.A phone number 301-277-8784.

The association desperately needs the generosity of members like you to help keep us flying! Without it we cannot have our reunion, memorials, and most of all our ability to keep in contact with one another and pass our memories along to others. Running the association also requires a lot of time and work, if you are able to volunteer your abilities to keep the newsletters going, find reunion spots, coordinate travels, manage member databases, etc. please contact us, any and all suggestions are heard and welcome!

Donations over \$100 dollars in cash or equipment will receive a free 1 yr. membership and a dragon patch.

Dues for 1997 Started **January 1st**

If you have not paid dues but want to stay on the mailing list you **MUST** at least write us. Tell us to keep you on the mailing list and send a SASE #10 envelope.

DUES 20\$ PER YEAR
DUE BEGINNING IN JANUARY 1997

We need MEMBERS!!!!!!

If you know of anyone that is T.S.N.A material please let them know about us.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS...

Greetings from the great white north!

It's warm to hear that the reunion committee is putting together one whale of a party for Hampton, VA on Oct 8-12th 1997. We'll heat up the place the same way people from green bay heated up the town of New Orleans at the Super Bowl. This year has been a dream come true for our football team. All of what they say about us is true and even more. (editors note- John Evans works with the Green Bay Packers, there is a little bias going on here. In all seriousness congrats!) About the reunion, I can't wait. The reunion activities will need some input. We specifically need to know when you will be arriving. It takes a lot of work to put one of these on and all of the help everyone has given in the past is truly appreciated. The time spent (in the hospitality suite) here in the past is a sure ice-breaker. Bring your photos, stories, etc.. Each time someone new comes, who know you may find those long lost friends just by accident.

-John Evans
Secretary T.S.N.A

I was born and raised in the Air Force, so I guess that makes me a military brat. After my father served 29 years and upon his retirement, I enlisted in the Air Force

in 1971. Upon graduation from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX. I was assigned to the 821 Security Police Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota for OJT. After six months of humping B-52 bombers and Minuteman Missiles. I decided to volunteer for Vietnam. When I received my order for Vietnam, my assignment for the 377th Combat Security Police Squadron, Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base.

My first tour with the 377th was that of base patrol, defending the base, and SCS. After my first seven months, I was then reassigned to 7th Air Force Headquarters Honor Guard. There my job to monitor only the assigned personnel who were allowed in 7th Air Force Command control center. My second tour I was hand picked to be reassigned to the 69th Consolidated Material Support Group, Security Police Combat Detachment, United States Embassy Saigon, Vietnam. My job detail was that of Guard Check Team Supervisor and Body Guard to the Office of Special Assistant to The United States Ambassador. I'm proud to have served with all three units, but most

of all to see that the 377th Combat Security Police Squadron is still guarding the 7th Air Force today at Kirkland AFB., New Mexico.

-Johnnie Beasley, Jr.

John is keeping our member database in order, our many thanks go out to him!

Letters have been edited for the purpose of the newsletter.

Excerpt from the novel *AIR WAR: VIETNAM*
by Frank Harvey

TAN SON NHUT

Tan Son Nhut Airfield in Saigon is a steaming cauldron in which the ingredients of war are mixed and stirred and blended in preparation for a multitude of missions in support of the Vietnam war. The field is dominated by a single 10,000-foot strip, and during the morning and evening rush hours it is close to a madhouse. Tan Son Nhut is the busiest airfield in the world-busier than Kennedy, busier than O'Hare.

Everything is designed to clear the planes off the runway in a few seconds. Spaced along the main strip are three feeder strips angled into the runway. Sixty planes are sometimes waiting in these three lines, engines running. Often two planes take off together-either in formation or in tandem, one after the other. As one lifts off, it turns sharply to make way for the one behind it. Takeoffs and landings are often taking place simultaneously. The FAA wouldn't like it, but it sure gets planes up and down in a hurry.

Pipers, Cessnas, Beeches, DC-3's, Caribous, Grumman HU-16's and other smaller aircraft lineup at the 5,000 foot turnoff while C-54's, C-118's, Connies and the like wait their turn at the 7,500 foot mark. Heavy fighters-F-100's, F-102's, F-104's, F-4's, F-5's and lumbering jet transports such as Lockheed C-141 lock their brakes and spool up to takeoff power down at the far end.

A light plane may land long and wheel off quickly around the banked racetrack curve at the end of runway while a jet comes in hot behind- landing short and popping its chute at the beginning of the strip. A C-130 full of

ammo turns on short final and squeezes in front of Pan Am 707 on a long, straight-in approach.

Emergencies occur almost hourly. A squadron of choppers, down to their reserve fuel, flail toward the field. An RF-101 Voodoo touches down gingerly on battle damaged landing gear. A B-57 limps in all shot up, and they lift out the wounded pilot after he shuts it down and rush him to surgery.

A Kaman HH-43 helicopter lugging a large red fire bottle on a cable under its belly stands by constantly for just such emergencies. As the wounded ship comes on final and touches down, the chopper flies alongside ready to douse any blaze instantly. Crash trucks and a mobile derrick are always at the ready too. If a crash occurs, the trucks race out, spray foam on the damaged plane and the mobile derrick muscles it off the runway. With the wild stackup that's usually overhead the field can't afford to close down even for a few minutes.

Tan Son Nhut is the most active American air base in Southeast Asia. Around the field are rows of ramps and concrete parking areas where planes are outfitted for every conceivable kind of mission. In addition to being a marshaling yard for the goods our cargo planes bring in from overseas, Tan Son Nhut is an operational base for search and rescue, defoliation, in-country supply redistribution, air defense fighters, helicopter salvage work, bombing missions, day and night reconnaissance, VIP air taxis, spotters, Medevac, Troop Transport and a host of other activities.

You see here a greater variety of aircraft than has ever been assembled on a military field. It's a regular air show to watch them come and go. To visit Tan Son Nhut, to wander about the field and see the number and variety of its aircraft, and the multiplicity of missions they are engaged in, is to have brought home to you the absolutely central role of air power in the American involvement in Southeast Asia.

Continued next newsletter....



Holiday Inn®

Hampton Hotel and Conference Center

1815 West Mercury Boulevard
Hampton, Virginia 23666
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FAX: (757) 838-4964
e-mail: holiday@cvent.net
<http://www.cvent.net/lodging/holiday>

Single - \$
Double - \$

Hotel Information

General:

The Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel and Conference Center is conveniently located directly off Interstate 64 midway between Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach, just 5 minutes away from restaurants, movie theaters and shopping malls. Add to this our indoor & outdoor pools, jogging course and 13 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and we are sure you will agree we offer something for everyone! For your conference needs, we have over 16,000 square feet of flexible meeting and banquet space, making us the largest and most versatile Conference Center on the Virginia Peninsula!

Amenities:

Exercise room, whirlpool, game room, fitness course, sauna and gift shop.
Showtime, ESPN & CNN complimentary in each room.
Coffee makers, hair dryers, ironing boards and irons in all rooms.
24 hour guest laundry.
In-room voice mail and data ports.
Executive level with complimentary continental breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres.
Complimentary USA Today delivered to your door.
All major credit cards accepted.
Complimentary Airport Transportation provided to/from Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport.

Local Attractions:

Hampton Coliseum	2 Minutes	Virginia Air & Space Museum	10 Minutes
The Hamptons Golf Course	5 Minutes	Mariner's Museum	12 Minutes
NASA Langley Research Center	6 Minutes	Fort Eustis	15 Minutes
Langley Air Force Base	6 Minutes	Jamestown Settlement	20 Minutes
Virginia Living Museum	8 Minutes	Yorktown Battlefield	20 Minutes
Newport News Shipbuilding	10 Minutes	Busch Gardens	20 Minutes
Casemate Museum	10 Minutes	Water Country	20 Minutes
Fort Monroe	10 Minutes	Norfolk Waterside	25 Minutes
Hampton University	10 Minutes	Colonial Williamsburg	25 Minutes
		Williamsburg Pottery	30 Minutes
		Oceanfront Va. Beach	35 Minutes

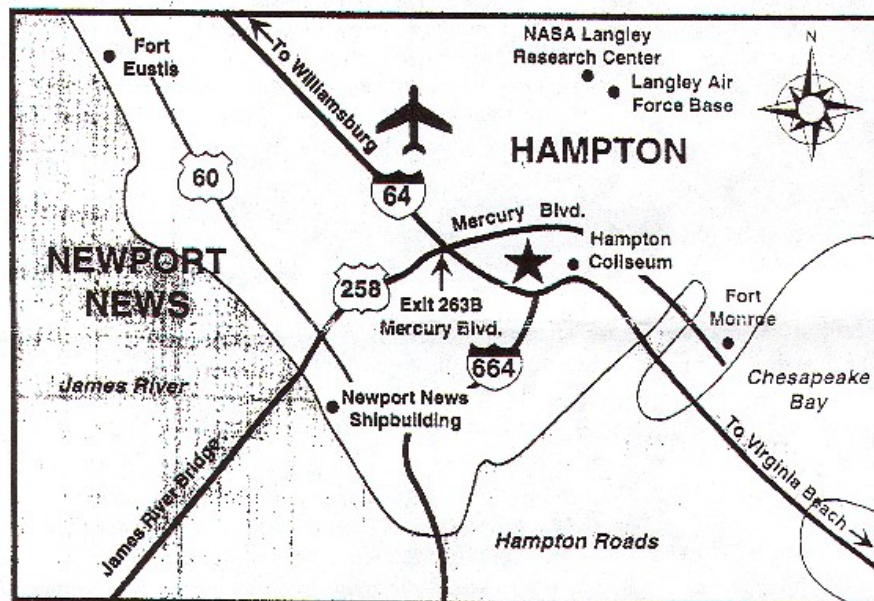
Tivoli Gardens:	Breakfast Hours:	Monday-Friday	6:00AM-11:00AM
		Saturday	7:00AM-11:30AM
		Sunday	7:00AM-10:30AM
	Lunch Hours:	Monday-Friday	11:30AM-2:00PM
	Dinner Hours:	Sunday-Saturday	5:30PM-10:00PM

Garden Court Lounge:	Hours:	Sunday-Saturday	11:00AM-12:00 Midnight
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Directions: From Richmond on I-64 East (exit 263B-Mercury Blvd., Hampton Coliseum), bear to your right.

From Norfolk on I-64 West (exit 263B-Mercury Blvd., Hampton Coliseum), Stay right.

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