

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



"All Included - None Excluded"

Volume 6, Number 1

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

October, 2003

Humphrey Arrives in Vietnam THAIS TO SEND 12,000 TO VIET

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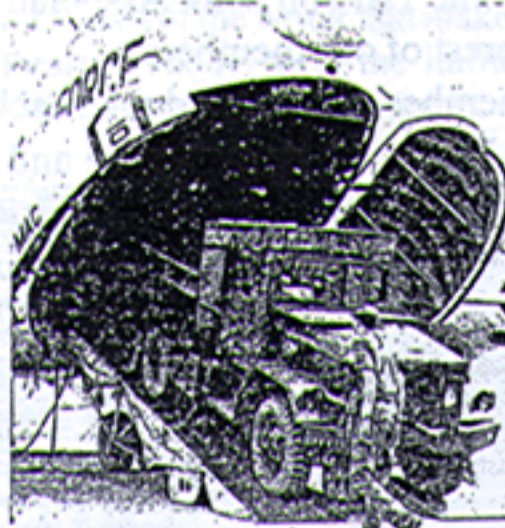
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CARGO HANDLING RECORD—Members of Detachment 1, 30th Aerial Port Squadron direct an Army driver in unloading a P-150A truck from an Air Force C-124 Globemaster. This was part of the first phase of moving 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery Battalion from Bien Hoa AB to Song Be. The move lasted eight hours and set a new squadron record for cargo handled in that time period—1,123,274 pounds. (AIR FORCE PHOTO)

Airlift Crews Set Tonnage Records

TAN SON NHUT — For the seventh straight month, tactical airlift crews carried payloads through Vietnam's skies that weighed more than 100,000 tons. Since Jan. 1, 1965, the Air Force crews have airlifted 2,158,279 tons.

During September the crews flew 21,491 hours in their C-124 Caribees, C-123 Providers, and C-130 Hercules aircraft. They made 31,898 takeoffs and landings to accomplish their assigned tactical airlift missions.

As directed by the 30th Air Division at Tan Son Nhut AB, the crews delivered 65,888 tons of mail, supplies and equipment and 288,144 troops and other passengers to designated destinations throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The combined weight of the payloads was 161,128 tons.

The 30th AD also directed its crews to fly 308 aeromedical evacuation missions within Vietnam in support of the 93rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The squadron's medical technicians and nurses cared for 4,532 patients while they were being airlifted to medical treatment facilities and centers within South Vietnam.

The air division's 2nd Aerial Port Group, which is responsible for the operation of 42 aerial port terminals located throughout the Republic of Vietnam, worked with 271,584 aircraft in September. The group worked under the 315th.

USAID Rep
Praises Base
Civic Action

TUY HOA

SEVENTH AIR FORCE NEWS

Nov. 1, 1967

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Vol. 3, No. 43 HQ. SEVENTH AIR FORCE Nov. 1, 1967

AF Rescuemen Save 309 Lives This Year

SAIGON—Efforts by Air Force pararescuemen in Southeast Asia this year have already rescued enough airmen—309—to staff five full wings with tactical aircraft members, according to statistics supplied by the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, headquartered at Tan Son Nhut AB.

Since December 1964, more than 1,000 men have been rescued. On alert standby status 24 hours a day, men who fly and man the HH-43 and HH-3E helicopters have flown deep into North Vietnam and the entire length of South Vietnam to pick up downed fliers.

"For each rescue aircrew man killed, captured, or missing, we have returned a total of 44," Brig. Gen. Allison F. Brooks, commander of the Air Force Rescue Services, said recently. Members of Detachment 1, 30th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang AB have accounted for 18 combat rescues since January of this year.

With the recent introduction of the new HH-43 Super Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopter, which is presently undergoing flight tests and crew transition training to augment the new HH-3E, pararescuemen will continue to carry out their "that others may live" motto to even a greater extent when ever they are needed.

YUNG TAO—Quick action by an Air Force flight engineer aboard a C-124 Caribee recently helped save the life of a Vietnamese Army soldier who had been hit by enemy ground fire. Sgt. Larry E. Wally, Jr., of Graydon, Ill., was on a mission from Lam Son to Song Be. Because of adverse weather conditions, the aircraft had to fly at low level which made it a target for enemy ground troops.

Sergeant Wally, assigned to the 30th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Yang Tan Army Airfield, was in the cockpit looking for helicopter traffic and enemy fire directed at the aircraft. As he returned to the rear of the aircraft, he saw that one of the Vietnamese troops had been wounded. He applied first aid to the wound and treated the soldier for shock.

All personnel met the soldier and, assisted by the crew, carried him to the rear of the aircraft. After assessing the soldier's condition as critical and as the man lay down, he was taken to a hospital at Phuoc Ninh.

The Caribee again took off with the patient and two medics aboard. During the flight to Phuoc Ninh, Sergeant Wally continued to assist the medics in treating the wounded man. Upon (Continued on Back Page)

504th Honors
1,000th C-124

Nov. 1, 1967

Nov. 1, 1967

Nov. 1, 1967

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Nov. 1, 1967

Jolly Greens Take Albatross's Duties

TAN SON NHUT—The HU-16B Albatross amphibian was officially retired from combat rescue operations recently after having been credited with recovering 62 survivors from the hostile waters of the Gulf of Tonkin and the South China Sea.

Replacing the Albatross are the HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopters of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang AB. Already established as rescue's prime overland retriever, air-to-air refueling with HC-130 Hercules tankers has enabled the turbojet HH-3Es to assume the role of overwater rescuers.

Practicing the responsibilities of the retired Albatross, Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service Commander, Brig. Gen. Allison F. Brooks, said that the number of combat saves attributed to the HH-16 is equal to the combined aircrew strength of two fighter squadrons. Often, these rescues were made despite heavy enemy gunfire and adverse weather conditions.

The men rescued by the Albatross will never forget the drone of its engines over the beauty and power of an open sea landing. Now, more modern aircraft have inherited the life-saving task but the mission—that Others May Live—remains unchanged.

During the last aircraft departing Da Nang for Nha (AB), Chinawa, was Lt. Col. Ray E. Johnson, G. of Haddonfield, N.J., commander of the 37th AARS. Other crew members and backup personnel on the flight were Majors James F. Chubb, M. of Toledo, Ohio; Maurice Golden Jr., M. of Columbus, Ohio; and 1st Lt. Robert Kramer, M. of Trenton, N.J.; 1st Lt. Robert W. Field, M. of Bellingham, Wash.; navigator, Sergeant Kenneth E. Beers, M. of Pike, N. of Elmira, N.Y.; flight engineer, The aircraft's maintenance personnel, Rhodes, M. of St. Cloud, Fla., and AIC Lester L. Ryall, M. of Redwood City, Calif., also made the final flight.

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Pilot Compares Korea, Vietnam

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Page 16

Nov. 1, 1967

Nov. 1, 1967

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19th ACS Finishes 123K Phase In

TAN SON NHUT—The 19th Air Commando Squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB is the first unit in Vietnam to become fully equipped with the new jet-powered C-123K Provider aircraft.

The C-123Ks are modified versions of the "B" model which have been in use by 115th Air Commando Wing since early in the Vietnam war. Changes to the C-123 include the installation of two 2-40 jet engines adjacent to the two standard piston engines, new wheels with a modified anti-skid brake system, and a new stall warning system.

Yamamoto-based crews for the C-123Ks arrived at Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines, and other aircrews take the trip to the final leg of the trip to the United States where modifications are being done.

Each of the 115th ACS's other four squadrons will be equipped with the modified version of the aircraft by the end of the year. More C-123Ks are already being sent to various states.

Other air commands send men to receive C-123Ks at the 30th AARS at Phan Rang AB. The 115th ACS at Tan Son Nhut, which is part of the 30th Wing, is the C-123K.

Headquartered at Phan Rang, and commanded by Maj. Richard M. Atkinson, the 115th ACS is the only air command in the Republic of Vietnam.

The new aircraft are used for combat operations of the 115th ACS. They are especially well suited for the role of the air command in the Republic of Vietnam.

The standard piston engines, have been replaced by two jet engines. The C-123K is now in use in Vietnam. The 115th ACS is the only air command in the Republic of Vietnam.

TSN Installing New Comm Center Gear

Nov. 1, 1967

Nov. 1, 1967

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The Voice of Tan Son Nhut Continues!

A TSNA member helps us celebrate the publication of our 61st Issue by reminding us of those voices we listened to back then. *Stars & Stripes* and *Seventh Air Force News*, courtesy of Jerold Cook, Walla Walla, Washington.

TSNA Planning is Going Nowhere Without You



By Jerry Norville, Member of the Board of Directors, Association Secretary

"This is a personal comment. I have never been one to sugar-coat the facts of a situation, so here's my personal view as a member. I am not speaking for the Board.

"I can count on one hand the number of members who have provided input into this planning. It is a proven fact that a plan written by one person within an organization will not be viable. The Tan Son Nhut Association needs a plan to remain strong and serve the needs and interest of our members.

"It is the member's plan – and thus each member is responsible for expressing his or her interests. **Please** review the June and July *Revetments* and send me your thoughts regarding the future of **your Association**. In addition, please respond with the questionnaire you are receiving in this issue.

"Call me and let's talk, (804) 448-4533. FAX your questionnaire and additional material to (804) 448-1662. Or, sit down and e-mail me Norville@bealenet.com Come on, friends, as they say in the radio and t.v. commercials, 'I'm sitting here waiting to take your call.'"

Update of Association Planning Activities

This article is the third report of planning efforts for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The initial planning article entitled "Future Viability of the Tan Son Nhut Association" was printed in the **June** issue of *Revetments*. A second report entitled "The Tan Son Nhut Association Long Range Planning Report" followed in the **July** issue. Members who desire to keep abreast of, or to actively participate in the Association's planning process are encouraged to read these three reports and keep them close at hand for future use during the planning process.

The association's Board of Directors is pursuing a three-phase planning process. The overall process including progress to date is summarized as follows:

Phase I Conduct Assessment

(1) Conduct an assessment of the expectations of members and other interest groups; (2) Identify future data base needs; and, (3) Assess strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Progress

- An assessment of member expectations is underway but incomplete. To encourage more members to express their expectation of the Association, a questionnaire is enclosed herein.
- Assessment of expectations of other interested organizations is in progress.
- Basic data base needs have been identified but work will continue.
- Association strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and

threats were identified in the July issue of *Revetments*.

Phase II Identify Viability Strategies

- Amend as desired the purposes, constitution, bylaws and vision of the Association;
- Prepare long-range goals, annual objectives, action plans and budgets; and
- Identify individual as well as task-group responsibility for pursuing strategies.

Progress

- The governing documents (constitution-bylaws) have been modified and are in draft form for approval of members in person or by proxy at the April 2004 meeting.
- Tentative long-range goals have been identified and specific objectives for next years are drafted. Budgets will be developed when goals and objectives are complete.
- The major need for Phase II is volunteers to assist in completing the specific tasks associated with the overall goals and objectives. (Please let us hear from you soon if you can help.)

Phase III Implement Strategies

(Present for member consideration at the April, 2004 meeting the findings, recommendations and supporting budgets developed through the planning process; and (2) Implement approved and funded plans and programs during Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-2005.

* * *

And now! Fill out the questionnaire and send it back to Jerry *TODAY!*



Nothing in the Louvre can compare . . . by Robert Need, Editor

The only flimsy excuse I have is that "it happens in every newsroom in the world." A big brown mailing envelope has been laying around the Public Affairs Office since early spring. Oh, we're not that rude, yes, it had been opened and I had glanced over the wonderful old copies of *Stars & Stripes* and *The Seventh Air Force News*. I put back into the *Revetments* editorial file, fully intending to use it "someday." Well, "someday" arrived this month and I was proud to set the front page with excerpts from those two priceless copies of those periodicals.

But then, something else fell out of the envelope that I had not previously noticed. Dozens of pairs of young brave eyes bored into my heart across over three decades. As a 7th Air Force combat-newsman I worked often with the men of the 377th Security Police Squadron. Here was a whole flight of them, I must have rubbed shoulders with most of them. It is receiving these priceless photos, artifacts and, so importantly, the words of the writer that make me determined to someday establish a Tan Son Nhut Association Memorial Museum and Library. Today, with the limited technical capabilities of *Revetments*, I am overwhelmingly proud to share this picture and the words of its contributor . . . Jerold Cook of Walla, Walla, Washington



On the back of this photograph, Member Cook wrote information in description -

Starting Back Row Left to Right -

Me (Jerold Cook), SSgt. Johnson, A2C Wishneck, A2C Ottersman ☆, A2C Schnell, A1C Chatman, A2C Stovall, A2c Robinson, A1C Starr.

Second Row Down, Left to Right -

SSgt. Bove, *A1C Pounds ☆, A1C Della Rocca, A2C Lest, *A2C Whitted, A2C Lacharite, A2C McCabe.

Third Row Down, Left to Right -

SSgt. Miller, A2C Moore, A1C Pratt, *A2C Soto, A2C Jones, A2C McClaurin, A2C Clendenin, A2C Diaz.

Fourth Row Down, Left to Right -

A2C Johnson, A1C Cooper, *A1C McSweeney, A2C Derwin, A1C Hoten, A2C Dempsey, A2C Rayer, A2C Williams

Missing from above formation

*A1C Kruse, A2C Thomson, *A1C Wallace, *A1C Shork, A2C Plumb ☆, A1C Pazder ☆, A2C Dibble

☆ Wounded, December 4, 1966

* Denotes personnel on 2nd tours in Vietnam and Southeast Asia

The photograph was taken on February 21, 1967, at 2015 hours, at Building 115, behind the group is the Chapel. Tan Son Nhut, 377th Apron.

Cook's last comment is:

***A2C Thornburg - handler of K-9 Nemo on Echo R3, West Perimeter, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, 1967 - 4 December

(Editor's Note: Thank you so much, Jerold for sharing this historic photograph with us. And, if I have made some error in transcribing your notes on the back, I am deeply sorry. Bob Need.)

Thoughts of Our Sky Pilot



The Reverend Doctor
James M. Warrington
Chaplain, T.S.N.A.

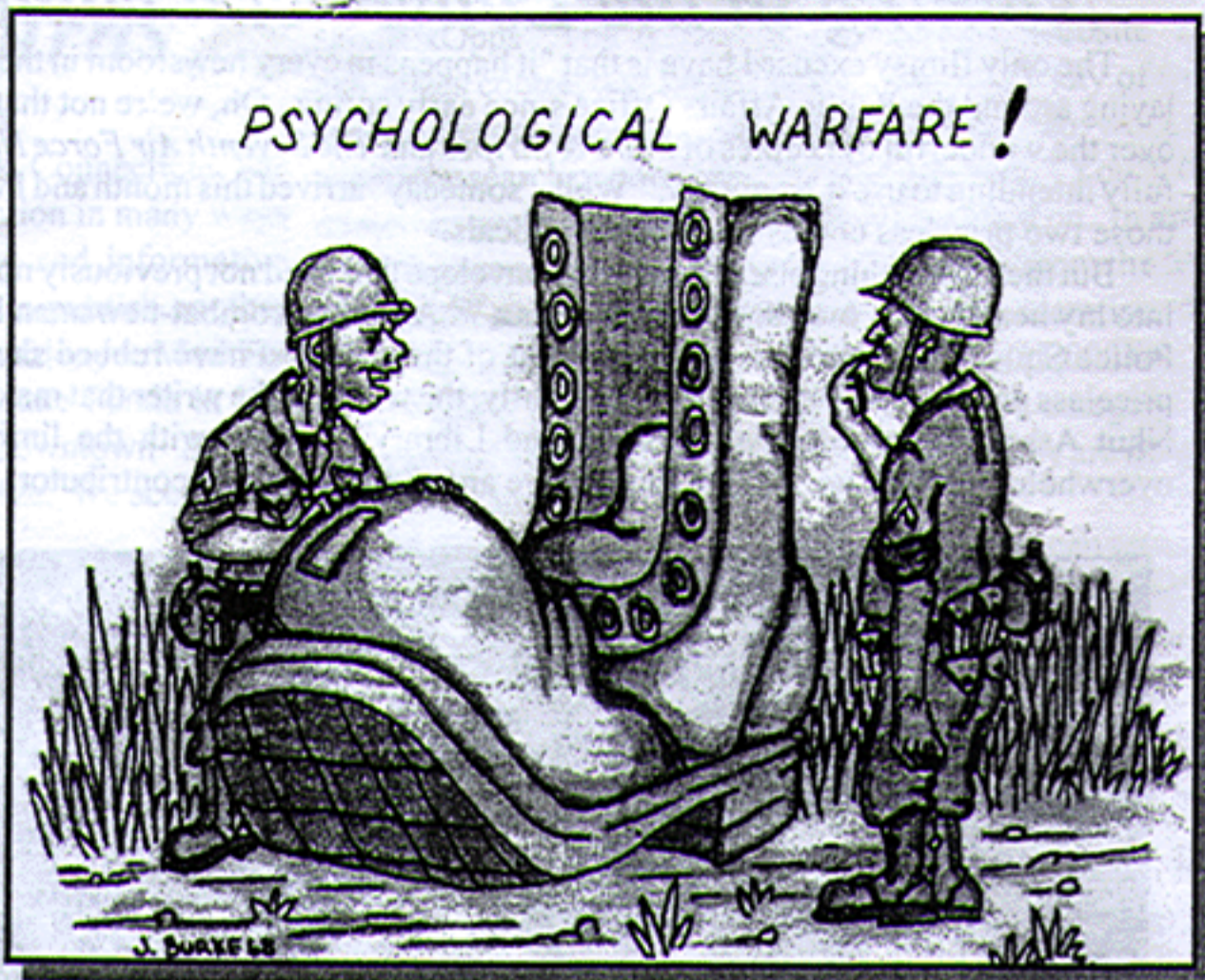
Facing the Alternatives

We would be less than honest if we did not admit that there are difficulties in maintaining a genuine faith in God. There are times of doubt. There are questions that cannot be answered readily. There are puzzling aspects of life that cannot be fully explained. These are some of the inevitable limitations that belong to us finite creatures. If we knew all the answers would we be equal to God?

But at times we need to face the alternatives of no faith in God. There are big problems and difficulties for any intelligent person who denies the reality of God. For instance, how are we to explain the plan and order of this universe apart from a supreme Mind or Reason behind it? If I go into a modern department store, and find all the merchandise divided into appropriate departments to make it easier for me to find what I am looking for, it would scarcely occur to me to say: "how fortunate that by chance there is all this plan and order!" Is it not equally

ridiculous to say of our vast universe, the size and complexity of which seems to grow with each passing day: "All this is merely the result of a fortuitous concourse of atoms"?

Or, how shall we explain the great souls of the past, the men and women who have truly lived as God's children with



I heard a cowboy say once that they do things big in Texas. He was bragging on a Dallas Uncle who was so rich that he owned an "unlisted telephone company!" If you were reading *Stars & Stripes* or the *Air Force Times* in 1968, I don't recall the month or which publication, you might remember this cartoon. It's my only published cartoon that I still have the original copy.

John Burke, '68

courage, genuine love, and complete self-sacrifice? If man is but a highly developed animal, whence have come the spiritual insights and convictions of the prophet, the poet, and the artist? It is a law of nature that water does not rise about its source; how, then, can human nature reach these heights unless there is at the heart of this universe that which is akin to, though vastly greater than, human personality at its best?

Or, again, how shall we dismiss the long record of man's experience as a praying animal? All the evidence indicates that man is incurably religious; in varying forms and at vastly different levels of maturity man has reached into the unseen world in the conviction there is Reality and Power there. These insights do not go contrary to man's reason, though they often go beyond it. Is there any more reason to dismiss these areas of man's experience than to dismiss those that have to do with material reality?

Please Note: Chaplain Warrington has given many years of service and support to the Association. He recently suffered a severe back injury, but his spirits are still great! You might want to drop him a line at 2849 Meadow Lane, Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2329, or give him a call at (703) 241-2546.

Blind Veterans Assc: Chat Room Launched

Member Frank Burke (no relation of John, above), Stephenville, Texas, submitted the following information.

BVA members now have an official chat room through which they can conduct formal meetings, hold informal conversations and provide support to one another.

BVA members interested in joining the chat room can do so by registering at www.for-the-people.com. They may then obtain the chat room password from Junior Farley, Secretary/Treasurer of the BVA Tennessee Regional Group, rickvf@hotmail.com or from Stuart Nelson at BVA National Headquarters (202) 371-8880.

The BVA chat room is a verbal chat room. No text messaging is involved. Participants need computer speakers, a microphone, and an internet provider e-mail address.

Blinded veterans who are not current BVA members may still participated in the original blinded veterans chat room started in 2002. Registration is made at the same e-mail location shown above.



Founded 1995

By Don Parker & John Perle

Revetments is an official publication of the Tan San Nhat Association, Inc. 6203 57th Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland 20737. The Association is a non-profit fraternal organization chartered under appropriate statutes and law.

President, John Perle

Vice Pres. Treasurer Ben White

Executive Secretary Jerry Neville

Senior V.P. Robert Need

Dir./Communications Charles Posley

Dir./Corporate Agent, John Evans

Dir./Membership Wayne Salisbury

TSNA Chaplain Service

(Available for pastoral service; contact Public Affairs for information and appointments)

James M. Warrington

Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe

Rev. Dr. Julian Mills

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Membership Information

Annual Membership \$20.00

Five Year Membership \$80.00

Life Membership \$180.00

Send to Public Affairs, address above.

A Day That Americans Will Never Forget

by Robert Nelson

(Editor's Note: The Tan Son Nhut Association is more than blessed with creative, intelligent, industrious and very brave members, and some that are profoundly and poignantly eloquent. Bob Nelson is one such man. In the morning of September 11, in Delaney Park Strip, in the center of Anchorage, Alaska, he had been invited to speak. He had already shared his comments with the Association the day before by e-mail. It was sent out to a number of members. Frank Ybarbo, of Mesquite, Texas, immediately replied, saying, "Thank you for sharing this speech. I only hope that we, as combat veterans, because we have experienced such atrocities, can maintain our stability and use our experiences to give hope and encouragement to those who have not been to those valleys of destruction.")

* * *

Governor Murkowski, Lieutenant Governor Leman, Representative Dahlstrom, Mayor Begich, Veterans Affairs Coordinator Huggins, distinguished guests, my friends at K-Bear Radio - Matt and Jim - ladies and gentleman, thank you for your invitation to join with you on this historic day.

I've struggled trying to find the "right words" to speak today - words that will pay homage to the thousands of men and women who lost their lives two years ago today. In doing so I tried to envision the thousands upon thousands of family members and friends who have this day *burned* into their memory.

My word struggle continued when I thought of the thousands of soldiers deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom - and Operation Iraqi Freedom - and the families that wait for them.

September 11th, 2001, was not just a day - it was a day that was an ending for many - but a beginning for the rest of us.

My oldest son, Bob Junior, was working that morning at Channel 2 in the news department and he called me as soon as the first tower was struck. He knew that I knew those towers. One of my jobs in the Army had been to escort young men and women to New York City who were in training at the West Point Preparatory School. Each trip was *their* moment to see the city - to visit the United Nations and meet with world leaders - *their* chance to relax and sight-see and take pictures of the Big Apple from atop the World Trade Center Towers.

Bob knew that I had been affected by the first attack on February 26, 1993 - when, at 12:28 p.m., at the height of the lunch hour, the second floor of the WTC parking garage was rocked by a bomb estimated to be between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds of homemade explosive. The resulting blast killed six people and injured more than a thousand. The impossible had happened - and I believe those victims should also be remembered here today.

It was never even a small thought - that *that* awful day in 1993 was to be the precursor of an even more horrific event in our lives.

Like you, remembering where I was on September 11th is never a problem. I can even tell you what my first thoughts were - "Oh, no, not again. This is impossible, this is America, and we're not about death and terrorism."

The World Changed Forever

But - at 4:46 in the morning here in Alaska - 8:46 in New York - when American Airline Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower - *my* world - *your* world - the *entire* world - changed forever. Little could we comprehend that in mere minutes we would see a sight that will never change in our mind - no matter how long we live.

Minutes later - our ability to comprehend reality was again tested when United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower of the World Trade Center at 9:03 a.m. Then, while we were sitting on the edge of our chairs trying to comprehend our new reality - a newsman in our Pentagon reported at 9:40 that he had felt a rumble - that rumble was American



Airline Flight 77 slamming into the west side of the Pentagon. As the sheer magnitude of this horrible event started to burn its way into our psyche - we were next told that United Airlines Flight 93 had been hijacked - and had crashed into a field outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In a cascade of horrifying minutes - 2,800 people in the World Trade Center - 125 people in the Pentagon - and 220 airline passengers - people from 90 countries - became our newest casualties in our War on Terrorism. In what had taken 10,000 workers seven years to complete - each tower took just twenty seconds to complete their fall. But it is not their fall that we need to concentrate on - it is how long they remained standing and how many lives were saved.

After being struck the South Tower stood for 46 minutes and the North Tower stood for 56 minutes, which literally allowed the majority of the 50,000 work force to escape.

Journey Into Hell

As the days after 9/11 mounted, I, like everyone else, basically remained numb and was still searching for something that made sense in those senseless action - when the word came for me to head for New York to work with survivors and rescuers.

Entering lower Manhattan there were barricades and checkpoints everywhere - city police, state police, and soldiers with M-16s were everywhere. Corners were sandbagged and there was no electricity in lower Manhattan - and everything was covered with a dark gray powder. The term "organized confusion" comes to mind. There was a strong, acrid smell of destruction and fire and death at Ground Zero - and every face had the same look - one of hard determination.

We had to wear our identification badges at all times and we stopped frequently and checked. By day, Ground Zero was eerie at best - at night it was haunting. Bright lights cast shadows that took on their own forms - depending upon your imagination and how tired you were. There was noise - constant noise - except when someone thought they heard a sound or a body or a part of a body was found.

Pieces of the other facade of the towers were lying at grotesque angles like cruel jokes. Everybody was covered and streaked in that same powder - there was no joking.

(Continued, See *Never Forget* on Page 7)

The Worm Turns

by Mark Reveaux

(Editor's Note: Mark, from Stoney Creek, Connecticut, has been a long time supporter of the Association in many ways and a frequent contributor of interesting and informative articles for *Revetments*. We are pleased to publish another one this month. We do, however, owe an apology to Mark for inadvertently publishing material about Jane Fonda in last month's "Life Along The River - Downtown Saigon Potpourri," Page 6, that he did not authorize. We accept full responsibility in this matter.)

* * *

Before I begin, all the information provided in this article is from what I have learned from various sources and cannot attest to its accuracy. I am not a spokesman for any government agency and am writing this as a Tan Son Nhut Association member. I would encourage you to conduct research on your own to verify any of the details discussed here before taking any action or passing it on to anyone else.

I am a Service Connected Disabled Veteran, 10 percent non compensable, from injuries received during the February 18th rocket attack while on duty at Tan Son Nhut Air Base from May of 1967 through May of 1968.

I'm nearing retirement with plans of starting a small business with an interest in Government contracts. At present, veterans don't get the same preference as for minorities. However, a veteran-owned company recently made me aware of House Resolution Bill (HR 1460) that, when passed by the Senate, will place service connected disabled veterans on a par with the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) program.

Out of all assistance programs sponsored by the U. S. Government, the 8(a) program is the most significant. The criteria for acceptance into the program includes being a minority (Afro-American, Hispanic, or being from China, Southeast Asia, Pakistan, India, Mexico, South America or other countries) and having met other criteria that I can not list here. Once enrolled in the program, the firm will have access to set-asides for a period of nine years. More information can be obtained by contacting the SBA.

A veteran, even if service connected disabled, is excluded from 8(a) program unless they also meet the other criteria. The program allows a government agency to set-aside an acquisition under the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR) without having to advertise for full and open competition. If

you go into your internet Google search engine and look up "FedBixOpps" you'll find a Government website that publicizes contracting opportunities under a variety of trade and business categories. Click on the "vendor" tab; work our way to the search page and key in "8(a) set-aside." You'll find numerous projects that only an 8(a) firm can bid on. In many cases the agency can select a specific 9(a) firm, from the SBA portfolio of eligible enrollees, for exclusive consideration. The dollar value of these projects can range from \$15,000 to over three million dollars. You will also notice a category for Veteran and Service Connected Veterans but they are not set-asides and you'll find very few listings.

When passed into law, Government agencies can set aside acquisitions for service connected disabled veterans and get the same credit were the project awarded to an 9(a) firm. It will open the door to veterans who have so far been excluded from these contracting opportunities and may have spin-off

benefits for those veterans not yet classified as service connected disabled. The firm who informed me of the bill doesn't know when it will be finally passed, nor what all the benefits will be. I'll keep the Association posted as I learn more information and would encourage you to share with us any information you might gather.

I have always been an advocate of providing opportunities for emerging small businesses owned by minorities, regardless of what countries they immigrated from. However, I feel it's time to make the same opportunities available to those who served in the military and who fought for our country.

Even if you are not a service connected disabled veteran, I would encourage you to contact your State representative and request that the passing of HR 1460 be expedited. It would mean great recognition by the Government of who we are, where we were and what we're still doing to keep our country safe. (TSN '67-'68, 377th Supply Squadron)

Mark discusses important legislation that will be valuable for those veterans nearing initial retirement and making plans for future business activities

Free DVD Honors 9/11 Workers

Member Bob Nelson, Anchorage, Alaska, himself a member 9/11 response teams, announces that the Department of Labor is offering a free DVD on the men and women who worked so very hard to pull New York, literally, out of the rubble of 9/11. "Hear from the folks who cleaned ground zero and who restored a sense of order, both to downtown and to the country at large," Nelson says. To request your copy go to this site -

www.dol.gov/opa/dvd/index.htm



Never Forget Continued from Page 5

Our team quickly sorted people into three categories – those who had been in the towers or knew somebody in the tower – those who watched the towers fall – and those involved in the general chaos of the first hours and days. Rescuers, especially police and fire and medical personnel became our first concern.

Keep in mind that 343 New York City firefighters were killed, 50 of whom were veterans; the New York Police Department lost 23 officers, 8 were veterans, and the Port Authority Police Department lost three percent of their total department – 37 officers and one police dog – in that one horrible morning.

The helpers needed to be helped.

Many medical personnel were frustrated – to a person they all felt they should have done more. One military unit, a National Guard unit on Long Island, had personnel report directly to the scene even before they were called. When they were activated they reported in and were immediately reassigned back to the Ground Zero site, or to nearby Battery Park where they set up medical facilities for the rescuers. They, like everyone else, just wanted to do whatever was needed to be done.

Life Is About Emotions

All told, I made four trips to New York spending weeks working around the city wherever help was needed – which was everywhere. My weeks in New York only affirmed that New Yorkers *are* resilient people. But, I think that term – “resiliency” – needs a wider application. In fact, it should belong to our entire country.

The *hard job* after the morning of September 11th, 2001, *belongs to the living*. It was our job to find the dead – to help the rescuers – to give people a reason to keep getting up in the morning – to be a shoulder for a survivor to cry on.

Life is about emotions – and New York was full of life. One event I vividly remember took place one evening in Little Italy. Our team had to take a break for our own sanity as we had literally been working around the clock. As we were sitting there having dinner, the whole street became quiet, but in the distance you could hear applause and shouts of encouragement rolling toward us like waves of sound. A fire engine was coming down the street – and every single person stopped what they were doing – stood up and gave honor and recognition to those firemen. As good as it was – I couldn't help but think – why did we have to wait until a national disaster to recognize and say “thank you” to those who lay their lives on the line each and every day? It's like waiting until someone is gone before you try to tell them you love them. No, if you love someone – tell them – now!

On my last trip, as I was getting ready to leave New York, I heard a news report that said there were 119 refrigerated vans still at the city medical examiners office. Each van contained – and still contains – body parts of hundreds and hundreds of the victims of the World Trade Towers.

To date slightly more than half of the victims have been identified. That means slightly less than half *have not been identified* and probably never will be. Can you imagine all those families of the unknown can never have real acceptance or closure. They can do the ceremonies – but they will never have their loved ones. Just three days ago, on Monday, the last of the 343 firemen who died was buried. Actually what was buried was a vial of his blood. The rest of him was never found – so on Monday the blood that he had donated to a bone marrow cancer center was there for him. His burial allowed some “acceptance” and grieving for the families and his fellow firemen. Now they can have a tomorrow without the burden of having to hold onto yesterday.

What Was, Will Be No More

As I was thinking back over my trips, I had a sobering thought. Even those who *lived* on that horrible day – *died* in their own way. For many of us – what *was* – and what *used to be* in our lives – will be *no more*.

The handler of the Port Authority Police Dog that was killed that morning of 9/11 survived. At a memorial service just a couple of months ago for his dog – Sirius – one of his fellow police officers walked over to Officer Lim and gave him the silver water bowl of Sirius that he had rescued from

their crushed police cruiser. On it the officer had put an inscription – from Sirius to officer Lim. The words on that bowl should serve as a beacon for all of us. It simply said – “*I gave my life – so that you may save others.*”

And that, ladies and gentlemen, should be our charge. As Army General Bill Livsey once said, “Freedom isn't free.” He was correct – there is a cost – and those of us living must be willing to pay the price. If we don't, the cost will only increase.

As President Harry Truman said – “America was not built on fear. America was built on courage – on imagination – and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

As time goes on and the memories of many start to fade, a question is sometimes asked – How can we honor victims of September 11th?

I suggest it might be – by living our lives to the fullest, by *really* sharing and *really* caring – and by being willing to do the hard work of allowing freedom to remain a reality and a beacon for the world to follow.

We are being asked to remember 9/11 – really – REMEMBER!

Country singer, Darryl Worley, put his thoughts into music. He wrote – “Have you forgotten how it felt that day – to see your homeland under fire – and her people blown away?”

Have YOU forgotten? I haven't – and I hope I never will.

Thank you, and good morning.

Member Dave Clark Wants To See You Guys Next Month

During the past month, Member Dave Clark from New Hampshire contacted President John Peale and the Public Affairs Office about Veterans' Day in Washington. He will be in the area and would like to join us at breakfast and then go to the Vietnam Memorial and lay a wreath.

On November 11, 2002, nearly twenty of us met at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Alexandria and then proceeded to “The Wall.” Although considered a small gathering, it was a very fine occasion that we'll long remember. Let's do it again this year. Let's meet Dave and make it another memorable Veterans Day.

In order to set up the breakfast and make all the arrangements please let us know by **Friday, October 17th** if you and guests are coming. The directions and final schedule will be published in the next *Revetments*.

Call John Peale: (301) 277-7474 or –

Call Public Affairs: (757) 627-7746

FAX: (757) 627-7746

E-Mail: hercules29@worldnet.att.net



Meet At Tan Son Nhut in November!

Former Marine, Ron Huegel, Military Tours, will be leading another tour from November 3-14. The tour will include Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, Dalat and many other interesting Vietnam locations. The cost will be \$2,550 per person, includes round trip air from Los Angeles, all hotels (3 star and above), all ground transportation within Vietnam and most meals. Itinerary is posted on www.battlefieldexpeditions.com

For more information and reservations, contact Ron at 90 Stonewood Place, Catasaugus, Pennsylvania 18032. Phone: (610) 231-3475, FAX: (610) 231-0389, or E-Mail: shutin40cal@enter.net



*"Joined by history. bonded in combat,
united forever in spirit!"*

Reunion 2004 Planning Begins Joint TSNA - VNAF Meet Studied



The Tan Son Nhut Association Board of Directors will be meeting at the Public Affairs Office in Norfolk, Virginia, Saturday, October 11. This meeting will be outlining initial planning for **Reunion 2004** which is tentatively being scheduled to be held in the Washington, D. C. metropolitan area, in April 2004. Director Jerry Norville, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, is making plans for meeting Mr. Khuu Van Phat, President of the VNAF General (Federal) Association. The Association's headquarters is in northern Virginia. It holds its annual reunion in April in that area each year.

Although no definite plans have been made, suggestions have been made that it might be possible to coordinate and share a number of the activities during the reunion period. They could be jointly or separately hosted and conducted by the members of the VNAF (Vietnamese Air Force) Association, and the Tan Son Nhut Association. A joint ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") has been suggested as a key activity during the reunion.

This can be a momentous occasion for all who plan to attend. The concept began at the little "mini reunion" that members of the Board of Directors and Colonel Phung Van Chieu, and his cousin, Rang, had earlier in April, when they met in Norfolk. Colonel Chieu came through the door with a warm smile and embraced all as brothers as he said, "I knew you all." It was such a moving day that the Board and the Vietnamese would like all of our members to share an even greater occasion. The next issue of *Revetments* will provide more specific information, plan on being there.

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