



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

Spring Offensive - 377th Combat Support Group After Action Report

Submitted by: Dave Koopman
460th Field Maintenance

Unit Commanders engaged in operations:

Colonel Luu Kim Cuong Comdr, 33rd VNAF Wing (Comdr, TSN Sensitive Area)

Lt Col Phung Van Chieu Comdr, TSN Sensitive Point Dep Comdr, TSN Sensitive Area

Colonel Farley E. Peebles Comdr, 377th Combat Support Group

Colonel Luther J. Miller Senior Advisor AFAT #1, 33rd Wing

Lt Colonel Thomas A. McLoughlin Senior Advisor TSN Sensitive Area

On 5 May the VC attacked numerous targets throughout South Viet Nam, within III CTZ, with the focal point being Saigon. There were major approaches used during the assaults. The early attacks from the east were apparently diversionary in nature to permit forces in the west to position themselves for an assault on the 6th precinct. However, the major forces were pinned down. The first attacks on Saigon took place in the area of the New-Port Dock facilities and bridge. Harassment continued on to the THU DUC power plants and then into Saigon. At this same time contact was made with the Dong Nai Regt at

the Binh Loi bridge. Their mission appeared to be to provide cover for the infiltration of a #LF Bn and a sapper recon platoon into the THI NGE area of Saigon. The later unit was to stay in the area, organize a local government and, with this as a base, press for a coalition between themselves and the GVN. The above mentioned forces failed in their mission due to the presence of allied forces.

The major attack and most significant threat came from the west, it was conducted by elements of the 271 and 272 VC Regiment. Their mission was to enter and hold the 6th precinct along with the Phu Tho Hoa area. Elements of the 272 Regiment attempted to attack TSN by infiltrating from the French Cemetery with an alternate mission to attack CMD Hq's. The total enemy KIA in the area of the Phu Tho Race Track to the French Cemetery adjacent to TSN was 588.

At 0616 hours, 6 May 1968, one of the air base perimeter observation towers (Tango I an 142' tower) reported incoming rockets (Ten Rockets hit Tan Son Nhut. There were no casualties). Two minutes later Tango I reported heavy movement behind the Catholic school, adjacent to the south perimeter. At this time all reserve QRT's were dispatched to their pre-designated deployment locations.

At 0620 hours, two units of task force 35 (Army II and III) were notified and deployed within Delta sector, which at the time was receiving sporadic small arms and automatic weapons fire.

Tango I reported razorbacks making heavy contact with an unknown size enemy unit behind the Catholic School.

At 0722 hours, Delta Bunkers 7 and 8 (two of the outer perimeter bunkers) reported approximately 40 individuals in black clothing moving outside the south perimeter heading in an easterly direction.

At 0726 hours, Delta Bunker 6 reported it had made heavy contact with approximately 40 Viet Cong in the French Cemetery adjacent to his post. At this point a tank accompanied by a platoon of ground troops from the 33rd VNAF Wing, Defense Group arrived at the French Cemetery and engaged the enemy.

At 0739 hours, two companies of RVN Airborne instituted a sweep of the southwest perimeter of the base. They encountered heavy fire from various Viet Cong positions within the buildings in that area. The Viet Cong heavily employed RG-P-2 rockets and automatic weapons on the assaulting airborne company.

At 0900 hours, the commanding officer of the RVN Airborne companies in the southwest perimeter area, requested the assistance of the heavy weapons utilized by the Security Police.

At 0913 hours, BG-5 (.50 Cal. Machine Gun) and B-9-3 (90mm recoilless rifle) engaged the Viet Cong in the village adjacent to the south pe-

rimeter. B-9-3 fired 3 rounds of 90mm destroying enemy RPG-2 rocket firing positions which were blocking the Vietnamese Airborne companies sweep of the area. BG-5, destroyed an enemy machine gun position which was protecting the before mentioned RPG-2 site. At this time BG-5 and B-9-3 disengaged the enemy and returned to Delta Sector. The ARVN Airborne had taken the full impact and were routing the enemy.

At 1205 hours, our liaison NCO deployed with Army II of Task Force 35 and reported that 60mm mortars were hitting his defensive positions adjacent to Tango 21 along our southern perimeter. 20 friendly personnel were WIA as a result of this mortar barrage. Delta Sector supervisor (T/Sgt. McNitt) reported observing an individual on a roof top adjacent to Delta Sector holding an aiming stick. Permission to fire was granted and the individual was eliminated. Subsequent to this action, the mortar barrage ceased. From this point continuous sniper fire was directed towards the south perimeter, while the RVN Airborne were clearing this area.

At 0303/0406 hours, 7 May 1968, Tango 4 reported rockets were impacting on the base. A total of eleven rounds were verified as having impacted on the base, causing minor damage to one (1) C-130, runway 25L and the PSP ramp. The impact pattern indicated that the flight line was the probable target during this attack.

At 0300, 8 May 1968, a total of 14 122mm rockets impacted on the base inflicting moderate damage to a recently completed building, minor damage to a generator in the MARS complex and minor damage to the pavement in the heliport. The general pattern indicated that the housing and general work areas were the primary targets of this attack. Damage was moderate to minor.

At 0325, 10 May 1968, seven rounds of 122mm rockets impacted on the base resulting in negligible damage.

The pattern of the attack appeared to be harassment.

Throughout these attacks, enemy probes and sniper fire were continuous. The reason for such action by the enemy was probably best explained by the following comments in the Combat Operations Report.

Lessons Learned:

The concept that Tan Son Nhut Air Base can be penetrated only by small sapper units and that the enemy has the capability to launch only small scale operations in the Tan Son Nhut vicinity became obsolete with the 31 January 1968 attack and the TET Offensive, and a new type of enemy threat was encountered. A major re-evaluation of present base defense procedures and principles has become an immediate necessity.

a. Security Police personnel and augmentees (TF-35) were well-supervised and well-trained in fire control and discipline and in basic tactics, but were neither equipped nor trained well enough to effectively counter a regiment-size enemy assault. Consideration should be given to Base Security Police receiving more infantry type training prior to assignment in Southeast Asia. Emphasis should be placed on crew served and heavy weapons, assault tactics, and deployment procedures. Existing Air Force training in Southeast Asia is not sufficient to enable Security Police forces to effectively counter forces of this size, equipped as they were.

b. Current concepts of base defense and protection of USAF resources as established by higher headquarter's directives should be reviewed. In our opinion too much emphasis is placed on the close in protection of resources. With the weapons available to the enemy, close in guards are useless. Security forces must be moved from the revetments and other restricted areas to the perimeter, where they can effectively engage the enemy. Further, we must have the capa-

bility to respond with properly equipped reaction forces. In conjunction with this, the existing defense alignment of the installation must be re-evaluated and changed in light of the new enemy tactics encountered.

c. Reaction forces were able to respond quickly and halt the enemy advance. This was primarily due to the base defense posture at the time of the attack. Had the Security condition been anything other than RED (Option I) or YELLOW, reaction forces would have had to contain the enemy further inside the interior of the base, probably at much greater loss in lives and USAF resources. It is recommended that a larger standby reaction force be utilized in place of the 12 man Reserve Security Alert Team (RSAT). A fifty man reaction force properly equipped with the same immediate response capability as RSAT would more realistically enable Security Police personnel to halt the enemy at an acceptable distance from priority resources.

d. A free fire zone/clear area must be established around the perimeter of the base. If free fire zones/clear areas had been established the enemy would not have had easy access to the perimeter fence and much of the small arms activity would not have taken place. These zones would also have prevented the enemy from setting up crew served weapon positions and ammunition supply areas adjacent to the base perimeter. Recommend that the free fire zone be extended at least 1,000 meters around the perimeter.

e. Medical personnel should be more readily available to the Security Police. Their training, manning and employment should be such that they would be capable of immediate support to the base defense operation. Entry of medical personnel into the affected area and subsequent evacuation of wounded became an acute problem during the battle. If medical personnel are to continue to be employed in this theater of operation,

independent of base defense forces, they must establish and maintain a close liaison with the Security Police to insure that they are fully aware of the positioning of all defensive units and routes of entry into all areas. In addition, medical personnel must receive sufficient combat training to enable them to effectively perform under hostile fire.

f. A more stringent control of weapons issue to non-defensive force personnel is immediately required. Many of these personnel hampered the Security Police effort and on some occasions were nearly mistaken for hostile forces. Personnel should be instructed to take cover, and weapons should not be issued until Security Condition RED (Option II) is declared.

g. It has been determined from battlefield reports that at the point of penetration some personnel of the 2nd Services Battalion (ARVN) deserted their static defense posts. Reasons for the desertion have not been established, but an investigation is being conducted by the Vietnamese authorities. From these reports, it is apparent that there is need for closer coordination between Vietnamese and U.S. Forces involved in the combined defense of an installation. All indications point to an absolute need for the co-manning of defensive positions throughout the perimeter.

h. Local intelligence data available to the base defense forces was entirely void of information pertinent to enemy plans and movements in the immediate area. Defense force personnel must assume that future intelligence reports have questionable validity. They must maintain a posture that will render them totally prepared for an attack at any time, regardless of intelligence indicators.

i. The most significant lesson learned from the attack, and the one which requires the most immediate attention, is the need for more and better equipment. Heavier weapons are urgently needed to effectively combat penetra-

ing forces.

(1) XM-148 Grenade launchers proved to be difficult to operate under combat conditions. Their use is extremely limited during the hours of darkness as their design requires a special sighting device which is useless during darkness. Recommend we consider bringing M-79 Grenade Launchers back into the Air Force inventory, and its wide variety of ordinance (HE, illumination, canister, white phosphorous, etc.) be obtained for maximum utilization. As an alternate solution, recommend the sighting mechanism of the XM-148 be corrected immediately to allow for effective night time employment.

(2) Mortars should be considered for direct support illumination and for direct HE fire against attacking ground forces and enemy support fire positions.

(3) Recoilless rifles would have been of great assistance in destroying positions adjacent the West perimeter and inside the 051 Bunker. The counter attack would have been started much earlier and completed at less cost to friendly forces if reaction forces had been able to suppress and destroy enemy crew-served positions.

(4) Some type of rocket launcher is a must. The Army has in its inventory a light anti-tank weapon (LAW) which is considered ideal for destroying reinforced enemy positions. The LAW could be carried as part of a Security Alert Team's equipment. The weapon is easily operated and the launcher is disposable after use. Its incorporation into the Security Police inventory would be an immediate and noteworthy improvement.

(5) In conjunction with the need for heavier weapons and increased fire power, the safe transportation of this equipment and personnel is a must. Armored personnel carriers (APCs) are considered the most appropriate vehicle for this transportation. These vehicles can be utilized for transporta-

tion to the affected area, heavy weapons support fire, and evacuation of injured. Although neither this nor any other vehicle will provide total-safety for the personnel, it will provide protection from small arms and small caliber automatic weapons fire.

(6) It was evident during the attack that the present communications system employed by Security Police personnel was completely unsatisfactory. There is a strong need for more powerful portable units, able to receive all units involved in the defense operation. This would alleviate the problem of units cutting each other out because they did not receive other units transmitting. Power sources which can sustain operational requirements over an extended period of time are necessary for these radio units. Had the installation been subjected to more than one penetration, multi-channel (more than two) radios would have been required to successfully contain and destroy the attacking forces.

(7) Direct communications with supporting units (LFTs, AC-47s, Flare Ships, etc.) is an immediate requirement. This capability is essential for effective direct control of supporting units on the scene by in-place Security Police supervisory personnel. During the initial phases of the battle, requests for and direction of specific support fire had to be relayed from on-scene positions through Security Police radio channels to JDOC, which relayed the requests and directions to the supporting units. The resulting time lag made the supporting fire less effective than it would have been if direct communications had been available.

j. The above lessons learned of course apply to operations in SEA. We do not intend to imply that these recommendations would apply Air Force wide



Honor Flights

By: Carol Bessette
7th Air Force Intelligence
68-69

I am a tour guide in Washington, DC and in late April, I was asked to work with an Honor Flight group that flew in from Huntsville, Alabama. I had seen Honor Flight groups before, but this was my first chance to work with one. The Honor Flight network flies World War II veterans at no cost for a day in Washington to see "their" WWII Memorial, the Marine Corps Memorial (the Iwo Jima statue), and to attend the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. By the end of last year, almost 38,000 veterans had been brought to DC under this program.

This is no small effort--I was very impressed with the logistical effort. My group had six buses; on my bus, there were three permanently wheel-chair bound veterans, about eight "need a wheel chair off the bus," and others of varying stages of mobility. There were three medics on my bus. Every veteran is assigned a "guardian" who makes the trip with the veteran and is with the veteran every step of the way. There are volunteers at the departing airport to see the group off with great ceremony, and there were about 40+ volunteers on the DC end to meet them. Plus, active duty Air Force personnel were at each stop to meet the veterans, to pass out box lunches, and to provide a "current military presence."

Two special memories: after a ceremony at the Marine Corps Memorial, people were mingling and talking. And suddenly they were marching--one of the veterans had been a drill sergeant during WWII, and so he had the active personnel marching back and forth, as he had 65+ years earlier! And as we left, the active duty folks lined the road and saluted the buses. And as I told my bus, you don't forget the hand salute after 65 years. It was very moving to see those folks, well up in their 80s,

saluting the young men and women.

TSNA members may wish to participate in this program. If nothing else, you can make a financial contribution. If you go to the website, www.honorflight.org, you may find there is a program in your area. You might want to be a "guardian" and accompany a veteran to DC, or, you might want to volunteer at the airport for their departure or arrival home. You will not regret it--

I had seen these groups for the last 2-3 years, and I was so happy to be able to spend time with these men and women. For many, it will be their first and only trip to Washington, and they are certainly treated as "very special people" while they are here.



Secretary's Column

By: Dale Bryan
TSNA Secretary

Another update on the activities of your Treasurer and Secretary as we continue working to make Tan Son Nhut Association a more fiscally sound organization.

Last month, I informed you that TSNA is now incorporated in Virginia. Since then, the Articles of Dissolution, with the State of Wisconsin have been finalized.

Our attorney reviewed our updated bylaws, and they have been approved by the TSNA Board of Directors. The latest version has been posted on the TSNA web site.

Treasurer Carol Bessette spent many hours the past month working with our attorney to prepare the documents needed for filing for tax exempt status. I am delighted to inform you that our attorney has submitted all documentation to the IRS. The new status will mean your association will not be subject to paying U.S. taxes. That status also means that each individual mem-

ber will personally benefit. More on that in a later column.

Carol and I continue to investigate insurance issues that are applicable to our association.

Looks like we have many positive issues to discuss at the reunion.



NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

From: Floyd M. Martin
6250th Combat Support Group
Nov 65--Dec 66

I was originally TDY (Top Dog 76). Changed to PCS 4-66. I lived on base not far from main gate. I remember the attack of 4-14-66 the most because it was my 21st birthday. I was also billeted at the POL Storage area by the C-123 Providers. Sgt. Briggs was my NCOIC. I spent many nights working at the ammo dump. Scary place in the dark. It seemed Vietnam taught me to appreciate life. I'm rated 100% DAV.



From: Steven Williams
8th Aerial Port Squadron
May 63--May 64

Was stationed at Tan Son Nhut during the beginning of the Vietnam Conflict when we were then called advisors. At that time Tan son Nhut was really beginning to expand. I arrived there after being stationed 3 years at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, NY. (SAC). I had one more year left on my tour of duty when I received my orders to go to Vietnam. I will never forget my orders with the heading "Project Steam-pipe". I was proud to have served my last year where it really meant something.

YOU CAN LEAVE THE MILITARY, BUT IT NEVER REALLY LEAVES YOU

By Ken Burger
The Post and Courier
Thursday, March 4, 2010



Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant."

Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military, for all its flaws, is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform.

It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced. A place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business.

Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Reading uniforms

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score.

Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a

perfectly straight line that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon.

I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the sidewalks, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

Hurry up and wait

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business, especially in times of war.

But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed on the flight line.

I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

Reach Ken Burger at kburger@postandcourier.com or 937-5598.

(Used by permission, 4/9/2010)

A NOTE TO GEORGE (PLUNKETT)

Dear George

I'm not sure if I'm authorized to join your unit because I was not a Vietnam veteran. I have always been interested, rather passionately in that war. I remember growing-up watching the war on the TV and asking my dad if I would have to go to Vietnam? I remember the moments of silence announced over the high school P.A. system to remember those previous high school attendee's who fell in battle. I remember the metal POW bracelets that were worn. I did not get my draft card until my eighteenth birthday, July 1974. I remember going to college @ Ohio U. and watching the protestors while walking to the football field for practice. I wasn't for the war and I wasn't against it. I had friends back then and I have friends now that are Viet vets.

I never thought I would join the military, but I joined the Air Force in the fall of 1977. I was a security policeman in SAC. All my NCO's were Viet vets. I would sit there around a table and hear them tell tales of Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, etc. My security police training in 1978 was all Vietnam style/tactics. I sent for the hat because I like ball caps, because I want to remember those who served and because I want others to remember those encampments/bases as well.

I retired from the Air Force as a MSgt, (E-7) after twenty-three plus years. Still armed and trained and ready to serve since and because 9/11.

Tactically yours

EDWARD J. DeMORE,
MSgt, USAF (Ret.)

(Editor's Note: Ed is now a member of TSNA. In fact, he signed up for 5 years from the get-go!)

ROCKET ATTACK AFTERMATH

Sarge,

I couldn't remember the procedure for submitting more photos, but I wanted to offer some shots that I had taken after the May 6th "Mini-Tet".

There were three rockets that hit in the 1200 barracks area and during that attack, I was taking cover in a barracks that was just south of the chow hall. The rockets had hit all around me that morning. I later went back and took some personal BDA photos with my own camera.

I believe that the shot of the guys repairing the roof was at the motor pool.

There was a rocket that also hit the road just northeast of the chow hall, at the intersection between it and the motor pool. It hit next to a truck trailer and the shrapnel tore some holes in it. I have two shots of that.

The other rocket hit a Quonset hut which was located southwest of the chow hall. Instead of walking all the way over there, I took a shot through the barbed wire fence. I thought it added a little dramatic effect.



San Antonio Reunion 2010

By: Harold Boone

460TH TRW 1967-1968

I suppose there are many reasons not to go to the San Antonio reunion. Distance, cost, date, health, and location are some that come to mind and all are very good reasons. I have used all of those reasons myself for not doing something over the past forty years or so. My logic was always "next year", "when it is more convenient", and the best one, "when I get around to it". I am writing this message to encourage you to consider making this trip and join up with some very special folks. For the record, I have not attended all the reunions, but San Antonio in 2010 will be special for me and hopefully, for you also.

I want to share with you some reasons why I am attending this reunion. I have attended four reunions (Hampton '97, Gettysburg '05, Dayton '07, and Pigeon Forge



'09) and found each of them to be a place where friendship and good times were in abundance. I have learned much about Tan Son Nhut and its missions, events, and history. Our association leadership has always filled the days and nights with activities for our enjoyment. I have found enjoyment by sitting in on a Power Point presentation or simply having a cold beer in the hospitality suite with a newly minted friend. For me the highlight at each reunion has always been the Saturday night gala banquet. Dinner, recognition of our MIA's, and a presentation speech by our guest of honor makes for a moving and memorable evening. I have never been disappointed. The guest list for this year's reunion simply goes above and beyond. I would invite you to read about these men and their experiences.

On a more personal note, I went to San Antonio in 1964. I got off a plane and boarded a bus to Lackland Air Force Base

Another lifetime member, Harold Boone, asked me to send him a copy of a previous photo I had submitted to you of an aerial shot of the 1200 billeting area. We began discussing that attack and I remembered that I had these slides. I am going to send him these images also, but I thought that others in the association my enjoy them as well.

I hope that you can use them on the site.

Thanks,

Lionel Jeffers

Tan Son Nhut AB

July 4, '67 - July 3, '68



to begin my training as an Airman. This reunion will afford me an opportunity to go back to Lackland although I will not recognize it (nor remember it). I am no longer the young, energetic Airman of some forty six years ago. Our last Tan Son Nhut reunion in San Antonio was ten years ago. When I look at life's hourglass of time, I see my sand beginning to run very low. I don't know if I will ever have such a unique opportunity again. I proudly served four years in the Air Force and this reunion will allow me to return to Lackland where it all began and at the same time, be in the company of fellow veterans of Tan Son Nhut where it all ended for me.

Please give thought to joining me and many others in San Antonio for a weekend of fellowship, food, drink, and the rekindling of old memories forged long ago in a far away place called Tan Son Nhut.

Hope to see you there.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Chaffee
TSNA Chaplain

The month of May – it's full of special moments, happy and sad but a month with special significance to those of us who have served our country at a time of combat and conflict. When I was a small boy in a small Kansas town the first day of May was when we went to a girl's house and hung a flower basket on the door and yelled "May Basket", then run (slowly) as the girl chased you and yes! Kissed you and then laughed, then ran back into the house to wait for the next basket. Simple times for simple fun. On the other side of the world it was the day of Soviet recognition of the worker.

During the month of May the history remembers the battle of Coral Sea and we at TSN have our memories of May as well.

The last Monday of May is of very special importance: Memorial Day. A time of tribute to those who fell during the wars fought by the men and women of our country. No, I'm not quite old enough to have been around at the first Memorial Day, 1868 and then called Decoration Day. As the years passed the importance of the day rose and declined but it has always been a time of tribute with our flag flying at the grave of a veteran. General John A. Logan wrote these words that still ring true today: "The 30th of May, 1868 (31st in 2010) is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in our land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed but...comrades will in their own way arrange fitting services and post memorial of respect as circumstances will permit!

As the words of General Logan still ring true, we hold this Memorial Day of

great importance for we have stood close to some of those who have given their very lives. May God hear our prayers for them and those they have left behind?

2010 TSNA REUNION OCTOBER 7—10 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS CROWNE PLAZA RIVERWALK

Fellow Members:

A total of 78 folks have indicated that they will attend this year's reunion in San Antonio. The capacity of the Texas Ballroom hotel banquet facility is 300, so we still have plenty of room. The Bat 21 panel discussion will be held in the Fiesta Pavilion at the Crowne Plaza. Its capacity is 900, with 350 reserved seats. Given the large active duty and retired military population of the San Antonio area, I think that we are well on our way to filling both areas. Spread the word to your military buddies - we are having two Medal of Honor recipients, a Navy Cross recipient, and a Silver Star recipient in attendance, a rare occurrence. Plan to attend and meet some real heroes and get their autographs.

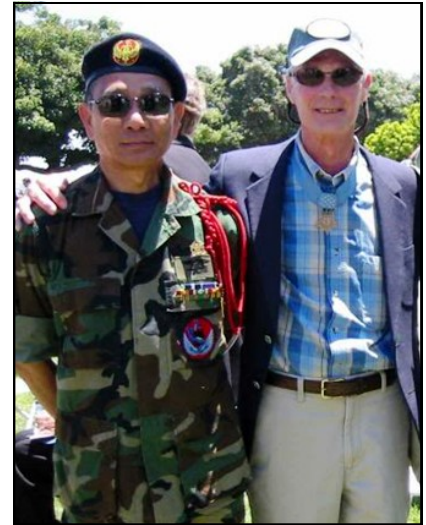
Thanks,

George Plunkett and Bob Laymon

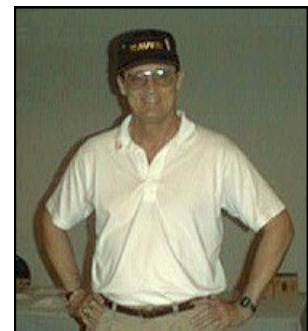
One of the activities planned for this year's reunion will be an historic BAT 21 Panel Session. In this session, led by Col. Darrel D. Whitcomb, USAFR (Ret.), Medal of Honor recipient LT Tom Norris, and US Navy Cross recipient PO2 Nguyễn Văn Kiệt will be reunited with many of the BAT-21 Search and Rescue participants who flew the A-1 Skyraider, O-2 Skymaster, OV-10 Bronco, HC-130P King SAR bird and HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant under the command & control by MACV and HQ 7th Air Force at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

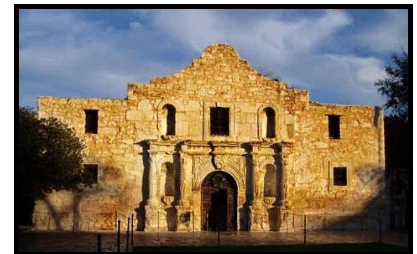
More info at TSNA website:
<http://www.tsna.org/reunion/index.html>



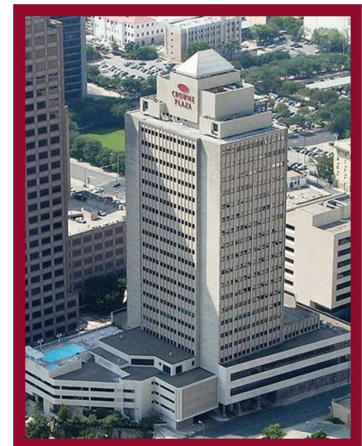
Nguyen Van Kiet and Thom Norris



Darrel Whitcomb



Remember the Alamo!



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



This is the view the VC had of our firing position. Notice the airman sitting on the left of the monument. We used the broken down concrete in front of him as a barricade to fire behind during the attack.



VC position as seen from the Vietnamese monument. The VC were behind the ARVN guard tower near the building that is on fire in this picture.

The above pictures and descriptions courtesy of Dave Koopman's story about the attack of May 6, 1968. See the After Action Report beginning on Page 1



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