



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

MAY 2011



THE WOMEN ON THE WALL

Story and Photo by: Carol Bessette
TSNA Treasurer

The following is the list of the eight female names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as well as the cause of death, and the location of their names. Note that only one (Lt. Sharon Lane) died as a direct result of enemy action. All but one (an Air Force flight nurse) were Army officers.

2Lt. Carol Ann Elisabeth Drazba, age 22, Dunmore, PA. Assigned to 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. Died February 18, 1966 in a helicopter crash near Saigon. US Army. Line 5E46.

2Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones, age 22, Allendale, SC. Assigned to 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. Died February 18, 1966 in the same helicopter crash as Lt. Drazba. US Army. Line 5E47.

Captain Eleanor Grace Alexander, age 27, Westwood, NJ. Assigned to 85th Evacuation Hospital at Qhi Nhon. Died November 30, 1967 in an aircraft crash while returning from special duty in Pleiku. US Army. Line 31E8.

1Lt. Hedwig Diane Orlowski, age 23, Detroit, MI. Assigned to 67th Evacuation Hospital at Qhi Nhon. Died November 30, 1967 in same plane crash as Captain Alexander (along with two male nurses). US Army. Line 31E15.

2Lt. Pamela Dorothy Donovan, age 26, Allston, MA. Assigned to 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qhi Nhon. Died July 8, 1968 of illness. US Army. Line 53W43.

1Lt Sharon Ann Lane, age 25. Canton, OH. Assigned 312 Evacuation Hospital at Chu Lai. Died June 8, 1969 of shrapnel wounds when the hospital at Chu Lai was hit by rocket fire. The recovery room at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, where she had been assigned prior to Vietnam, has been dedicated to her memory, and there is a statue to her at Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH. A medical center in Vietnam has also been dedicated to her memory. US Army. Line 23W112.

(Note: It is Lt. Lane's photograph that you occasionally see at The Women's Memorial or along The Wall. If you see a photograph of a young nurse with dark hair and a white nurse's cap, most likely it will be Lt. Lane.)

Lt. Colonel Annie Ruth Graham, age 52, Etland, NC. Assigned to 91st Evacuation Hospital at Tuy Hoa. Died in August 1968 from a stroke. She was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. US Army. Line 48W12.

Captain Mary Therese Klinker, age 27, Lafayette, IN. Assigned to Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Died April 4, 1975. Captain Klinker was a flight nurse killed on the C-5A Galaxy which crashed near Saigon while evacuating Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift). US Air Force. Line 1W122.

In addition to these military names, I have found information on almost two dozen civilian American women (mostly government employees, but some missionaries and journalists) who died from a variety of causes (ranging from car bombs to heart attacks) in Vietnam or Laos. There were also 38 civilian women who died in the Babylift aircraft crash in April 1975; most were civilian employees of the US government. (Five of them were employees of the Defense Intelligence Agency.) These women may not have worn a uniform, but they are deserving of our remembrance and respect.

Lt. Donovan and Lt. Lane have the easiest names to locate. Lt. Donovan's name is the second row from the bottom of Panel 53W, at the start of the row. Lt. Lane's name is nine lines from the bottom of Panel 23W, at the start of the row.

So, if you see a name on the Wall that is a "Beverly," or "Leslie," or a similarly androgynous name, and assume that "this is a woman's name," you can be assured that the name refers to a man. All the women on The Wall have names that are clearly "feminine" names.

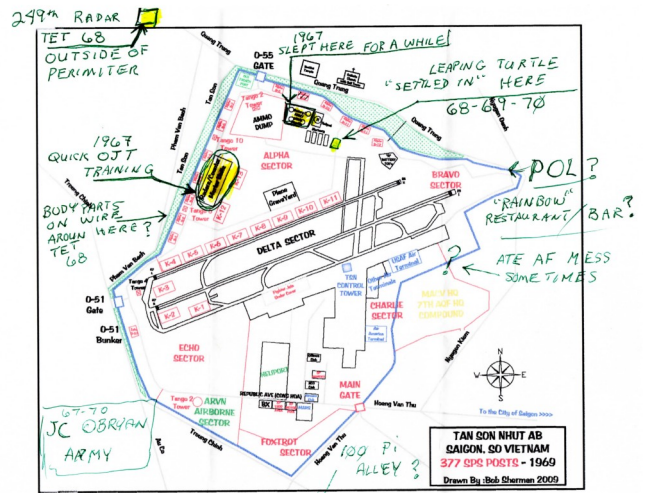


MY TIME AT TSN

By: Jan C. O'Bryan
 249th FA Det. Counter Mortar/Rocket Radar
 67—71

Arrived at TSN late '67. Tet 68 we were outside perimeter to the north west (TSN better coverage).

Got shipped around TSN—Saigon area, then permanently placed (Radar and Hooch) just east of the new (?) Mortuary and Hawk site (68-69-70). Army radio call (and site name) - Leaping Turtle! And a lot more that can fit here. See ya and thanks.



Radar shop van 249th FA Det (Counter Mortar Radar) and two of me at the Hawk Missile site where we stayed before we got our radar.



This picture from Bob Sherman's site. You can see our radar and tower in the background . This is where I was for over a year or so, 1968-1969



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Last year I started this series of "Chaplain's Corner" with the month of May. This year I could end the series with a discussion of May being a wedding month. I could record a year at Colorado Springs (there is an AF unit north of that city) where I did eight weddings on one day! "Oh my, what is the brides name?" His name is "Second Lt.?" Horrible, horrible!

Chaplains memories: Yes, Saigon rain, grumpy mamasons and such thoughts.

As a child I sang "April showers bring May flowers". Well as an "old guy in Florida" May brings nasty blue jays robbing the dove nests in my trees.

So what about May? We have Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day but... I have trouble with May finding religious events that have meaning for and defining the diverse TSNA memberships. Oh, I found one! The almost last day of May is Joan of Arc Day! Alas/ alas that won't do much for this May "Chaplain's Corner". Then I saw a presentation by Parade Magazine "About the Americas Hidden Treasures of this land of Ours". This sponsored the question; how and why did our God drop us, you and who we "brought forth" on this piece of earth. My Scottish background doesn't even have words for it.

A study of the words of the Old Testament prompt us to praise, sing and express and thank our God for His creating the natural beauty of Monument Park and the Grand Canyon and so many other places that almost blind us with their beauty.

The biggest problem is how do we interpret this? I can only think of a bended knee or kneeling prayer or a thankful look toward heaven and saying "Oh my God, teach me to care for and enjoy this place, America, that you have given us

End of sermon!

Chaplain Bob Chaffee

SHOW YOUR LOGO

Below is the link to TSNA Member Gary Redlinski's website where you can purchase T-shirts and other items with this years Reunion Logo showing prominently.

And this year there is a double sided logo—part showing on the front and part on the back.



Remember—all proceeds go to the benefit of TSNA.

http://www.printfection.com/veterandesigns/TSNA-REUNION-2011/s_427564.

Thanks Gary!!



NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

We lived in our squadron barracks and spent most of our free time in the "RITS-PIT" (our bar in 1st floor of one of the barracks). Also learned karate from the head instructor for the Vietnamese Air Force (Phan Van Duc) 5 nights a week.

Scott M. Burkey
12th RITS
Aug 72—Feb 73

I was assigned as a vehicle dispatcher to monitor and dispatch aircraft material handling forklifts, k-loaders, etc. I also drove tractor-trailers to Cholon and other areas around TSN and Saigon. I was then assigned duties to fly to different bases and forward operating areas that had our vehicles. My job was to ensure they were all accounted for and that maintenance was done on them. I flew in C129s, C135s, and a smaller version that I can't remember what it was. I had to carry an M16 as

we never knew what would happen on departure or arrival. My first trip was scary as I heard these popping noises as we took off. I asked a crew chief what it was and he just grinned and said "Either the VC is shooting at us or it's the hydraulics making the noise. We'll know when we land." I made it a point never to ask. I took many photos flying over the country. Some, shortly after B52's had dropped massive loads of bombs and could see craters and/or fires still smoking. Very impressive!

CMSgt. Louis A. Georgieff
8th Aerial Port Squadron
June 66—June 67

I lived in the barracks of the 1200 Area, next to the road that divided us from the chow hall and, I believe, a covered basketball court. I went TDY to Ban Me Thout and Hon Tre Island to check their arc light procedures and TDY to Da Nang (Monkey Mountain) to get qualified on tanker control procedures. I taught enlisted VNAF Radar Quality control and Weapons Controller Technician Procedures. I also helped plan the air cover for President Nixon visit, and helped work (control) the F-4's that provided the air cover.

Robert Lee Sylvester Dilworth
619th Tactical Control Squadron
October 69—October 70

Housed in 12th TRS barracks behind Korean barracks compound. Worked mostly night shift flight line. Went from RF-4C to T-39's when 12th TRS left country August 71. Came to TSN as E-3, left an E-5. Went TDY tp Guam when 12th TRS left country then came back to T-39's. Came stateside Nov 71 to Columbus AFB, MS.

Robert S. Coats
12th Tac. Recon Squadron
Nov 70—Nov 71



TSNA 2011 REUNION

Our guest speaker this year is Colonel Jim Harding, USAF Retired.

Here is the official wording from just two of his many awards:

Silver Star

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

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain James C. Harding (AFSN: 0-57979), United States Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force in the Republic of Vietnam, on 16 July 1965. On that date, Captain Harding was returning from a visual reconnaissance mission in his O-1F aircraft when he spotted a concentration of Viet Cong troops on a jungle road. Suspecting they were preparing to ambush a friendly force which was approaching the area, he immediately called for an air strike. While orbiting the Viet Cong positions, he received intense small arms fire which wounded him and damaged his aircraft. Realizing that the fighter aircraft could not arrive in time to stem the ambush, he initiated a daring and difficult feat of flying his aircraft and firing one hundred rounds of ammunition from his M-16 rifle into Viet Cong positions, routing them and forcing them to withdraw into the jungle. Captain Harding, displaying outstanding professional skill, then flew his badly damaged aircraft to Bien Hoa Air Base and effected a safe landing despite the handicap of a wounded arm. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Captain Harding has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

General Orders: Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces, Special Order G-75 (March 21, 1966)

Action Date: 16-Jul-65

Service: [Air Force](#)

Rank: Captain



Air Force Cross

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

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Title 10, Section 8742, United States Code, takes pleasure in presenting the Air Force Cross to Major James C. Harding (AFSN: 0-57979), United States Air Force, for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force as an A-1 Tactical Fighter Pilot of the 1st Special Operations Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, in action near Tchepone, Laos from 10 April 1972 to 13 April 1972. During this period, Major Harding was the on-scene commander of an extremely hazardous and complex search and rescue mission that was attempting to recover a downed American pilot who was located in Laos. Major Harding made repeated passes at low altitude and air-speed, directly over a hostile gun position, in order to draw anti-aircraft fire and pinpoint its position. In spite of battle damage to his aircraft, Major Harding repeatedly counterattacked the numerous heavy gun positions, thereby allowing the vulnerable rescue helicopters to effect a safe and successful recovery of the downed pilot. Through his extraordinary heroism, superb airmanship, and aggressiveness in the face of the enemy, Major Harding reflected the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

General Orders: Department of the Air Force, Special Order GB-722 (November 22, 1972)

Action Date: April 10 - 13, 1972

Service: [Air Force](#)

Rank: Major

Company: 1st Special Operations Squadron

Regiment: 34th Tactical Group

Division: Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand



**AGENDA
TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION**

2011 Reunion Dinner
(Tentative)

6:00 P.M. Seating	
Presentation of Colors	U.S. Air Force Color Guard
Welcome	President Robert Gales
Missing Man Table Ceremony	Director Johnnie Jernigan
Invocation	Chaplain Bob Chaffee
Dinner	
Introduction of Speaker	President Robert Gales
Guest Speaker	Colonel Jim Harding
Coin Presentation	
Retirement of Colors	U.S. Air Force Color Guard

**SPECIAL REUNION
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Fellow member Joe Kricho has pointed out to us that the Carolina Panthers have a home game scheduled for Sunday, October 9th against New Orleans.

If you plan on attending this year's reunion, please make your hotel reservation as soon as possible.

Thanks,

George Plunkett



REUNION NEWS

Fellow member Bill Coup recently suggested to me that we consider inviting the folks from Shaw AFB to attend this year's reunion because that installation was where Colonel Jim Harding, this year's reunion guest speaker, was assigned as the Director of Safety. To this suggestion, I added the folks of the C-130 National Guard outfit located at the Charlotte Airport.

I forwarded this suggestion to the other members of the Board of Directors and their response was quick and highly favorable. Accordingly, I sent emails (preferred by the military) to the 20th Fighter Wing(F-16) at Shaw AFB and the 145th Airlift Wing at the airport, outlining Colonel Harding's awards and inviting each unit to contact me for further details.

We are hopeful that our invitation will be warmly received and some current military members will join us for this year's reunion. Maybe we can even add some new members to the unit.

George Plunkett



**THE TAN SON NHUT
ASSOCIATION
2011 REUNION
OCTOBER 6-9
THE BLAKE HOTEL**

**555 South McDowell Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
(704) 372-4100**

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

Check-in date: **10/06/11**

Check-in time is: 3:00 p.m., Thursday.

Check-out date: **10/09/11**

Check-out time is: NLT, 12:00p.m., Sunday.

Overnight parking is \$10.00 per night.

Tan Son Nhut Association 2011 Reunion Registration

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

YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE REUNION!

NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

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

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

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

TSNA Saturday Banquet buffet dinner. \$46. if purchased separately.

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

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

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

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO THE "TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION" AND MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

C/O GEORGE PLUNKETT
587 WILLIAMS CIRCLE
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29172



YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!!

New Special Activity Friday October 7, 2011

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

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

Then fill out this form and send it in.

SAIGON/TSN ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Story and Photos by: Bob Jarboe
6220th USAF Dispensary
May 63—Apr 64

While stationed at Tan Son Nhut, I and many other troops took the opportunity to visit Vu-Can shoes and leather goods shop on Le Thanh Street in downtown Saigon. One of my favorites was, the Python skin purses, belts, and shoes I had custom made for my wife and each of my two daughters. The items were quite the conversational pieces and neat souvenirs.



Another happening was the purchasing of Johny's Gems of Bangkok "bronze ware" sets (144 piece), brass candle sticks, barbecue sets and other selected table ware items. Bronze ware was used many times on special occasions since I returned in '64.



Also, the Saigon Zoo was a very interesting place to visit. The zoo grounds, statues, landscape (bushes, trees, flowers, etc.) and wildlife. The very colorful giant goldfish (over 12 inches in length), moving through the stone lined large pond were another great experience from the lighter side of my tour in Vietnam.

(CONTINUED AT TOP OF NEXT COLUMN)



At the Saigon zoo, Left to Right, SSgt Larry Keck, surgery tech and SSgt Bob Jarboe, med admin, 6220 USAF Disp. and 33rd USAF Disp. '63. I have not had any contact with Larry since I rotated back to the ZI.



AGENT ORANGE THOUGHTS

By: Andy Csordas
Special COMSEC Support Detachment
Jun 70—Dec 70

A couple of comments about Agent Orange. Our Crypto shop worked on field equipment, hence the MOS Field General COMSEC Repairman. Funny the recruiter (I enlisted) did not mention where we would fix the field equipment.

Much of this equipment, especially the KL-7's the ARVN's used, came in to the shop covered with the stuff. The first thing we had to do was clean them before we could even work on the units. Like everyone else we just did it and moved on to the job at hand. It was a bit before MSDS' so we had no idea what we had all over us. God Bless.

"Thanksgiving is a day when we pause to give thanks for the things we have.

Memorial Day is a day when we pause to give thanks to the people who fought for the things we have."

Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
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Web Site: www.tsna.org

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



Another picture of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Statue
 Photo by Carol Bessette, TSNA Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS



Mary J. Webb	CA	webb@syix.com	Dec 70 - Dec 71	7th Air Force Office of History
Donald J. Casey	IL	caseydj@sbcglobal.net	Jan 69 - Mar 70	633CSG (CBPO) Pleiku AB
Alexander J. Ortolano	GA	aocabin@yahoo.com	1965	57th Medical Detachment
James D. Carnahan	FL	carnajd@yahoo.com	Aug 68 - Aug 69	460th Field Maintenance Squadron
George B. Starks	UT	georgestarks47@yahoo.com	May 70 - May 71	377th CSG

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