



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association
A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



FEBRUARY 2023

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

Lived at Crash/Fire Station. Kept Foam Trucks running and all Crash-Fire equipment running. Also worked on JP-4 trucks. Was SSgt E-5.

Randy A. Brown
377th Transportation Department
69-70

2nd/1LT. (Volunteered for TDY to "Pyramid Control", Ban Me Thuot, Mar '70).

Controlled aircraft in-country at "Paris Control" Radar site. Around Christmas the radar dome was targeted and a 122 mm rocket hit an enlisted barracks next door. Damage, but no fatalities that I was aware of.

Flew several missions with VNAF A-1 pilot, USAF FACS.

Terrie "TJ" Thompson
619 Tac Control Squadron
Aug 69 - Aug 70

INTERESTING INFO FROM OUR MEMBER, LOWELL GRIMAUD

(After reading the August Revetments, Lowell sent in this note).

I enjoyed the update. I see that C-123K Provider picture. I remember the day it was raining so hard that one like that one crashed off the runway. The rain was so hard they went off the end. I went out the next day and took off the armor plating and was able to install some of it in my aircraft.

PS, does anyone know whatever happened to the White Whale? It was a VIP C-123 Provider all in white paint. It had a VIP Bar, movie seating on the tailgate, had gun racks so our VIP's could go out of country and give the DOD VIP's hunting in other countries; visit state department offices in countries where some of their wives and family were living or assigned to other Southeast Asia countries.

(After reading the September Revetments, Lowell sent in this note).

Got it, thanks! Sorry can't make it. But if you go to the Aerospace Museum and look at the Lady Be Good Memorial, I was the one that made it happen. I was with the 8th TFW, in Libya, doing training on their firing ranges. The French and Germans also had ranges on the med east. I had 17 cargo planes move in my ground power equipment, couple of vehicles, spare parts etc.. With Chappie James it was his first day of office when the communist Muslims took over the government.

He came to me and asked me to have all my F-4 Phantoms to point all the guns at the base walls, entrances, etc.

I did it but I had to tell him that we couldn't fire because the guns were hanging on the centerline. Anyway we could see and hear the sound of AK-47s etc.

I asked the Base Commander and the local Civil Engineers and Base Chaplain to take the Lady Be Good Memorial in the Base Chapel and send it back to the US or our Base. THEY DID AND ITS ON THE WALL AT THE MUSEUM AND THAT A CHAPLAIN MADE IT HAPPEN. I WAS ALSO A CHAPLAIN.

Tan Son Nhut Association is going to Jacksonville

Save The Dates

Room Rates:

Standard \$124.00
Suite \$144.00

Once we have our reservation code, we will publish it and then we can start making reservations.



The NEW Patrick SPACE Force Base and Cape Canaveral is about a two hour drive from the hotel. It can be visited prior to or after the reunion.

2023 Tan Son Nhut Reunion

Jacksonville, Florida

**Double Tree by Hilton
Jacksonville Airport**

September 20-September 24, 2023

Registration form and hotel information coming soon

Beaches. Parks. Museums. Sports. Shops. Food. Street Art. History. Jacksonville has it all, plus all the Orlando attractions are within driving distance, and now it's your turn to experience this exciting Florida destination!

Chaplain's Corner-Heroes

By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

This month I will change course a little bit from my typical article. I typically try to relate a historical occurrence or person related to our country with scripture lessons, but this month it will be slightly different. I will do scriptural references for my thoughts but not just one historical occurrence related to our country.

One of the things that seems to happen all the time that I strongly dislike is the reckless use of the word "hero" in the public arena. Sports figures are called heroes; well-known people are called heroes when they speak some "enlightened comment". It is ironic that many times their comment just shows their ignorance of the subject at hand. Of course some of these sports figures and other well-known people actually believe their press and think they are true heroes when in fact they are nothing of the sort.

Real heroes are usually humble people who often give others around them the credit for what they did; Medal of Honor recipients are typically in this category. This can also be seen in comments after a police officer saves someone from a burning car, etc. They just say they were doing their job. Civilians frequently, after putting themselves in harm's way to save someone, just say they only did what anyone else would do in the same circumstance. In actuality we hear of many occurrences where people see others in grave danger and walk away, or worse, they record it on a video and do nothing to help.

So what does define a hero? The dictionary has several definitions. The first is a person noted for courageous acts, nobility of character or a person who, in the opinion of others, has special achievements, abilities, or personal qualities and is thereby regarded as a role model or ideal. I tend to like the terms courageous, character and achievement. Heroism means putting others first, even when you put yourself in peril while trying to save or help others.

Scripture talks about a number of heroes. Certainly David slaying Goliath, the recount of that battle in **Samuel 17:40-51** shows how a giant opponent can be taken down with the backing of God. **Samuel 17:45** says . . . **But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled.** David was so incensed by Goliath's blasphemy he knew, along with God's backing, that he had to act.

Another hero is Queen Esther whose story is recounted in the book of Esther. This, to me, is one of the earliest recorded stories about men being afraid of allowing women to have power or make decisions which resulted in the banishment of Queen Vashti from King Ahasuerus' presence. Later Esther was selected to be the new queen. Esther's Uncle, Mordecai, learned of a plot to kill all of the Jews and told Esther she had to go to the king to save the Jews, one of any number of campaigns over history that was to eliminate Jews.

Esther was afraid, if she sought an audience with the king without being summoned she could be executed, and we know the king seemed to have anger issues. After the rest of the Jews and her court fasted and prayed for three days she entered the king's court. The law of the land as quoted in Esther 4:11 said any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death. The king saw her beauty and he summoned her, being summoned by the king was the only exception to the death sentence. Of course you probably know the rest of the story, the Jewish people were saved as a result of Esther's courage and by her following God's guidance. If you are not familiar with the entire story read the book of Esther in the scriptures, it is a very good read.

These are just two examples of heroes listed in the scriptures, there are many more. They are the role models we should recognize and appreciate. As discussed above they are real heroes putting themselves at great risk of harm or death just like Medal of Honor recipients and our other public servants who put others or our country as the higher priority over themselves.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Something you would enjoy seeing in September in Jacksonville is a place called: "CATTY SHACK RANCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY" It's only 6.6 miles from the Reunion Hotel, a 13 minute drive.

Check out their website: [catty shack ranch wildlife sanctuary - Search \(bing.com\)](https://www.bing.com/search?q=catty+shack+ranch+wildlife+sanctuary)



EDITOR'S NOTE: Below is an email from our member Joe Lazaravich, regarding an organization that cares about Vietnam Vets. I am publishing Joe's note and the flier that I received, to show what it is all about; and, if you are in the area on the 25th of March, use the link.

NEWS: From Joe Lazaravich:

There is an organization in Baltimore that will be hosting a Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran function on March 25th. I had the pleasure of speaking with Miss Diane Sancilio of that organization and am eager to actually meet her on the 25th.

I'm passing this information on to you hoping that you'll share it with the membership of The Tan Son Nhut Association to let them know there are groups out there that care.

<https://gilchristcares.org/events/welcome-home-celebration/>



**Gilchrist's 5th Annual
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration
Saturday, March 25, 2023!**

gilchristcares.org/welcome-home-celebration



<p>Event in-person starting at 8:30 a.m. at Martin's West <i>6817 Dogwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21244</i></p>	
<p><i>With Keynote Speaker:</i> Vietnam Veteran and Four-time Super Bowl Champion Rocky Bleier</p>	
<p><i>Featuring:</i> Resource Fair, Buffet Breakfast and Program</p>	



Questions? Contact Kimberlee McDonnell at KMCDONNELL@gilchristcares.org or 443.849.8337.



Introducing new member Terrie "TJ" Thompson



I found this amazing TSNA group from a Facebook page called "Radar Station Veterans," that includes something like 600+ US radar sites from around the world and where someone told me about tsna.org. I was a 2nd Lt. when I arrived at Tan Son Nhut on August 12, 1969 as a Weapons Controller (AFSC 1744-C), assigned to the 619th Tactical Control Squadron on base, known to pilots as Paris Control. Here's a view of the radar domes from my barracks across the street (the base main entrance is just a short walk down that road to the left).

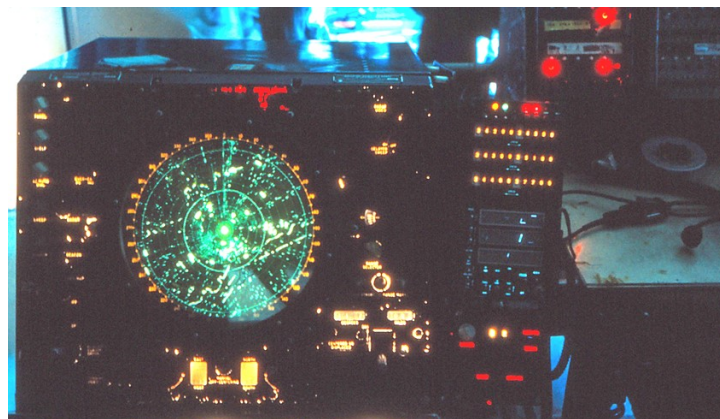
As I imagine others have described in Revetments before, the basic job of Paris Control was to maintain radio and radar contact and control of all aircraft in the airspace of III Corps until handing them off to another site (Paddy, Pyramid, etc.) or to a FAC, or for returning aircraft to the TSN tower. During my time we were starting the Vietnamization program, so we had VNAF controllers working alongside us. In addition, we had a small rotation of Aussie controllers.

Here's a picture of some of us after a shift, at an "inter-service" happy hour by the maintenance shed.

This little group was mostly Bravo Crew, just coming off shift: Barry Flynn, Aussie, is far left, then I think Andy Anderson, two VNAF officers whose names I can't remember, then me, and then Scott Carson. Notice all the happy co-mingling in the background!



Inside Paris Control, which was officially called a Control & Reporting Center (CRC) here's a look at the front information board from my usual position on the 2nd or 3rd dias:



And here's a closer look at my scope:

During my year I was lucky enough to get some very interesting TDY trips: one month in March, 1970 at the radar site to the north of us at Ban Me Thuot (Pyramid Control), which could be a story all by itself. I also got to Bangkok and Udorn AB (I think) where we spent a few days observing B-52 operations. That's also a story unto itself. In between, I got to Pleiku (Peacock Control) where I spent a day flying with a FAC in an O-2A, another good story.

I took "Vietnamization" to heart, and befriended a VNAF A-1 Skyraider pilot who took me up on a quasi-combat mission, which I can talk about later. And finally, after receiving a letter from my college room-mate and best man who had been classified "4-F" but the letter was marked "in-country," I hitched a flight to his fire support base in Xuan Loc, about 30 miles east of Saigon. Turns out they lowered the draft standards and he got called up.

I've been a photographer all my life, and in Vietnam I took a ton of pictures, mostly slides that sat in boxes for fifty years, that I'm just now beginning to scan. I look forward to sharing more with you all later.



But to come back to my reason for finding and joining this amazing association - I've been looking for a guy who worked as my technician on scope, Sgt. Cal Walker from Texas. I've looked all over, with no luck so far.

Here's a picture in case anybody knows and is in contact with Cal.

Thanks for listening to my story, and I will be honored to hear more from any of you fellow TSN vets and especially any who worked at Paris Control. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Cal Walker, that would be absolutely amazing.

Terrie "TJ" Thompson
619 Tac. Control Squadron
Aug 69 - Aug 70

Hi Larry,

One of my photos of an office girl in October 1967@TSN.

She spoke English as well as any of us.

Mark Reveaux
May 67 - May 68
377th Supply Squadron



The Tan Son Nhut Association is accepting applications for the school year beginning in the Fall of 2023 for a \$5,000 scholarship from high school seniors. The student must be a direct descendant of one who served in Vietnam for any period from January 1, 1959, to April 30, 1975. "Direct descendant" means the applicant must be a child or grandchild ("greats" included) from one who served in Vietnam.

Service may be either with the Armed Forces of the United States or the Republic of Vietnam or as a civilian at Tan Son Nhut Air Base either as an American or Vietnamese citizen.

Deadline to apply is May 1, 2023 and must be mailed to:

TSNA Scholarship Committee
c/o Committee Chair
4214 Brenda Street
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

TSNA Scholarship recipients must pursue a four-year degree as a resident student at an accredited United States accredited college or university that grants bachelor or higher degrees. However, the applicant may begin higher education studies at a two-year accredited institution and transfer to an accredited school to complete the final two years leading to a bachelor's degree.

The scholarship is awarded in equal amounts over four years, provided the student maintains a 3.00 grade point average at the end of each school term and completes a minimum of 30 semester hours each year. Scholarship recipients must furnish an official transcript at the end of each spring semester.

Complete information about eligibility, distribution of benefits, and renewal of the scholarship and the application are available at the Tan Son Nhut Association website (TSNA.org).

In addition to the application form found on the TSNA.org web page, applicants must submit a number of support documents, including:

A. An official high School transcript showing your overall high school GPA. Minimum requirement is 3.0 on a 4-point scale ... or a signed letter from the high school administration attesting to and listing the student's GPA for each of the last three years of high school.

B. One Faculty or Administrator letter of recommendation (LIMIT TO ONE PAGE).

C. Copies of Standardized Test Scores (ACT, SAT, or other acceptable test scores) if not on high school transcript.

D. Resume' or list of school and community activities, awards and leadership positions.

E. An essay/personal statement written by the applicant addressing what you hope to accomplish as a student in college. Please include your planned major, academic, personal, and leadership goals (LIMIT TO ONE PAGE).

F. Proof (a copy of DD Form 214 of the Vietnam service member and/or other acceptable Documentation) and applicable birth certificates to show that you are a direct descendent by blood or by legal adoption of someone who served in the Republic of Vietnam for any period from January 1, 1959, to April 30, 1975.

In addition, optional information includes participation in JROTC or other patriotic activities as well as the applicant's plans to pursue ROTC in college.

If one wishes to honor a person or to make a donation in memory of someone, please provide contact information so that we may properly advise the honoree or surviving family of your donation. Please send donations to The Tan Son Nhut Association, PO Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. TSNA is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans' organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
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Annual Membership: \$20.00
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Life Membership: \$180.00



AC-119 Shadow Gunships,
17th Special Operations Squadron,
Tan Son Nhut AB.
From Tim Stinson
7th Air Force Combat News Division
Apr 69 - Mar 70

NEW MEMBERS

Randy A. Brown Salisbury NC '69-'70 377th Transportation Dept.
Crash/Fire Maintenance ra48738@bellsouth.net

Terrie Thompson Eagan MN Aug 69 - Aug 70 619 Tac Control Squadron
Weapons Controller terrie.thompson@me.com

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