



REVETMENTS

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



JULY 2023

TO OUR TSNA MEMBERSHIP

Come one, come all to our Reunion this year in Jacksonville, Florida.

It will be sooner than you think so get your Hotel Reservations called in and your Reunion Registrations sent in to TSNA , P.O. BOX 236, PENRYN, PA.

All the info will be in our Revetments and on our website, and see Pages 5 & 6 in this edition of Revetments.

Put the date on your calendars, September 20th to September 24th!

See you all there.

Randall W Brown
TSNA President

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

We were assigned to ferry F101's to bases in and around Vietnam.

On several of our missions (Round Robins), we would do different routes from Guam, to Okinawa, to Clark in the Philippines. Several times during both of my tours we were on Tan Son Nhut. My aircraft was a KC-135A 57-1486.

Edward R. Ammon
909 ARS 461st Bomb Wing (H) (SAC)
December 1963 - February 1964
March 1964 - June/July 1965
(New Member for 5 years, June, 2023)

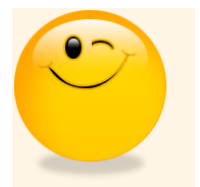
EDITOR'S NOTE: I found this on the internet - the actual plane that Edward flew on in SE Asia.

I found the Aerial Visuals site quite interesting.



FROM THE EDITOR: Every Friday we receive an email from our church. Included in that email is a listing of the order of service for each of our 2 services.

One the hymns listed was in actuality, "There's Something About That Name" However, there was a slight typo, and it was shown in the email as "There's Something About That Nam." I guess most of us could say that, too?



Puget Sound Honor Flight Trip

By Bill Cottringer, 6250th Air Police Squadron, Oct 64 - Nov 65



Well, it took me over 4 years to finally get a seat on the Puget Sound Honor Flight for World War II, Korean and Vietnam veteran's, headed back to Washington DC to see all the military branch and war memorials, but needless to say, the wait was well worth it. The initial reception at SeaTac was very humbling and exciting at the same time, but this was just a small taste of what was to come with all well organized and informative tours, great accommodations, meaningful conversations with new friends, tasty food, and thirst-quenching drinks after the hot days, and of course the spectacular ending with a crowd of over 300 well-wishing, welcome-home fellow veterans and civilians with flags and cheers. The march around the airport with the bagpipers and military escort, was very emotional for all of us 100 returning Vietnam Vets with one World War II veteran, and quite a suitable ending to an unforgettable, memorable 3 days.

Besides all the spectacular send-off and welcoming back letter package and ceremonies and the challenge of re-learning how to be a good plane and bus seat partner and roommate at the hotel with politeness and interesting conversation, there was so much more to experience in between. I think what impressed me most was the love, respect and honor that went into the workmanship of the various Army, Navy, Women's, Air Force, Marines and Coast-guard memorials and of course the glorious war and history displays, by diligent, sensitive, and conscientious architects, construction workers and laborers. I was truly amazed at the details and impact of the various statutes, architecture and art representing important characteristics of the various wars, military branches, and political history. It was all eye-candy for my busy camera.



And of course, then came the Vietnam Wall, where several Vietnam Veterans found the names of fallen comrades and took edgings with the help of volunteers. I was only able to find two classmates from Haddon Heights, New Jersey that had been killed in the Vietnam War, from 1964-66 graduation years. I went into the Air Force in 1962 and did a TDY from Japan and subsequent full tour in Vietnam

from 1963-65 at the young age of 19. What I didn't know was my class at HHHS had 5 Vietnam Vets in the Marines, Army, and Air Force, but after I returned to college, first at Rutgers in N.J. and then to Murray State University in Kentucky. During my last day in Vietnam (Tan Son Nhut at the time), my team of base police gave me the day off and I remember seeing a 1963 classmate from HHHS coming in as a replacement, who I later found out went on to be a US Marshal.

I really hope all remaining Vietnam vets get this wonderful opportunity of a lifetime to follow me and other Legion and VFW members in this memorable trip back to D.C. There are nothing but great memories now to help change to poor reception I got earlier when I returned from 'Nam and started college on the GI Bill. Of course, the gift of Nguyen Cao Ky's book, *Buddha's Child*, offered much welcome gratitude too, along with the recent 50th Reunion party in Auburn.



EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is another great item from Bill Cottringer. He sent it after reading the story by George Bontya in the June, 2023 edition of *Revetments*.

Dear Larry,

This honor flight is open to all Vietnam veterans now, so I hope all eligible ones pursue this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as a very memorable adventure to reach some welcome closure on my Vietnam experience. Many of my friends from HS went back to Vietnam for a visit, but I have just not had the opportunity, mainly because of the high cost and because there are so many places of which I have had interesting experiences living and working that I can't begin to choose. For one thing this honor flight was all completely free and very well pre-arranged, so there wasn't a real choice!

As a preface to this little personal Vietnam service story, I will have to admit my initial experience with the US Air Force was very disappointing and somewhat unpleasant. I qualified for OCS to be a pilot, but right after I finished basic training, I was told that any officer training school was no longer opened to non-college graduates, which I hadn't even started at the time. So, the USAF gave me the option of getting an honorable discharge or opting for another tech school to go through. For some reason I chose the Air Police career field, maybe because at 18 years old, I thought I would be flying around directing air traffic. But humping B-52's, F-4's and 105's on the flight line I learned the real duties of the security part of being an AP, while to be fair, the other more interesting law enforcement, investigation and corrections duties helped counter this boring experience.

I learned earlier that when given a lemon, then make lemonade and so that is what I did. I got to travel all around the Far East playing basketball for an undefeated team and seeing places and having experiences I wouldn't have normally had working my 9 on and 3 off shift schedule. Seeing ground zero at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, walking through the beautiful temples framed with cherry blossoms, and taking a welcome afternoon nap on the white beaches of Nha Trang in the middle of a vicious war, still remain unforgettable experiences.

So as the saying goes, your altitude is determined by your attitude. Incidentally, right before I was ready to deploy to Vietnam from Yokota AB, I broke my ankle in a basketball game and had to get a foot cast put on. The Sgt. doing the out-processing was ready to sign off, when I asked what I thought was a reasonable question--I am 100% behind going to Vietnam, but do you really think I should be walking around the jungle with my foot in a cast? Off to Clark AB I went, which I quickly got tired of (very large base and no way to get around) and ended up stupidly dipping my cast into a swimming pool to dissolve it in order to get on the plane to Vietnam (something I regretted later in getting rejected for the basketball team at Murray State, when they went on to the NCAA tournament that year, in 1969 with the first 7-footer after Wilt Chamberlain for Kansas).

In continuing this little story, I guess you all remember the flamboyant RVN General Nguyễn Cao Kỳ who always donned a purple scarf and wore two pearl-handled 45's given to him by John Wayne? I met the General and later Premier, briefly when I helped guard his plane at Bien Hoa and Tan Son Nhut for his flights to North Vietnam (I was in the 377th Air Police Squadron in '63-'64) Before volunteering to go to Vietnam from Yokota AB in Japan, I thought I was helping a little country fight for its freedom from oppressors. But after being privy to overhearing high level talks while guarding General Westmorland's HQ house, I began to sense a different motive of the war, along with our ineptness of winning it. This was more than a little disheartening. At a tender age of 19 it was devastating. And the TV shows afterwards just portrayed our brilliant leaders during this time from the Presidents to Secretaries of Defense and State, at least from my perception, as utter buffoons with questionable motives and skills. I am still not sure if this was unpatriotic or enlightenment. The Jury is still out on that opinion, given the great divide we have going on in our country today.

And so the universal validity of this dismal perspective was later confirmed with my hostile reception in going back to college in Kentucky (I took full advantage of the GI bill in completing a BA, MA, SCT and Ph.D. and just last year completed a graduate certificate in Human Capital Leadership at the American Military University, at age 79). I wore sunglasses and told everyone I was with the CIA over there with Southern Air. This cover was easy, because I finagled my way into the DEA investigating the SDS organization for illegal drug usage as a private contractor, when finishing my degree in psychology and criminal justice at Murray State University. Actually, one August night at Tan Son Nhut we were expecting a suicide bomber at the north base gate, where I was assigned with a mere AR-15 and 45. To say I was a little frightened and seriously worried would be an understatement of great magnitude. And yes soiling did occur at one point, sadly and embarrassingly to admit. To avoid this horrific event from possibly cutting my young life short, I prayed to God it wouldn't happen and promised to devote my life to the criminal justice field from my valuable air police training, which I did for 50 years

afterwards, and happily and enthusiastically so. .

At any rate, I never felt my small contribution to this war was appreciated or even recognized, with the exception of three things happening during my time there and 50 years later upon the Vietnam War ending reunion ceremony for Vietnam veterans. Plus, a book, *Buddhas' Child*, written by the good General Kỳ. These were: (a) the wonderful thank you notes in the Christmas cards I got from South Vietnamese friends I had made while teaching English classes (b) the gracious welcome home party given by 3rd generation South Vietnamese refugees at their Auburn, WA home (where they have one of the best Veteran's Day parades in the country!), and (c) the book by the General, given to me by Joe Goddu, a fellow Air Policeman at the bases we were stationed with each other in Japan and Vietnam. The book basically gave us veteran's a genuine "Thank you" for our unselfish service to tiny Vietnam in its noble fight for freedom and told the real story what we originally had in our minds. After that I contacted the General who had then moved from Los Angeles to Seattle, where I still live. I sent him a signed copy of my first book, *You Can Have Your Cheese and Eat it Too*, with a note on how much I appreciated his book. I wanted a signed copy of his book in exchange, which I had returned to my buddy Joe Goddu, but I was too humbled to ask a tired warrior for a favor. Reading his book of thanks was enough.

Now here I am semi-retired from mental health, law enforcement, corrections, college teaching, and private security careers and still being associated with the criminal justice field, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Because Organization, a start-up nonprofit organization intervening with victims of human trafficking at: <https://www.becauseorg.com/garett-dexter> or <https://www.becauseorg.com/garett-dexter>

Note: If you are interested, Bill has 10 books available on-line at

[Amazon.com: William Cottringer: books, biography, latest update](#)

[Books by William Cottringer \(Author of BOW-WOW SECRETS\) \(goodreads.com\)](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Pearls-Wisdom-Smart-Dogs-Tale-ebook/dp/B09514CLSP>

Also, he has over 500 free articles on his two main writing sites:

[William S. Cottringer \(author\) on AuthorsDen](#)

<https://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/user/23682>

Bill Cottringer
Dr. Bill Cottringer
Author of *Pearls of Wisdom*

P-G wisdom: "You can't carry two watermelons with one hand."



Please join us in Jacksonville Florida for our annual reunion.



WELCOME

**2023 Tan Son Nhut
Reunion**

**Jacksonville FL
September 20-24**

**Registration available
at: [TSNA.org](https://www.tsna.org)**



It is time to register for the Tan Son Nhut Reunion. Any one stationed at, or who passed through Tan Son Nhut is welcome.

Come as strangers, leave as friends!

There are no strangers in TSNA - only new friends waiting to be discovered!

We would like to shake your hand and share a cup of coffee over some small talk!

Hotel Information

**Double Tree by Hilton Jacksonville Airport
2101 Dixie Clipper Drive
Jacksonville FL 32218
855-689-8135**

Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/TanSonNhut>

Please note, the entire URL must be copied and pasted for it to work properly.

In the event guests are encountering issues with the reservation link, please make reservations by contacting Hilton's reservations department directly at 855.689.8135 and reference the Tan Son Nhut Annual Reunion group block or the group code **TSN.**

Rm Rate \$124.00 plus taxes for standard (King, double/double, queen) \$144 for a suite

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2023 **REUNION REGISTRATION**

Jacksonville FL
Sep 20 - 24, 2022

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL (____) _____ EMAIL _____

SPECIAL NEEDS (if applicable) _____

Choose one of the following:



1: FULL Reunion Registration including banquet

Number attending _____ **\$95.00 = \$** _____

Full Reunion Total Remittance: \$ _____

2. Banquet Only Friday, September 22, 2023

Number attending _____ x **\$65.50 = \$** _____

Banquet Only Total Remittance: \$ _____

3. Bus Tours

Bus tours can be selected and will be billed separately when destination and price is determined

Mail this form with payment (check only) to:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 236
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236

REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED

NLT September 1, 2023

Questions regarding Registration should be directed to:

Paul Mortensen

Director of Reunion Planning

TSNareunions@gmail.com

Hotel Information

Double Tree by Hilton Jacksonville Airport

2101 Dixie Clipper Drive

Jacksonville FL 32218 Phone (855) 689-8135

Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/TanSonNhut>

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In the event you encounter issues with the reservation link, please make reservations by contacting Hilton's reservations department directly at 855.689.8135 and reference the Tan Son Nhut Annual Reunion group block or the group code TSN

Room Rates: \$124.00 plus taxes for standard rooms, \$144 plus taxes for a suite

More on the 90th Replacement Battalion

By Jim Dugan
90th Replacement Battalion
TSN 69 - 70

As far as I can recall, everyone going on R&R processed through Camp Alpha regardless of branch of service.

The airmen assigned to Tan Son Nhut may have stayed with their unit until the departure, but since the 178th Replacement Co. provided the flight manifest to Pan Am or World Airways, they had to check in with us. Camp Alpha acted like a Bed & Breakfast. Guys who were scheduled for R&R would come in from wherever, give us their orders, and the flight manifest was made up. Sometimes they would stay at Camp Alpha for two days before their flight schedule. We had all the services staying with us. It was quite an operation. I loved it. You got to meet all types of people. Civilian government employees also processed through us. Women, both civilian and military of all ranks, full colonels and above, and male civilians were taken to the flight line by special van. They didn't ride the buses provided for regular servicemen. The whole operation worked like a charm.

The 90th Replacement and its various companies at Long Binh were responsible to USARV for receiving just Army replacements and holding them until they were assigned to further units. Likewise, when they were scheduled for DEROS, their units assigned them back to the 90th to be processed out.

In late 1972, the entire 90th Replacement Bn. moved back to Tan Son Nhut and rejoined the 178th to process the Army troops out. By that time there were no more incoming troops. The Air Force and Navy also worked along side the 178th Replacement Co. to process their personnel out.

We, at Camp Alpha, were one of its companies of the 90th, the 178th Replacement Company. We were honored to call Tan Son Nhut our home. The 90th Replacement Battalion headquarters was at Long Binh.

Officially, the 90th was the last Army support unit to leave Vietnam on March 29, 1973.

The 90th Replacement Battalion served under the command of the U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV). We served in all 17 campaigns of the Vietnam War.

<<<<<<<<<<TSNA>>>>>>>>>

(THE ABOVE FROM THE JULY, 2008 REVETMENTS. THANKS, LIFE MEMBER JIM DUGAN)

EDITOR'S NOTE: January, 2024 isn't that far away.

I recently received a number of great Tet pictures from one of our members.

I intend to use them in the January edition of Revetments.

I would welcome more pictures, and I would really appreciate stories of your experiences during Tet.

Just sit down at your computer, and start writing down your thoughts, remembrances, etc., either in an email, or as a Word attachment to an email.

My email address is: lfry2@dejazzd.com.

And, stories, thoughts, anecdotes, etc. about anything else Tan Son Nhut related are welcome.

Thanks.

Larry

Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
Penryn PA 17564

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Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
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8TH Aerial Port Squadron C7A Ramp

Jimmy Avera Photo

NEW MEMBER

Edward R. Ammon, The Villages, FL Dec 63-Feb 64; Mar 64-Jun-Jul 65 909 ARS 461st Bomb Wing (H) (SAC)

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