

37TH SECURITY POLICE SQ.

PROVEN IN COMBAT

Newsletter for the 377th Security Policeman

Volume 1

2013

DEDICATED TO:

The numerous members of our old unit, that made it possible for the 377th Security Police Squadron to be designated as one of the most decorated unit's in the history of the United States Air Force.

We have also established our own individual history, while assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Initially, I hope to make this paper a twice yearly publication.

EDITOR'S BACKGROUND



October 1967 - July 1969

When I first arrived at the 377th SPS, I was assigned to night shift, Charlie Sector. TSgt Arthur Garcia was my NCOIC.

The shift, each night was actually very normal in most respects. We would be assigned to a different post each night, maintaining alert posture, for anything abnormal.

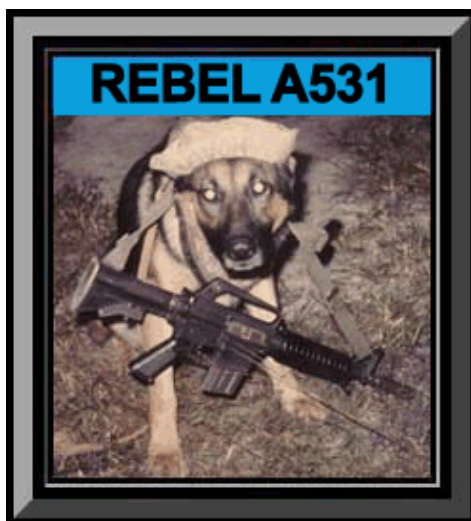
Then the abnormal came and it was called the "Tet Offensive." For the 377th SPS, it's duration would last from Jan 31 - Feb 18, 1968.

After the Tet Offensive, Foxtrot Sector needed some beefing up and I volunteered to go over there and guard the southern perimeter.

I know, "Never Volunteer."

In April 1968, I volunteered to go to the Sentry Dog Section.

I was given thirty day's of "OJT" training with my assigned sentry dog, REBEL A531.



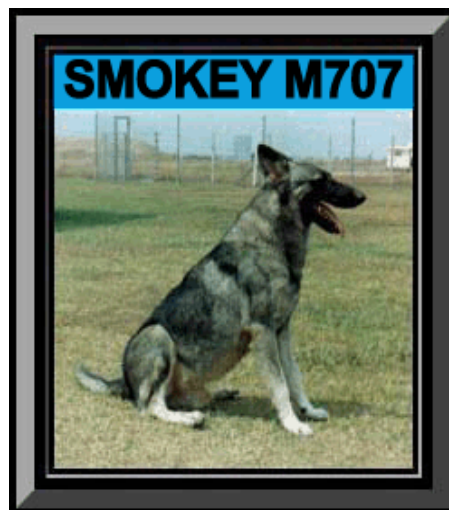
I was a dog handler all during the Mini-Tet Offensive, May 6, 1968.

After Mini-Tet, I went Tachikawa, Japan, "TDY status" for thirty days.

The purpose was to pick up a brand new military working dog and bring him back to Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

I chose a male German shepherd, named SMOKEY M707, as my new

sentry dog and best friend.



Once back at TSN, I then certified SMOKEY as a sentry dog and began working with him on a nightly basis.

Many rocket and mortar "Attack's On Tan Son Nhut Air Base," came and went for me.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In 1998, I decided to make the 377th SPS web pages.

This was done so that we could have a way for former members of the 377th SPS, to make contact with old friends, that they had lost over the years.

Many of you have taken time, out of your personal lives and helped me in obtaining names, addresses, phone numbers, stories, photo's, classified documents and etc.

However, I need to acknowledge one man in particular.

He has put thousands of hours into his various research, on behalf of the 377th Security Police Squadron.

SGT JAMES A. STEWART



September 1967 - September 1968

Charles has a good point about not volunteering.

I was stationed at Kincheloe AFB, Michigan and the kennel master said, "Stewart, I need another dog handler and I sent your name in for dog school, in October."

I informed him that I was afraid of dogs. His response was "Hell, we'll get you a Chihuahua, you're still going."

I talked to some of the other dog handlers and they liked their duty, wandering around out in the woods rather than around B-52's. So I went.

Less than a year later, I had arrived in Vietnam.

I arrived at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, along with thirty other men who are K-9 handler's. I was assigned a good looking black German Shepherd named DOBE 7X49.

Jim Pearl and I had been in dog school together and Bob Rodocker and I had been to the AZR Combat Preparedness Course together, so I knew a couple of guys already.



After spending a year together the thirty of us were a band of brothers, forged by the fires of war, called the Tet Offensive of 1968.

Sometime in the 1980's, I thought it would be nice if I could locate a couple of guys from my Vietnam days.

The search was like a snowball that was rolling downhill.

In the past thirty years, I have now added almost 1100 men to the 377th Security Police Squadron's database.

We have had four of the 377th SPS Reunions with as many as four hundred people attending.

The icing on the cake, is that I have reconnected with twenty-seven of my "K-9 Brothers" at a variety of reunions.

When we get together we forget that forty plus years have gone by and we just enjoy each other.

If you haven't been to a reunion, you owe it to yourself to attend one.

Come as strangers and leave as friends!

Charles and I will see you there!

EDITOR'S NOTE

If this newsletter is to be a success, then we will need your input! Without you and your input, this newsletter will not be as good as it could possibly be.

Remember, a photograph in your story is worth a thousand words.



**War Dogs Memorial
March Field Museum
Riverside, California
Dedicated February 21, 2000**

Presidential Unit Citation
31 Jan 1968 - 02 Feb 1968



Criteria: Awarded to U.S. Air Force units and allies for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after December 7, 1941 (marking the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entrance into World War II.) The unit must display such gallantry, determination and spirit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Air Force Cross to an individual.

The citation was established as the Distinguished Unit Citation on February 26, 1942, and received its present name on November 3, 1966. All members of the unit may wear the decoration, whether or not they personally participated in the acts for which the unit was cited.

Only those assigned to the unit at the time of the action cited may wear the decoration as a permanent award.

For the Army and Air Force, the emblem itself is a solid blue ribbon enclosed in a gold frame.

The Citation is carried on the unit's regimental colors in the form of a blue streamer, four feet long and 2 3/4 inches wide.

Note: This unit citation ribbon is one of the few awards issued by the military as a ribbon only. There is no accompanying medal.

AF Outstanding Unit Award w/ Valor
08 Apr 1966 - 31 May 1967
04 Dec 1966 - 05 Dec 1966
01 Apr 1969 - 31 Mar 1971
17 Jan 1972 - 28 Mar 1973



Criteria: Awarded to any USAF Command performing exceptionally meritorious service, accomplish in specific acts of outstanding achievement, excelling in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or exhibiting conduct with distinction in military operations involving conflict with or exposure to a hostile action by any opposing foreign force.

The award was created in 1954. Multiple awards of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award are denoted by oak leaf clusters on the ribbon.

Until 2001, the Outstanding Unit Award ranked directly below the Presidential Unit Citation on the precedence of Air Force Awards.

Note: This unit citation ribbon is one of the few awards issued by the military as a ribbon only. There is no accompanying medal.

National Defense Service Medal
1959 - 30 Apr 1975



Criteria: Awarded to anyone who serves on active duty in the United States military during a designated time period.

In fifty years since the creation of the National Defense Service Medal, it has been authorized for the following time periods; Jun 27, 1950 to Jul 27, 1954 for service during the Korean War.

Jan 01, 1961 to Aug 14, 1974 for service during the Vietnam War.

As of 2005, it is the oldest service medal which is still issued to the active military.

Note: Bronze Star Device.

Note: This service ribbon is issued by the military along with an accompanying medal.



**Republic of Vietnam Gallantry
Cross Medal w/Palm
1959 - 30 Apr 1975**



Criteria: A military decoration of South Vietnam established in August 1950.

Awarded to any US military personnel Who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting an enemy force.

The medal is issued in four degrees with the basic medal followed by higher degrees the result of personal citations on an organizational level (also known as having been "mentioned in dispatches.")

The devices to the Gallantry Cross are not worn simultaneously but instead are upgradeable to the next higher device which would replace the previous device for wear on the decoration.

The most common award is the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Gallantry Cross Medal w/Palm, the individual award version.

Note: This service ribbon is issued by the military along with an accompanying medal.



**United States Air Force
Vietnam Service Medal
1959 - 30 Apr 1975**



Criteria: Awarded to any service member who served more than thirty consecutive days, or sixty days that were non-consecutive days, in the Republic of Vietnam between the dates of Nov 15, 1961 and Mar 28, 1973 and from April 29, 1975 to April 30, 1975.

For those service members who supported Vietnam operations from another country (such as Thailand,) the Vietnam Service Medal may be authorized if such activity was in direct Support of Vietnam Combat operations and if such combat support exceeded 30 - 60 days.

The U.S. Air Force also grants the Vietnam Service Medal for 30 - 60 days of flight missions in Vietnamese air space, even if the home base of the flight mission was not within the Republic of Vietnam.

**Republic of Vietnam
Campaign Medal
1960 - 30 Apr 1975**



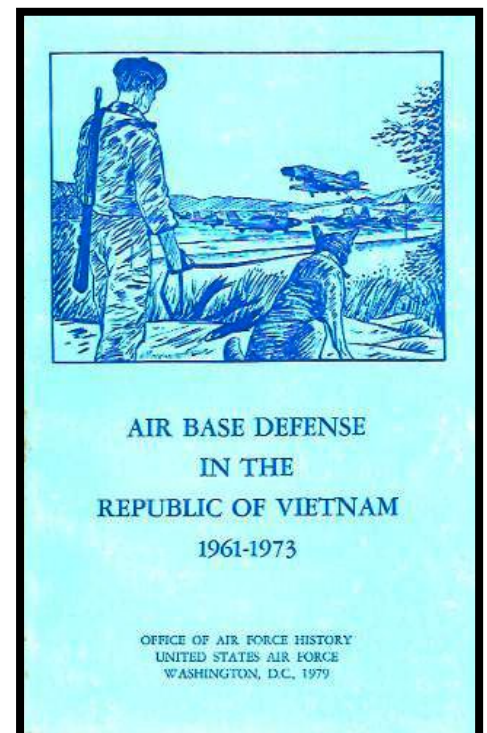
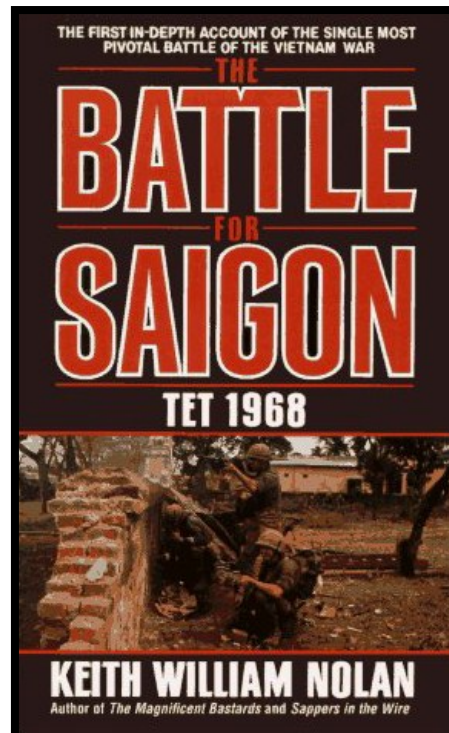
Criteria: This medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who:

1. Served for 6 months in South Vietnam during the period 01 Mar 1961 and 28 Mar 1973; or

Served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam and contributed direct combat support to the RVN Armed Forces for an aggregate of six months.

2. Only members of the Armed Forces of the United States who meet the criteria established for the AFEM (Vietnam) or Vietnam Service Medal during the period of service required are considered to have contributed direct combat support to the RVN Armed Forces; or

Did not complete the length of service required in item (1) or (2) above.



Presidential Unit Citation: 31 January 68 to 02 February 1968

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON

SPECIAL ORDER
GB-743

14 October 1969

1. By direction of the President, COL OAKLEY K PARK, 421-██████, is awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from 17 Jul 67 to 1 Jul 69.
2. By direction of the President, each of the following units is awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary gallantry in connection with military operations during the period indicated:

8th Tactical Bombardment Sq (6 Jun 67 to 18 Jan 68) (PACAF) ✓

13th Tactical Bombardment Sq (6 Jun 67 to 18 Jan 68) (PACAF) ✓

* 377th Security Police Sq (31 Jan 68 to 2 Feb 68) (PACAF) ✓

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE



JOHN D. RYAN, General, USAF
Chief of Staff

JOHN F. RASH, Colonel, USAF
Director of Administration

DISTRIBUTION
GO

*Filed
17 Oct 1969
D-X*

AF Pam 900-2, Vol 2, page 73, Awards and Decorations

377TH AIR POLICE SQUADRON

RVN GC W/P, 8 APR 66 - 14 MAY 67, DAFSO GB-332/75

377TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON

(63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71)

AFQUA W/V, 1 APR 69 - 31 MAR 71, DAFSO GB-703/71

AFQUAW/V, 17 JAN 72 - 28 MAR 73, DAFSO GB-862/73

RVN GC W/P, 15 MAY 67 - 28 JAN 73, DAFSO GB-332/75

Vietnam

Lineage and Honors History of the 377th Security Police Squadron

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS is a Vietnam Service Streamer with the name and dates of the campaign embroidered on it. With one exception, the Vietnam Air-Ground Campaign, a unit qualified for a campaign streamer if it was based in Vietnam or engaged in combat in Southeast Asia during the period of a designated campaign.

VIETNAM:

Vietnam Air, 31 January - June 1966.

VIETNAM AIR 1966

Vietnam Air Counteroffensive (USAF): from 1966-01-31 to 1966-06-28

Vietnam Air Offensive, 29 June 1966-8 March 1967.

VIETNAM AIR OFFENSIVE 1966-1967

Vietnam Air Offensive (USAF): from 1966-06-29 to 1967-03-08

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II, 9 March 1967-31 March 1968.

VIETNAM AIR OFFENSIVE, PHASE II 1967-1968

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II (USAF): from 1967-03-09 to 1968-03-31

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III, 1 April-October 1968.

VIETNAM AIR OFFENSIVE, PHASE III 1968

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III (USAF): from 1968-04-01 to 1968-10-31

Vietnam Air/Ground, 22 January-7 July 1968.

VIETNAM AIR/GROUND 1968

Vietnam Air/Ground Campaign (USAF): from 1968-01-22 to 1968-07-07

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV, 1 November 1968-22 February 1969.

VIETNAM AIR OFFENSIVE, PHASE IV 1968-1969

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV (USAF): from 1968-11-01 to 1969-02-22

TET 69/Counteroffensive, 23 February-8 June 1969.

TET 69/COUNTER-OFFENSIVE, 1969

Tet Counteroffensive (Army, USAF, Navy, USCG): from 1968-01-30 to 1968-04-01

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 9 June-31 October 1969.

VIETNAM SUMMER-FALL 1969

Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969 (Army, Navy, USAF, USCG): from 1969-06-09 to 1969-10-31

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1 November 1969-30 April 1970.

VIETNAM WINTER-SPRING 1969-1970

Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970 (Army, Navy, USAF, USCG): from 1969-11-01 to 1970-04-30

Sanctuary Counteroffensive, 1 May-30 June 1970.

SANCTUARY COUNTER-OFFENSIVE 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive (Army, Navy, USAF, USCG): from 1970-05-01 to 1970-06-30

Southwest Monsoon, 1 July-30 November 1970.

SOUTHWEST MONSOON 1970

Southwest Monsoon (USAF): from 1970-07-01 to 1970-11-30

Commando Hunt V, 1 December 1970-14 May 1971.

COMMANDO HUNT V 1970-1971

Commando Hunt V (USAF): from 1970-12-01 to 1971-05-14

Commando Hunt VI, 15 May-31 October 1971.

COMMANDO HUNT VI 1971

Commando Hunt VI (USAF): from 1971-05-15 to 1971-10-31

Commando Hunt VII, 1 November 1971-29 March 1972.

COMMANDO HUNT VII 1971-1972

Commando Hunt VII (USAF): from 1971-11-01 to 1972-03-29

Vietnam Ceasefire, 30 March 1972-28 January 1973.

VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE 1972-1973

Vietnam Cease Fire (Army, Navy, USAF, USCG): from 1972-03-30 to 1973-03-28

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMERS. None.

DECORATIONS.

Presidential Unit Citation: 31 Jan-2 Feb 1968.



Presidential Unit Citation

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device:



Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

4 & 5 Dec 1966,
8 Apr 1966-31 May 1967,
1 Apr 1969-31 Mar 1971,
17 Jan 1972-28 Mar 1973.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:



Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

15 Oct 1985-14 Jun 1987,
1 May 1989-30 Apr 1991.

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm:



Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross

8 Apr 1966-14 May 1967,
15 May 1967-28 Jan 1973.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE PRECEDED US...

**377th Security Police
Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam**

IN MEMORIAM

A2C George Michael Bevich, Jr.

A2C John Matthew Cole

A2C Oliver John Riddle

A2C Charles David Gabriel

SGT William Joseph Cyr

SGT Louis Harold Fischer

SGT Charles Edward Hebron

SGT Roger Bertha Mills

SGT Charles Edward Bestmann

A1C Ronald Irvin McDonald

SGT John Robert Piner

A1C George Henry Pacio

SMSgt Steve Porovich

SGT Dale L. DeWolf



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

YOUR HELP WANTED

By 377th Security Police Squadron

Your 377th SPS is in search of:

Short Stories about serious or funny incidents in and around Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

PHOTOS:	Color, Black & White
MAPS:	Any size
UNIT PATCHES:	Scanned, or a photo
STARS & STRIPES:	Any year
MACV PAPER:	Any Year
7th AF News:	Any Year
MPC:	Any Year

DATE: January 14, 2013

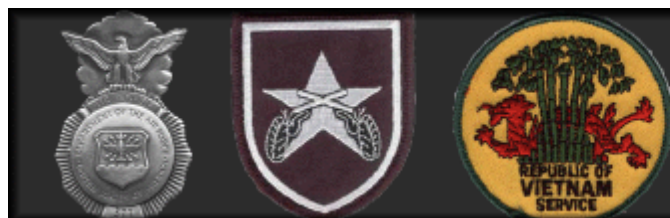


Inquiring minds want to know!

The Web Master needs your assistance. We need your input and photographs to place on the TSNA Photographs of the Month web page. All photographs remain your copyright. Email Charles Penley at cepenley@chartertn.net



<http://www.377sps.org>



Our country thanks
YOU for your service!