



377TH SECURITY POLICE SQ.

PROVEN IN COMBAT



Newsletter for the 377th Security Policeman

Volume 3

2013



A3C Alvin W. Curie
Delta Bunker-11, M-60
Dec 4-5, 1966

Newsletter Correction, Vol 2, 2013

Author: Robert W. Valentine Jr.

A possible mistake was made in the 377th SPS Newsletter, Vol 2, 2013.

The following information comes from Robert Valentine who was NCOIC of Delta Bunker-11.

It appears that you have Airman Currie and Airman Poole listed as being on the same post during the Dec 4-5, 1966 "Attack On Tan Son Nhut Air Base."

That would be incorrect.

Delta Bunker-11, a machine gun post manned by the following personnel:

Curie and I were assigned to that post when we went on duty. Walker joined us later.

This was Walker's first night on duty in Vietnam and he arrived on post about 45 minutes to an hour, prior to the onset of the VC attack.

At the time of the attack, all three of us were standing outside the front of the bunker as those were current SOP's, due to some Airman having difficulty staying awake all night sitting inside their bunkers.

Airman Currie was the first inside the bunker and took position behind the M-60.

Walker was second into the bunker and took a position on the opposite side as a rifleman.

I took up a position in the center handling radio communications with CSC, firing slap flares to illuminate our field of fire, assisting curie with the M-60 and acting as a rifleman.

I reported enemy activity on our post and estimated the numbers to be 30 to 40 VC.

Our M-60 machine gun failed to fire and Airman Curie could not get it operable so I ordered him to resort to his M-16. He fired one shot and his M-16 jammed so I assisted him in getting the M-60 operable.

Just prior to getting the M-60 operable, I sent a message to CSC requesting QRT backup as I believed we were about to be overrun.

Once our M-60 was operable, the VC who had broken through the concertina wire in front of us dropped to the ground and engaged us in a heavy firefight.

The remaining VC (the majority of them) headed northeast following the concertina wire toward the center of the Delta Flight MLR.

As I recall, two VC attempted to out flank our position, one to the left and one to the right.

There may also have been another to the center-left, as I recall.

The VC to the left was actually on the paved ramp and was equipped with a recoilless rifle.

The VC to the right was firing an automatic weapon and I know that I stopped this threat.

The VC to the center-left of our bunker was reported as having a grenade in his hand at the time he was KIA but the pin had not been completely pulled on the grenade.

EOD detonated it the next morning.

It is and always has been my opinion that both Airman's Curie and Walker performed outstandingly in the performance of their duties that night.

Airman Curie received a Silver Star, as a result of his action th the night of Dec 4-5, 1966.

Airman Walker and I were awarded the Bronze Star, with "V" device.

I believe both Airman Curie and Walker received their awards officially in an Award ceremony sometime in early 1967.

I had already shipped home and mustered out of the Air Force.



I received my awards and some of my medals about two or three years later as a result of an inquiry my father made on my behalf and without my knowledge.

I had received a letter from Airman Robert Kane that I had been awarded the Bronze Star with Valor.

I believe my dad made his inquiry through our Congressman Mike Oxley but I'm not sure of that.

I never have received my Outstanding Unit Award but I believe it is listed on an addendum to my DD Form-214.

I was assigned to Delta Sector my entire tour in Vietnam.

Author: Robert W. Valentine Jr.

**7th Air Force News
Friday, Dec 23, 1966**

**MACV Commander Praises
Tan Son Nhut Air Police**

TAN SON NHUT -- Gen. William C. Westmoreland commander, Military Advisory Command Vietnam, in a recent congratulatory letter to Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer, commander, 7th Air Force, praised members of the 377th Air Police Squadron for their

outstanding part in the defense of this base earlier this month.

General Westmoreland, in his message, noted "Alert patrolling, rapid response, and stout-hearted defense put up by members of the Tan Son Nhut Security Force on Dec. 4-5 are worthy of the highest praise.

"The 377th Air Police Squadron", the general continued, "decimated a strong infiltration force, inflicting a severe defeat on the enemy and making him pay a heavy price for minimum damage inflicted."

"Your brave airmen fought with courage and distinction," General Westmoreland concluded. "Please pass my hearty congratulations to all concerned."

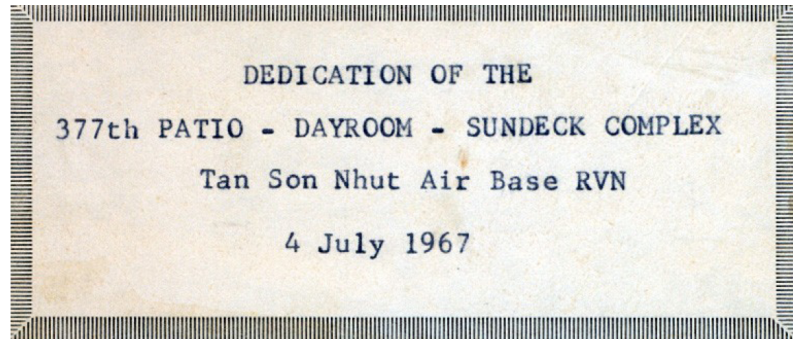
General Momyer forwarded General Westmoreland's message to Col. Grover K. Coe, commander, 377th Combat Support Group, with the following observation: "I reiterate, the professionalism, courage and cooperation displayed by personnel of the 377th Air Police Squadron were of the first magnitude.

"Heroism displayed will long be remembered by both the free world forces and more especially, the force that

is fighting to destroy the way of life of all free people."

Colonel Coe, in a separate letter to all units under his command, acquainted them with the congratulatory messages from Generals Westmoreland and Momyer. At the same time, he commended members of the 377th Dispensary and the 377th Supply Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal team, who reacted immediately and positively in support of the air police.





After the Attack On Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Dec 4-5, 1966, Col Grover K. Coe, Base Commander built a Patio and Sun Deck for the men of the 377th Air Police Squadron. It was built in the 100-Area. They gave it the building number, 117.

It was dedicated on July 4, 1967 in memory of:

A2C George M. Bevich Jr., sentry dog handler, handled REX 674F, AF13789063, 22 years of age, caucasian, male, born Jul 10, 1944, Summit Hill, PA, died Dec 4, 1966 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, Vietnam Wall panel 13-E, line 009.

A2C John Matthew Cole, AF13744976, 20 years of age, caucasian, male, born Jun 18, 1946, Philadelphia, PA, died Dec 4, 1966 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, Vietnam Wall panel 13-E, line 011.

A2C Oliver John Riddle, AF13809284, 21 years of age, caucasian, male, born Oct 23, 1945, Coraopolis, PA, died Dec 4, 1966 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, Vietnam Wall panel 13-E, Line 012.

Col G.K. Coe, Commander, 377th CSGp
Lt Col G.C. Johnson, Commander 377th SPSqdr
Explaining the plaque to the Security
Policemen at the entrance to the Dayroom



Col Grover K. Coe, Base Commander on the left and Lt Col Grove C. Johnson, Commander, 377th Air Police Squadron, prepare to dedicate the 377th APS Patio and Dayroom.

They will show three movies per day, inside the dayroom.

COOKS

Preparing dinner over the grill in the patio.

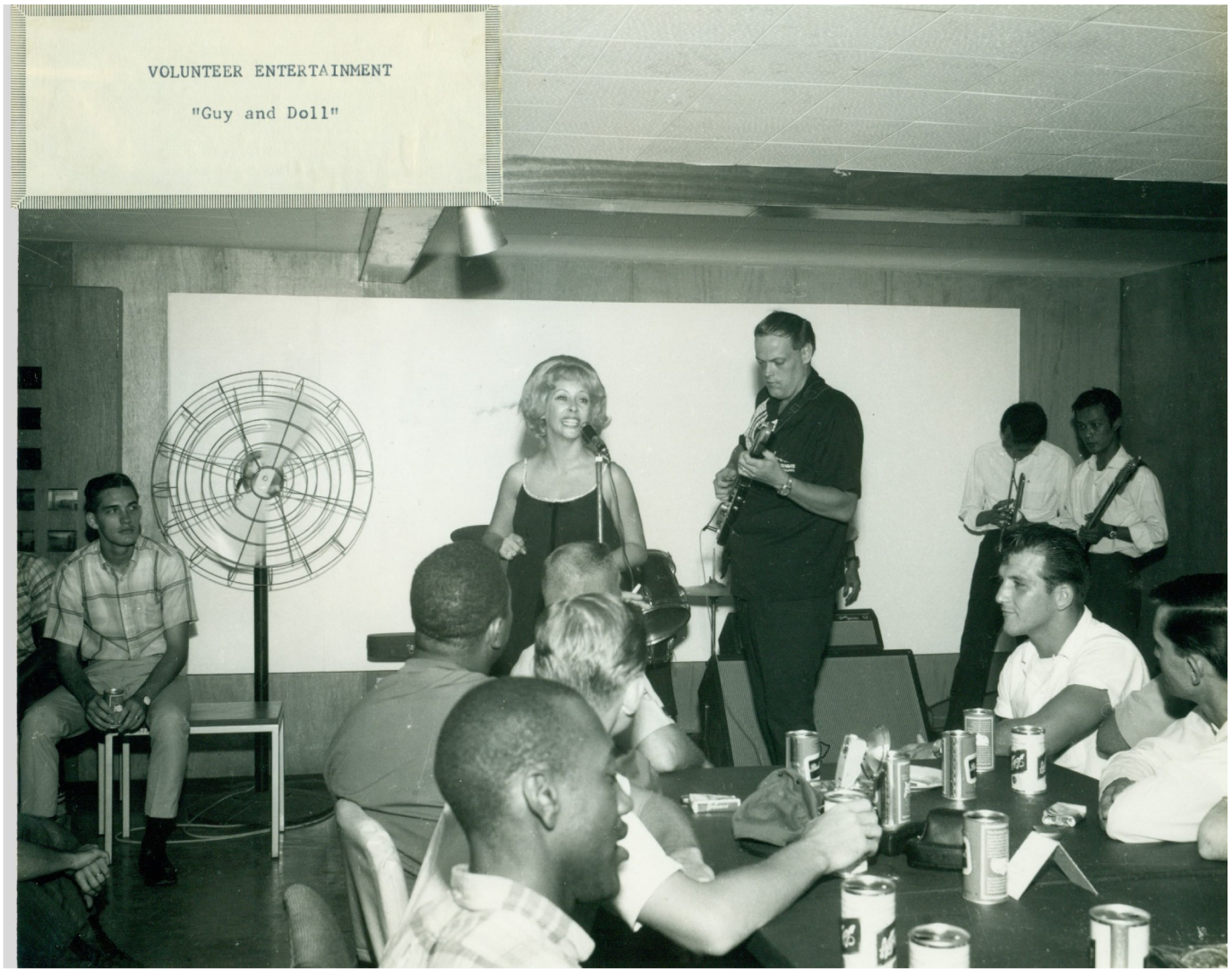


This is the outside area of the 377th Air Police Squadron dayroom and patio area. It has a built in BBQ pit and good tables.

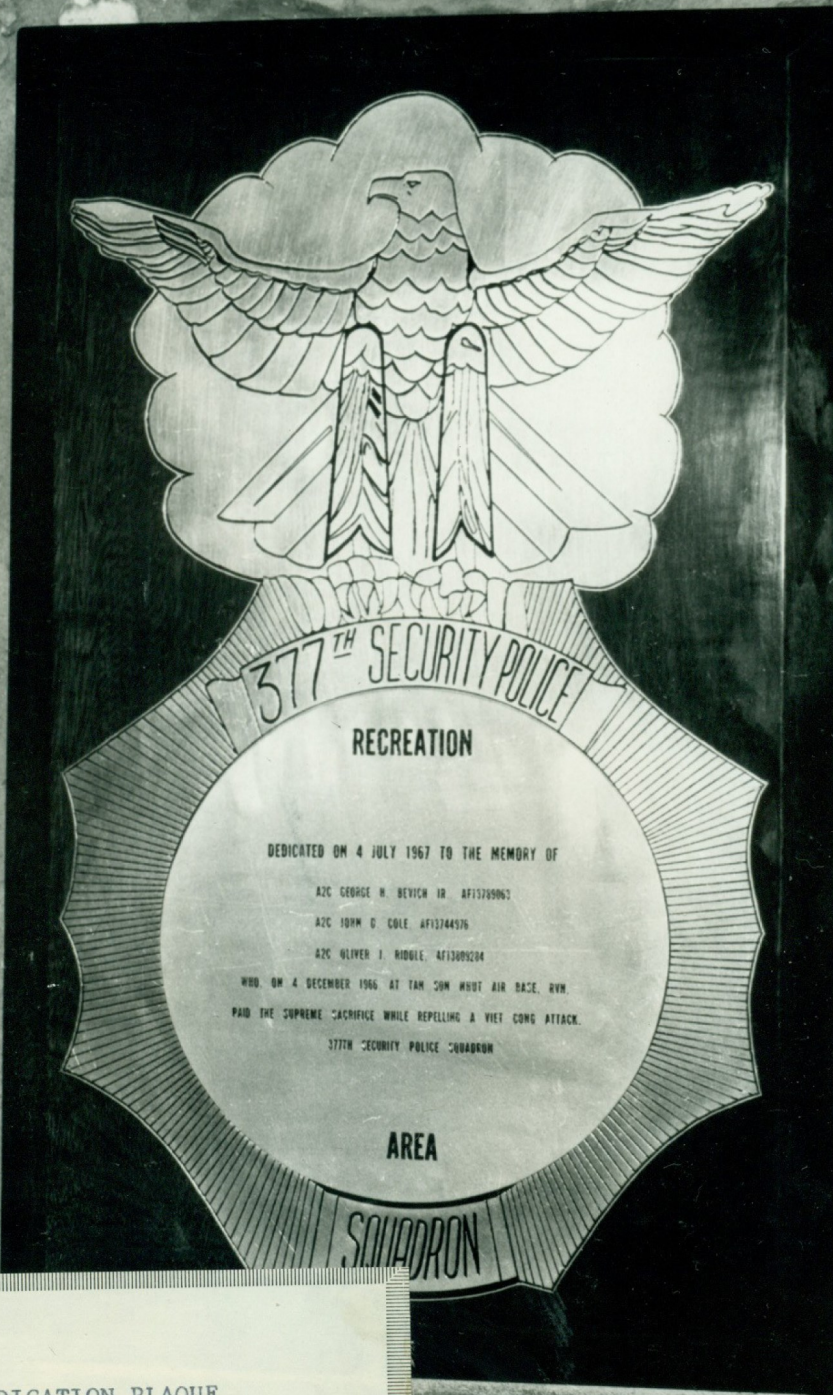
INSIDE THE DAYROOM
Looking toward the entrance



This is the view of the inside of the 377th Air Police Squadron dayroom and patio. It has a television and bar area.



This is the first day that the 377th Air Police Squadron dayroom and patio was open for relaxation.



377TH SECURITY POLICE

RECREATION

DEDICATED ON 4 JULY 1967 TO THE MEMORY OF

A2C GEORGE H. BEVICH 1R AF13769963

A2C 10M G. COLE AF13744976

A2C OLIVER J. HIDDLE AF13095204

WHO ON 4 DECEMBER 1966 AT TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, RVN
PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE WHILE REPELLING A VIET CONG ATTACK.

377TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON

AREA

SQUADRON

THE DEDICATION PLAQUE

24" by 14"



NEMO

The K-9 who alerted the base on the night of 5 Dec 66. Nemo was wounded and lost his right eye. Air evacuated to Lackland AFB, Texas for retirement.



REX, Airman Bevich's K-9

reads the plaque

The first K-9 to alert the base 4 Dec '66

DAYROOM

Looking toward stage and permanent screen



The 377th Air Police Squadron dayroom and patio. See the large white screen where movies will be shown.

Airmen in line being fed at Dedication

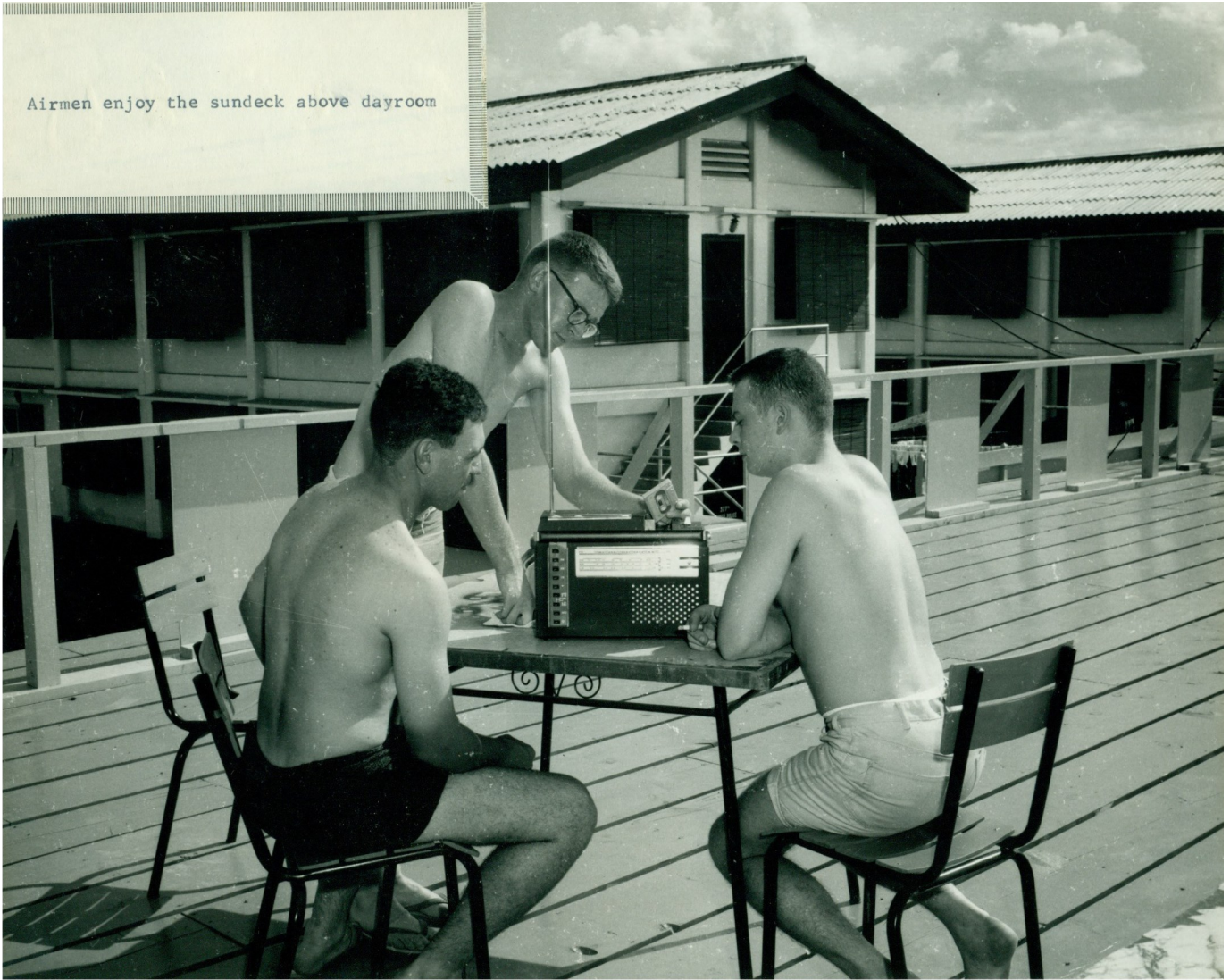
Dinner 4 July 1967



The 377th Air Police Squadron dayroom and patio will be serving steaks, hamburger and hot dogs today.

What is your pleasure? We have beer and soft drinks available to quench your thirst.

Airmen enjoy the sundeck above dayroom



This sundeck is located on top of the 377th Air Police Squadron, dayroom and patio area.

One of Tan Son Nhut's swimming pools is nearby.

377th PATIO - DAYROOM - SUNDECK COMPLEX
Tan Son Nhut Air Base RVN
As viewed from Airmen's Barracks



This is a view of the 377th Air Police Squadron dayroom, patio and sundeck.

Photograph was taken from the 2nd floor of our nearby French barracks, made out of concrete and steel.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
377TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

26 July 1967

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bevich,

I hope this letter will find you well and that the swift passage of time has made your heartfelt loss more bearable. We, as you, certainly have not lost to time the memory of those who paid heed to their conscience and gave themselves in defense of principles founded in the beginning and set forth for posterity by a wise and foresighted group of Americans in your Independence Hall. It is to this reverence of our loved ones and the perpetuation of their memory that I write to you.

The health, morale, and welfare of an organization is always of utmost concern to a commander. For a long period of time we had no adequate facility in the squadron area where our boys could relax while not on duty. However, in early December 1966 we began construction of a recreation area for our Security Policemen, a place where they could truly relax and enjoy their off duty hours. Our efforts have finally born fruit and the recreation area is now complete and in full use. I might add that it is one of the finest facilities on the air base and was constructed solely by security policemen.

The recreation area consists of a Bar-B-Q area, complete with hand-laid stone Bar-B-Q pit, a similar pit for cooling beverages, and serving tables; the second half of the complex consists of a 68 foot air-conditioned day-room complete with furnishings, television, a small stage for "do-it-yourself" talent (complete with public address system), reading material and assorted games provided by the Red Cross. There are ample tables and chairs where the boys can write their letters, study or just lounge. This building also has a permanently installed movie screen, and free movies are shown three times a day, five days a week. A special sun deck has been constructed on the roof of this building for those many who work only at night and sleep days and formerly had no place available close-by where they could sun-bathe.

We in the 377th Security Police Squadron felt it would be both fitting and appropriate to dedicate this recreation area to the memory of your son and the other two lads from the State of Pennsylvania. The enclosed plaque is a replica of the much larger dedication plaque which is now permanently affixed to the stone front of the dayroom building. I felt that you would be pleased to have it.

Each of us wanted the dedication of the recreation area to be a meaningful and memorable occasion. We felt that it should be done on an anniversary of 4 December 1966, and that the date set for the ceremony should, in itself, have some symbolic significance. So it was that in a dignified ceremony, presided over by Colonel Grover K. Coe, Base Commander, and attended by the majority of the squadron, the recreation area dedicated on 4 July 1967, Independence Day.

In addition to the plaque, I am enclosing copies of some photographs taken at the dedication and the events following the grand opening. It was, of course, a joyous occasion for the many men who spent so many hours and weeks in the construction of the area, and I am sure you will understand the reason for the festivities which followed the ceremony. In closing, I again express my deepest sympathy and sincerely hope that our efforts to sustain the memory of your son will give you comfort.

Sincerely,

GROVE C. JOHNSON, Lt Col., USAF
Commander



377th SECURITY POLICE

Tan Son Nhut Air Base
Saigon, Vietnam
1959 - 1975



VIETNAM
FOREVER
ON MY
MIND!

