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THREE 120TH MISSIONS HIT ENEMY A DEVASTATING BLOW

(Phan Fare, December 19, 1968)

F-100 Supersabre pilots of the 120th TFS recently had three separate missions all on the same day (Dec, 7) that combined, struck a devastating blow to the enemy.

Of his mission, one of the former Colorado Air National Guard pilots, said, "After a week of hardly any bomb damage assessment (BDA), it felt pretty good to have hit something. A11 in all It was a pretty good mission."

The final BDA for the strike was eight bunkers destroyed and six damaged, ten fighting positions destroyed with another 15 uncovered, 110 meters of trench destroyed and a 2 ½ ton truck destroyed.

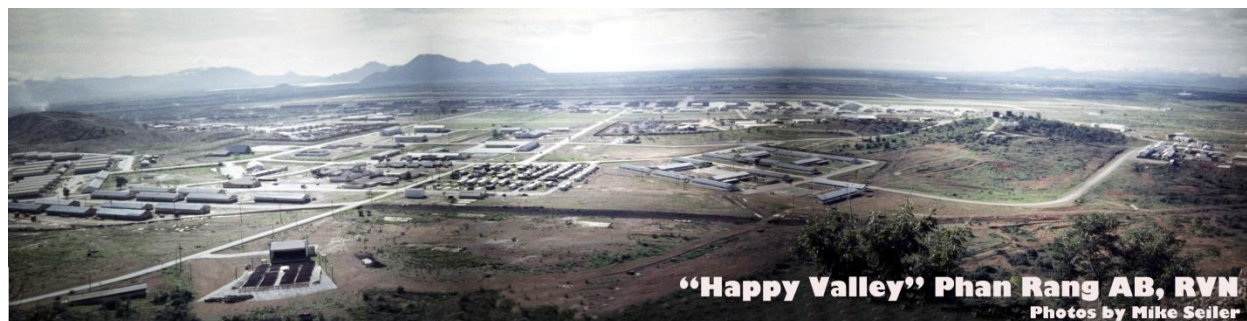
On a second mission, the forward air controller (FAC) credited the pilots with one enemy 4.101dier killed by air (KEA), one sampan and numerous fighting positions destroyed, and some trenches flooded.

One of the pilots on that mission was Capt. James K. Fletcher who said, "We were pretty close to the Cambodian border and we felt sure we would be able to get something out of the area. We rolled in and delivered our ordnance and the FAC said that we 'were right on target'."

The pilots on the third mission were Maj. John L. France and Capt. William J. Wilson. Their target, an area about 25 miles west of Saigon, was according to Major France, "bombed so much over the years that it looked like the face of the moon, except for a stand of timber in one corner."

That stand of timber was what the pilots were after and they went in and hit it. "The Viet Cong (VC) had practically managed to build a town in there," continued Major France, "and we hit, it good. The wind wasn't bad so we had no trouble putting our bombs right on target."

The final BDA for the mission was 14 enemy bunkers destroyed and six uncovered, 15 meters of trench destroyed and another 200 meters uncovered.



7AF CO Presents Medals

PHAN RANG - Three men at Phan Rang AB were decorated by Gen. George S. Brown, Seventh Air Force commander, recently during the general's first visit here.

Col. **Patrick Kenny, Jr.**, Morgan City, La., assistant deputy commander for operations, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Maj. **Michael F. Connolly**, Jersey Shore, Pa., and 1st Lt. **Robert H. Ellison**, Madison, Wisc. were each awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Colonel Kenny was honored for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as Commander, 4713th Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron, Aerospace Defense Command. He was cited for his positive leadership and exemplary foresight in implementing a program that "...demonstrated the capability and willingness of the United States to meet its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) defense commitments."

Major Connolly, an F-100 Supersabre pilot assigned to the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron, was honored for his extraordinary achievement as a Supersabre pilot near Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam. The mission that won him the DFC was in support of an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Long Range Patrol Team that had been attacked by a strong enemy force.

"The ARVN soldiers were backed up against a 1,000 foot high cliff with approximately three enemy companies in front of them," Maj. Connolly said. "The intense ground fire was keeping the Army helicopters from extracting the friendly force and we had to suppress the ground fire."

Lieutenant Ellison, a navigator-bombardier with the 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron, was honored for a night mission against heavily defended enemy anti-aircraft gun positions.

F-100s blast enemy rocket sites near Phan Rang AB

(circa 1971 source unknown)

PHAN RANG - Seven enemy rocket launching sites six miles north of here were destroyed by an air strike before the enemy could unleash destructive force against this air base.

Two 35th Tactical Fighter Wing F-100 Super Sabres were scrambled off the alert pad on the mission which destroyed the seven launching sites and seven bunkers, set off one secondary explosion and started four sustained fires. The F-100s were piloted by First Lieutenants Joseph S. Smith and Danny W. Hamilton, both members of the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

The sites were initially spotted by a FAC from the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron. The two engined O-2 Super Skymaster FAC aircraft which directed the strike was piloted by Capt. Richard W. Ross.

Captain Ross stated. "During. Our daily visual reconnaissance of the area around the base we noticed a clearing and some bunkers that weren't there the day before.

Lieutenant Smith recalled, "We were scrambled off the alert pad, and after getting airborne we had to burn up some fuel to get down to fighting weight.

The weather was good and the target was on the side of a hill next to a mountain, known locally as 'Charlie's Mountain'. The area was covered with trees, but we could see the clearing.

"The FAC marked the target with smoke rockets and we made four bomb and three strafing runs each. We couldn't see the damage because of the smoke and dust, but the FAC said we destroyed 90 per cent of the target."

Joint Effort Foils Sapper Attack

(Seventh Air Force News, February, 11, 1970)

By Sgt. Douglas L. Christy

PHAN RANG - A North Vietnamese Army reconsapper was detained and two other NVA were killed during recent night-time activity on the base perimeter here.

Members of the 35th Security Police Squadron killed the two NVA at the fence line. A patrol of the Number 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force Airfields Defense Guards, injured the other NVA during a fire-fight. He was detained later near the base.

The action began shortly after midnight when A1C Carl H. Baker, a tower guard, sighted movement at the canal near the fence. Reaction forces arrived but were unable to detect further signs of the enemy.

"Shortly our attention was drawn to a tower about 100 yards down the fence," stated MSgt. Louiel C. Gibson Jr., night perimeter supervisor, Panther Flight. From their post, Sergeants Ronald E. White and James E. Burns, were watching someone moving near the fence.

The person disappeared when Sergeant Gibson shined a small spotlight into the man's position.

"Then things started happening," the sergeant said. "We heard gunfire from Airman Baker's post, so we hustled down there fast."

The airman had spotted a pair of individuals in the fence. They were made visible by the new lighting system recently installed on the perimeter. Sighting through a starlight scope mounted on his M-16, A1C Baker fired two shots, sending the pair ducking for cover and possibly wounding one.

When Sergeant Gibson arrived, the tower guard pointed out where the two NVA were trying to hide. The sergeant went to the road where he met Staff Sergeants Robert L. Dragich and James

M. Blair Jr., sentry dog supervisors. Accompanying them was Sgt. Jesse M. Glenn from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing Office of Information.

The security policemen positioned themselves on the road and had the enemy illuminated with a large, jeep-mounted spotlight. Second Lt. Dennis M. O'Callaghan, a member of the 821st Combat Security Police Squadron here, joined them.

"I gave the standard challenge in Vietnamese and English," Sergeant Gibson said. "When they did not respond, I yelled 'get up.' Both did and began running toward the canal."

A hail of gunfire then brought the pair down. "We found out later that one had a grenade in his hand and the other was carrying an automatic pistol suspended from his neck by a cord," remarked Sergeant Dragich. "In the action that followed the challenge, for some reason the one did not toss his grenade. At first he probably could not see us because of the lights. We were about 12 feet away at the time. Lucky thing for us."

"That morning we sent out a patrol on a daylight sweep," stated Flight Lieutenant Brian J. Lawler, Number 2 Squadron defense officer.

"While a main force went looking for signs of the enemy's escape route, several stayed at the bridge over the canal and were looking around it. That was when they found the injured sapper hiding in the canal a short distance from where the ADG patrol had made contact several hours earlier," he said.

"Even while the ambulance was enroute to pick up the detained sapper and give him more extensive treatment, he was talking. He told us interesting things about his unit," the flight lieutenant said, "and he told us where he had hidden two automatic rifles, grenades, ammunition and assorted medical and personal equipment."

Phan Rang Pilots Kill 6 Enemy Gunners

(Source and date unknown)

PHAN RANG - A burst of enemy machine-gun fire at an Army reconnaissance helicopter lasted seconds during action recently about 90 miles north of Saigon near the Bu Dap Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp.

Shortly after enemy gunners opened fire, F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing here silenced the guns with several bombing and strafing passes on the entrenched enemy. The forward air controller reported six enemy soldiers had been killed.

The Supersabre had been diverted to assist A-37s from Bien Hoa which were bombing enemy weapons positions which had been shelling Allied camps.

Flying on his 100th combat sortie, Maj. Donald M. May led the Supersabre assault.

"When we arrived at the site, Army helicopters were going into the area to assess the damage produced by the A-37," the pilot reported. "Suddenly, four enemy machinegun sites opened up on one of the helicopters. We saw where the fire was coming from and wasted no time in answering the challenge."

In addition to being a fighter pilot in the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Major May is executive officer for the 35th TFW. He has served in the Republic of Vietnam since September.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO EVERETT D. SPROUS

Staff Sergeant **Everett D. Sprou**s distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a gunner of a AC-119K Aircraft in Southeast Asia on the night of 28 April 1972. On this night, the friendly forces came under heavy attack by hostile forces. Sergeant Sprou and his crew responded to their call for close air support. Despite the extremely hostile environment Sergeant Sprou's aircraft delivered accurate and positive fire against the hostile positions this breaking the attack against the friendly forces. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Sprou reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



FIGHTS INCREASE ACROSS VIETNAM

- Officials Decline To Link Activity To Paris Talks

Saigon, Sunday, Jan. 26 (AP)

Enemy forces attacked a United States airfield 180 miles northeast of Saigon early today and hit other allied installations across the country with over a dozen shellings, U. S. headquarters reported.

The stepped-up activity came only hours after the first fullfledged peace-talks session in Paris. Officials here would not speculate as to whether the attacks were timed for the talks' opening, but there have been predictions recently of increased enemy military pressure in an effort to gain leverage at the bargaining table.

Paratroopers Shifted

To counter that threat, a paratroop battalion from the 3d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division has been shifted north from the defenses of Saigon to face a Viet Cong force near two of the largest American bases in the country.

In this morning's report, U.S. spokesmen said the airfield at coastal Phan Rang was attacked about an hour and a half after midnight by an unknown number of enemy.

The battle lasted about two hours before security troops, aided by air support, forced the enemy to withdraw. A sweep of the area turned up six enemy bodies. Four Americans were reported wounded.

South Vietnamese headquarters reported 13 shellings at scattered points across the country. Most were described as light, causing only minor casualties and damage.

Yesterday, scattered fighting broke out close to Saigon and the United States lost its 1,000th (Continued, Page 2, Col. 6) (from a clipping posted on Facebook)

Alert Pad Commemorates Dead Flier

Phan Rang Dedicates Facility in Honor of Pilot

(From Stars & Stripes article, circa 1970)

By Sgt. Ralph H Saenz

PHAN RANG - In a corner of the base flight line here stand nine concrete-covered revetments where eight F-100 Supersabre jet fighters and Andrews Hail are housed. This area is the base's new alert facility.

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive
Phan Rang News No. 4 "Stories worth telling"

The facility was recently dedicated in memory of Capt. George H. Andrews, a Phan Rang-based pilot who was killed last year on a combat mission. Making the dedication address was Col. Walter T. Galligan, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing commander.

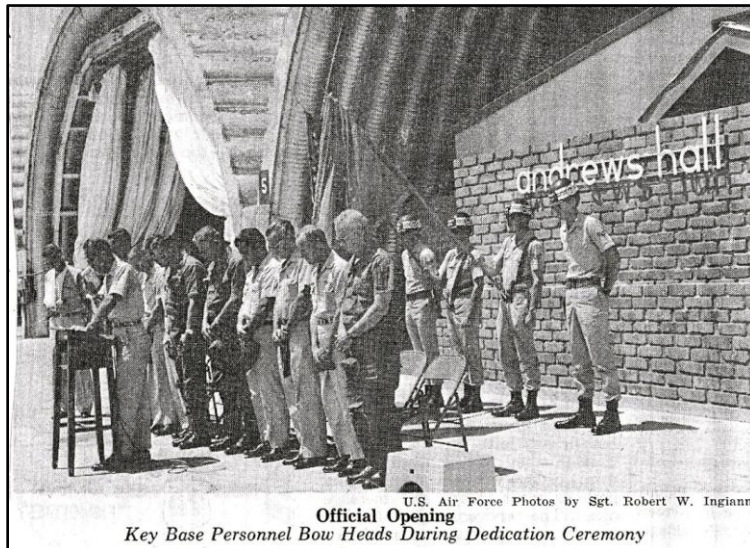
Captain Andrews, then a member of the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron, scrambled from the alert facility for a mission while on night alert duty. During the mission his wing man reported the captain's plane appeared to pull up from a pass over the target and then rolled into the ground.

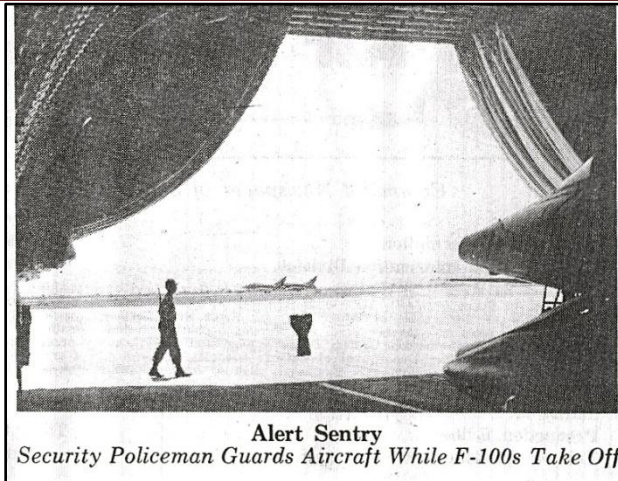
Constructed by the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (RED HORSE), Andrews Hall is situated inside one of the covered revetments. The facility contains a small but adequate kitchen, which is staffed by three cooks who prepare for more than 20 persons at each meal.

A dining room, lounge, sleeping quarters, washing and shaving facilities, and movie theater room are available for the pilots and crew chiefs from each of the base's four jet fighter squadrons, who pull alert duty for 12-hour shifts.

The concrete domes over the F-100s and Andrews Hall are 24 inches thick. The aircraft are additionally protected from enemy ordnance by three-ply, nylon blast curtains which can be drawn across the revetment openings.

The blast curtains are a recent addition to aircraft protection in Southeast Asia.





Vietnam War: Facts, Stats & Myths

(Posted to Facebook by Joseph Luther)

**Credit: Capt. Marshal Hanson, USNR (Ret.)
and Capt. Scott Beaton, Statistical Source**

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.

240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1961. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

58,148 were killed in Vietnam.

75,000 were severely disabled.

23,214 were 100% disabled.

5,283 lost limbs.

1,081 sustained multiple amputations.

Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.

11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.

Of those killed, 17,539 were married.

Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.

Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.

The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.

91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.

74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.

Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.

Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.

87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.

There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study).

Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.

85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

Common Myths Dispelled:

Myth: Common belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

Fact: Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the

Army at the close of the war."

Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better.

Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

Myth: The common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

Myth: The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

Fact: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of

1954 and the Geneva Accords or 1962 would secure the border).

Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972 (shown a million times on American television) was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

Myth: The United States lost the war in Vietnam.

Fact: The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance. General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike (a professor at the University of California, Berkeley), a major military defeat for the VC and NVA.

Statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993 (the CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, aka The Wall)

Average age of 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action).

Deaths Average Age

Total: 58,148, 23.11 years
Enlisted: 50,274, 22.37 years
Officers: 6,598, 28.43 years

Warrants: 1,276, 24.73 years

E1 525, 20.34 years

11B MOS: 18,465, 22.55 years

Interesting Census Stats and "Been There" Wanabees:

1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).

During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958.

As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day. During this Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027. By this census, **FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE VIETNAM VETS ARE NOT.**

The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this errored index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).

Isolated atrocities committed by American Soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - Nixon Presidential Papers.

The United States Did Not Lose The War In Vietnam, The South Vietnamese Did. Read On...

The fall of Saigon happened 30 April 1975, two years AFTER the American military left Vietnam. The last American troops departed in their entirety 29 March 1973.

How could we lose a war we had already stopped fighting? We fought to an agreed stalemate.

The peace settlement was signed in Paris on 27 January 1973. It called for release of all U.S. prisoners, withdrawal of U.S. forces, limitation of both sides' forces inside South Vietnam and a

commitment to peaceful reunification. The 140,000 evacuees in April 1975 during the fall of Saigon consisted almost entirely of civilians and Vietnamese military, NOT American military running for their lives. There were almost twice as many casualties in Southeast Asia (primarily Cambodia) the first two years after the fall of Saigon in 1975 than there were during the ten years the U.S. was involved in Vietnam. Thanks for the perceived loss and the countless assassinations and torture visited upon Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians goes mainly to the American media and their undying support-by-misrepresentation of the anti-War movement in the United States.

As with much of the Vietnam War, the news media misreported and misinterpreted the 1968 Tet Offensive. It was reported as an overwhelming success for the Communist forces and a decided defeat for the U.S. forces. Nothing could be further from the truth. Despite initial victories by the Communists forces, the Tet Offensive resulted in a major defeat of those forces. General Vo Nguyen Giap, the designer of the Tet Offensive, is considered by some as ranking with Wellington, Grant, Lee and MacArthur as a great commander. Still, militarily, the Tet Offensive was a total defeat of the Communist forces on all fronts. It resulted in the death of some 45,000 NVA troops and the complete, if not total destruction of the Viet Cong elements in South Vietnam. The Organization of the Viet Cong Units in the South never recovered. The Tet Offensive succeeded on only one front and that was the News front and the political arena. This was another example in the Vietnam War of an inaccuracy becoming the perceived truth. However, inaccurately reported, the News Media made the Tet Offensive famous.



**3rd Annual Phan Rang AB
Reunion**

Tucson October 2014

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