

# Da Nang Base Hero Was Minnesotan

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DETROIT LAKES, Minn.—

A Detroit Lakes man was identified Thursday as the airman who was killed in Viet Nam July 1 as he fired the first shots warning of a Viet Cong sneak attack on the Da Nang Air Base.

The Defense Department released his name yesterday as S. Sgt. Terance K. Jensen, who was serving with the Air Force police at the base.

Jensen's commanding officer wrote to the airman's widow, Mrs. Ann Frances Jensen, who lives in Detroit Lakes with her four children, that her husband had been carrying coffee to his men about 1:30 a.m. when he spotted the Communist guerrillas near the runway.

He emptied his pistol at the black-clad insurgents and then was cut down by a burst of submachine-gun fire, according to press reports.

THE RAID against the air base — the most heavily guarded of the U.S. installations in South Viet Nam, with about 9,500 U.S. Marines deployed as security forces — destroyed two C130 Hercules transports and damaged three other planes.

Jensen was the only Amer-

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## Airman

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ican killed. After the raid, in which the Viet Cong used mortars, satchel charges and recoilless rifles, his body was found. His empty pistol was in his hand and the coffee cups were scattered beside him, Mrs. Jensen said the commanding officer wrote.

The question was how the Viet Cong had managed to penetrate the many circles of security forces around the base — all the way to the runway where Jensen discovered them.

U.S. SPOKESMAN said later that the small group of guerrillas had come through a sector of the perimeter defended by South Vietnamese troops, and had set up their mortars in a graveyard after cutting through three wire barriers.

"If he had to go, that was the way he would have wanted to go," Mrs. Jensen said.

"He lived and breathed the military and would have given his life any day for his country."

She said her husband had entered the service after he graduated from Aitkin High School 15 years ago. They met while she was also in the Air Force.

HIS LAST duty assignment was as an air policeman in Grand Forks, N.D. He left there for Viet Nam last April.

"The wives get trained to expect this sort of thing," Mrs. Jensen said, "but the kids are taking it very hard."

She has two boys and two girls.

The oldest, Richard, 8, is acutely aware of what happened, his mother said.

"He watches the mail every day. He's waiting for his father's uniform to come home.

"I don't know why—but he wants to try it on."

SHE RECALLED her husband as a man full of life: "He sang, danced all the dances and told the best jokes; he lived it right up to the hilt."

Then she reflected:

"But he probably saved a lot of lives with his warning shots, and a lot of planes, too.

"He used to hunt around Detroit Lakes a lot—he was a crack shot," she said. I'll bet he took a couple of them with him.

"But when they can sneak all the way in like that, there's something wrong someplace.

"Either we should get in there and do the job and clean out the whole mess, or get out of there," the airman's widow said.

The sergeant's body arrived at Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco Calif. yesterday. His brother-in-law, a captain in the Air Force, will escort the body to Detroit Lakes.