**377th Security Police Squadron**

**TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE**

**FINAL BLOTTER – FINAL DEPARTURE – FINAL U.S. FLAG LOWERED**

**29 March 1973**

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**Howdy,**

In some ways it seems like yesterday and sometimes It seems like forever that we left Viet Nam, while in reality it was 45 years ago– 29 March 1973. I’m pretty sure that most do not remember that we did not leave Viet Nam alone – several hundred US “contractors” had been flown in to manage the base infrastructure and a cadre of Indonesian, Polish and Canadians provided security.

It was an unusual flight line departure, as Col Bill Luckett and I boarded the aircraft that would take us to Thailand – a mixture of UN folks, south Vietnamese, North Vietnamese, Viet Cong and press from all over the world were milling around while North Vietnamese newsreel folks filmed us boarding the plane and while UN and Viet Cong were checking our names off a list.

While boarding, a UN representative tried to take the American Flag I had taken down earlier that day from the 377th Wing Headquarters– when I protested –they relinquished. I had the flag framed in Thailand and it now is on display in the SF Museum. As we were boarding the C130 to leave, Col “wild bill” Luckett walked up to the North Vietnamese newsreel camera, snapped to attention, and gave a crisp “one finger” salute while loudly proclaiming the appropriate phrase in Vietnamese.

Volumes could be written about the draw down period prior to our departure – but I ramble.

Attached [see blow] is a copy of the last police blotter– the original is lost somewhere in the Museum archives).

Bob Egger

