



**VIETNAM**  
**BINH THUY AIR BASE**  
**Dennis Hutchings,**  
**Photo Journal ~1969-1970**  
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**The time spent at Binh Thuy was hot and a life rewarding experience** - Most of us were young and ready to make it through the many mortar attacks and watch for the VC. They hit the Base many times at night. When it was all said and done we went home to a not so pleasant return: Our Country really looked at returning vets with an apathetic stare. I learned not to talk too much about things that happened. It usually fell on deaf ears.

I kept my fatigues for several months after returning home . . . I liked the side-pants pockets, they were great for carrying my art brushes for art school! I came home for the weekend, my mother had the white sweat stained fatigues thrown in the garbage can! I took them out and wore them till they fell apart. It was hard to explain my connection to that year in Vietnam.

I went to school, got a job and got married, and I fit back into society and never really looked back. I think most of the Vietnam veterans did the same.

**God bless them all! "Hutch"**



**1) Before Guardmount.**



**2) Guardmount. (Recognize anyone?)**





3) Binh Thuy AB flight line.



4) C-47 parked on flight line. QRT jeep with M60 trying not to look like he's BS'n with me.



5) flight line duty.





**6) SP at Ammo Area.**



7) Hutch at Ammo Area.





**8)** Hutch on flight line. Pedro helicopter.





**9)** Dane Vickers and Stotts at bunker.



**10)** Jorge Delacruz (VSPA) and Richard Wiggins.





**11)** Mike Mckean, Hutch, and Dan Knowles, French Bunker duty with M60 and Mortars, and M16s.





**12)** Hutch in French built pillbox M60 / M16 / radio.

**13)** Mike Mckean, Bunker duty with M60 and ammo belts.







**14)** Hutch in tower with M16.



**15) On Bunker Watch.**





**16) Another hot day.**



**17) APS V-100.**



**18) Perimeter Tower and Pole.**



**19) Charlie Tower. SP waving from behind Searchlight.**





20) Up in tower.



21) Joe Ross and Hutch on the perimeter of Binh Thuy.



**22)** (right) **Hutch**, Tower Guard Duty. QRT jeep below.

**23.** (below) **Hutch**, Tower view of K-9 Kennels. Binh Thuy AB in background.







**24) Hutch** choppin' bamboo and brush. We were ordered several times to burn bamboo around the perimeter to keep Charlie from sneaking up to the base.



**25) Hutch** (right) and two airmen Cuttin' "boo." (recognize them?).



**26) Outside the perimeter wire** (claymore mines and all). We would take 5-gallon tanks and pour gas on an area and slap a flare into the bush. Not a pleasant job in 103 degree temp.





27) Hot time - gas tanks and elephant grass.



28) **Gone Fishin'!** It was a way to make sure the weapon fired when needed, and frogs on the flight line had tasty legs. I shot a rat near my post, and a Cambodian soldier asked if I wanted it. I said take it -- he did and proceeded to cook it in a C-Ration box over a fire. Hey Joe -- You want some? No, I did not try it.

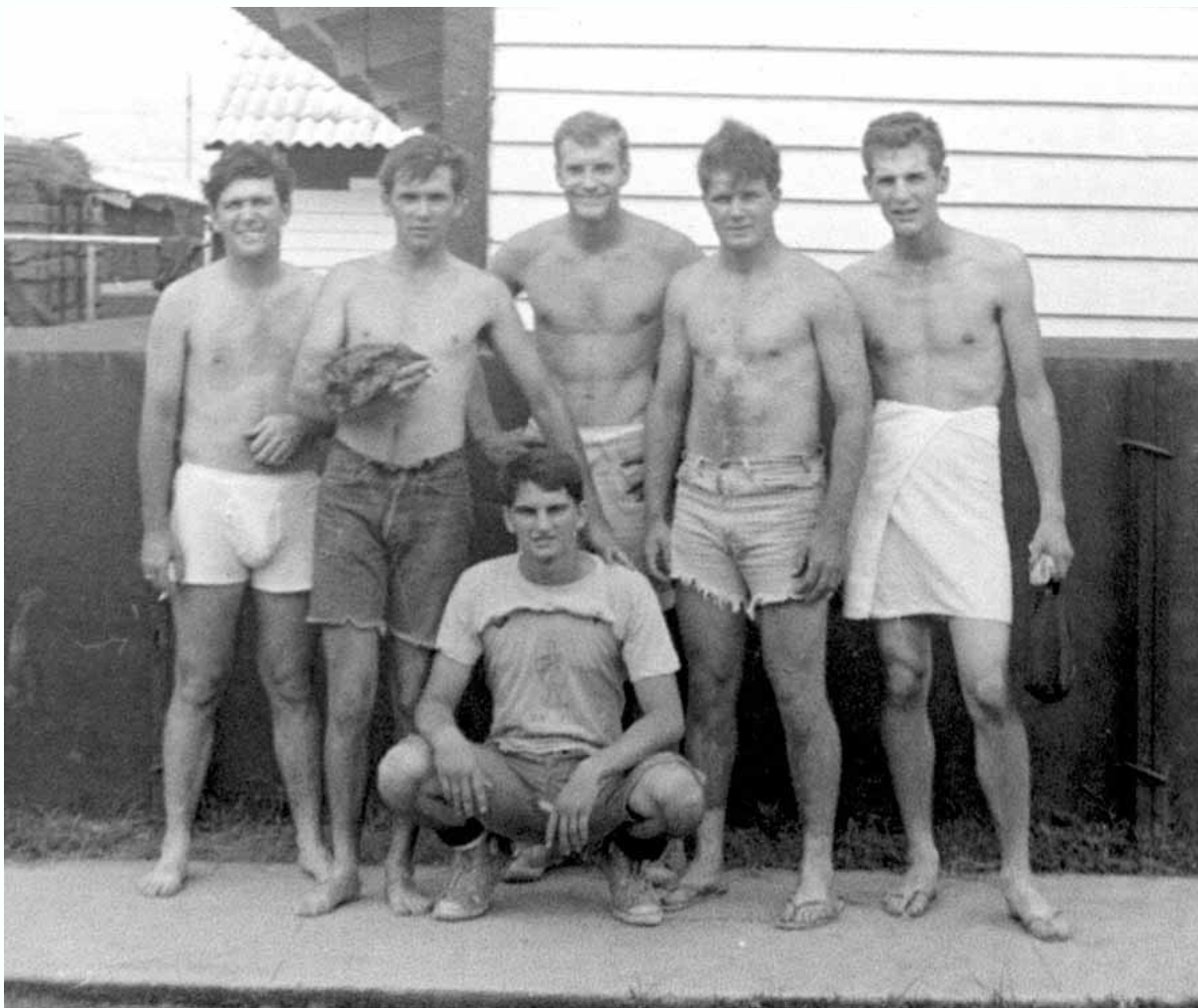


**29) Jorge Delacruz (VSPA) and weapons.**



**30) Pickin' the gee-tar: Joe Ross and Steve Hamm.**



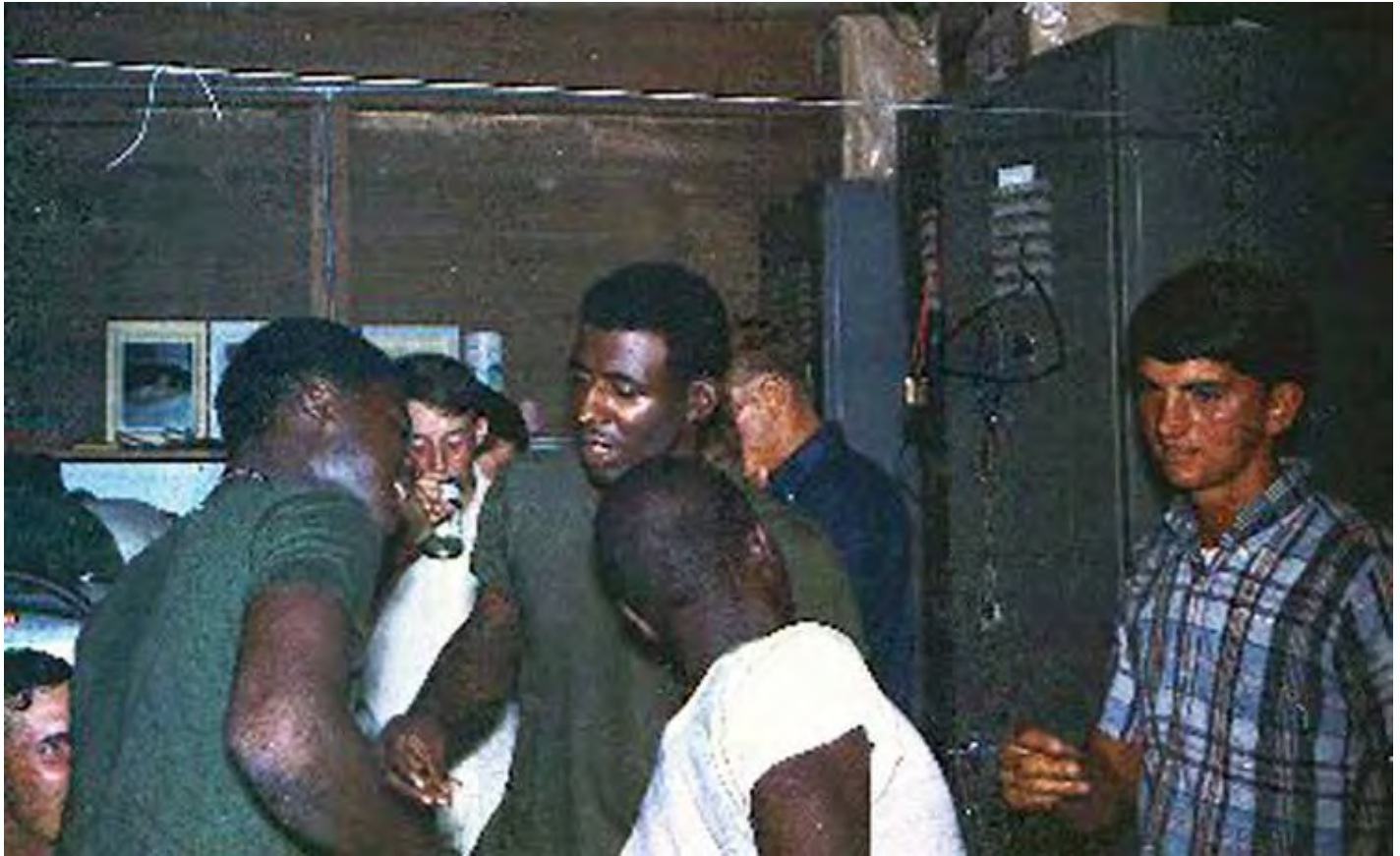


**31)** Larry Stotts, Larry Seems, Mike Mckee, Den Hutchings, Tom Owens, & Joe **Ross**.



**32)** R&R break to play softball -Dan Knowles, John Rankins (VSPA), Steve Bish, Joe Ross, Delacruz, Tom Owens, Stech, Williams, Larry Seems, Larry Stotts., and a bat-boy too.





**33) Short Time Party and blow off some steam.**



**34) Party for Mike Mckee - leaving Nam "short timer".**

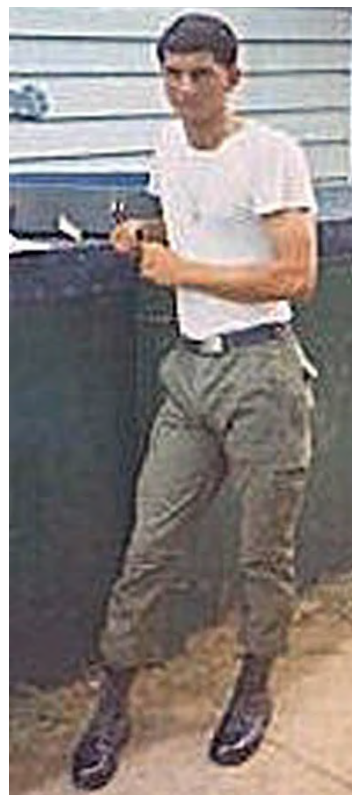




35) (above) Dan Knowles and Hackbarth.

36) (below-left) Hutch and airman in the Compound Area.

37) (below right) Mike Mckean.







39) Vickers, Hutch , Joe Ross, VNAF Pilot Chuan, and Mike Mckean.

38) Hootch - Hashing some things out. SSgt Green in the middle.





**40) (right)** Hutch eating a pineapple!

**41) (below)** Tom Owens checking out the newspaper.



**42) (right)** Joe Ross on the revetment.



43) Mike McKeal and Tom Owens at the latrine.



44) Mo-town *moves* (to Motown music, and a little 33).



45) Hutch at the 632nd SPS Memorial Monument.





46) Bridge to Can Tho.

47) Bridge.







48) ARVN Security.

49) Hackbarth in town after a rain.







50) Hutch in Can Tho.



51) Hutch standing on a Corner -- in Can Tho rain.



52) Can Tho.





53) Can Tho market.



54) Market floor in CanTho.



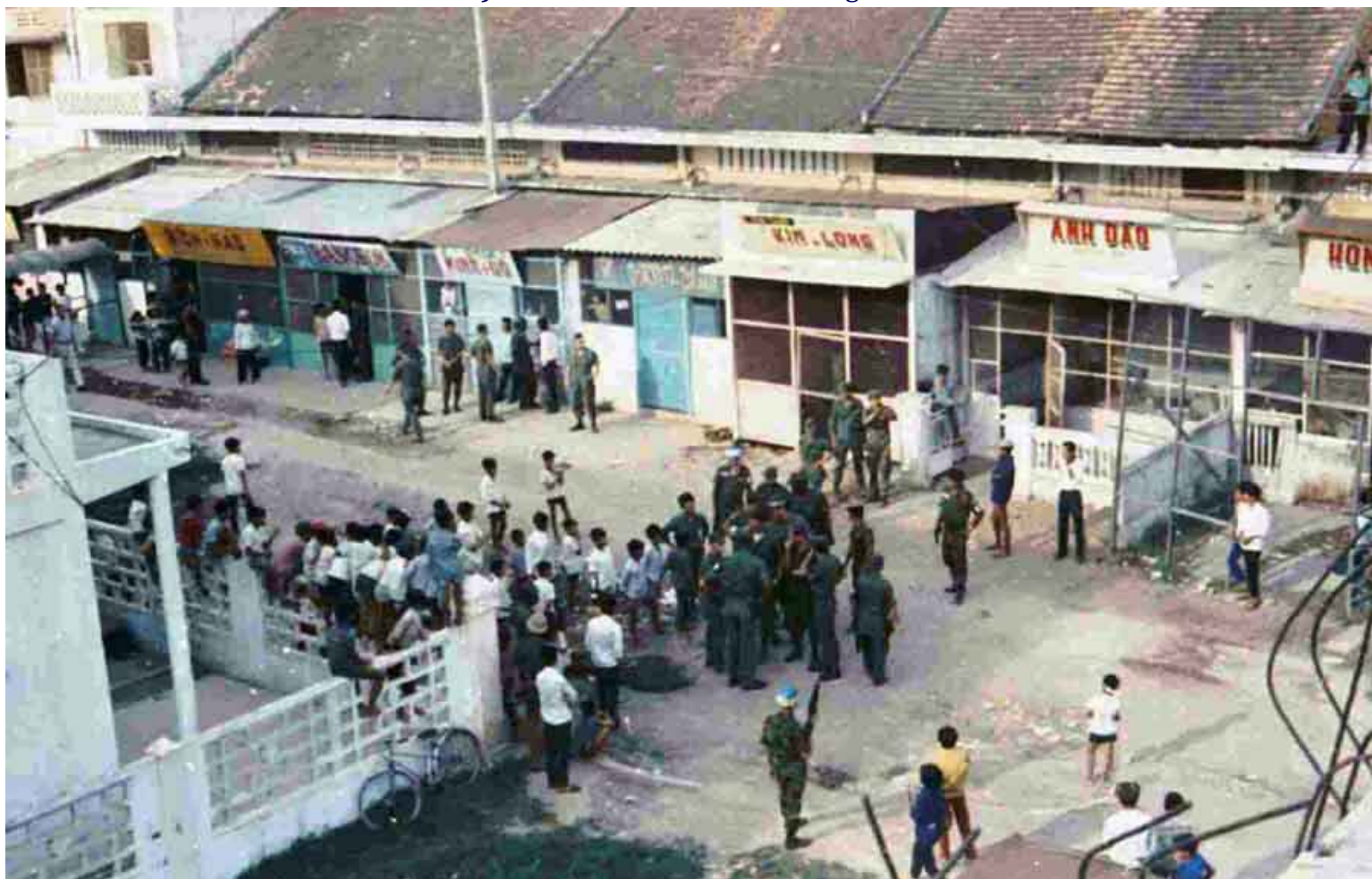
55) In town.



56) Mamasan's cooking.



57) Ben Xi Moi Bars. ARVN taking names.







58) Can Tho market. Pedicab puttin' along.

59) Can Tho Street. Pedicabs and military traffic.







**60)** Pedicab on the road back to Binh Thuy Air Base.





**61) Cow drawn produce Cart on the road back to Binh Thuy Air Base.**



**62) Hey Joe! Kids on back of 3-wheel cart-truck.**





**63) Binh Thuy Air Base Perimeter:** Charlie-Tower Post silhouetted against flares. Perimeter floodlights illuminate tall grass and bamboo and push back the tide of night. C-47 Spooky landing.  
**Photo by Dennis Hutchings.** Graphic-Composite by Don Poss.

**64) Binh Thuy Air Base Perimeter:** This is the actual *night-photo* of composite #63 above. The three small *white streaks of light*, near the drifting parachute flare, is actually a C-47 Spooky landing, with the camera's lens time-exposure-strobing its landing lights. Photo by Dennis Hutchings.



**65) Binh Thuy Air Base Perimeter.** This is the original full daylight photo the below dusk composite graphic was based on. Note that flood-lights are beginning to come on in expectation of the coming night. Photo by Dennis Hutchings. 1969-1970.



**66) (below) Binh Thuy Air Base Perimeter:** This is photo-65 above and the "dusk" composite-graphic. Photo by Dennis Hutchings. Composite by Don Poss.

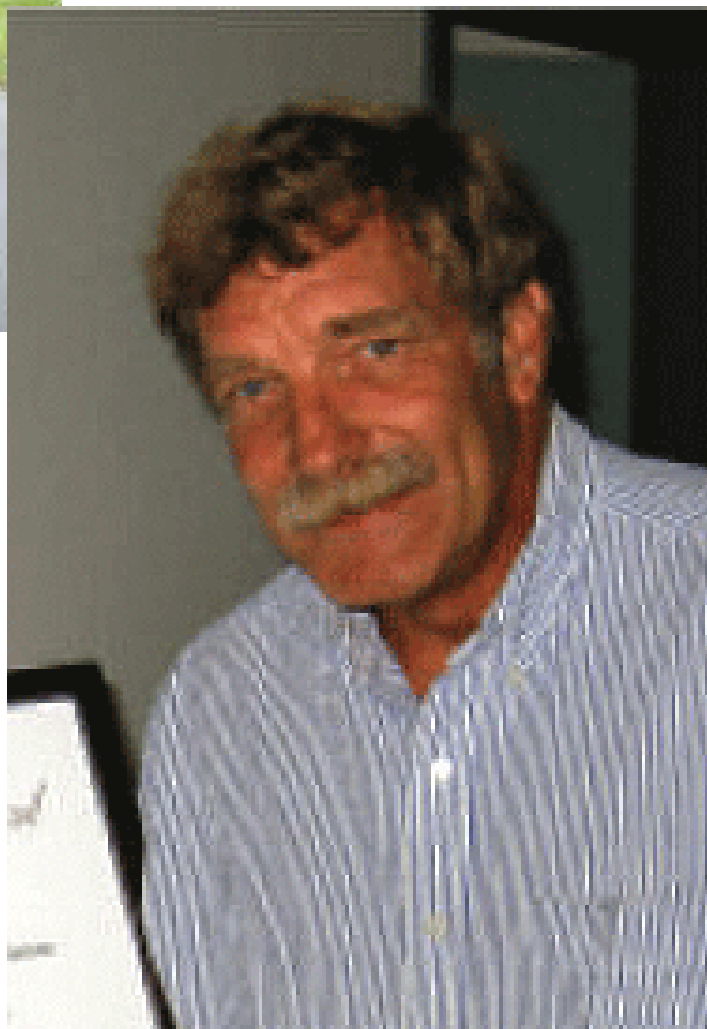






**67) My town Port Royal** had a 200th Anniversary Celebration on October 29th 2012. I marched with "Fanny" in fatigues.

**68) Dennis "Hutch" Hutchings -**  
*Time marches on!*



*We Take Care of Our Own*