

ONE NCO NEAR-RIOT BRAWL – ONE SP/LE CAM RANH BAY, NCO CLUB

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Cam Ranh Bay 12th SPS, Jul 1966 thru Jan 1968

Most of my eighteen-months tour was in SP security, but I went to SP Law Enforcement the last few months for a change of pace. I have copies of my performance evals that show I discovered a fire in the base laundry at about 0200 hours one morning.

On another evening, I was dispatched to the NCO Club as the only law enforcement person on patrol to confront a near riot between two drunken NCO factions. Upon arrival at the club, the club manager looked as if he expected a riot-squad to show up. The “inebriated” yelling-pushing-shoving brawling-NCO’s suddenly united, more or less, and informed me they were going to take my weapon away from me.

My attempt to talk them down was not going well. I told the club manager to call the law enforcement desk and tell them I needed the SAT guys immediately! I then had him open all the exit doors and told the crowd that anyone still in the club when the SAT arrived was going to jail, and—*I would shoot the first person who attempted to take my weapon.*

What seemed like an eternity was probably only about twenty minutes, and by the time the SAT arrived—the club was empty except for me and the club manager.

One-Riot — One SP/LE to fix it.