

## **A FAR GREATER ENDURANCE**

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Our human bodies are only limited by our own minds  
You can endure much more than you think that you can  
When the situation called for such drastic measures

You can actually stay awake for long periods of time  
It's not a very pleasant thing to do but you can  
As long as you can convince your own mind you can

You will find that your body will indeed follow along  
Sleep deprivation was a necessary evil during the war  
Being shorthanded some often pulled double duty

During the daytime many of us worked our main jobs  
But during those times when the enemy was close by  
We'd also pull a second shift as security policemen

Regardless of how tired you may have been at the time  
When Intel came of VC activity and we might be attacked  
We'd pitch in to do whatever was needed to protect us

You would stay wide awake and very alert to every sound  
We all knew that if you had nodded off and fell asleep  
There was an excellent chance you would never wake up

For the VC were masters of this slow crawl maneuvering  
Where they'd slither in like a snake waiting to strike  
You'd never hear them but they were out there watching

They'd move so quietly getting closer and closer to you  
Just hoping that you were exhausted and would doze off  
Then they could silently slip in to slit your throat.

I must admit that it never did happen at our own base  
But it had happened at the Can Tho Army Airfield base  
It was a great motivator to keep alert and stay awake

So during my year over in Vietnam I learned many things  
One was what we had called the mind over matter game  
You found out you had more endurance than you ever knew