

# Tet 1968 O51 Bunker

## CHARLES EDWARD HEBRON Silver Star

Casualty was on Jan 31, 1968

**377th Combat SPS,  
Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base**

by David Summerfield (RIP) (SMSgt, Ret), LM 186  
© 2006



## CHARLES EDWARD HEBRON

SGT - E4 - Air Force - Regular  
22 year old Married, Caucasian, Male  
Born on Sep 18, 1945  
From BRYAN, TEXAS  
Length of service 3 years.

His tour of duty began on Mar 21, 1967  
Casualty was on Jan 31, 1968

**Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base  
377th SPS**

in GIA DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM  
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY  
ARTILLERY, ROCKET, or MORTAR

Body was recovered  
Religion  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
Panel 36E - - Line 13



**Tet 1968:** Every VSPA member knows of the valor and heroics of the 377th SPS while defending Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base at the infamous O51 Bunker. **David Summerfield (RIP), SMSgt, Ret.,** VSPA Life Member 186, submitted the following:

I saw somewhere that you were looking for pictures of SPs who lost their life in combat or Line of Duty in RVN. This is a picture of **Charles Hebron** who was assigned to me when I was NCOIC of the 377th SPS detachment at Vũng Tàu. This is shortly before he went on R&R in Hawaii, to be with his wife. He came back on 31 Jan 1968, *and was killed that night* in the O51 bunker on the night of 31 Jan 68. I really liked this kid and still think about him often.

Regards,  
Dave Summerfield, SMSgt USAF, ret LM # 186



Binh Thuy Air Base. KIA Memorial Dedication. MSgt Summerfield, 1968: 01



Binh Thuy Air Base. KIA Memorial Dedication. MSgt Summerfield, 1968: 02



Binh Thuy Air Base. KIA Memorial Dedication, Honor Guard. MSgt Summerfield, 1968: 03

*For those who are not familiar with the Tet battle, a few photos are included below. The period of the TET OFFENSIVE is recorded as being from January 31 to March 31, 1968.*

**Tan Son Nhut Air Base:** *The NVA/VC attacked with four infantry battalions and a sapper battalion, their losses being 962 killed and 9 prisoners taken. The US losses were 19 US Army killed, 75 wounded, USAF losses 4 killed, 11 wounded, ARVN losses were 32 killed and 79 wounded. damage inflicted was 13 aircraft damaged.*



04

**Members of the 377th SPS open up on Communist forces who infiltrated Tan Son Nhut AB during the Tet 1968 Offensive. (USAF photo courtesy USAF SP Museum.)**



**Members of the 377th SPS, supported by armor, move to resecure Tan Son Nhut AB after penetration by Communist forces on January 31st, 1968.**



**377th SPS fought through the night of Tet '68, blunting the strong enemy attack of over 1,400 VC & NVA soldiers.**



**377th Security Police view the bodies of Communist forces killed in the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base during Tet Offensive.**

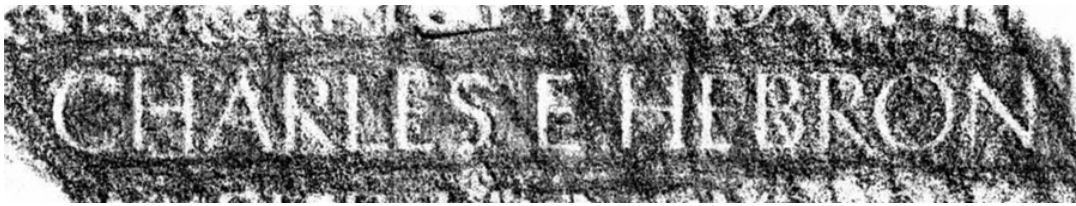
07

VSPA member Frank Ybarbo returned to Saigon in December 1998 and photographed O51 Bunker:

**O51 Bunker, above,** viewed from almost the same angle as the day the bunker was recaptured, but 30 years later.

09





**The Wall rubbing for Charles Hebron. 11**



*We Take Care of Our Own*