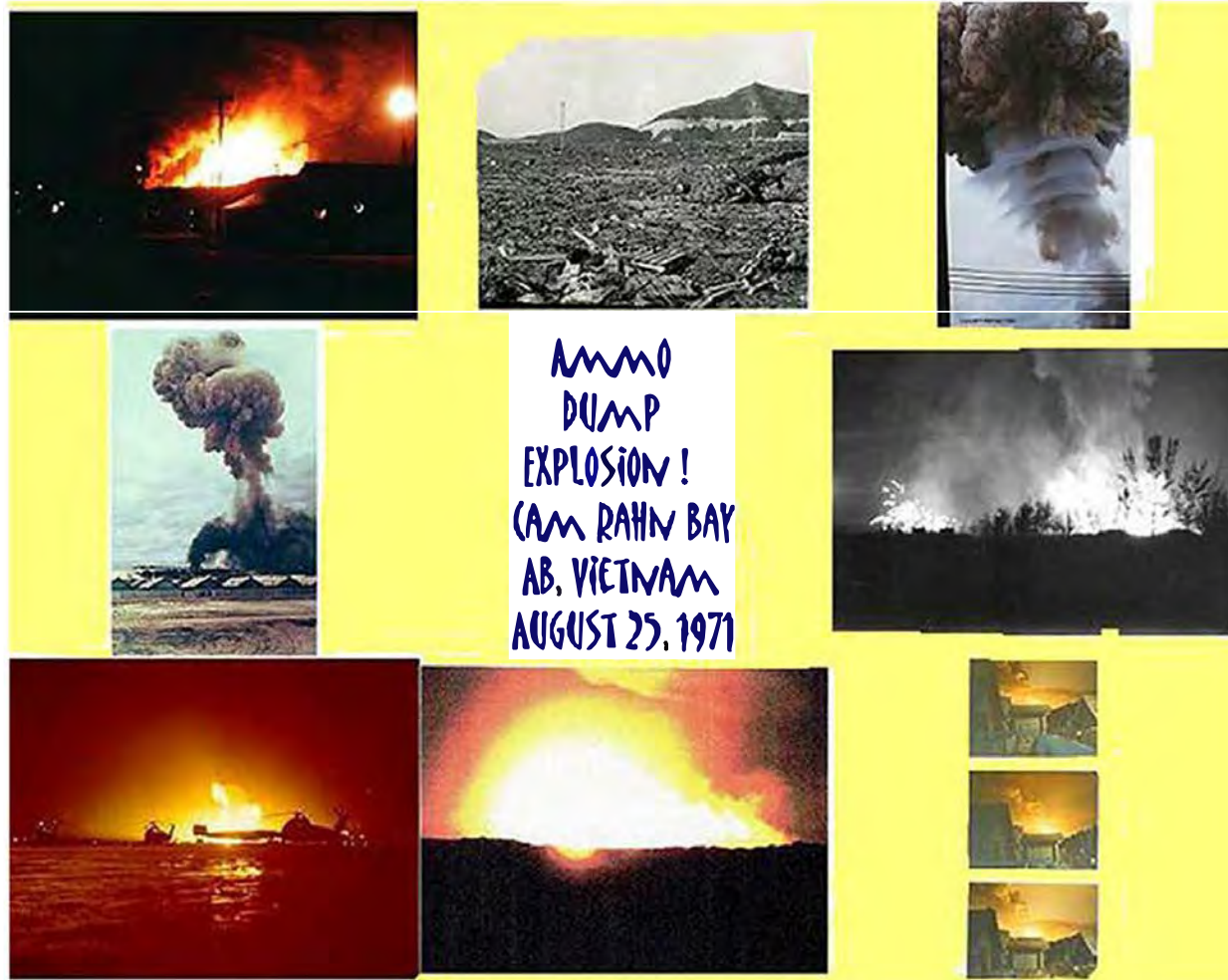


## Sapper Attack

Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, RVN  
25 August 1971, Vietnam War  
© 2014 by James (Mike) Stafford, Sgt.  
483rd SPS, Cam Ranh Bay 1971



*Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN, Bomb Dump Explosion, 25 Aug 1971, Photo by Peter Halferty.*

I was with the 60-man Whiskey Echo SAT on August 25, 1971 during the attack at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base. We were dispatched to the bomb dump to evacuate the members of the mortar crew in the Tango area. Upon arrival to the mortar pit we searched the area and determined that the crew had already left. When we returned to our jeep we found it to be covered with grenades. Sergeant Mahoney our SAT team leader determined the best way to exit the area would be to walk through the bomb dump to the main highway along the ocean. We walked by exploding and smoldering revetments on our way out. As we were approaching the highway we ran into members of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne on a sweep. They informed us that Viet Cong sappers had been living in the bomb dump and they had been setting up ambush teams and sweeps in the area. After our meeting, we continued on our way. We reached the highway and walked toward CSC, about 10 miles away, I assumed. All of a sudden an ambulance sped by us then stopped and backed up. A medic jumped out and opened up his back doors and said jump in. He gave us a ride to CSC. I have told this story about the medic who helped us out that night many times.

Two years ago I found a message on the internet from a medic who wanted to know if anyone knew anything about the security police cops he picked up at Cam Ranh Bay that night. I made contact with the medic. I live in Red Wing MN. and he lives in a suburb of Houston. I planned a winter vacation to Texas. I called the medic and we met for dinner I'm including a picture of our dinner in Houston. Thanks for the ride Chuck!

James (Mike) Stafford,  
Sgt. 483rd SPS,  
Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, 1971