



Đà Nẵng Air Base
SAPPERS & MORTARS ATTACK
OSI tried to play "HANG THE COP!"
Account of the Đà Nẵng AB Sapper Attack, July 1, 1965
by: Mike Bush (MSGT, USAF Security Police - Retired)

Email to Mike Bush:

From: Don Poss

We had a request from the AFSFA looking for info on an AP [Al] last name Handy (TDY from George AFB), who was supposed to have killed the sapper that killed Terry Jensen. Of course, the VSPA would like to find this individual as well. Did you know Handy and can you put something on the Web about trying to find him? *[Today, Al Handy is now a VSPA member. He was TDY from the 831st APS to Đà Nẵng in 1965]*

Don Poss, VSPA Webmaster

Email To Don Poss:

From: Mike Bush, (MSGT, USAF Security Police - Retired)

Airman Al Handy was TDY from George AFB, and had been in country about a week. A then friend of mine, an A1C Joseph (can't remember the first name) who was part of the Response Force, but some distance from where I was, related the following to me:

"As we swept down the taxiway, Handy came running and stumbling toward our group shouting his name. When he reached us, he said that he was out of ammunition, and wanted to get more!"

According to A1C Joseph, Handy was really a mess, and could barely talk coherently. At some point, Handy was transported back to the compound, and OSI grabbed him to debrief him about the death of SSgt Jensen."

Now here is the part that nobody talks about - In traditional fashion, the OSI tried to play "HANG THE COP"!! The first "theory" OSI came up with was that Handy had "panicked" and shot SSgt Jensen by mistake! I am proud to say that I "shot holes" in that theory!! A couple of days later, an OSI puke, contacted me in the armory and showed me

four pieces of 7.62 X39 brass, and asked me to I.D. it. I immediately I.D.ed the brass as the type used with the AK-47 assault rifle. The OSI person then told me that was the brass they had picked up near SSgt Jensen's body, and then he related: "Well, I guess that gets Handy off the hook." The OSI agent then coldly tossed SSgt Jensen's .38 cal. revolver on the armory work bench, and said: "Here - you might want to clean that up!" It was completely caked with SSgt Jensen's blood.

After the OSI agent left, I picked up Terry's .38, and opened the cylinder to check it. It was still loaded. Three rounds had been fired. I detailed-stripped the weapon, and cleaned it thoroughly then I put it aside in the armory. Later that same day, I asked the Operations Sergeant (TSgt Herbert Steer), if there was any way that we could send Terry's weapon to his family as a keepsake. I was told to "forget it." The weapon was returned to the inventory and reissued, as far as I know.

As to what happened to Airman Handy—well, when he was brought in for interrogation by the OSI, he reportedly looked down at some point, and saw blood and brain tissue all over the front of his fatigues, and upon seeing the gore, his eyes rolled back in his head, and he went "catatonic." He was Airevac out the next day (don't know where to). I heard a few days later that they had put him in for the Bronze Star w/V, but I don't know if he ever got it. Many of us were put in for decorations, but most of the paperwork ended up in the trash can. I remember pulling mine out of the trash and reading it! I was so numb about the whole event that I didn't even care! I guess that even then, it was not politically expedient for lower ranking Cops to get medals. As we used to say: "That's okay - *It don't mean Nuthin'* - Never did - Never Will!"

Later, Mike Bush

PS: On another note, if you think you might use the second story [this one] I sent you I would like to review it one more time prior to publication. I've done some additional research on the KIA's since I submitted the story to you and may wish to amend it somewhat? Thanks for all you are doing. I've been reading the comments you have been getting. I concur completely with all the good things people have had to say about your Web site.



Photo Left:
The Day After...

2 July 1965
Đà Nẵng AB:

We were among the first Air Cops that had been to Nam and come back [as early as 1962] ... and, we were treated like "lepers" by the rest of the stateside Squadron!