

VIETNAM
ĐÀ NẰNG AIR BASE
Photos
1966-1967

© 2013 by Ronald A. Perez
DN, 366th SPS, 1966-1967

Telling it like it was!



1. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS, SSgt Ron Perez and AP Jeep. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



2. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS hut compound Access Gate. Across the street, ARVN housing. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



3. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS, SSgt Ron Perez. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



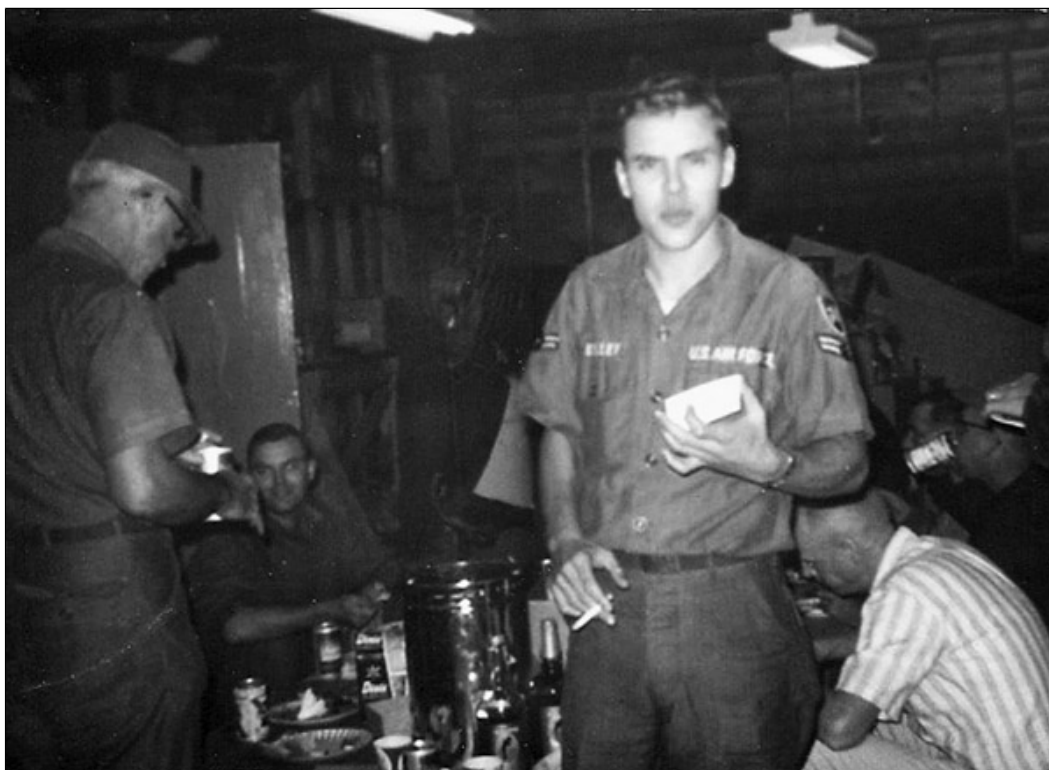
4. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. Actress and singer Nancy Sinatra poses with A1C Mejer. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



5. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. Actress and singer Nancy Sinatra and LT escort officer, pose with A1C Mejer. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



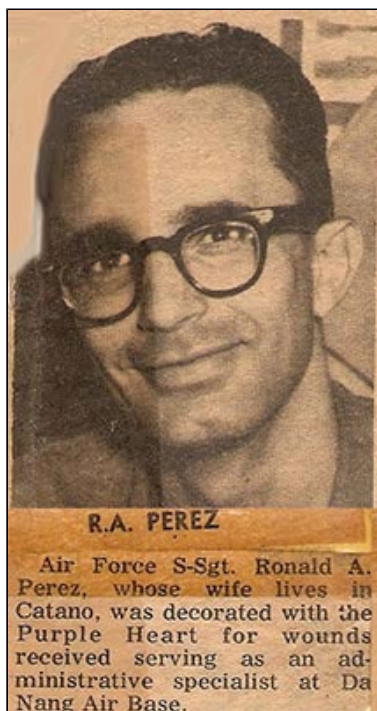
6. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. SSgt Perez with war orphant children from St. Marks, Đà Nẵng city.
Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



**7. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. Off duty coffee and adult beverages... no one checks IDs.
Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.**



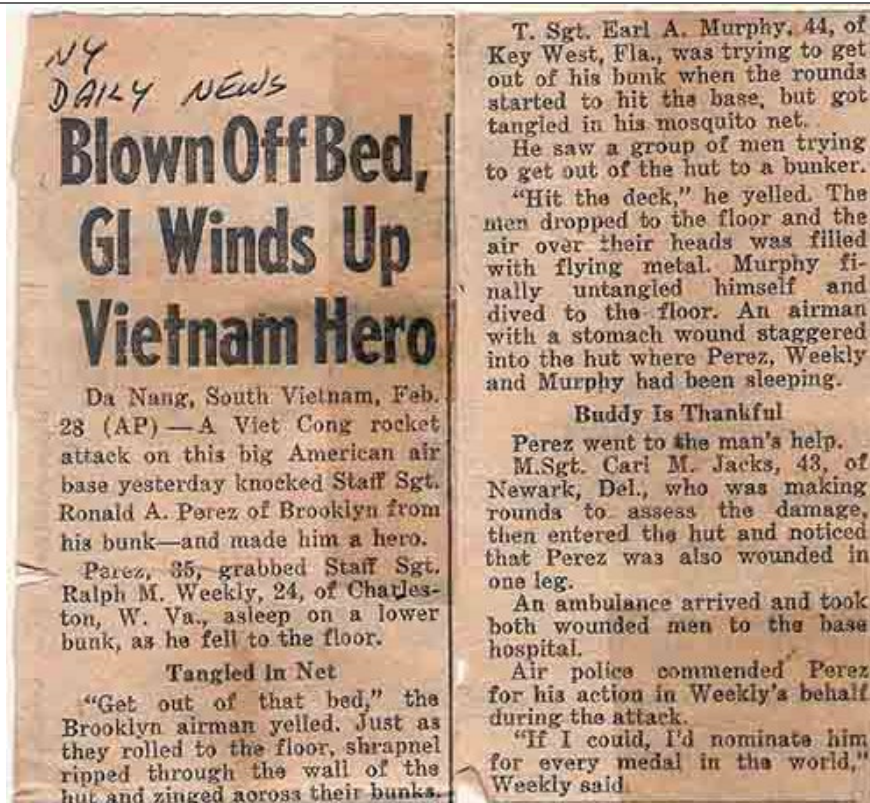
**8. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. Morning after and Davis and Ron Perez are still standing... mostly straight.
Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.**



R.A. PEREZ

Air Force S-Sgt. Ronald A. Perez, whose wife lives in Catano, was decorated with the Purple Heart for wounds received serving as an administrative specialist at Da Nang Air Base.

**9. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. News articles follow Air Base rocket attack. SSgt Ron Perez awarded Purple Heart.
Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.**



10. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. New York Daily News article. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.



11. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. Airman relax after rocket attack. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.

The Morning They Attacked Da Nang...

SENTRY, silhouetted in the light from a search beacon, mans a perimeter post at Da Nang AB. Air policemen guard many isolated posts such as this during the night to protect their fellow airmen from surprise attack. The lights in the back ground are from the airfield and living quarters at the massive installation.

DA NANG AB — When the Viet Cong mortared this base shortly after 3 a.m. on February 27 one round landed on the street in front of the 366th Air Police Sq.'s barracks area.

A2Cs Clarence G. Steese, 22, and Gerald L. Stinson, 20, were on guard at post H-1 and H-2 which secure the compound.

"We heard noises like flares popping to the south," said Airman Steese. "Stinson said, 'They're mortaring the place,' and I said, 'They sure are,' and we hit the dirt."

The two air policemen hit the ground a split second before a rocket shell hit the street, about 20 feet from them. They were untouched.

A2C Charles E. Burge, 19, also of the air police squadron, was standing guard on the north side of the main cantonment area. "I didn't know what was happening," he said.

grabbed his bunkmate, SSgt Ralph K. Weekly, 24, who was asleep in the lower bunk, by the shoulders and yelled, "Get out of that bed!"

Sergeant Weekly rolled to the floor just as shrapnel ripped through the wall of the hut and zinged across his and Perez's bed.

TSgt Earl A. Murphy, 44, was trying to get out of his bunk but was tangled in his mosquito net. He saw a group of men trying to get out of the hut to a bunker.

"Hit the deck!" he yelled. The men dropped to the floor, and the air over their heads was filled with flying metal. Sergeant Murphy finally untangled himself and dived to the floor.

A2C Charles Pettis, 19, also an air policeman, said, "I was coming to tell Airman Burge he could take the night off when the first round came in. I hit the deck and scooted into a bunker."

A2C Robert D. Alexander, 22, another air policeman, was sitting in the 366th Tactical Dispensary at Da Nang with the right leg of his combat fatigues ripped off. He had cut off most of the material to make bandages for other men.

Airman Alexander hit the dirt when the first rounds went off. He tried to make it to the bunker near his barracks when the next round hit. The concussion picked him up and threw him into the bunker.

There is a blast wall on either end of the bunker perpendicular to the main shelter. Less than three feet separate the main shelter and the blast wall. Airman Alexander was blown through this opening. He recovered and assisted the other injured men.

In hut Number 5, SSgt Ronald A. Perez, 35, was knocked from his top bunk by the concussion. Before he hit the floor, he had

Just then, an airman with a stomach wound staggered into the hut and collapsed. Sergeant Perez went to the man and covered him up, and tried to help him as much as possible.

The air police first sergeant, MSgt Carl N. Jacks, 43, was making the rounds to assess the damage. He asked him how he was. "I'm okay," Perez told him. Sergeant Jacks shined a flashlight over him, and said, "Like hell you are." It was then that Perez noticed the shrapnel wound in his right leg.

An ambulance arrived from the base hospital and the wounded airman was put on board. Jacks told Perez to get in. "I'm all right," he insisted. "It doesn't bother me."

He was still protesting when they forced him into the ambulance.

The air police squadron suffered light casualties. The toll would have been higher if it had not been for quick action on the part of air policemen like Sergeants Murphy and Perez.

"If I could, I'd nominate him for every medal in the world," Sergeant Weekly said of Sergeant Perez.

12. Đà Nẵng AB: 366th SPS. Air Force Times article, rocket attack, March 22, 1967. Photo by Ronald A. Perez, 1967.

We Take Care of Our Own

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