



ĐÀ NẰNG!

During the Vietnam War, United States Air Force Sentry War Dogs patrolled in and around Đà Nẵng Air Base, South Vietnam. Photo was taken in 1965, at the North end of the then only active runway. A marshy swamp area stretched the mile or so from the North end to the South China Sea beach. Monkey Mountain can be seen across the bay... or at the end of a long strand of golden-white beach.

As a new *OJT* K-9 handler, Don Poss (center) is being trained by his Sentry Dog, Blackie, as A1C (Sgt) Al Watts (left), who brought Blackie from stateside to Đà Nẵng during Operation "TOPDOG45", in 1965, looks on. Across the wire, A2C Gary Eberbach has approached to check out who is near his post. The night is warm and muggy, the war is calm, as the marsh comes alive with frogs, crickets, and mosquitos. Flares are strung out in molten pearls mixed with starlight, as they so often were. Surreal colors, tranquil reflections, and quiet thumps of distant bombs or cannons, imprinted a lasting memory for all who saw... the nightly flares of Đà Nẵng.

Al will soon leave Blackie, who will serve six tours (years) in Vietnam. Blackie will *never* return to the U.S.... but his six handlers survived---and all give credit to that extraordinary War Dog -- Blackie. *Don Poss flares*

Đà Nẵng Air Base Marsh

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