

## NHA TRANG AIR BASE 6253rd Air Police Squadron

1965-1966; 1971: NT, 6253 APS/14th SPS; PR, 35th SPS; DN, 366th SPS

© 2009 [Glen H. Myers](#)

**Several of us getting ready to cross the river** in order to get to the firing range. I am the tall one wearing the Ridgeway Hat with back to camera. I remember me and another AP had to swim the river to retrieve the boat. While we were firing at the range, someone returned the boat to the pier, leaving us stranded. Names of the others in photo are unknown. I have been emailing Ken Kirchner and he gave me some info on this photo:

**Photo-1 right** The two APs pictured holding the rear of the boat (right), are Ken Kirchner (facing, in tiger stripes), and with back to the camera, Earl Mercer. The AP (4th from right) with back to camera, carrying an ammo can in his lefthand,

M16 in right, and a spare M60 barrel slung over his shoulder, is Willis 'Gary' Baird.

### Photo-2 (Nha Trang):

We used to hit the beach nearly every morning after getting off midnight shift. It was a beautiful beach, and I'm sure that it still is. I would say Nha Trang's beach is on par with Cancun, Mexico. I am the second from the right without a shirt. Others are unknown.





### Photo-3 (Nha Trang):

This was CSC in late 1965 just after I arrived in-country. As can be seen, our unit was the 6253rd Air Police Squadron. The following year it would become the 14th Air Police Squadron.

If my memory serves me, CSC consisted of a couple of conex boxes covered with sandbags. *Personnel are unknown.*



### Photo-4 (Nha Trang):

This was taken behind the hooches prior to moving into the new concrete barracks. Pictured with me (on left) is A2C Earl Mercer, who lived in the same hooch as I did.



**Photo-5 left** (Nha Trang): This is me on an entry control point. This was downtown Nha Trang and was the entry point to an American hotel and club. I believe finance was also located in this building.

**Photo-6 below** (Nha Trang): Pictured is AIC Bolton, first name unknown. Again, this was at the firing range on the other side of the river. Others in photo are unknown.



**Photo-7 below** (Nha Trang): Another shot while at the firing range. The AP on the M60 is unknown. Standing is SSgt Roger Rude, NCOIC of the Armory.



**Photo-8 right (Nha Trang):**  
SSgt Roger Rude. I do not recall the name  
of the other person.



**Photo-9 below (Nha Trang):** Me, when  
we took a group of Nung Guards to  
the range for M1 Carbine qualification.



**Photo-10 right (Nha Trang, Long Van):**  
Me on the temporary perimeter.



**Photo-11 (Nha Trang):** A bunker building party in front of the new concrete barracks. This location was about 50 yards from the flight line which made it convenient to lift a case of C-Rations and bring them back to the barracks. Any thing was better than the mess hall which served powdered, green eggs. Time has faded my memory as to the identities of those pictured.



**Photo-12 (Nha Trang, Long Van):** The Main Gate at Nha Trang Air Base (Long Van).

This is me getting ready to go on duty. I must have been assigned to the Main Gate as I don't recall helmets being worn on any other post.

**Photo13 right (Nha Trang, Long Van):**

Another shot of the main gate at Nha Trang in 1966. The AP manning the gate is unknown.

**Photo-14 below (Nha Trang):** This is a shot of me in my cube in the new barracks. I often thought about sending this photo to Hills Bros Coffee for an ad but never did.





**Photo-15 (Nha Trang):** This was taken behind the hooches prior to the move to the concrete barracks. At the time of this photo we maintained our weapons in the hooches.

**Photo-16 (Nha Trang):**  
Hooche Bunker--*not bad for a first-time new bunker.*



**Photo-17 (Nha Trang):**

This is part of the Army Aviation Area. I was able to go up in the gunships as door gunner on three occasions. This was on my day off of course. I remember on one occasion, the army guy that was on the other door, locked his M60 in the downward position and the barrel dropped into the South China Sea. He had forgot to lock the barrel in. We also got to go up in the C-123 and was able to see a number of the outposts.

*[Agent Orange barrels used as sand/trash containers.]*



**Photo-18 (Nha Trang):** HEADQUARTERS 5th SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (ABN), SPECIAL FORCES - Headquarters, 5th Special Forces located fairly close to our area. They had a great snack bar.







**Photo-19 (Nha Trang):**

Downtown Nha Trang in 1966. The vehicle parked in front of the building kind of dates me. I always wondered how many miles those cyclo drivers had to pedal to get the muscle structure in their legs. Most of the older drivers looked as if their legs were composed of steel cords.



**Photo-20 (Nha Trang):**

I believe the AP pictured in front of this bunker was named Tracy (last name). I still remember his face but not his name.



**Photo-21 (Nha Trang):**

A2C Tracy (I think) hamming it up for the camera.



**Photo-22 (Nha Trang):**

An obviously posed photo of me. Notice that I am carrying a Thompson, which is .45 cal and have linked 7.62 ammo wrapped around me. *I don't think the combination would work.*

**Photo-23 right  
(Nha Trang):**

A river scene just outside Nha Trang. I always wished this photo had been in color. Parts of Vietnam were beautiful and should have been on travel posters and not in war photos.

*[colorized by Don Poss]*



**Photo-24 (Nha Trang):**  
Me at the impact point of the firing range.

*We Take Care of Our Own*