

**AP LAW ENFORCEMENT * AP BLUE HELMET SAGA *
TANGO-1 TOWER * NEW BARRACKS & INSIDE MY LOCKER**



Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base

**TANGO-1
PHOTO JOURNAL**

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**TSN, 377th SPS, AP/LE; TANGO 1;
AFOSI, Dist 51 Bangkok Thailand**

1. Photo:

E-4 Sgt Steve Rivers, Moody AFB, 1966

I was asked by Tim Waage, why a 377th Security Troops were wearing a BLUE Law Enforcement.

...so here is the story on that one....

2. Photo: E-4 Sgt Steve Rivers, LE,
Moody AFB, 1966: *Ain't I Prettty!*



TSN, 377th SPS, TANGO 1, 1967-1968:

At Tân Sơn Nhứt, you had two separate units, the LE Side which did the typical base patrol and functions and the Security side. The two outfits didn't mix. The LE side wore the pretty blue helmets and looked down on Security. Of course Security looked down on LE.

I was in LE (Moody AFB) before I came to TSN. I was *accidentally* assigned to a Security billet when I was assigned to the 377th. I should have come in as Law Enforcement; my AFSC was LE —not Security. While I was stationed at Moody AFB, all my buddies were getting orders to Nam. Pretty much everyone that got there before me and some after me were getting orders. I came to find out my records were stamped "*P.I.*" *Political Influential!* So I wasn't going anywhere. When I complained and said I wanted to go! Then they panicked and gave me the first available slot, which was a security AFSC, not LE.

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3. Photo: E-4 Sgt Steve Rivers, LE, TSN Air Base, 1967: AP/SP Jeep.

Capt Denisio made me get a blue AP helmet. Course then the Captain in charge of the security side (Carl Denisio) at Tân Sơn Nhứt, had to decide what he was going to do with an *LE* troop. He couldn't really stick me in harms way, so had the bright idea to make me a roving LE patrol in the security areas, issuing tickets to speeders on the ramps and parking areas. Plus I was running coffee and water to the standing posts. I became *Mobile-51*. I went to the Helicopter Sq and scrounged up a revolving red light that they were removing off the choppers. They rigged it into a red-light for me, and mounted it on a tube that fit into the M60 pipe stand on the jeeps. I could throw a switch and bang - got a Kojak light!



4. Photo:
Air Police LE Blue
Helmet,
TSN Air Base, 1967.

As LE, since I was writing tickets and then later when the Security Police Blue Helmet came in, I would escort the Freedom Birds in and out from the runways, in case a ZAPPER got in the grass and tried to attack the contract flights. I had sent you a couple of shots of the Stewardess from a Continental flight. I would always beg for fresh milk (the thing I missed the most in country), blankets and food off the planes. The girls had to come down and sit in the jeep and put on the hard helmet and get their pictures taken holding the M16. It was really a great job to have. Nothing but Day Shifts and got to visit all the posts and bring things to the guys that needed something at their post.



5. Photo: Freedom Bird. LE was greeted by wildly enthusiastic American females (well... *almost...*)

Then one day I was on CHARLIE Row where all the C-123s were parked. An area where we always had problems with speeders! An unmarked car went flying down the parking row and I gave chase, my little red ball spinning away—the car refuses to yield. E-4 Sgt Steve Rivers is great a shining!

I blew my little whistle and I pulled up beside some guy in civvies! All he does is glare and says, "Get the F*\$@ away from me!" He then pulled up in front of the terminal area, jumped out and tells me he doesn't have time for me and takes off inside.



6. Photo: AP LE Helmet

So I pull out my trusty little ticket book and begin to write! *Speeding, Failure To Stop for Emergency Vehicle, Illegal Parking on the terminal* and anything else I can think of... stick the tickets under the windshield and off I go having done my duty!

Later I get a call from Capt "D" to report to CSC. Come to find out the fine gentlemen I chased down the parking row and to the terminal was the Wing Commander. He wanted my ass reprimanded, busted, tickets tore up and pretty much have me buried at the end of the flight line.

Reportedly Capt "D" told him he could do all these things but he would be the one to explain it all to Washington! That is when Capt "D" informed the Wing Commander that my Uncle is Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee and that he recommended he should just accept the tickets. He did!



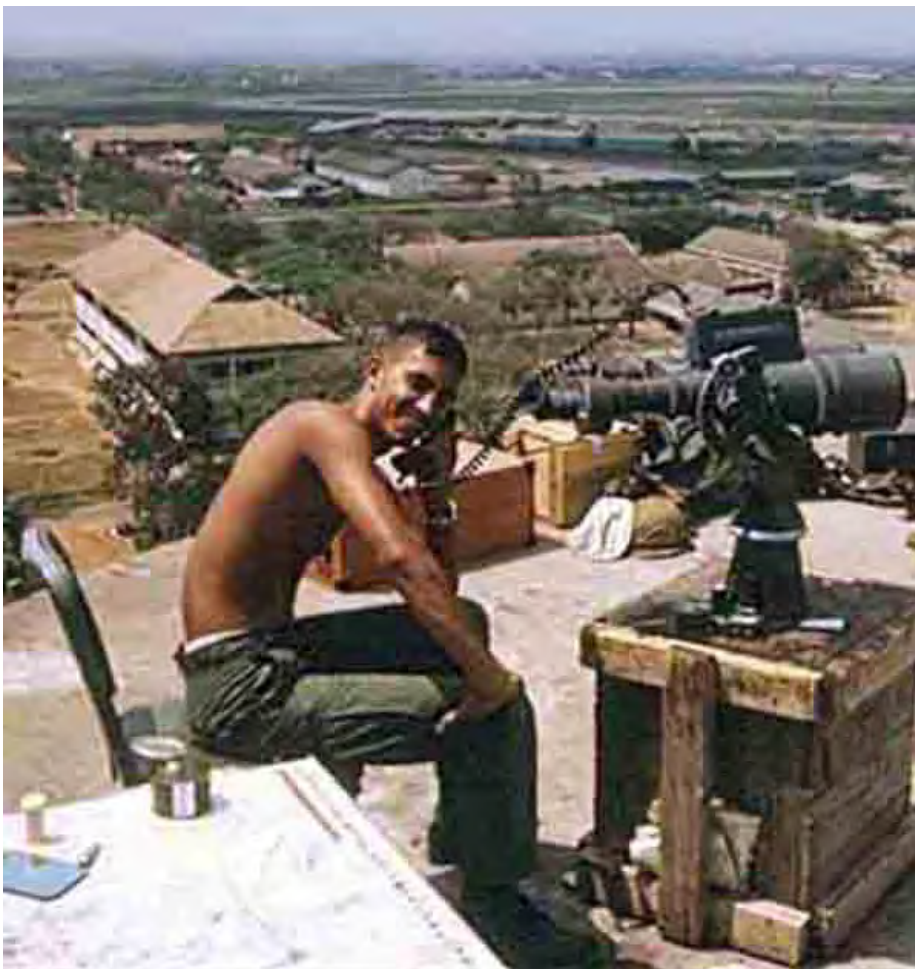
Photos 7. 8. 9: AP LE patrolling Flight Line.



Photos 10. & 11: Me (and my Blue AP Helmet) blending in with the Korean ROK artillery troops.



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TANGO-1

Photos:

12. above. Tango-One tower.

13. left. Tango-One tower post and new scopes. Notice there isn't a fence around the edge. The safety (like your .38 cal) *is there is no safety.*

Capt "D" then *recommended* I might want to pick another job off the flight line. When I made runs to various posts, I was always intrigued with Tango-One. Nobody ever climbed up to bother you up there, and a great view of everything seemed like a good spot out of the line of fire.

So I said, "How about Tango-One?" He said, "Excellent idea!" ... and the next day I retired the AP Blue Helmet and started working Tango-One.



14. F-4 on bomb run.

15. BDA in jungle.

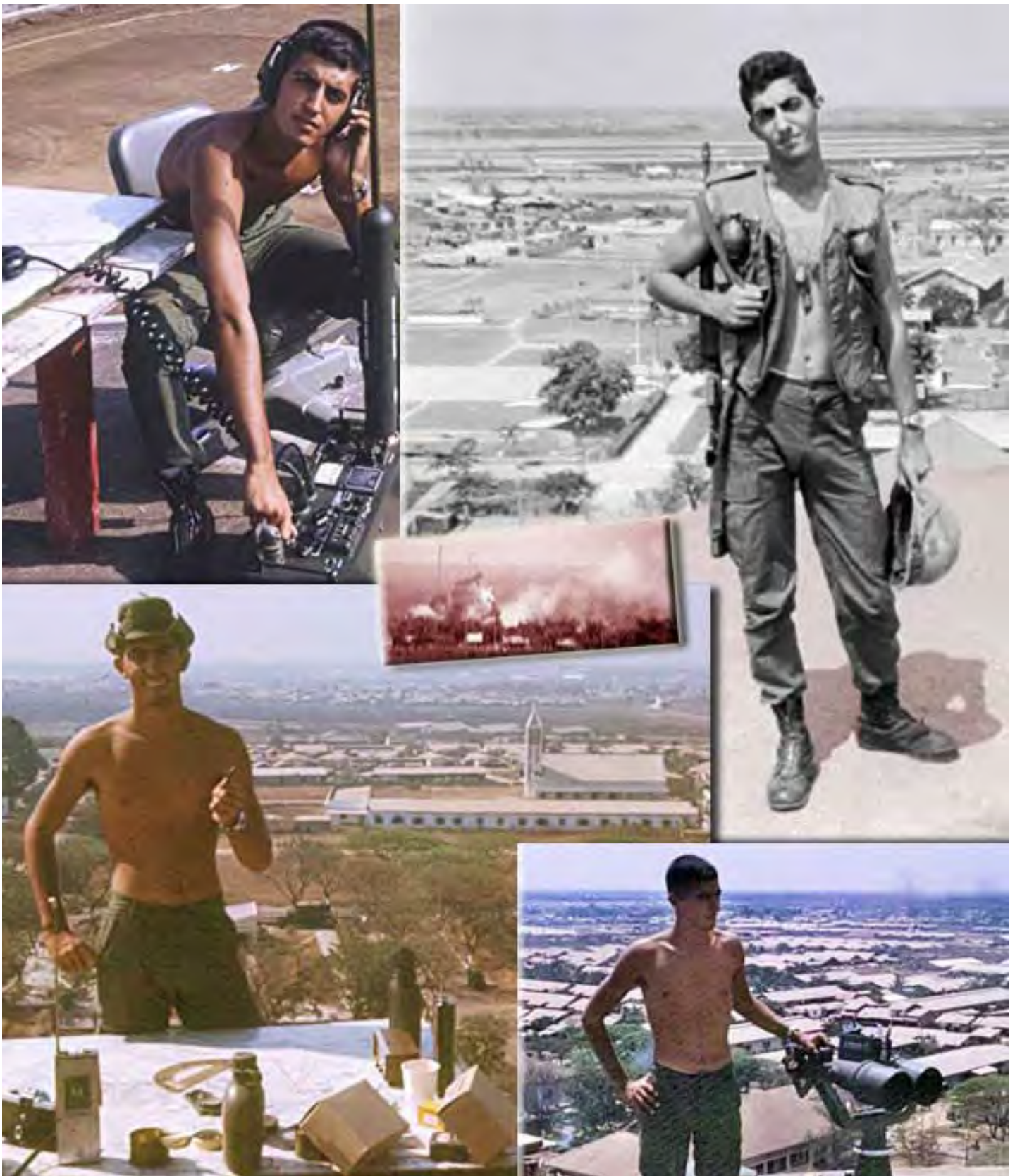
16. Perimeter Tower and Bunker.

**17. 051 Bunker:
TANGO -1as viewed
through scope.**



TANGO-1

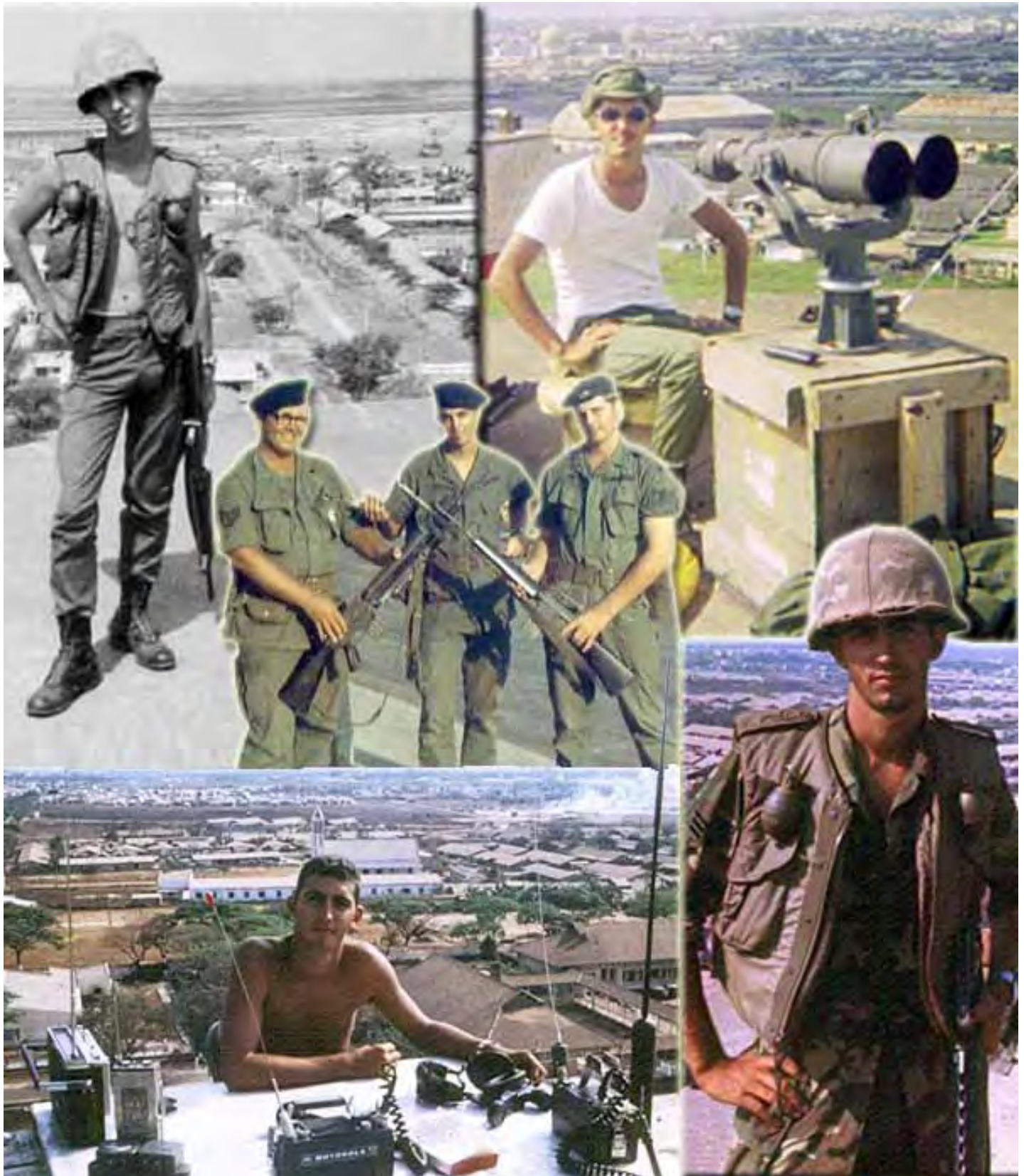
18. Photo Collage, TANGO-1: Incoming Rocket Spotter at the top of the Tower. Rocket Spotter has seconds to observe incoming and sound Base Alert.

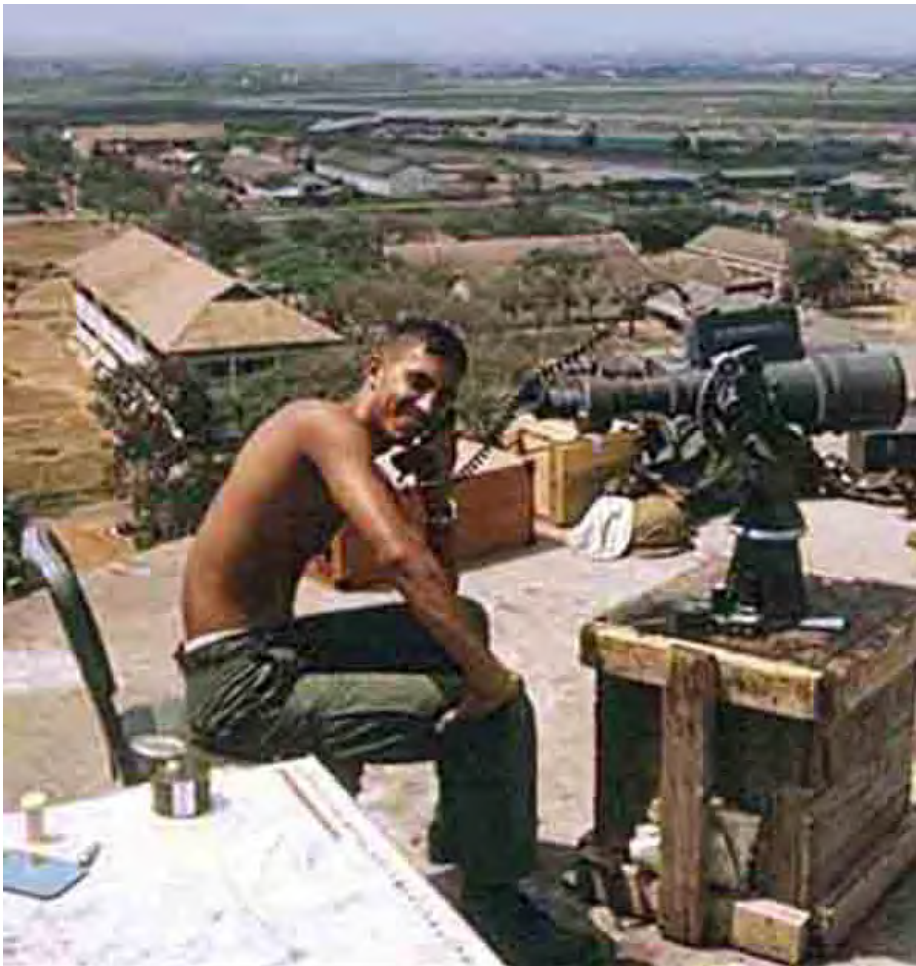


Photos 19. 20. 21: TANGO-1 -- Scoping for trouble!



22. Photo collage, TANGO-1.



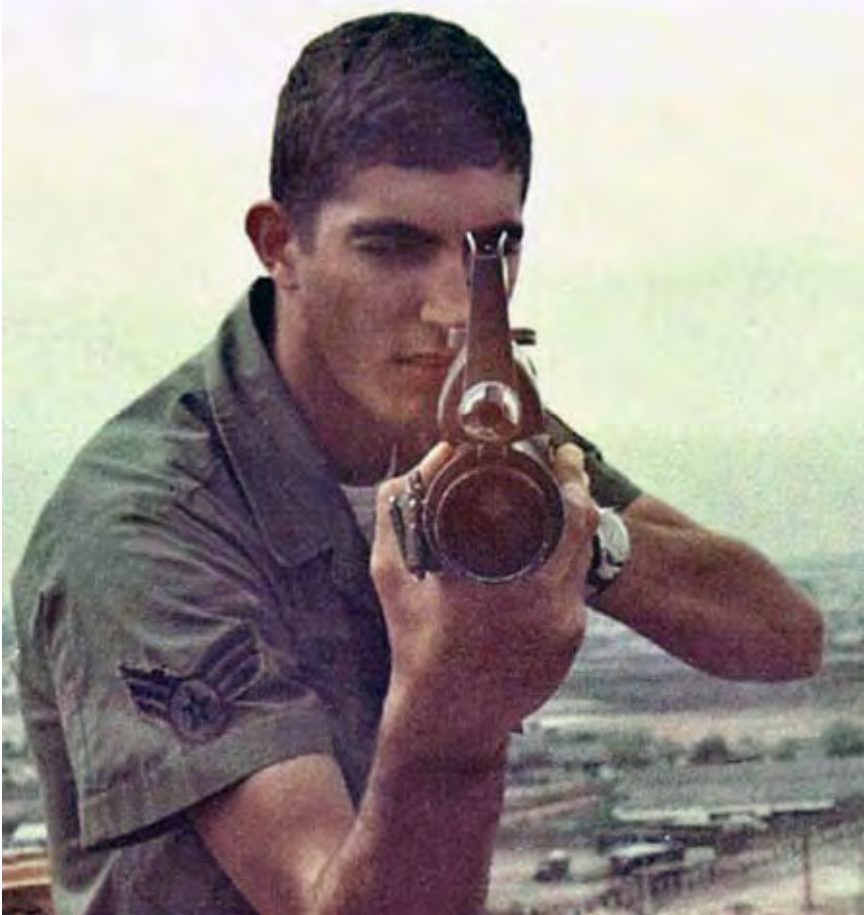


TANGO-1. TSN 1968

Photos: 23. left.

24, center-right.

25. lower-left.





TANGO-1. TSN 1968

Photos:

26. left.

27. center-right.

28. lower-left.



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29. & 30. 377th Air Police Squadron new two-stories barracks and bunkers.



31. Typical locker setup: Girlfriend photo, DEROS calendar, Playboy favorites, and reel-to-reel taperecordings of favorite music.



Photo 32: Collage - AP Weapons, Equipment, various cards.

Row-1: Ration Cards.

Row-2: AP weapons issue - M16, Helmet and Liner, ammo pouches (canvas and leather) magazines, bayonet, rain gear poncho.

Row-3: US Helmet w/cammie cover; NVA pith-helmet w/gold Star on Red background; US AP LE Helmet; .45 Auto; K-Bar, Bush Knife, Wood Baton, Machete & scabbard, Wood Baton; AP Sleeve, AP laminated Shield w/crossed Pistols, w/plastic button-hole attachment



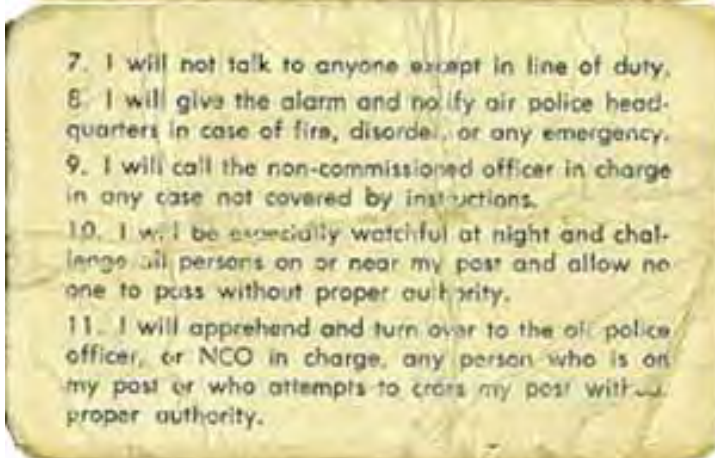
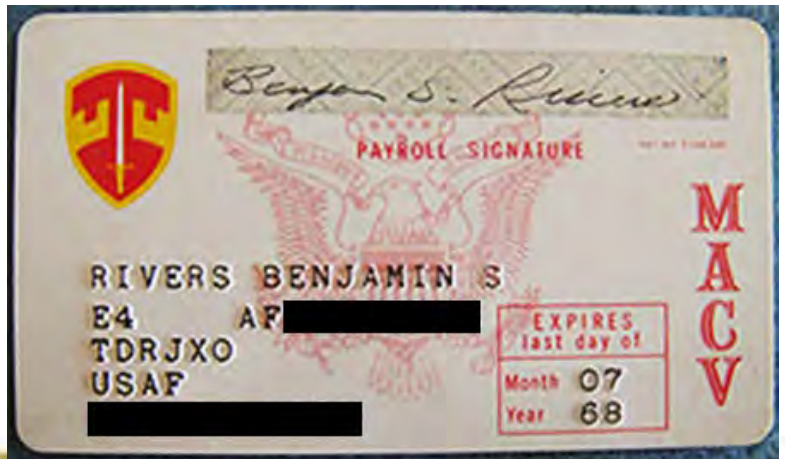
33. ID Card; Info Cards.

Row-1: right. Payroll Signature Card.

Row-2: left. Chain of Command Card;
right. ALERTS Instructions..

Row-3: right/left. SECURITY Instructions.

Row-4: USAF Rank icons: Enlisted and Officers.



34. right. 377th Air Police.



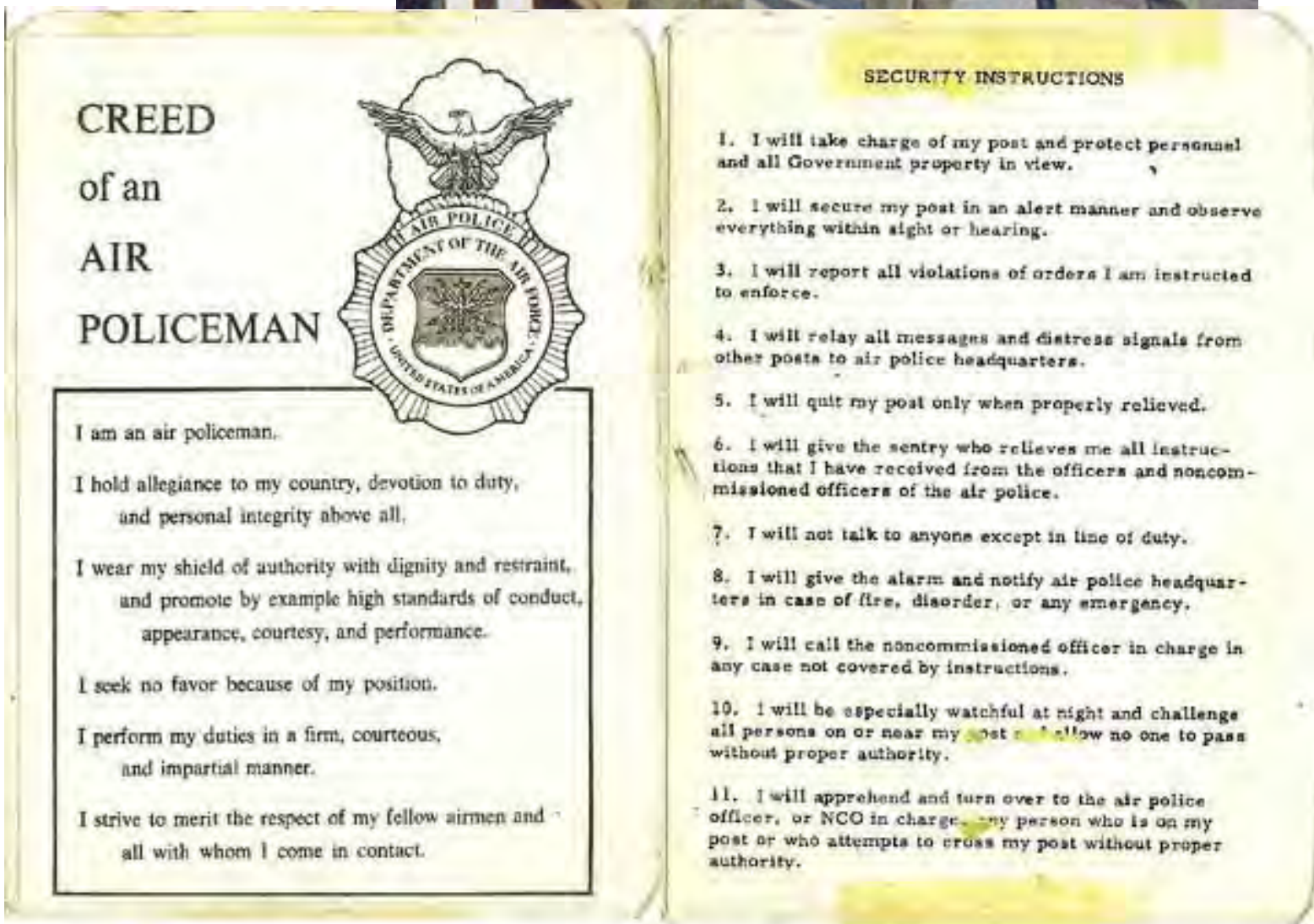
35. Phamlet:

below-left.

Creed of an Air Policeman.

below-right.

Security Instructions.



CREED of an AIR POLICEMAN



I am an air policeman.

I hold allegiance to my country, devotion to duty,
and personal integrity above all,

I wear my shield of authority with dignity and restraint,
and promote by example high standards of conduct,
appearance, courtesy, and performance.

I seek no favor because of my position.

I perform my duties in a firm, courteous,
and impartial manner.

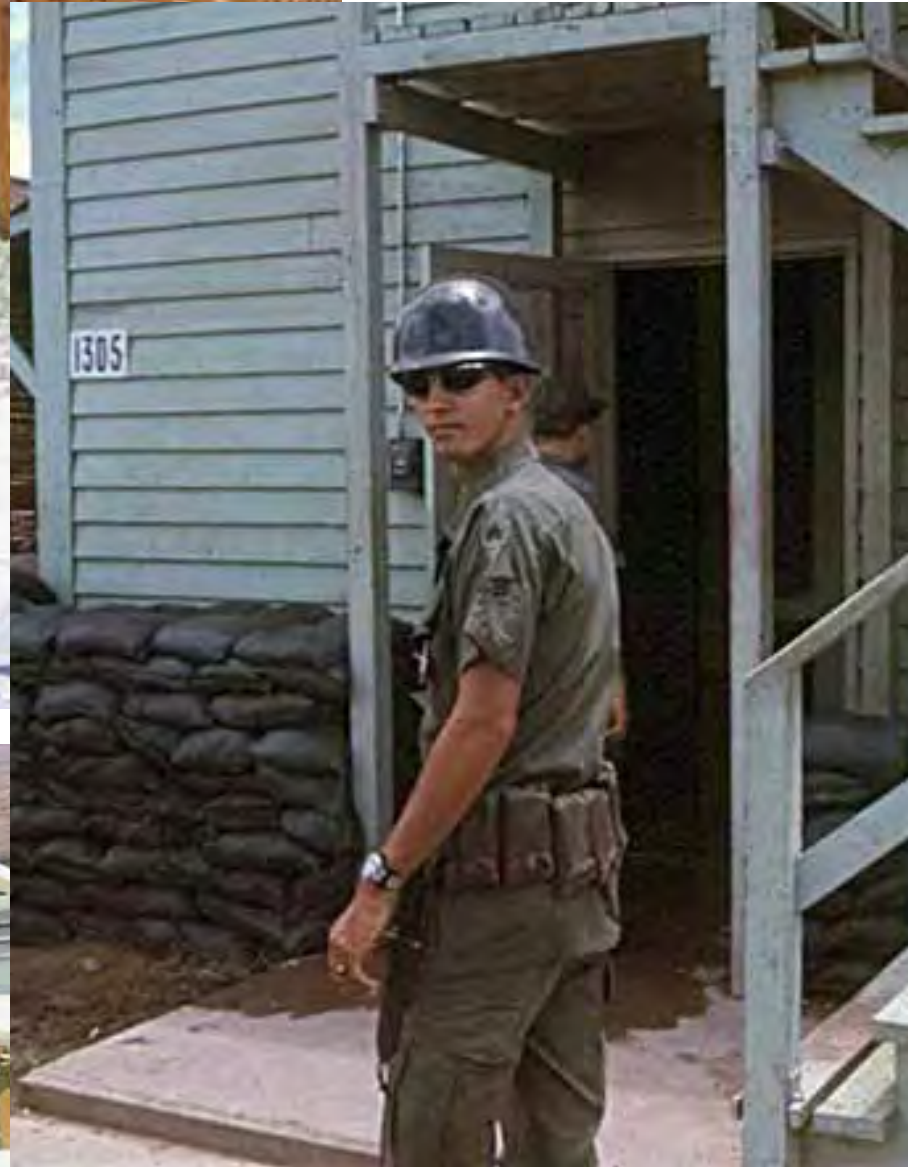
I strive to merit the respect of my fellow airmen and
all with whom I come in contact.

SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. I will take charge of my post and protect personnel and all Government property in view.
2. I will secure my post in an alert manner and observe everything within sight or hearing.
3. I will report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce.
4. I will relay all messages and distress signals from other posts to air police headquarters.
5. I will quit my post only when properly relieved.
6. I will give the sentry who relieves me all instructions that I have received from the officers and noncommissioned officers of the air police.
7. I will not talk to anyone except in line of duty.
8. I will give the alarm and notify air police headquarters in case of fire, disorder, or any emergency.
9. I will call the noncommissioned officer in charge in any case not covered by instructions.
10. I will be especially watchful at night and challenge all persons on or near my post and allow no one to pass without proper authority.
11. I will apprehend and turn over to the air police officer, or NCO in charge, any person who is on my post or who attempts to cross my post without proper authority.



36. Collage: New two-stories AP barracks #1305. 1967-1968.





36. left. Collage:

Row-1: New two-stories AP barracks #1305.

Row-2: Main Gate and nearby Pagoda. 1967-1968.



37. below.

377th APS jeep, parked at AP barracks. 1967-1968.





38. *left.* AP Posting Truck.

39. *center.*
AP LE Base Police, 505s (?).

40. *below-left:* Commander
377th Security Police.
4 - doors car with Red Light.

