

Vietnam

Tuy Hòa Air Base



© 2007 by Ken de Russy
Det-9, 619th TCS, Ban Me Thuot,
RVN, 1969-1970.

I appreciate the work VSPA does to create such a great place for me to go and feel "at home." I think I have only just begun to understand how important it is to be in touch with others that were there. I visit VSPA and a couple of other sites quite often even though I feel that I live my life very much in the present and feel quite well adjusted.

My wife is very understanding and was a bit surprised when, in answer to her question, I explained that, no, there was no ceremony, no transition period, no debriefing, no attempt at all to review and discuss what we had just done. Until that question, I had not thought anything of it. It helped me to understand my desire to look at it again through these sites and through contact with a few old buddies.

The most incredible and intense experience of my life and I simply left and never once had any real opportunity to swap stories, commiserate or examine the experience in any way! If there was anything left unresolved, well it was just f'n UNRESOLVED! That is almost unbelievable when I reflect on it!

It is odd in that I feel closer to VSPA on the subject of Vietnam, even though we have never met and never exchanged any communications, than my wife of 25 years who has shown a great interest in understanding my experiences in Vietnam. It is because *you were there* and can relate.

I suppose this is no revelation to you but, as with many things in life, the "light bulbs" go on at funny times.

Sorry. I just had an overwhelming urge to share! Anyway, thanks for helping me to feel worthy about my involvement there!

I have some copies of orders with names and service numbers of guys that served in Vietnam. I also have a photocopies of few things such as base newsletters, 31st SPS Cop Shop info for incoming personnel and a few other bits of memorabilia that would be interesting additions to the VSPA website.

Ken de Russy
Det. 9, 619th TCS
Ban Me Thuot, RVN, 1969
31st Security Police Sq., Tuy Hòa AB, RVN, 1969-1970



1. Tuy Hòa AB: M113 crossing rice paddy. 1969-1970.



2 Tuy Hòa AB: M113, sand dune. 1969-1970.

3 Photo below:
Tuy Hòa AB: M113 crossing rice paddy.
Tom Sapio, Respass, Sebbin, Ken deRussy.
1969-1970.



4. Photo Left:
Tuy Hòa AB: Paul Babcock. 1969-1970.



5. Tuy Hòa AB: SPs Acquire Artillery Skills. Article: Seventh AF New July 9, 1969.

SPs Acquire Artillery Skills

By SSgt. Chuck Henderson

TUY HOA — Looking across the Da Nong River Basin, the sergeant watched as an artillery shell cratered the ground. Peering through his binoculars at the spot on the terrain, he called out "Down two-zero-zero and left one-two-zero."

A Korean captain nearby picked up his field phone and relayed the adjustments to the artillery battery three kilometers away. Then the muted thud of the big guns going off reached the group and another shell zoomed in on the spot the sergeant had chosen.

"Fire for effect," called the sergeant. The distant thunder repeated itself and the valley floor below was chewed up as if by a giant plow.

This was not combat but a prelude to combat, the training that is so necessary for defense. Base defense, the protection of the aerospace resources of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing here, is the responsibility of the 31st Security Police Squadron.

The men of the 31st SPS train in many different skills to protect the base, its resources and people from enemy attack. But a select group of men from Tuy

Hoa's security police outfit are trained to act as artillery spotters for the Republic of Korea 30th Artillery Battalion. Their job is to direct close-in fire for base defense and adjust artillery fire in support of friendly operations in the river basin area.

"The people who take the course are flight chiefs, communications plotters, tower guards and mortar gunners," said Capt. Robert C. Brenzel, Vincennes, Ind., chief of the security police training section. "Our men work with soldiers from the U.S. Army's 60th Battalion, 32nd Artillery, and the ROK 30th Artillery."

"This 'short course' lasts for two days," the captain continued. "The first day is spent in class learning specific types and sizes of artillery shells and brushing up on compass and map reading and terrain observation. The next day is spent in the field directing artillery fire from the ROK guns."

"The Army is there with us to monitor the firing, and we've received several very good reports from them on our spotting ability," concluded Captain Brenzel.

Tuy Hoa's security policemen play a vital role in the defense of the base, and this training will enable them to more effectively carry out their mission of combat support.



(USAF PHOTO BY A1C J. L. GREENE)

Sergeant Faust and Army Specialist Plotting the Target



6. Tuy Hòa AB: Paul Babcock and Ken deRussy. 1969-1970.

7. Tuy Hòa AB: V110, QRT-1. Ken deRussy (hand on .50 cal). 1969-1970.



8. Tuy Hòa AB: V110, QRT-2. Ken deRussy (hand on .50 cal). 1969-1970.



9. Tuy Hòa AB: V110, QRT-3. Ken deRussy (hand on .50 cal). 1969-1970.



10. Tuy Hòa AB: Hootch Partay 1969-1970.



11. Photo Right: Tuy Hòa AB:
Beer drinker and conno-sewer,
Ken de Russy. 1969-1970.

12. Photo Below: Tuy Hòa AB: *Naaaha,*
Sarge...We're not fallin' down drunk...
yet. 1969-1970.



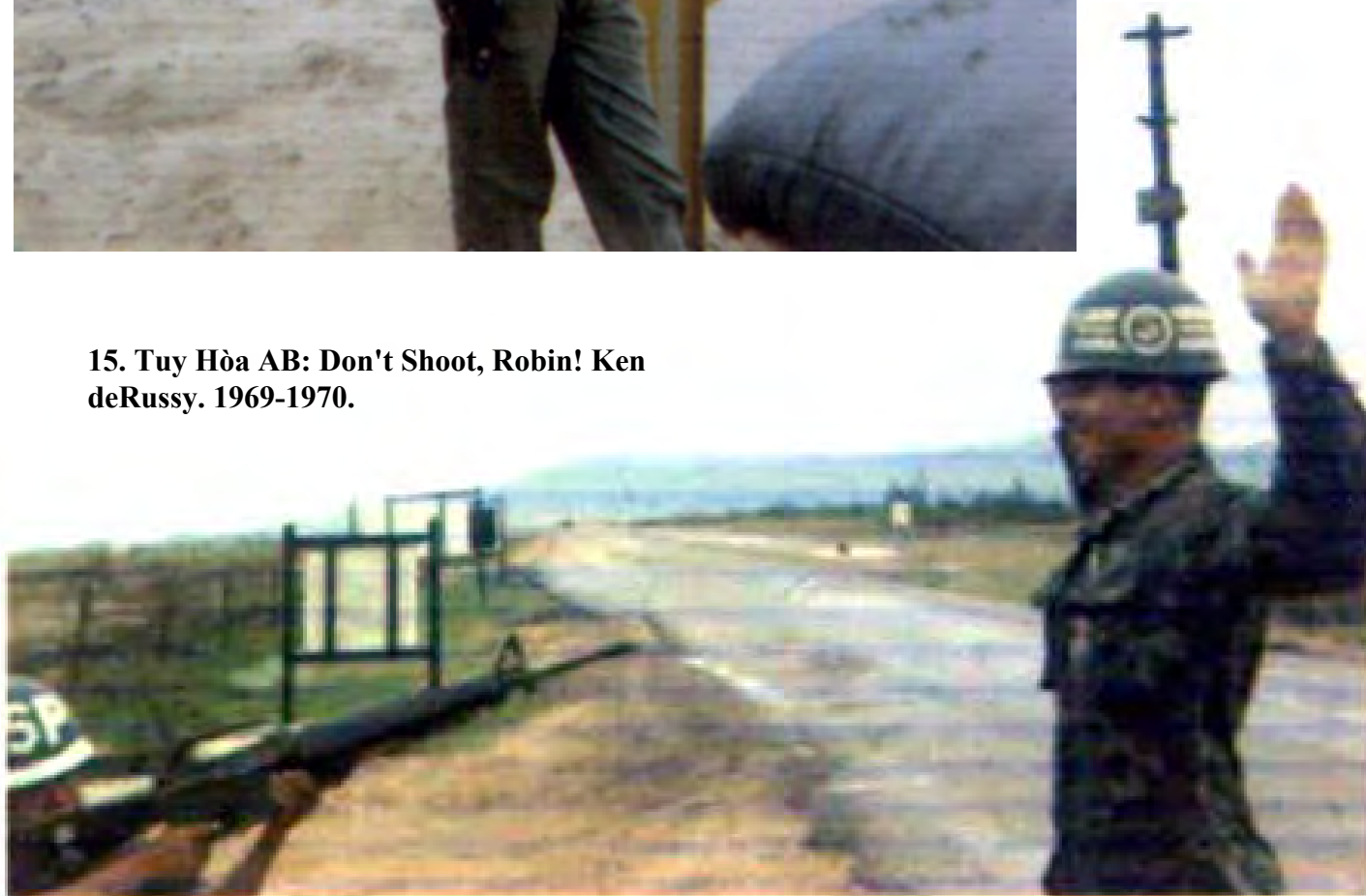
13. Photo Right:
Tuy Hòa AB: *Soda*
Pop Drinkers. Note
smiles and white
teeth.
Clean-cut ain't they!
1969-1970.



14. Tuy Hòa AB: Gun Slinger, Ken deRussy. 1969-1970.



15. Tuy Hòa AB: Don't Shoot, Robin! Ken deRussy. 1969-1970.



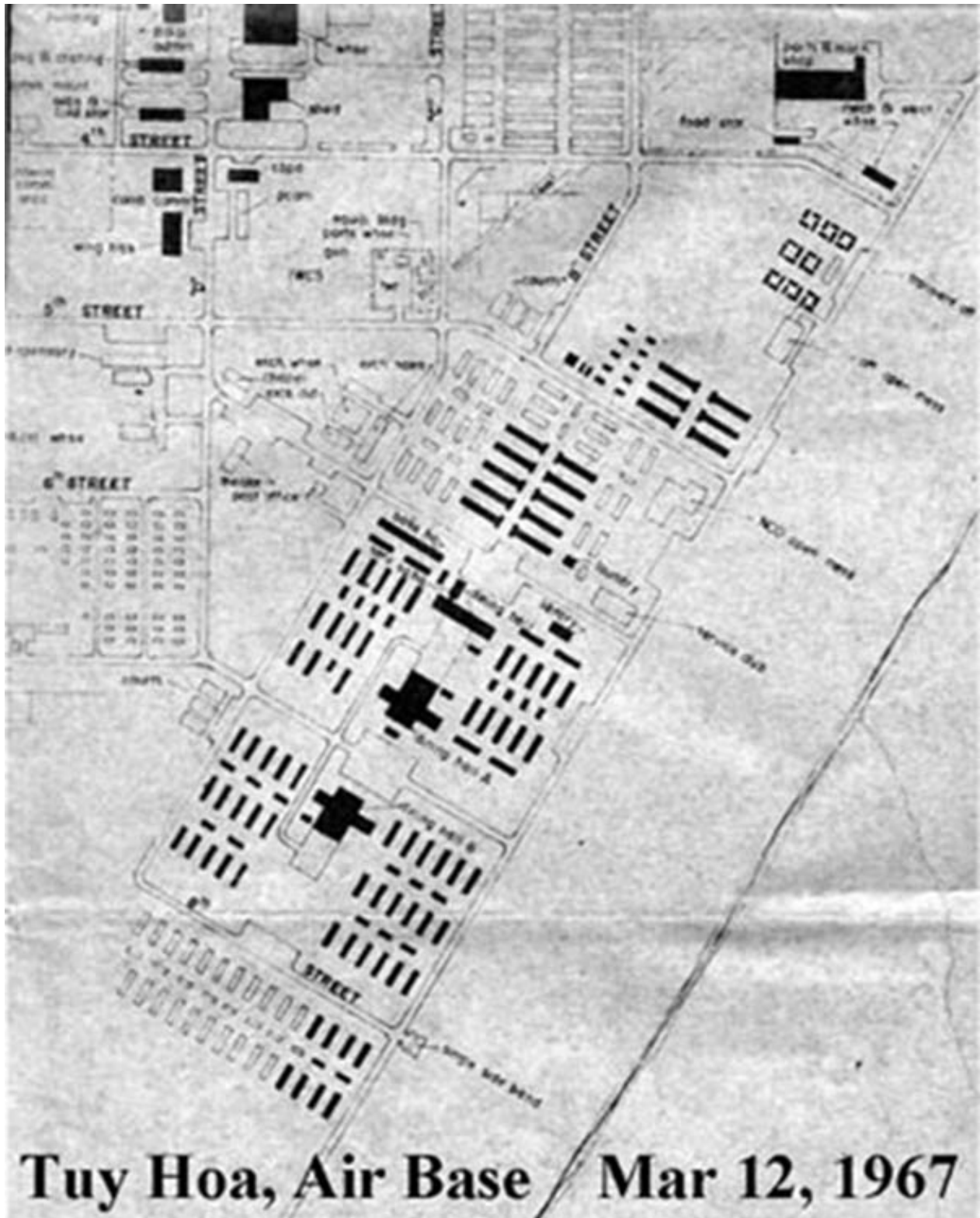
16. Tuy Hòa Area Map. Ken deRussy. 1969-1970.



17. Tuy Hòa AB: Map, March 12, 1967. Ken deRussy. 1969-1970.



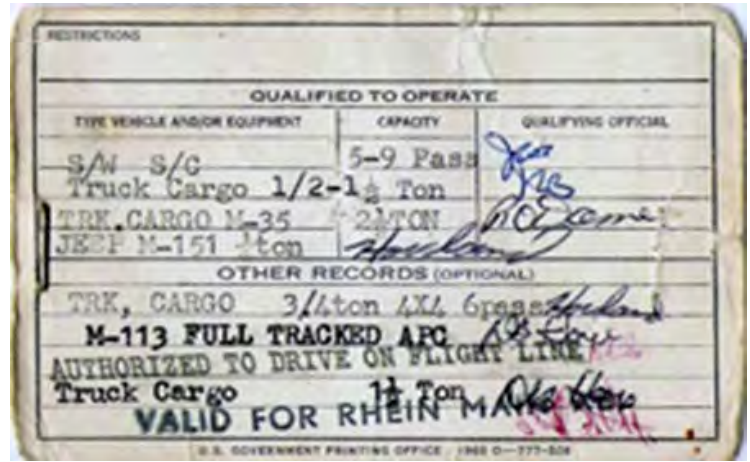
18. Tuy Hòa AB: Map, Section Closeup. March 12, 1967. Ken deRussy. 1969-1970.



19. US Gov DMV Driver's License (front).



20. US Gov DMV Driver's License (back).



21. Airman's Open Mess Club Card.



22. Geneva Conventions Card.



23. 100 Dong Note (front).



24. 100 Dong Note (back).



25. MPC: One Dollar (front).



26. MPC: One Dollar (back).



27. MPC: Ten Cents.



28. MPC: Five Cents (front).



29. MPC: Five Cents (back).



30. TEN SERIES, Radio Codes (10-1 / 10-42).



31. TEN SERIES, Radio Codes (10-43 / 10-84).



32. Air Force Commendation Medal, Awarded to Sergeant Kenneth W. de Russy / Meritorious Service.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
HAS BEEN AWARDED TO

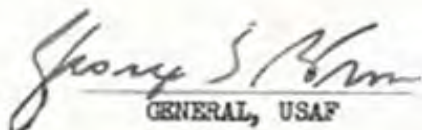
SERGEANT KENNETH W. DE RUSSY

FOR

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

22 June 1969 to 1 June 1970

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 21st DAY OF April 19 70


GENERAL, USAF




SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

**33. Citation to AcCO the Award of The Air Force Commendation Medal, to
Sergeant Kenneth W. de Russy / Meritorious Service.**

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
TO
KENNETH W. DERUSSY

Sergeant Kenneth W. DeRussy distinguished himself by meritorious service as a Security Guard, 31st Security Police Squadron, from 22 June 1969 to 1 June 1970. During this period, Sergeant DeRussy performed his duties as a Tower Guard and Machine Gunner in an exemplary manner, constantly maintaining his sector secure from ground attack and informing Central Security Control of developments and observations in a timely manner. His unstinting efforts contributed immeasurably to the excellent security provided the Air Base. The distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant DeRussy reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



34. Statement: Letter of Reprimand.

STATEMENT

9 Apr 70

At approximately 0730 hours, 8 April 70, I, Staff Sergeant W. A. Luecking, PK 357-24-5001, 31 SPS Barracks Chief, Hootch #8204, made a pre-inspection of Hootch #8204 and found that the refrigerator, which was owned by Sergeant Kenneth W. Derussy, PK [REDACTED], had a large deposit of ice in the freezer compartment. I woke Sergeant Derussy and told him to defrost his refrigerator. When I returned to his area, approximately ten minutes later, I found him in bed. I woke him again and he just turned over in his bed and did not get up.

101

William A. Luecking
WILLIAM A. LUECKING, SSOT
Hootch Chief, #8204

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend this NCO be given a Letter of Reprimand.

101

William A. Luecking
WILLIAM A. LUECKING, SSOT
Hootch Chief, #8204

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend a Suspended Bunt and fine.

101

Betty E. Grizzle
BETTY E. GRIZZLE, TSOT
Tiger Flight Chief

35. Letter of Reprimand.

File
Director

FROM: 31st Security Police Squadron (ESP)

10 April 1970

SUBJECT: Letter of Reprimand

TO: Sgt Kenneth W. DeRussy, ~~FR [REDACTED]~~
31st Security Police Squadron
APO San Francisco 96316

1. It has come to my attention that on or about 8 April 1970 at approximately 0730 hours, you failed to obey the order of SSgt Luecking, Barracks Chief of Building #8204.
2. You are hereby reprimanded. I can not emphasize how much I deplore your actions. Your failure to obey the orders of your assigned Barracks Chief could result in more serious action.
3. Conduct of this nature will not be tolerated. Any further disobedience of orders on your part will result in disciplinary action, further jeopardizing your Air Force Career.

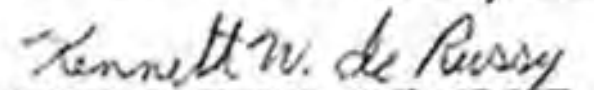

LOUIS R. HOOVER, Capt, USAF
Commander

1st Ind

Sgt Kenneth W. DeRussy, ~~FR [REDACTED]~~, 31st Security Police Squadron

TO: Commander, 31st Security Police Squadron

Receipt acknowledged 11 Apr 70.


KENNETH W. DERUSSY, ~~FR [REDACTED]~~
SGT, 31st Security Police Squadron