

Vietnam

31st Security Police Squadron

Tuy Hòa Air Base - 1968

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TUY Photos by James Shepherd



1. *Top-Left.* A1C J.B. Shepherd, or Me when I was 19. This was taken in 1968 when I was on Tiger Flight.
2. *Top-Right.* **Tiger Flight Patch** that I wore when I was on Tiger Flt. at Tuy Hòa AB in 1968, 31st SPS .



3. **F-100-AF-53-751:** This aircraft was more that likely one of the New Mexico ANG's, as it was 15 years old in 1968 when the photo was taken. The AC crews said that the wiring was shot in most of them and would fall apart if it took to many G's. I watched two (2) of them crash in the south china sea before they could make it to the end of the run way.

3. Row-1: Photo-Right.

This was taken in 1968 when I was on Tiger Flight.

4. Row-2: Photo-Below.

Back Gate at Tuy Hòa AB, and Sgt Roberts, I spent a lot of time here.

5. Row-3: Left. A1C J.B. Shepherd, or Me when I was 19, and taken in 1968 when I was on Tiger Flight. M-113 with unknown GI. The little dude is "Robin" (of *Batman and Robin*).

6. Row-3: Right. M-113 with me (white shirt) doing some driving proficiency. These were a lot of fun to drive.





7. **M-113** at the Back Gate with the Large Tower in the back ground. **Robin** (*Batman and Robin*) wants a ride-along.

8. **M-113** at the Back Gate on the Beach. The Sgt driver is unknown. Target practice from the M-113 with the M50A2... we fired in to the South China Sea.





9. Below. Batman & Robin . . . wonder where they are today? They were good kids, just half starved.

Zowie, Pow, Zap . . .

31st SP Sq. Adopt Pair

TUY HOA AB (7AF) — Beware Superman, Joker, Penguin, VC Charlie and all 35 enemies of justice. He fort-warned the security police here are assisted in their job of law enforcement by the famed team of Batman and Robin.

Batman, 11-year-old Le Van Lien, and Robin, 10-year-old Phan Van Khanh, began working with the U.S. Air Force in an unofficial capacity three years ago.

According to what has now become almost a legend, members of the 31st Security Police Squadron first noticed the two boys scavenging in trash cans for discarded G-ration.

Both boys wore nothing more than underwear, although one always wore a cap made of an old rain coat around his neck. The boys would sit for hours at a time and watch the security police at work.

A friendship began to form between the security policemen and the two boys. Some of the airmen began to save portions of their food to use as payment to give the boys for picking up trash in the area and other small jobs they performed.

For want of a name they called the boy with the cape Batman. His sidekick naturally became Robin.

As time went on the two Vietnamese boys began to be more of a help to the security police. They learned English, would act as interpreters and point out suspicious actions and characters.

The boys were doing such a good job the enlisted members of the 31st SPS got hold of some discarded combat boots and had some old uniforms cut down to fit the boys, making them honorary security policemen with the rank of airman first class.

Today you have to look twice to catch to tell Batman and Robin from the real thing. Their uniforms are kept clean by members of the squadron while other standards such as shined boots, buttoned pockets, etc. are taken care of by Batman and Robin themselves.

The unofficial helpers work a full shift with the security

police every day, have great respect for military law and are quick to point out violations, be they traffic, uniforms or other.

They may be found at almost any post that the regular security policemen work at, with the exception of restricted areas. Airmen often share their food with their honorary fellow policemen. Batman and Robin look forward to eating with the security policemen. It was with the security policemen they got their first taste of low cream, jelly, pudding and many other treats which bring happiness to a youngster.

Another big treat is when their friends bring them to watch television during their break.

When asked if they were paid, Robin quickly replied, "We no need pay, we get plenty good 'close shop,' have clean clothes and plenty good friends."

Batman added, "This plenty enough I think."

Like all boys, Batman and Robin have dreams of the future of what they want to be. They both agree this is their thing, this is what they want.

As Robin put it, "I want to join United States Air Force, go to United States, learn to be 'number one' security policeman, then come back Tuy Hoa to my friends."



END OF A DAY — As retreat is sounded, Batman, left, and his partner, Robin show their respect for both the American and Republic of Vietnam flags by standing at attention and rendering a hand salute. The two young Vietnamese, in reality, Le Van Lien and Phan Van Khanh, are honorary members of the 31st Security Police Squadron at Tuy Hoa AB. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. George H. Roberts)

10. 105 MM Howitzer (Korean ROK Marines) at the center of Tuy Hòa Air Base.

The A1C is Louie Greene, the AF Photographer that took these B&W photo's. I went to High School with him and we both got to Tuy Hòa on the same day, but I didn't run in to him until we had been there six months!



11. Photo-Left, of an M-151 Jeep parked in front of one of the Hooches.

12. This is a photo of the Chicken Coupe's that we lived in. They *really* were CHICKEN COUPES.





13. *Left.* and 14. *Below.* This was the M60 that was in 009 and the light fortifications on the Main Gate--not much fun.



15. *Above.* and 16. *Right.* AF Photo of the portable 81MM Mortar mounted on the back of a Jeep truck.

(Close Up)





16. These were the Doll's that ran the BX at Tuy Hòa AB.



17. Twenty (20) Dong RVN Currency ...
remember what you could do with this? *I do!*

We Take Care of Our Own