

Vietnam

31st Security Police Squadron

Tuy Hòa Air Base

Photos by James Shepherd
(1968)

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105 MM Howitzer (Korean ROK Marines) at the center of Tuy Hòa Air Base. The AIC 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 6 months!



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



A1C J.B. Shepherd, or Me when I was 19. This was taken in 1968 when I was on Tiger Flight.



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



VIETNAM

THE AIR FORCE IN ACTION

Zowie, Pow, Zap . . .

31st SP Sq. Adopt Pair

TUY HOA AB (7AF) — Beware Carwoman, Joker, Penguin, VC Charlie and all your enemies of justice. He forewarned the security police here are assaulted in their job of law enforcement by the famed team of Batman and Robin.

Batman, 11-year-old Le Van Lien, and Robin, 15-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 searching in trash cans for discarded G-rations.

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 in order 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 in they traffic, uniforms or otherwise.

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 ice 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 liking, 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 Sgt. George H. Roberts)

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



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

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