

FIRST NIGHT

USAF, 635th Security Police Squadron

© 2003 by [Vernon J. Anderson](#), VSPA LM-161

First Night

U-Tapao RTAFB Nov 1972 - May 1973: I arrived as a SSgt T88170A from Lackland AFB Texas assigned to the 635th SPS K-9 Section. After finally completing all of the in-processing and training, I was assigned duties as K-9 Night Supervisor/Training NCO. My first Guardmount went fairly quietly until we all reached the kennel area. Upon entering the kennel office, I was greeted by a group of Thai and GI handlers lined up very silently staring at me. Nothing was said for a while until the apparent group spokesman stepped out and asked me how was I going to supervise "Was it going to be TI Style or what?"

We retired into the inner office and had our discussion after which, he went out and talked to others. Posting took place without any further incidents and shortly there after, My CQ (Cates or Gates) asked to use the 2 ½ truck to go to the dinning hall. Permission was granted and noting further was heard, until I got word over the radio to meet on duty LE Fight Chief up by the dinning hall. There I personally got introduced to the 635th SPS Commander who took great pleasure in telling me that my CQ took the long way to chow and wrecked the bomb dump gate shack, a 5 ton munitions hauler as well as my 2 1/2 ton truck . What a way to start a tour.

These were Good Times - Bad Times - Sad Times - Fun Times for all of us. Now they are just times to be remembered: Crying , Laughing or Silently, Sadly remembering many of long ago four footed friends and their handlers.

God Bless All Dog Handlers and our Most Trusted K9 Companions!

Vernon J Anderson (MSgt Retired)
635th SPS K9 Section

U-Tapao RTAFB Photos

1. K9 Kennel Office 1972-1973



2. K9 1 ½ ton posting truck.



3. Bunkers on Perimeter, viewed from SP K-9 Posting truck.



4. View front of kennels of B52 Parking Area.

5. Distant shot of Base flight line.



6. Bomb Dump (where he took out the gate shack)



7. Water Buffalo in front of K9 Kennel Office



8. Buddha Mountain



9. Base Perimeter off of kennels.





10. Left. Entrance door
to My Hootch.

11. Right. SPS Armory.
Sentry Sign (*I kept mine*
posted on My Door).

WARNING
THIS AREA PATROLLED BY
SENTRY DOG TEAMS



12. Left. & 13. Right. SPS Hootch area.



14. Hooch Garden area.



15. My jeep and the 1½ ton posting truck
at hootches; in for lunch from the kennels.



16. SPS Hootch area.



17. Base Beer.

18. SPS Barracks.



19. A view from Barracks towards flight line



20. Concession and Laundry Area.



21. NCO Club in background.



22. View of perimeter behind Barracks



23. Looking back towards main gate



24. Transport plane approaching off east gate. Off to the right behind palm trees is the area a B-52 crashed we all wrote about.



25. Entrance to SPS Operations.



26. Close up of C-141 landing.



27. U-Tapao Beach House.

28 - 29. South China Sea off U-Tapao Beach . . . the BUFF (Big Ugly Fat Fellow) B52 bomber coming home . . . Fishing Trip Boat returning . . . and on the right, a Tower in the background. All in all, a little slice of heaven.

[One thing I enjoy about members' submitted photos, is often the photographer stood in one place and did a quick series of hand-panning photos. I like to put them together so that we can see what a breath taking beach (or scenery) he was trying to preserve. Nice job Vernon Anderson. Above Composite required six photos and eight splices to assemble the view (not enough time to do justice to it, so I'll try to return and make'r perfect.] *Don Poss*

30. View back up the beach.



31. Above. Thor S497: My K9 Partner.



32 Top-Right. SSgt Vernon J Anderson and K9 Partner THOR S497 prior to posting out.



33. Row-2-Right. THOR "Driving My Truck".

34. Right. USMC patrol around base perimeter.



35. C-141 landing over the beach, and sea approach.



36. B52 in parking area.



37. Waitress at the U-Tapao Beach Restaurant.



38. My House Girl in garden area during Water Festival.

