

## **First Post**

by [Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453](#)

A far away land standing your first post at night  
Watching the night fill with stars  
Trying so hard to control your fright  
Thinking of family at home away so far

Ears alert listening to each night sound  
Nerves on edge seeking demons in the dark  
Waiting for the coffee truck to come around  
Jumping as off in the distance a k-9 barks

Watching all around for a threat  
All alone with fear grabbing your thoughts  
Your hands wet shirt damp with sweat  
Trying to remember all you were taught

Recalling all that the Sergeant had said  
Keep out of the light don't fall asleep  
Stay calm think don't lose your head  
Off in the distance the roar of a jeep

You can overcome the inter fear  
Coffee hot and steamy now in your hand  
Realizing your new brothers are near  
Learning to stand up like a man

Your relief now takes your place  
Looking skyward you see dawns light  
Heading off now with friendly faces  
Do you remember your first post at night

*Edwin J. Smith*  
*The Old Cowboy Poet*  
*March 15th 2009*