

Tay Ninh Mail Run

During the Summer of 1971, I flew a lot of MACV (Green Beret) missions out of Tay Ninh, near the Cambodian Border, and I usually had to arrive at seven a.m. which meant a six a.m. take off from my base at Long Binh Plantation but one evening, when I checked the flight schedule, I found out that the next morning I would start with a passenger pickup at Saigon's Hotel-3 heliport at seven a.m. which means my initial take off was a half hour later than normal. The next morning I took off at six thirty and arrived at Saigon on time.

There an enlisted man walked out with a mail bag and a passenger in a business suit! He told me he was a U.S. Postal Inspector and was following a letter that was in the bag. It seems that someone's mother wrote her Congressman and said her son was not getting his mail so the Postal Inspector had been following that one letter all the way from Nowhere, Nebraska. I asked him if he knew where we were going and if he had a side arm and he said he knew and was not armed. An hour later we arrived at Tay Ninh and he got out with the bag of mail while we did a few local hops before lunch.

After lunch, we had the typical mail drops at Ruff Puff (Vietnamese National Guard) camps which had a few MACV advisers at each one..... with the guy in the suit. At one stop the Inspector got out for a few minutes to watch "the letter" being delivered and then we returned to Tay Ninh.

Now normally we would be released at Tay Ninh at five p.m. and arrive back at our base at about six p.m. making it a 12-hour day (not including preflight and the crew chief's daily inspection, etc. after we landed) but this day they released us at about three thirty to drop off the Inspector at Saigon before returning to our base. So we arrived home an hour earlier than normal.

I have often wondered how much that Inspector's trip to and from Vietnam cost u\$ tax payer\$!

Oh well, just another day flying the friendly skies of Sunny South Vietnam.

Rogue Scholar

[Tom Nadeau](#)

Jacksonville, FL