

5 FEB 68

SIR!

Sorry I don't have any of that gold embossed stationery like yours, this will have to do. First of all congratulations. Must be quite a feeling of accomplishment. Now that they have your body in shape they must work on your mind I guess. The last week here has been sort of wild. Two Battalions of NVA hit Nha Trang and raised some hell. It all began the first day of Tet, Vietnam's largest National Holiday. It's customary for them to shoot fireworks, yell etc. in order to scare away the evil spirits - So at 12:00 things got a bit noisy to say the least, combination of fireworks, weapons, flares, etc. Well after about a half hour of this it was discovered that someone was shouting back and soon the mortars started coming in. That's a hell of a feeling when they start "walking" then in. Closest ones were a couple of hundred yds away and didn't come in closer. Lucky we are in the middle of the compound. The 5th Special forces gr. has perimeter defence and started pounding the hills with 105's 155's mortar - machine guns etc. Yes it was noisy -

NVA used fireworks + celebration to advantage and just walked into down town about 12:30 when people went back to their homes there were visitors. About 1:15 an estimated 60 NVA attacked Roberts compound - the closest military installation to town - mostly MPs there and a civilian office of some kind. All these gooks just came walking down the street, pretending to be drunk ARVN troops. Only two MPs at the gate, one at each corner across the front. So this one had guy pops out of the mob and lobbs a couple of grenades at the gate. Needless to say the guards were a bit surprised. First grenade was a dud so they had time to react. 2nd blew the gate open and in they came, some at least. 37 men made it past that front fence - it's a wonder what 4 MPs with M-16's can do. The rest just started running through the compound shooting up everything in site and lobbing grenades around. One MP climbed upon the water tower in order to get an advantage point - he was shot by one of his own men or a sniper - a number more had guys killed, and 6 captured by the Harems as they tried to

escape over the back fence. Only 5 MP's were killed 2 at gate the one on tower and a couple of others. Unfortunately one of our photographers, who was there on assignment to get pix of a VC copse, was killed his assistant was wounded. so things were kind of quiet around here for awhile - he had a month before he went home - the worst thing about the whole thing I think is that one of the "VC" was an "American" who worked on the compound in the civilian office - [CONFIDENTIAL] don't that the shits!! - the next couple of nites were spent taking care of snipers and routing them from down town. things are pretty well cleaned up now. Even the buildings that were shot up are fixed already - even the bars have new paint, glass etc and are ready for the GI business again. A lot of whores need some action. (walking US) Now that about all the "war stories" I have for the moment and other than that not much happens. I think I told you that I am now in charge of the supply section now - still haven't moved into the new lab yet. We are having a hard time getting the

plywood for the walls. Also they are arguing about either central air conditioning or individual units. Nobody can figure out what's going on. - Can you believe how warm it has been at home as of late, maybe that's cause I sent home some heat recently in the mail. Haven't heard from Don since I got here, ~~he~~ must be he is busy with his students. - My wife and kids are fine I guess, couldn't give you a on the hand report though, you're closer than I am. Julie, the youngest, is crawling all over the place I guess and likes to eat magazines, newspapers etc. Jill is a bit behind on mobility. They will be over a year old when I get home, seems kind of funny, - they will wonder who the hell I am!! Hope they aren't used to sleeping with their mom. cause that will have to stop!! Best go now - work hard and don't hurry to get here - catch ya later.

Steve