



Forrest G. Brandt

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Fifty years ago, July 1969, 1LT Forrest Brandt returned to CONUS (Continental United States). Few days since have I not had some thought or memory of Vietnam and the people I served with. Willy Johanson, Wayne Yeager, and Dominic Sunday are still in contact with me and I appreciate their continued friendship. I also remember those who didn't make it back, Fairmont High School buddy Doug Knott, and Phi Delt brother, Al Lofton.

Coming home was not easy. I remember thinking as I walked toward the terminal at Travis AFB that I should get on the next plane going back. I knew what to do each day in Vietnam, but what was I going to do tomorrow here? I spent two days in San Francisco staying with Jim Farwell, a lieutenant I had shared a house with in 67 - 68. Then down to LA to visit Bob Fox, a friend from high school who had spent 65 - 66 with a radio intercept company in I Corps on the border with North Vietnam. I got called a few names, usually by someone younger than me, one kid spit at me and ran, but mostly I felt out of place and ignored. Finally, it was time to take the final step home.

Courtesy of my 15 minutes of fame on NPR here's what I was thinking that day:

