



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Veteran: Jim Ross



Branch: US Army

Division: Military Police, Dog Handler

Rank: SP4

Dates of Service: 1972 - 1975

Campaigns/Theatre: Saigon, Vietnam

Personal Story: I grew up in Cle Elum where my mom raised Alaskan Malamutes. I grew up with dogs. I love dogs. I went to the Military Police Academy in Fort Gordon, Georgia and trained to be a dog handler for the Military Police. I had additional training in Okinawa. My job in Vietnam was to find and recover police dogs after their handlers were lost in battle. Many times we would find police dogs that would not leave their deceased handlers. Some of the locals would take in the dogs. We would return these dogs to Okinawa where they were retrained, if possible. Military police dogs were bomb sniffers and saved lives by sacrificing themselves during missions to locate land mines and other hazards. Dogs were always an important part of my life and this was a way to give back.

Documented by: Nan Darbous

American Legion Post 234 Vietnam War Commemoration Committee

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