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Interview with Terry Gough

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Refuses to allow even this to
be quoted [telecon 0945, 6 Mar 90].
Says was for use only of
Jodie Conover's seminar paper!
Refuses to discuss LBJ!

Interview with Terry Gough
Nov. 3, 1989

202. 272-0326 (a.m. only)
Center for Military History
Wash DC

Terry Gough was a guard at LBJ with 557 MP Company at USARVN stockade from Nov. 1967 - Jan. 1969. He currently works for the Center for Military History, Washington D.C. .

His MP company was one of two MP companies stationed at LBJ.

The stockade area cover an area roughly the size of two square city blocks. The prisoners quarters were tents with wooden floors. There were permanent administration buildings that were located in the central compound - there were two other compounds where prisoners were kept. Prisoners were kept in 3 separate areas depending on the crime they committed-

- minimum- could be escorted without an armed guard
- medium- prisoners needed an armed guard escort
- maximum- prisoners could not leave compound

Most prisoners had daily work detail outside the stockade. There was an area behind the stockade nicknamed "big red" which was used to fill sandbags - was called "big red" because it was so hot and because of the red clay. Terry Gough equated this activity with that of making license plates in state prisons.

The prison population was roughly 725-775 at the time of the riot, or roughly 200 over maximum. Prison was built to accommodate 550-575 prisoners. He felt riot was racially motivated. At the time of the riot he was located in guard tower #1 at the entrance of the stockade. Fire destroyed much of the stockade.

Prisoners were not to remain at LBJ for more than six mos., - they (prisoners) were there for a variety of reasons- murder, AWOL drugs, refusing to go to the field.

Routine before riot

- reveille at 5:30, chow, then prisoners would be assigned work details at 6:00
- prisoners would work until noon, return to the stockade for lunch, then return to their work assignments until 16:00
- prisoners had free time between end of work detail and evening meal
- lights out between 21:00 and 22:00

Routine after riot

- increased level of discipline; for prisoners who had committed infractions, there was a 2 week confinement in special area
 - in this area, were a lot of physical work such as calisthenics, dismounted drills
 - still was separation into min/med/max

Terry Gough notes p. 2

Mr. Gough was very nice , but he definitely steered clear of any personal accounts. He wonders why someone would want to write a book about LBJ and doubts there is much information available concerning LBJ. He has not kept in touch with any of his fellow guards nor remembers anyone I could contact. Mr. Gough would like a copy of my term paper when I am finished. I also asked if he would make himself available to speak with Dr. Currey; he will.

Himself now a historian, he denigrated oral history, yet admitted to dearth of Army records on LBJ.