

## **Addendum to Transcript, written by Joseph Schwimmer, January 2024**

During the South Vietnamese military revolt, I was in Da Nang and told to stand down from my flying missions and go to Cam Lo bridge with a platoon and to secure it. Also, to block the road so none of the opposing forces could meet each other and start a small war. It was a simple trestle bridge, and we set up sandbag positions at both ends and then sat and waited, expecting nothing to happen. Along about noon or so a truck rolling forward with a jeep in front and troops following. This was an Oh Shit moment! Radio back for instructions, got, "Don't let them pass and attack the Vietnamese air force." "How do I do that? There is a tank coming?" Answer, "Use your head – don't do anything stupid." General in jeep arrived, said, "Get out of way". I hopped on his jeep to talk to him. He pointed to the tank and his troops, and I took out my .45, put it to his head, and said, "Try anything and you won't make it."

A correspondent was with them, took my picture. My fellow officers said later, "You can weld those bars on your collar."

This event was witnessed by a correspondent in Vietnam:

There was unrest in South Vietnam, and the generals deposed the president. They were in contention as to who would be supreme, the army or the air force commander Thieu. The Navy at Da Nang took the side of Thieu, and I was traveling with the army General Minh who was going to the Navy base at Da Nang for consultation. He was traveling in a jeep followed by a tank and a column of troops. We reached a trestle bridge that was guarded by a US force of Marines. They had sandbagged both ends of the bridge and impeded our progress. The general demanded passage through the bridge and told the Marine lieutenant in charge where he was going was a Vietnamese matter and not his concern and he should get out of the way. The Marine lieutenant said, "Sir, I have orders that you will not pass. Please turn around and return to your base." The general pointed to the tank and said, "You cannot stop me." The lieutenant then jumped on the hood of the jeep and drew his pistol and put it at the general's head and said, "You will not make it." After this insult, the Vietnamese general he turned the column and went back to his base in protest to the actions of the foreigners.