SOBBING AFTER NAM

From Ken Anderson's "Night Dogs"

Hanson, a cop three years out of Nam with Special Forces, reflects on the early days of his return to the world.

"When he felt his chest tighten up, he'd sigh, set the coffee down, and rest his forearms on his knees before the sobbing started. When it was over and he could breathe, he'd wipe his eyes with his fingers and the heels of his hands and finish the coffee. It only lasted a minute or two and then he was fine. Some sort of tension-reducing mechanism."