

**6499th Provisional Force/SP  
Reopened Takhli RTAFB 1972  
2022, by Don Poss**

**Regarding the 6499<sup>th</sup> Provisional Force at Takhli RTAFB 1972:**

The Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF) is an association of Vietnam War veterans who served in the USAF, with Air Police (APS) and Security Police Squadrons (SPS) in Vietnam and Thailand.

VSPA has one deceased member who lists his assignments in Thailand as having served with the 56<sup>th</sup> SPS, and Takhli with the 6499<sup>th</sup>/SP. Little is known about that assignment, however, at <https://vspa.com/tk-rtafb-history.htm> you will find what is known about the closing and opening of Takhli, and USAF airmen duties as detached to the 6499th Provisional Force/SP when Takhli was reopened. You are certainly correct about the secretiveness regarding the 6499<sup>th</sup>, and that is mentioned in the history link above.

The last USAF personnel left Takhli RTAFB by April 1971. However, on 30 March 1972, the North Vietnamese Army sent 120,000 NVA regular troops into South Vietnam. The attack has been called the “*Spring ’72 Invasion*,” “*Easter Offensive*,” or “*Spring Offensive*.”

The USAF reacted to the NVA “*Spring Offensive*” invasion quickly and with many resources. One of these was Operation Constant Guard III, the largest movement that the Tactical Air Command (TAC) had ever pulled off, and in nine days deployed 72 F-4Ds of the 49th TFW from Holloman AFB, New Mexico, to Takhli. The move included more than 3,000 personnel and 1,600 tons of cargo.

The “6499th Provisional” was the first unit number given to the Security Police assigned to the newly reopened Takhli RTAFB, followed by at least “two or three additional designations,” according to one of the first dog handlers to arrive. About 20 USAF sentry dog teams came to Takhli’s grand reopening from Clark AFB.

The USAF left Takhli RTAFB under *Operation Palace Lightning* in 1975. Takhli’s F-111s were sent to Korat, which did not send home the last of its aircraft until December of that year.