

**TẾT 1968**  
**January 30-31, 1968**  
***Crack the Sky, Shake the Earth!***  
**by Don Poss**

North Vietnam ordered a Tết Offensive against South Vietnam to begin on January 30-31, 1968. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, an attacking force of 84,000 North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong troops were in position for attacking the South's military bases, cities, and villages.

This is the story of one of the battles that ensued across South Vietnam: The Battle of Biên Hòa, against the Province of Biên Hòa, and Biên Hòa Air Base, defended by the USAF 3<sup>rd</sup> Security Police Squadron.

At 3:00 am on 31 January 1968, the Battle of Biên Hòa began with an attacking NVA and VC force of 1,400 troops, upon the Biên Hòa Air Base perimeter and Bunker Hill-10. First alarm was sounded by USAF Sentry Dog Handler Airman Press when his Sentry Dog, Diablo, strongly alerted. Within seconds, Airman Press was wounded, and Diablo was shot dead.

Presented here are stories of several participants in defense of Biên Hòa Air Base and Province. Although the Tết Offensive was a major military defeat for North Vietnam in which more than half of its forces were killed, it was the turning point for the war.

In the earlier hours of 31 January 1968, North Vietnam's Tết Offensive attack commenced with the command...

***"Crack the Sky, Shake the Earth"***



*North Vietnam's ferocious Tết Offensive of 30-31 January 1968, began with the command "Crack the Sky, Shake the Earth". The North was met by South Vietnam's overwhelming defense that collectively killed an estimated half the North's 84,000 attacking troops. The Offensive was the turning point of the war.*

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