

VIETNAM

Biên Hòa AB Attacked!

1 NOVEMBER 1964

© 2008 News submitted by Robert Anisko

TSN, 6220th APS; BH, 34th APS; QN, 34th APS 1962-1963; 1964-65



34th Air Base Group, Air Police Squadron, Bien Hoa AB/ Qui Nhon AB (1964-1965), 6220th Air Base Group/33rd Tactical Group APS Tan Son Nhut Air Base (1962-1963)

AXU = VIETNAMESE AMP *Lab of Law*
For U.S. Forces In Vietnam *Lee*



Daily News Briefs



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VC Mortar Bien Hoa Airbase

late 59

Six Killed, 19 Wounded In Early Morning Attack

Communist Viet Cong guerrillas struck at sprawling Bien Hoa Airbase 12 miles southeast of Saigon shortly after midnight Sunday morning with a mortar attack that left four U.S. servicemen dead and 19 more wounded. The barrage also damaged or destroyed 27 aircraft at the base.

The attack began at 12:56 a.m. and reports from a U.S. military spokesman said that the mortar fire lasted between 15 and 20 minutes.

The spokesman said that the best information available at the time indicated that the Viet Cong used three 81mm mortars to rain a barrage of 25 to 30 shells on the airstrip and the neighboring compounds housing Americans based at Bien Hoa.

Of the 27 aircraft hit by the enemy mortars, 26 were USAF B-57 bombers. Five of the main engine bombers were destroyed, eight received major damage and the remainder sustained damage of a minor nature, the spokesman said.

In addition to the B-57's, four U.S. helicopters suffered damage and three A-1H Skyraiders belonging to the VNAP sustained major damage. A fourth Skyraider was reported to have crashed on take-off while acting to respond to the attack.

Most of the casualties were removed to the Navy Hospital in Saigon where they are reported in serious condition. Two Vietnamese guards were killed and two other Vietnamese were wounded in addition to the American casualties.

Sgt. Roger A. Carter, a helicopter mechanic, questioned at the hospital said that the attack woke him from his sleep and as he was getting dressed a shell rained into the roof of his B.H. He said that two servicemen — friends — were killed in the explosion.

"I was lucky," he said.

Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, commander of the Military Assistance Command, visited the base after earlier talking to wounded men at the hospital in Saigon.

Republic Celebrates First Anniversary Of Nov. 1 Revolution

EVERY BODY CELEBRATING - NO GUARDS

Newly elected Vietnamese Chief of State Phan Khac Son and Prime Minister Huong and former Chief of State Tran Van Huong led the nation in a two day celebration marking the first anniversary of the November 1st revolution yesterday morning at a three-hour ceremony and parade at Bach Dang Quay along the Saigon River.

The parade, in which Vietnam's two newly elevated leaders appeared publicly for the first time, marked the first 12 months since the successful overthrow of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem that ended his nine-year regime.

Represented in dress uniforms, elements of the Vietnamese Armed Forces military raded before Chief of State Son and Prime Minister Huong and former Chief of State Maj. Gen. Huong Van Minh and former Prime Minister Maj. Gen. Nguyen Khanh.

Among the array of distinguished Vietnamese civilian and military officials were members of the diplomatic corps representing the U.S. government were Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, and other U.S. civilian and military officials.

The military review was preceded by a review of the honor guard by the Chief of State Son who was dressed in the traditional Vietnamese costume.

President, State, Defense Heads Confer On Attack

New York, Nov. 1 (UPI) — President Johnson Saturday night summoned the Secretary of State and Defense to a White House meeting this afternoon to review "all aspects" of the communist guerrilla raid which resulted in destruction of four B-57 bombers and the death of four U.S. servicemen near Saigon in South Vietnam.

Press Secretary George E. Ruddy said Johnson, here last night for a campaign speech, had been "keeping in close contact" with both Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara about first reports of a Viet Cong attack that occurred during the night on the Bien Hoa Airfield in South Vietnam.

Ruddy said Johnson expected "to receive more complete reports of the action in the evening."

"By that time full reports will be available from our representatives in Saigon," Ruddy said.

(Later UPI reported that

WORLD NEWS

Air Collision Kills Six In Army Maneuvers In Georgia

AGUSTA, GEORGIA, Oct. 31 (UPI) — Two Army twin-engine transport planes collided in flight during low-level maneuvers today and crashed in a "ball of flame," killing all six persons aboard.

An Army spokesman said six bodies were recovered.

Two hours after the crash, firemen of the scene reported the six apparently were the only occupants of the aircraft.

The planes were part of a formation of four taking part in Air Assault II, a military maneuver involving 32,000 men in the Carolinas and Georgia.

The planes crashed about 18 miles south of Augusta in a wooded area.

LBJ Hits Back At Barry

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (UPI) — President Johnson, in a stinging campaign finale, said Saturday night that Sen. Barry M. Goldwater has learned from the people that "extremism in the pursuit of the presidency is an unpardonable vice."

He added, in completing his parody on his opponent's July nomination acceptance speech, that "moderation in the affairs of the nation is the highest virtue."

Johnson, in one of the hardest hitting denunciations

Attached are some newspaper articles about the first attack on Biên Hòa on 11-1-1964, and a map of Biên Hòa Air Base.

Bob Anisko

LBJ REPLACES B-57S DESTROYED BY REDS

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES
AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE ARMY FORCES FOR SALE
10c DAILY
15c WITH SUPPLEMENTS

Vol. 20, No. 307 AIR EDITION Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1964

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson sought means Sunday to tighten defenses against mortar attacks such as raked a U.S. air base in South Vietnam Saturday, and he immediately replaced the jet bombers destroyed in that strike.

The attack on Bien Hoa airfield near Saigon killed four Americans and destroyed five B-57 twin-engine jet bombers.

The President's moves were announced by the White House after a 75-minute Sunday afternoon meeting between Johnson and top aides including Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, international security affairs adviser McGeorge Bundy, Under Secretary of State George W. Ball and William P. Bundy, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs.

The Administration trembled to regard the attack as serious because of the loss of life and planes, but not as a major development in the war against the communist insurgents. It was seen as an episode of a type difficult to prevent in such a war where the enemy has many opportunities for such hit-and-run surprise attacks.

Presidential Press Secretary George Keedy issued this statement after Johnson was briefed by his advisers:

"The President met with the secretaries of state and defense."
(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)



General Praises



Barracks at Bien Hoa AB near Saigon suffered direct hits by communist Viet Cong mortar fire, Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor (right photo) visits the air base Sunday morning. Wreckage of destroyed bombers is in background. Four Americans were killed during the attack. (AP Radiophoto)

Johnson Replaces B-57s Hit by Reds

(Continued From Page 1)
to receive reports on the Viet Cong rash raid at the Bien Hoa airfield.
"Steps in cooperation with Vietnamese authorities in local defense measures were discussed, and the President was informed that his orders to replace the aircraft lost in the raid had been carried out."

Attack Was Political, Barry Hints

Officials also disclosed Sunday that, as a result of the raid, consideration is being given to using more U.S. personnel in guarding airfields. They said this is being discussed by U.S. authorities in Washington and Saigon and has been taken up with the South Vietnamese government.
The officials said the B-57s had been kept at Bien Hoa in case there was a need for heavy bombing strikes anywhere in the area.
About 40 B-57s were moved into Vietnam after the August Tonkin Gulf incident and are regarded as a tacit threat to communist north Vietnam bases which supply the communist rebels in South Vietnam.
However, officials said they assumed communist leaders recognize that the destruction and

General Praises Defenders

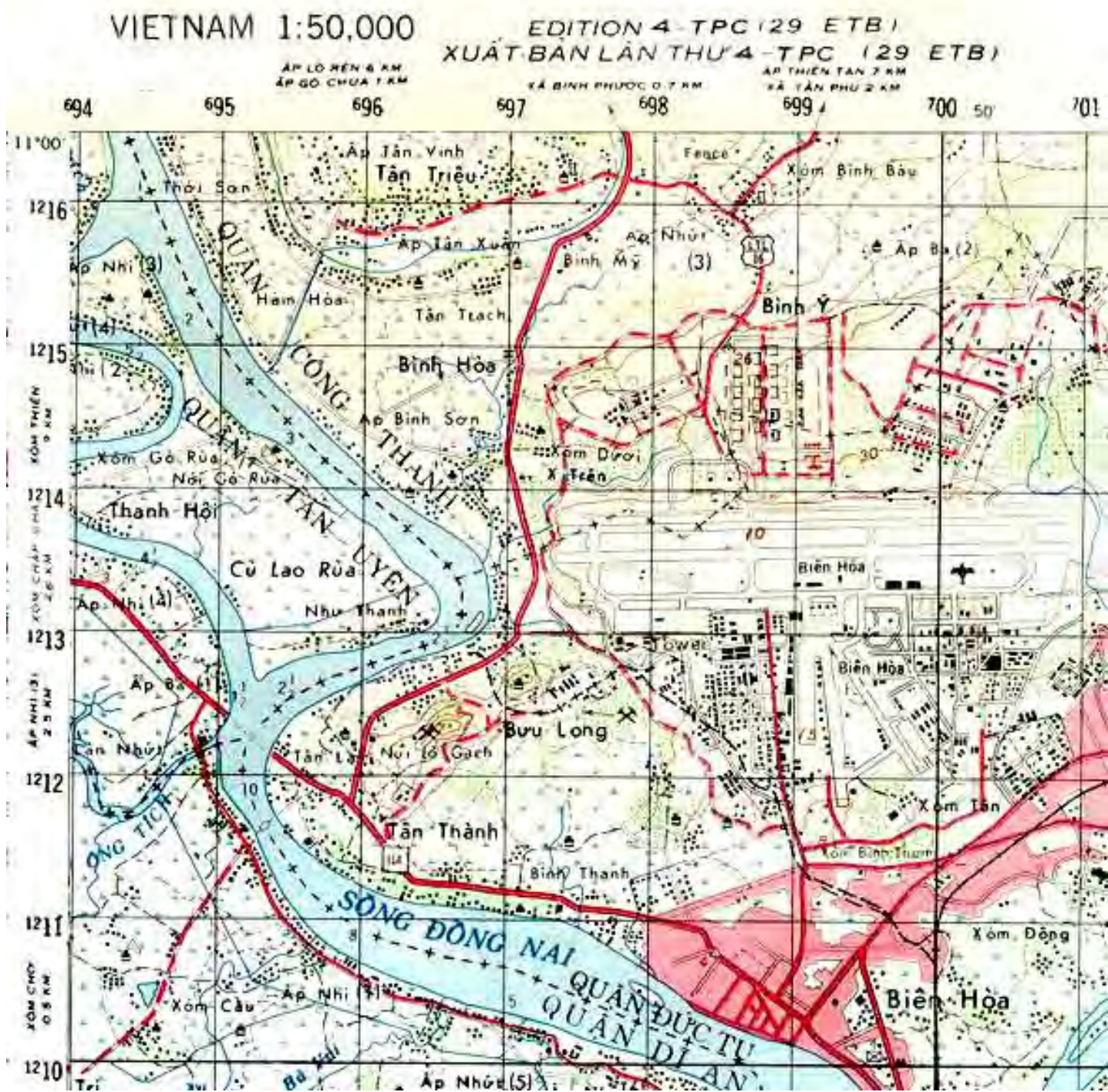
(Continued From Page 1)
safer areas. At Saigon Airport, U.S. jets were moved from one exposed end of the field to another position.
Westmoreland said Vietnamese paratroopers and marines were stationed at Bien Hoa but were unable to move so quickly because of damage of communications and poor communication at night.
Asked why the B-57s had been parked together, Westmoreland said the disadvantage of dispersal of planes is that local security for such planes is more difficult and maintenance is awkward.
Official damage and personnel losses at Bien Hoa, as given by Westmoreland:
Five B-57s destroyed, eight heavily damaged and seven with minor damage.
Four B-47 air-sea rescue helicopters heavily damaged.

Wounded Sergeant Charged Viet Reds

BIEN HOA, South Vietnam (AP)—"Our sergeant's arm was nearly blown away by mortar fragments but he grabbed his rifle and went charging out the door hollering he was to get the Viet Cong for this," a muddy, tired soldier said Sunday.
He was telling about the heavy mortar attack on American installations at Bien Hoa Air Base during which four Americans were killed.
The reaction of American soldiers was generally shock, anger and partial disbelief in the lightning attack after midnight. It was both the boldest and most vicious against American forces in Vietnam to date.
SP4 Richard Haffer of Coakland, N.Y., said his sergeant finally was virtually forced to go to the emergency hospital set up in a mess hall.
Haffer is a member of an American helicopter company whose quarters were hit by the Viet Cong fire. Extremely accurate fire scored five direct hits on him.
Half of the American wounded and all the dead were counted

Candidates Set Finale

(Continued From Page 1)
full electrical speed, Humphrey was seeking votes in California and in Goldwater's home state.
IAFRTS reported Humphrey said in Los Angeles that Republican Party workers have orders to "harass potential voters" into



We Take Care of Our Own

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