submitted by Bob Potter, Vestal, NY USAF 6988th SS.

I am sending in *Stars and Stripes* (Air Edition) from 2JUL65 (the day after the sapper attack) which I cut out and kept, describing the attack on Đà Nàng. It states in the opening that one Air Policeman, standing guard near the south end of the field, was killed when the suicide squad sprayed his post with small arms fire. I was surprised at how yellow the headline article came out. Guess something 43 years old is going to show it's age. *Not like you and I!* 

Also have some pictures from the *Bangkok Post* of the damaged and destroyed aircraft. Since these are old newspaper articles and obviously in delicate condition, I will send a copy. I don't have a scanner and am new to the computer. Also, have not gotten to my slides out yet as job search is "Number One" at the present time. By the way, my best buddies are Marines and am looking forward to possibly becoming an associate member of their local shooting team.

My *Club Cards* I had laminated last year as they were getting pretty frayed. I was surprised at how yellow the headline article came out since I asked to have it done in color because of the *Stars and Stripes* on the front. Guess something 32 years old is going to show it's age. Not like you and I! Have no aerial pictures of the Air Base, just some of the coast and villages we flew over during takeoff. Was on the site this afternoon enjoying the pictures since they were so familiar. You really have done a great job on the Web Site! Wife and I were at fellow Viet Vet's home this evening for a swim and that sort of did us in.

#### Robert C. Potter



### Suicide Unit Hits Da Nana

(Continued From Page 1) south end of the airstrip at about 1:30 a.m. From a position between of the defense perimeter, the shadowy figures running away. guerrillas poured about 30 rounds from the plane park. of 81mm shells onto the edge of the runway.

from their tents and trailers sur- their mortars. rounding the aircraft.

At the same time the suicide sound was cutting through the penetrated within two miles of ty with two tractors. the base and unleashed the bar rage of mortar rounds.

Most of the mortar fire landed beyond the airplane parking area. And at least a dozen rounds hit the runway.

Damage from the mortar fire was called "minimal" and did not put the vital base out of operation.

grenades they sprayed the area with automatic weapons and small arms fire.

attack was over,

There was no immediate indication of whether any of the Vist Cong infiltrators were killed,

Reports of shooting around the the base and the southern limits flightline tallied with reports of

A Marine spokesman said Vietnumese troops were responsible The suicide squad fied when for the soctor of the permeter American crewmen scrambled in which the Viet Cong set up

American airmen risked their lives to race in among the tangled barbed wire defeases of blaxing sircraft. They hauled a the base, another Viet Cong squad number of Delta Daggers to safe-

The base, 185 miles north of Saigon, is used by the U.S. Air Force for many of the bombing raids against communist north Victuam and for support attacks against Vict Cong ground raids in the area. The base and the nearby city of Da Nang have been protected since March by the 3d U.S. Marine Amphibious As the sound touched off the Porce, which numbers about 15,-000 men.

Marine mortars answered the One eyewitness said he saw communist mortar fire soon after about six Vict Cong running back it began. Spotter planes flew toward the barbed wire after the overhead, dropping flares in an attempt to locate the enemy-

Marine pairols hurried out beyond the perimeter. All roads in and around the town were closed and police and troops patrolled the streets.

All personnel were evacuated from the southern end of the runway as soon as the planes were hauled to safety. None were permitted back into the area because it was leared bombs aboard the damaged aircraft might explode.

Two of the American wounded were members of A Det., 509th Fighter Interceptor Sq., They were cut by flying glass when explasions blew out the windows of the trailers in which they were sleeping.

. The three other wounded were marines.



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BANGROK, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1963

Price 1.50 Buh!

VIET CONG SHELL TIGHTLY U.S. AIRBASE GUARDED

## Da Nang suicide raid

MILLION DAMAGE TO US AIRCRAFT

DA NANG, Vietnam, Thursday

A small communist suicide squad raced into the vital Da Nang air base early today and used hand grenades to destroy three American planes.

Under cover of a mortar barrage, the Vict Cong killed one air policeman and damaged several plants. Five other Americans were wounded slightly during the attack.

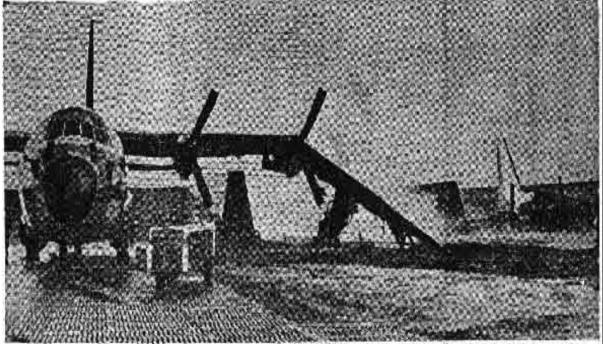
The six policeman, standing goard near the confidence of the their, was killed when the squad sprayed his acts with send to sense for.

his post with small arms fire.
The hisochers distroyed two US Air Force C-190 Hercules transport planes and one F 102 jet fighter. One other Recoules transport and two other F-102s were damaged.



VIET CONG SURPRISE ATTACK ON DA NANG AB DESTROYED F-102 DELTA DAGGER (FOREGROUND).

# ACTION: Da Nang



THE BROKEN WING OF A C-130 TRANSPORT RESTS ON GROUND AFTER VIET CONG ATTACK ON DA NANG AB. TAIL IRIGHT) IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF SECOND C-130.



### MORTAR FIRE

American authorities at first believed the planes had been destroyed by the mortar fire. But investigation proved the Viet Cong squad penetrated the much-vaunted defenses of the base to pitch their grenades.

Sirem at the base wailed as soon as the first mortar hit the south end of the siretrip at about 1:30 a.m.

From a position between the base and the southern limits of the defence perimeter, the guerrilles poured 27 rounds of 81mm shells onto the edge of the runway.

The squad withdrew while American crewmen scrambled from their tent and trailers surrounding the aircraft.

The montars landed with deadly accuracy, disintegrating one Delta Dagger jet. Cockpits on the other two jets were damaged heavily.

Some 25 US pilots and crewmen were sleeping in trailers and tents near the planes at the tip of the base's 10,000 foot long rawsy. Two of the pilots were reported injured by flying glass.

### TURMOIL

The mortar attack threw the base into a state of turmoil. Most personnel within the base were sleeping, but maintenance crews were awake. Flares lit up the sky most of the night over the base as reconnaissance planes huzzed the sky on the lookout for possible enemy troop movements. Only 90 miles (144km) from the North Vietnamore border the base has been considered a prime target of the Viet Cong since the United States began air strikes against North Vietnam in February. The base

is located about two miles [3.2 km) from Da Nang city, South Victosm's second largest city with a population of 150,000.

### SWEEP

US Marine and Victormess forces lautiched a big sweep at dawn through the area from which the morter fire appeared to have come.

Four of the jets escaped damage, and were moved to the centre of the runway during the early morning. Within four and one half hours after the harrage, three new Fl02 jets were flown to Da Nang as replacements.

Pacific Stars and Stripes Newspaper, dated Jul 2, 1965, pages 1 and 24

VC Attack Đà Nàng

ĐÂ NÂNG, Republic of Vietnam (UPD— A small communist suicide squad raced into Đà Nàng AB early Thursday and used hand grenades to destroy three American planes.

Under cover of a mortar barrage, the Viet Cong killed one air policeman and damaged several other planes. Five

Da Nang AB: 23rd ABG/AP, Sapper Attack: Account by, Stars and Stripes articles. 1 Jul. 1965.

other Americans were wounded slightly during the attack.

The air policeman, standing guard near the south end of the field, was killed when the squad sprayed his post with small arms fire. The attackers destroyed two U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport planes and one F-102 jet fighter. One other Hercules transport and two other F-102s were damaged.

American authorities at first believed the planes had been destroyed by the mortar fire. But investigation proved the Viet Cong squad penetrated the defenses of the base to pitch their grenades.

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)

(Continued From Page 1)

1:30 a.m. From a position between the base and the southern limits of the defense perimeter, the guerrillas poured about 30 rounds of 81mm shells onto the edge of the runway. The suicide squad fled when American crewmen scrambled from their tents and trailers surrounding the aircraft.

Reports of shooting around the flight line t tallied with reports of shadowy' figures running away from the plane park.

A Marine spokesman said Vietnamese troops were responsible for the sector of the perimeter in which the Viet Cong set up their mortars.

American airmen risked their lives to race in among the blazing aircraft. They hauled a number of Delta Daggers to safety with two tractors.

The base, 385 miles north of Saigon, is used by the U.S. Air Force for many of the bombing raids against communist north Vietnam and for support attacks against Viet Cong ground raids in the area. The base and the nearby city of Đà Nàng have been protected since March by the 3d U.S. Marine Amphibian Force, which numbers about 1,000 men.

Marine mortars answered the communist mortar fire soon after it began. Spotter planes flew overhead, dropping flares in an attempt to locate the enemy. Marine patrols hurried out beyond the perimeter. All roads in and around the town were closed and police and troops patrolled the streets.

All personnel were evacuated from the southern end of the runway as soon as the planes were hauled to safety. None were permitted back into the area because it was feared bombs aboard the damaged aircraft might explode.

Two of the American wounded were members of A Det., 509th Fighter Interceptor Sq. They were cut by flying glass when explosions blew out the windows of the trailers in which they were sleeping. The three other wounded were marines.

At 6 a.m. following the attack, three jet fighters roared into the battered base to replace the three Delta Daggers that were damaged or destroyed.

The trio left Clark AB in the Philippines almost immediately after the Red shells began falling on  $\Theta$ à Nàng. They were on the ground only 4 1/2 hours after the attack.

Return to SSgt Jensen's page

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