

VIETNAM PHU CAT AB

Towers and Bunkers

37th SPS (c.1 Aug 1966 - 31 Mar 1970); 1041st CSPS(T) (Jan-Jul 1967); 12th SPS (31 Mar 1970 - 17 Nov 1971)
© 2009, by VSPA



1a. Phù Cát AB, Main Gate & Tower. "Welcome to Phù Cát A.B., R.V.N."
Note second tower at left-center. *Photo by unknown.*



1b. Phù Cát AB, Main Gate & Tower.

Photo by unknown.



2. Phù Cát AB, Front Gate and Tower Duty with QC.

Photo by Bill Marshall, LM 85, PC, 37th SPS, 1968-1969.



3. Phù Cát AB, Bunker. Jeep in background. *Photo by Bill Marshall, LM 85, PC, 37th SPS, 1968-1969.*



4. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower and small Bunker. Post truck to right.
Photo by Don Bishop, LM 389, PC, 37th SPS, 1969-1970.

Phu Cat Security Guards Learn to Battle Loneliness

By Sgt. Ken Hacker
PHU CAT — He may come from the estates of Beverly Hills or the Chicago Ghetto. His education may consist of a high school diploma or a bachelor of science degree with a major in advanced, modern sociological differentiations.

Here, his environment is different and he is responsible for the security of several thousand human lives and billions of dollars worth of property and aircraft.

"He" is an Air Force security force member with the 37th Security Police Squadron here. Before coming to the Republic of Vietnam his job may have consisted of an eight-hour shift as a security policeman handing out traffic tickets to speeders, checking seat belts, investigating accidents or inspecting passes at the gate to an Air Force installation.

Now he's "where the action is." There's more expected of him here, and he in turn rises to meet the need.

His eight-hour shift routine has turned into a 10-hour day, seven day week. He now carries twice as many weapons and three times as much ammunition. And in the case of the sentry tower guard, the only other person he may see for the entire day is his supervisor or flight chief.

His hours are different now. Instead of the usual eight-to-five shift, he may have to adjust himself to starting work at noon and knocking off at 10 p.m. His loneliness will be centered in a 60-foot tower, so far out from the center of the base, that if rain were to make the road impassable, the only contact he would have with others would be by radio or field phone.

Instead of checking passes and uniforms, his duties now include defending up to 3,000 yards of the installation's perimeter. An ominous order lodges in his mind — watch for the ever-present enemy.

He is alone in his vigil except for the semi-frequent visits by fellow security policemen in armored personnel carriers and his flight chief. His only other companions are the insects, his shadow, birds and a voice over the phone.

When asked how he fought the loneliness, one guard said, "Well you can sing, twiddle your thumbs or talk to yourself. But when you start answering yourself, you know it's time to change jobs."

TSgt. Barry E. Mann, chief of A-Flight, is responsible for 48 men. He stated in a recent interview, "These men realize that I'm not a chaplain, but will confide in me readily with their personal problems. They're out there alone for 10 hours a day and they have plenty of time to think."



A1C Daniel R. Hoffman
Long Climb to Loneliness

U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Bill Hadd

5. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower. News Article (featuring A1C Daniel Hoffman).
submitted by Don Bishop, LM 389, PC, 37th SPS, 1969-1970.



6a. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower and Bunker. Floodlight (above bunker) illuminates river area.
Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



6b. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower and Bunker.
Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



7. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower and M60's view of Hill-151. *Lock'n Load!* 1969.
Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



8. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Bunker and M60. A last look at the twilight. 1969.
Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



9a. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Bunker M60. 1969.

Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



9b. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Bunker and M60. 1969. Close up.

Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



10a. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Gate-Tower, Air Police post. 1965-1966.

Photo by unknown.



10b. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Gate-Tower, Air Police post. Close up. 1965-1966.

Photo by unknown.



11. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower. View from a Gate Tower. Civilian Vietnamese workers outside gate.
Photo by David Hayes, LM 462, CRB, 12th SPS; PC, 37th APS, 1967-1968.



12. Phù Cát AB, Tower view, near POL. M60 and M16. 1967.
Photo by Hopkinson.



13. Phù Cát AB, Tango-Tower.
Photo by Jack Hatcher.



15. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower.
Photo by John P. Webster Jr.



16. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower.
Photo by John P. Webster Jr.



14. Phù Cát AB, Perimeter Tower view of hangers.
Photo by Moore.

We Take Care of Our Own

[Click to Report BROKEN LINKS or Photos, or Comment](#)

© Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF) 1995-2018. All Rights Reserved.