

18) News a - Phan Rang SPs TDY to Biên Hòa for base defense!  
Article as to why Phan Rang SP's were sent there. (circa Jan 1968)

# Bien Hoa Air Base Blasted by Sappers

First Bombardment of Phan Rang

SAIGON — Communist artillery thundered closer to Saigon than ever before Monday night, bombarding a former American air base where earlier in the day explosions blasted South Vietnam's biggest ammunition depot.

The attack with 130mm artillery, the biggest and most accurate guns in the North Vietnamese army, came hours after saboteurs touched off explosives inside the American-built Bien Hoa Air Base 14 miles northeast of Saigon, United Press International reported.

Earlier, authorities indicated the bomb depot was hit by rockets, but Saigon command spokesmen said Thursday it was the work of sapper squads. They reported that 24 South Vietnamese airmen were wounded and a number of bombs were destroyed.

Military sources said the 24-mm artillery attack caused light damage to the taxiway at the huge air base, which houses the headquarters for South Vietnam's military command.

It was the first time in the war that 100-mm 130mm guns had been employed in the previous attack on Saigon.

In addition to Bien Hoa, Communist-led forces shelled government strongholds on three other sides of Saigon, but the defenders held their positions and there were no reported new advances.

### Xuan Loc

On the political front, Premier Nguyen Ba Can named a new government and said it would have cooperation from foes of President Nguyen Van Thieu. However, some Thieu opponents immediately denounced the new cabinet, according to the Associated Press.

Shelling also was reported around Xuan Loc, the provincial capital 49 miles east of Saigon that has been under heavy attack for almost one week.

At Tay Ninh City, 35 miles northwest of Saigon and near the Cambodian border, rebel gunners poured in 30 rounds of 105-millimeter artillery, but no casualties were reported.

In the district town of Cai Lay, 45 miles southwest of Saigon in the Mekong Delta, 49 mortar rounds whizzed in, killing one civilian and wounding nine others, field reports said.

Premier Can called his new cabinet a "government of union." Presenting the cabinet to Thieu in a ceremony at Independence Palace, Can said all its members were determined

"to engage in the national salvation effort."

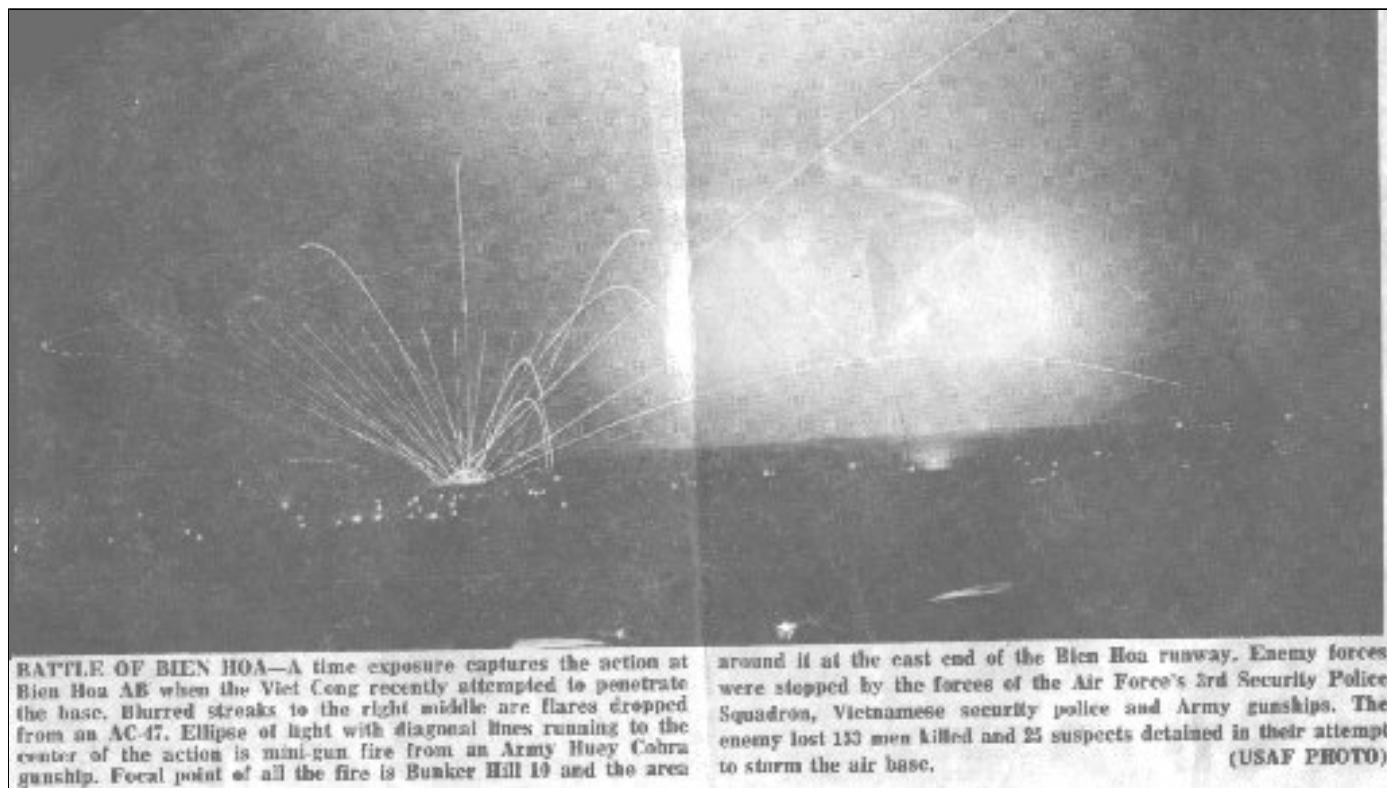
### Ford Request

Receiving the new cabinet, Thieu urged that the U.S. Congress approve President Ford's request for emergency aid to South Vietnam. He said the Ford request showed South Vietnam will be helped "if we are threatened by high Communist aggression" but that except two-thirds of the country.

The Rev. Tran Huu Thach, a Roman Catholic leader in the forefront of an anticorruption movement aimed at the government, said it was not a government of union and termed it lesser than the previous cabinet.

There was no immediate reaction to the new government in broadcasts from the Communist side. However, the Viet Cong have declared repeatedly they will not take part in talks unless they are allowed to end the fighting by negotiations unless Thieu quits or is removed from office. Thieu has replied that he will never accept a coalition that would include the Viet Cong, and has vowed he will stay on as president.

19) News b - Bunker Hill-10 focal point of fire fight. VC attempted to take Biên Hòa (circa, late Jan 1968/early Feb 1968).



20) News c - 35th SPS return to Phan Rang from base defense of Biên Hòa AB.  
(circa mid-March 1968)

THE WHITEMAN MONITOR, Friday, Sept. 5, 1969

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<p>The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, has received the Presidential Unit Citation, highest U.S. military unit award.</p> <p>The award covered the period Oct. 10, 1966, to April 10, 1967, during which time the wing flew more than 19,000 combat missions.</p>	<p>An accompanying citation pointed out that pilots of the 35th TFW conducted "devastatingly precise attacks that have stopped hostile attacks at the very perimeter of friendly positions."</p> <p>The 35th TFW also has earned two U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.</p>
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21) News d - 35th Combat Security Police at Phan Rang receives the Presidential Unit Citation.

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