

1 - Brief History, Background, and News: Viet Cong attacks against two South Vietnam Air Bases in 1964-1965. The two major Air Bases Bien Hoa AB, near Saigon, and Đà Nàng AB, south of the DMZ, were attacked by suicide-sapper teams, tossing explosive satchels, and under cover rocket and mortar barrages. US Military were killed and wounded and aircraft were destroyed. These two attacks had unforeseen consequences for the Viet Cong and NVA, leading to a major expansion of USAF security forces, and the establishment of Combat Security Forces within the US Air Force.

Viet Cong attacks upon South Vietnam Air Bases increased with loss of US lives and destroyed and damaged aircraft. USAF Security Program surveyed and focused on developing an airbase ground defense concept, and test specialized Security Police Squadron forces: Biên Hòa Air Base, 1 November 1964: Viet Cong attacked with rockets and mortars.



Every airfield should be a stronghold of fighting airgroundmen, and not the abode of uniformed civilians in the prime of life protected by detachments of soldiers.

Winston Churchill, 29 June 1941

The true measure of any program lies in the results achieved.
US Air Force Doctrine Document 2-4.1, page 1
(https://www.globalsccurity.org/military/library/policy/usaf/afdd/2+1/afddZ+I.pdf)

The following selected headline news articles reported the major attacks upon South Vietnam Air Bases that prompted the USAF to develop a combat security police squadron (*fighting air-groundmen*) capable of carrying out an Air Base Defense Mission.

REPLACES B-57 DESTRO



e attack on film Has airfield near Saigus killed mericans and destroyed five B-57 twin-engine jet

General

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

1-1. (above) Biên Hòa Air Base, North of Saigon, came under fiery rocket and mortar fire, 1 NOV 1964, receiving 70 rockets and mortars.

1-2 .(Photo, right): November 1, 1964, Bien Hoa Air Base: A Viet Cong mortar team penetrated Bien Hoa Air Base perimeter in a fierce thirty minutes Stand Off rocket and mortar barrage, striking the flight line with 70 rounds killing four US servicemen and two Vietnamese, wounding additional 76, and destroying a USAF squadron of five B-57 Canberra fighter-bombers, and 25 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.



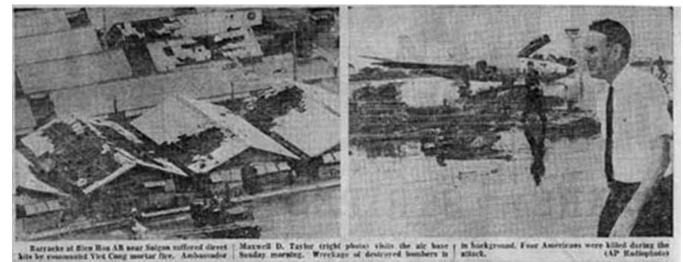
The above USAF Photo shows the unfolding disaster that befell Bien Hoa Air Base, 1 November 1964.

1-3. For a better understanding of what the disaster looked like, click the below link and animate the composite photo. (It is a large file so let it load)T

Click to Animate below Photo (Composite by Don Poss)



1-4: AP Article, 2 July 1965.



Johnson Replaces General Praises B-57s Hit by Reds Defenders

Attack Was Political, **Barry Hints**

Wounded Sergeant Charged Viet Reds

Candidates Set Finale

Information from the American spokesman in Saigon indicated that both the South Vietnamese soldiers and American marines were responsible for the lapse in security that permitted a Vietcong assaúlt team to enter the Danang base.

The spokesman said the team

of 6 to 10 men first entered through an outer perimeter patrolled by South Vietnamese Government forces and then through an inner perimeter for which the American marines had total responsibility.

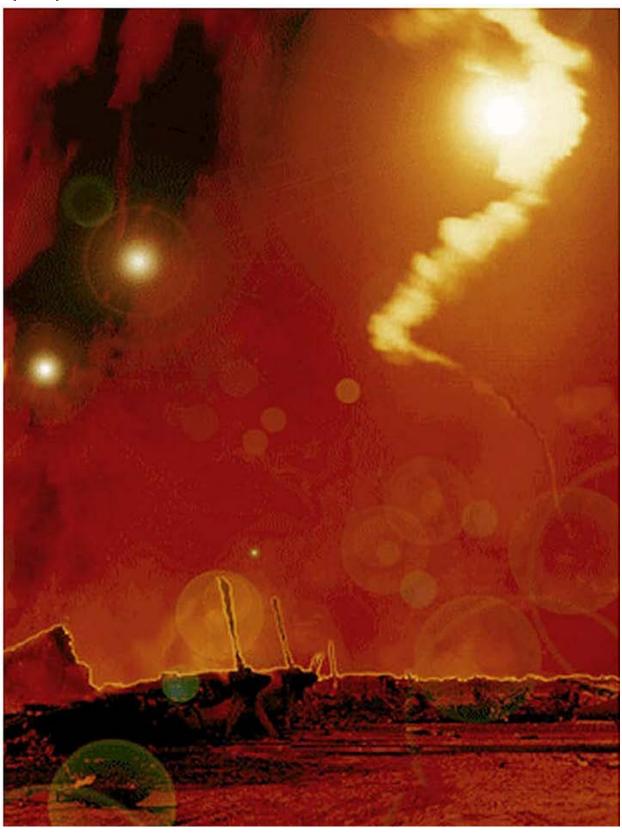
At Danang, some marine officers were protesting that they had sought to patrol the outer southern region of the base but had been prevented by the Victnamese from doing so.

According to the most accurate reconstruction tonight, the Vietcong team cut the wire in the air base fence at 1:30 A. M. They were supported by 10 or more rounds of 81-mm, mortar

The team destroyed with explosive charges two United States Air Force C-130 Hercules transport planes and damaged another. One Air Force F-102 Delta Dagger fighter plane was destroyed and two more severely damaged with 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire.

1-5 (Photo left, Composite by Don Poss) July 1, 1965, Đà Nàng Air Base:

Đà Nàng Air Base was attacked by a Viet Cong sapper squad accompanied by personnel from the Third Battalion, 18th Regiment, 325th People's Army of Vietnam Division (PAVN).



Đà Nàng Air Base, 1 July 1965: A 25 men Viet Cong Suicide Sapper team penetrated the giant Air Base's southeast perimeter (guarded by ARVN), through five holes cut in the perimeter fence. Attacking under a mortar barrage of high-explosive rounds, a firefight ensued with TSgt Terrance Jensen (KIA) and AP Al Handy (TDY).

US Casualties: 1KIA, 3 WIA. **Aircraft:** 3 destroyed, and several damaged; 1 Viet Cong POW was captured.

1-6: Below photo shows the aftermath of the Air Base attack. Revetments area debris is mostly cleaned up, but destroyed and damaged C-130s are partially still in place on 8 July 1965.



Background on Air Police Đà Nàng AirBase duties on 1 July1965: During the Sapper attack there were 90 Air Police personnel at Đà Nàng Air Base and assigned to the **23rd Air Base Group/AP.** Their duty was security of Air Force Assets, and *not* security of the Air Base or perimeter (manned USMC and ARVN). AP Weapons: .38 revolvers, M-16 Rifles, and Shotguns.

The next twelve months would see a rapid build up of Air Police personnel. The **6252nd Air Police Squadron** was activated and expanded to 1100 Air Police, and 55 K-9 Sentry Dog teams. In that year, the squadron name would change twice more: **35th Air Police Squadron**, and **366th APS/SPS**. Duties expanded to include internal perimeter security, ammo dump, base security, and law enforcement. Don Poss, Đà Nàng AB, K-9, 1965-1966

1-7. 1964: Viet Cong Mortars Vietnam Air Bases; Biên Hòa and Đà Nàng.



AXUN = VIETRAMERSE MANY

For U.S. Forces In Violnam Lee Daily Aetos Briefs

Published Daily Except Sunday By The Command Information Branch

Office Of Information, Military Assistance Command, Viotnam

Volume 1, No. 112

Salgon, Vletsam

Monday, November 2, 1964

VC Mortar Bien

Six Killed, 19 Wounded In Early Morning Attack

Communist Viet Goog garrattas atruck at speaking Mice Hox Airbane 12 miles northeast of Saiges shortly after esteloight Sunday morning with a mortar attack that Herifore U.S. servicescen deed and 17 more wounded. The barrage also damaged or destroyed 27 atrents at the hase. The stack began at 1776 a.m. and reports from a U.S. sealtany molecular unit that the mortar fire tasted between 13 and 20 minutes.

The upokesman and that the viet congularity three policy of the later from the U.S. and 20 minutes.

The upokesman and that the Viet Congularity three Silver in the United States in the last from the inner defense force. Anuries per at the last from the inner defense force. Anuries per the later is the force of the inner defense force and the furtherm complay security of the inner defense in those streng where there is the last from the inner defense in those streng where there is the last from the inner defense in those streng where there is the last from the inner defense in those streng where there is the 180 miles for the last from the last from

Of the 27 arcrest his by the enemy mortars, 26 were USAF 10-27 bombers. Five of the twin empire because were destroyed, right received unjur damage and the remainer contained damage of a minor secture, the spokesman said,

In addition to the H-57's Jose U.S. beliegates unifored distings and three A-10 Six-released being age of the VNAP ensisted major damage A-fearth Skyralder was rejected to have crathed on take-off while acting to respond to the stilick. the uttack

Most of the catualties were received to the Next Hospital in Scient where Sour ere to the State of the State

SP/4 Roger A. Carter, a halicopter mechanic, questioned at the hospital said had the attack woke him from his sleep and as he was getting streamed a shell remained into the roof of his hillies. It was that the roof of his hillies and that two nexts. ermen - friends - were kill-ed in the explosion. "I was locky," he said.

Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, commander of the Military Assistance Command, visited the have after earlier talking to wounded men at the honcital in Natzon.

President, State, Defense Heads Confer On Attack

New York, Nev. I (UPI)

— President Johanne Saturday night americand the Secretaries of State and Defense to a White House meeting that aftermoon is review "all aspects" of the community of a r i i i a raid which resulted in destruction of free Holl bombars and the death of Jose U.S. bervicemen name Solgen in South Victoria.

Press Secretary George E. Boody and Johann, here last night for a comparing secting 2nd 200 and Replay in close Contact with hoth Secretary of Stite Dean Rook and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara about Grat reports of a Viet Cong attack that occurred during the night on the lines Hop Airflaid in South Vietlam.

Reedy and Johanna expec-ted "to receive more com-plete reports of the action in the evening.

"By that time full reports will be available from representatives at Sang Recely said. Saugon,

(Later UP1 reported that

Republic Celebrates First Anniversary Of Nov. 1 Revolution

Nowly elected Victorium of Chief of State Plans Khoc Son and Prime Minister-designate Tran Van Humag led the nation in a two day celebration marking the first anniversary of the November 1st revolution yesterday morning at a three-hour occurring and pathers being the Seigon River.

The parade, in which Victorium I no newly elevated leaders appeared publicly for the first time, marked the first 12 months since the nuccessful overthrow of the late Prendens May Company of the late Prendens May Company of the late Prendens May Company of the late Prendens Armed Process military schools and service units parechools and service units pa-

raded before Chief of State Sout and Prime Mediter Hoong and former Chief of State Mag. Gen. Bisong Van Minh and former Prime Minister Mag. Iaro, Ngayen Khanh.

Among the array of dis-tinguished Victoamese civilian and military officials were members of the diplomatic corps, Representing the U.S. government were Ambanasies Maxwell D. Taylor and Oro, W.C. Westmoorhard, COMU-SMACY, and other U.S. civil-ian and military officials.

The multipy toward was proceeded by a service of the forcer Guard by the Chief of State Son who was derived in the traditional Victor, one continue.

Air Collision Kills Six In Army Maneuvers In Georgia

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, Oct. 21 (UP) — Two Army twin-engine transport planes collided in flight during low-level meneuers today and croshed in a "bail of flume," killing all six persons abourd.

An Army spokesmen said six bodies were recov-

Two hours after the crash, firemen at the econo orted the six apparently were the only occupants

of the street.

The planes were part of a formation of four taking part in Air Asseutt II. a military moneuver involving 37,000 men in the Carolines and Georgia.

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

LBJ Hits Back At Barry
NEW TORK, Nov. I (UPI) - President Johnson, in a
stashing composing finole, said Saturday night that
San. Barry M. Goldwater has tearned from the people
that "extremism in the pursuit of the presidency is an
unpardonable vice."

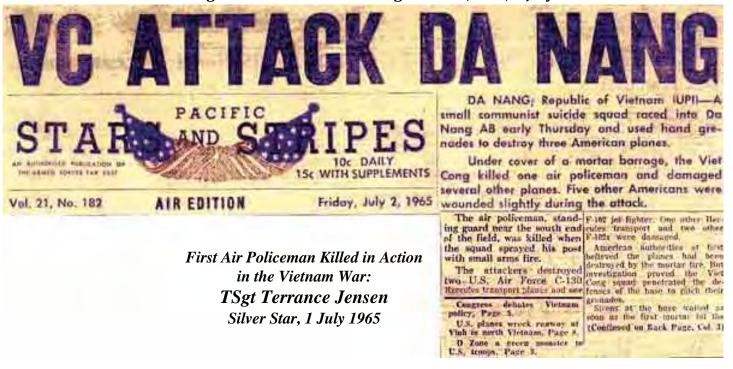
He added, in completing his parady on his opponent's July nomination acceptance speach, that "mo-

nent's July nomination asseptance speech, that "me-deration in the offairs of the nation is the highest

July 1, 1965: Đà Nàng AB attacked by Sappers and received 6 mortars. US casualties, 1 dead (Air Police TSgt Terrance Jensen) and 3 wounded; 3 aircraft destroyed, 3 damaged; and 1 VC POW captured.

Newspapers: 1 July 1965: Đà Nàng Air Base attacked by Sappers and mortars.

1-8. NEWS - Viet Cong Suicide Unit hits Đà Nàng Air Base, RVN, 1 July 1965.



1-9. VC Mortars destroy C-130 Aircraft at Đà Nàng Air Base, RVN, 1 July 1965.



1-10. VC Mortars destroy F-102s at Đà Nàng Air Base, RVN, 1 Jul 1965. TSgt Terrance Jensen, 23rd ABG/AP KIA.







Suicide Unit Hits Da Nang

(Continued From Page 1)
south end of the airstrip at about
1:30 s.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.

At the same time the suicide squad was cutting through the tangled barbed wire defeases of the base, another Viet Cong squad penetrated within two miles of the base and unleashed the barrage of mortar rounds.

Most of the morter 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.

As the sound touched off the grenades they sprayed the area with automatic weapons and small arms fire.

One gyewitness said he saw about six Viet Cong running back toward the backed wire after the attack was over.

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

Reports of shooting around the flightline tailied with reports of shadowy figures running away; from the plane park.

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

American alrmen risked their lives to race in a mong the blazing sircraft. They hauled a number of Delta Daggers to safety with two tractors.

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 Force, which numbers about 15, 1000 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 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 feared bombs abourd the damaged stronglymight 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.

Viet Cong attacks against Air Bases would continue throughout the war, with loss of US lives and aircraft destroyed or damaged on the ground.

• August 2, 1965: Nha Trang AB received 7 rounds; no casualties or aircraft destroyed/ damaged.

August 23, 1965: Biên Hòa AB received 97 rounds; US casualties, KIA, 24, WIA, 11 aircraft damaged; VNAF, 0 KIA, 5 WIA.

After attacks at Đà Nàng and Biên Hòa airbases, the USAF Security Program focused on developing an Air Base Ground Defense concept, and combat security force capable of engaging and repelling enemy commando raids in the Republic of Vietnam, to be known as Operation Safeside.

From the fire and flames of the Viet Cong and NVA's initial major attacks against Bien Hoa and Đà Nàng Air Bases, Operation Safeside was formed, and the Air Force Security Police would evolve in to Combat Security Police (Light Infantry), and after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, the Security Force Squadrons.

Duties and Weapons would continue to change and improve. Don Poss