

VIETNAM
Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base
Heavy Weapons, Page-2

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

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TAN SON NHUT

HEAVY WEAPONS



1. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, Security Police Heavy Weapons, Tet 1968.

Photo composite by Don Poss.



2. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th Security Police, engaging NVA/VC during Base Defense, Tet 1968. Photo by unknown.



3. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th Security Police, engaging NVA/VC during Base Defense, Tet 1968. Photo by unknown.



4. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th Security Police, engaging NVA/VC during Base Defense, Tet 1968. Photo by unknown.



5. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th Security Police, engaging NVA/VC during Base Defense, Tet 1968. Photo composite by Don Poss.

6. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th Security Police, engaging NVA/VC during Base Defense, Tet 1968. SPS view bodies of Communist forces killed at West end of Runway, TSN AB, during Tet 1968 Offensive. Bodies were buried in a mass-grave about 200 yards East of O-51 Bunker ... and the location forgotten for 50 years. In 2018, with the help of the USA and Vietnam Team for MIA bodies, and prior 377th SPS members, the mass-gravesite was located. 159 remains were recovered, identified and returned to families and villages. Hundreds of Vietnamese attended burial services.



377th Security Police view the bodies of Communist forces killed in the attack on Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base during Tet Offensive.

Photographer, unknown.

7. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th SPS form blocking force, morning of Tet 1968 attack at TSN. Photo by unknown.



8. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 377th SPS QRT looking for trouble, morning of Tet 1968 attack at TSN. Photo by unknown.

Air Police Ready To Meet, Counter Attacks By Viet Cong

(First Of Two Parts)

HQ, 7TH AF — Some where along the defense perimeter at Tan Son Nhut AB an air police machine gun post reports possible enemy activity.

A slap flare is sent aloft ... then another. The guards scan the area. Darkness returns without incident. The Viet Cong aren't there ... not now anyway.

Meanwhile, MSgt. George F. Wise, 36, of Tovey, Ill., sits in Central Security Control, the nerve center of the 377th Air Police Squadron. A veteran of 19 years, 6 months of military service — all as a policeman — Sergeant Wise is night flight commander. He works on some reports, has a cup of coffee and goes back to his work.

With him are 1st Lt. John K. Smith, 30, of Frisco City, Ala., assistant security operations officer and MSgt. Edward W. Battoe, 38, Paducah, Ky., assistant flight commander. The three men are all veterans of a previous VC attack on the base. Sergeant Battoe received the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor during the attack. The three talk — about home, the job and Vietnam.

Quiet Evening

It's early evening now. Things should anything happen these men would be speeding to the trouble area within seconds.

In another room of the CSC building other air policemen operate a vast communication network, keeping a close watch on activities spanning the entire base.

In another base sector, A2C Leroy E. Marsh, 26, of Groton, N.Y., and his K-9 sentry dog, King, walk a distant post. A2C William H. Robbins, 20, Shoals, Ind., watches over an aircraft parking area and A2C Roy M. Mendivil, 20, Phoenix, Ariz., scan an area from a bunker position while others guard key points around the base.

It's early evening now. Things are beginning to settle down ... the start of another night of waiting to see if "Charlie" shows up. The 377th APS at Tan Son Nhut is typical of Air Force security forces used to protect large vital areas of essential materials and people.

Continued on the next page ...



ROVING TEAMS — Air Police Security Alert Teams (SAT) roam interperimeter areas at Tan Son Nhut AB 24 hours a day. Members of this team are: SSgt. Pete L. Pierce, 31, of Del Rio, Tex., SAT leader; A1C Kenneth E. Waite, 22, of Warsaw, N.Y.; and A1C Thomas J. Roberts, 21, of Brielle, N.Y. The quick-reaction teams are equipped with armored jeeps, radios, M-16 rifles, M-60 machine guns, grenades and slap flares. (AIR FORCE PHOTO)

Taken from Seventh Air Force News — Date and Author Unknown

9. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, 7th Air Force News article, Tet 1968.

10. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, V100, SAT HW, searching for concealed NVA/VC, morning of Tet 1968. Photo by Randy Snyder, CRB, 483rd SPS; BH, 3rd SPS; TSN 377th SPS, 1972-1973.





11. Tân Sơn Nhứt AB, US Army 25th Infantry armor arrive morning of Tet 1968.
Photo by unknown.

Courtesy of the Tân Sơn Nhứt Association

Ernie Mitchell (505th Tactical Control Group), Apr 17, 2009

Comments: I was in the 505th Tactical Control Group. Our barracks was right next to your chow hall --- in fact we shared the chow hall with the 377th. I was in country from Sep 1967 to Apr 1969.

I remember Christmas of 1968 when our maintenance people put florescent bulbs on the side of the raydome in the shape of a star and a Christmas tree. Every 7 seconds, then the radar would sweep by the bulbs the radiation would cause them to light up. I also seem to remember Charlie getting irate about that and sending in a few rounds.

Sorry, I don't have any pictures. I was the mess check at the chow hall during one of the worst days of Tet ---- the day one of our people was killed on the radar tower. I was the only one in the chow hall that was armed when a hell of a fire fight broke out out back behind the chow hall. The ARVN pulled up with an automatic weapon and things got really weird. We were told there was enemy in the compound but it may have been a case of nerves.

You boys of the 377th Security Police took a well deserved place in the history books during Tet. I still carry the names of the boys of the O-51 Bunker, in my wallet. Had it not been for the 377th SPS holding the line (against all odds) long enough for the 25th Infantry to come in with armor, Tân Sơn Nhứt would have been lost.

"Thank You" and "Welcome Home"

Ernie Mitchell

We Take Care of Our Own