

TET 1968

FIVE REPORTS

Submitted by:

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THE PEOPLE YOU NEVER HEARD ABOUT DURING THE BATTLE OF TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, RVN. It was 0320 hours, 31 January 1968, when the first hostile act occurred against this command base on the outskirts of Saigon. Automatic weapons was being directed at the POL and CBPO area of the base, and the intense fire had pinned a SAT down which was on the outer perimeter road at that time. Minutes later on the opposite side of the base, the O51 Bunker and Gate were assaulted by an estimated three battalions of Main Force Viet Cong. The enemy used mortar, B-40 and RPG-7 rockets coupled with light and heavy machinegun fire to cover their assault. Within minutes these positions were overrun and the enemy was charging onto the base.

Quick Reaction Teams were dispatched immediately, and made heavy contact approximately a half mile east of the west perimeter. Simultaneously, the Joint General Staff Compound and the MACV Annex were assaulted by numerous companys of Main Force Viet Cong. Tracer fire and mortars were dropping all over the base and the compounds that were being attacked. Fire fights broke out within the main base area....the enemy had infiltrated snipers the day before. With the aid of a Light Fire Team, the Security Police, some 150 strong (on the west perimeter), managed to stop the attacking force which was attempting to overrun the entire base. Advance, hold, counter-attack and hold was the theme of the hour as the Security Police battled the enemy in fierce engagements.

Several hours after the initial penetration of the base perimeter the Vietnamese Airborne, who were fighting on their south perimeter, managed to send two companys to assist the Security Police in their battle which almost came to hand to hand combat. Flanking the attacking force the combined friendly forces launched a counter-attack which was met with a withering hail of mortars, rockets and heavy machinegun fire.

THIS CARD FILE WAS STARTED ON 17 JUNE 1969, WITH THE INTENTION OF HAVING SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THIS TOUR OF DUTY BY. THIS IS THE ACTUAL ACCOUNT OF THE PLACE, TIME, DATE, AND WHAT DAMAGE WAS REPORTED TO THIS BASE, TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN, BY THE VICTIMIZED BASE IT'SELF.

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Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN

Phu Cat - 2337 Hours, 17 June 69

(1)

9 Impacts - 82mm mortar
18 WIA - 1 KIA - 1 Serious - All USAF
NCO Club - Direct Hit - Major Damage
Airman's Club - Direct Hit - Major Damage
5 Fuel Pumps - EMP - Light Damage
Airman Barracks - Moderate Damage - Security Police

Bien Hoa - 0056 Hours, 18 June 69

8 122mm Rockets
1 USAF WIA - Transported to Long Binh Hospital
Airman's Barracks 2900 Area - Moderate Damage
1 Air Shelter - Moderate Damage

Phan Rang - 0002 Hours, 19 June 69

(2)

Incoming Rounds - Possibly 82mm Mortar
Unknown Damage - No further Report

Tan Son Nhut - 0040 Hours, 19 June 69

Tango #1 reports - Mortar, 82mm, impacts 5 miles out
Range of 82mm mortar rounds - 4800 meters - less
than 4 miles

Phan Rang - 2148 Hours, 20 June 1969 (3)

Report - SAFEWIND - No further Report

Bien Hoa - 1925 Hours, 20 June 1969

Report - SAFEWIND - No further Report

Tan

Tan Son Nhut - 0200 Hours, 22 June 1969

Tango #1 reports - 3 impacts 3 1/2 miles out near
the Receiver Site - Located West of TSN

21st June 1969 - 28 June 1969 (4)

Limited Activity

24 June 1969 - Flekiu

Incoming rounds

Bien Hoa - 25 June 1969

Incoming Rounds - 32 122mm Rockets

Tan Son Nhut - 29 June 1969, 2210 Hours (5)

Rockets Impacting On Base

100 Yards East of Delta Bunker #9

1 122mm Rocket Hit Approximately 200 Yards From Barracks

Rocket Left 6X12 Foot Hole

Alpha Bunker #11 - Machinegun Fire Toward Bunker

Victor #5 On Scene - Individuals Sighted In North Church

Machine gun fire ~~Fire~~ Came From Yellow House

(6)

Tan Son Nhut - 2345 Hours, 29 June 1969

All Quiet!

Bien Tuy - 16 July 1969

Incoming Rounds - SAFEWIND

Bien Tuy - 17 July 1969

Incoming Rounds - SAFEWIND

Saigon - 17 July 1969, 2310 Hours

(7)

Ground Attack and Impacting Rockets on Newport Bridge

Approximately 4 1/2 Miles From Tan Son Nhut

Saigon Also Taking Impacts Near Docks

Phu Cat - 2236 hours, 19 July 1969

Security Police Ambush Patrol Ambushed - 1 Grenade

2 Security Policeman WIA

Phan Rang - 2326 hours, 19 July 1969

(8)

8 82mm Mortars - Hit NE Perimeter - No Damage

No Casualties - Yellow Condition Assumed

INTELLIGENCE REPORT FOR 19 JULY 1969

1 Battalion of Enemy 2 1/2 Miles NE from Tan Son Nhut

Possible Rockets - NW from TSN - Army can't find them!

122mm Rkts - Known to be out there - They've Not Been

Fired YET! - Rockets 4 Miles Out - Chopper Contact NW
TSN, AB, RVN.

Tan Son Nhut