

**TET Offensive**  
**BIEN HOA AIR BASE**  
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During the day of January 30, 1968 the squadron was placed on Red Alert, the highest of all alerts. We went from three flights to two with the flight off-duty on standby alert status. The three day truce that was to take place during the TET holiday had been cancelled, but that order never reached our squadron. Many of us were not overly impressed with the alert as past intelligence had misled us numerous times. This was our first "Red" alert and we implemented our complete red alert plan.

In addition to our normal K-9 patrols on the perimeter we had two man listening posts, extra Sabotage Alert Teams (SAT) manned with an additional security policeman, extra SP's in the bunkers, Quick Reaction Forces (QRF) in place at strategic areas that could be rushed to a breach in the fenceline and two vehicles loaded with extra ammunition. All of the men were riding in those fighting Air Force vehicles; jeeps, pickup trucks and stake trucks as we were not issued armored vehicles.

The official word from 7th A.F. was that we would never be attacked by an enemy force larger than platoon size. Our attacking force consisted of two Battalions and a reinforced company (about 20 platoons).

On the morning of January 31st a mortar and rocket attack rained down on the base. We had been so attacked numerous times before but they were of short duration, primarily for harassment, and were of short duration. This attack went on and on. The squadron commander radioed from the alternate Central Security Control (CSC), as the primary CSC had been temporarily knocked out with a mortar or rocket, for all to take cover but to keep their eyes open as the intensity of the attack indicated it was cover for a ground attack. In a few minutes a K-9 handler radioed that his dog had a "Big" alert. He was directed to "pop" a flare and when the flare illuminated he said, "They are everywhere", and the east perimeter received enemy small arms fire from many places. The battle for control of Bien Hoa Airbase was on.



**Bunker Hill 10:** This old french stone bunker was one of the four areas initially penetrated during the ground attack. Approximately 30 to 40 Security Policeman fought from in and around the bunker. At one time the enemy had the bunker surrounded but the defenders were never overrun. Notice the rocket propelled grenade hits on the bunker. Three hours prior to this photo being taken the walls of the bunker were as smooth as the rear end of a new born baby.