

The Battle of Bunker Hill 10

2017, Compiled and Edited by Don Poss

USAF CASUALTIES

A check of the records for Bien Hoa Air Base on TET 31 JAN 1968

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USAF CASUALTIES (KIA, LOD, WIA, INJURIES), and Allied info.

- * [Roger P. Fox's Book \(Air Base Defense In The Republic of Vietnam, 1963-1973\)](#) shows 4 dead and 26 wounded [plus 1 K-9 Sentry Dog KIA], and that VC casualties were 139 dead and 25 POWs. Fox's information on the VC only includes those inside the base perimeter.
 - * **The CASUALTY REPORTS** show 5 dead (Maisey and 4 enlisted members), 5 were wounded badly enough to require hospitalization and 20 others injured by hostile action.
 - * **The COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORT (COAA)** signed by LTC Miller (It must be noted that the wing had to approve the report before it went forward to higher headquarters) indicates the following:
 - * **USAF Losses 4 KIA**, 1 Heart attack [LOD], 26 WIA, 99 *non-combat injuries*.
VC/NVA Losses: 139 KIA (body count) 25 POWs.
Other friendly forces (101st 11th ACR, ARVN) indicate the following: 24 KIA, 73 WIA, VC losses at 423 KIA and 34 POWs.
- Unfortunately, none of the reports indicate the AFSC of those wounded or killed. Only one actual SP was killed (Captain Reginald V. Maisey) with one Augmentee [to the 3rd SPS]; I have not yet been able to ID the name of the Augmentee [A1C Edward Muse]. Additionally, Sentry Dog Handler Robert (Bob) Press' K-9 Diablo, X313, was shot dead when Press was WIA after he radioed *first-alarm*.
- * The 1st Quarter Historical Report (Jan-Mar 1968) states that **SSgt Piazza and Capt Strones were awarded the Silver Star** for actions on 31 Jan 1968.

The Squadron Historical report for the 2nd Quarter of 1968 (Apr-Jun) states that two enlisted SPs (**SSgt Eddie S. Nigh and SSgt Larry H. Sawyer were awarded the Silver Star** for action on 31 Jan 1968. This same report states that **13 SPs received the BSM/V** for their actions on 31 Jan 1968. The ranks break down this way:

1 st LT	1	MSgt	3	SSgt	5
2 nd LT	1	TSgt	2	A1C	1

This report is signed by 1st LT ROGOZINSKI but ultimately had to be approved by MAJ Lynn the squadron CC who took over on 1 March. The historical reports from before, during, and after the time period in question indicate a consistently understaffed squadron.