



VIETNAM

ĐÔNG HÀ AIR FIELD

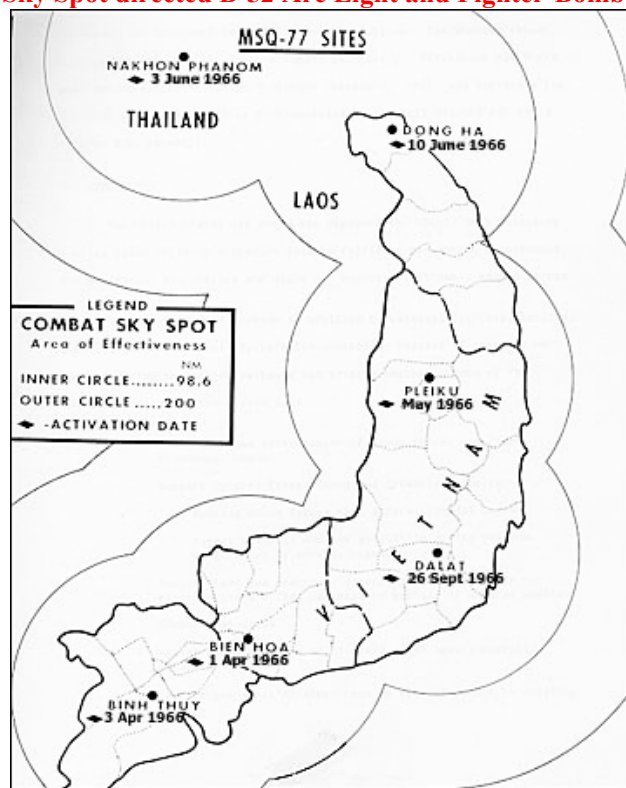
Early 1967

If I Could Change One Thing...

Terry Sandman ,
Sgt USAF Security Police

If I Could Change One Thing...

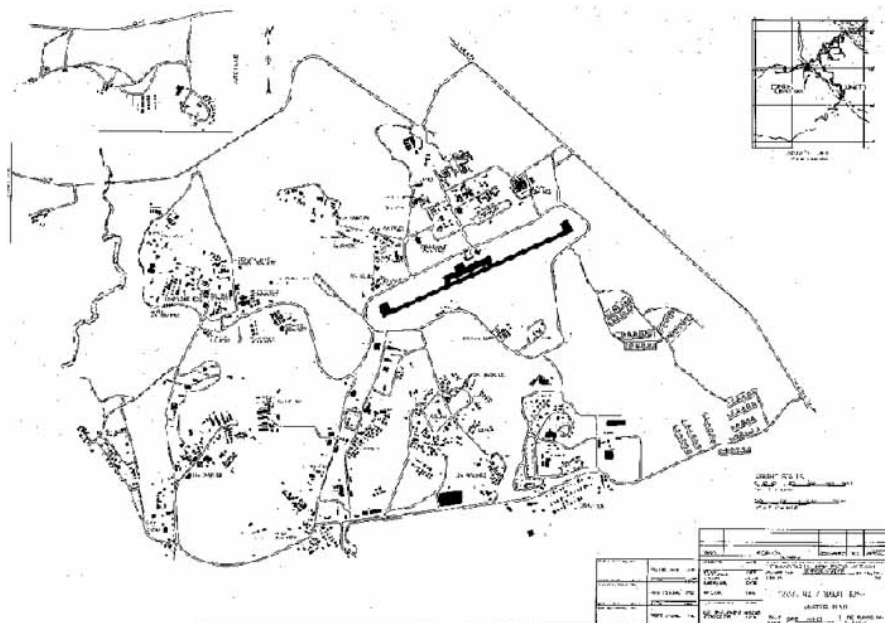
Sky Spot directed B-52 Arc Light and Fighter-Bomber missions within a 200 mile radius of Đông Hà Air Field,



including North Vietnam. The SP post is behind the sand bags to the right of the Sky Spot sign and left of the entrance gate. You can just barely make out the top of the circular radar dish over the roof of the SP post. The SP entrance post was manned 24 hours each day. The post in the rear was located at the top of the north wall, which can be seen through the gate in the background. The post was manned only during the hours of darkness. There was a sandbag bunker that the SP stood on top of to view over the north wall. A wood ladder was climbed to get to the post.

Sky Spot was located outside the perimeter of the Air Force compound and west across the dirt road from the Main Gate to the compound and just north of the Marines' Delta Med. East across the dirt road from Sky Spot was the Marines' Graves Registration Building. A large gray Navy refrigeration truck was almost always parked by the side of the road and plugged in awaiting the day's latest offering of young Marines (we often forget how young they and we were) who's lives had come to a sudden end. During the days when there was deadly action such as the "Hill Fights" around Khe Sanh in early 1967, or when Con Thien was almost over run by an NVA ground assault on May 8, 1967 with 44 Marines KIA, the casualties would begin to flow into the Delta Med. Graves Registration would also begin to receive their share of KIAs.

There would be so many KIAs that they would over flow the building and be lined up on the ground outside along the dirt road, the red dirt covering their faces and uniforms. Often a Marine Chaplain would come by kneel down at the side of each Marine, say a prayer, touch a head, a shoulder or make an attempt to straighten a shredded uniform. Often the wounds or condition of the body would be so horrific with gaping holes, missing body parts or a body bag inflated like a balloon with maggots scurrying about

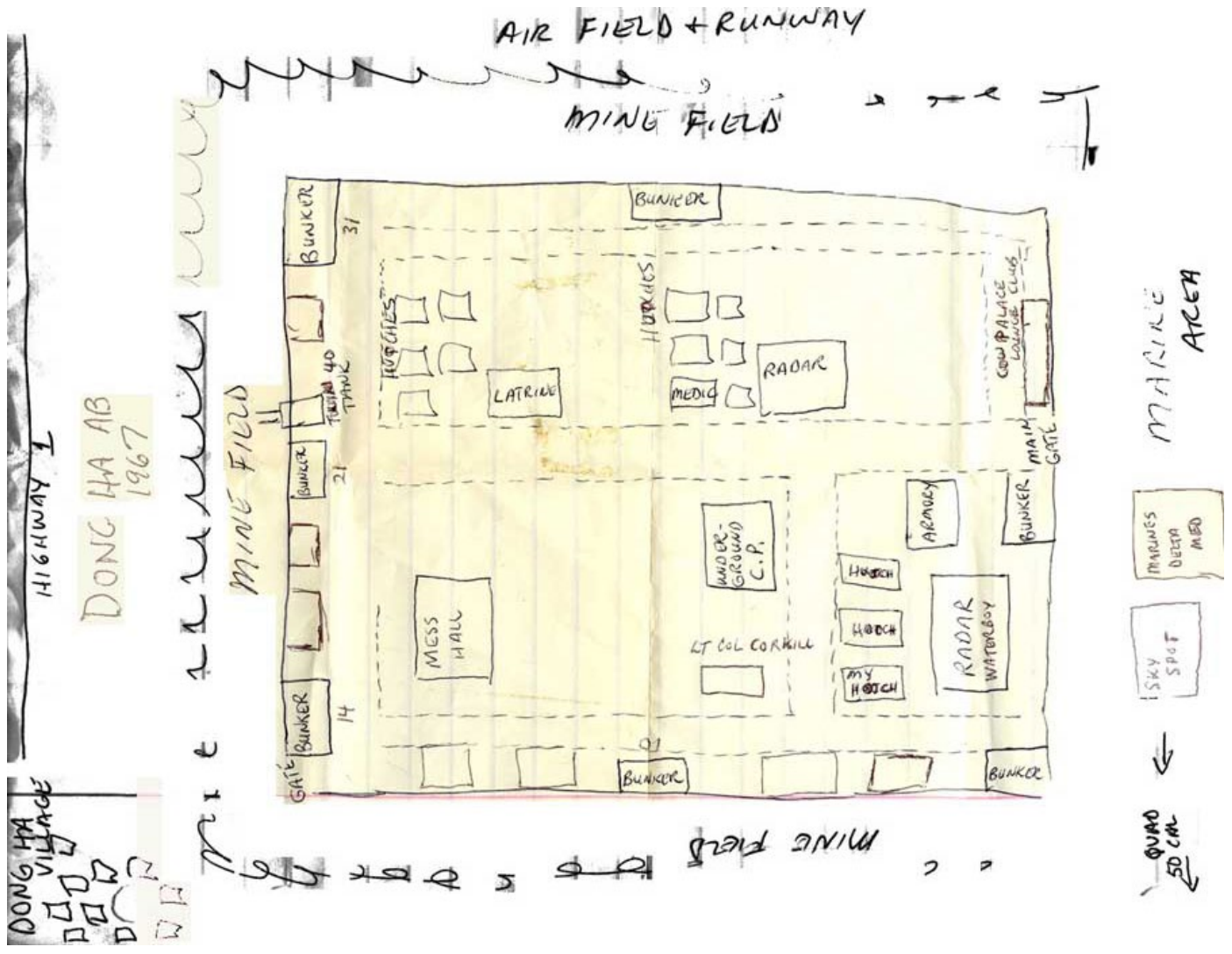


doing nature's work that the Chaplain could make only a brief and futile attempt at prayer. The Marines now forever young would lie there bearing the wounds that had so violently ended all of their dreams and aspirations. Waiting there on the ground for the processing to begin that would start their long, unanticipated journey home. And back in "the world" a friend, brother, mother, wife or lover did not yet know that their world was forever changed. The sickening sweet smell of death always hung over the area. Sometimes it would be overpowering.

If I could change one thing, it would be that someday there be no further need for Graves Registration. That our differences can be settled without armed conflict, suffering and death. Then these honored warriors will have given their lives for a truly noble cause.

Terry Sandman
Det 1, 620 TCS
Đông Hà Air Field Air Base, RVN
1966-1967

Đông Hà Air Field - 1967



My SP/QC CROSSED PISTOLS, E4 CHEVRON, NAME TAGS - 1967



My Orders to Danang AB 366th SPS, and Detached to 620th TCS, Đông Hà Air Field

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
 HEADQUARTERS 366TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (PACAF)
 APO SAN FRANCISCO 96337

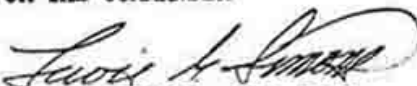
SPECIAL ORDER
 A-1419

24 February 1967

The following named airmen, grades, AFSN, CAFSC, and line numbers indicated, assigned 366 Air Police Sq, this stn are reassigned to Det 1, 620 Tac Con Sq, APO 96362 with EDCSA 16 Mar 67, amn presently thereat. Auth: AFM 39-11, PCS "F". TDN: 5773500 327 7421 P576.04 2141 2290 S668300. No change in servicing CBPO, Duty AFSC, FAG and PEC.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>CAFSC</u>	<u>LINE NUMBER</u>
TSGT	JONES, HILARY V.	AF15427823	77170	CR 1136
SSGT	CASTELLOW, EUGENE R.	AF14281288	77170	CR 1137
SSGT	VAINDRUNEN, JOHN T.	AF16655872	77150	CR 1138
A1C	GOTSCHALL, PHILLIP E.	AF17697796	77150	CR 1139
A1C	MUELLER, ROBERT J.	AF17656591	77150	CR 1140
A1C	OSBORN, JACKIE	AF17641040	77150	CR 1141
A1C	WARD, DELMA W.	AF14733823	77150	CR 1142
A1C	WATKINS, CALVIN G.	AF19745775	77150	CR 1143
A2C	BOONE, JOHN	AF14859456	77150	CR 1144
A2C	BROWN, EMMETT D.	AF18675880	77150	CR 1145
A2C	CALDWELL, HARVEY W.	AF17675816	77150	CR 1146
A2C	CUDDYER, DONALD W.	AF11437021	77150	CR 1147
A2C	HEURTEMANTTE, ROBERT	AF14859536	77150	CR 1148
A2C	KORDAS, RICHARD V.	AF16763420	77150	CR 1149
A2C	MAIKOR, KENNETH	AF12706813	77150	CR 1150
A2C	MCDANIEL, JERRY B.	AF19679633	77150	CR 1151
A2C	MCGUIRE, ROGER L.	AF16766370	77150	CR 1152
A2C	MITCHELL, JOHN J. JR.	AF14836464	77150	CR 1153
A2C	RAWLINSON, GLENT E.	AF18676929	77150	CR 1154
A2C	ROSE, JOHN S.	AF11442235	77150	CR 1155
A2C	SANDMAN, TERRY G.	AF17697685	77150	CR 1156
A2C	STEIN, RICHARD T.	AF19783132	77150	CR 1157
A2C	TEAL, JAMES B.	AF14847577	77150	CR 1158
A2C	WAY, CLARENCE E.	AF17697677	77150	CR 1159
A2C	WILSR, RAYMOND E.	AF12701774	77150	CR 1160
A2C	WHITE, HENRY JR.	AF14851199	77150	CR 1161

FOR THE COMMANDER


 LEWIS G. SIMONS, 1LT, USAF
 Asst Ch, Admin Services

DISTRIBUTION

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 (Losing/Gaining Units)

A-1419

MPC SCRIPT - 1967



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