



1 July 1965 Sapper Attack

The first Air Policeman Killed In Action in the Vietnam War ... had given his life in Vietnam ... and on the 4th of July, 1965 -- the U.S. Flag flies at Đà Nẵng's 23rd ABG/Air Police Central Security Control.

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THREE DAYS OF HELL

Danang Vietnam

PREFACE

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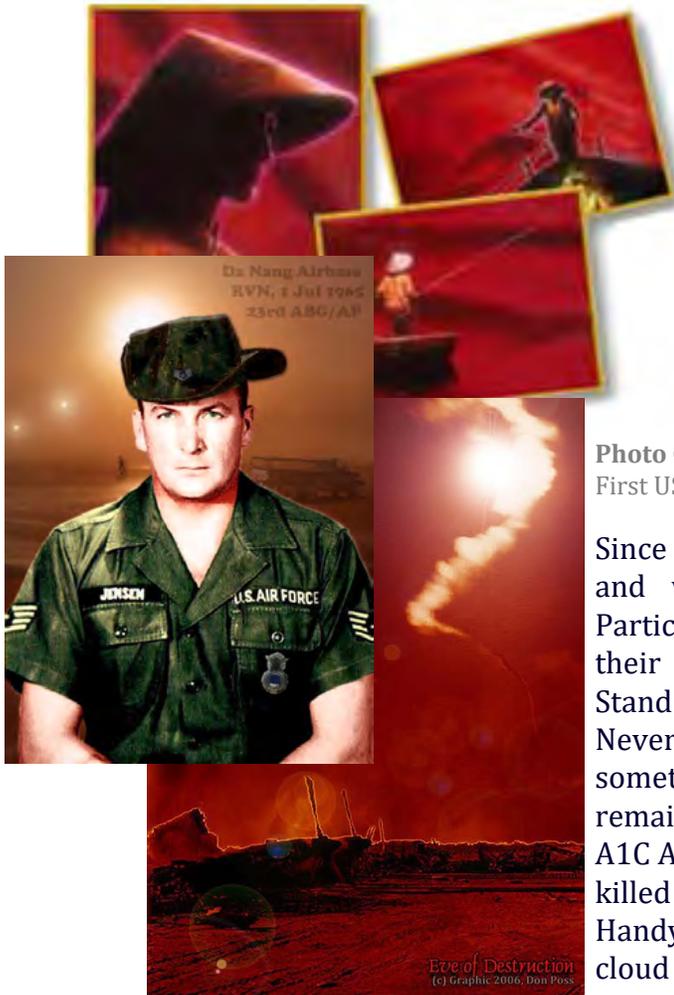


Photo Center Left: SSgt Terance K. Jensen (Silver Star)
 First USAF Air Policeman KIA in the Vietnam War.

Since 1996, SSgt Terance Jensen's story has been told, and well documented and researched at VSPA. Participants and witnesses first hand accounts are their personal perspective of the Đà Nẵng Air Base Stand Off mortars and Sapper Attack of 1 July 1965. Nevertheless, to this retired detective sergeant, something did not seem right, and the full story remained unknown. Missing was the statement of A1C Al Handy, who was with SSgt Jensen when he was killed in action. All that was known for years of Al Handy was his last name, and that a quasi-official OSI cloud of doubt and innuendo hovered over his actions

that night. With Al Handy's statement, I believe the facts of this matter are now known, and ties together most other accounts. I put out a contact request on the web, and years passed, until the day I received an email . .

Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2001 6:54 PM

Subject: Đà Nẵng 1965

Hello my name is Al Handy, and I was with SSgt Jensen July 1, 1965. I hear you are looking for me. MSgt Mike Bush gave a very close detail as to what my experience was. I'll be happy to give my side if you want. Sorry I couldn't make it to a dedication for Terry Jensen. I just found out two days ago that people were looking for me. I would be honored to be part of VSPA. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Here follows the story of 1 July 1965's Đà Nẵng Air Base mortar and sapper attack:

Until A1C Al Handy's email, after action accounts regarding Air Police response and combat actions during the 1 July 1965 sapper attack at Đà Nẵng Air Base were primarily based on the listed sources and references. Readers should draw their own conclusions as to the valor and bravery of SSgt Jensen, A1C Al Handy, Quick Response SAT, and other Airmen and Marines who engaged the enemy during the attack. For continuity of the story-line some statements are paraphrased. There are minor inconsistencies in relations to some event-statements, based on perspectives and points of views, and remain unedited. VSPA members, and former law enforcement officers, may recognize these differences as FACTS: representative of any collection of witnesses' statements concerning the same event.

FACTS - Don Poss:

- On the night of 1 July 1965, Đà Nẵng Air Base was attacked by mortars and a local VC sapper squad accompanied by personnel from the Third Battalion, 18th Regiment, 325th People's Army of Vietnam Division (PAVN).
- Enemy sappers attacked Đà Nẵng Air Base resulting in SSgt Terance K. Jensen being Killed In Action. SSgt Jensen was the first of one-hundred-eleven Air/Security Police to lose their lives in Vietnam and Thailand.
- Đà Nẵng AB, Stand off Attack (Mortars and Sappers), 06 rounds. Casualties: 1 KIA (USAF), 3 WIA (1 USAF, 2 USMC). Losses: 6 Destroyed USAF A/C, 3 Damaged USAF A/C. VC/NVA Losses: 1 POW. Possibly 2 KIA.
- During the attack SSgt Jensen gave directions to A1C Al Handy, who carried out his orders, and together stopped the enemy's advance, and caused the Viet Cong to break off their attack, and are credited with saving the lives of 2r aircraft mechanics.
- SSgt Jensen was KIA within minutes of the attack's onset. Later, the VC POW reported it was A1C Handy's engaging the VC/NVA with his M-16 that resulted in enemy break off, and consequently, the saving of 25 Aircraft Mechanics lives.
- For his heroic action that night, SSgt Jensen was awarded the Silver Star (posthumous). For his actions that night, A1C Albert L. Handy (TDY to Đà Nẵng AB) was the next day returned to (PCS) George AFB, without any recognition for his actions whatsoever, casting a shadow of doubt over him.
- Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) conducted an investigation regarding A1C Handy's actions and conduct. That official report is either unavailable or No Record on File, and its version and contents remains unknown.

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