

# VIETNAM

## PHU CAT AIR BASE

### Photos

37th Security Police Squadron  
© 2013 by Don M. Bishop, LM 389

*Telling it like it was!*



1. What we defended: Base Ops on the flight line. This was what we first saw when we landed at Phù Cát.  
Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



2.  
Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



3.  
Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



4.  
Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



5. Phù Cát AB, SPS Safeside Jeep: Seventh Air Force Mortar School. 1969-1970.  
USAF Photo via Don Bishop 1969-1970.



6. Phù Cát AB, Sign: Seventh Air Force Mortar School.  
USAF Photo via Don Bishop 1969-1970.



7. Phù Cát AB, SPS Safeside Jeep: Close up. USAF Photo via Don Bishop 1969-1970.



8. MSgt Smith (right) demonstrates an M16 with Starlite Scope. USAF Photo via Don Bishop 1969-1970.



9. Phù Cát AB, Heavy Weapons: M113, with .50 cal and two M60s. USAF Photo via Don Bishop 1969-1970.



(U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Bill Stahl)

**Sgt. Gary A. Pleitgen, left, Sergeant Manns**  
*M-174 Is One of the Unit's Newest Weapons*

**Phu Cat's 37th SPS**

# Security Policemen Have New Weapon

**PHU CAT** — When enemy soldiers and saboteurs attempt to penetrate the base perimeter here, they will have to face a new weapon.

The 37th Security Police Squadron recently completed training its men on the use of the new M-174 low velocity automatic grenade launcher.

A variation of the single shot M-79 grenade launcher, the new weapon can be mounted on any vehicle and fired from a stand or tripod like an M-40 machine gun, or from the shoulder like a rifle. It is capable of firing 300 grenades per minute and the ammunition is contained in 12-shot magazines.

An experienced M-174 handler can fire 24 grenades before the first has even hit the target. The 40mm weapon's effective range is 400 meters.

The instructors, Staff Sergeants Arthur Sheekey, Eysel Manns and Sammie R. Halsey, recently arrived from training at Lackland AFB, Tex., where they studied the new weapon. Their duties here include training the men of the 37th SPS on M-174 use.

The three men also instructed the men in cleaning, preventive maintenance and safety during the training period. In addition, armory personnel were instructed in the repair and maintenance of the grenade launchers.

10. Sergeant Gary Pleitgen demonstrate... Thanks to Don Bishop 1969-1970 for the clipping.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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SECURITY POLICE  
HAVE NEW WEAPON

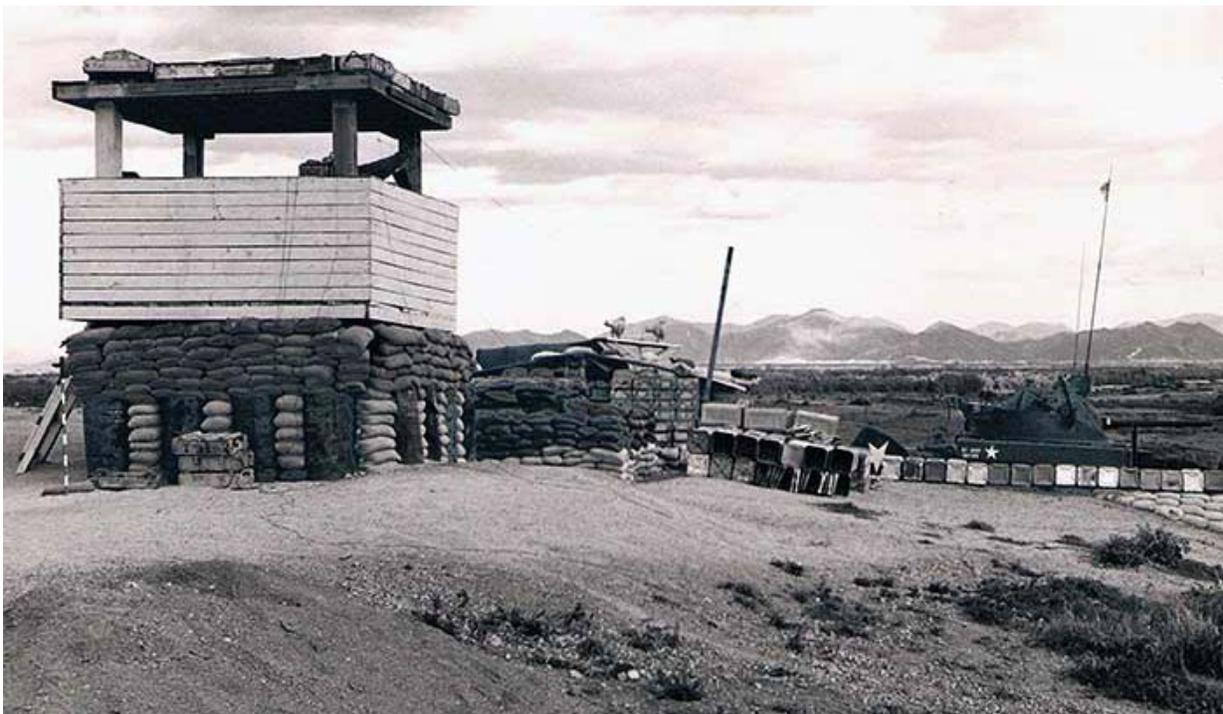
PHU CAT AB, Republic of Vietnam (7AF)---SIGHTED---Air Force Sergeant Arthur Sheekey of Glendale, N.Y., an instructor assigned to the 37th Security Police Squadron here, prepares to fire the M-174 after sighting in on a nearby target. The 40mm automatic grenade launcher is the newest addition to the 37th SPS armory. SSgt. Sheekey recently arrived at this station from Lackland Air Force Base, Tex., and has taught security policemen here operation of the new weapon. (U.S. Air Force Photo By Sgt. Bill Stahl)

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11. Phù Cát AB, Immediate News Release: 37th SPS, Instructor Sergeant Arthur Sheekey Manns prepares to fire the M-174 auto grenade launcher weapon. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



12. Phù Cát AB, Tower with M60 and ammo can ready to go. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



13. Phù Cát AB, bunker and tower to the west of the perimeter. Note the Army M42A1 "Duster" Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft track with 40mm twin pompoms, dug in (center right) for perimeter defense. USAF photo via Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



**14. The color guard at the wing change of command parade. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**15. The color guard at the wing change of command parade. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**16. The 37th SPS at the wing change of command parade. Major John Ross led the marching detachment. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**17. Wing HQ. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**18. The Phù Cát AB perimeter on the east side of the base, from Tango 4 looking south. On the horizon: the ROK Army camp on the left, the base barracks on the right. From L to R: the Village adjacent to the base, the railroad, the physical perimeter (barbed wire, tanglefoot, belts of concertina, lights). The trip flares in the concertina are not visible. Supply yard fence to the right. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**19. Close Up: The Phù Cát AB perimeter on the east side of the base, from Tango 4 looking south. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



20. Waiting for mail call. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



21. At the motorpool. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



**22. Standing on the west shoulder of the runway, looking west toward the Army outpost on the rise.  
Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**23. XM-706, V100 Commando Car. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



24. XM-706, V100 Commando Car, perimeter road, Phù Cát AB, 1970. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



25. 1Lt Donald Bishop and 37th SPS First Sergeant Frank Hollenbach, March 19, 1970. Ten minutes later, *I left the squadron area for the last time.* Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



**26. Squadron Armory, early 1969. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



**28. B-Flight Guardmount, spring 1969, Phù Cát AB, 37th SPS. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.**



29.

Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



30. What we defended: Also assigned to Phù Cát were EC-47s from the 361st Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron. All the antennas could pick up signals from NVA and VC radios--quite useful intelligence. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



**31. What We Defended:** In 1969 the F-100s were deployed away from Phù Cát, and the 37 TFW received F-4D's. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



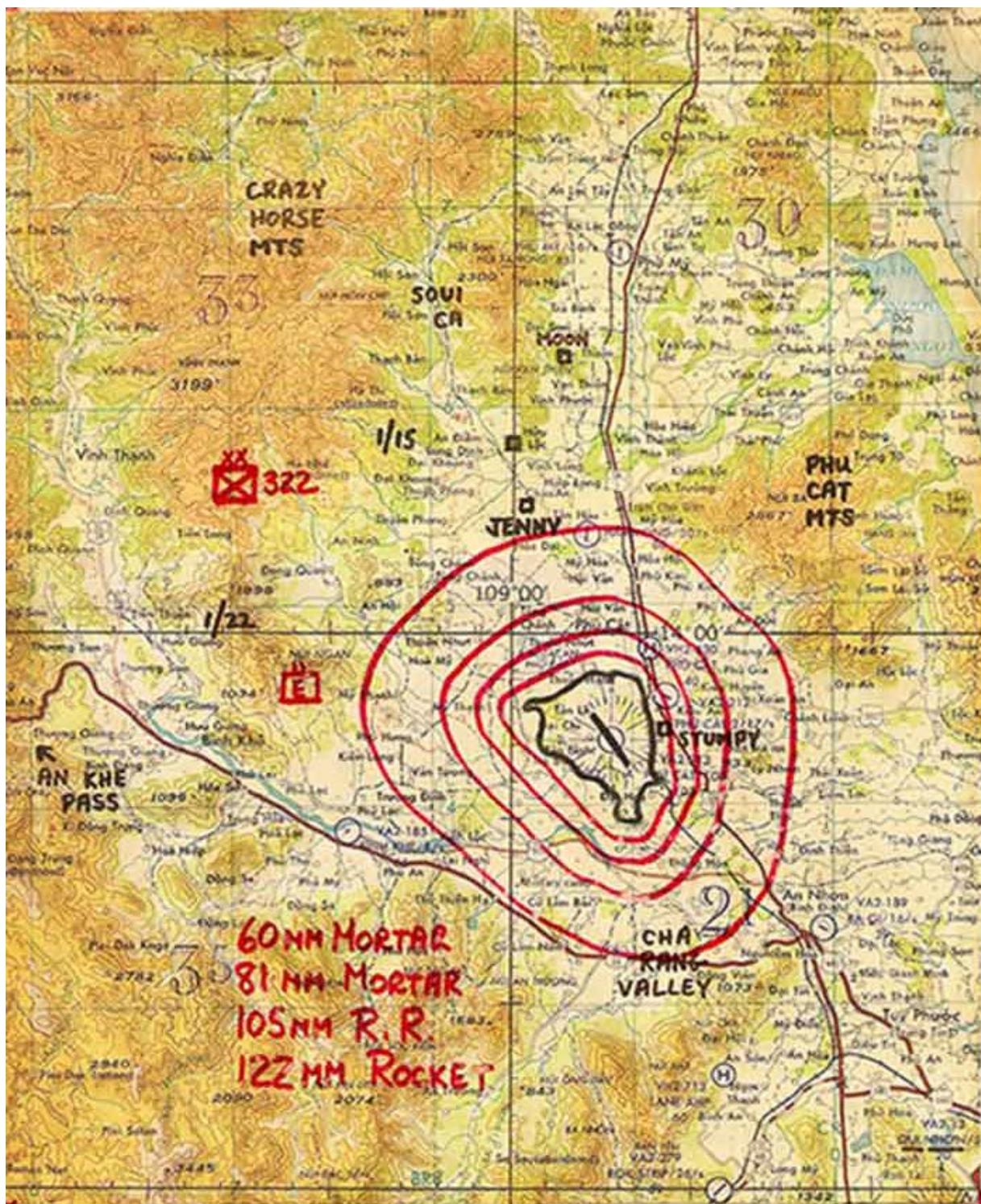
**33. What we defended:** At Phù Cát AB were two squadrons of C-7 Caribous. With the ability to land and take off from very short runways, the Caribous supplied many of the remote Special Forces camps. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



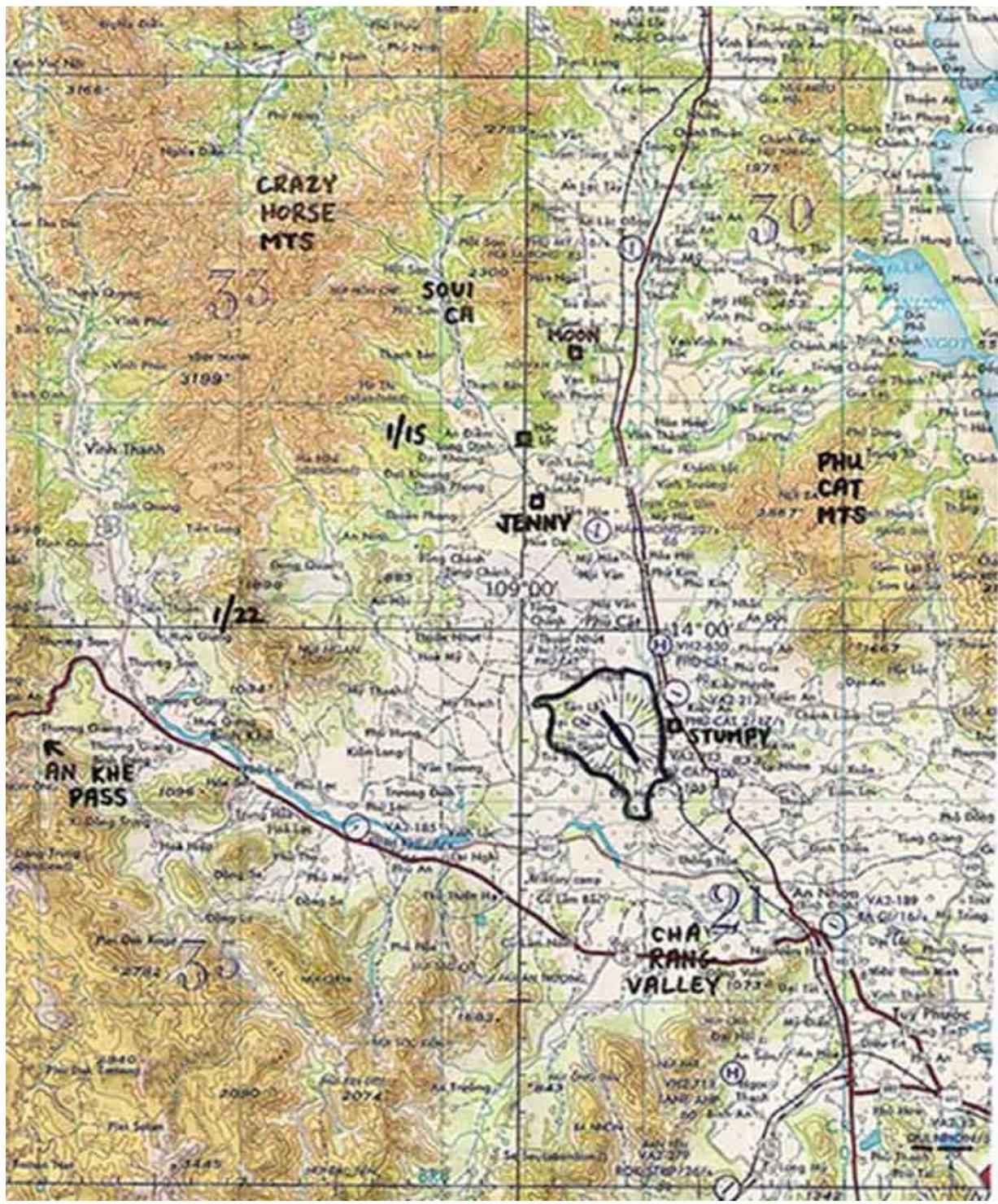
34. What we defended: When I arrived in March of 1969, the 37th TFW was flying F-100s. Photo by Don Bishop. 1969-1970.



35. This Viet Cong Map of the base was provided to us by the ROK Tiger Division--2/1970.  
Copy provided by Don Bishop. 1969-1979.



36. Before leaving, I marked a transparency for the map of the Phù Cát area, using the map in the Squadron Commander's office. The concentric red lines around the base mark the ranges for enemy standoff attacks using the 60mm mortar, the 81mm mortar, the 105mm recoilless rifle, and the 122mm rocket. Obviously the NVA didn't have to venture very far from their mountain hideaways to set up 122mm rockets that could reach the base. I also marked the (supposed) location of enemy units from a recent intelligence report. The 322nd NVA Division was the main unit, and it had a sapper CO (the "E" tactical symbol) that targeted Phù Cát AB. On one mission in the O-1, I flew over both locations, and there was no sign of life whatsoever, just mountains, rocks, and trees. If that's where the NVA were, they hid themselves well!



37. Map.

# Phu Cat Security Guards Learn to Battle Loneliness

By Sgt. Ken Hacker  
**PHU CAT** — He may come from the estates of Beverly Hills

or the Chicago Ghetto. His education may consist of a high school diploma or a bachelor of

science degree with a major in advanced modern sociological differentiations.

Here, his environment is different and he is responsible for the security of several thousand human lives and billions of dollars worth of property and aircraft.

60-foot tower, so far out from the center of the base, that if rain were to make the road impassable, the only contact he would have with others would be by radio or field phone.

"He" is an Air Force security force member with the 37th Security Police Squadron here. Before coming to the Republic of Vietnam his job may have consisted of an eight-hour shift as a security policeman handing out traffic tickets to speeders, checking seat belts, investigating accidents or inspecting passes at the gate to an Air Force installation.

Instead of checking passes and uniforms, his duties now include defending up to 3,000 yards of the installation's perimeter. An ominous order looms in his mind — watch for the ever-present enemy.

Now he's "where the action is." There's more expected of him here, and he in turn rises to meet the need.

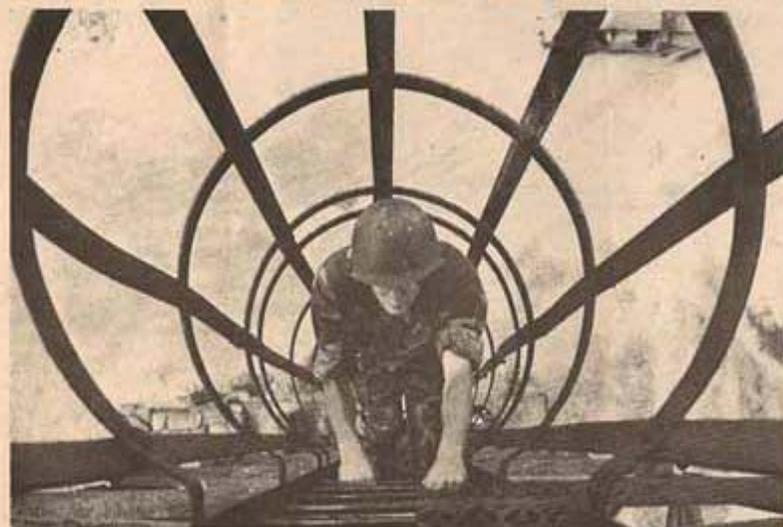
He is alone in his vigil except for the semi-frequent visits by fellow security policemen in armored personnel carriers and his flight chief. His only other companions are the insects, his shadow, birds and a voice over the phone.

His eight-hour shift routine has turned into a 10-hour day, seven day week. He now carries twice as many weapons and three times as much ammunition. And in the case of the sentry tower guard, the only other person he may see for the entire day is his supervisor or flight chief.

When asked how he fought the loneliness, one guard said, "Well you can sing, twiddle your thumbs or talk to yourself. But when you start answering yourself, you know it's time to change jobs."

His hours are different now. Instead of the usual eight-to-five shift, he may have to adjust himself to starting work at noon and knocking off at 10 p.m. His loneliness will be centered in a

Tsgt. Barry E. Mann, chief of A Flight, is responsible for 40 men. He stated in a recent interview, "These men realize that I'm not a chaplain, but will confide in me readily with their personal problems. They're out there alone for 10 hours a day and they have plenty of time to think."



A1C Daniel R. Hoffman  
*Long Climb to Loneliness*

(U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Bill Stahl)

38. News Article: Phù Cát Guards Learn to Battle Loneliness. Clipping from Don Bishop 1969-1970.

*We Take Care of Our Own*

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