

Phù Cát Air Base
AC-119s and F-4 Phantoms!
1970

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A Southern view of Phù Cát, taken from a tall guntower located on top of a hill between the flight line and the North perimeter. The SP tower was about 50 feet tall and was hell if you were afraid of heights. The flight line had covered revetments to protect the fighters from incoming rockets.

We never did get into Sentry Dog utilization in Vietnam. Sentry Dog posts were usually on the perimeter, with the teams providing early warning of a sapper attack. Bases in rural areas sometimes had large areas to cover. The dog post was between the Main Line of resistance and the actual base perimeter. Some K-9 posts were a mile deep, if you were foolhardy enough to go all the way out to the wire.

The hill in the background (above photo, center-left) is still on base. The M60 Tower was one of the rear corners of a post. The wooded area to the middle right was the location of a two dog-teams post. Two handlers were pinned down there in a firefight one night in early 1970. Security could not find their way through the concertina in their APC and other Armored vehicles.

In the middle of the Chrysler armored scout cars, Security would have a big can of coffee stacked on top of M60 ammo cans. So we called them "Armored Coffee Trucks". Needless to say, they wouldn't bring us coffee---we were only Dog Handlers.



I remember the AC-119 had a extremely bright spotlight hung underneath that would really light us up at night. The C119 was a twin piston engine, troop transports/cargo planes. But even before we were in Nam, they were in use by the Air National Guards and A.F. Reserves. I was in the Civil Air Patrol, when I was in High School, and we flew in C-119s several times to summer camp. The reserve unit at Ellington AFB (outside of Houston, Texas) had them. I remember we had to wear parachutes during the flight, because one engine would not keep the plane up for long.

... and of course, the F-4 Phantom lineup!





Here is a view of the hills of the south end of Phù Cát Air Base.

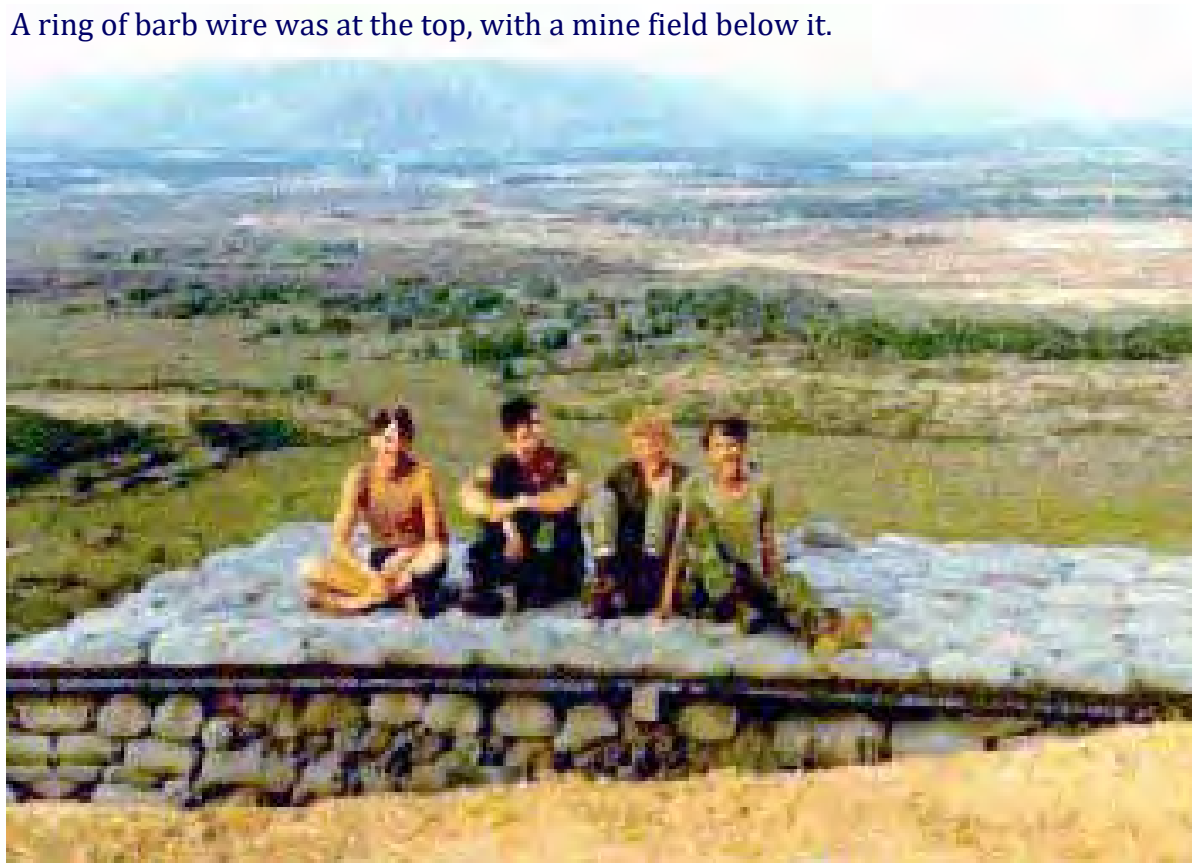


The Security Police squadron had an OP on the top of one of the hills (left side).

Security Police went up for two or three days and nights at the Out Post, which had one or two bunkers and a small trench line. We had several M60's, grenade launchers, and plenty of C-rations. [Composite photo below]



A ring of barb wire was at the top, with a mine field below it.



The 37th SPS sent up one E-4 and three Airmen. Pretty view... we were to sound the alarm for rockets... but the best part was --- it was cooler at night.



The only way up was by choppers, which had to land on the very top of the hill.



I went up right before I rotated, I had already given up my dog and wanted a change--I got one.



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