

# VIETNAM

## PHU CAT ab

### Safe Side Intel, 1967

© 2013 by, **John Webster Jr.**  
Phù Cát, 1041st SPS(T)



Very nice cover photo of the ROK Tiger Division perimeter at Phu Cat AB. I was with the 1041st at Phù Cát in 1967, and we did one night operation with the ROK when we first got to Phù Cát. There was Intel saying that a group of about 100 VC were coming down from the Phù Cát Mountains to attack the base. We were sent out “outside the wire” to be used as a blocking force. The Koreans were going to push the VC toward our position.

Turned out there were no VC, but what a frightening night. Our unit was set up along a perimeter waiting for Charlie and were shocked to see off in the distance flashlights shining in the pitch dark of the night. As the lights got closer we could hear the Koreans chanting, talking, and making all sorts of noise. I thought to myself “*if Charlie is out there they will certainly find out where we are.*”

Found out the next day that lack of noise discipline was a tactic the ROKs used to *draw enemy fire*. Once fired upon they would unleash “Holy Hell” upon Charlie. They were willing to lose a few people to find out where the VC were. I’m pretty confident that’s why the Phu Cat area was relatively safe.

Our *outside the wire* TAOR butted up against the ROK’s, but it’s funny we sometimes set up ambushes in the same areas.

The below photo is of an outside the wire photo from my Phù Cát days with the 1041st in 1967. Of course all our activities were outside the wire. As I recall our fire was taking a little break after searching an abandoned hooch near the base. I was the guy in the background with M16 resting on the ground. Also notice we had a scout dog handler with us. We all felt quite secure when we had a dog with us, especially on night ambush. I think the 1041st may have had the first USAF *Scout Dogs* in Nam. They were not aggressive as were the [Sentry Dog] K-9’s the SP’s had inside the wire. Our Scout Dogs could alert on Charlie at great distances, as well as on hidden booby-traps, etceteras.

**John Webster**



**Below photos are Intell Briefing Reports**

DAILY BRIEFING (INTELLIGENCE)

9 May 67

1. SS Det 27, (G-2) Intelligence Cadre of VC gathering information on Units and Installations, especially PHU CAT AB, 1 Plt at AN MY (CRO00642) and CHANH HOI (BR975625).

2. HQ TIGER ROK DIV, INSUM # 127: Le Tiet, captured by 11th Co, CAV Regt on 5 May, vic, BR865415. Tiet stated the he saw three times, 5 VC at vic, BR861410 and time and days as follows:

1- 0800 3 May vic: BR861410  
 2- 1600 3 May vic: " "  
 3- 1600 4 May vic: " "

CIS comments: These VC could possible be from the same local main force, as the VC KIA by 1041st. Normally Units leave KIA's in the vicinity of where they were killed in shallow graves, where bodies can be retrieved. Also this the area where ROK's are having their present operation, estimated that there are at least 100 VC in this area.

3. 1041st INSUM # 4, dated 25 Mar 67: On 23 Mar there was reported that an 18 man VC sapper team had their HQ in TRA SON 2, BR848445. This 18 man team was divided into 6 three man teams and were operating in the PHU CAT area gathering information concerning the activities at PHU CAT AB; (PHU CAT SS). A report dated 2 May 67, has been received from the QUI NHON Field office 135th MI GP, that the sapper cell working in the area PHU CATAB has been reinforced, although their exact number in unk, it is believed they have increased at least twice their original number. Their mission is to plant explosives against the officer's club in the future. Several VC are working at the AB and are collecting info for the sappers. The sappers are utilizing the tunnels that are believed to be in the general area 500m south of the AB near the boundary of BINH KHE.

CIS COMMENT: These two reports could concern the same sapper units. Their location is in the area where the current ROK, ARVN & US operation is taking place.

19 621PM

TO: ALL PERSONNEL IN CLOSE COMBAT

1. No swimming on or near Phu Cat AB by order of Base Commander/
2. NVA Company at BR 885984 - which is south of Texas - Fairly reliable- mission is to attack RD Teams and Phu Cat AB.
3. VC Platoon at BR 876380 - South Of Texas - mission is to booby trap areas on Phu Cat AB.
4. Trip/flares will be placed outside of base camp in wooded areas North & West of Base Camp.
5. ADVISORS: A patrol critique will be filled out after you complete an ambush of Hocking Force. They will be returned to Capt Clower or SMSgt Hockenson. Pick up the forms from TSgt Gasbarro or TSgt Anderer.

ALL TEAM LEADERS READ AND INITIAL TO SHOW YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE INFORMATION

19 6:22PM

*We Take Care of Our Own*

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