

PHAN RANG AIR BASE

Rockets In-coming!

(c) 1999, Photo Journal, by Carl Tripp



1. **Warehouse 100 feet from our barracks hit by rockets - late Jan. / early Feb 1968.**
2. **Building near base theater hit by rockets - Feb 1968**



3. Sandbag/PSP bunker use to go to front-corner of building. Bunkbed of *'surgically removed'* wall contained body of Airman killed by shockwave. ?Between 12-16 troops were vaporized by a rocket that hit the bunker?. Author had tried to get into the bunker but it was too full - it was hit when he was running for another bunker 75 feet away. This is where some of our MIA's may have been.



4. Barracks building hit by mortar / rocket - Feb 1968





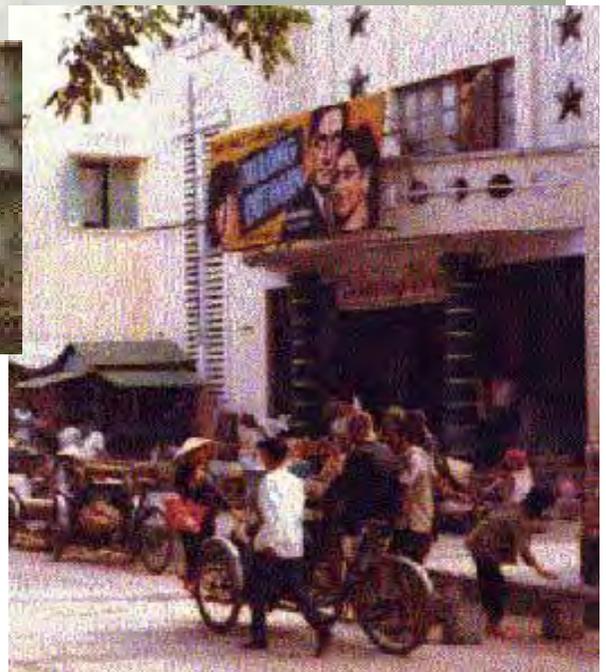
5. A Wing officer's trailer hit by a rocket (he wasn't in it). The water tower in the background was manned by an SP who gave the warning (siren and radio) whenever he spotted any incoming ("the rocket's red glare.....") hence saving untold lives.

Downtown!

8. & 9. Typical street scene in Downtown Phan Rang.



**10. *right.* Movie Theater ...
Same but in color.**



11. *Below.*

**Carl Tripp, outside China-3:
Phan Rang's beach gate.**



12. *Right.* **Guard Tower near the NCO Club, overlooking the back of base.**



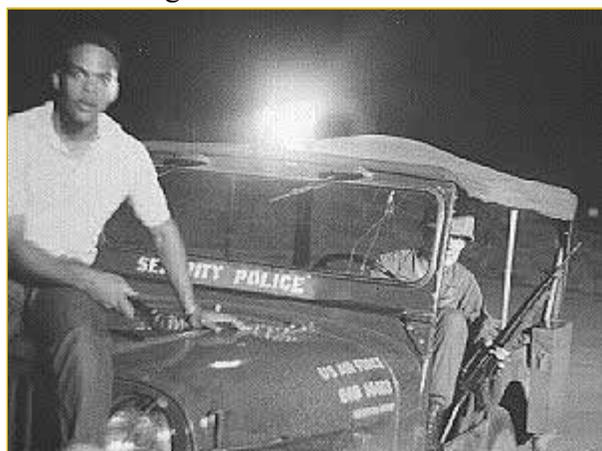
13. **35th Security Police HQ building.**



14. **SP HQ: Area right was the fenced by SP's 'beer garden'.**



15. **SP Base Patrol jeep.**



16. **Two Law Enforcement SP's... names fade with time.**



17. Law Enforcement

Security Police, armed with an M16.

18. Phan Rang's

Front Gate, at road to Top Cham and Phan Rang.



19. Front Gate:

Building in back-ground with stalls was where local workers were searched for contraband, explosives, guns, knives, etc), both coming in and going.





20. Convoy Duty between Phan Rang and Cam Ranh Bay AB. **SP Jeep** was a newer M-141 (?) mounted with an M60 machine gun.



21. Left. 3rd Security Police Squadron, Jeep Convoy escorts trucks. Part of a Convoy over a new bridge. The bridge on the left had been destroyed days before, by Viet Cong.



22. C-Rats; Can we *ever forget*: My favorite canned rations, Meat Balls with beans in Tamato Sauce! Remember the heat-tabs, can opener, and Cigarettes (7 in pack) with every "meal"?

23. News - Phan Rang SPs went TDY to Biên Hòa for Base Defense! Article relates to why Phan Rang SP's were sent there. (circa Jan 1968)

Bien Hoa Air Base Blasted by Sappers

By the Associated Press

SAIGON — Communist artillery thundered closer to Saigon than ever before Monday night, bombarding a former American air base where earlier in the day explosions blasted South Vietnam's biggest ammunition depot.

The attack with 100mm artillery, the biggest and most accurate guns in the North Vietnamese army, came hours after saboteurs touched off explosions inside the American-built Bien Hoa Air Base 14 miles northeast of Saigon, United Press International reported.

Earlier, authorities indicated the bomb depot was hit by rockets, but Saigon command spokesmen said Tuesday it was the work of sapper squads. They reported that 28 South Vietnamese airmen were wounded and a number of bombs were destroyed.

Military sources said the 28-mm artillery attack caused light damage to one taxiway at the huge air base, which houses the headquarters for South Vietnam's military command.

It was the first time in the war that long-range 100mm guns had been employed in the provinces around Saigon.

In addition to Bien Hoa, Communist-led forces shelled government strongholds on three other sides of Saigon, but the defenders held their positions and there were no reported air advances.

Xuan Loc

On the political front, Premier Nguyen Ba Cao named a new government and said it would have cooperation from foes of President Nguyen Van Thieu. However, some Thieu opponents immediately denounced the new cabinet, according to the Associated Press.

Shelling also was reported around Xuan Loc, the provincial capital 40 miles east of Saigon that has been under heavy attack for almost one week.

At Tay Ninh City, 55 miles northwest of Saigon and near the Cambodian border, rebel gunners poured in 30 rounds of 100-millimeter artillery, but no casualties were reported.

In the district town of Cao Lay, 45 miles southwest of Saigon in the Mekong Delta, 40 mortar rounds whined in, killing one civilian and wounding nine others, field reports said.

Premier Cao called his new cabinet a "government of union." Presenting the cabinet to Thieu in a ceremony at Independence Palace, Cao said all its members were determined "to engage in the national salvation effort."

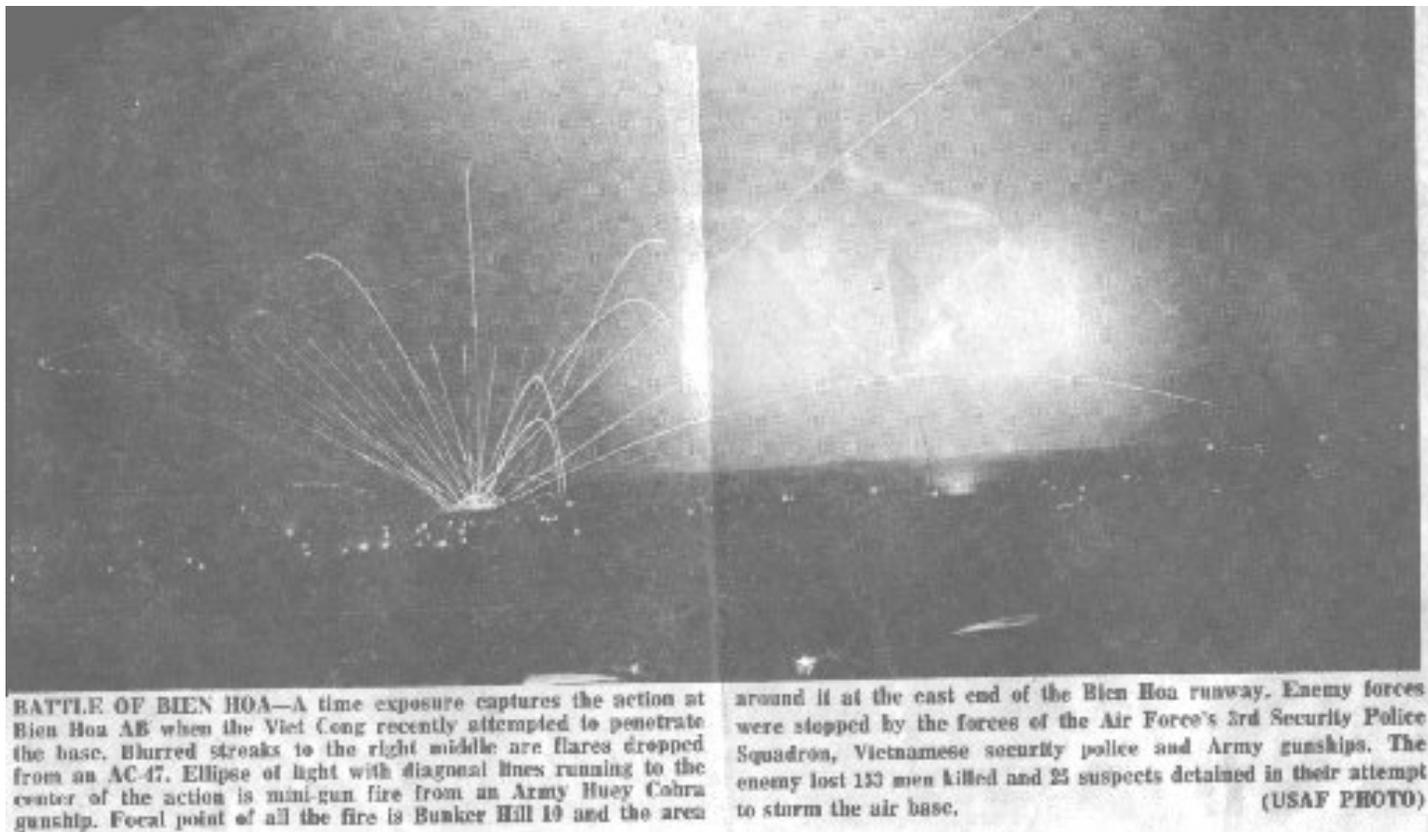
Ford Request

Receiving the new cabinet, Thieu urged that the U.S. Congress approve President Ford's request for emergency aid to South Vietnam. He said the Ford request showed South Vietnam will be helped "if we are determined to fight Communist aggression" that has swept two-thirds of the country.

The Rev. Tran Huu Thach, a Roman Catholic leader in the forefront of an anti-corruption movement aimed at the government, said it was not a government of union and termed it weaker than the previous cabinet.

There was no immediate reaction to the new government in broadcasts from the Communist side. However, the Viet Cong have declared repeatedly they will not take part in negotiations aimed at ending the fighting by negotiations unless Thieu quits or is removed from office. Thieu has replied that he will never accept a coalition that would include the Viet Cong, and has vowed he will stay on as president.

24. News - Battle of Biên Hòa (circa, late Jan 1968/early Feb 1968).



BATTLE OF BIEN HOA—A time exposure captures the action at Bien Hoa AB when the Viet Cong recently attempted to penetrate the base. Blurred streaks to the right middle are flares dropped from an AC-17. Ellipse of light with diagonal lines running to the center of the action is mini-gun fire from an Army Huey Cobra gunship. Focal point of all the fire is Bunker Hill 19 and the area

around it at the east end of the Bien Hoa runway. Enemy forces were stopped by the forces of the Air Force's 3rd Security Police Squadron, Vietnamese security police and Army gunships. The enemy lost 133 men killed and 25 suspects detained in their attempt to storm the air base. (USAF PHOTO)

25. News - 35th SPS return to Phan Rang from base defense of Biên Hòa AB. (circa mid-March 1968). 35th Security Police at Phan Rang receives the Presidential Unit Citation.

THE WHITEMAN MONITOR, Friday, Sept. 5, 1969

★★USAF★★

The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, has received the Presidential Unit Citation, highest U.S. military unit award.

The award covered the period Oct. 10, 1966, to April 10, 1967, during which time the wing flew more than 19,000 combat missions.

An accompanying citation pointed out that pilots of the 35th TFW conducted "devastatingly precise attacks that have stopped hostile attacks at the very perimeter of friendly positions."

The 35th TFW also has earned two U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.