

**U.S.-Bound GIs Are Victims**

# VC Rocket Hits Tan Son Nhut



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A U.S. military policeman walks on guard outside the control tower at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport. The tower was hit by a rocket Sunday morning but was not put out of action.  
(AP Radiophoto)

Compiled From AP and UPI  
and S&S Vietnam Bureau

**SAIGON — The Viet Cong rocketed the civilian passenger terminal at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut International Airport early Monday.**

Most of the attack's victims were American soldiers awaiting flights to the United States after completing their tours in the war zone.

Military spokesmen reported one American was killed and 21 others injured by the powerful rocket which slammed through the roof of the building.

There were casualties among Vietnamese at the airport but it was not immediately known how many.

The rocket, a Russian-designed 122mm missile, slammed into the two-story structure at 5:01 a.m. It was one of nine rounds that Communist gunners fired into the base through the night.

There was no report of damage from the other rockets but a U.S. spokesman said one U.S. airman was wounded.

The new rocket attack followed an attack Sunday on at least 47 major targets throughout South Vietnam. However, in contrast to the Communist lunar new year offensive, most of the attacks were with mortars and rockets.

The most serious ground attack appeared to be at Phan Thiet, a coastal city 90 miles east of Saigon, where Viet Cong  
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

# Rocket Hits Saigon Air Passenger Terminal

(Continued From Page 1)  
overran the prison and provincial hospital and took control of about a fifth of the city.

Over 500 prisoners were released from the Phan Thiet prison by the Reds, but according to U.S. officials many of the released prisoners had been recaptured or shot. The prison was retaken by government troops later in the day but last reports said fighting was still going on in the city.

Elsewhere, the I Corps tacti-

cal zone — northernmost South Vietnam—which most U.S. officials felt would be the main objective of the second wave of Red attacks, reported only two significant Communist actions.

The hardest hit of the corps areas was III Corps, the tactical zone around Saigon. The Reds launched 23 major attacks in the provinces surrounding the capital city and in the city itself.

Here is a rundown on major attacks in the Saigon area Sunday:

**Saigon**—Fifteen mortar rounds fell into the municipal police compound in the center of Saigon, killing seven policemen and wounding thirty-four. Vietnamese troops fought two ground engagements near the city. They reported killing 100 guerrillas near the Quang Trung training center northwest of the capital and 80 at the Binh Loi bridge in Saigon's northeastern suburbs.

**Tan Son Nhut Airfield**—About 100 mortar and 122mm rocket rounds destroyed four aircraft, damaged others, killed two U.S. servicemen and wounded 64. The base chapel was destroyed by a direct rocket hit. A control tower, a hangar and several other buildings also were damaged. Two rounds hit one of the runways, but the damage was quickly repaired and the runway reopened. "Pentagon East," the U.S. military headquarters for Gen. William C. Westmoreland, was bracketed by enemy shells. At noon, three more rocket rounds fell into the sprawling base and a fourth one came whizzing in at 3:30 p.m.

**Bien Hoa Air Base**—One aircraft was destroyed and others were damaged by a barrage of 25 big 122mm rockets and 21 mortar rounds on the base 15 miles north of Saigon.

**Cat Lai**—The Viet Cong used mortars, bazooka-type rockets and heavy ground fire in an attack on the ammunition off-loading dock seven miles east of Saigon. Several fires were started but no ammunition exploded. The SS Explorer, a military transport, took several mortar rounds and sustained minor structural damage. Nineteen merchant seamen were wounded.

While the "second wave" attacks were as widespread as the Communists' biggest offensive of the war during the lunar new year Jan. 30-31, they were not as severe and sustained. The first offensive sent 60,000 Viet Cong troops into the streets of 35 major South Vietnamese cities, and they held out in many of them for days.

The headquarters of Gen. Westmoreland said in a communique: "This second Communist offensive appeared to be enemy retaliation for the failure of the Vietnamese people to rally to their cause during the recent Tet lunar new year offensive."

The U.S. command said that 10 firing positions were found northwest of the Tan Son Nhut Air Base Sunday morning. However, the Communists fired four more 122mm rocket rounds into the air base during the afternoon.

# Tan Son Nhut Traffic Light

SAIGON (AP) — Commercial air traffic at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airfield was on-again, off-again Sunday following the Communist mortar and rocket attack.

An east bound jet from Air France landed at 2:30 p.m. and departed, a U.S. spokesman said, and Air Vietnam planned to resume its scheduled flights. The runways had been closed to everything except military operations flights up until noon. The base was hit again during the noon hour by three rockets and by a fourth rocket at 3:30 p.m.

The word seemed to be that if the commercial airlines wanted to take a chance and land, they could. Many lines, however, canceled their flights into Saigon or bypassed the city.

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**Pacific Stars & Stripes**    **5**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1968**

