

Security guards honored for bravery

Two Thai and American security guards were honored at an awards ceremony citing them for their heroic deeds during the Oct. 3 sapper attack on Udorn RTAFB.

At the Oct. 30 ceremony, Thai Security Guard Fourth Class Kam-Ai Buengchaipoom was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor.

Security guard Kam-Ai was killed by attacking sappers. He was cited for his "courageous and aggressive action against superior odds," which contributed in repelling and forcing the enemy to withdraw.

Edward F. Masters, Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy, Bangkok, pinned the medal on Kam-Ai's 5-year old son, Sangchai, who was accompanied by his mother and relatives at the ceremony.

Thai Security Guard Fourth Class Eiw Intaravichien was also awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor.

Security guard Eiw, while challenging the then-identified sappers, was shot in the face. Seriously injured, he walked approximately 500 yards "exposing himself to possible weapons fire from his attackers." He is credited with alerting the reaction forces in time to repel the attack.

TSgt. Thomas W. Dexter and AIC James D. Meyer were awarded Purple Hearts for wounds incurred in action against the sappers. Both men, assigned to the 432d Combat Support Group, were among the initial reaction team responding to the sapper threat.

Mr. Masters commented, "Here at Udorn and at

several other bases around Thailand, Thai and American personnel have worked in close concert to ensure the safety of men and equipment and the continuous operation essential to our mutual war effort; this has by no means been an easy task, for our enemies have, as you know, made several attempts since 1968 to attack our jointly-used bases.

"We can be justifiably pleased with our success in preventing a successful enemy attack thus far. In looking ahead, continuing vigilance is in order; above all, we must remember the lessons we have learned; that is—the absolutely essential requirement that we continue to work together in a spirit of mutual confidence for our mutual benefit."

Maj. Gen. James D. Hughes, Deputy Commander 7/13th Air Force presided over the ceremony and added, "I salute you for your bravery, your courage and your dedication."

Col. Scott G. Smith, 432d Tactical Fighter/Reconnaissance Wing commander, borrowing from the motto of the Thai/U.S. Security Forces said, "In unity there is strength. Those words symbolize to me the great friendship between our two countries. Thailand has brave men. We have brave men. We honor them today."

Thai dignitaries attending the ceremony included: Governor of Udorn Thani Province Charoen Panthong; Lt. Gen. Kriangsak Chavanand, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supreme Command Headquarters; Lt. Gen. Kamchorn Promyothee, assistant to deputy chief of staff Supreme Command Headquarters; and Maj. Prachoon Chaisiri, Udorn RTAFB commander.



VALOROUS ACTION -- Edward F. Masters, Chief of Mission, American Embassy, Bangkok, pins Bronze Star with "V" device for valor on Thai Security Guard Eiw Intaravichien, who alerted the security force of approaching sappers (Oct. 3 attack) though seriously wounded. (U.S. Air Force Photo By TSgt. Gorge Alvorado)

เมื่อวันที่ 30 ต.ค. เจ้าหน้าที่ไทยและสหรัฐ ประจำฐานบินอุดรได้ร่วมกัน ประกอบ พิธี ประดับ เหรียญกล้าหาญ แก่เจ้าหน้าที่รักษาความปลอดภัย ไทย-สหรัฐ เนื่องจากเป็นผู้ประกอบวีรกรรมอัน ห้าวหาญ ต่อสู้ข้าศึก ระหว่าง ฐานบิน อุดร ถูก ลอบ โจมตีเมื่อวันที่ 3 ตุลาคม 2515

ระหว่างพิน ได้มีการ ประดับ เหรียญกล้าหาญ บรอนซ์สตาร์ให้กับเด็กชายแสงชัย บังชัยภูมิ บุตรชายอายุ 5 ขวบ ของทหารรักษาการณ์ไทย คำอ้าย บังชัยภูมิ ซึ่งถูกข้าศึกยิงเสียชีวิตโดย พล.ร.อ. อัครราชทูตสหรัฐประจำประเทศไทย เอ็ดเวิร์ด อีแมสเตอร์สท่ามกลางญาติมิตรและผู้มาร่วมพิธีอย่างคับคั่ง

พล.ร.อ. เอ็ดเวิร์ด อีแมสเตอร์สได้กล่าวสดุดี ทหารรักษาการณ์คำอ้ายว่า "จากความกล้าหาญ โดยไม่ย่อท้อและการเสียสละของทหารรักษาการณ์ คำอ้ายในการเข้า ตอบัติข้าศึก ซึ่งขณะนั้นเป็นฝ่าย ได้เปรียบได้เป็นส่วนช่วยให้ข้าศึกถูกผลักดันและถอย รั่นออกไปจากเขตของฐานบิน"

ทหารรักษาการณ์ไทยอีกผู้หนึ่งซึ่งได้รับ เหรียญกล้าหาญ บรอนซ์สตาร์คือ พล.ร.อ. เอียว อินทวิเชียร ผู้ซึ่งถูกยิงที่หน้าขณะพยายามสกัดกั้น การบุกรุกของผู้ลอบเข้าโจมตี

ทหารรักษาการณ์เอียวได้รับการสดุดีว่าเป็น ผู้ที่แสดงค ความกล้าหาญและเสียสละถึงแม้ว่าตนเอง จะถูกข้าศึกยิง และได้รับบาดเจ็บสาหัส ก็ยังพยายาม วิ่งไปอีกทงหนึ่งซึ่งอยู่ห่างออกไป 500 หลา และส่ง วิทยุรายงานเหตุการณ์ทง ๆ ที่สถานทนั้น "เป็น ที่โล่งซึ่งเสี่ยงต่อการเป็นเป้าหมายของข้าศึก" การ รายงานของพล.ร.อ. เอียว ทำให้หน่วยปฏิบัติการ เคลื่อนที่เร็วทำการตอบัติข้าศึกได้อย่างฉับพลัน

พ.อ.ท. ทอมัส คับบลิว เด็กซ์เตอร์ และ จ.ท. เจมส์ ดี โมเออร์ส ได้เหรียญเพอเฟิลฮาร์ท เนื่องจากได้รับบาดเจ็บขณะปฏิบัติการตอบัติข้าศึก เจ้าหน้าที่อเมริกันทงสองนายประจำอยู่หน่วยรักษา ความปลอดภัยของหน่วยเสริมกำลังรบที่ 432 และ ประจำหน่วยปฏิบัติการเคลื่อนที่เร็วหน่วยแรกหน่วย หนึ่งที่เข้าสกัดกั้นข้าศึกในระยะแรก

วีรกรรมอันห้าวหาญ พล.ร.อ. เอ็ดเวิร์ด เอี แมสเตอร์ส อัครราชทูตสหรัฐประจำประเทศไทยกำลังประดับเหรียญกล้าหาญ บรอนซ์สตาร์ให้กับ พล.ร.อ. เอียว อินทวิเชียร ผู้ซึ่งรายงานเหตุการณ์ ขณะถูกข้าศึกโจมตีเมื่อวันที่ 3 ต.ค. 2515 ทงทนต์เองบาดเจ็บสาหัส จนสามารถทำให้หน่วยปฏิบัติการเคลื่อนที่เร็วเข้าตอบัติข้าศึกได้ทงทงทง (ภาพ โดย พ.อ.ท. จอร์จ อัลวอราโด)

Awarded Purple Hearts



AIC James D. Meyer, left, and TSgt. Thomas W. Dexter were awarded Purple Hearts at the Oct. 30 ceremony. Both men were wounded during the Oct. 3 sapper attack. Maj. Gen. James D. Hughes, 7/13th Air Force Deputy Commander, made the presentations.

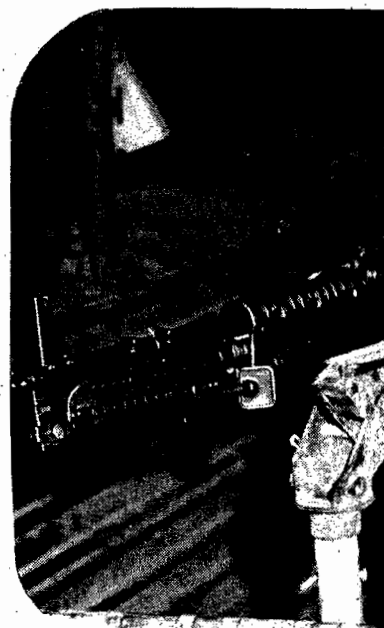


"Tiger Flight" ...Mo



300 ROUNDS PER MINUTE — That's the maximum capability of the 40 mm, XM-174 grenade launcher that Nhoo Phool

prepared to fire during a recent deployment exercise of a "Delta Team."



BUNKER ACTION — A soldier, left, takes control of the machine gun capable of firing

The men shuffled around the overhung area with M-16's slung over their camouflaged fatigues. The sharp cracks of the weapons dominated the mumbled conversations as each man checked his weapon and the ammo filled webbed belt.

A smoky haze hung over the small area as some of the guards enjoyed an ice cold bottle of pop to kill the evening heat.

When the Flight Commander suddenly appeared the men scrambled to formation to receive their duty posts and special orders. The Thai guards formed to the left and the American guards to the right.

When dismissed they grabbed their duffle bags and crawled into armored personnel carriers, jumped onto trucks and loaded squeaking buses and valve-clicking jeeps to deploy to their posts.

Guard Mount was over and the bleak hours of darkness had begun for Udorn's elite base defense team "Tiger Flight."

Nightly, approximately 250 men are deployed to strategic locations on base to protect the resources and men of Udorn during the critical and most vulnerable hours of darkness.

Throughout the night numerous huge clumsy looking armored personnel carriers, affectionately tagged "hogs", roam the almost deserted streets.

The "hogs" carry a specially equipped six-man team known as a "Delta Team". The quick reaction team can respond in minutes to any penetrated area on base and repel

an enemy force until additional back up forces are deployed.

Complementing the Delta Teams are the Security Alert Teams (SAT), composed of two Thai guards and one American guard. Driving drab olive jeeps and equipped with an M-60 machine gun, M-16s and grenades these swift mobile units patrol specific sectors on base.

Adding to the senses of man are the eyes and ears of the sentry and patrol dogs. Man and beast together exploring the darkness, watching the distant faint lights of villages and listening to noises echoing through the empty night air.

Alone walking over sandy ground, they memorize every rugged tree trunk, dried bush and link in the perimeter fence always expecting the unexpected. For the next eight hours man and dog will be colorless silhouettes in the shadows of darkness.

Jutting upward from the earth are numerous 60 foot dingy towers. Confined to a five foot by five foot area, the tower guards oversee the flat rice paddies. Using search lights, infra-red lights and starlight scopes they observe and report all suspicious activity.

Scattered around the base are several small and somewhat concealed machine gun and mortar bunkers. Tarps draped over the rear of the sandbagged bunkers make it next to impossible to determine the exact location of the men inside the bunker.

Throughout the night, with

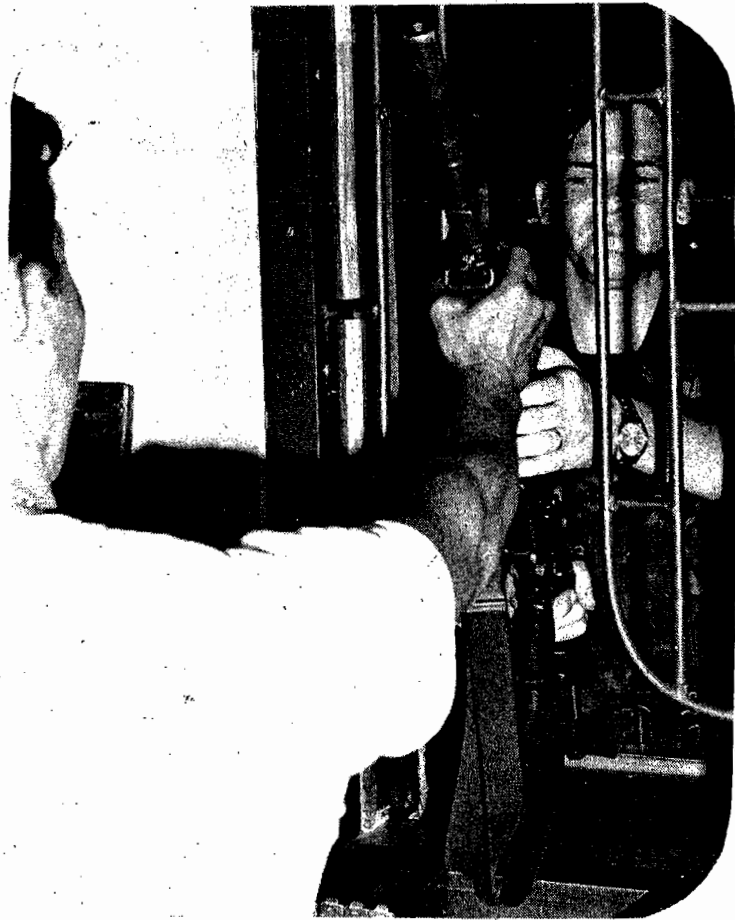
weapon in hand, they peer at barren rice paddies. Frequently local villagers travel hammered paths close to the perimeter fence and each time small beads of sweat begin to flow from the guards as they cautiously watch the travelers with the perception of a cat, eyes flashing and lips dry until the mystery intruder vanishes in the moonlight ... anticipating-thinking that could have been it. And mentally testing themselves step by step if they were challenged.

The heart of the well-piled machinery of base defense is Central Security Control. Illuminated maps and charts pinpoint locations of defense units in each of three sectors. The dimly lit miniature command post has three separate stations for each sector. Each sector supervisor and security controller has their own radio frequency and can operate independently of the other sectors.

Responsible for the entire security of the installation during non-duty hours is the "Tiger Flight" commander, usually a Master Sergeant aided by a Thai NCO.

The commanders are strict, rigid and demanding. Nightly they conduct exercises, testing their own defenses and capabilities and observing and inspecting their own guards.

"Tiger Flight" is an elite and proud unit. A physically and mentally demanding unit. They have to be! For in their hands are all the resources and the lives of the men and women at Udorn RTAFB.



IRON RATIONS — SSgt. Ron Englett checks out an M-16 machine gun at the security police armory prior to guard mount.

Story by

1st Lt. Jerry Guess

Twilight Defenders



rd- per minute. TSgt. Sawai provides added
na- protection with an M-16 machine gun.
nds



500 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH — That's the amount of pressure you'd feel if Sgt. Robert Cruetter commanded "Lucky" to test your reflexes.



MORTAR MEN — A1C Ted Buxton, left, loads an illumination round in a 81 mm mortar. A1C David Demarcus, right, prechecks all sightings to insure the rounds are on target. TSgt. Sumran, center, prepares to feed another round to Airman Buxton.

Photos by

A1C Marty Edelstein



SLAP FLARES — Provide the necessary illumination for base defense forces to visually inspect possible penetrated areas of the base perimeter.

Udorn stops sappers; infiltrators miss F-4s

Two enemy infiltrators and U.S. and Thai Security Forces exchanged grenade and automatic weapons fire in the early morning hours of Oct. 3 which left one infiltrator dead and another wounded and captured.

A Thai Sentry Dog patroller was killed and two others wounded in the attack. Three U.S. Security Policemen of the 432d Combat Support Group were also wounded.

At approximately 12:30 a.m., Thai Sentry Guard Eiw spotted what he thought to be thieves inside the base perimeter. While radioing for assistance, a bullet from an automatic assault rifle, which was used by the infiltrators, smashed his walkie talkie shattering his jaw bone.

"I didn't even realize I was shot until I was at the hospital," commented Eiw.

The sentry dog handler then ran some 200 yards to alert an entry controller on the flightline. Hardly able to talk, he managed to point out the direction of the infiltrators.

As two U.S. canine teams reacted, the infiltrators made their way to the November revetment area, which separated them from the parked F-4 Phantoms nearby. Spotting the security team, the infiltrators opened fire with automatic weapons and grenades.

"They managed to get inside a revetment and stand off our advance," said a security police spokesman. "The fire fighting continued until about 3 a.m. when we heard an explosion in the vicinity of the infiltrators. One of the infiltrators had blown himself to pieces with a satchel charge of explosives."

There were approximately nine satchel charges recovered by the Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team and seven more purposely detonated at the scene.

Minor damage was done to the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron Headquarters Building and a support unit when two undiscovered satchel charges exploded. No one was injured.

"Getting assistance from a Marine helicopter," continued the spokesman, "security police riflemen boarded the chopper to combat the lone infiltrator. With the aid of a 'Snoopy' flareship, we spotted the infiltrator slumped over numerous satchel charges. He wasn't dead, but we suspected his wounded body was booby trapped so we awaited the arrival of the EOD people."

Search and clearing operations continued on base throughout the next day.

While conflicting reports were given as to the number of infiltrators, security forces estimated the figure to be about eight to 12. However, only eight of the infiltrators were actually on base. The others stayed outside the perimeter.

Killed in the attack was Thai Guard Kam-ai. U.S. Security personnel wounded in the attack were SSgt. Glenn Baker, TSgt. Thomas Dexter and A1C James Myer.



DEADLY EXPLOSIVES--SMSgt. Teddy M. Mabry, NCOIC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) shows dearmed land mine left behind by sappers after the unsuccessful sabotage attempt Oct. 3.

At right are satchel charges discovered on base by the EOD people. Some were recovered, others were blown up on-the-spot because of suspected booby trapping. (USAF PHOTOS)

Terrorists Hit 2nd U.S. Base in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—Terrorists for the second consecutive day struck at an American air base in Thailand when they broke into the sprawling base at Udorn Monday night, and all U.S. bases in the country were placed on full alert.

A Thai guard and one attacker were killed in the initial assault on the base, and security forces sweeping the surround-

ing country later killed two more terrorists.

Two American and two Thai security guards were wounded in the firefight that followed the initial assault.

Thai sources said one of the attackers was captured. He was said to be a Meo hilltribesman, one of a group of nomadic people who have been in revolt against the central government for years.

Thai military officials said he had a Communist-made AK47

assault rifle and North Vietnamese field rations on him when captured.

The attack on Udorn, 300 miles northeast of Bangkok, was the second assault on U.S. Air Force installations in 24 hours.

The first was a mortar bombardment of the fighter-bomber base at Ubon Sunday night.

That attack realized the worst fears of American Air Force officers in that it was the first use of mortars and indicates a ma-

ajor upgrading of Communist firepower.

It is a development the Air Force and the U.S. Mission have long dreaded. For more than seven years the air bases in Thailand have been relatively trouble-free sanctuaries.

Previous raids were poorly organized, amateurishly executed and easily beaten off by Thai and American base security teams.

The introduction of mortars, however, puts the 48,000 Ameri-

can airmen and hundreds of fighter bombers, B52s and assorted electronic warfare planes in Thailand within range of the Communist guns for the first time in the war.

Although American officials said Sunday's 36-round barrage did no significant damage to Ubon, the prospect of serious damage and casualties in future attacks is real.

Udorn, Ubon, and Nakorn Phanom bases are particularly vulnerable. They are close to the Mekong River, which is a major highway for Communist infiltration and supply from Laos.

Takhli, Korat and U Tapao are farther from the border but still are vulnerable to accurate mortar fire.

All bases are in rough, thinly populated country that gives good cover to mortar teams. Although most aircraft are kept in revetments, well directed mortar fire still could cause havoc, as has been proved in Communist raids on American air bases in South Vietnam over the years.

American counter insurgency advisors to the Thai government have anticipated for some time that the Communists would use heavier, longer range weapons.

The Thais insist that most of the attacks on the air bases have been performed by North Vietnamese. The Americans describe the attackers as "unidentified."

Past raids were:

— Udorn, northeast Thailand, July 26, 1968. Six to eight sappers attacked with satchel charges seriously damaging three American aircraft, killing one American and one Thai.

— Ubon, northeast Thailand, July 28, 1969. Three terrorists hurled satchel charges at parked aircraft, damaging two USAF C47s. One American sentry wounded.

— Ubon, Jan. 13, 1970. Five terrorists penetrated the perimeter. All were killed, one American was wounded, no aircraft were damaged.

— U Tapao, Jan. 9, 1972. Two B52 stratofortresses slightly damaged and one terrorist killed in a predawn raid.

Security Police chief talks about mortar, sapper attacks



Windows of the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron Headquarter buildings were shattered by the blast of an enemy sapper's explosive satchel charge during the Oct. 3 attack. (USAF PHOTO)

Enemy sappers are advancing. Their bodies are laden with deadly high explosives and automatic weapons. Their target--Udon's F-4 Phantom force.

Today, the events that transpired Oct. 3 are history. The two sappers were stopped short of their goal. One was killed; the other captured.

The day before, mortar shells were dumped into Udon RTAFB, damaging part of the flightline.

"We know it's the job the base security forces to combat the enemy," a concerned airman commented after the attacks, "But what do people do who are caught out in the open or in barracks or work areas."

To get the answer to this and other questions, the Easy Flyer interviewed Maj. Kenneth J. Kwiatkoski, chief, Security Police.

Here are the results of that interview:

Easy Flyer: What's the difference between a mortar or 'standoff attack' and an attack by sappers?

Kwiatkoski: Any attack in

which the indirect use of weapons are used--rockets, mortars or small artillery--is considered a standoff attack--an attack launched from outside the base perimeter.

A sapper attack is done by human beings carrying explosives to the target, and detonating the explosives on the target.

The most dangerous attack is the combination of the two--a standoff attack with advancing sappers.

The Oct. 3 incident was very definitely a sapper attack. The perimeter was breached by sappers, two of whom penetrated as deep as the November revetments. The two sappers were denied the right to withdraw upon being discovered. One was killed on the scene. The other was wounded and captured.

Other penetrators were engaged in a fire fight further to the south, in the area we call "Alpha Sector."

Easy Flyer: What actions taken by the security forces do you credit with thwarting the attack?

Kwiatkoski: The most notable action was performed by the Thai security guard K-9 handler who made initial contact with the two sappers.

Despite his wound--he was shot in the face--he managed to stay on his feet and stay conscious to give the alarm which enabled the rest of the security force to deny the saboteurs their target.

Their (the security force)

response was certainly highly professional in all cases, and some have been recommended for special attention in the form of awards for valor.

Easy Flyer: What are the basic alert notifications to tell people what type of attack situation the base is under?

Kwiatkoski: There are two basic alert notifications when the base is susceptible to an attack.

Gray alert is a moderate increase in defense forces usually caused by intelligence from the local area or other bases in Thailand that enemy forces may be present.

Yellow alert is a decided increase in defense forces caused by an actual attack on another base; or, intelligence that a attack on this base is imminent.

Red alert, of course, is reserved for the actual attack.

People are notified of the particular alert condition through direct communication with units and AFTN radio and TV announcements. Response by all base security forces and augmentees is immediate.

Easy Flyer: Why do we have security augmentees and what is their job?

Kwiatkoski: Because we simply do not have enough trained policeman and Thai security guards to cover the base during an extended threat period.

During an attack situation, the augmentees perform exactly the same way as the security force. They are integrated completely with the security

force. Augmentees during the Oct. 3 attack performed so well that one of them was nominated for an award along with the security force.

Easy Flyer: What should the ordinary person do when he's caught out in the open in a mortar or sapper attack?

Kwiatkoski: The Disaster Control Branch has recently published articles in the daily bulletin which I support completely. And roughly, the advice is this.

Do not seek a better place of safety. Stay where you are. A shallow ditch, a curb, a line of sand bags, almost anything that would give you protection from mortar blast and shrapnel will increase your safety.

To run around and look for a safer place is almost inviting a trip to the mortuary. If you are inside, stay inside. Do not leave your building, even if you feel it's in a target area. Get under a desk, near an inside wall or under the bed. But do not seek a safer shelter.

Most casualties occur when people run around during an indirect fire attack. The maximum danger from a mortar attack is shrapnel. Most mortar rounds are detonated to explode on contact. And this is very light contact--a blade of grass, a leaf, or a strand of fence, will set off the fuse. This is done purposely to the explosive charge to blow the shrapnel outward.

Do not run around during a

sapper attack or fire fight. Friendly forces may not be able to communicate with you until the area is safe. If you're inside, stay inside until the fight is over.

In the past we have always instructed our men to challenge (call halt) in both English and Thai. The simple "halt" is repeated three times (If the desired response is not rendered, security forces are instructed to fire). The Thai word for halt is pronounced, "yoot." Recently we have added the Vietnamese word for halt which is pronounced, "Dong Li (lie)."

Easy Flyer: Are we vulnerable for another attack and how well is the base defended against it?

Kwiatkoski: We are always vulnerable for some form of attack as long as the war continues. The major steps which have been taken to thwart a future attack has been in the line of increasing Royal Thai government response on the external portion of our perimeter.

Our internal defenses are and always have been sound. We've proven that in two (unsuccessful) attacks over the past four years.

They were carrying explosives very similar to those used in sapper attacks in Vietnam and previous ones in Thailand--a satchel charge, approximately one-pound, hand grenades of Chinese and Russian manufacture, Czech assault rifles and a personnel mine which is relatively new to us.



"Most casualties occur when people run around during an indirect fire attack. Do not seek a better place of safety. A shallow ditch, a curb, a line of sand bags -- almost anything that would give you protection from mortar blast and shrapnel -- will increase your safety."

