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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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389TH TFS PHANTOMS HIT ENEMY
BUNKERS AND FIGHTING POSITIONS

PHU CAT AB, Republic of Vietnam (7AF)--Two Air Force F-4 Phantom crews of the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing were recently scrambled from the alert pad to aid troops in contact with the enemy in an area 13 miles west of Tam Ky in Quang Ngai Province.

Crewmen, with the 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron, on the mission were: Majors Curtis P. Balko of Almena, Wis., and Robert C. Solomon of Fort Collins, Fla.; Captain Douglas K. Crumley of Tucson, Ariz.; and First Lieutenant William R. Hesser of Anaheim, Calif.

The forward air controller (FAC) on the mission credited the crews with destroying 15 meters of trench lines, four fortifications, five bunkers, three fighting positions and one tunnel entrance. The crews were also credited with igniting a sustained fire.

Capt. Crumley, one of the aircraft commanders, stated, "When we arrived at the target area, contact had been broken and we were briefed by our FAC to strike some enemy bunkers and fighting positions. These targets had been uncovered by a strike earlier that day.

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"We rolled in, and with each pass, uncovered more bunkers and fighting positions. The target was in a river valley with a mountain nearby. The cloud cover hindered our approach, as did the terrain. One pass on a tunnel entrance gave us a sustained fire with smoke billowing out of three other entrances on the side of a nearby mountain."

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NOTE: This has been cleared for release by MACV.