

Left, "Put your napes between the smoke," said the FAC. The F-100F makes a low run in but does not release, the pilot preferring to go round again



mount to make a highly portable and destructive AA weapon.

It may or may not be relevant in the controversy which now surrounds the US bombing of North Vietnam, but one must in justice state that there is no sign of indiscriminate US bombing on in-country—South Vietnam—strikes. All proposed strikes have to be requested or approved by the local South Vietnamese administration and on some occasions when "friendly" villages—the word does not always carry the same connotation to US troops in Vietnam as it does elsewhere—have been hit, this has proved to be the result of errors by the local authorities. Strike pilots and FACs have a very close rapport; my F-100 pilot had served half his Vietnam tour as an FAC in Bird Dogs, while the FAC was an ex-Super Sabre hand. Far from bombing indiscriminately, US pilots in South Vietnam, in our observation, take extra risks in ensuring that their ordnance is delivered exactly where intended.

Upper right, battle damage assessment: the window makes a handy slate for the FAC on his first assessment of the strike's effectiveness. Later in the day, when the smoke had cleared, he would get a better look, for an assessment by ground troops was unlikely in this strong VC area. The square-shouldered look comes from a flak vest; over his flying suit is a mesh survival jacket

Below, one part of Bien Hoa's many flight lines showing, predominantly, the SVAF Skyraider wing, with USAF O-1Fs and an F-100 in the foreground. There are F-100 and F-5 strike squadrons at Bien Hoa, together with F-102 air defence, C-123 defoliation and AC-47 "Dragonship" units. The resident Aerial Port Sqn handles about one thousand inbound transports a month and the US Army has nearly 100 UH-1Bs and -Ds on the airfield

Landing at Bien Hoa. The O-1F is to be replaced in the USAF by newly ordered Cessna 337 tandem twins, designated O-2s, and by the far more complex NAA OV-10A

