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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE (PACAF)  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: DSL

8 May 1966

SUBJECT: Departure Comments

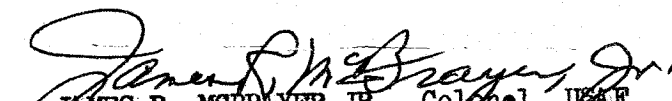
TO: All 7th Air Force Air Policemen

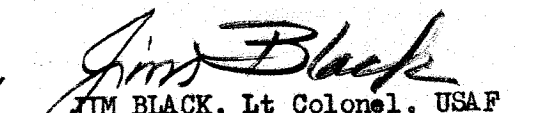
1. On this eve of our tour completions here in Vietnam, the two of us want each of you to know how we feel about this past year.
2. This has not been an easy year for any of us, least of all for you who have carried the workload at base level, where our mission actually is performed. Only a few months ago there were far too few Air Policemen in Vietnam. Every base was short of vehicles, radios, guns, fortifications - - in fact, short of everything except enemy threat. There was plenty of that. Looking back, the Command was pretty much open to a disastrous series of Viet Cong attacks.
3. During the past months, great change has taken place. Our numbers have steadily increased until now our Air Police Squadrons are approaching full strength. We are much better equipped. Miles of security wire have been laid, tons of sandbags have been filled and stacked, buildings have been built from the ground up, dog kennels have been completed. All of these have added to the security and safety of our Command. It is most significant that the majority of this work was accomplished by 7th AF Air Policemen who often stretched wire by day and then secured that wire by night. Overall, it has been a magnificent accomplishment.
4. The Air Policemen has solidly proven himself here in Vietnam over this past year. His versatility, reliability and, above all, his readiness to fight a crafty and effective enemy has been amply demonstrated. Perhaps the best proof of this comes from the enemy himself. Increasingly, he resorts to attack from distant off base positions using mortars and recoilless rifles, and avoids the swift commando type raid which would seem to be his most devastating tactic. It can be argued that VC respect for the Air Policeman has been a main factor behind the absence of commando raids against our bases. This, in itself, is a genuine tribute to each of you as individuals and to all of you as members of the 7th AF Air Police Force.
5. We want to say "WELL DONE" to each one of you who has manned a post, worked a sentry dog team, served on a SAT or a base patrol, provided convoy armed escort and accomplished the many other tasks

that combine to produce our system of security. Also, its "WELL DONE" to the Officers and Noncommissioned Officers who have pointed and led the way.

6. Obviously, there can be no let up now. As we see it, as our Air and Ground Forces steadily increase the pressure on the VC, he will operate with more and more vengeance and perhaps desperation. There have been rough times in the past but rougher times might lie ahead. The answer to those future rough times is proficiency on the part of the individual and of the overall force. The personal skill of individual Air Policemen continues to be our most vital asset. So we say to you - continue the good work - and push for still higher levels of professionalism.

7. In closing, accept our sincere congratulations for proving that you have been equal to and better than the difficult task that has confronted you. Good luck to all of you.

  
JAMES R. MCBRAYER JR., Colonel, USAF  
Director, Security/Law Enforcement

  
JIM BLACK, Lt Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Director, Security/Law  
Enforcement