

Major Thenhaus, IGSS/4240/bso/24 Jan 1967

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Defense of Tan Son Nhut - Progress Report (U)

SA, CPO

1. (U) Reference MACV Confidential Ltr, subject: Defense of Tan Son Nhut (U), 20 Dec 1966.

2. (C)(U) The following progress report concerning 7th Air Force areas of responsibility is submitted. Paragraphs are numbered to match the subparagraphs of paragraph 4a of referenced letter.

(1) (C) The US effort toward the internal security of Tan Son Nhut Air Base is coordinated and integrated by the US Forces Joint Defense Plan, 1 October 1966. The USAF support plan has been published and implemented; the USAF support plan has been published and final coordination is pending.

(2) (C) A draft US-HVN Base Defense Plan for Tan Son Nhut will be discussed with Commander, VNAF, by the Chief, Air Force Advisory Group. A synthesis of the Vietnamese and USAF defense plan details is expected to be reached by the end of this month.

(3) (C) The Base Civil Engineers are presently engaged in amassing ten towers with 4" steel plate and positioning them as required by the 377th Cabt Spt Gp. Six towers affording surveillance of the perimeter have been completed and range cards prepared. All are manned each night by Air Police personnel equipped with night vision devices. Estimated completion date of the remaining ten towers is 28 February 1967.

(4) (C) Defoliation of areas overgrown by dense vegetation has been in progress since 6 Dec 1966. The USAF has sprayed and burned off the area between the northern half of the perimeter and the perimeter road. A like area extending inward from the perimeter road has been burned off. Recent rains have hampered burning. Units situated in proximity to this portion of the perimeter have cleaned their areas. Estimate 25% of the perimeter complete on the north side of the runway. Commencing 10 Jan 1967 a defoliation team from the 2nd Services Battalion began clearing interior areas. Earth moving operations incidental to new runway construction have also resulted in the leveling of the large areas and the elimination of dense foliage and trees. This effort will continue.

(5) (C) An interim integrated US communications net to support the base defense effort is currently operational. A meeting was held by the base communication electronics representatives on 16 Nov 1966 with agencies

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concerned to confirm communications requirements. It was determined that a Key System and a Dual Frequency Non-Tactical Radio net were needed to satisfy the communications requirements. The Key equipment was placed on requisition 19 Dec 1966 and the non-tactical radios were ordered on 6 Dec 1966 with requested delivery date of 6 Mar 1967. (This is the earliest possible delivery date).

(6) (C) The Commander, 377th Cmbt Spt Gp or his designated representative will exercise operational control over the USARV Quick Reaction Force during periods of increased tension. Action completed.

(7) (C) A change to the Joint US Forces Defense Plan will be published shortly deleting the off base defense mission of the USARV Quick Reaction Force.

(8) (C) Site clearing and preparation complete; foundations poured; extension concrete walls formed and poured to approximately 8 feet high. Work status 18% complete and progressing satisfactorily. Requirements for maps and consoles not included in the original project were transmitted by the 377th Cmbt Spt Gp to 74Y (DCE) on 14 Jan 1967. CIGC BUD estimate of May 67 appears valid. ← 10

(9) (C) Design complete. Project has been given to CIGC for contract and construction by RPK. The government furnished materials ordered by the Base Civil Engineer are estimated at 40% on hand; estimated delivery period for the remainder is February to May 67. Action has been initiated by the 377th Cmbt Spt Gp to improve the estimated delivery date.

(10) (C) The Chief, Air Force Advisory Group will discuss a draft US-ARV Base Defense Plan for Tan Son Nhut with Commander, VNAF. A synopsis of the Vietnamese and USARV Defense Plan details is expected to be reached by the end of the month. The US Army Advisory Team has moved into the Base Commander's Base Defense Command Post, an "Joint Command Post" as it is known. This is the first tangible result of the defense plan which will place representatives of all ground forces in one room.

3. (U) This letter is assigned a derivative classification of Confidential in accordance with ARMY Confidentiality Law, Subject: Defense of Tan Son Nhut (7), 20 December 1966.

FOR TB: CG31-K3-R

SIGNED

J. L. W.
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Director of Security Police

Cy to: 377CSG (C)
AFDP
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*25 Jan 67
1 cy sent ea address*

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