

HISTORY
OF THE
31ST SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON
TUY HOA AB, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
1 JANUARY 1969 – 31 MARCH 1969

JOHN B. WELCH JR.
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Commander

ROBERT C. BRENZEL
Captain, USAF
Historian

This document is a transcription of a microfilm copy of the original document on file with the Air Force History Office. It has been transcribed as written (including capitalization errors) except for some obvious misspellings which have been corrected.

The unit history was originally classified SECRET, but was declared declassified in timed stages until it was unclassified after 12 years. Transcription of this document was done by Dick Larsen, SMSgt, USAF (Ret), who served as 31st TFW historian during most of his tour from December 1967 to December 1968.

**31st SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON
ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL
(As of 31 March 1969)**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DUTY POSITION</u>
Welch, John B.	Lt Col	Squadron Commander
Bajo, Manuel	Capt	Operations Officer
Hermann, John C.	Capt	Chief, Law Enforcement
Garmire, William A.	Capt	Chief, Weapons System Security
Brenzel, Robert C.	Capt	Squadron Section Commander
Scarborough, James S.	CMSgt	Security Police Superintendent
Carter, Marvin T.	SMSgt	Operations Superintendent
Lunn, Robert L.	TSgt.	First Sergeant
Scofield, Frank E.	TSgt	NCOIC, Law Enforcement
Trotter, David F.	MSgt	Flight Commander, "A" Security
Ohme, Kenneth A.	MSgt	Flight Commander, "B" Security
Hamner, Burton L.	MSgt	Flight Commander, "Tiger" Flt. Security
Reakes, William R.	MSgt	NCOIC, K-9 Section

DEPARTURES

Wardell, Wendell R.	Capt	to McChord AFB, WA
Hendrix, Virgil K.	SMSgt	to Ton Son Nhut AB
Sutton, Joe L.	MSgt	to McConnell AFB, KS
Jones, Hilary V.	MSgt	to Nha Trang AB
Dunbar, Robert E.	MSgt	to Lackland AFB, TX
Mascola, Louis A.	MSgt	to Ton Son Nhut AB
Crymes, Paul J.	MSgt	to Lockbourne AFB, Ohio

ARRIVALS

Scarborough, James S.	CMSgt
Carter, Marvin T.	SMSgt
Lunn, Robert L.	TSgt

31st Security Police Squadron
Tuy Hoa AB, Republic of Vietnam
1 January 1969 – 31 March 1969

MISSIONS				
PRIMARY: The primary mission of the 31 st Security Police Squadron is to provide perimeter and internal security protection against clandestine or over attack, sabotage or the disclosure of military information.				
SECONDARY: The 31 st Security Police Squadron also enforces law and order, maintains Air Force standards of conduct and discipline, and supports all units by providing logistical, photographic, and identification media services.				
PERSONNEL				
STATUS	OFFICERS	AIRMEN	CIVILIANS	TOTAL
ASSIGNED	5	372	12	389
AUTHORIZED	7	395	14	416
ATTACHED	0	10	0	10
EQUIPMENT				
AIRCRAFT		WEAPONS		
N/A		M79: 6	Pistol, Flare: 13	
		M-16: 608	Pistol, 38: 165	
		M-16A: 52	M-19: 3	
		M-60: 52	MB-1: 2	
		M-12: 11	90MM: 1	
			.50 Machine Guns: 7	
RADIOS		VEHICLES/OTHER		
Base Station: 2	NT 200: 142	Jeep: 22	2-1/2 Ton: 5	
Remote Station: 3	PT 3CO: 25	Weapons Carrier: 3	Car XM 706: 3	
Mobile: 28		Light Intensification Devices: Starlight 14, Night Observation Device 2, Crew Served 2		
		Sentry Dogs: 46	Astro Lux Lamp: 1	

OPERATIONS

JANUARY

During the month of January, general enemy activity within the 30km radius of the Air Base monitored by squadron intelligence stabilized at a moderate level. Intelligence reports reflected continuing interest in the air base by provincial VC armed guerrilla bands, but no actual attacks were initiated against the base. Squadron personnel were placed on SACON YELLOW irregularity throughout the month in response to intelligence reports and actual engagements between guerrilla bands and friendly forces near the air base. Squadron personnel received no regularity scheduled time off. This is now a permanent policy in the Security Police Squadron. Harassing small arms fire on the perimeter occurred frequently during the month. No casualties resulted. Beach defenses all being strengthened by construction of triple standard concertina wire fence. The project was 15% completed by the end of January.

FEBRUARY

The annual TET (lunar New Year) Holiday Truce was not mutually agreed upon between belligerents this year. Luring the month of February, Security Police maintained security alert condition YELLOW continuously. Intelligence estimates indicated the VC intended an offensive campaign in connection with the TET celebration. The offensive actually occurred after the close of the traditional TET celebration. Contacts with local Viet Cong by supporting ground forces doubled over the previous month. VC KIAs jumped 300% over the previous month.

The City of Tuy Hoa, 1km from the northern air base perimeter, received a mortar attack during the month. Two hundred infantrymen of the 28th Regimental Combat Team, ROKA established strong ambush positions 500-700 meters west of the air base. One battery of 105MM howitzer established a fire base within the air base perimeter. The security police 81MM mortar section fired illumination support for the ambush positions. Direct liaison between Central Security Control and the artillery battery was established to integrate Air Force and ROKA heavy weapons fire missions. The air base was subject to sporadic small arms fire at night throughout the month but no attempt was made to penetrate the perimeter. Personnel worked 12 hours on and 12 hours off for the entire month.

Improvements to the outer perimeter defensive positions were expedited. Reinforcement and construction of fighting positions at the base of observations towers was 50% complete. This work was being accomplished by Security Police personnel with Civil Engineering Squadron equipment borrowed on Civil Engineers days off. Construction of beach perimeter fencing was 50% complete. This project is now being accomplished by indigenous civil engineers employees on loan to Security Police Squadron. The squadron vehicle situation continued critical. Posting vehicles of unsuitable types, such as commercial trucks and school buses, were borrowed from other units each night to expedite posting of Tiger Flight. No relief is anticipated on replacement of vehicles salvaged for reason of high maintenance cost or high mileage.

The efficiency of security police augmentee force recovered from the substantial personnel turnover in December and January. All augmentee replacements have now had initial training and at least one cycle of recurring training.

During TET Offensive, augmentee fire teams were used every night to reinforce Tiger Flight quick reaction capability. Security force endurance was tested to the extreme by prolonged SACON Yellow 90-hour per week work schedule. There was noticeable lassitude when necessary emergency recalls were required of off-duty personnel.

MARCH

The post TET Offensive of 1969 had little effect in the environment of the air base. However, intelligence reports indicating possible successive phases of the offensive in which the air base would be targeted required a high state of alert for security forces the first half of the month. Tuy Hoa is the only air base in South Vietnam that was not subjected to stand-off' artillery attack during the post-TET Offensive of 1969. Personnel returned to regular flight hours, the second week of the month.

Security facilities construction and improvement program made significant progress. All observation towers on northern, western, and southern perimeters improved with fighting bunker incorporated in base of tower. Defense of beach perimeter is enhanced by triple standard concertina barbed wire. The new Central Security Control Building is 70% completed. The squadron underwent an inspection by the Seventh Air Force Inspector General. The squadron received an Outstanding Rating.