

**HISTORY**  
**31st Security Police Squadron**  
**1 July 1968 - 30 September 1968**

**Vietnam**

Tuy Hòa AB  
Tuy Hòa AB, South Vietnam, 15 Jul 1967-15 Oct 1970



**31st Security Police Squadron**  
**"Defend With Honor"**  
**Tuy Hoa AB, '67 - 70**

**Note:** Transcribed from the official history of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, Tuy Hòa AB, Republic of Vietnam, July-September 1968. Spelling errors have been corrected and illegible words or numbers indicated, otherwise this document is transcribed verbatim. This document was originally classified SECRET but is now unclassified in accordance with Executive Order 12958 .

HISTORY  
OF  
31st Security Police Squadron  
1 JULY 1968 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1968  
ASSIGNED TO:  
31st TACTICAL FIGHTER WING, 7th AIR FORCE, PACAF, USAF  
STATIONED AT:  
Tuy Hòa AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

---/Signed/--- ---/Signed/---

WENDELL R. WARDELL, 1st Lt, USAF JOHN B. WELCH JR, Lt. Colonel, USAF

## Historian Commander

### MISSIONS

The primary mission of the 31st Security Police Squadron is to provide perimeter and internal security protection against clandestine or over attack, sabotage, or the disclosure of military information. The 31st 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	6	363	14	383
AUTHORIZED	7	395	14	416
ATTACHED	0	0	0	0

### EQUIPMENT

#### WEAPONS:

M16	*608	.50 Cal	7
M16a	52	.38 Cal	165
M60	61	**	51
M-12	11	M-72	29
M-79	6	90MM	

#### RADIOS:

Main Stations:	2 MT 200:	142
Remote Stations:	3 PT 300:	300
Mobile:		30

#### VEHICLES:

M-151:	22
2-1/2 Ton:	5
Weapons Carriers:	4

#### LIGHT INTENSIFICATION DEVICES:

Starlite	11
Night Observation Device	2
Crew-Serviced	2

#### SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:

Sentry Dogs	46
Astro Lux Lamp	1

\* = *Nearly Illegible*

\*\* = *Illegible*

### OPERATIONS

#### JULY

During this month the squadron was treated to the presence and inquiries after their health by 2 American girls; Red Cross girls. Miss Lola Musis and Miss Kathy Matthias came to visit on the 9th of July from Dong Bathin and spent the evenings visiting the guard mounts and the posts of Tiger Flight. The men appreciated it and it has now become a weekly occurrence.

On 29 July the base came under attack by two hostile sapper units. It appears they penetrated before Tiger Flight guard mount and lay between the runways for 2 to 4 hours. The first knowledge of their presence was when an aircraft exploded on the flight line at 0137. Calling a Red Alert the squadron raced to the area and quickly engaged the withdrawing hostile forces. A 4 hour gun fight ensued as the hostiles attempted to extract themselves from the base. When the fight was over 9 enemy lay dead and

their weapons captured. The squadron suffered no casualties.

## **AUGUST**

This month was marked by an increased vigilance and upgrading of security by completion and initiation of emplacements improvements. The squadron went to a 7 day work week with no time off for any assigned personnel. In addition, 5 dog handlers from Binh Thuy AB were sent TDY to us to assist in our manning problem.

The squadron provided main line resistance training for the Junior Officer Council at their request. This training was supervised by 1Lt Huffman and the first class was well received with more planned in the future.

## **SEPTEMBER**

The month resulted in continued surveillance and a 7 day work week. This is the second month of no time off for the squadron. The K9 section has started to come back up to strength which has allowed us to utilize our dogs in a more efficient manner.

On 9 September we received approval from 7th AF and COMUS MACV in instituting a sanitized zone for 100 meters around our entire perimeter between 2100 and 0400. The squadron passed out hand bills to all villages around us warning them of this and large signs were placed approximately 100 meters around the perimeter with the same warning. Between these hours (2100-0400) any person in the zone will receive warning shots and if he does not vacate the area will be the subject of gunfire aimed to kill. This has improved our Base Defense immeasurably.

### **BASE DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS**

Many projects have been undertaken to improve Base Defense capabilities. A perimeter lighting project is approximately 70% complete providing all of the western perimeter fence, 1/2 of the northern perimeter and 1/3 of the southern perimeter with continuous lighting making penetration most difficult.

New bunkers have been constructed in the vicinity of Oscar 8, Oscar 6 and southwest of Post 1. These are all multiple man bunkers and offer increased fire power in critical areas. Oscar 8 has been moved and raised to provide increased visibility.

The entire perimeter fence is being reinforced by adding another 4 strand fence inside and then doing the MACV weave in it. This is progressing rapidly and is approximately 25% complete.

Two below surface mortar positions have been constructed replete with trenches to bunkers which may be used by the mortar men for cover if the position is shelled. By virtue of their strategic locations 90% of the base can be covered. The protection of the out-of-reach spots is afforded by a mortar tube mounted in the rear of a weapons carrier. All tubes are 81MM and ammunition is illumination and high explosive.

### **PROBLEM AREAS**

One problem continues to plague the squadron; that of being undermanned. We are currently authorized 395 enlisted personnel and 7 officers. Our present on board strength is 367 enlisted and 6 officers. Additionally, all of our Key Noncommissioned Officers will rotate at approximately the same time which will cause a break in our combat experienced troops. This will take a short period of time to cover after arrival of our new Key Personnel. We are currently the only Security Police Squadron not authorized a Major as Operations officer. We have asked for relief from Personnel in our manning problems and authorizations.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL**

Welch, John B., Jr.	Lt Col	Squadron Commander
Robertson, Gilbert D.	Capt	Operations Officer
Hermann, John	Co Capt	Chief Law Enforcement
Bajo, Manuel	Capt	Chief Weapons System Security
Bronsol, Robert C.	Capt	Intelligence Officer

Wardell, Wendell R.	Capt	Squadron Section Commander
Miller, William	1Lt	TDY Intelligence Officer 821st Combat Security Police Sq.
Evans, Norman	MSgt	Police Superintendent
Owens, Leslie	MSgt	NCOIC Law Enforcement
Williams, Carlton H.	MSgt	NCOIC Weapons System Security
Dunbar, Robert E.	MSgt	First Sergeant
Mascols, Louis A.	MSgt	Flight Commander, "A" Security
Crymes, Paul J.	MSgt	Flight Commander, "B" Security
Sutton, Joe L.	MSgt	Flight Commander, Tiger Security

**DEPARTURES**

Spryn, Michael	Major	to Loring AFB, Maine
Kingston, Thomas	Major	to Phù Cát AB
Huffman, Kenneth E.	Capt	to Tân Sơn Nhứt AB

**ARRIVALS**

Branzel, Robert C.	Capt
Hendrix, Virgil K	SMSgt

**APPENDIX II**

Security Clearances granted (U.S.):	32
Military Service Security Clearances (RVN):	150
Vietnamese Base Badges issued:	212
POV's registered:	35

**APPENDIX III**

Minor Accidents	On Base: 26	Off Base: 1
Major Accidents	On Base: 01	Off Base: 1

**APPENDIX IV  
CMJ ARTICLES VIOLATED**

MONTH	ART. 86	ART. 92	ART. 113	ART. 128	ART. 131	ART. 134
July	1	1	0	1	1	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	1
September	0	1	2	0	0	0

**PROPERTY LOST OR STOLEN**

	NUMBER OF CASES	VALUE	RECOVERED
Government Property	31	\$4,893.93	\$1,716.73
Private Property	25	\$2,382.50	\$479.00
Non Appropriated Fund Property	1	\$268.00	\$0

*We Take Care of Our Own*