

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama 36112

RETURN TO

154-113-6831-111
12/1/71

~~RESTRICTED DOCUMENT~~

~~THIS IS A PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT
NOT RECEIVABLE IN WHOLE OR PART
TO PERSONS OR AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE
AIR FORCE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.~~

MICROFILMED BY ROTM

1 September - 31 December 1971

DO NOT DESTROY
No. 0275548

NO 9 JUN 1980

DECLASSIFIED

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 years
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

CLASSIFIED BY
EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
APPLICABLE TO THIS DOCUMENT
RECLASSIFIED AT TWO
INTERVALS OCCURRING ON DECEMBER
31, 1979

NO: 100-100000
CONTROL NO. 100-100000
COPY 1 4 COPIES

CHRONOLOGY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Significant Event</u>
1 Sep 71	(U)	6251st Air Base Squadron Activated
10 Sep 71	(U)	Col Gregg F. Glick Assumed Command of 6251st Air Base Squadron
11 Sep 71	(U)	7th AF Staff Assistance Team Visit
25 Sep 71	(U)	FB/FE 5243 Stock Record Account closed and Univac 1050-II Supply Computer Transferred to VNAF
4 Oct 71	(U)	VNAF Personnel Began Training to assume Transient Alert Function
15 Oct 71	(U)	Program Action Directive 71-7-20 was closed
16 Oct 71	(U)	PACAF Munitions Assistance and Standardization Team Visit
6 Nov 71	(U)	Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird Visit
15 Nov 71	(U)	21st TASS Relocated to Ubon RTAB, Thailand 483 TAW GL Relocated to Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
20 Nov 71	(U)	Program Action Directive 72-7-3 Received
1 Dec 71	(U)	1st Weather Gp OL Deactivated 37 ARRSq FOL Deactivated
5 Dec 71	(U)	Secretary of The Air Force Robert C. Seamans Visit
13 Dec 71	(U)	7th AF Inspector General Team Visit
14 Dec 71	(U)	Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) Barry J. Shillito Visit
15 Dec 71	(U)	Transferred Last Perimeter Defense Posts to VNAF

CHRONOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENT</u>
1 October	(U)	General J. W. Vogt, Commander 7th AF; Lt General Tran Van Minh, VNAF Commander in Chief; and Brig General R. T. Holland, Deputy Commander, 7AF, visit.
1 October	(U)	The 8th SOSq deactivates.
12 October	(U)	The 8th SOSq re-activates.
13 October	(U)	The Honorable Spencer J. Schedler, Asst Secretary of the Air Force, visits Bien Hoa Air Base.
15 October	(U)	Lt Col Burke, Deputy Base Commander, departs Bien Hoa Air Base. Lt Col Marriot assumes duties of Deputy Base Commander.
20 October	(U)	Brig General John D. Peters, PACAF Civil Engineering, visits Bien Hoa Air Base.
22 October	(U)	22 Bien Hoa Air Base came under Rocket Attack. The base received 61 confirmed rockets.
25 October	(U)	The 8th Special Operations Squadron de-activates.
25 October	(U)	Major General Charles I. Bennett, 8AF Director of Operations, visited OL-21, at Bien Hoa Air Base.
30 October	(U)	The first A-7D aircraft lands at Bien Hoa Air Base, with maintenance problems.
31 October	(U)	The first scheduled A-7D aircraft lands at Bien Hoa Air Base.
31 October	(U)	Operation Enhance Plus started.
1 November	(U)	GCA was transferred to the VNAF.

PERSONNEL:

1 January 1972 - 31 March 1972

KEY PERSONNEL:

Chief, Security Police	Capt. Arnold J. Houchin Jr
Operations Officer	Capt. Fred W. Fletcher Jr
Operations Superintendent	SMSgt Rawley S. Wharton
NCOIC, LE & Security	MSgt Harry R. Eaton
NCOIC Admin & Reports	SSgt James I. Dorrance Jr
NCOIC Support	SSgt Robert K. Mitchell
NCOIC K-9	SSgt Wayndlle L. Moore

OPERATIONS BRANCH:

On 7 January 1972, SMSgt Wharton was assigned and assumed duties as Security Police Superintendent. On 1 March 1972, the Section was realigned bringing it in line with AFR 125-2. A new Organizational Chart was implemented. MSgt Eaton was assigned duty as NCOIC of Security and Law Enforcement and TSgt Morrison was relieved of duty as NCOIC of LE and assigned to duty as Flight Commander, "A" Flight. On 20 March 1972, TSgt Ellis was relieved of duty as NCOIC of Administrative Security for DEROS and SSgt Dorrance assumed duty as NCOIC of Administrative Security. On 24 March 1972, SSgt Perry was relieved of duty as Clerk with the Administrative Security Branch for DEROS and SSgt Pearce was assigned duty as Clerk with the Administrative Security Branch.

SECURITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH:

No significant events occurred within this branch during this quarter. The combining of both Security and Law Enforcement into one branch took place on 16 December 1971 and has proven to be very effective throughout this period. Several major problems were anticipated because of the change but none have developed. The branch was responsible for strengthening our island defense posture in January and February. This was accomplished by laying over 1000 meters of triple strand concertina wire which has enhanced the security of USAF resources. Trip flares were placed in many strategic locations around our area of responsibility and three USAF fighting positions were re-enforced with concrete slabs and sand bags.

SUPPORT BRANCH:

This branch continued to turn in excess equipment as manpower and post requirements were reduced.

38 Cal Revolvers turned into Supply - 5

Barracks furniture in the amount of \$9,990.30

Office Equipment in the amount of \$778.00

TRAINING BRANCH:

The training branch will close on 1 April 1972.

During the last quarter 104 Augmentecs were trained, 25 went through a refresher course. The OJT workload continued on the decline due to decrease in personnel. A total of twelve persons were upgraded to the 5 level AFSC.

The Base Firing Range was turned over to the VNAF effective 1 February 72.

K-9 BRANCH:

On 19 March 1972 the K-9 branch received 4 additional personnel from Cpm Rhan Bay and on 21 March 1972, 17 dogs arrived on station in a hold status of Ton Son Nhut AB.

CHRONOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENTS</u>
1 January	(U)	Transferred Central Base Fund to Tan Son Nhut Air Base
12 January	(U)	Enemy Sappers Attack Munitions Storage Area
15 January	(U)	Laundry Close
21 January	(U)	Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Research and Development, Grant L. Hansen Visit
24 January	(U)	Personnel Records Transferred to Tan Son Nhut Air Base
25 January	(U)	Punch Card Accounting Machines Turned-in
29 January	(U)	Personal Property Shipping Section Deleted
30 January - 4 February	(U)	CSAF/AFLC/PACAF/7AF/AFGP Fact Finding Team Visit
31 January	(U)	Civic Actions Office Closed
	(U)	CBPO Closed, GSU Opened
	(U)	Aerospace Ground Equipment Transferred to 377th ABWg
2 February	(U)	Lapidary Shop and Leather Crafts Closed
10 February	(U)	Lt General Minh Visit
21 February	(U)	Rocket Hit Munitions Holding Area Wounding Two Personnel and Destroying two vehicles
14 March	(U)	General Jack G. Merrill, Commander Air Force Logistics Command, Visit

UNCLASSIFIED

HISTORICAL DATA RECORD	REPORTING PERIOD		REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL
	FROM 1 July 72	TO 30 Sept 72	AU-DS
FROM (NAME AND LOCATION OF UNIT SUBMITTING THIS REPORT) Det. 1, 377th Air Base Wing/SP APO San Francisco 96227		TO: Det. 1, 377th Air Base Wing/DT APO San Francisco 96227	

IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED FOR ANY ITEM, ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS INDICATING APPLICABLE ITEM NUMBER.

SECTION I ASSIGNMENT				
OR AIR COMMAND PACAF	NUMBERED AIR FORCE SEVENTH	AIR DIVISION	WING	GROUP

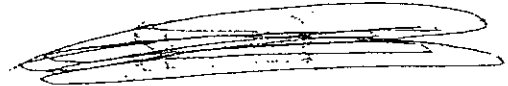
SECTION II SUBORDINATE UNITS				
N/A				

SECTION III MISSIONS	
A. PRIMARY	Security of Aerospace operational resources in compliance with PACAFM 207-25. a. Enforcement of law and control of personnel and motor vehicle traffic b. Operation of detention facility.
B. SECONDARY (OR OTHER)	None

SECTION IV PERSONNEL				
STATUS	OFFICERS	AIRMEN	CIVILIANS	TOTAL
ASSIGNED	2	110	1	113
AUTHORIZED	2	104	1	107
ATTACHED	0	0	0	0

SECTION V EQUIPMENT	
A. AIRCRAFT N/A	B. WEAPONS (INCLUDING MISSILES) M-16 - 115 .38 Cal - 55 12 Gauge - 15 M-60 - 15 M-79 - 15 M174 - 3 CAR-15 - 20
C. ELECTRONICS Base Stations - 6 Portable - 80	D. OTHER Binoculars - 3 NW Scope - 8 M-151 - 8 M-113A1 - 1

RETURN TO
Historical Research Division
825/HQA
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

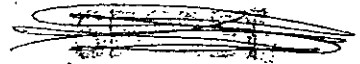


HISTORY
OF
377TH AIR BASE WING
1 JULY - 31 DECEMBER 1972

VOLUME II
APPENDIX VI

CORONA HARVEST
DO NOT DESTROY
φ58L575 thru φ58L58φ
φ582φ25

CLASSIFIED BY 377ABW/EC
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1980



MICROFILMED BY TIM

00896447

PERSONNEL:

1 July 1972 - 30 September 1972

KEY PERSONNEL:

Chief, Security Police
Operations Officer
Operations Superintendent.
NCCIC, Security & LE
NCOIC, Admin & Reports
NCOIC, Support
NCOIC, K-9

Capt Arthur J. Corwin
Capt Allen L. Pack
SMSgt Rawley S. Wharton
MSgt Harry R. Eaton
SSgt Richard L. Pearce
SSgt Russell W. Rogge
SSgt Donald J. Olmstead

Bronze Star?

Bronze Star

Bronze Star

Bronze Star

They also got a Bronze Star Medal

OPERATIONS BRANCH:

Several changes were noted by this branch at the ending of the quarter. On 10 July 1972, SSgt Mackey was relieved of duty with "B" Flight and assumed duties of NCOIC, Training and Intelligence. The Intelligence Section was deactivated in January and the Training Section in April by 7th AF PAD action. The deactivation of these sections was a planned move in the closure of Bien Hoa Air Base. Due to the extension of the proposed close out date, these sections were reactivated on a limited basis to insure the security force personnel were adequately trained and all possible intelligence concerning the security of Bien Hoa Air Base was known by security personnel. Captain Houchin was relieved of duty as Chief, Security Police on 26 July 1972 and Captain Corwin assumed that position. (On 1 August 1972, this installation was subjected to the most intense enemy rocket bombardment suffered by any USAF installation during the Vietnam conflict. For acts of heroism during this attack Captain Corwin, Captain Fletcher, SMSgt Wharton, MSgt Eaton, SSgt Perez and Sgt MacIntire were submitted for the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" Device.) On 12 September 1972, Captain Fletcher was relieved of duty as Operations Officer and 1st/Lt Pack assumed that position.

SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH:

The only major change in the Law Enforcement operation during this quarter was the initiation of an extensive Security Police drug suppression program. This

program was started in August 1972 and involves gate shakedowns, road blocks at the main entrance to the US cantonment area, checks of Vietnamese hut maid areas within US occupied barracks and the checking of Vietnamese trash trucks. All these checks are made at random by both A and B Flight and our personnel are assisted by both Quah Canh and a marijuana detector patrol dog team. To date, only one small "bust" has been made as a result of the program but it is also acting as a definite physiological effect on persons desiring to bring drugs into our area. In the Security area, this unit is still being augmented by a company of US Marine infantrymen. The original company commanded by Captain N.R. Hoskott was replaced by "I" Company, Captain Michael S. Kelly, Commander, in August 1972. In an effort to enhance the protection of building #2560, Security Police Defense Operations Center, the entire building was reveted in August using both sand bags and sand filled 55 gallon drums. All work was completed by Security Policemen on a self-help basis. In September, USAF Stinger aircraft were incorporated into the defense of Bien Hoa Air Base and numerous personnel and vehicle detector sensors were installed by US Marine personnel at various locations around the base perimeter. During this quarter, this installation was subjected to two of the largest enemy rocket attacks ever launched against a US occupied air base in the entire Vietnam conflict and a detonation of major proportions in the VMAF munitions holding area. For its actions during these emergencies, the Security Police Section has been recommended for the Air Force Unit Excellence Award. As a result of their dedication to duty in searching the area of the explosion which occurred on 10 September 1972, Capt Corwin, Capt Fletcher, Capt Pack, SSgt Wharton, MSgt Eaton, SSgt Rogge, SSgt Warner and AIC Jones were recommended for the Air Force Commendation Medal.

4
U
Combk.
Action
U
on
Ribbon

SUPPORT BRANCH:

Due to the increase in the number of personnel assigned there has been no equipment turned in. New equipment was issued to this branch as required due to changes in the local situation.

K-9 BRANCH:

On 2 August 1972, SSgt Griffin was relieved of duty with the K-9 Section and SSgt Clmstead assumed this position. During this quarter, the K-9 Branch has been undergoing repairs on a self-help basis. These repairs included painting.

a C-5A aircraft operation without mishap. During November, MSgt Clinton Shanefelter assumed duties as NCOIC, Security and Law Enforcement Branch. Due to the large turn over of assigned personnel in November, 31 Security Policemen were assigned TDY to this unit from Tan Son Nhut AB. Of this number, 13 have been returned to their home base.

TRAINING/INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

In addition to normal duties, this branch initiated a weekly intelligence report to 7th Air Force. Daily intelligence reports continue to be received from local agencies and are now being furnished to the Base Commander as well as all Security Police flights. Six personnel were upgraded to the 5 skill level this quarter and all assigned personnel received extensive training in Crater Analysis procedures which has proven beneficial during recent rocket attacks. A total of 63 base personnel were trained in Security Police augmentee duties.

INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH

A total of 108 cases were referred to this branch during this period. 16 of these cases involved the theft of government property valued at over \$11,000.00. Of these losses, a total of \$1,000 in property was recovered. The major theft was that of a USMC M-151 jeep, valued at over \$3,000. There were 39 cases of personal property thefts valued at over \$4,700.00. Of this property, \$380.00 was recovered. 11 drug cases were initiated this quarter, all involving the use and possession of Marijuana. Four of these cases are pending final laboratory results. Because of the increased work load, SSgt James L. Howard was reassigned to this branch in November as an additional investigator.

ADMIN AND REPORTS BRANCH

Due to the anticipation of a Vietnam cease fire, this branch dealt mainly with the destruction of non-essential classified material and is now in the process of updating all remaining classified material in accordance with Executive Order 11652. During this quarter, the three assigned personnel were all newly assigned replacing those personnel who had departed. SSgt Robbins replaced SSgt Pearce as Branch NCOIC in November.

SUPPORT BRANCH

SSgt Olmstead was assigned as branch NCOIC replacing SSgt Rogge. Due to the unit's mission remaining essentially unchanged, no significant amount of equipment could be turned in during this period. In preparation for the massive turn-in of equipment that would occur in the event of a Vietnam ceasefire, all required supply turn-in documents have been completed and are being held on file.

PERSOMNEL

1 October 1972 - 31 December 1972

KEY PERSONNEL:

Chief, Security Police	Capt Arthur J. Corwin
Operations Officer	Capt Richard D. Larkins
Night Flight Officer	Capt Allen L. Pack
Operations Superintendent	SMSgt Rawley S. Wharton
Asst Operations Superintendent	MSgt Harry R. Eaton
NCOIC, Security and Law Enforcement	MSgt Clinton G. Shanefelter
NCOIC, Trng/Intelligence	TSgt Elijah Mackey Jr.
NCOIC, Investigations	SSgt Charles Freiberg Jr
NCOIC, Admin & Reports	SSgt Thomas D. Robbins
NCOIC, Support	SSgt Donald J. Olmstead
NCOIC, K-9	SSgt Billie F. Griffin

OPERATIONS BRANCH

The only major changes occurring in this branch during this period involved personnel. Captain Larkins arrived at the installation in October and assumed duties as Operations Officer replacing Captain Pack who was re-assigned as Night Flight Officer. Pending the departure of SMSgt Wharton who was placed on an Administrative Hold, MSgt Eaton was moved from the Security and Law Enforcement Branch to the Operations Branch. In December Captain Corwin was presented the Meritorious Service Medal and Air Force Commendation Medal for service at previous installations. Enemy activity has remained at a high level and the section has performed in a highly professional manner during the numerous rocket attacks sustained this quarter. The section continues to be augmented by a company of US Marines, commanded by Captain M. S. Kelly.

SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

No major operational problems were encountered within this branch during this quarter. Due to the reduction of US Army Military Police units in this area, it was necessary for this unit to augment the one remaining MP unit by making periodic checks of Bien Hoa City. Approximately two or three checks of the city are made by our patrols on a daily basis. In addition to implementing new anti-robbery procedures for all base agencies maintaining funds, armed Security Policemen are now being posted within the Bank of America at certain hours of the day to enhance the Security of this facility. Also during this quarter, this unit supported

SUPPORT BRANCH:

This branch continued to turn in excess equipment as manpower and post requirements were reduced.

38 Cal Revolvers turned into Supply - 5

Barracks furniture in the amount of \$9,990.30

Office Equipment in the amount of \$778.00

TRAINING BRANCH:

The training branch will close on 1 April 1972.


During the last quarter 104 Augmentees were trained, 25 went through a refresher course. The OJT workload continued on the decline due to decrease in personnel. A total of twelve persons were upgraded to the 5 level AFSC. The Base Firing Range was turned over to the VNAF effective 1 February 72.

K-9 BRANCH:

On 19 March 1972 the K-9 branch received 4 additional personnel from Cam Rhan Bay and on 21 March 1972, 17 dogs arrived on station in a hold status of Ton Son Nhut AB.

CHRONOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENT</u>
1 October	(U)	General J. W. Vogt, Commander 7th AF; Lt General Tran Van Minh, VNAF Commander in Chief; and Brig General R. T. Holland, Deputy Commander, 7AF, visit.
1 October	(U)	The 8th SOSq deactivates.
12 October	(U)	The 8th SOSq re-activates.
13 October	(U)	The Honorable Spencer J. Schedler, Asst Secretary of the Air Force, visits Bien Hoa Air Base.
15 October	(U)	Lt Col Burke, Deputy Base Commander, departs Bien Hoa Air Base. Lt Col Marriot assumes duties of Deputy Base Commander.
20 October	(U)	Brig General John D. Peters, PACAF Civil Engineering, visits Bien Hoa Air Base.
22 October	(U)	Bien Hoa Air Base came under Rocket Attack. The base received 61 confirmed rockets.
25 October	(U)	The 8th Special Operations Squadron de-activates.
25 October	(U)	Major General Charles I. Bennett, 8AF Director of Operations, visited OL-21, at Bien Hoa Air Base.
30 October	(U)	The first A-7D aircraft lands at Bien Hoa Air Base, with maintenance problems.
31 October	(U)	The first scheduled A-7D aircraft lands at Bien Hoa Air Base.
31 October	(U)	Operation Enhance Plus started.
1 November	(U)	GCA was transferred to the VNAF.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENT</u>
3 November	(U)	PACAF Airfield Paint Striping Team arrives at Bien Hoa Air Base.
10 November	(U)	Lt Col Marriot, Deputy Base Commander, departs Bien Hoa Air Base.
10 November	(U)	Lt Col William R. Southerland assumes position of Deputy Base Commander.
12 November	(U)	 Bien Hoa Air Base came under rocket attack. The base received 35 confirmed rockets.
12 November	(U)	Operation Enhance Plus was terminated.
13 November	(U)	CMSgt Glenn S. Hair assumes position of Base Sergeant Major.
17 November	(U)	8th APS was transferred to VNAF.
1 December	(U)	+ Bien Hoa AB, came under rocket attack. The base received 28 confirmed rockets.
4 December	(U)	+ Bien Hoa AB, came under rocket attack. The base received 4 confirmed rockets.
15 December	(U)	+ Bien Hoa AB, came under rocket attack. The base received 12 confirmed rockets.
16 December	(U)	+ Bien Hoa AB, came under rocket attack. The base received 9 confirmed rockets.
31 December	(U)	The Philco-Ford Civil Engineer contract was terminated. The contract was given to Pacific Architects and Engineers.

*Bien Hoa AM Base
1972*

*Bad
month
Dec 72,
for Schel*

SUMMARY

(U) The Det 1, 377th Air Base Wing which was activated on 15 September 1972 continued the role of the 6251st Air Base Squadron, which was that of the major United States Air Force unit on base and was tasked with supporting the 18 Special Operations Squadron, 8th Special Operations Squadron, Detachment 5, 8th Aerial Port Squadron, the 12th Marine Aircraft Group and the F-4 Forward Operating Location.

(U) There was no significant decrease in the base population during this period. The units that were brought in to counter the North Vietnamese Spring Offensive remained here at Bien Hoa Air Base and continued their air to ground operations against enemy forces and in support of allied forces.

(U) The Det 1, 377th Air Base Wing continued to provide the necessary support to all tenants despite its reduction in manning and the increase in activity at Bien Hoa Air Base. Most time phased actions on the 7th Air Force Program Action Directive were temporarily held in abeyance during this period.

(U) The Det 1, 377th Air Base Wing sustained two major rocket attacks during this period. On 1 August and 31 August 1972, the base received 75 and 64 confirmed rockets respectfully. The personnel of the detachment performed in an outstanding manner and were able to keep operational with a minimum of down time.

(U) On 10 September 1972, the VNAF munitions holding area exploded causing extensive damage to the VNAF side of Bien Hoa Air Base. The Air Force side of the base suffered extensive damage to many of the buildings. A special Red Horse Team was brought in and they repaired the major damage. Again as on 1 and 31 August 1972, the outstanding performance of the base personnel insured that the base was kept operational with a minimum of lost time.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1972

ROA QUARTERLY REPORT

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Military Structures Destroyed	340	270	179
Military Structures Damaged	184	92	104
Bunkers Destroyed	204	168	108
Bunkers Damaged	12	15	28
Sampans Destroyed	13	22	10
Sampans Damaged	6	7	1
KBA Confirmed	540	288	254
KBA Probable	21	110	15
Secondary Explosions	204	273	183
Sustained Fires	98	153	82
Bridges Destroyed	8	5	2
Bridges Damaged	9	1	2
Tanks Destroyed	0	7	0
Tanks Damaged	0	2	0
TIC Broken	16	14	5
Automatic Weapons Destroyed	25	14	11
Automatic Weapons Damaged	0	1	2
Gun/Mortar Sites Destroyed	31	11	8
Gun/Mortar Sites Damaged	0	1	1

we were
 Sowed by
 C-130 puff
 the magic
 dragon (weapon)
 B-52 Striker
 on the perimeter,
 and the sorties
 with in
 1 click out
 Day and night
 every day
 every day
 waste offensive
 12-73
 DUNNY

This all occurred
 Right off of the Ben Hoa
 Air base on the NVA,
 and V.C were preparing
 for an all out assault
 to take Ben Hoa.
 MKH
 Over to us to report the
 enemy activity in
 Ben Hoa. No ground
 troops left in the
 failed.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

The 8th Special Operations Squadron flew its last combat sortie on 30 September 1972. The last A-37B flown by the 8th was piloted by Lt. Greg Hunter. In a formal ceremony following the last flight, the squadron colors were presented to Major Richard Corbin, 523rd FFL, and an A-37B model was presented to Lt. Col. Hung, Vietnamese Air Force, symbolizing the transfer of squadron aircraft to the VNAF.

During the quarter, 1 July 1972 to 30 September 1972, the 8th flew 3237 combat sorties in support of South Vietnamese and Cambodian ground forces (1). The squadron flew 70% of its missions in South Vietnam; the percentage flown in Cambodia rose from 17% to 30% since the last quarter (2). The squadron lost two aircraft and one pilot during the quarter.

On 1 September, the 8thSOS became operationally subordinate to the 6251st Air Base Squadron, when Col. Gregg Glick was replaced by Col. Stillman Taylor. On September 15 the 6251st became Det. 1, 377 Air Base Wing. The squadron lost 8 pilots and gained five during the period covered; one of these remained TDY at Da Nang. The command of the squadron continued with Lt. Col. Gordon H. Reed until his DESROS on 16 July 1972. At that time, Lt. Col. Donald J. Loosely assumed command of the squadron through the end of the quarter. Major Douglas W. Stockton continued as Operations Officer for the entire quarter. The squadron added an Executive Officer, Major Lonnie K. Llewellyn, this quarter. The squadron flew 1186 sorties in July and 1292 in August (3). On 31 August, Hawk 07 and 08 were removed from the Alert Pad as part of the squadron phase-down. Two scheduled sorties were cut on 6 September, leaving 12 daily scheduled sorties. On 12 September the number of scheduled sorties was reduced to 10 and further reduced to 8 the following day. On September 25, Hawk 05 and 06 were removed from the Alert Pad, followed by a schedule cut to four sorties on 27 September. At approximately 0600 the morning of 31 August, one of the squadron's aircraft was destroyed and two were damaged as a result of an enemy rocket attack.

The maintenance personnel had a two-fold operation during the latter part of the quarter. First, they had to keep enough aircraft operational to fulfill the squadron's commitment. Second, they began reconfiguring the remaining aircraft for eventual transfer to the Vietnamese Air Force. The maintenance personnel have done an outstanding job in both respects and are well ahead of schedule to accomplish the final transfer on 15 October.

The 8th was saddened to lose one of its pilots during the last quarter. On the evening of 23 July 1972, A-37B flight was sent to a troops-in-contact situation on the east side of An Loc, at Hill 169. The flight was lead by Lt. Steven H. Gravrock and was scheduled at night, but went early because of the troops-in-contact situation. On his first pass, Lt. Gravrock delivered his napalm low-angle and began to pull off the target. The aircraft started to roll and impacted the ground west of the target area. The pilot made no apparent attempt to eject. The squadron would like to dedicate this last historical report to the memory of Lt. Gravrock and the other 8thSOS pilots who gave their lives so that the people of Southeast Asia might live in freedom.

~~SECRET~~

it was SECRET
it had until 1980
To Declassify
info from
Bentley
A