

**HISTORY OF 377TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON
17 JANUARY 1972 - 31 MARCH 1972**

377TH AIR BASE WING, SEVENTH AIR FORCE

STATIONED AT: TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE i

TABLE OF CONTENTS ii

CHRONOLOGY iii

MISSION 1

THE HOSTILE THREAT 1

OPERATIONS 1

WEAPONS SYSTEMS SECURITY 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT 2

ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY 2

PERSONNEL AND MANNING 3

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES 4

FOOTNOTES 5

SUMMARY 6

GLOSSARY 7

CHRONOLOGY

24 January 1972 Flight line defensive position strengthened for TET 1972.

27 January 1972 Maj Alford became squadron operations officer.

08 February 1972 Capt Schmunk assumed the position of squadron section commander.

26 February 1972 Resources Protection and Investigation Sections relocated to building 126.

01 Mar 1972 1Lt Carrico assigned as Aero Systems Security OIC.

01 Mar 1972 Squadron Drug Abuse panel discussion conducted.

02 Mar 1972 Chief Security Police and Administrative Security Section moved to building 19A.

03 Mar 1972 Operations Section moved to building 41.

11 Mar 1972 Squadron Human Relation Council reorganized.

SECURITY POLICE

1

MISSION

The mission of the Chief, Security Police, expressed in the most basic terms is to provide security and law enforcement functions to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. That still remains essentially stable in addition to special projects initiated either internally or by higher headquarters.

THE HOSTILE THREAT

Hostile activity remained at a low level in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area throughout this historical period. The primary threat to the installation was that of stand-off weapons (rockets) and sapper attacks. Again, no large enemy maneuver elements appeared to threaten the installation or its resources. (1)

OPERATIONS

At the end of the First Quarter, CY 72, the unit was undermanned by 27 personnel.

During February and March, 40 TDY personnel were returned to their CONUS bases.

In the month of March, this unit received approximately 25 personnel PCS from Phan Rang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. (2)

WEAPONS SYSTEMS SECURITY

On 24 January 1972, the Weapons Systems Security Section requested that Civil Engineers remove vegetation from territory between defensive positions and the flight line. Grating was also requested at all ditch openings to stop unauthorized entry.

Through follow-up action and coordination, these tasks were completed prior to TET 1972. Also in preparation for a possible offensive during TET, the following precautions were completed: additional bunkers were built in the vicinity of taxi-way W-6, several additional fighting positions were built, a concertina wire barrier was erected behind the Navy revetments, additional trip flares were installed and claymore mines were set out in strategic locations. Also from 17 January 1972 to 31 March 1972, Security Police responded to 97 aircraft emergencies. (3)

2

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Section processed 1,125 DD Forms 1569, Incident Report, which included 673 investigative cases, 196 incidents, 44 complaints and 10 curfew violations. A total of 102 accidents were investigated and 189 traffic citations issued.

On 26 February two sections, Resources Protection and Investigations relocated to building 126. (4)

The Investigation section workload remained extremely heavy. There were 100 cases involving theft of government property investigated, totaling \$49,622.00. Government property in the amount of \$49,336.00 was recovered. A total of \$16,140.00 worth of private property was reported stolen. Of this amount, \$574.00 was recovered. (5)

ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY

A total of 55 Office of Special Investigation (OSI) cases were requested and eight Serious Incident Reports were submitted. Eighteen OSI investigations and four serious incident report were closed during this period. (6)

Some 1,067 personnel security actions were handled during this quarter. This included

request for 69 personnel security investigations, 191 final security clearances and 7 interim clearances granted. A total of 890 access reviews were completed. (7)

The Pass and Registration workload for the quarter remained extremely heavy, figures of interest are the number of DD Forms 2AF that were issued (947), war trophy firearms registered (738), civilian employee passes issued (863), and POV and Contractor Vehicle Passes issued (3, 723). (8)

3

PERSONNEL AND MANNING

Manning remained at a generally stable level during this reporting period. Two hundred fifty-one personnel departed the organization, while 242 were newly assigned from the CONUS or In-Country transfers from other bases within the Republic of Vietnam. There were several personnel changes in the squadron. Major Lou R. Alford, became the Squadron Operations Officer on 27 January 1972. Captain Michael R. Schmunk was assigned as Squadron Section Commander, replacing Captain James M. Pirkle, on 8 February 1972. On 08 March 1972 SMSgt Keith Christianson replaced SMSgt James Montoya as Aerospace System Security Superintendent. (9)

One Key position in the Law Enforcement Section was left vacant when Captain Stephen C. Mannell, OIC of Law Enforcement Operations, departed PCS on 26 March 1972. His replacement is not due to arrive this station until 28 April 1972. The Law Enforcement Section currently has two Law Enforcement Superintendents, SMSgt Stephen Porovich assigned on 04 February 1972 and SMSgt Calvin C. Moreland. (10)

4

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

On 01 March 1972, the Squadron Drug Abuse Council introduced a new innovation to their program. Personnel from Key organizations on Tan Son Nhut Air Base such as the Chaplain's Office, Base Dispensary, Base Legal Office, and Law Enforcement were set up as a panel. Members of the council surveyed personnel in the squadron to obtain pertinent questions that they wanted to present to the panel about drugs. The questions were presented and a resume of the subsequent discussion distributed throughout the squadron. (11)

Also on 11 March 1972, the Squadron Human Relations Council was reorganized. A more equitable distribution was established between NCO Supervisors and Airmen.

5

FOOTNOTES

1. Ltr, 377th SPO To 377th SPS, 04 April 1972, Subj: Quarterly Historical Report.
2. Ibid
3. Ltr, 377th SPOW To 377th SPS, 07 April 1972, Subj: Quarterly Historical Report.
4. Ltr, 377th SPOL To 377th SPS, 07 April 1972, Subj: Quarterly Historical Report.
5. Ibid
6. Ltr, 377th SPA To 377th SPS, 04 April 1972, Subj: Quarterly Historical Report.
7. Ibid
8. Ibid
9. Interview, Capt M. R. Schmunk, Historian with MSgt Gilbert T. Jarrett, Squadron Chief Clerk, 10 April 1972.
10. Ibid
11. Interview, Capt M. r. Schmunk, Historian with AIC Sherrill B. Graves, Chairman Squadron Drug Abuse Council, 12 April 1972.
12. Ltr, 377th SPS To All Sections, 11 March 1972, Subj: Squadron Human Relations Council.

6

SUMMARY

There were no Significant Changes in the Squadron operation from 17 January 1972 to 31 March 1972. No enemy attacks were encountered and no indication of any large build up of enemy forces was detected. In March 1972 the Chief of Security Police and the Administrative Security Section moved from building 123 to building 19A. At the same time the Operations Section relocated to building 41. The Investigation Section and Pass and Identification Section moved to building 126 on 26 February 1972.

Manning remained stable and 40 TDY personnel were returned to their CONUS bases.

There were several key personnel changes to include the squadron operations officer, the squadron section commander and the OIC and the NCOIC of both the Law Enforcement and Weapons Systems Security Sections.

Programs dealing with "people" such as Human relations and drug abuse received increased emphasis. The drug abuse council is being conducted by squadron members

and monitored by command. This give the airmen an opportunity to direct their own program to meet their needs as they see them. The Human Relation Council established as it's goal, the improvement of communications throughout the squadron.

7

GLOSSARY

DD Form 1569 Incident Report

DD Form 2AF Identification Card

POV Privately Owned Vehicle

CONUS Continental United States