

# THE OFFICIAL HISTORIES OF THE 6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON



## "Top 10" Questions

**Question #4.** More details are needed on the ARDF contributions specific to the EC-47/6994th, particularly as these details relate to major ground operations such as Cedar Falls/Junction City and the early attempts to disable COSVN.

**Response.** Extracts from the 6994th history for January-June 1967, including useful statistics and brief details of ARDF support for allied operations during the period.

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ON FILM

HISTORY  
OF THE  
6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON  
1 January 1967 - 30 June 1967  
RCS: AU-D5 (USS-1)

000073

19 OCT 1970



PROJECT CORONA HARVEST  
DO NOT DESTROY

0408219 - 0408234

No. 0408218

1 December 1967

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Date: 20 Jan 15

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on last page

Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam

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CHAPTER IV - MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(U) ~~(S//FOUO)~~ This chapter was inaugurated to provide the reader with a comprehensive review of the Air Force ARDF (Compass Dart) and Airborne COMINT Collection (Drill Press) contributions to the intelligence support of combat operations of the Vietnam conflict. It summarizes the operational activities of the 6994th Security Squadron and its detachments.

Compass Dart

(U) ~~(S//FOUO)~~ Compass Dart aircraft accomplished 5,251 ARDF missions. A total of 2,924 missions provided close tactical support for allied operations, and 2,327 were accomplished for continuity and development. ARDF results totalled 24,431 fixes and cuts. A total of 7,692 fixes were identified to specific VC/NVA transmitters and 3,488 were predesignated MACV priority targets. Much of the planning and execution of both ground and air actions stemmed from this ARDF information.

(U) ~~(S//FOUO)~~ ARDF results were passed from the aircraft to Direct Support Units (DSU's) collocated with combat elements; Army and Air Force ARDF results fused for reporting; and, the intelligence gleaned from ARDF associated intercept reported in Army intelligence reports; consequently, it was almost impossible to isolate the numerous contributions of Compass Dart. Local and National level consumers did, however, indicate constant awareness to the importance of their ARDF effort. Brigadier General Jammie M. Philpott, DCS Intelligence, 7th Air Force, in a letter dated 5 April 1967, cited MACV acknowledgement of the continually increasing productivity of ARDF and the large volume of useable and reliable information of considerable military value that ARDF was providing to field commanders;

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General Philpott added:

"I would like to take this opportunity to add my appreciation for the contribution that you are making to the overall intelligence program here in Vietnam."

On 6 May 1967, Lieutenant General William W. Momyer, commander, 7th Air Force, in a conversation with Colonel R. G. Williams, commander, 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, commented:

"I was visiting Pleiku the other day and noted that the morale was extremely high. I want all personnel in this mission to know that the primary and basic source of intelligence of the enemy in this country comes from Compass Dart, and I want the people in those squadrons to know it."

(U) ~~(S/NV000)~~ The following chronological brief conveys an overall account of the applications of ARDF to combat activities and the ensuing results. It also provides a glimpse of some accomplishments that were, in effect, a mission by-product.

(U) ~~(S/NV000)~~ From 13 September 1966 through 11 February 1967, 778 ARDF fixes were obtained and passed to combat elements in support of Operations Thayer I and II, and Irving. At least two B-52 strikes were targeted against a VC Division Headquarters from this information. Also, numerous fixes were fired on by artillery and naval gunfire. One significant engagement resulted from ARDF information. A total of 3,132 VC/NVA enemy were killed in the action and more than 3,300 suspects detained. ARDF results were utilized extensively in the overall planning and execution of the operations.

(U) ~~(S/NV000)~~ During January, CTS was provided for Operations Fairfax and Ianikai, joint RVN/Allied operations. ARDF results were not acted upon immediately, but rather were utilized to plan operations on a day-to-day basis. More than 600 casualties were inflicted on the

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enemy during these operations.

(U) ~~(S)~~ During January and February, CTS provided for Operation Gadsden. The planning of the operation was accomplished through an area study of transmitters located by ARDF within the area of interest. Four hundred and eighty fixes were obtained in support of the operation of which 295 were of immediate value to the combat elements. One B-52 strike was executed against a VC Regimental Headquarters located by ARDF. More than 375 enemy were killed in the action.

(U) ~~(S)~~ During January, CTS was provided for Operation Cedar Falls, an operation designed to destroy the enemy's secure base in Binh Duong Province from which he launched operations to the Saigon/Cholon areas. The operation was planned through an area study of ARDF results. ARDF guided the friendly forces directly to the enemy and continued locating his camps and staging areas throughout the operation. The enemy sustained more than 720 casualties, lost 555 individual and 23 crew-served weapons, and more than 3,700 tons of rice to the friendly forces. Of the 574 ARDF fixes passed in support of the operation, 362 were of immediate value to the combat elements. The operation was termed one of the most successful of the conflict.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 13 January, a Det 1 mission obtained ARDF of a waterborne target and visual sighting of four medium size VC cargo vessels at the fix location. A Market Time policeman was called in and boarded the vessels. The enemy transmitter and the VC crew members were captured.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 17 January 1967, a Compass Dart mission from Tan Son Nhut intercepted a "beeper" signal. Utilizing the aircraft RDF and

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ARDF associated navigational equipment to determine the approximate location of the signal, they entered the area and established radio contact with the downed aircrew member. The mission called in rescue and orbited the area until the rescue had been effected.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 31 January 1967, a Compass Dart mission from Tan Son Nhut intercepted a "beeper" signal northwest of Phan Rang. Locating the crash site of a downed helicopter, they called in rescue and stood by while the safe recovery of the 10 crew members was effected.

(U) ~~(S)(HVC00)~~ From 31 January through 15 February 1967, CTS was provided for Operation Big Spring. A total of 335 ARDF fixes of enemy transmitters were provided the tactical elements during this relatively small, but highly successful, search and destroy operation that netted more than 100 enemy casualties.

(U) ~~(S)(HVC00)~~ From 26 January through 23 March 1967, CTS was provided for Operations Farragut and Gatling. Executed for the purpose of eliminating VC domination of National Route 1, the 101st Airborne Division relied heavily on ARDF to determine the areas of enemy activity; also, several B-52 strikes were executed against targets located by ARDF. More than 150 casualties were inflicted upon the enemy during the operations, and more than 135 suspects detained.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 15 February 1967, a Compass Dart mission out of Pleiku Airfield made visual sighting of a fleet of seven barges/sampans. An air strike was called in and one of the vessels was destroyed and the remaining damaged and sunk.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 22 April 1967, a Compass Dart mission out of Pleiku Airfield reported visual sighting of two suspected enemy vehicles. An

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air strike subsequently confirmed the vehicles as enemy trucks and destroyed each; one resulted in a secondary explosion.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 25 April 1967, a Compass Dart mission out of Pleiku Airfield reported visual sighting of two suspected enemy trucks; both were destroyed by air strikes.

(U) ~~(S)~~ On 27 April 1967, a Compass Dart mission out of Pleiku Airfield reported visual sighting of three sampans, they were confirmed as enemy, and an air strike was launched to destroy them. However, the results of the strike were not returned.

(U) ~~(S)(U)~~ On 1 April 1967, a Compass Dart mission fixed a waterborne target, then obtained visual sighting of four VC vessels in the Saigon River at the fix location. The vessels were attacked by helicopters and A1E aircraft; one was sunk, one blown up, and the remaining two beached and sunk.

(U) ~~(S)(U)~~ On 17 April 1967, a Compass Dart mission made a visual sighting of a suspected VC vehicle. The target was reconnoitered by a FAC and confirmed to be enemy. An air strike was called in and the vehicle destroyed.

(U) ~~(S)(U)~~ During April 1967, CTS was provided for Operation Summerall. In planning the operation, an area study of 134 ARDF fixes was conducted. The 101st Airborne Division, who executed the operation commented:

"ARDF support was a great factor in the planning and executing the operation. ARDF once again proved the most valuable source of useable intelligence."

(U) ~~(S)(U)~~ During April 1967, CTS was provided for Operation Francis Marion. On 23 April, the Headquarters, 1st PAVH Division was located by

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ARDF, the 4th Infantry Division immediately sent a patrol into the area. However, the patrol withdrew upon making contact. On 30 April, a target associated with the 630th Military Front was located. The 4th Infantry Division made contact with the enemy at the location. They confirmed 12 NVA troops killed in action. Pursuing the enemy forces, which was estimated to be company size, they inflicted more than 90 casualties on the fleeing force, destroyed 200 bunkers and tunnels, and captured a large number of weapons.

(U) ~~(S/NVCCO)~~ During February, March, April and May, CTS was provided for Operation Junction City, one of the largest operations of the conflict. Specific results of the operation were not available; however the following information should convey a general idea of the significance of the ARDF support:

"The most valuable COMINT product was airborne radio direction finding provided by the 146th Aviation Company and the 6994th Security Squadron. During phase II of the operation a total of 1,558 ARDF fixes were received of which 903 were of immediate value to the supported command."

"Brigadier General McChristian visited the 11th ACP (FWD). The Commanding General indicated that he was very satisfied with ARDF support and credits timely ARDF with preventing one VC assault against the fire support base."

"Brigadier General Knowles explained to Lieutenant General Seaman that the 196th Infantry plans to react immediately to all ARDF cuts and fixes."

"Major General Johnson asked Brigadier General Knowles about the effectiveness of ARDF and other SIGINT support. General Knowles stated that it was a very important factor in his operational planning."

"The headquarters of the Military Intelligence Bureau COSVN was struck by B-52's on 5 March 1967. Target was located by ARDF."

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Drill Press

(u) ~~(S)~~ From 24 September 1966, Drill Press maintained uninterrupted surveillance of low echelon NVA communications in the DMZ area. Staging from their operating location at Hue/Phu Bai, the project provided USM-808 with an invaluable source of intelligence relevant to tactical activities in the area. On 26 May, the Commanding General, USASA, in a message to the Director, National Security Agency commented:

"Current Drill Press operations, flying against VC comms in and near the DMZ with USM-808 acting as CMA, are proving to be invaluable. Traffic, [REDACTED] is intercepted on every sortie and immediately turned over to the cryptanalytic and linguistic personnel in the P&R section at USM-808 following the flight."

Targeted against those NVA targets known or suspected to be passing traffic [REDACTED] (PAVN 324B NVA Division and associated communications), Drill Press collected more than 78,000 minutes of manual morse traffic. Eighty per cent of this traffic was unique to USM-808 sources and 83.5 per cent of the traffic was mission intercept. More than 3,150 messages were contained in the traffic, [REDACTED] of which were readable and resulted in the generation of more than 2,160 intelligence reports.

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