

360TH TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRON

QUARTERLY HISTORY FOR

APRIL - JUNE

1968

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HISTORY

360th TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRON

APRIL * JUNE 1968

(Unclassified Title)

RCS: AU-D5

Assigned to:

460th TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING, SEVENTH AIR FORCE,

PACIFIC AIR FORCES

Stationed at:

Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

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DOANGRADE INSTRUCTIONS FOR
GROUP 3 AS SHOWN IN
AFR 205-2

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FOREWARD

(S) In order to provide a highly sophisticated type of data gathering in support of the Vietnam conflict, the old C-47 aircraft was revamped and made into an electronics intelligence gathering tool. Two types of configurations were developed to provide related but different functions. The JC-47, designated "Drill Press" aircraft performed airborne intelligence interception operations. The EC-47, designated "Compass Dart" aircraft performed airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) operations.

(S) The 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron was formed 8 April 1966 and equipped with two "Drill Press" aircraft and scheduled to build up to seventeen "Compass Dart" aircraft as the aircraft completed modification and reconfiguration. By the end of March 1967 full aircraft strength was reached.

(S) Since that time ~~is~~ modifications in procedures and resources have been in progress to further the capability of the ARDF operations.

Although the aircraft and basic crews belong to the 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (360th TEWS), the radio operators and "back end" technicians are assigned to the 6994th Security Service Squadron. The combined efforts of these two squadrons provide the highly sophisticated technical electronics system under a highly classified project for gathering intelligence data for use by battlefield commanders and for high staff planning purposes.

(U) This history cannot cover all parts of the outline provided by PACAF for the preparation of the quarterly historical report, RCS: AU-D5. The parts omitted were not applicable to the mission of this squadron or have not changed from the previous quarter.

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CHRONCLOGY

360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron

April - June 1968

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Significant Event</u>
1 Apr	(S)	The code name "Compass Dart" was changed to "Combat Cougar".
1 May	(U)	The Officers of the 360th TEWS moved to brand new quarters.
20 May	(U)	"Clark Annex" a crew lounge, named for its builder was formally opened.
28 Jun	(U)	The Junior Officers Council held what is believed to be the first dinning-in in The Republic of Vietnam.

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CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

(U) The 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (360th TEWS) continued to perform combat missions unique to this theater during this quarter.

System Inventory:

(S) The number of tactical aircraft authorized, assigned and available were:

	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Available</u>
Combat Cougar (EC-47)	16	16	14

One aircraft was reassigned to the 362nd TEWS bringing our authorized level down to 16 aircraft. One aircraft is still carried in pipeline as a result of battle damage sustained Feb 68. Another aircraft was infor inspection and repairs as necessary (IRAN) during the quarter, thus accounting for the difference between the number of aircraft assigned and available.

Crew Resources and Capability:

(S) The combat crew status of the organization for the reporting period is reflected below:

	<u>Crews Authorized</u>	<u>Crews Formed</u>	<u>Combat Ready Crews</u>
31 Mar 68	37	28	28
30 Jun 68	37	31	31

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Sortie Completion Rate:

(S) The squadron achieved a 99.46 percent successful "Combat Cougar" sortie completion rate during the quarter.⁶

Music Box:

(S) The modifications for the Music Box completed 30 Mar 68 had to be removed. They were intended for a higher priority and were sent to us by mistake.

Aircrew Training:

(U) An opportunity to give supplemental flight training away from the congested Saigon area, was provided by 7th Air Force through use of aircraft belonging to the 12th and 35th Combat Support Groups.

(U) The obvious benefits of this training program included the opportunity of allowing immediate repetition of a flight phase for the purpose of correcting previous errors or improving pilot technique. The opportunity also existed to complete non-precision instrument approaches without interruption and to discuss and thoroughly practice aircraft emergencies and procedures.

Safety:

(U) The squadron continued its accident free flying record during this reporting period. The squadron flew 5,151 accident free hours⁷ this quarter. This brings the accumulative total up to 48,367 accident

6. Charts, Sorties Flown & Air Aborts Rate, Apr-Jun 68

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7. Chart, Total Flying Hours, Apr-Jun 68

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free combat flying hours.

VIP Briefings:

(U) The VIP briefing team, nicknamed "Huntley-Brinkley, continued their briefings on the mission of the 360th TEWS. On 19 Jun they briefed Mr. Max Rosenberg, Chief USAF Historical Division and Air Vice Marshal Townsend, Vice Chief of Staff, RAAF.

Special Missions:

(S) One crew was sent TDY to Udorn RTAFB during the period of 2-17 May. The purpose of the project was to provide ARDF support in the vicinity of Lima Site 36 (Barrel Roll Area) during threats by Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops. The information obtained was instrumental in retaining Site 36.⁸

Movie Making:

(U) A camera crew from the 600th Photo Squadron made a documentary film on the mission of the 360th TEWS. The film is intended to be used for training and briefing purposes.⁹

8. Letter of Favorable Communication, 18 May 68
9. Clipping, Seventh Air Force News, 22 May 68

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CHAPTER IV

MAINTENANCE

Performance:

(S) The squadron aircraft maintenance section completed a total of 118 phase inspections during the quarter. The operational readiness rate remained above the Air Force goal. The not operationally ready for maintenance (NORM) rate improved while the not operationally ready for supply (NORS) rate climbed over the Air Force goal. The squadron maintenance section brought the air aborts rate down to a very respectable level.¹⁰

General:

(S) Two aircraft completed IRAM at Taipei during the quarter. No new aircraft were received.

(S) On 7 Apr the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing DCM directed that 52, non UMD, aircraft maintenance specialists be permanently dispatched to work only on C-47s. This is resulting in higher proficiency.

(S) A self help work project was started to move doppler, C-12 compass and weather radar shops to the squadron area. This is also expected to cut delay and increase effectiveness.¹¹

10. Charts, Unit Data, Apr-Jun 68

11. Interview, 360th TEWS Maintenance Officer, 12 Jul 68

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CHAPTER 7
FACILITIES

Billeting:

(U) The 360th TENS officers quarters improved tremendously during the quarter. The renovation of building #101 was finished and moving started 1 May. The airconditioning system was finished and turned on near the end of May. Building #102 was completed in the middle of June and the officers were able to spread out into the bottom of that building. These quarters enable proper rest and comfort and have greatly increased morale.

Transportation:

(U) The shuttle bus system established last quarter has proved to be very effective. On 1 May the schedule changed to a 30 minute cycle from 0730 to 1030, with a 45 minute schedule remaining in effect until 1715. Out of commission vehicles continues to be a problem.¹²

12. Interview, 360th TENS Transportation Officer, 10 Jul 68

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CHAPTER VI
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Awards and Decorations:

(U) Once again the squadron had a fine record of decorations during the quarter. Eight men were submitted for the Distinguished Flying Cross and four of these have already been approved. Twenty two men were submitted for the Air Force Commendation Medal with 17 receiving acceptance so far. Five men were submitted for the Bronze Star and numerous Air Medals were presented.

Self Help Projects:

(U) On 20 May ceremonies were held to formally open "Clark Annex". This crew lounge, named for the project director and major contributor, provides an area to relax at operations and relieves congestion in the office area.

JOC Dinning-In:

(U) On 28 Jun the 360th TEWS Junior Officers Council held what is believed to be the first Dinning-In in the Republic of Vietnam. All of the squadron's officers were invited and Brigadier General Robert J. Holbury, commander of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, was the speaker and guest of honor. The dinning-in was held on the terrace of the Tan Son Nhut Officers Open Mess.

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FROM
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HISTORY
APR - JUN 68

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New Film Spotlights TEW Sq.

{ 7th AF
NEWS }

TAN SON NHUT — "Antique Airlines" is the tentative title of a documentary sound and color film being produced on the mission of the 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron stationed at Tan Son Nhut AB.

Taking the 360th TEWS's nickname of Antique Airlines, 1st Lt. Bruce A. Mead and a four-man camera crew from the 600th Photo Squadron spent the last two weeks shooting scenes of 360th TEWS aircrews and their EC-47 aircraft on actual combat support missions.

Focusing their attention on a crew composed of Lt. Col. Alan B. Thomas, aircraft commander, Maj. Billy J. Stahl, navigator, 1st Lt. Alvin A. Kontrick, pilot, TSgt. Fred E. Sanders, TSgt Edward G. Frankenstein, and TSgt Jimmy R. Terrell, the 600th cameramen are recording both the day to day activities of the 360th and the overall mission of all three TEW squadrons assigned to the 460th TRW.

To shoot interior and head-on shots of an EC-47 in simulated flight, Lieutenant Mead's crew called on the ingenuity of the 360th's maintenance personnel.

A giant aircraft crane was provided to hoist the tail of an EC-47 into a position simulating that of actual flight.

Several uses for the completed 15-minute film are anticipated by Lieutenant Mead.

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