

362ND TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRON

QUARTERLY HISTORY FOR

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

1966

SECRET

HISTORY
OF
DETACHMENT 1, 361 RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1966

Assigned to:

460 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Seventh Air Force, Pacific Air Force

Stationed at:

Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Franklin C. Ordonio
FRANKLIN C. ORDONIO
CAPT, USAF
HISTORIAN

Jack A. Crook
JACK A. CROOK
LT COL, USAF
COMMANDER

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

COPY NO. 1 of 4

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

DO NOT DESTROY

No. 228326

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67-056

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FOREWARD

1. (S) Detachment 1, 361 Recon Squadron, was formed because of the need for a reconnaissance unit to function in the northern areas of RVN and permissive areas of Laos from single base.
2. (U) Because of the immediate necessity of operational control and management, all other functions were treated as secondary at the beginning. Rapid operational development of the detachment created administrative problems which were still unsolved at the end of this reporting period.
3. (U) The unit was hampered from its beginning by a critical shortage of both officers and airmen to fill authorized positions. Critical shortages still exist in administration and operations personnel.
4. (U) All areas covered by this report have omissions. Most records were incomplete and/or buried among other paperwork, and individual memories were fogged with time. This should not occur in the future as unit functions become more defined and personnel arrive to fill necessary positions.

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CHRONOLOGY

DETACHMENT 1, 361 RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1966

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENT</u>
DECEMBER		
8	(U)	FIRST RC-47 ARRIVED ON STATION
12	(U)	FIRST COMBAT SUPPORT MISSION FLOWN BY DET 1. AIRCRAFT COMMANDER WAS LT COL JACK A. CROOK, COMMANDER OF DET 1.

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CHAPTER 1

1. Mission: (S) The mission of Det 1, 361 Recon Sq, is "to conduct daily, day/night, all weather ARDF operations against enemy operated transmitters in the RVN and permissive areas of Laos as a basis for tactical exploitation in support of requirements established by CONUS MACV and Commander of 7 AF. ¹During this period the mission included both tactical and strategic reconnaissance in areas of South Vietnam and Laos. No additions or changes were made to the basic mission.

2. Organization: (U) During this period Det 1 was building and organizing at the most basic level in order to perform its mission. Lieutenant Colonel Russell A. Harmon became Operations Officer for the squadron and immediately set up a working system. Its success can be measured by results noted in Chapter 2. The situation on 31 December was still in flux as crews and aircraft arrive on a day-by-day basis.

3. Administration: (U) No administrative section existed during the period of this report. no administrative officer was assigned or available, no first sergeant and no administrative clerks. The squadron managed to use several airmen with typing ability to complete essential paperwork. Regulations required for the administrative function were still absent as of the close of the report period, although requisitions were made. All sections suffered from lack of proper directives. This situation was expected to ease with the assembly of a complete publications file.

1. 7 AF OPORD 450-67, 31 July 1966, para 2.

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CHAPTER II

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

A. OPERATIONS

1. (U) The initial cadre of Detachment 1, 361st Recon Sq arrived at Pleiku AB, RVN, in August 1966. Lt Col Jack A. Crook was on station when the unit was activated² and took command. By October 15, the cadre had increased to 15 men, 1 officer and 14 enlisted men, twelve of whom were TDY from Nha Trang AB, home of the 361 Recon Sq. Through October and November, this cadre struggled to create an adequate working area for the unit. They cleared the future squadron area of tangled bushes, dense grass and boulders, killed snakes, and built or modified four buildings for operations, Maintenance and administration areas. Through their arduous efforts and with the cooperation of the base in relocating the VNAF who had previously occupied the area, the first crews to land PCS found a pleasant area to work in. The group effort involved in this rehabilitation and modification of a totally new squadron area called forth the utmost in effort and long hours of labor on the part of the cadre. Their spirit of "can do" has carried over into the present unit. Personal involvement and close association between the men has resulted in strong esprit de corps.³

2. (U) The first combat ready crews arrived from Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, on 8 December 1966 with the first RC-47 aircraft for the detachment. Combat support operations began on 12 December, when one mission was flown. Through 31 December 1966, this unit flew 48 combat support missions.

3. (S) All missions flown in the RC-47 were under the project nicknamed "Phyllis Ann".* These missions included direct support of ground operations "Prierie", "Pickett", and "Paul Revere".**

4. (U) Based on unit commitment versus accomplishment figures, Det 1 flew 48 successful missions from 12 through 31 December:

- a. Missions flown vs commitment: 48 vs 56
- b. Hours flown vs commitment: 340:05 vs 354:07⁴

2. SO G-221, Hq PACAF, 20 July 1966.

3. Memo for the Record, "The First Days", Lt Col Jack A. Crook, 7 Jan 1967.

* (S) Results of these missions are classified by 6994th Security Squadron, and are therefore not available. Incorporation of such material, if necessary, should be coordinated with the 6994th Security Squadron at TSN prior to inclusion in unit history as downgrading permits.

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B. MAINTENANCE

1. (S) The eight missions which were not successfully completed (see above) were aborted in the air. Seven of these eight missions aborted for malfunction of ARD-18 systems. Maintenance of this equipment is the responsibility of the 6994th Security Squadron.⁵ Lack of spare parts for this equipment projected problems in aircraft scheduling. On numerous occasions necessary parts were shifted from one aircraft to another to prevent loss of a mission. Spare parts are on order and their arrival should greatly reduce the loss of missions due to this equipment.

2. (U) The remaining air abort occurred when aircraft 43-48158 aborted for #1 engine backfiring above 10,000 feet. Ground crews immediately diagnosed the cause as carburetor malfunction and changed carburetors. However, when action was complete it was too late to continue the mission.⁶

3. (U) Insufficient test equipment and a shortage of trained personnel within the 633rd CAMRON at Pleiku caused difficulties in maintenance of the C-12 compass system. Aircraft had to be flown to Tan Son Nhut for repair and calibration of this system. Action was taken to help solve the problem. Personnel were sent to Tan Son Nhut AB for training and the MC-1M Compass Calibrator and associated equipment were ordered.

**"Prairie": Code name for marine combat operations in and just below the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam.

"Pickett" and "Paul Revere": Code names for army operations in central highlands of RVN.

4. Data compiled from R-13 reports (Mission accomplishment) submitted during December 1966.

5. 7 AF OPORD 450-67, Annex F, para 4d.

6. Records of Aircraft Maintenance, December 1966.

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APPENDIX 4

OPERATIONS ORDERS

(s) Seventh Air Force Operations Orders 450-67, Project "Phyllis Ann", 31 July 1966.

MAINTENANCE REPORTS

December 1966 Maintenance Report, CMSgt Glenn E. Eddy, Maintenance Superintendent.

MEMOS

"The First Days", Memo for the Record. Lt Col Jack A. Crook, Commander Det 1, 361st Recon Sq, 7 Jan 1967.

REPORTS

R-13 Reports (Mission accomplishment versus commitment) of 12-31 Dec 66.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Hq PACAF SO G-221, 20 Jul 66.
Hq 7 AF SO G-817, 5 Oct 66.
Hq 7 AF SO G-1125, 10 Dec 66.

2 Attachments

1. Summary Chart of R-13 Reports, December 1966
2. "The First Days", Memo for Record, Lt Col Crook

MISSION SUMMARY

MONTH OF DECEMBER 1966

<u>SORTIES FRAGGED</u>	<u>SORTIES FLOWN</u>	<u>ACFT SCHED</u>	<u>ACFT FLOWN</u>	<u>UNSCHED SORTIES</u>
56	48	56	54	2

<u>TIME FRAGGED</u>	<u>TIME FLOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL TIME TO DATE</u>	<u>PROGM'D TIME</u>	<u>ABORTS</u>
392:00	340:05	340:05	354:07	7/1

Attachment 1

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THE FIRST DAYS

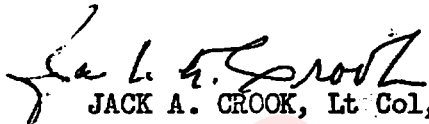
Lt. Col. Jack A. Crook

1. (S) After considering numerous air bases in RVN, it was finally decided to locate Det 1 of the 361 Recon Sq at Pleiku. Original planning was for 9 aircraft. In June 1966 the number of aircraft was changed to 15 with possibly two more attrition aircraft to arrive later.
2. (U) SO G-221, Hq PACAF, 20 July 1966, officially established the detachment. Lt. Col. Jack A. Crook was assigned as commander. Twelve aircraft mechanics were sent TDY to Pleiku from Nha Trang. Calling themselves the "Dirty Dozen", they took over the cleanup of the new unit area.
3. (U) The clean-up was no small task. The area and buildings were being used by the VNAF as a motor pool and arsenal storage. VNAF personnel also maintained living quarters in the area. Undaunted, the "dirty dozen" hosed down and painted the four buildings. Sod and Shrubbery were planted and approximately one-half mile of concrete sidewalks were laid.
4. (U) After 30 days of this work, which included ditchdigging, killing rats and snakes, one of which was the deadly kraat species, it was time for the "dirty dozen" to return to Nha Trang. Having seen a filthy area transformed into a most attractive work area, these 12 personnel volunteered and were ordered PCS to Pleiku and the new detachment.
5. (U) In November, maintenance personnel began to arrive PCS. Morale was high. With 70 airmen assigned, several base projects were assumed. Assistance was given in building the VNAF a new arsenal and motor pool. Late in November these projects were completed and the VNAF personnel and equipment were moved. This gave us access to the interior of the buildings. With the arrival of the first aircraft on 8 December 1966, construction was begun and is in progress for first class unit operations and maintenance facilities.
6. (C) A raised quonset hut had been completed for the maintenance activity, and before the end of the year seven aircraft and 11 crews were assigned. The reception and shakedown of aircraft by unit maintenance was outstanding. Aircraft were flown as fragged with excellent results. Back-end maintenance of ARD-18 equipment and the C-12 compass system were the major problems. These are the responsibility of the Security Service and the base maintenance function. Although not a unit responsibility, the unit insured that necessary test equipment and spares were on order. The lack of spares in the supply system remains the major concern, which limits outstanding reconnaissance operations in this unit.

Attachment 2¹

7. (U) Due to past planning, personnel for the unit were filtered through TSN and Nha Trang. This proved unsatisfactory. We realized that it was impossible to administer a unit of this size as a detachment. Action was taken and approved to establish a squadron at Pleiku, to be designated the 362nd.

8 (U) Personnel records are not up to standard at present. However, by the official date of squadron activation, 1 February, these records will be secured by the base CBPO and each officer and airman will have had a records check.


JACK A. CROOK, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

Attachment 2²