

THE OFFICIAL HISTORIES OF THE 6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON



"Top 10" Questions

Question #2. ARDF played a large role in the planning and execution of the "incursion" into Cambodia in the spring and summer of 1970. The other notable allied ground offensive during this timeframe was Operation Lam Son 719; the ill-fated ARVN thrust along highway 9 into Laos in an attempt to cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail at Tchepone. More information on the specific role of the EC-47 in both these critical operations is needed.

Question #6. Concerning the Cambodian incursion, project Blue Beetle, in which ARDF fixes were passed from EC-47s to "Rustic" (and possibly other) FACs for investigation, is of particular interest from the 6994th standpoint.

Response. A combined response was made to these closely related questions, consisting of extracts from what appears to be the 6994th history for the first half of 1970. Included is a letter from the 360th TEWS to the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, which flew the "Contrail" RF-4 aircraft. Response specifically to the Blue Beetle question was in the form of extracts from a CHECO report (not reproduced here.) Nothing from the 6994th histories was received.

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Question 2

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Phu Cat AB, RVN. On 12 May 1970, PacSctyRgn informed this unit that Hq USAFSS strongly objected to this measure and also requested additional comments be forwarded to Region headquarters. These comments were to also include any indications the 6994 Scty Sq might have had of MACV planning for location of the Tan Son Nhut based QRC-346 resources.⁵⁴

(u) ~~(S)~~ On 25 May 1970 the 6994 Scty Sq informed PacSctyRgn that the proposal to move the QRC-346 components/aircraft to Det 1, 6994 Scty Sq was based on two factors:

(1) A desire to retain all COMJAM aircraft and consoles at one single location.

(2) A requirement to maintain all aircraft capable of accepting Zulu Consoles at TSN, NKP and at DNG.

An alternate consideration tendered to Region would be to retain all the consoles at Tan Son Nhut and divide the COMJAM aircraft between TSN and Phu Cat. Unless contrary to the desires of USAFSS and/or PacSctyRgn, the 6994 Scty Sq indicated that execution of the alternative consideration, outlined above would be acted upon.⁵⁵ At the close of this reporting period, no further action had been decided upon and the proposals tendered by the 6994 Scty Sq were ~~implemented as stated in the previous paragraphs.~~

Cambodian ARDF Missions

(u) ~~(S)~~ The massive allied push into Cambodia in an effort to

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HQ AF ISR Agency

Security Office

Reviewed by: *gve*Date: *30 Dec 71*

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locate and capture VC and NVA sanctuaries, provided the 6994 Scty Sq yet another opportunity to outline the value of Security Service support of an armed conflict and ranks as the most important and significant development during this reporting period. On 2 May 1970, the 6994 Scty Sq launched the initial four missions into the "Parrots Beak" in support of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and into the "Fish Hook" area in support of operations being conducted there by the US 1st Airborne Cavalry.⁵⁶

(u) ~~(SCW)~~ After the initial four missions were fragged into Cambodia, the beginning weeks of this operation saw the 6994 Scty Sq become the recipient of numerous and widespread tasking changes and requirements levied by a number of agencies.⁵⁷

(u) ~~(SCW)~~ On 3 May, NRV(C) directed a dedicated ARDF effort be inaugurated against Communist Headquarters, South Vietnam (COSVN) and Headquarters, South Vietnam (Hq SVN) units of COSVN. Ten specific targets were identified in this tasking which were to be fixed as often as possible, relayed air-to-ground, and in turn, passed to NRV(C) via Operations Communications (OPSCOM) circuits at FLASH precedence. This procedure would insure COMUSMACV had access to every possible piece of information relative to enemy target locations in the most timely manner.⁵⁸

(u) ~~(SCW)~~ On 4 May 1970, the ACC stated that MACV had directed

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take 24-hour coverage be maintained in the Fish Hook area. Coordination was immediately effected between Air Force and Army Aviation units to develop and implement alternate execution procedures necessary to comply with this tasking and to provide for any and all eventuality due to weather, air and/or ground aborts.⁵⁹

(u) ~~(SCW)~~ As of 30 June, the 6994 Scty Sq flew 95 missions in support of these operations, dedicated to maintaining absolute continuity on the movements of COSVN and related units. Intermittently during this period aircraft were tasked with CAST IRON coverage against this target and throughout the period 24-hour coverage was expended.⁶⁰ The Cambodian operations provided the 6994 Scty Sq an opportunity to explore means of expanding the potential for ARDF exploitation in an armed conflict. In coordination with the 460 TRW and 7AF, the 6994 Scty Sq instituted procedures to pass fix information to an orbiting RF-4C Photo Reconnaissance aircraft. In June, the first mission under this concept was flown and the operation continued for seven days. After the initial seven days, this procedure was altered. Selected fixes were sanitized and passed to the 460 TRW and they in turn, launched a photo reconnaissance aircraft to cover the target areas. On 30 June, this phase of the operations was terminated along with the entire test.

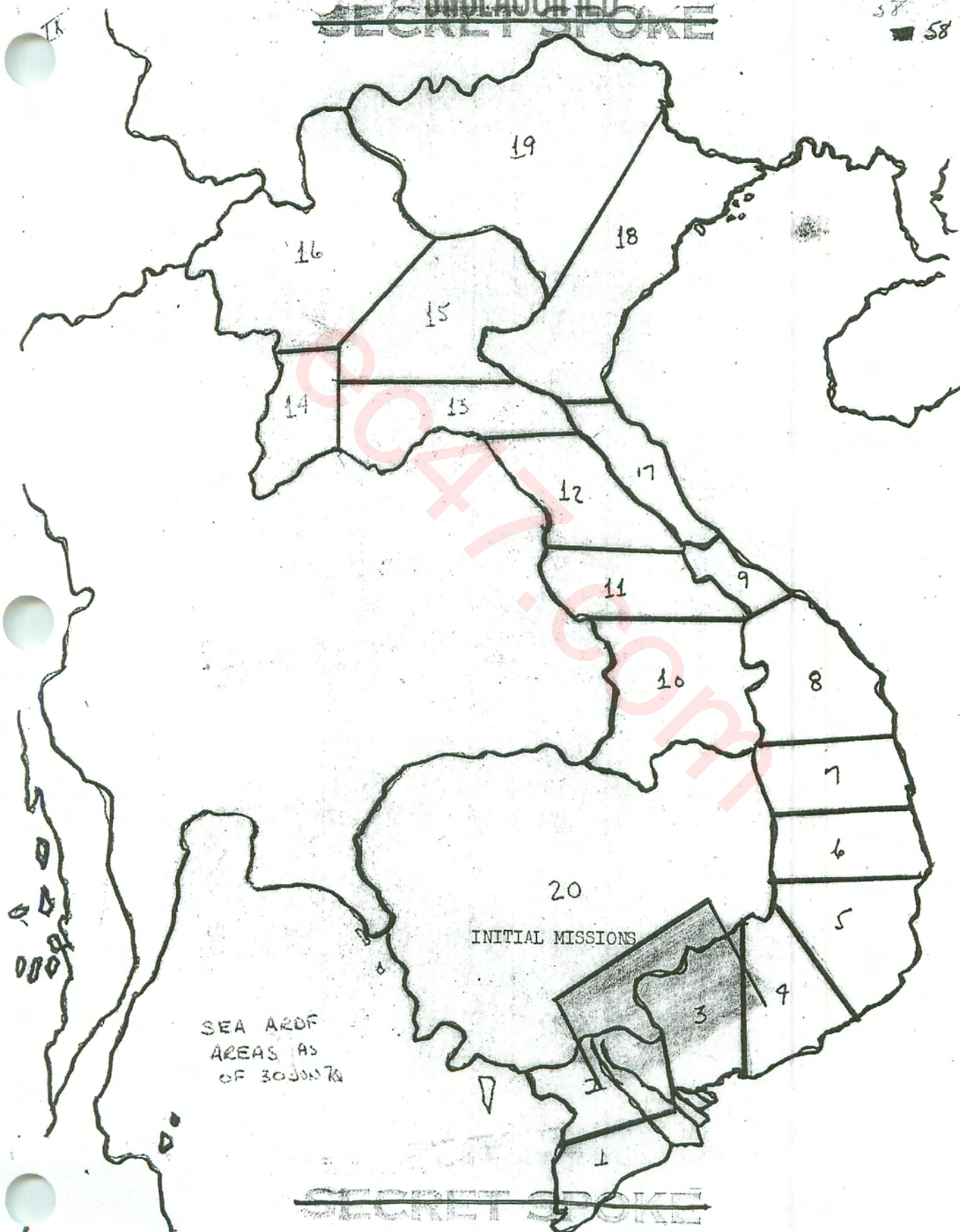
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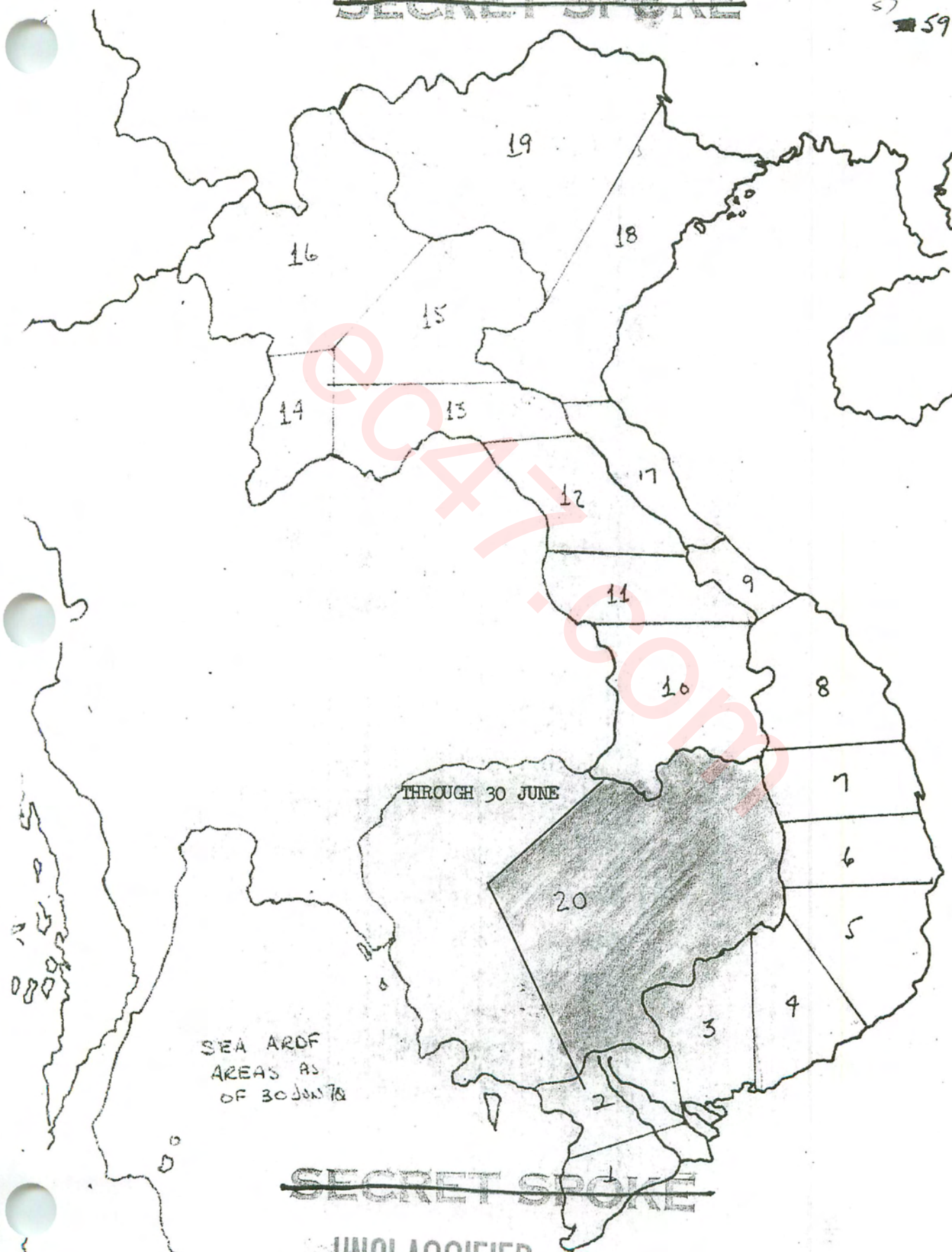


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Throughout the period of this test, 412 fixes were passed and as a result, 65 photo runs were conducted. In view of the high interest in this type of coordinated effort, 7AF was exploring the possibility of expanding this operation to include Forward Air Control (FAC) aircraft, photo-reconnaissance and other tactical strike aircraft such as AC-119 Gunships.⁶¹

(u) ~~(SIF000)~~ At the close of this reporting period, the 6994 Scty Sq has continued flights into Cambodia on a regular basis, along with areas immediately adjacent to the border in support of allied operations being conducted there.

Operational Test of Radio Fingerprinting in Airborne Platform (ARDF)

(u) ~~(SIF000)~~ On 23 April 1970, Hq USAFSS informed the 6994 Scty Sq that preliminary plans had been taken to conduct an operational test of Radio Fingerprinting (RFP) aboard a zulu-configured EC-47 platform. This test was to be conducted utilizing a LEFAIR KNEE RFP System on loan from the Army. USAFSS indicated that this equipment would reach their headquarters not later than 1 August 1970; and the system was scheduled for field testing at Detachment 3, 6994 Scty Sq on or about 15 September. This time-table would permit two weeks for equipment installation and engineering checkouts by headquarters USAFSS personnel prior to delivery overseas.⁶²

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 460TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307



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REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DCO

SUBJECT: Test Integration of Photo Recce with ARDF Operations (S)

2 JUN 1970

TO: 12TRS

360TEWS

1. ~~(U)(S)~~ In an effort to determine the feasibility of integrating Photo Recce with ARDF operations we are going to run a test operation in the Cambodian area of the Fishhook. This test will be limited to Priority I highly sensitive targets that have been fixed with a CEP of 1,000 meters or less. It will start on 3 June 1970 and terminate upon direction of the Deputy Commander for Operations.

2. ~~(U)(S)~~ Concept of Operations: An RF-4 and an EC-47 will be fragged into the same area during the same general time period. The EC-47 crew will pass targets to the Recce crew who will in turn photograph target and have them processed for specific identification and analysis of the information gained.

3. ~~(U)(S)~~ Specific Details:

a. The fragged target area will be a circle with a radius of 25 nautical miles and a center located at XU2515.

b. The EC-47 will operate in the area from 0800H to 1140H.

c. The RF-4 will work in the area from 0845H to 0945H; work w Yellow Tanker from 0945H to 1015H; and rework area from 1015H to 1130H.

d. Communications:

(1) All normal communications will be made using fragged call signs.

(2) All communications between these two aircraft will be made using the special call sign CONTRAIL PAPPa for the RF-4 and CONTRAIL ECHO for the EC-47.

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(3) Primary frequency will be UHF 319.9 with HF 6712 Lower as backup. RF-4 crew will monitor primary frequency (319.9) on their auxillary UHF receiver at all times that they are in the target area. EC-47 crew will monitor primary frequency at all times in target area.

(4) Initial contact will be made when RF-4 crew arrive in target area.

(5) Either aircraft having to leave target area prior to scheduled departure time will notify the other aircraft.

e. When EC-47 has a target they wish to pass to the RF-4 aircraft they will so notify him and pass the following information using the AKAC-275AA:

(1) Grid Square.

(2) Coordinates.

RF-4 will then acknowledge receipt and understanding by authenticating with the AKAC-275AA.

f. Both crews will carry and be check out in the use of the AKAC-275AA.

g. After EC-47 lands, the 6994SS will pass to 460TRW (DCOIN) additional identification information. DCOIN will in turn pass to the DCOIN interpreters.

h. 12th PPIF will use normal Cambodian distribution procedures. In addition they will provide 7AF (DIOR) with one copy.

i. RF-4 aircrew will follow photo interpretation of the film until exploitation is completed.

j. DCOIN will assign an officer to insure proper distribution.

k. DCO/DCOR will establish an orbit point for the RF-4 prior to each mission.

l. Orbit altitudes:

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(1) RF-4 - above 12,000 MSL.

(2) EC-47 - between 7,000 AGL and 10,000 MSL.

m. 12TRS will use only VR or FL crews for these missions.

n. Until further notice, DCOE will provide one man to attend Recce briefing at 0630.

4. (U) If you have any questions regarding this test contact DCOR or DCOE. (Ext 2770/4712).

FOR THE COMMANDER

Louis P. Hodnette

LOVIC P. HODNETTE, Colonel, USAF
Deputy Commander for Operations

1 Atch
Recommended Crew
Flimsey (S) (1 cy)

Cy to: 6994SS

ROC
DCOIN
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DCOE

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CREW FILMSEY

CONTRAIL PROCEDURES

A. ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ PURPOSE: To integrate Photo Recce and ARDF capabilities to provide more complete real time intelligence to the Commander for his use in targeting Tac Air.

B. ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ CONCEPT: To accomplish this goal an RF-4 and EC-47 will be fraggd into the same general target area during the same times. The EC-47 will pass Priority I highly sensitive targets that have been fixed with a CEP of 1,000 meters or less to the RF-4 for the latter to photograph. Photo interpreters will then analyze the film and forward results to Intelligence and Targeting for use by Tac Air.

C. ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ PROCEDURES:

1. Both aircraft will use normal fraggd call signs for all communications except communications on UHF 319.9 or HF 6712 Lower as backup using the call signs CONTRAIL PAPPA for the RF-4 and CONTRAIL ECHO for the EC-47. Both aircraft will monitor 319.9 at all times while they are in the target area. Communications between the two aircraft will be limited to establishing contact on entering area, passing target information, and advising when leaving area. All target information will be passed using the AKAC-275AA. Typical communication would follow this pattern:

RF-4: "CONTRAIL ECHO THIS IS CONTRAIL PAPPA ENTERING AREA."

EC-47: "CONTRAIL PAPPA THIS IS CONTRAIL ECHO ROGER. ARE YOU READY TO COPY?"

RF-4: "CONTRAIL ECHO THIS IS CONTRAIL PAPPA. ROGER."

EC-47: "CONTRAIL PAPPA THIS IS CONTRAIL ECHO. I SET BRAVO ROMEO. XRAY UNIFORM DELTA PAPPA INDIA SIERRA. OVER."

RF-4: "CONTRAIL ECHO THIS IS CONTRAIL PAPPA. ROGER. I AUTHENTICATE. KING."

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If more than one target is to be passed at one time, the two targets will be separated by calling BREAK BREAK BREAK after the first target identification. When the RF-4 has completed work on the targets he will return to his working altitude and advise the EC-47 by reporting back on station. As the EC-47 picks up additional targets he will contact the RF-4 and pass the necessary information.

2. Orbiting altitudes will be as follows:.

a. RF-4: Above 12,000 feet MSL.

b. EC-47: Between 7,000 feet AGL and 10,000 feet MSL.

3. The fragged target area will be a circle with a radius of 25 nautical miles and a center located at XU2515.

4. An EC-47 will operate in the area from 0800H to 1140H.

5. An RF-4 will work in the area from 0845H to 0945H; work with Yellow Tanker from 0945H to 1015H; and rework area from 1015H to 1130H.

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(u) (S) The purpose of this test was to determine the intelligence value of the LEFAIR KNEE collection capability during an ARDF mission with emphasis directed toward overall utility and speed/accuracy of an analysis effort. Hq USAFSS requested that DIRNSA secure the support of NRV (C), NRT (C), and MACV (J2) for this program in that the tasking of a COMBAT CROSS Zulu position might have to be altered or cancelled entirely for the duration of this test. NRV(C) then approached MACV for approval to conduct a 30-day operational test of the LEFAIR KNEE RFP equipment using a Tan Son Nhut based EC-47 Zulu configured aircraft. NRV(C) stated that although the ARDF/Collection capability of the aircraft would not be impaired by the test, manning and weight would have to be primary considerations. Most likely, flight duration would be reduced to some extent. On 21 June 1970, approval for the conduct of this test was granted by MACV.⁶³

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