

377th Civil Engineering Squadron

History

17 January - 31 March 1972

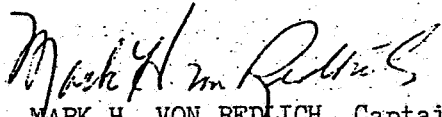
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HISTORY OF THE 377TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

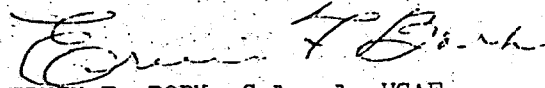
TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

17 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 1972



MARK H. VON REDLICH, Captain, USAF
Unit Historian



ERVIN F. BORK, Colonel, USAF
Commander
8 May 1972

377TH AIR BASE WING, 7TH AIR FORCE, PACIFIC AIR FORCES, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHRONOLOGY

377th Civil Engineering Squadron

17 Jan 72 - 31 Mar 72

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Significant Events</u>
JAN		
18	U	Stopped using herbicides for ^{et} vegetation control
20	U	Established program to install porta-kamps and 40 man modulars to update living conditions on TSN
22	U	Initiated a controlled burning program to eliminate vegetation around the perimeter
FEB		
4	U	Constructed sanitary fill and generated base wide program, including VNAF, to clean up TSN
MAR		
3	U	Realigned minor maintenance in order to reduce service calls to under 5% of work force available
5	U	Started base wide inventory of real property assets and window air conditioning units
15	U	7AF IG Team arrived 377CES
16	U	Established an agreement with Saigon TSN International Airport on use of certain utility poles
27	U	Assumed real property accountability of facilities at Phan Rang AB
29	U	7AF IG Team left 377CES

~~SECRET~~

RETURN TO
Historical Research Division
3825/HOA
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

K-MC-2771-111
Apr - Jan 1972
V.1

HISTORY
OF
377TH AIR BASE WING
1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 1972
VOLUME I

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST
DO NOT DESTROY
No. 0585204
CATALOGED CATALOGED

CLASSIFIED BY 377ABW/CC
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1980

~~SECRET~~

00896444
S-7441-1

CHRONOLOGY

377TH AIR BASE WING

1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 1972

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENT</u>
APR		
1	(U)	377CAMS official terminated "Mini-Squadron" test
14	(U)	FOL created at Bien Hoa AB to turn around F-4s
14	(U)	Two rockets impacted on Tan Son Nhut
15	(U)	First F-4s operate from Bien Hoa
26	(U)	Urinalysis testing of USAF personnel on TDY for 30 or more days was suspended
26	(U)	C-130 damaged by mortar fire on fuel delivery mission to Kontum
MAY		
1	(U)	Pacific Architects & Engineers assumed civil engineering responsibility for Tan Son Nhut
11	(U)	8th SOS A-37 lost in combat near An Loc
17	(U)	Vice President Agnew visited Tan Son Nhut
30	(U)	Use of Army personnel as drug escorts was discontinued
30	(U)	360TEWS EC-47 involved in minor accident at Tan Phat Afd, RVN

JUN

17

(U)

Ambassador-at-Large John Connally
visited Tan Son Nhut

29

(U)

Colonel David A. Odell was appointed
Commander, 377ABWg

29

(U)

C-123s transferred from 310 TAS to
VNAF

(U) The Ration Card Unit issued 2,347 cards. Four thousand seventy two cards were destroyed during the period.

(U) The Base Closure Section and Officer/Airman Records Section assumed the responsibility for maintaining the Personnel Records and files from Phu Cat and Cam Ranh Bay air bases during April and May respectively.

(U) The Airman Records Section reviewed approximately 820 records on WAPS verification for promotion eligible SSgt to TSgt and TSgt to MSgt.

(U) The Airman Records Section monitored and processed 128 Article 15, UCMJ and 26 AWOL cases.

(U) The following number of records were maintained by the Officer and Airman Records Sections:

	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Airman</u>	<u>Total</u>
April	1,215	7,086	8,301
May	1,127	5,913	7,040
June	876	5,054	5,930

Personal Affairs

(U) Casualty Reporting:

Deceased	31
Wounded/Not Seriously	34
Seriously Ill	2

reducing the Base Operations Dispatch staff to three airmen. Manning on 30 May 1972 was as follows (a reduction of 23 percent from 31 March): Authorized: 6 officers, 27 airmen, 2 civilians; Assigned: 6 officers, 22 airmen, 2 civilians.

Base Operations Branch

(U) From 1 April 1972 to 30 June 1972, aircraft arrivals and departures at Tan Son Nhut were approximately 10 percent lower than the previous quarter. Traffic count was as follows and includes the Heliport (Hotel 3) count.¹

	<u>FIXED WING</u>	<u>HELICOPTERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
APRIL	22,719	6,642	29,181
MAY	22,340	6,056	28,396
JUNE	<u>21,564</u>	<u>5,532</u>	<u>27,096</u>
TOTAL	66,613	18,050	84,673

(U) Two major problems became evident after 1 April: (1) Aircraft parking and responses to emergency situations became more critical as the North Vietnamese invasion began, and (2) airfield maintenance became increasingly difficult with the onset of the rainy season.

(U) Base Operations personnel responded to 86 emergencies in April, an increase of 39 percent over the previous month.² Eight emergencies were a direct result of hostile action.³ Numerous other emergencies were called by aircraft returning from combat support missions, but were not specifically identified as battle damaged. Parking

space for operational aircraft and those undergoing repair became critical and temporary maintenance areas were established on the transient aircraft ramp and the north-south taxiway. Additional parking was arranged on W-3 taxiway, the remote parking area north of runway 25R, E-1 taxiway, the north-south taxiway, east mat, PSP adjacent to E-6 taxiway, in the Continental Airlines area, and on the Air America ramp.⁴ Fuel draining operations from damaged aircraft added further to congestion. Draining was normally accomplished on the W-7 trim pad.

(U) Two 122mm rockets impacted behind the 1200 area on Tan Son Nhut on 14 April. A C-130 aircraft on approach was not notified of the attack. Tower operating procedures were amended to insure a blanket announcement would be made on guard frequencies during any future attack to warn incoming aircraft.

(U) During May, emergency responses increased to 93. Again, only eight were specifically attributed to hostile action by the information available to Base Operations. Responses dropped to 73 during June, with one battle damage emergency reported.

(U) Three aircraft crashed on or near Tan Son Nhut. On 30 May a VNAF C-119 attempted a go-around with one engine out and impacted three miles west of the airfield. Primary rescue efforts were made by VNAF agencies with Base Operations, Hotel-3 Army personnel, and Det 14, 3ARRGp personnel coordinating and assisting. Two survivors trapped in the wreckage were rescued with USAF medical personnel providing

first aid and helicopter transportation to Third Field Hospital. This was one of 17 saves credited to Det 14 during the quarter.

(U) On 31 May a VNAF helicopter collided with the rotor of a parked helicopter and crashed while landing near W-6 taxiway west of revetment 93. Four VNAF personnel were injured.

(U) On 18 June a USAF A-37 impacted two miles short of runway 25L while on radar approach. The pilot was rescued by Det 14 personnel with no further off-base response attempted due to weather and darkness.

(U) Coordination of distinguished visitor traffic through Tan Son Nhut continued as one of the primary day-to-day functions of Base Operations. In April, 25 VIP departures were scheduled; in May, 23; and in June, the number of departures rose to 39. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew visited Tan Son Nhut on 17 May.

Base Life Support Section

(U) Base Life support provided survival equipment and Life Support training to aircrews from ten organizations at Tan Son Nhut and at six additional locations.

(U) A consolidated training classroom was established and all wing continuation/refresher training was conducted by the unit. Quarterly water survival training was administered in June.

(U) A staff assistance visit by 377th Wing Life Support personnel on 1 June resulted in an excellent rating for the section.

CHAPTER V

FACILITIES

(U) The mission of the 377th Civil Engineering Squadron was the maintenance of facilities and equipment supporting the base flying mission. It is also the requirement of this unit to provide efficient fire prevention and protection to all US personnel assigned. To provide as needed, design and specification for the construction of facilities, modification of existing facilities, and repair of these facilities. To provide assistance in the form of on-the-job training and theory to Vietnamese Air Force Personnel. To assist and advise the wing Commander in matters concerning care, use, maintenance, and repair of facilities.

(U) On 5 April the responsibility for maintaining support of communications sites at Nha Trang, Cam Ranh Bay, and Pleiku Air Bases was assumed with no serious problems. In line with the increase of enemy activity and subsequent influx of USAF aircraft at Bien Hoa AB, VNAF firefighting capabilities were augmented by sending two P-2 firetrucks and 11 firefighting personnel to that base. Equipment was obtained from other bases in the RVN that were phasing down.

(U) On 1 May 1972, Pacific Architects and Engineers (PAE) assumed responsibility for maintenance and repair of facilities at Tan Son Nhut. This resulted in Civil Engineering personnel assuming responsibility for monitoring the contract with one Contracting Officer's Representative

(COR) and 13 technical representatives of the contracting officer. This resulted in a considerable decrease in military and civilian manning.

(U) With the increase of actions at Bien Hoa AB, shortages of firefighting personnel was experienced. However, with the reduction of personnel on shifts, the later influx of TDY personnel, and the extension of assigned personnel to the end of their DEROS month, the mission was accomplished. This caused some morale problems; however, proper counseling and motivation by concerned individuals resulted in a minimum of complaints.

Maintenance Activities

(U) The service calls and job orders were completed in a professional and timely manner. When the preventive maintenance program was initiated a decrease in service calls was noted. Other preventive maintenance programs were emphasized, resulting in minimum down time and fewer major repairs of equipment.

(U) In the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Shop, two third country nationals and one Vietnamese absorbed the entire work load. Priority job orders were completed within a reasonable length of time, but routine service calls often had to be backlogged for up to two weeks. The shop was required to store window type air conditioners and, due to the limited space available, a large portion of the work area was taken up.

(U) The Kitchen Equipment Section was reorganized under the

under the supervision of the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Section.

The prime concern at the time was preparing bench stock and submitting necessary supply documents to establish a parts list. A very limited quantity of spare parts were on hand to repair equipment. A list of all kitchen equipment was prepared. There was no correct or active list available at the time PA&E accepted the responsibility.

(U) Programs Development received and processed 250 Work Requests, AF Form 332. Out of these, 85 were disapproved and/or cancelled. One hundred sixty five new work orders were prepared and 185 completed. An overall review and purge of outstanding work orders was underway at the close of the reporting period. Thus far, 11 were cancelled and 22 deferred for a Facilities Board review. On 1 May, all Civil Engineer functions were contracted to PA&E, including the Programs and Work Control functions. The phase-in and indoctrination to the Air Force system was completed prior to 1 June. As of 30 June, all programs and work control functions were progressing satisfactorily. Military personnel manning was cut to three persons in Programs and Work Control. The other military were returned to the CONUS or to other PACAF bases where needed.

Adequacy or Inadequacy of Facilities

(U) Facilities on Tan Son Nhut are considered adequate to meet all mission requirements.

Actions Taken or Proposed to Eliminate Deficiencies

(U) With the advent of contractor operation, a thorough inspection of all facilities was conducted which identified many areas requiring repair and maintenance work. An electric power survey was also accomplished at this time with the assistance of the Contract Maintenance Office. This survey resulted in the electric load being redistributed in Cantonment Area I and much more reliable power being supplied to this sensitive area.

(U) The base clean up campaign continued with increased emphasis primarily because of the almost daily flow of important visitors. A base wide effort to spruce up the appearance of the facilities was inaugurated. All streets were restriped and all signs repainted or removed. Because of the neater appearance of the base, the population became more conscious of litter and vastly increased use was made of the new litter barrels which were placed throughout.

(U) Work was started and 80 percent completed by the end of the period on a \$97,000 project to repair the surface of the Hot Cargo Pad and place aluminum matting in this area. The work was being accomplished by the Construction Group of PA&E.

(U) During the quarter the housing upgrade project was completed. A total of 34 Porta-Kamps, 19 trailers, and three modular dorms were relocated from other RVN bases to here. These buildings were used to house enlisted aircrew members, WAF personnel, and senior officers.

Coincidentally these facilities became available as the build-up commenced to counter the enemy's Spring Offensive and allowed the influx of air-crews to be housed in adequate quarters.

Special Activities

(U) During this quarter a total of 19 facilities were transferred to the VNAF; total square footage was 25,671 and total value was \$130,985.16.

(U) Nine facilities valued at \$63,696.15 were demolished during this period.

(U) A total gain of 47 facilities valued at \$165,566.01 was registered during this period.

Fire Protection

(U) The Fire Department responded to 15 structural fires, 257 in-flight emergencies, 42 grass fires, 117 fuel spills, 30 ground emergencies, and 209 standbys.

CHAPTER VI
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Security Police

The Hostile Threat

(U) Hostile activity remained at a low level in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area for most of this period. The squadron went to 12 hours on and 12 hours off duty shifts on 20 April (this was terminated on 29 May) and also increased manpower in the night security flight to operationally meet any type of activity against the base. There were certain indications at the time that the possibility of a sapper attack had increased.¹

(U) On 14 April at 2055, two 122mm rockets were launched against the base with both impacting in the southwest sector of the perimeter. Only one of the two exploded and there were no injuries or damages incurred. EOD personnel detonated the dud rocket at the scene. The primary threat to the installation remained that of stand-off weapons (rockets) and sapper attacks. Again, no large enemy maneuver elements appeared to threaten the installation or its resources.

Operations

During May and June, the squadron had the opportunity to provide security protection for two distinguished visitors. On 17 May 1972, Vice President Spiro Agnew arrived at Tan Son Nhut and on 17 June, ambassador-at-large John Connally stopped for an official visit. Both dignitaries were afforded successful security protection.²

(U) The new Commander of Seventh Air Force, General John W. Vogt, was briefed on the status of base defense and security on 21 April 1972. A similar briefing was given to Brigadier General Scott, Commanding General, MACV Special Troops, on 25 May 1972.³

(U) As part of the squadron role in base defense, the unit training section successfully trained and qualified 289 personnel in the use of weapons. These trainees were from eleven different units.

(U) On 18 June, Colonel James S. Stewart, PACAF Director of Security Police arrived at Tan Son Nhut to begin a five day orientation visit of various security police functions in Vietnam. Colonel Stewart was accompanied on his tour by Lt Colonel John C. Foley, 377th Security Police Squadron Commander and Director of Security Police for Seventh Air Force. In addition to Tan Son Nhut, they also visited Bien Hoa AB and Da Nang AB.⁴

Weapons System Security

(U) As a result of the squadron manpower reduction, the Weapons System Security Section experienced a drop in personnel from 323 to 227. There was corresponding loss in the number of daytime posts with ten requirements being eliminated. This decrease in posts was made feasible through increased mobility of the remaining forces.⁵

(U) During May and June the Weapons System Security Section was called upon to provide security for two aircraft down off base for repairs. Approximately 12 personnel were involved in the two incidents.

SUMMARY

(U) The 377th Air Base Wing was commanded by Colonel Charles D. Gunn Jr until 29 June when Colonel David A. Odell assumed command.

(U) At the close of the period the wing was organized into 11 squadrons and one flight.

(U) There were seven aircraft lost in combat during the period. These included six O-2As from the 21st TASS and one A-37B from the 8th SOS. Four pilots were killed in action, two were rescued, and two were listed as missing in action.

(U) This report covers a period of greatly increased activity as a result of the enemy's spring offensive. There were 252 in-flight emergencies during this period, 17 of them as a result of hostile action. Three aircraft, two VNAF and one USAF, crashed on or near Tan Son Nhut. On 18 June, a USAF A-37B impacted two miles short of the runway while on radar approach.

(U) The phasedown and closure of other bases in the RVN again had a tremendous effect on the supply function as supplies, equipment, and furniture was shipped to Tan Son Nhut for disposal or incorporation into the supply stem.

(U) Hostile activity remained at a low level in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area for most of the period. Two 122mm rockets impacted on the base on 14 April. There were no damages or injuries incurred. The


primary threat to the installation remained that of stand-off weapons (rockets) and sapper attack. Again, no large maneuver elements appeared to threaten the installation or its resources

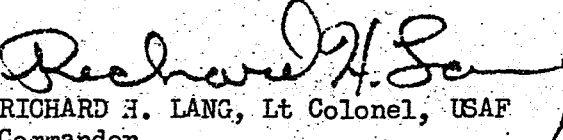
HISTORY OF THE 377TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 1972


KENNETH P. WILLIAMS, SMSgt, USAF
Unit Historian


RICHARD H. LANG, Lt Colonel, USAF
Commander

CHRONOLOGY

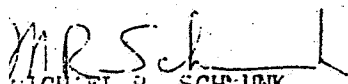
377th Civil Engineering Squadron

1 Apr 72 - 30 Jun 72

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Significant Events</u>
APR		
5	U	Assumed responsibility for maintaining support of communications sites at Nha Trang, Cam Ranh Bay and Pleiku.
7	U	Established fire fighting capability at Bien Hoa AB in support of USAF TDY aircraft.
MAY		
1	U	Pacific Architects and Engineers (PAE) assumed contractual responsibility for maintenance and repair of facilities at Tan Son Nhut AB.
27	U	Lt Colonel Richard H. Lang assumed command of the squadron and duties as Base Civil Engineer.

HISTORY
OF
377TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON
1 April 1972 - 30 June 1972

377TH AIR BASE WING
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
STATIONED AT:
TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM


MICHAEL R. SCHUNK
Capt, USAF
Squadron Historian

CHRONOLOGY

- 14 April 1972 Two 122mm rockets launched against Tan Son Nhut AB.
- 19 April 1972 Capt Bowman new OIC, Weapons System Security.
- 20 April 1972 12 on 12 off duty shifts began.
- 21 April 1972 General Vogt briefed on base defense and security.
- 26 April 1972 Capt Fleming new OIC, Law Enforcement Section.
- 17 May 1972 Security Provided during Vice President Agnew's visit.
- 19 May 1972 102 personnel arrived from Cam Ranh Bay AB.
- 24 May 1972 Consolidation of key positions in Seventh Air Force and 377 Security Police Squadron.
- 25 May 1972 Lt Col Foley assumed command of Squadron.
- 25 May 1972 General Scott briefed on base defense and security.
- 29 May 1972 12 on 12 off duty shifts ended.
- 29 May 1972 TSgt Jones appointed Squadron Personnel Counselor.
- 4 June 1972 Maj Canaga became Operations Officer and CTSgt Adkins named new Operations Superintendent.
- 5 June 1972 Three new Squadron Councils established.
- 14 June 1972 Twelve NCO's enrolled in 50 hour, Air Force management Course.
- 18 June 1972 Col Stewart, PACAF Director of Security Police made staff visit.
- 27 June 1972 Ambassador-at-large Connally afforded security protection during visit.
- 30 June 1972 manpower authorizations dropped to 510.