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RETURN TO



HISTORY
OF

377TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP
JULY - SEPTEMBER 1970
(Unclassified Title)

1969-1970

Microfilm Role
M0075
Index 1980

Declassified

Assigned to:

Seventh Air Force, Pacific Air Force

Stationed at:

Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

K-6P-SUP-377-H1

Declassified/GDS

Arthur M. Vaughan
ARTHUR M. VAUGHAN
Airman First Class, USAF
Historian

Harold W. Hobbs
HAROLD W. HOBBS
Colonel, USAF
Commander

Copy No. 1

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Personal Affairs

(U) The Personal Affairs counseling consisted of the following for this quarter: ⁶

RSFPP.....	97
Retirement Counseling.....	36
Separation Orientation.....	164
Marriage Application	
Pending Application.....	54
Approved.....	26
Applied.....	39
Disapproved.....	1

(U) The casualty reporting rate rose moderately during this quarter. An analysis is as follows: ⁷

Deceased.....	1
Missing.....	0
Seriously Ill/Not Seriously Ill.....	5
TOTAL.....	6



(U) The Awards and Decorations work unit processed the following awards during this quarter: ⁸

Processed and forwarded to 7AF.....	612
Approved Awards received from 7AF.....	2443
Awards Processed for Tenant Units.....	748
Award Elements received from Other	
Commands.....	409

CHAPTER V
FACILITIES

(U) The 377th Civil Engineering Squadron is responsible for acquiring, constructing, maintaining, and operating real property facilities on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, and for providing related management, engineering, and other support work and services. 1

(U) Structural facilities and Utilities are in continuous need of repair because of deterioration. This problem is primarily a result of the effects of aging in older facilities of French construction and the fact that the construction of many of the newer facilities was based on temporary standards in order to complete facilities urgently required for mission support. Tan Son Nhut is a joint use base, and the Joint Base Planning Board which includes the USAF Commander, the VNAF Air Wing Commander, and the US Army Director of Installations meets regularly to study and resolve facility problems. 2

Programming

(U) During this quarter, the previously imposed 7AF control on Minor Construction (MC) continued. The most significant impact of this tighter control on this type of work, to date, has been the sharp increase of Maintenance and Repair projects, i. e., a sharp decrease in new facilities results in a concentrated effort to keep the existing facilities in a usable condition. 3

(U) Approximately 3500 Work Requests (AF Form 332) were received during the quarter. The majority (1350) were legitimate maintenance and/or repair requirements and consequently were accomplished as routine job orders with Base Civil Engineering approval. ⁴

(U) One hundred and nineteen (119) requests were processed for Real Property Resources Review Board (RPRRB) action. Seventy six (76) were approved and forty three (43) were disapproved by the board. Of the number approved, 25 were projects over the approval of the Base Commander (\$1,000.00). DD Form 1391s were initiated and submitted to 7AF for 20 of these projects; of the 20 submitted, 7 have been approved and 2 disapproved. The five still not processed require additional information prior to submittal. The remaining 16 are still being reviewed at 7AF. Total Estimated Cost (TEC) for these projects is \$2,237.00. ⁵

(U) The Real Estate Management/Cost Accounting Section released 8 more facilities in the 900 area to the VNAF. Six were Airmen Billets and two were accompanying latrines. Also released was one (1) latrine in the 2000 area (in support of VNAF flight line personnel). ⁶

Operational and Training Facilities

(U) The Tan Son Nhut Helicopter Pad was completely resurfaced with 6" base course and 3" asphalt overlay. This project was required to repair the parking surface for operational

helicopters. ⁷

(U) TSN 85-0, which is 45% complete, calls for the construction of Shelter revetment #50. This singapore shelter will provide protection for maintenance personnel and equipment during phase inspection of the EC-47 aircraft. The project has been placed in a hold status until the new control tower becomes operational. ⁸

(U) Five communications towers in the LICO area are in the process of being completely repainted. The exterior of water tanks and supporting towers in the area will also be painted as a result of this project, TSN 13-0. ⁹

(U) Several operational and training facilities have been reveted as a direct result of TSN 96-0, while others are still in the process of receiving concrete revetments. ¹⁰

(U) Project #111-OR1 calls for the construction of a silver recovery facility. This is a class "MC" project to remove 45LF of existing chain link fence, and install on Fairchild Hiller Model 1150 silver reclamation processor on a new concrete pad. This facility will recover silver from burned reconnaissance film. It is estimated that \$20,000 worth of silver could be recovered monthly. The design for this project was completed this quarter. ¹¹

(U) The five ton air conditioner in Bldg 2412, Razorback Alert Crew Facility, was inadequate to produce the volume of cool air required. Several compressors burned up due to overload.

24

A 7.5 ton unit was installed on job order RCS 193. This facility is now being cooled to provide adequate rest for the alert crews. ¹²

(U) All sections with the Operations and Maintenance Branch had an opportunity to participate in preparations for the Change of Command Ceremony. Some of the work performed was overlaying the parking area in front of building 602, painting the inside and outside of building 602, performing sheet metal repair to the roof peak, relocation of the power generator, relamping and repair of all light fixtures, and construction of platforms and handrails etc.. Work was performed on work orders 390-1 and 393-1. Written commendation was received for the high quality and quantity of work performed. ¹³

(U) The capability to reclaim silver from used film was increased with the installation of a second furnace. The installation required a longer fenced in security area, a revetment to house a large gas tank, a building for the operations personnel and the construction of an exhaust stack. The Equipment Section used their crane to position the furnace. After 200 hours of operation, the furnace is functioning according to specifications. Work was performed on work order 335-1. ¹⁴

(U) The Electric Shop has tested and repainted all the static grounds in the 41-89 revetment area. This is an annual requirement and was performed on work order 1410-0. ¹⁵

(U) The TACC facility, a joint USAF/VNAF operation initiated

a work order to have their facility divided to decrease noise and confusion, and increase efficiency. The project required installation of a power panel, with five resets and two duplex outlets with a service line. A 20 foot long floor to ceiling wall, a 4" antenna bracket, and the fabrication of a cable duct through a brick wall were also required. The task was completed in minimum time in a highly satisfactory manner. 16

(U) The interior of building 468, the In-Country Terminal is being painted as part of a package project to up-date this facility. Presently, it is approximately 60% complete. Work order 1390-0 is the responsible project. 17

(U) The Refrigeration Shop is in the process of installing a 10 ton package air conditioner in building 330, the In/Out Processing section of Base Personnel. The work required is the installation of the unit, a chain link enclosure, complete duct work throughout the facility. Although the actual installation has not yet begun, the duct work is being fabricated and plans are being modified. This work is covered by work order 1224-0 and is approximately 10% complete. 18

Maintenance and Production Facilities

(U) The Operations and Maintenance Branch has forwarded a request for contract assistance to maintain the hydraulic lifts at the Motor Vehicle Maintenance Shop (Bldg 1167). DEM does not have the capability to inspect and certify these lifts, since

this requires a Mechanical Engineer. The Engineering Section is presently compiling specifications for the contract.¹⁹

Supply Facilities

(U) In building 1140, DCA SAM, five 5 ton air conditioning units were removed and condemned as being beyond economical repair. These units had been operating from a single thermostat and ran continually, since the area where the thermostat was located never reached the desired temperature. New units were installed on work order 378-1, and each has its own thermostat. This installation of separate thermostats will allow cycling of the individual units, and will increase unit life through reduced wear.²⁰

(U) In the film storage facility, a 12' x 60' walk-in cooler was removed from Building 1109 to Building 318. This action was required because the cooler was in a building that will be turned over to the VNAF. In order to accomplish the move, the cooler had to be completely dismantled and reassembled. This task was accomplished by the Refrigeration Shop with the assistance of detail personnel. After a concrete pad was poured to keep the cooler above the water surface level, the Structures Shop built a shed type roof over the entire area including the cooling units. All work was performed on work order 350-1.²¹

Housing and Community Services Facilities

(U) Building #27, Theater II had experienced many air conditioning problems during a three month period. No less than four compressors had been replaced in this short period. The unit in-

volved was a 30 ton type, that had been modified to 17½ ton capacity. A work order was initiated (494-1), and Base Civil Engineering installed a 25 ton unit. This installation required a slight modification of the cold air discharge duct to match existing ducts, and the manufacture of a return air duct system. After installation, the facility had adequate cool air to provide comfort to the patrons. 22

(U) Two 20 ton and one 10 ton air conditioning units (Japanese models) were removed from the Officer's Club (Bldg 23), and replaced with more efficient units that have a split system for the condenser and the evaporator. The Mason Shop had to pour larger pads, and the Metal Shop made minor modifications to the cool air and return air ducting. All units are operating at peak efficiency. 23

(U) Low voltage problems had been experienced at the Merlin Hotel, a leased facility used to house enlisted air crew members. One 150 KW generator was in place, but could not provide enough power. Two 100 KW generators were hooked up in parallel, and now adequate power is provided. 24

(U) The complete rehabilitation and air conditioning of Hootch #880 was accomplished by TSN 69-9R1. Work consisted of sealing all walls and ceilings, and installing insulation and a 12 ton air conditioning unit with supporting equipment. Electrical outlets and lights were relocated as necessary. The interior and exterior of the facility were painted, thus resulting in a completely rehabilitated facility. 25

(U) The VIP quarters in Bldg #16 received Civil Engineering attention via TSN 22-1. This project consisted of erecting approximately 246LF of chain link fencing along with two personnel gates. In addition, three exterior security lights were installed. The old revetments were removed and replaced with 66LF of new reinforced cone slab revetments. The building was then painted and the surrounding area received a new landscaping design. ²⁶

(U) The Airmans Open Mess received a new look as a direct result of TSN 40-0. This project replaced all damaged ceiling areas in the facility. A new power room was also constructed with the interior electrical system completely redone. In addition a new fire alarm was installed. The NCO/Officers Open Mess increased its storage capacity because of TSN 56-0. Work under this project consisted of erecting a 40' x 120' pre-engineered building on a 6" cone slab. Power and lighting were provided to complete the project. The WAF contingent here at Tan Son Nhut received attention by the 377th Civil Engineering Squadron when a Patio was built for the WAF Billet area. ²⁷

(U) The Airmen dormitories will receive a new look because of two projects presently in progress. TSN 113-OR1 and TSN 114-0 will result in new concrete revetments being erected around all airmen dormitories. All defective fans will also be repaired or replaced, and the billets will have new ceilings installed. The redone interiors will then receive a fresh coat of paint. ²⁸

2

(U) TSN 64-0 was the project which resulted in the new 800 area tennis courts. Other recreational facilities completed or under construction this quarter are the skeet range (TSN 104-0), the handball and squash courts (TSN 60-0), and the new airmens swimming pool (TSN 75-0).²⁹

(U) During this quarter, designs were completed for the installation of 35 VIP trailers, (TSN 38-1) (TSN 108-0R1), exhaust fans in Bldg #371 (TSN 32-1) and the alteration of offices in the Officers Open Mess (TSN 37-1).^{30, 31, 32, 33}

(U) Project Tall Man is still under construction. It is being accomplished in three phases:³⁴

1. The project to repair two of the existing school buildings and an existing warehouse building to be converted to a school building is 40% complete.
2. The remaining playground equipment will be installed at the youth center location.
3. Erect Youth Center: This project involves the erection of a pre-engineered metal building that will house recreational facilities for Vietnamese children. The project is 40% complete.

Utilities and Ground Improvements

(U) The barbed wire fence in front of the 700 dormitory area was replaced by chain link fence. The old concrete posts were replaced by pipe posts set in concrete. This work order, and the

work performed to install a chain link fence around the Motor Pool Operations area have increased security, and enhanced appearances. The Pavements and Grounds Sections have formulated a plan whereby they now use "T" type posts for top rails and top guards when building these fences. The savings in substitution from using pipe is approximately \$14.00 per hundred feet. A Cost Reduction Item has been submitted for an estimated savings of \$2,000.00 in FY 71. ³⁵

(U) The parking area in front of building 21, the Airmen's Club, was resurfaced. Prior to resurfacing, water was pooling, running toward the building and seeping into the foundation. The new sloping throws the water away from the building and has eliminated the pooling and pot holes. ³⁶

(U) The Sanitation Section undertook a self-help project whereby the plant operators, in their time on shift, repainted the five buildings that constitute the main water plant. This undertaking has enhanced the appearance of this facility a great deal. Fifteen wells were checked by the Water and Waste Section. In addition, nine sewage lift station pumps were pulled for inspection, maintenance and overhaul. ³⁷

(U) A Load Packer assigned to the Refuse Section was modified into a vehicle to patrol the streets and pick up cans, boxes and paper etc.. It has been aptly named "Litter Buggy". It is

manned by one Sergeant and two Vietnamese women. This venture has increased the efficiency of base clean-up activities and vastly improved base appearance. Primarily, the route of this vehicle is on the main streets and high personnel usage areas. ³⁸

(U) The on-base sanitary fill area recently constructed on the perimeter of the flight line has been put into use by the Refuse Section. It is in limited use since the off-base dump is still utilized. This added capability gives increased flexibility when negotiating with the host country. ³⁹

(U) The Water Section has installed new chemical feeders in the water distribution system at the main water plants. This chemical solution neutralizes the iron content of the water, and reduces maintenance by decreasing corrosion in the distribution system and the faucets. It is anticipated that numerous pipe leaks will be averted through this installation. ⁴⁰

(U) Project A417/01, Electric Primary Power, has been reopened for the installation of four 750 KW generators and switching gear. When this project is completed it will greatly increase the electrical power capability of Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Work is in progress. ⁴¹

Fire Department Operations

(U) There were no real property fire losses during this period. On 20 July 1970, the Fire Department took part in a Disaster Control exercise and received an exceptional rating. Another training exercise, consisting of the foaming of 1500

feet of runway was termed excellent in its results. On 28 June an F-4C missed the runway. Luckily, no fire suppression was required, and no personal injuries resulted. Again, on 11 August, a Vietnamese C-47 ran off the runway. No fire suppression was required, and once again no personal injuries resulted from the mishap. The Fire Department also assisted their VNAF counterparts in painting all their vehicles. Eight VNAF firemen were graduated on 23 July 1970 and six new students were enrolled in training. 42

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES (U)

4 July - During this reporting period, a total of seventeen visits have been made to local orphanages.

On Saturday, 11 July, Chaplain, Captain, John C. Jahren was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service.

23 July - On 23 July, 20 August and 24 September, a Protestant Spiritual Life Retreat was conducted at Cam Ranh Bay, with an attendance of 186 personnel from Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Chaplain, Captain, Carl Horton was project officer.

27 July - Three Pre-Marriage Clinics have been held at the Base Chapel during the July - August - September quarter, with an attendance of 77.

On Saturday, 8 August, the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints of the Three and Four Corps conducted their quarterly District Conference at the Tan Son Nhut Air Base Chapel with five hundred forty-eight persons in attendance.

On Friday, 14 August, Chaplain, Colonel, Dallas A. Bird was awarded the Outstanding Meritorious Service Medal.

On Saturday, 15 August 1970, a Memorial Service was conducted by Chaplain, Captain Kenneth D. Sedgwick, for the Late Lt Col Freeland of the 360TEWS, attendance was 46. (Lt Col Freeland died of a heart attack.)

[REDACTED]

SECURITY POLICE

(U) Mission: Protect weapons systems, vital facilities, equipment and personnel of Tan Son Nhut Air Base, from sabotage, espionage, subversion and ground attack as envisioned by 207 series directives. Maintains military law and order, and accomplishes correction, administrative security clearances and industrial security functions as directed in the 125 and 205 series directives. ¹

(U) The squadron was basically organized into three sections, operations, administrative security and squadron section or orderly room. The operations section was further broken down into weapons systems security, law enforcement and resources sections. The squadron also has a small detachment at Vung Tau in support of the security requirements of the 439L Cable Head Site.

(U) The squadron's manning picture remained favorable during most of this quarter, but began to drop slightly. On 1 July 1970, the assigned strength was 810, but on 30 September 1970 the strength was 775.

Operations

Hostile activity remained at a low level around the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area, with no change in the threat estimate. The primary threat was still felt to be from standoff weapons (e.g., rockets) and sapper units. No large enemy maneuver elements appeared to threaten the base during the historical period. ^{2,3,4}

[REDACTED]

(U) The Resources Protection Flight, established on 25 March 1970, proved its worth, since no major thefts took place during this reporting period. This flight has prompted new awareness throughout the base for the importance of safeguarding military property. Last quarter, 120 buildings were found insecure, where as only 67 building were found insecure for this period.⁵

(U) A plan was submitted to the Vietnamese for a phase-in take over plan of the perimeter and secondary bunker line. As the quarter closed, another meeting was scheduled for finalization of plans in early October.⁶

(U) During this quarter the squadron has trained 151 VNAF members through our base defense upgrade training initiated last quarter. Four VNAF personnel have been trained to operate the XM-706 and one VNAF officer is being trained for the physical security section at VNAF Headquarters.⁷

(U) There were 12 posts relinquished to the Vietnamese as a result of the 7AF (IGS) Manpower Survey in April 1970. Also, 8 posts were turned over to the Vietnamese as a part of the continuation of the Vietnamization Program.⁸

(U) Over \$9,700 in United States currency was confiscated this quarter from individuals attempting to bring it into the country illegally.