

**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**377TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON**  
**01 JANUARY 1973 - 28 MARCH 1973**

**377TH AIR BASE WING**  
**SEVENTH AIR FORCE**

**STATIONED AT:**  
**TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

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**MICHAEL H. McLENDON, CAPTAIN, USAF**  
**Squadron Historian**

## CHRONOLOGY

- 15 January 1973 Lt Jeffus replaced Captain Lee as OIC, Law Enforcement.
- 15 January 1973 U.S. Military Customs Section assigned as a Law Enforcement subsection.
- 17 January 1973 Captain McLendon assigned as Squadron Section Commander.
- 28 January 1973 Rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base followed by Cease Fire.
- 28 January 1973 Began Squadron Closure.
- 28 January 1973 Security Police Intelligence Section terminated.
- 28 January 1973 Firing Range closed.
- 05 February 1973 Death of A1C Dale DeWolf as a result of vehicle accident.
- 05 February 1973 Weapon Systems Security ceases all functions.
- 09 March 1973 Security Police Investigations Section terminated.
- 14 March 1973 Security Police Customs function terminated.
- 14 March 1973 Security Police Embassy Guards terminated.
- 15 March 1973 Military Working Dog function terminated.
- 19 March 1973 Town Patrol terminated.
- 27 March 1973 Scout, Armory, and Supply functions terminated.
- 28 March 1973 Law Enforcement functions cease and remaining personnel depart.

## **SECURITY POLICE**

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Chief, Security Police, during this period was to provide law enforcement functions to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam and to provide security during the first fifteen day of the cease-fire.

### **THE HOSTILE THREAT**

Hostile activity remained at a low level in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area except for a rocket attack on the morning of 28 January 1973. No large enemy maneuver elements appeared to threaten the installation or its resources.

### **OPERATIONS**

Operations were concentrated during this period on law enforcement as the Security function was reduced. Other than normal daily requirements the major operations performed by the squadron took place on 28 January 1973 during the rocket attack, on 30 January 1973 through 01 February 1973 for Vice President Agnew's visit, and for the return of Viet Cong held POW's.

### **WEAPONS SYSTEM SECURITY**

During this period the Weapons System Security section was reduced in assigned strength and the remaining personnel were assigned to the Law Enforcement section for duty on 05 February 1973. This was necessitated by a reduction in the number of

security police guard posts after resources were turned over to the Vietnamese Air Force.

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#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

During the period of this report, the significant emphasis was placed upon the total withdrawal of all U.S. forces in Vietnam. Because Tan Son Nhut Air Base, evolved as Headquarters for the Joint Four Power Military Commission and the International Commission for Control and Supervision, as well as the prime area for shipment of personnel and material, many adjustments had to be made in the Law Enforcement mission. In order to provide effective Law Enforcement coverage while still allowing for an orderly phase down of personnel, some of the following procedures were established:

- a. Establishment of a Resources Protection Detail, assigned to survey all areas of the base and make recommendations to enhance the security of high value government items.
- b. Take-over of the Area Watchman Program by Security Police from the augmentees. This has provided far better surveillance of all cantonment areas and has helped in reducing the number of thefts in areas.
- c. Establishment of a separate traffic section organized into three shifts to provide more effective traffic control and better Security Police image at key intersections.
- d. Continued revision of all posts to provide security to U.S. areas, but drop unjustified posts in order to maintain the outflow of personnel necessary to support the withdrawal of all U.S. Forces.

During this period action was initiated to phase-out and terminate the Military Working Dog section. Of the 45 dogs on hand ten were identified for euthanasia.

a. Thirty dogs were received from DaNang Air Base and three were identified for euthanasia.

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b. Twelve dogs were received from Bien Hoa Air Base and four were identified for euthanasia.

A total of seventeen Military Working Dogs were put to sleep and seventy were transferred to the ARVN Dog Center. Six detector dogs remained until the termination of Customs. On 27 February 1973 all Military Working Dog posts were terminated. Surplus personnel were released to Law Enforcement. All Military Working Dog field records were shipped to the Military Working Dog Center at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. On 03 March 1973 all remaining EMO equipment and facilities were turned in to CE, Real Property and subsequently transferred to VNAF. On 15 March 1973 the Detector dogs were released to the ARVN Military Dog Center and the Military Working Dog Section of Tan Son Nhut Air Base was terminated.

#### Significant Actions and Events.

- a. Lt Jeffus replaced Capt Lee as OIC, Law Enforcement on 15 January 1973.
- b. SMSgt Ohme assigned as Law Enforcement Superintendent, replacing MSgt Pennington on 11 January 1973.
- c. U.S. Military Customs Section assigned as a Law Enforcement Sub-section of 15 January 1973.

- d. Cease Fire drawdown plan revised and updated to reflect all current information.
- e. "Operation Dog Kill" shifted from daylight hours to after dark in an effort to eliminate the dogs and cats suspected of carrying rabies that came out only after sunset.

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- f. Procedures initiated within the U.S. Military Customs Section for closer inspection of human remains processed through the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Section.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY**

A total of twelve Special Investigations (OSI) cases were requested and ten Serious Incident Reports were submitted. All pending OSI Reports and Serious Incidents Reports were closed or forwarded due to the cease-fire generated closure.

The Pass and Registration Section registered 950 war trophies during this period.

#### **PERSONNEL AND MANNING**

Squadron strength slipped from 500 on 01 January 1973 to 292 as of 28 February 1973.

Several personnel changes took place during this period. On 15 January Lt Jeffus replaced Captain Lee as OIC, Law Enforcement as Captain Lee became Squadron Closure Officer. Captain McLendon assumed duties as Squadron Section Commander on 17 January 1973 replacing Captain Michael R. Schmunk. Following the closure of all Security activities Captain Carrico departed on 12 Feb 1973. Major Paul Boseman,

Operations Officer, departed on 27 February 1973 and Captain Lee assumed his duties.

Colonel Lockett, Chief Security Police, departed on 19 March 1973 and appointed

Captain Lee as Acting Chief, Security Police. Other Key supervisors scheduled to depart are Captain McLendon, Lt Toops, and CMSgt Morgan, First Sergeant, on 22 March 1973,

followed by Captain Lee on 24 March. Lt Jeffus, OIC, Law Enforcement plus twenty four Security Policeman will depart on 28 March 1973.