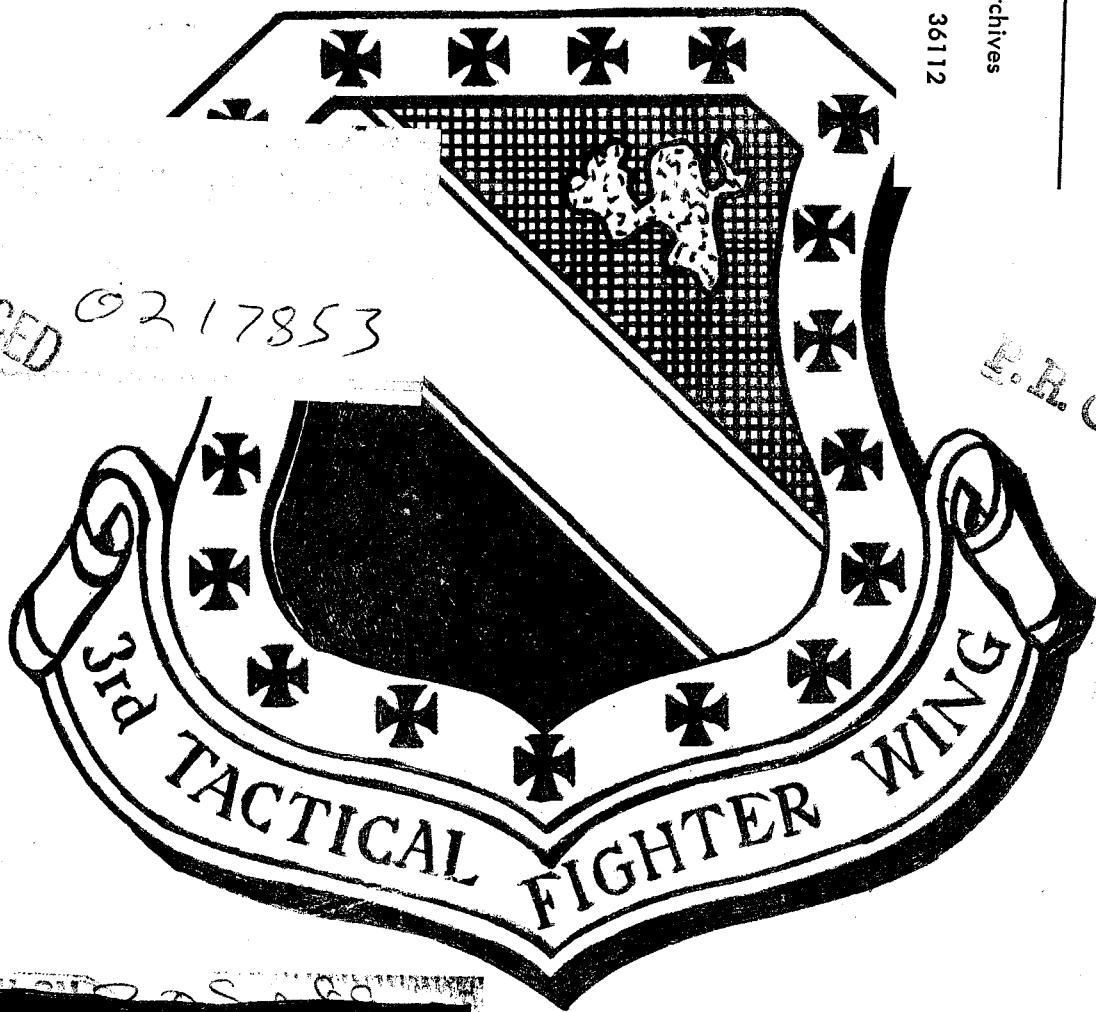


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PACAF

1 July - 30 September 1969

Volume III - Supporting Unit Histories

TEAM 23JUL 91
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HISTORICAL DATA RECORD	PERIOD FROM 1 Jul 69 TO 30 Sep 69	REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL AU-D5
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FROM: (NAME AND LOCATION OF UNIT SUBMITTING THIS REPORT) 604 Special Operations Squadron APO San Francisco 96227	TO: 3 Tactical Fighter Wing APO San Francisco 96227
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IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED FOR ANY ITEM, ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS INDICATING APPLICABLE ITEM NUMBER.

SECTION I ASSIGNMENT				
MAJOR AIR COMMAND	NUMBERED AIR FORCE	AIR DIVISION	WING	GROUP
PACAF	7AF	N/A	3 Tac Ftr Wg	N/A

SECTION II	SUBORDINATE UNITS
None	PROJECT CORONA HARVEST DO NOT DESTROY No. 021805L

SECTION III MISSIONS
A. PRIMARY To supply combat ready aircrews and aircraft to the 3 Tactical Fighter Wing. To conduct combat operations against Communist Viet Cong and/or Democratic Republic to assist/and cooperate with VNAF units stationed at Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam
B. SECONDARY (OR OTHER) None

SECTION IV PERSONNEL				
STATUS	OFFICERS	AIRMEN	CIVILIANS	TOTAL
ASSIGNED	37	78	0	116
AUTHORIZED	44	66	0	110
ATTACHED	0	0	0	0

SECTION V EQUIPMENT	
A. AIRCRAFT Twenty seven (27) A-37	B. WEAPONS (INCLUDING MISSILES) N/A
C. ELECTRONICS N/A	D. OTHER GROUP 4 Downgraded at 3 year intervals; declassified after 12 years

604-0001

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(C) During the period from 1 July 1969 through 30 September 1969, the 604 Special Operations Squadron continued flying the A-37 on close air support and interdiction missions from Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. Living up to its motto of flying the "Closest Air Support", the 604th flew 2888 combat sorties during the period without the loss of a single aircraft. A resume of sorties flown and the type ordnance expended can be located in attachments one and two.

(U) Because of the one year tour in SEA every squadron is faced with a constant change over in personnel and the past quarter proved to be no exception for the 604th which lost 16 pilots while gaining 15 new pilots. One of the departing pilots was the Squadron Commander, Lt Col David H Auld Jr. Lt Col Harold E Hanson (former Operations Officer) took over the reins of the 604th. One of the newcomers, Lt Col James J King took over as Operations Officer of the squadron. Another of the newcomers, Lt Col Neale is head of Current Operations of the 3 Tactical Fighter Wing. Another Lt Col assigned to Wing is Lt Col Tommy Box, he is taking over as Assistant of Wing Plans. Lt Col Frank Hense Jr had the dubious honor of being the first Lt Col Flight Commander in the 604th. He replaced Major Marvin E Foreman Jr who was assigned to the Wing Safety Office. All of the new pilots were checked out by the departing pilots, and are combat ready and now flying regularly with the squadron.

(U) During the month of September, "A" Flight was given the task of designing the new squadron building which is to be built on the center ramp. This building is to be completed in November. The flight worked around the clock for approximately two days to complete the task. At the end of the quarter the flight was still working drawing up plans.

(S) During the quarter the 604th was checking out flight leads and instructor pilots at an increased rate to fulfill the needs for the upcoming quarter. During the next quarter two additional squadrons of the A-37B and crews will arrive at Bien Hoa to replace the F-100 squadrons going home.

(S) Because of the programmed loss of two F-100 Squadrons the 604th ran a test program on dropping the MK-82 High Drag bomb. The test was successful and the entire squadron was

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checked out in the tactics and delivery of high drags. A complete report may be found in attachment 8.

(U) During this quarter the maintenance section has lost 23 personnel and gained 13 through reassignments.

(C) The 604th now possesses 27 of the 28 A-37A models in USAF. When aircraft 64504 returns from analytical teardown and inspection at SAAMA, our squadron will possess all the A-37A model aircraft in the USAF inventory.

(U) One major problem during the quarter was with the gear doors failing to give a safe uplock indication. This problem caused several aborted bombing missions and many "Ops" checks on the aircraft. The problem was not identified specifically and a trial and error method was used to fix the aircraft.

(U) Another continuing problem has been failure of the bolts in the nose gear tire. A temporary fix has been approved by OOAMA using a bolt part number 20004-16 with an additional washer and nut SN5310-771-4388. This fix has reduced the failures somewhat but a permanent fix is needed.

(C) Another significant change which took place was the reduction in sortie rate from 1.5 to 1.4. Also during that time the squadron has had six aircraft on alert, from 0700 to 1900 versus two.

(U) The winners of the squadron "Top Gun" award for July, August and September respectively were 1st Lt Victor Grahn, Captain Frank Hale and Major Marvin Foreman Jr. Capt Frank Hale also took top honors for the entire Wing.

(C) The weapons shop, though no longer an integral part of the squadron still has a place in this history and continues to do an outstanding job for the 604th. Many times during the quarter the weapons shop was undermanned, yet was able to support the squadron's combat mission without any sign of a letdown. The GAU-2B/A mini-gun continued to be a problem with failures in the clearing mechanism and jamming. During September a significant reduction (one-half) in the number of 7.62 mm rounds fired took place. This was due to the above problems and operational restrictions set by the Squadron Commander. The mini-gun expended

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115,433 rounds compared to 184,595 during the second quarter. The overall weapons system effectiveness was 98.7 percent. This rate was for the 11,922 pieces of ordnance which were expended during the period.

Harold E. Hanson
HAROLD E HANSON, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

Paul J. Armour
PAUL J ARMOUR, Captain, USAF
Squadron Historian

*Atch 2, 4, 7 withdrawn.
Atch 4, 7 used as sup-
porting documents:
Tabs 60, 61, Vol. II.
Atch 2 disposed of
as repeat material.*

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ORDNANCE EXPENDED/DUDS
(1 Jul - 30 Sep 69)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CBU-22	0	8/0	0	8/0
CBU-24	4/0	10/0	4/0	18/0
CBU-25	145/1	250/0	353/1	753/2
LAU-3	21/1	90/9	48/1	159/11
BLU-32	772/1	968/48	686/9	2428/58
MK-81LD	46/1	0	0	46/1
MK-82LD	2908/47	2692/14	1988/22	7588/113
MK-82HD Test Run	0	23/14	0	23/14
MK-82HD Single Fuze	0	32/2	130/6	162/8
M-117LD	536/10	86/2	140/1	762/13
TOTAL	4432/74	4141/105	3349/41	
7.62	41,508	52,476	21,449	115,433

HITS/SORTIE

CORPS	I	II	III	IV	TOTAL
JUL	0	0	0/747	2/276	2/1023
AUG	0	0/8	0/624	2/428	2/1060
SEP	0	0	1/511	0/294	1/805
TOTAL	0/0	0/8	1/1882	4/998	5/2888

Attachment 1

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BATTLE DAMAGE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TYPE HIT</u>	<u>PROFILE</u>
2 Jul 69	Capt Thomas J Norton	.30 Cal	Nape
14 Jul 69	Capt Neil Sorenson	.30 Cal	UNK
22 Aug 69	Major John Whistler	.30 Cal	Nape
26 Aug 69	Lt George N Darrough	.30 Cal	Nape
13 Sep 69	Major Hugh P Wellford	.30 Cal	Strafe

Attachment 3

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601ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON (FIGHTER)

ORGANIZATION

COMMANDER
3TFW

Col Howard M Lane

SQUADRON COMMANDER

Lt Col Harold E Hanson

ADMINISTRATION

Major Wayne K Beckwith

ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE

Major Robert A Heidrich

INTELLIGENCE

Captain Benny R Smith

OPERATIONS

Lt Col James J King

AIRCREWS*

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Sergeant Roger M Garrett

* See Attachment 7

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Attachment 6