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PACAF

REVIEW ON 31 Dec 89
~~1 October~~ - 31 December 1969

P.R.C.

Volume III - Supporting Unit Histories

MAY 23 1979

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
8TH ATTACK SQUADRON (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96227

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Commander, 8th Attack Squadron
SUBJECT: 8th Attack Squadron Historical Report
(4 November 1969 - 31 December 1969)
TO: 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing (DXIH)

The 8th Attack Squadron Historical Report is submitted on the attached Seventh Air Force Form 7 with continuation sheets and supporting documents, covering the period 4 November 1969 thru 31 December 1969.


EDWIN H. JESSUP, 1Lt, USAF
Historical Officer

1 Atch
8th Attack Squadron
Historical Report


JOHN Q. WISE, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 8th Attack Squadron

8AS-70-01

HISTORICAL DATA RECORD	REPORTING PERIOD		REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL	
	FROM	TO	AU-DS	
	4 Nov 1969	31 Dec 1969		
FROM: (NAME AND LOCATION OF UNIT SUBMITTING THIS REPORT)		TO:		
8th Attack Sqdn. Bien Hoa AB, RVN		3rd Tactical Fighter Wing Bien Hoa AB, RVN		
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	3rd Tactical Fighter Wing	N/A
SECTION II SUBORDINATE UNITS				
None				
SECTION III MISS				
A. PRIMARY (S) The mission of the 8th Attack Squadron was to provide close air support of United States and Free World forces, armed reconnaissance along enemy lines of communications and interdiction of preplanned targets throughout South Vietnam, under the control of the Seventh Air Force Tactical Air Control Center. ¹				
B. SECONDARY (OR OTHER) (S) Additional missions assigned to the 8th included in-country escort of tactical airlift and defoliation operations and RESCAP for downed aircrews. ²				
SECTION IV PERSONNEL				
STATUS	OFFICERS	AIRMEN	CIVILIANS	TOTAL
ASSIGNED	29	59	0	88
AUTHORIZED	36	199	0	235
ATTACHED	5	0	0	5
SECTION V EQUIPMENT				
A. AIRCRAFT		B. WEAPONS (INCLUDING MISSILES)		
A-37B		MK 82 Low Drag 500lb bomb Banded MK 82 High Drag 500lb bomb BLU-27 750lb Napalm LAU-3 2.75in Rocket Launcher		
ELECTRONICS		Explosive Weapons (Continued)		
None		7.62mm Minigun CBU-24 Cluster Bomb Unit CBU-25 " " "		
Gp-3: Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified, DOD Dir 5200.10				

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Narrative

Foreword:

(U) The period of 8 October 1969 thru 31 December 1969 was a time of change for the 8th Attack Squadron. The squadron changed its name, location and aircraft and in the process lost all of its former members and absorbed the personnel of another squadron, the 310th Attack Squadron. Therefore, frequent reference is made in this history to the 310th, for during much of this period the two were, in effect, one and the same.

Commanders:

(U) Lt Col Morris T. Warner temporarily assumed command of the 8th Attack Squadron on 15 November 1969³ and remained in command until the arrival of the main element of the 310th Attack Squadron at Bien Hoa. Lt Col John Q. Wise, who had been commander of the 310th, assumed command of the 8th on 7 December 1969⁴ and remained in command throughout the period of this report.

Deployment:

(S) On 15 November 1969, the 8th Tactical Bomb Squadron was reassigned from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang AB, Republic of Vietnam, to the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa AB, Republic of Vietnam,⁵ and on 18 November 1969 was redesignated the 8th Attack Squadron.⁶ The squadron

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relocated to Bien Hoa without equipment, its B-57B,C and E aircraft and personnel having been reassigned when the squadron was temporarily deactivated on 8 October 1969 - in essence a paper move. The squadron was reequipped with brand-new A-37B attack aircraft which had been shipped by sea to Nha Trang AB, RVN, where they were assembled and then ferried to Bien Hoa. The first aircraft arrived at Bien Hoa on 4 November 1969. Personnel were received from the 310th Attack Squadron, which deployed to Bien Hoa from England AFB, Louisiana on 28 November 1969; the main element having been preceded by advance parties which arrived on 7 November and 12 November 1969.

(S) The 310th Attack Squadron had been activated at England AFB in May 1969, along with the 311th Attack Squadron, under a program to activate and prepare for deployment to Southeast Asia four combat-ready squadrons of A-37B attack aircraft.

(S) The 310th deployed aboard Military Airlift Command aircraft with 24 officers and 106 airmen. Upon arrival, 61 airmen were reassigned to munitions, avionics and field maintenance organizations in the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing. In order to provide a base of SEA experienced personnel and a smooth DEROS loss flow, personnel were exchanged with other squadrons at Bien Hoa, with the 8th receiving 20 airmen and four aircrews in exchange for eight airmen and three aircrews.

(U) Upon its arrival at Bien Hoa on 30 November 1969, the 310th Attack Squadron was deactivated.

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Operations:

(S) Upon deployment to Bien Hoa, the first task of the 8th Attack Squadron was to complete theatre indoctrination of all its aircrews and obtain the C-1 rating. The theatre indoctrination and checkout program was organized and conducted by the 604th Special Operations Squadron,⁸ primarily through four instructor pilots reassigned to the 8th. The advance party of three aircrews were attached to the 604th for flying until the remainder of the squadron arrived and established its own flying operations. The squadron arrived with an initial C-4 rating and attained C-3 on 25 December 1969 with 16 aircrews formed. C-2 was attained on 29 December 1969 with 22 aircrews formed.

(U) Although the squadron was undergoing an extensive checkout program, at the same time it was picking up its share of the war effort. All sorties flown for checkout requirements were effective combat sorties in which ordnance was delivered on a hostile target.

(C) Flying under the DOG callsign, the 8th's activities during November and December included the bombing of enemy base camps and bunker complexes, close air support to troops in contact with enemy forces, escort of UC-123 defoliation missions (code name for this escort mission was TRAILDUST) and tactical airlift escort - primarily over Bu Dop Special

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Forces camp.

(C) The normal ordnance loads carried during this period consisted of three types. For almost all interdiction and close air support missions, aircraft carried either four MK 82 low drag 500lb bombs or a mixed load of two MK 82's and two BLU-27 750lb unfinned napalm. On TRAILDUST escort missions, the normal load carried was two LAU-3 2.75 in rocket launchers and four CBU-25 dispensers.

(C) Most operations were conducted in the III Corps and IV Corps areas of South Vietnam, with an occasional mission into southernmost II Corps. No out-of-country missions were flown. Generally, flights proceeded directly to a rendezvous with a forward air controller near the target and returned directly home. Occasionally flights would be diverted from one rendezvous to a more active target, such as troops in contact.

(C) Tactics used most frequently were box-type bombing patterns with restricted run-in headings. This was dictated by the target situation, since most targets were in fairly close proximity to friendly troops or civilians. Whenever the target and FAC permitted, random run-in headings were used to reduce exposure to ground fire. All ordnance deliveries were controlled by a forward air controller (FAC) or an MSQ radar controller (Combat Skyspot missions).

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(C) In addition to preplanned (fragg) sorties, the 8th acquired an alert responsibility in December. This consisted of one flight (HAWK 09) on alert from 0700 to 1900 in the squadron revetments. The squadron flew 69 scrambles in December. On 21 December 1969 HAWK 09 was scrambled in the early evening for a troops in contact situation. A Viet Cong force had been trapped by U.S. troops after the VC had downed an American helicopter with ground fire. HAWK 09, delivering bombs and napalm under the spotlight of an AC-119 SHADOW gunship, killed 24 of the enemy troops.

(U) The 8th was programmed by 3rd TFW to fly approximately 30 hours per day. The number of fragg and scrambled missions was insufficient to meet this goal; therefore, training sorties were scheduled to attain the required flying time. These training sorties usually consisted of practice formation flying and practice instrument approaches at Vung Tau AB and Phan Rang AB. Another type of training mission flown by the 8th consisted of dry (no-ordnance) ground attack sorties flown in support of training of Vietnamese Air Force forward air controllers.



Footnotes

1. PACAF PAD 70-1 "A-37B Deployments" Jul 1969, pp A-1
2. AFM 3-1/3 TFW Sup 2 "A-37 Tactics" 28 Feb 69, pp 3
3. Special Order 1, 8th Attack Squadron, 15 Nov 1969
4. Special Order 2, 8th Attack Squadron, 7 Dec 1969
5. PACAF Movement Order 35, 13 Nov 1969
6. Special Order G-298, PACAF, 3 Nov 1969
7. History, 8th Tactical Bomb Squadron, 1 June 1969 - 30 Sep 1969
pp 5
8. 3 TFW Operations Plan 303-69, 1 Jul 1969, pp 4

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Key Personnel

Commander:	Lt Col John Q. Wise
Operations Officer:	Lt Col James J. King
Administrative Officer:	Maj Floyd W. Brown
Maintenance Officer:	Capt Gerald E. Reddick
First Sergeant:	MSgt Jesse T. Hale
Maintenance Superintendent:	CMSgt Eugene R. Sanchez

Attachment 1

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Summary of Flying Operations 18 Nov - 31 Dec 1969

Total Sorties Flown:	784
Effective Combat Missions:	509
Alert Scrambles:	69
Training Sorties:	64
VNAF Training Sorties:	12
Total Flying Time:	806.7

Summary of BDA 18 Nov - 31 Dec 1969

Killed by Air:	42 confirmed	15 probable
Bunkers:	378 destroyed	85 damaged
Structures:	44 destroyed	21 damaged
Secondary Explosions:	33	
Secondary Fires:	29	
Sampan:	5 destroyed	0 damaged

Attachment 2

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