

DETACHMENT 6, 600TH PHOTO SQUADRON  
Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam

Master Sergeant De L. Benson assumed command of the detachment on 2 June when First Lieutenant Gerald E. Raybeck completed his Vietnam tour.

In addition to primary support commitments to the 600th Photo squadron, AAVS and 7th Air Force, the detachment took over an increasing amount of support responsibilities for their host organization, the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing.

At the close of the reporting period, all of the 35 authorized personnel positions were filled. A new authorized strength, totaling 55 personnel becomes effective 1 July 1969 in support of two additional detachment operations. The first of these two new programs, the KB-18A strike camera system, was in its initial stage of operation until the morning of 6 June, when an enemy 122m rocket impacted about twelve feet from the maintenance trailer, severely damaging the system's film processing equipment. Repairs are being continued.

The second addition was the FAC hand held by the photo lab and the precision maintenance shop. The support included processing and printing 35mm black & white photos taken of enemy positions. Twenty-four Asahi Pentax Spotmatic Cameras were in use by the FAC's of the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron at Bien Hoa and some thirty forward operating locations. Film and camera maintenance was also supplied by the detachment.

The largest single operation of the detachment was the Armament Recording Camera Program flown by F-100's and A-37's of the 3rd TFW.

The aerial maintenance section exhibited their skill and coordination when they installed a pod camera system on two of the 19th TASS's OV-10 aircraft in support of "Misty Bronco." The pods were hung and ready to fly six hours after the request was received.

During the six month period the Armament Recording Program produced the following statistics:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FOOTAGE EXPOSED</u>	<u>RELIABILITY</u>
Gun Cameras	94,265	94%
Pods	87,800	99%

The total footage for the 73 gun cameras fell off slightly from the last reporting period. The pods however had an increase of 38,365 feet from their seven cameras.

The still photo laboratory processed 8,006 black & white and 5,481 color exposures while printing 19,316 contacts and 26,541 enlargements.

The COMDOC function, manned by one mopic and two still photographers, flew a total of 75 combat sorties, turning out 1694 color and 2769 black & white exposures and 22,125 feet of 16mm motion picture film (13,525 feet over the last reporting period). COMDOC projects included Hometown News Releases (302 T.V. clips for Apr - May - Jun), civic action, airstrikes, rocket attack coverage and a number of self-generated projects.

In May, Detachment 6 became the first unit of the 600th Photo Squadron ever to receive an overall "Outstanding" evaluation from the 7th Air Force Inspector General Team.