

DET 2, 600TH PHOTO SQUADRON

Takhli RTAFB, Thailand

PERSONNEL: Key personnel of Det 2 consist of:

1st Lt Eric E. Anderson	Detachment Commander
MSgt Robert W. Banks	Operations NCOIC
TSgt Bobbie D. Black	Airborne Photo NCOIC
MSgt Carmon D. Higgins	ComDoc NCOIC
SSgt Maynard Vander-Yacht	Still Laboratory NCOIC
SSgt King Murphy	Administrative NCOIC

SSgt Maurice O'Neal was replaced by SSgt King Murphy as Administrative NCOIC in December 1966. SSgt Benjamin W. Barnes was replaced by MSgt Carmon D. Higgins as ComDoc NCOIC on 14 Nov 1966.

On 1 Jul 66, Detachment 2, had a total PCS strength of seven (7) and a TDY strength of three (3) for a total strength on station of ten (10). As of 31 Dec 66, total PCS strength grew to thirty one (31) with one (1) TDY for a total strength on station of 32. During this reporting period Det 2 reached a total strength on station of 43 in the month of November. Because this base was unable to support a Motion Picture Processing Unit, the unit with fourteen (14) personnel were reassigned PCS early in December to support the facility at Detachment 5.

Our percent of manning as of 31 Dec 66, for each AFSC assigned was as follows:

<u>AFSC</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
2324	1	1	100%
232X0	10	13	130%
233X0	5	2	40%
233X1	1	0	0%
233X2	11	0	0%
402X0	16	13	81%
404X0	2	0	0%
702X0	4	2	50%
751X1	3	0	0%

EQUIPMENT: At the beginning of this reporting period, Det 2 had very little photographic equipment, e.g., one (1) super speed graphic, one (1) arriflex 16mm camera, and two sun guns. By the end of the reporting period all the equipment in support of Combat Pix (Project 414) had come in. On 15 Nov 66, Det 2 moved from a screened-in hootch (approximately 500 sq ft of dusty plywood floor) to its current facility with approximately 3600 sq ft of clean tile floor. (see picture following page). At that time all the Combat Pix equipment was uncrated and installed in the new facility. During the interim months of August, through November, Det 2 designed and had built a trailer lab to support the increasing photographic requirements at the location. It began operation on 15 Aug 66, and continued to operate through the end of this reporting period.

MISSION:

Pod: At the beginning of the reporting period, Det 2 was



supporting an average of four (4) to five (5) pod missions a week. By the end of the period they were supporting as many as 15 to 20 pod missions per week.

Gun Camera: On 1 July 66, Det 2 began supporting four (4) aircraft with color film. By the end of August they had assumed the total maintenance responsibility for all of the gun camera systems at Takhli. The peak period was the week of 18 Dec 66 when a total of 90 rolls of gun camera film was exposed. The system reliability on the stock system went from 25% when first taken over, to 90% by 31 Dec 66. Early in the reporting period, Det 2 was delegated the responsibility for designing, fabricating, and flight testing a modified gun camera system. SSgt Edwards from Det 5 arrived TDY to provide technical assistance. The configuration originally generated at Det 2 was officially adopted by Hq AAVS as the new modified gun camera system. This conception evolved from a simple mirror arrangement to a simple prism arrangement.

Blister: Det 2 received its first and only blister aircraft 19 Aug 66. It has supported as many as eight (8) blister missions in one week. Using either and/or both cameras, forward and aft, this system appeared to be the most promising for documentation purposes.

KA71A: Det 2 began actively supporting this program during the last week of October with a total of two (2) missions for that week. Since then, this mission responsibility steadily increased.

Det 2 supported as many as 63 pre-flights in one week with the highest number of missions on which film was exposed reaching 15, recorded during the week of 18 Dec 66.

Scope Photographic: Det 2 began supporting this mission 15 Aug 66, following the completion of the trailer facility which was specifically designed for that purpose. By the end of this reporting period, Det 2 personnel "hand processed" better than 55,000 feet of 35mm scope film in the trailer facility. Det 2 was scheduled to convert the processing of this material in the next six months from the trailer to the Versamat in the recently completed Still Laboratory.

ComDoc Photography: Photography in this mission steadily increased. Det 2 cameramen exposed better than 20,000 feet of film on various projects during the period. Some of the projects documented are as follows:

- Base Documentation
- Prime Beef #14 Documentation
- KC-135 Crew Hits 10,000 Hours
- The Major Kasler Story
- Airmen Learn Thai
- Hometown News
- Precha Meelaphsom Story
- KC-135's in SEA
- Sky Divers in Action

Visiting Dignitaries

Somebody up There (Rescue Story)

Pod, Blister, and Scope Equipment Installation

Fighter Squadron Decals

Det 2 Build-up

Raw Material (Cement)

Raw Material (Asphalt)

Jet Engine Field Maintenance

Foreign Object Damage

Fighter Pilots in SEA

Thanksgiving 1966

Bob Hope Show 1966

Still Photo Laboratory: Det 2 supported all facets of the Still Photo Lab function that Hq AAVS was committed to support in Southeast Asia. By 25 November 1966, Det 2 was fully operational in its new laboratory with the exception of the Versamat equipment which required specialized wiring. The Still Lab function grew during this period from a one (1) man Photo Lab doing limited photo assignments to a fully manned lab supporting each photographic request in a timely manner. Close to 9,000 still photographs were exposed in this six months.

Training Program: Det 2's OJT program grew from nothing in August to an effective OJT Program with six (6) men on OJT; two (2) in the 23270 training, one (1) in the 23350 training, and three (3)

in the 40250 training. Three (3) of the foregoing were scheduled to be submitted for testing in the January cycle.

Contributions to the Base: By the end of this reporting period, Det 2 was providing the Host Base with photo support on a 24 hour a day basis. They also photographed display tape material and made these photographs available to key personnel on base. An extensive photographic display was made available to the Aerial Port Squadron.