

DET 3, 600TH PHOTO SQUADRON

Ubon RTAFB, Thailand

PERSONNEL:

On 1 July 66 there was 1 officer and 8 enlisted personnel assigned to Det 3. On 31 December there was 1 officer and 25 enlisted men assigned. There was 77.4% of the manning allocation.

Supervisors of Det 3 on 1 July 66:

2d Lt Roger M. Dobeck	Commander
SSgt Pat Abernathy	NCOIC Det 3
SSgt Arthur C. McGraw	NCOIC Pod Crew.
SSgt Wilson Banks, III	NCOIC Camera Maintenance

On 1 Aug 66 Pat Abernathy, SSgt became NCOIC of the Motion Picture and SSgt Wayne W. Wright became NCOIC of Photo Maintenance.

SSgt Kenneth F. Burt	NCOIC Motion Picture
SSgt Manuel Esquibel	NCOIC Still Photo
MSgt Herbert H. Morgan	NCOIC Operations/NCOIC Det 3

On 1 November SSgt Joseph Montgomery replaced SSgt Burt as NCOIC of Motion Picture.

On 16 December 66 SSgt Cleveland E. Rankin arrived this station and assumed duties as NCOIC of Still Photo. SSgt Esquibel was named Asst NCOIC of Still Photo.

MISSION:

The mission of Detachment 3, on 1 July 66, was to accomplish all backseat photography, both motion and still, pod and blister

photography and all base documentation for Ubon RTAFB. As of 31 December 66, in addition to the above mentioned items, this detachment was given the additional responsibility for all still lab production for all Thailand based detachments of the 600th Photo Sq.

From the period 1 July 66 to 27 Aug 66, this detachment was operating out of a small hootch like building. This building had only 3 small rooms with no storage space. There was a great increase in personnel in this period (17 arrivals) and it became evident that new accommodations were necessary. Finally on 28 July 66, construction began on a new photo building, but work was stopped on the 3rd day by order of the Thai Base Commander. Work was resumed on the 5th of August and the building was completed on the 9th of August. (see picture following page) This detachment was delayed in moving into the new building due to the lack of power. On the 26th of August Mr. Montague F. Adamson and his team arrived this station to install the equipment in the photo lab. Power was supplied by portable generators, and the Det moved in the new building on 28 Aug 66. The installation of the equipment progressed slowly due to some difficulty in locating the equipment, but by 15 Oct the Still Lab was operational. The Still Lab became 99% operational on 13 Nov 66, as it is to date.

There has been a definite increase in production during this period in all areas.

In the two month period before the Still Lab was operational



there were 2,231 still exposures shot. These negs had to be sent to Tan Son Nhut for processing and printing, and then returned to the Det for distribution, taking anywhere from one to two weeks from when the pictures were taken to when they were distributed to the parties concerned. In the two month period after the still lab was operational there were 4,957 still exposures shot, more than a 100% increase. These exposures were processed and printed at this Still Lab and returned to the requesting agency within 3 days.

There was no noted change in Pod footage for the first 5 months of this period, but in Dec there was 11,050 feet of film shot, this is an increase of over 1,000 feet for the three month period of 1 July to 30 September 66.

All in all, the past 6 month period has shown a marked increase in every month. This upward trend should continue in the next six month period.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BASE:

The still lab accomplished all processing, printing and still work for the Ubon Air Base. The Detachment initiated special project numbers for the base, i.e., 3-6/705 Base Documentation, 3-6/711 Portraits, 3-6/727 Personnel Services. They also shot all the I.D. Cards, Controlled Area Cards, Crew Portraits and any other special project requested by the base.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS:

The KD26B Camera Program was started on 20 Nov 66.

The systems were prepared for operation "Charging Sparrow." Because of the lack of spare parts, controls and cameras, the project had a slow start. Since the start of the project, Det 3 prepared forty systems for its use. With the arrival of some spare parts the job was made less difficult. At the beginning the Det had no test equipment or the special power required in the maintenance shop for bench check repair or calibration, but by coordination with the A&E Sq they were given KD26 Test Equipment, the space and proper power test the KD26 and control. This made a noted difference in the operational status of each system prepared for the project. Special parts required for proper repair of the system were still difficult to obtain, such as LA1 boards for LB58 control, the LD-58 control, correlations light blocks, and KD26B cameras. With the required parts and proper power requirements, this system could be kept operational with a minimum of problems.

F4C Blister System: Through 4 Dec 66 Det 3 had one blister system. On 5 Dec 66 a second system was received with aft station only. After inquiry into mod it was found that the nose section (forward camera station) was interchangeable with electronic gear normally installed in the nose of the above aircraft. The nose mounts and aft and forward nose cameras were received on 29 Dec 66. On 31 Dec 66 no technical data had been received for blister camera mod. The use of this system should increase with added interest of

wing personnel, who began to realize the equipment's potential.

TRAINING PROGRAM:

The OJT program was started at Det 3 as of 1 Oct 66. SSgt Nichols was appointed as OJT Supervisor. Phase tests were written and materials and training manuals ordered. As of 1 Oct 66 they had seven 3 levels upgraded to 5 level and five 5 levels upgraded to the 7 level.

Two 3 levels, 40230, were upgraded to 40250 on 7 Oct 66, after successfully passing the SKT.

On 31 Dec 66 there were 14 people on OJT for upgrading.