

THE OFFICIAL HISTORIES OF THE 6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON



“Top 10” Questions

Question #7. ASA's 509th Radio Research Group (RRG) became the focal point for ARDF support of MACV. We do know that the 6994th was a key stakeholder in the ARDF Coordinating Committee (ACC), which was an ad hoc organization set up early on to oversee ASA-USAFSS ARDF operations. The USAFSS perspective on control of ARDF assets (vs. the army and/or NSA) would be most useful.

Response. Pages extracted from 6994th history for July-December 1970, which include some interesting discussions of ARDF and collection tasking.

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(u) the "Z2" to be used for manual morse targets from .2 to 30 MHz. CCZ configured aircraft were responsible for and tasked with the completion of two different types of missions, Primary Collection and Primary ARDF. On those missions tasked with primary ARDF operations, a collection mission was immediately undertaken whenever equipment failure precluded fix operations against enemy target transmitters. The tables on the following pages are provided for further amplification of these two configurations of the aircraft operated by the 6994 Scty Sq during this period.⁵

Tasking Cycle

(u) ~~(S//FOUO)~~ The tasking cycle for the ARDF/Collection missions flown by the 6994 Scty Sq was unique for a USAFSS unit in that the tasks were designed to provide constant tactical support in a highly fluid armed conflict.⁶

(u) ~~(S//FOUO)~~ ARDF/Collection tasking originated with Army and Navy Field Commanders, the Cryptologic Community and 7AF submission of requirements for the coming week. These requests were submitted to MACV (J2-114). On Wednesday of each week, MACV (J2-114) submitted the proposed tasking to the ARDF Coordinating Committee. This committee consisted of representatives (usually Operations Officers) of the 509RRG, 6994 Scty Sq, ACC, MACV (J2), 7AF, Department of Defense Special Representative (DODSPECREP), Controlled American Source (CAS), Saigon,

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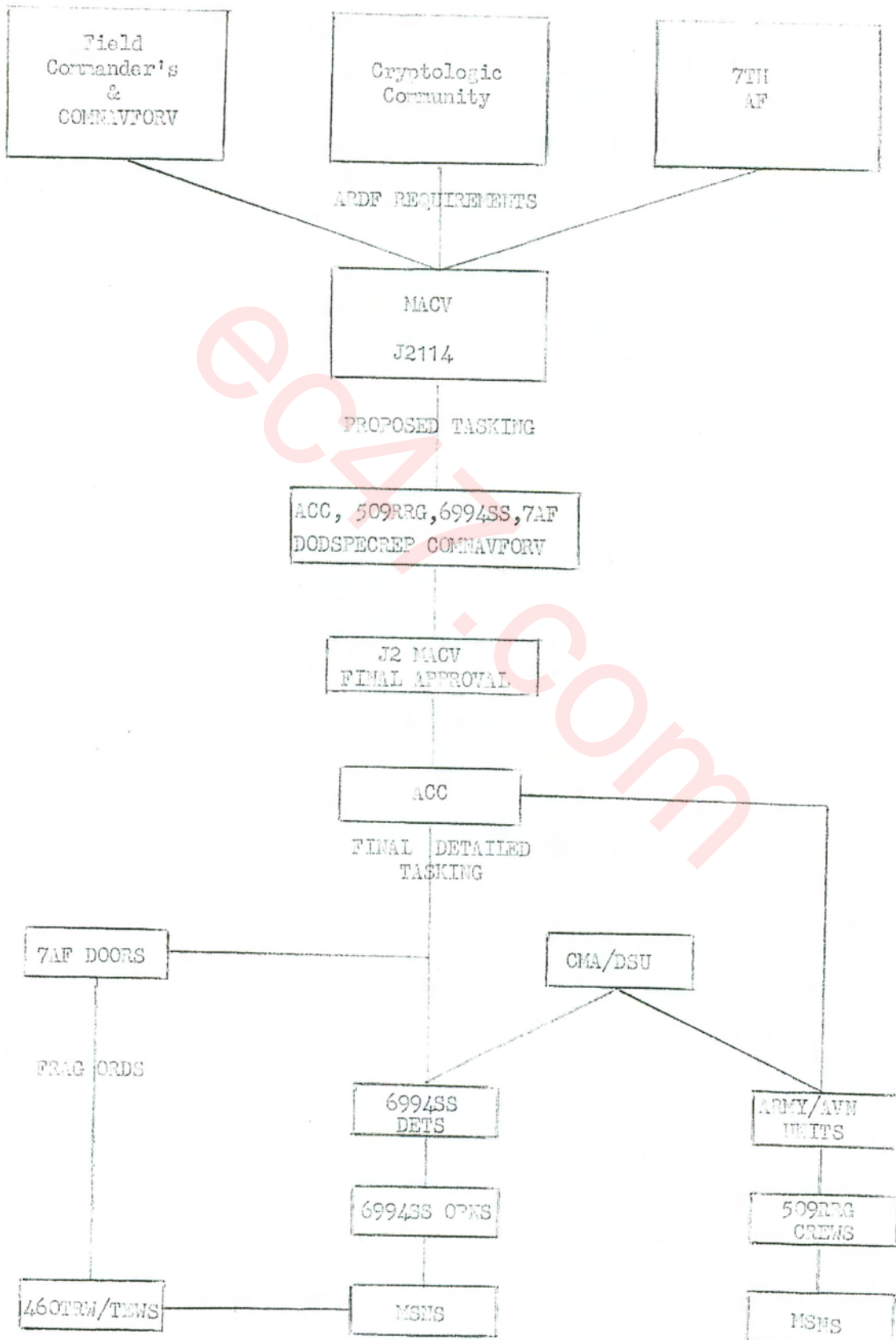
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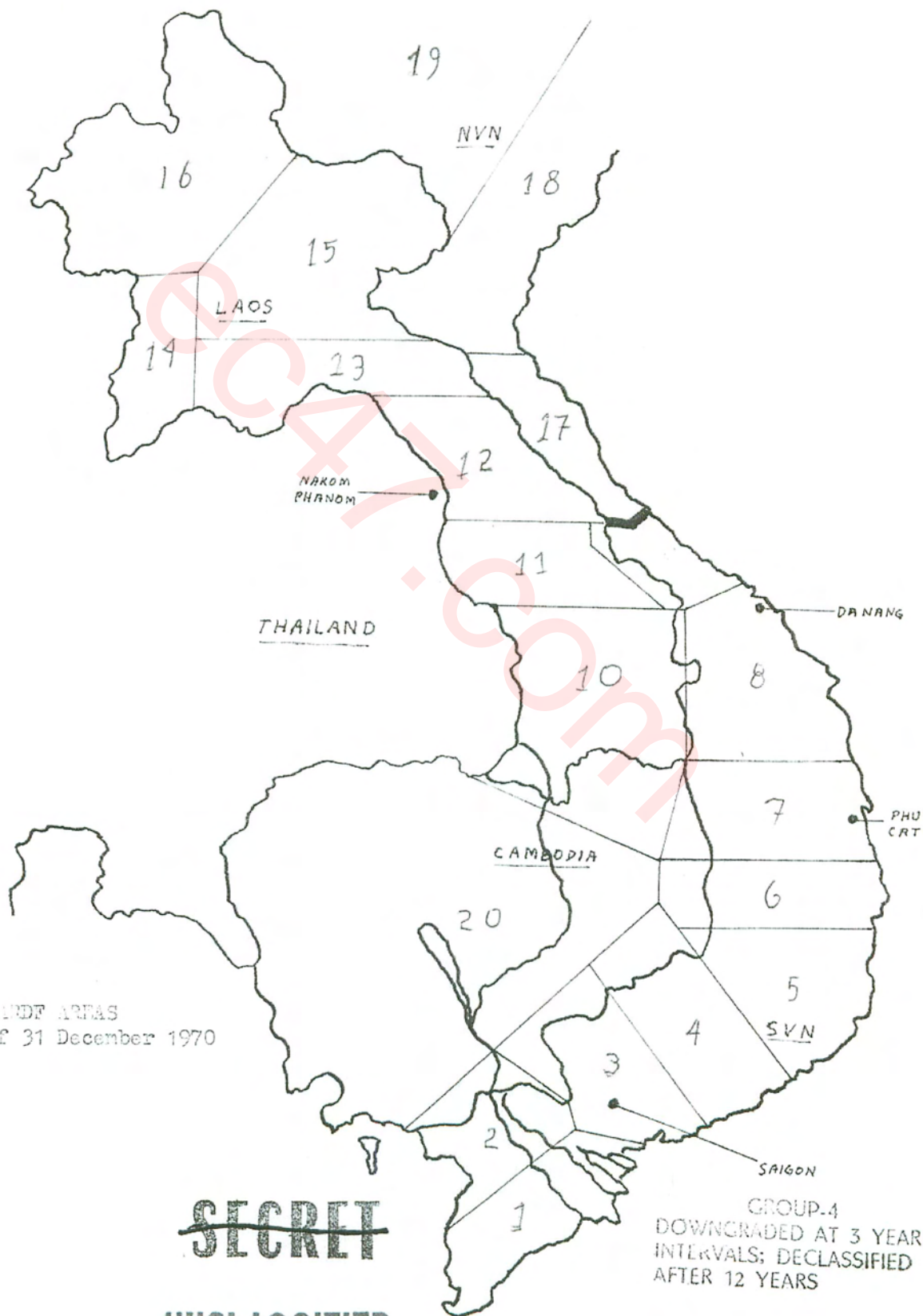
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TASKING CYCLE



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and the Commander, Naval Forces Vietnam (COMNAVFORV). The Coordinating Committee then passed these recommendations to MACV (J2) for final approval and return to ACC for issuance. While these procedures were ironed out, the 460 TRW provided the ACC with an aircraft availability forecast for the tasking week in question. ACC then assigned individual missions to fulfill the tasking requirement originally generated by the Field Force Commanders to each Collection Management Authority (CMA) and the 6994 Scty Sq on Thursday morning of each week. At the same time ACC provided a "sanitized" version of the tasking to 7AF for issuance of the required Fragmentary Order (FRAG ORDER) for each mission to be flown.⁷

(U) ~~(S)~~ With the implementation of Annex India to Techins 1056 on 26 September 1970, the 6994 Scty Sq received position tasking from the appropriate CMA on Friday morning of each week. This tasking was provided by the CMA having the Sigint collection, processing, and reporting responsibility for the specific target area of operations concerned. Prior to each day's series of missions, the applicable CMA provided the majority of technical data. Once airborne, COMBAT CROSS/COMBAT CROSS ZULU crews, through Direct Support Units (DSU's) had access to additional technical data for individual frag

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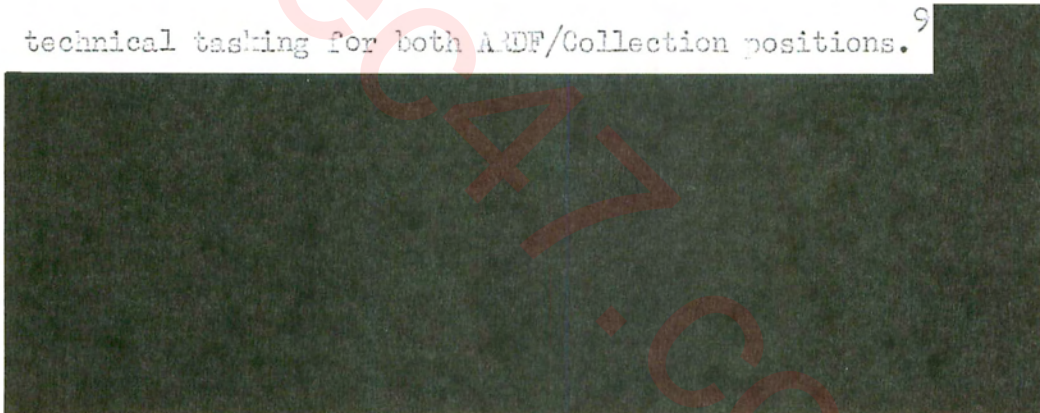
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areas. In addition, DSU's accepted all fixes from the airborne platform, passed tip-offs to the aircraft and accepted messages which were deemed exploitable by the airborne crew.⁸

Annex India to Techins 1056

(u) ~~(FOUO)~~ At the close of the previous historical report, actions had been initiated by DIRMNSA to provide guidance on technical tasking for both ARDF/Collection positions.⁹



~~support of military commanders.~~¹⁰

(u) ~~(FOUO)~~ On 5 August 1970, the 6994 Scty Sq received Annex India for review and eventual implementation. On 28 August 1970, the 6994 Scty Sq recommended to PacSctyRgn that subject annex either be rescinded or rewritten as it was not compatible to the tactical requirements of the ADS operations in SEA. These recommendations were based on the following:

1. General tasking of positions for collection by area could be included in the existing Mission Control Directives (MCD) produced each week.

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2. CMA preparation of Control Messages (CONMSG) for each mission would place an extremely heavy workload on the CMA, and the CONMSG's would be valueless to the aviation units.

3. ARDF/Collection efforts depended largely upon the technical data contained in the cherry sheets. CONMSG lists of desired targets case notations would not provide this essential information.¹¹

(u) ~~(S//FOUO)~~ On 8 September 1970, DIRNSA directed the implementation of Annex India on 26 September 1970.¹² On 19 September 1970, the 6994 Scty Sq requested ACC provide the answers to the following questions prior to implementation of subject annex:

1. How would the CMA assign specific Intercept Assignment Designators (IAD) in CONMSG's? If IAD numbers were assigned to a specific position, how would the CMA know which aircraft would fly that mission? If a change in aircraft occurred, what action was required?

2. Would an additional CONMSG be provided or would original CONMSG allow for switching aircraft types from CCZ to CC or reverse require ACC approval? If ACC approved of switch, would ACC submit Position Effectiveness Report (POEREP)?

3. If diversion was required and authorized by ACC, would diversions be considered cover adjustments and would ACC submit POEREP to CMA?¹³

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(u) ~~(S)~~ On 26 September 1970, Annex India was implemented and mission tasking of ARDF/Collection positions was provided by the CMA's via COMMSG's.

(u) ~~(S)~~ On 11 November 1970, PacSctyRgn quoted a DIRNSA message to the 6994 Scty Sq which provided an evaluation of the COMMSG tasking system. DIRNSA stated:

...Properly employed, the Annex India will result in

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effective tasking and directing of individual collection/
ARDF positions toward desired targets. ...

In order to improve COMMSG tasking and technical support data,
DIRNSA requested PacSctyRgn provide the answers to several
pertinent questions.¹⁶

(u) ~~(S)~~ On 17 November 1970, the 6994 Scty Sq provided
PacSctyRgn with the answers to DIRNSA's queries.¹⁷ On 21
November 1970, PacSctyRgn forwarded these comments to USAFSS
and added:¹⁸

...Formal NSA recognition, support, and tasking of
our ground and airborne analysis program would enhance
our capability to fulfill the requirements of Annex India
for more meaningful and complete Tech support. ...

ARDF Technical Support Test

(u) ~~(S)~~ On 24 October 1970, NSA Representative, Vietnam
(NRV)(C), initiated a 60 day ARDF Technical Support Test to
be conducted in two phases.¹⁹ This test pertained to all
units in SEA participating in the ARDF program except for
LEFT BANK* and Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF). In coordination
with ACC, the 6994 Scty Sq and 509 RRG prepared the initial
test directive. All aviation units and ground sites were
provided with complete procedures and requirements for

*LEFT BANK - Army ARDF helicopters

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