

## PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS OF THE 14TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

Although the use of airpower in the psychological warfare effort in Vietnam dates from 1963, the program did not really become a concerted effort until the activation of the 5th Special Operations Squadron (then Air Commando Squadron) in November 1965.

The 5th SOS was the first Air Force unit organized specifically for psychological operations. It now has the responsibility for all psyops in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones.

Psyops in I and II Corps are conducted by the 9th Special Operations Squadron, which was activated in March 1967.

Because of the complexity of the psyops program, measuring its effectiveness and the Air Force contribution is difficult. First, psychological operations are a joint effort of the services, and the Air Force effort is only a part of the total operation. Also, it is virtually impossible to assess the results of a single mission or even a series of missions, because a member of the enemy force may retain the message (by saving a leaflet or remembering a speaker broadcast) for weeks before he has an opportunity to escape from his fellow Viet Cong.

For these reasons, it is perhaps better to measure the effectiveness of the program as a whole than to try to pinpoint the Air Force influence.

The number of Chieu Hoi returnees, or Hoi Chanhs, from 1963 through the end of March 1969 was more than 102,000. Improvement in techniques and the results of increasing military pressures on the enemy can be seen in the dramatic increases which have occurred in 1969, with 9,483 returnees in the first three months of the year. April showed an even more significant jump in Hoi Chanhs with 4,930 for a single month -- 3,301 of these in the IV Corps Tactical Zone alone.

## 14TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

### KEY PERSONNEL

Colonel William K. Bush	Wing Commander
Colonel Clyde S. Cherry	Vice Commander
Colonel William H. Ginn Jr.	Deputy Commander for Operations
Colonel Ernest E. Bradley Jr.	Deputy Commander for Special Operations
Colonel Robert A. Sadler	Deputy Commander for Materiel
Colonel William D. Cavanaugh	Commander, 14th Combat Support Group
Lt Col Robert A. Davidson	Commander, 3rd SOS
Lt Col Adam W. Swigler Jr.	Commander, 4th SOS
Lt Col Robert S. Wardner	Commander, 5th SOS
Lt Col Robert E. Coates	Commander, 9th SOS
Lt Col John R. Kummer	Commander, 15th SOS
Lt Col David K. Sparks	Commander, 20th SOS
Lt Col Richard E. Knie	Commander, 17th SOS

PRINCIPAL SQUADRONS OF THE 14TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

3rd SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Provides nightly defense for allied bases, camps and outposts and friendly villages in the southern half of RVN.

4th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Similar mission to the 3rd SOS in the northern half of RVN.

5th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Conducts psychological operations missions in III and IV Corps plus illumination and visual reconnaissance requirement in coastal II Corps.

9th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Conducts psychological operations missions plus illumination and visual reconnaissance requirements in I and II Corps.

15th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Classified mission relating to support of friendly counterinsurgency forces through airlift and fire power.

20th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Provides rotary wing aircraft capability to support the wing's varied mission. Conducts USAF combat support activities in counterinsurgency, psychological, unconventional and special air warfare operations.

17th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON - Provides fire support to friendly troops-in-contact, allied base camps and outposts.

## MISSION OF THE 14TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

1. Destroy enemy facilities by executing close air support, direct air support and interdiction missions.
2. Conduct psychological warfare through leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts in support of programs developed by JUSPAO and MACV.
3. Respond with firepower and flares in support of friendly forces under night attack.
4. Provide air escort for SAR, defoliation and convoy operations.
5. Provide airlift capability to conduct USAF combat and combat support activities and counterinsurgency, psychological, in-exfiltration, unconventional warfare operations and armed base defense.
6. Provide logistical air support, resupply and air transport of forces.
7. Conduct visual and photographic reconnaissance missions in special air warfare operations.
8. Conduct civic actions, humanitarian programs and other activities in support of USAF, PACAF, MACV and Seventh Air Force.