

March 1970 to March 1971

Clyde C. Lopez, OIC, CWO2/Ensign USN

NAVFAC Da Nang, Detachment Delta (COMSEC 705)

And

NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay (COMSEC 706)

When I arrived in Vietnam in March of 1970 to relieve CWO2 Joe Henry as OIC of Detachment Delta, NAVFAC had two other detachments. DET Alpha at Phu Bai and DET Bravo at the Da Nang airfield. These DETs were under the operational control of the NSA and VQ-1. NAVFACs role with these two DETs was mainly administrative. A role that was ably executed for NAVFAC by the two distant and SIGINT-experienced OICs.

DET DELTA was collocated with NAVFAC on Camp Tien Sha and the CO, CDR George Jackson, was arguably the most accomplished COMSEC professional in the Navy. NAVFAC was also designated as the Executive Agent for COMSEC in Vietnam by COMNAVSECGRU so CDR Jackson had operational control over the resources of COMSEC 706 at NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay.

Although COMSEC 706 had more personnel than DET Delta and a 1610 LT designated as the COMSEC Department head/OIC Receiver site, the NAVCOMMSTA conducted its COMSEC monitoring mission like it did its communications mission which was provide support to the Fleet and in-country units from Cam Rahn Bay.

CDR Jackson, as the Executive Agent for COMSEC, directed DET Delta to conduct monitoring operations and COMSEC and OPSEC studies from Da Nang to the tip of the Cau Mau Penninsula. Occasionally he would task NAVCOMSTA to support a study by monitoring specific targets from the Receiver site and to provide the results to DET Delta for consolidation in the final report. CDR Jackson also coordinated directly with COMNAVFORV N6 all COMSEC training, vulnerability assessment operations, studies and the schedule for RPS (Registered Publications System) inspections which he tasked DET Delta to execute.