

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)

(continued)

NAVFACs role as COMSEC Executive Agent, as I found out during my orientation visit to COMSEC 706 in March 1970, was greatly resented by the CO of NAVCOMSTA and the personnel of COMSEC 706. Needless to say, the call that I paid on the CO, along with Mr. Henry, did not go well.

So I had some career concerns when DET Delta was disestablished in July 1970 and I was ordered to transfer myself and the few remaining DET Delta resources to Cam Ranh Bay. The designation of Executive Agent for COMSEC was also transferred by COMNAVSECGRU from NAVFAC Da Nang to NAVCOMSTA Cam Ranh Bay.

However, by 1 August 1970, when I officially transferred to the NAVCOMSTA, having spent all my time outside the wire, under the constant and intense guidance of CDR Jackson, I was, I think, other than CDR Jackson, the most seasoned RPS Inspector and COMSEC operations officer in Vietnam. Because of this, I was warmly received by the new NAVCOMSTA CO, CDR William Longhi, who I had previously met during one of my frequent visits to COMNAVFORV N6, and by LT Anderson (1610), OIC of the Radio Receiver site. The CO put me in charge of COMSEC 706 while LT Anderson was tasked to oversee Receiver Site communications operations and facilities. At Da Nang, CDR Jackson was relieved by CDR Joe Lewis and NAVFAC was moved from Camp Tien Sha to the airfield at Da Nang.

The following two page extract is a summary of some of the successes we achieved at COMSEC 705 and COMSEC 706 during my tour in Vietnam. Although the extract is framed and articulated as a personal award input by the CO NAVCOMSTA, the accomplishments described were those of the dedicated personnel of COMSEC 705 and 706.