

# Unit Aims to Service 1,000 Craft a Month

SAIGON (7thAF)—If the present trend continues, a Military Airlift Command support squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB here will be servicing 1,000 or more MAC and MAC-controlled transports a month at the beginning of 1967.

That's the word from Maj. Larry Gallagher, chief of the airlift command post, which serves as the nerve center of the squadron's operations.

Gallagher, a 44-year-old native of Portland, Ore., noted that the squadron had serviced 732 aircraft in September and was scheduled to service 875 in November. The December forecast was 952.

The transports deliver thousands of troops and thousands of tons of cargo to U.S. forces in Vietnam. The flow of transports, passengers, and cargo from the U.S. has sharply increased since the squadron went into operation in January. The MAC unit had functioned previously as a liaison detachment.

The ever-upward trend "has required considerable co-ordination," Gallagher said in describing the unit's response to the challenge of a vastly increased work load. He said the squadron has developed closer co-ordination with the 8th Aerial Port Sq., which carries out the loading and unloading of the transports.

Airlift command post personnel monitor and co-ordinate MAC maintenance operations with the loading and unloading of the aircraft, so that they can be serviced in a minimum of ground time.

"We can depend on these people," said Gallagher. "The morale and enthusiasm is outstanding. It gets the job done."

During one 24-hour period in September the MAC men found themselves servicing 40 transports.

The servicing of an aircraft in ground time regulated by the command is known as "mission reliability," and Gallagher noted that the MAC unit's mission reliability rate was in excess of 95 per cent. "We've never gone below 95 per cent since I've been here," he said, looking back on 10 months' service in the Republic of Vietnam.

The acceptable MAC mission reliability rate is 75 per cent, he noted in praising the unit's performance. The thousands of aircraft serviced since January have been on the ground an average of only two to four hours, and the MAC squadron is constantly seeking to speed up ground time in support of the command's "fast fly" goal of getting maximum use of all MAC transports.

The specified ground time for the C-141 Starlifter is two hours, but the MAC men at Tan Son Nhut have set their own "fast fly" goal of one hour. In September they succeeded in cutting the ground time of the huge aircraft to an average of one hour and 35 minutes, under the direction of the unit commander, Maj. Thomas O'Neill.

During September the MAC and MAC-controlled transports streaming into Tan Son Nhut discharged 23,800 passengers and 8,480 tons of high-priority cargo. Transports serviced by the unit include C-135 Stratolifters, C-133 Cargomasters, C-130 Hercules carriers, C-124 Globemasters, and 707 jetliners. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units are flying many of the transports.

In addition to playing a vital role in MAC's massive airlift mission, the squadron directs C-141 Starlifter aeromedical evacuation flights to the United States, and the MAC men handle the re-configuration of C-141s for such flights by installing stanchions and webbing for litters.

The transports serviced by the MAC men pour in from Japan, Guam, the Philippines, Wake Island and Okinawa.

## Airlines Link Taipei, Saigon

TAIPEI (AP)—Regular air service between Nationalist China and the Republic of Vietnam is now in operation.

The new service was started under an agreement between China Air Lines and Air Vietnam.

The two lines hope to extend it sometime next year to Okinawa, Japan and the Republic of Korea, as well as to Malaysia and the Philippines.