

Air Police Have Tight Security - Rain or Shine

TAN SON NHUT — The night was young and in the stillness of the early evening, an air police radio crackled.

"Billy Bill One, this is Billy Hill. Have report three unidentified people are in the motor pool parking area." Billy Hill is the air police desk sergeant's radio call sign.

By TSgt. Chuck Horne

And so, the long night begins for air police on duty with the 377th Air Police Squadron. Before the night is over, numerous incidents will take place that will require the attention of an air policeman.

"Theirs is a lonesome and

sometimes thankless job," remarked Air Force MSgt. William W. "Billfold" Price of Santa Anna, Calif. Price is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the air police squadron's law enforcement division.

"Our job at Tan Son Nhut is to enforce the regulations and prescribed laws of our country," Price said with seriousness. "We have a small area to patrol outside the main gate, but primarily our duties are confined to the base proper."

His air policemen man many posts in the administrative and logistical areas. He has a special team that guards the 7th Air Force headquarters complex. Each of these team members are hand picked and dress exactly alike, even to the extent of wearing their side-arm reversed on their left side.

"Although we have Army and Navy personnel here, the 377th is the sole administrator for all incidents for all services on Tan Son Nhut," he explained. "We furnish a token force to the joint military patrol outside the base proper. These air policemen travel and patrol with Army Military Police and the Vietnamese Military Police."

One of the main reasons for a joint police force is to cover accidents and incidents that involve more than one branch of military service or a Vietnamese citizen. When this occurs, the three policemen can investigate with the least amount of delay. All Vietnamese police who work with the Air Force lawmen speak English.



WE ARE GOING HERE — Air Force TSgt. Billie E. Ortler of Fitzgerald, Ga., (right) uses the hood of a jeep to read an area map. He shows TSgt. Charles E. Horne of Eastman, Ga., where his air police escort will rendezvous with an Air Force convoy.