

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 56TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96310

Deputy Commander for Operations

11 May 1969

Letter Number 65

SUBJECT: Wing Sandy Alert Force

TO: 1st SpOpSq 22nd SpOpSq 602nd SpOpSq

INFO: Det 1, 40 ARRS 21st SpOpSq 600th SpOpSq 75th SpOpSq

23 TASS DCM

Expires 10 May 1970 unless renewed

1. The A-1 Sandy Alert mission will be a wing mission supported by pilots and aircraft provided by each of the assigned A-1 squadrons.
2. Operations of the Sandy Alert Force will be the responsibility of the office of the DCO. The Sandy Alert Force Commander will be responsible directly to the DCO himself.
3. Each A-1 squadron will submit nominees of 10 Sandy Alert pilots to the DCO on the first day of each month. This list will include the names of 5 Sandy wingman nominees and 5 Sandy element/Lead Low Lead nominees all of whom will be qualified in accordance with DCO letter no. 63. Squadrons will submit monthly nominees with the understanding that individuals so named will be regularly assigned to Sandy duties. Monthly turnover of names on the list will be limited to rotational and emergency cover operations only. Nominees will not be scheduled for Sandy Alert until approved by the DCO. Nominees submitted by the squadrons will preferably be the best for the Sandy mission, but in any case will be selected from among the most highly qualified pilots available. Squadron commanders will consider their Sandy mission contributions as the most important of their missions and will assign Sandy pilots accordingly.
4. Normally each squadron will have 2 Sandy aircraft and 2 Sandy pilots on alert every day. The alert crews will be scheduled for three days consecutively, beginning as Sandy 5 and 6 on the first day, Sandy 3 and 4 on the second day and Sandy 1 and 2 on the third or last day. For planning purposes, squadrons may expect that the monthly list of 5 element leaders and wingmen will be scheduled and paired in the order listed. Scheduling will be done by the office of the DCO based upon the monthly list of squadron nominees. Individual absences from duty status (Leave, R & R, CTO, etc.) will be indicated on the monthly roster.

OPR: DCO

5. The Sandy alert force must be composed of the best qualified strike pilots in the Wing. Accordingly, only strike mission element leaders of demonstrated competence will be nominated as Sandy element leaders. Similarly, Sandy wingmen will be chosen from among strike mission qualified wingmen with the most promise of becoming strong element leaders. In the event that qualified wingmen are not available, strike mission element leaders may be substituted for Sandy wingman positions.

6. During the period of transition from the current 602nd Special Operations Squadron Sandy operation to the Wing Sandy Alert Force, new Sandy element leaders provided by the 1st SpOpSq and 22nd SpOpSq will fly a minimum of 2 "Tango" and 2 "November" orbits plus standing alert twice in the Sandy Two positions as wingmen before being scheduled for Sandy element lead. Henceforth, Sandy 5 & 6 will fly "November" orbit; Sandy 3 & 4 will fly the "Tango" orbit and Sandy 1 & 2 will not fly unless a SAR effort is required or unless frag considerations dictate otherwise. The 602nd SpOpSq will continue to provide the Sandy 1, 3 and 5 element lead pilots and aircraft until such time as new element leaders from the 1st SpOpSq and 22nd SpOpSq are fully qualified as Sandy element leaders.

7. The mission of providing CBU-19 support for SAR operations will be changed such that any of the A-1 squadrons may be tasked to provide up to 2 pilots and 2 aircraft for CBU-19 delivery.

8. The nature of the SAR operations includes potential operations in all of the combat zones of Southeast Asia. Accordingly, Sandy crewmembers must be familiar with all areas of potential rescues and should avail themselves of flights in other mission aircraft in order to do so. Specifically, Sandy pilots who fly strike missions primarily in Barrel Roll should schedule themselves for A-1 or PAC aircraft missions in Steel Tiger and Vice Versa. Sandy pilots not familiar with helicopter performance limitations should fly at least one orientation mission in Jolly Green or 21st SpOpSq helicopter aircraft. Experience as A-1 escort on helicopter infill/kill mission is also desirable.

9. SAR debriefings will be conducted as soon as practicable after rescue efforts in which wing aircraft participate. The DCO will determine which SARs merit debriefings. All Sandy qualified pilots will be required to attend these meetings.

10. The Wing Sandy Alert Force will remain together as a group during the daily alert period except when complying with the flying requirements of the frag. During ground alert periods, Sandy Lead will cover the SAR procedures and tactics that have been evolved. Discussions of the successes and mistakes of previous SARs are encouraged so as to retain and emphasize as many lessons of the art as possible. The place of duty during ground alert will be in the alert area of Det 1, 40 ARRS (Jolly Green Ops) except when a SAR is in progress at which time crews who are next in sequence for launch will proceed to TUOC where they will monitor the radio progress of the SAR and avail themselves of any immediate intelligence data.

11. The success of the SAR effort in SEA has resulted from teamwork, standardization, and coordination of all elements of the SAR effort. Pilots assigned to the Sandy mission must be thoroughly familiar with low-level ordnance delivery, AAA defensive tactics, helicopter operations, SAR command and control procedures and FACING of strike aircraft. The Sandy coordinator within the office of the DCO will be responsible for conducting training required to develop these skills. Only the very best will be assigned to the Wing Sandy Force.



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