

1970

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY
55TH AVIATION COMPANY (ARMY)
APO San Francisco 96301

EAST-55AVN

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SUBJECT: 1970 Annual Historical Report

Office of the Chief of Military History
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20315

1. The 55th Aviation Company (Army) was activated in March, 1951, and has performed its support role under three different titles. First called the 8085th Flight Detachment at Taegu, Korea, it was moved to Seoul, Korea just three months after its activation. In January, 1957, it was redesignated as the Eighth United States Army Aviation Detachment and on 24 June 1960 it was again redesignated as the 55th Aviation Company (Army). At this time its authorized strength was 14 officers and 70 enlisted men. The primary mission of the unit was to provide general aviation support to Headquarters, United Nations Command, Eighth United States Army, Korea Military Advisory Group, the United States Embassy, and governmental agencies of the Republic of Korea.

2. During the year 1970, although the mission of the 55th Aviation Company (Army) remained essentially the same as in previous years, the size of the unit and type of equipment used within the unit have changed considerably. The authorized strength has increased to 26 officers, 180 enlisted men and 33 KATUSA personnel. Under the Company Headquarters are four platoons: Headquarters Platoon; Operations Platoon; Service Platoon and Aircraft Platoon. These platoons provide the organizational structure of the company. Also attached to the company is the former Aerial Surveillance Platoon which was reorganized as the 6th Aviation Platoon (A/S) on 5 May 1970.

3. The 55th Aviation Company is located on Yoido Island, approximately 5 miles southwest of Seoul, Korea, bordered on all sides by the Han River. Past history reflects numerous complete floodings of the island. To combat this, a flood control project was completed in 1969, consisting of a cement barrier that surrounds the island. The barrier proved effective when again in late August, 1970, the water level exceeded the danger level and the company was alerted to evacuate all the flyable aircraft to Ascom and Pyong-Taek. Despite the difficulties in communications and maintenance experienced during the evacuation period