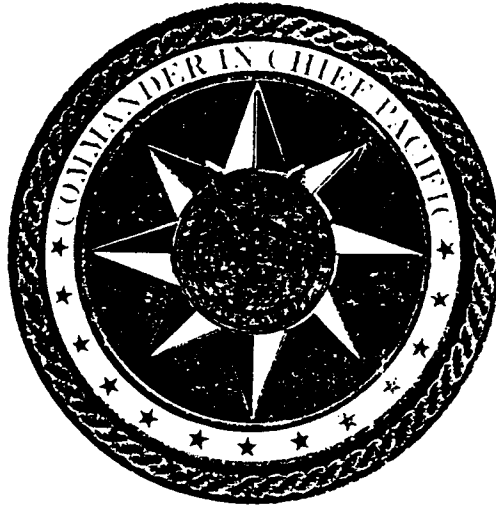


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CINCPAC



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COMMAND HISTORY

1979

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VOLUME I

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action that could denigrate COMUS Japan's mission accomplishment.¹

(S/NOFORN) Throughout most of the written and oral exchanges on this issue, there ran a thread of basic agreement that Phase II or something similar to it would eventually occur. There was, however, disagreement on the timing, with WESTCOM urging speed and USARJ urging caution and delay. In 1979 the subject had not formally surfaced in the joint arena and CINCPAC had not provided any formal comments on the timing of the implementation of Phase II.²

Airborne Command Post Activities³

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(U) CINCPAC's Airborne Command Post, called BLUE EAGLE, completed 10 years in a ground alert status at the end of 1979. Prior to January 1970 the Airborne Command Post had maintained a continuous airborne alert for some years.

(U) There were four EC-135J aircraft assigned to the operation. During the first part of 1979 two mission-configured aircraft were available and a third non mission-configured aircraft was available for aircrew training. Aircraft 055 remained in depot maintenance at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma until it returned to Hawaii on 14 March.

(U) On 30 April the non mission-configured aircraft (62-3584) was taken to the Electospace, Inc., facility at Love Field in Texas for major modification and configuration changes relating to installation of special back-end electronics systems. Aircraft 584 was expected to return as a fourth fully mission capable BLUE EAGLE J-model aircraft. That return had originally been expected about the end of 1979, but at the end of the year the Air Force Satellite Communications System modification was not expected to be completed before 28 February 1980. The other three aircraft remained available for service throughout 1979.

(U) The five Battle Staffs deployed periodically to the Western Pacific area with each staff deploying, typically, approximately five times a year. The most frequent calls were at Yokota Air Base, Japan; Clark Air Base in the Philippines; Kadena (Okinawa), Japan; and Andersen Air Force Base on Guam; with less frequent stops at Osan, Kunsan, and Kimpo in Korea; Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, and Richmond Royal Australian Air Force Base in Australia.

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1. J56 Memo For Record 26 Sep 79 (U).
 2. Ibid.
 3. ABNCP HistSums Jan-Dec 79 (S), DECL 31 Dec 85.

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(U) Every month, also, from two to five sorties were flown in the Hawaiian orbit area to exercise communications systems and provide Battle Staff communications support training.

(S) There were two basic kinds of training exercises conducted throughout the year. BLUE EAGLE TWO was an alert training exercise in which the aircraft taxied to a runway hold area; BLUE EAGLE FOUR was an exercise that launched the aircraft on a local flight. For each the standard of completion was to be less than 15 minutes. The 36 BLUE EAGLE TWO and 27 BLUE EAGLE FOUR exercises conducted in 1979 were well within that standard with the greatest number taking from 6 to 9 minutes.¹

(S) A third kind of exercise had been added in 1977. This was BLUE EAGLE FIVE, also known as FOREVER GONE, an exercise for relocating the CINC (or an Alternate Command Authority for exercise purposes) to an Airborne Command Post by means of helicopter as specified in the CINCPAC instruction on continuity of operations. Relocation from Camp Smith to BLUE EAGLE was accomplished by helicopters assigned to the 1st Marine Brigade at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. There were two exercises in this series conducted in 1979, the first on 9 November. To check procedures and equipment, the deputy chief of the Command and Control Division of the Operations Directorate simulated CINC relocation and flew from Camp Smith to Hickam Air Force Base. Minor procedural and equipment problems were identified and corrected. A second was conducted 17 December with CINCPAC's Director for Logistics and Security Assistance simulating CINC relocation. Admiral Bird then flew on a local training flight with BLUE EAGLE.²

Command Center Modernization

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(U) A new and larger Command Center was under construction throughout 1979 to improve facilities for current operations and accommodate other planned system improvements. The modifications were being made in Buildings 4 and 80. The project was designated Military Construction Project P-200 and was expected to be completed in 1980. The passage-way separating the construction area from the rest of the third floor was sealed on 22 January, and demolition by the Teval Corporation began two days later. By February the Hawaiian Telephone Company and the Naval Shore Electronic Engineering Activity, Pacific had finished their work on the emergency action booth, and it was ready for reinstallation of equipment later in the year. By June a final check was made of

1. Ibid.

2. J332 HistSum Nov 79 (S), DECL 6 Dec 85; J332 HistSum Dec 79 (S), DECL 8 Jan 86.

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