

Mohawk, equipped with side-looking airborne radar unit, stands ready for mission in revetment at 245th Surveillance Aircraft Company's base at Da Nang.

"Redeyes" Keep Their Eyes On The Reds

SAIGON (MACV) — The 245th Surveillance Aircraft Company (SAC) of the 212th Aviation Battalion at Da Nang has the mission of providing

sustained aerial surveillance in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Commanded by Major Carl A. Weaver, Jr., the Army's "Redeyes" are under the operation-

al control of III Marine Amphibious Force.

Unlike Bird Dog companies, which conduct strictly visual surveillance, the Redeyes fly

OV-1 Mohawk aircraft equipped with highly-sophisticated electronic gear for both visual and photographic detection.

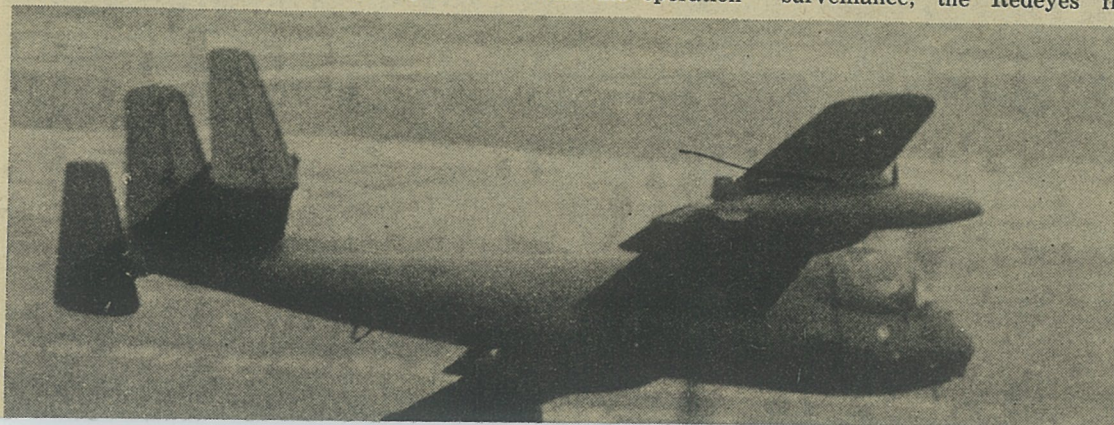
Some of the Mohawks carry SLAR (side-looking airborne radar). Others carry cameras, mounted in the nose and belly, which can take high-quality black and white or color prints or slides of the land below.

At the airbase, the 245th SAC has its own maintenance capabilities. One of the most important shops is the Ejection Seat Room where the Redeyes' pri-

mary means of escape are tested or repaired. "This is the room that saves lives," remarked Major Weaver.

Maintenance on the electronic surveillance equipment can also be performed at the Redeyes' base.

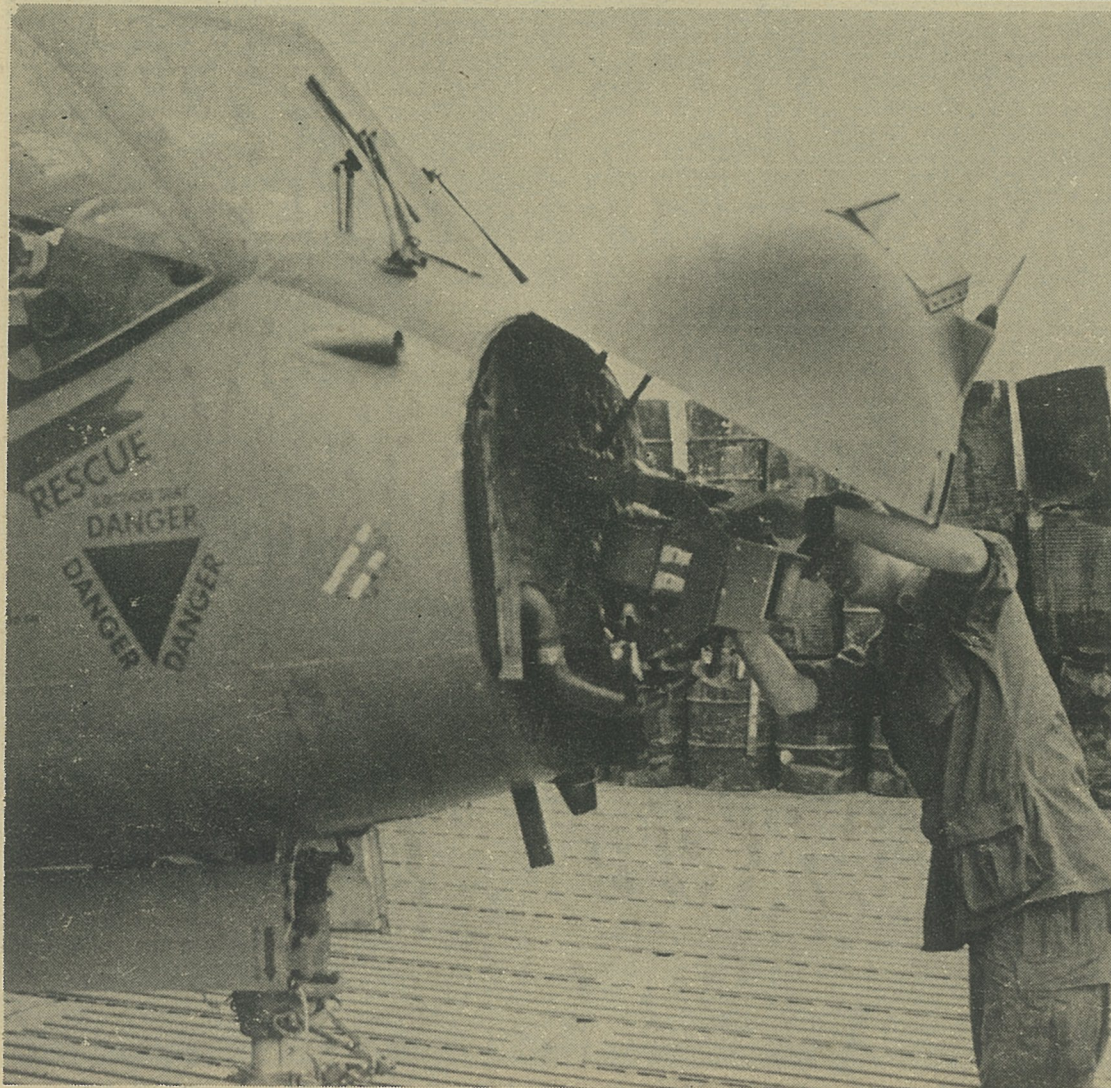
When a Mohawk returns from a photographic mission, its film is unloaded and processed immediately in one of the company's four photo labs. The 245th SAC processes more than 50,000 feet of film per month.



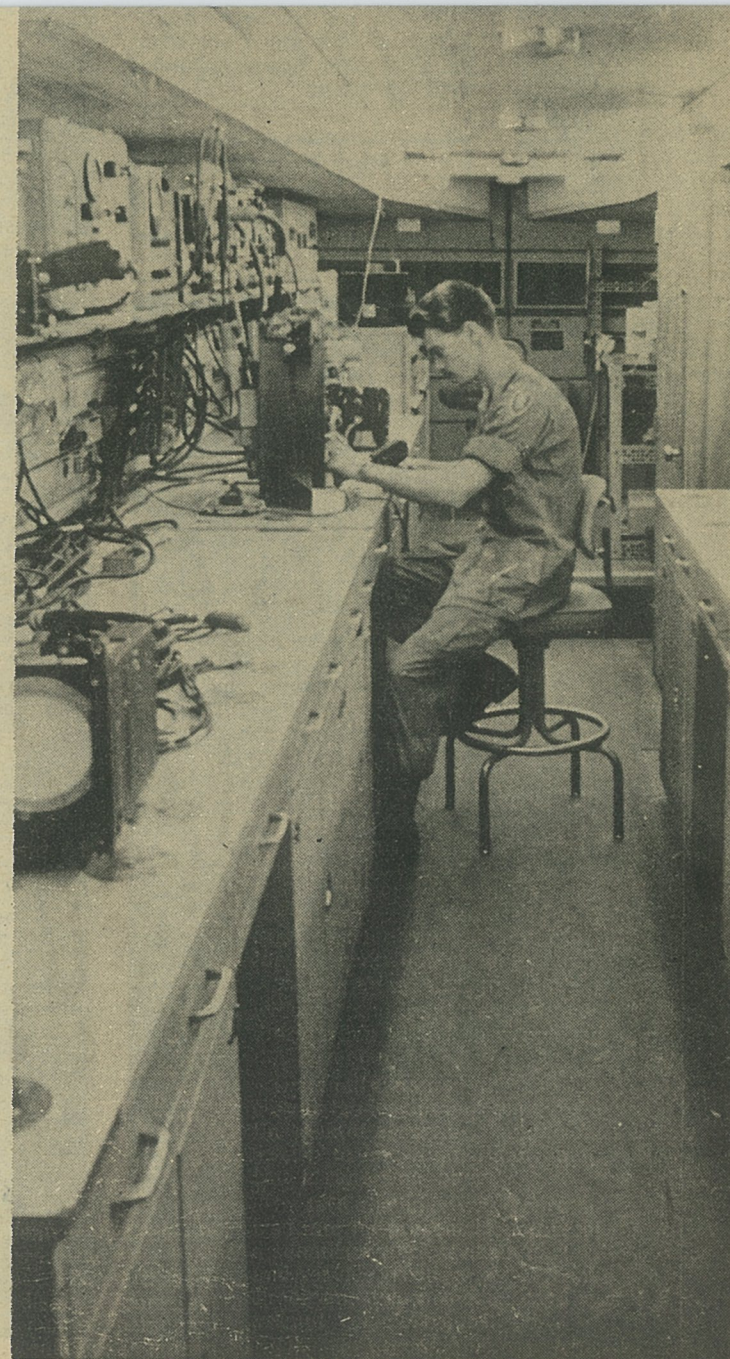


Swift-moving OV-1 flies over I Corps Tactical Zone on photographic surveillance mission.

Story by SP5 David M. Gerrol
Photos by SP4 Thomas L. Tynes



SP4 Wayne Melton, crew chief, makes adjustments on camera mounted in nose of Mohawk.



Technician works on electronic gear in one of 245th's labs.