

AOK 17-2-10

MC00

0018Z

01-12-1991

PAGE 01

ADT CAO SUPVR DIR DDO DOPP ADS SP SE ADP PN1 PN2 PB CRS

VZCZCND A3200PR073

RR

DE #5327 3350001

ZNY MMNSH

ZKZK RR SOA DE

R 010002Z DEC 91

FM

TO DSD

DSD CANBERRA

DEFAIR//DOSS//

INFO

27	2	10	69
----	---	----	----

ZEM

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L COMINT CHANNELS~~

QQQQ

CO/236-91

CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

1. CEASED ALL SIGINT OPERATIONS AT 010001Z DEC91. THIS MARKS THE END OF A CHAPTER IN RAAF SIGINT HISTORY WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1946 WHEN THE AIR BOARD ISSUED ORGANIZATION MEMORANDUM NO 1081 AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF NO 3 TELECOMMUNICATION UNIT AT RAAF STATION PEARCE.

2. IN THE ENSUING 45 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO CONSISTENT AND DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF 3TU'S CHARACTER. THE FIRST IS THE AFFECTION WITH WHICH THE UNIT HAS BEEN HELD BY THREE GENERATIONS OF RAAF SIGINTERS. SINCE IT BEGAN, 3TU HAS ENBRACED AND NURTURED ITS YOUNG OPERATORS WITH GENUINE WARMTH AND CONCERN. FOR YEARS, FLEDGLING RAAF SIGINTERS LEARNED THEIR TRADE AT 3TU, AND THEY LEARNED IT WELL. WHEN THEY WERE READY, THEY WOULD GO OUT INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE AT OTHER SINGLE SERVICE AND CIVILIAN AGENCIES IN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS. INVARIABLY, THESE SAME PERSONNEL RETURNED TO 3TU LATER IN

MCOO

0018Z

01-12-1991

PAGE 02

THEIR CAREERS, AND 3TU WELCOMED THEM. IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY MANY HAVE COME TO SEE 3TU AS PART OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY, OR WHY RAAF OPERATORS REGARD 3TU AS THEIR PROFESSIONAL HOME.

3. THE SECOND ENDURING FEATURE OF 3TU'S CHARACTER HAS BEEN ITS ATTITUDE TO EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT. OVER THE PAST 45 YEARS, 3TU HAS WITNESSED THE RELENTLESS ADVANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN THE REGION AND IN THE WORLD, 3TU HAS ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO DO MORE THAN MERELY KEEP PACE WITH THE OPPOSITION: WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO STAY AT LEAST ONE STEP AHEAD. MANY INDIVIDUALS IN DOSS AND DSD HAVE WORKED HARD TO HELP 3TU IN ITS EFFORTS, AND WE THANK YOU FOR THIS. BECAUSE IT HAS TRIED TO EXCEL, 3TU HAS TRADITIONALLY ACCEPTED CHANGE AS A NATURAL AND INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE CONTINUING BATTLE TO MAINTAIN A SIGINT ADVANTAGE

4. TO LOSE 3TU IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS, THEREFORE, EVOKES MIXED EMOTIONS. MANY SENIOR OPERATORS ARE NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE UNIT'S DEMISE; THEY HAVE LOST A PART OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL HERITAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROFESSIONALISM RAAF OPERATORS HAVE BEEN TAUGHT AT 3TU DEMANDS THAT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE MUST BE SEIZED, AND SEIZED VIGOROUSLY, I AM CONFIDENT THAT 3TU PERSONNEL WILL CARRY THIS SPIRIT WITH THEM TO THEIR NEW UNITS, ESPECIALLY THE JOPC. I BELIEVE THAT ALTHOUGH 3TU WILL SOON BE A MEMORY, THE HEIRS TO THE 3TU TRADITION WILL WORK WITH DEDICATION AND LOYALTY TO HELP FORGE A NEW SIGINT ORDER IN AUSTRALIA.

5. ONE FINAL THOUGHT:

O! WOULD KIND HEAV'N REVERSE MY FATE,
GIVE ME TO QUIT A LIFE I HATE,
TO FLOW'RY FIELDS I SOON WOULD FLY:
LET OTHERS STAY - TO CHEAT AND LYE.

DUBLIN, 1728

MARY BARBER "TO A LADY, WHO INVITED THE AUTHOR INTO THE COUNTRY"

6. ZKJ2 - I AM CLOSING DOWN

#5327
NNNN