Edward J. Kelly

Assistant to President
President's Office
(1979-1997)



U. S. Air Force
Viet Nam

Ed flew 134 combat missions in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in 1969-70 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor and three Air Medals for Valor. His unit flew in World War II vintage C-47's rigged for electronic intelligence gathering. The unit took a lot of losses and he carries a coin with 24 stars for colleagues in the squadron who were lost in the war. When he was first told that the Squadron motto was "Alone, Unarmed and Unafraid" he remarked: "Well, you got two of them right anyway." The squadron has been recognized as one of the most decorated combat squadrons in Air Force history, and Ed has enjoyed the reunions the last few years to watch how everyone else has gotten old.

This statement is taken from the 6994th website:



The 6994th Security Squadron served in Southeast Asia from 1966 thru 1974.

The air crews, with the support of our ground crews, flew in unarmed WWII vintage EC-47 aircraft and earned the motto, "Unarmed, Alone, and Unafraid."

This Air Force Squadron was responsible for locating and identifying the enemy using airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) techniques and collecting intelligence information in support of ground combat commanders.

As a result of their work, many attacks on

friendly forces were mitigated and it has been reported that up to 95% of the B-52 attacks in Vietnam were based in part on information collected by the squadron.

This squadron is still the most highly decorated squadron in the history of the current 25th Air Force and all of its predecessor organizations.

