

Vietnamization

From the beginning of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, Washington officials undertook to strengthen South Vietnam's armed forces so they could deal with their Communist opposition themselves. Thus, shortly after his inauguration President Kennedy approved a buildup of the Vietnamese armed forces along with an increase in the size of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group. In the case of the Vietnamese Air Force, the Defense Department was authorized to replace its obsolete American-supplied aircraft with better aircraft—A-1's, T-28's and H-34's.

When the Farm Gate detachment arrived at Bien Hoa in November 1961, Vietnamese airmen were in the process of activating their first T-28 squadron. In January 1962, as noted earlier, Farm Gate instructors began training 25 Vietnamese pilots to fly the T-28 in methods of day and night operations. The training effort went well and, in the spring of 1962, the first T-28 squadron was declared operational. When a second squadron was activated, Farm Gate pilot instructors again helped with its training. The Vietnamese proved to be apt pupils and soon were flying combat strikes in their new aircraft. By mid-1962, the Vietnamese Air Force had grown to a force of about 5,700 officers and airmen with an operational inventory of 140 aircraft.

As the VNAF buildup continued, the Air Force found itself carrying a heavy training burden both in Vietnam and the United States. Thus, Air Training Command dispatched several mobile detachments to South Vietnam to instruct VNAF personnel how to maintain and operate the new aircraft. For example, in May 1962 it sent a 45-man team to Vietnam for 6 months TDY to

teach Vietnamese maintenance personnel the intricacies of the T-28. Other mobile training teams taught VNAF personnel RT-28 reconnaissance procedures and others how to fly the U-17A, an off-the-shelf Cessna aircraft provided South Vietnam under the military assistance program. In the spring of 1963 TAC dispatched 20 USAF L-19 pilots to Vietnam to augment VNAF liaison squadrons so that Vietnamese pilots could begin upgrade training in the A-1E.

By mid-1963 approximately 1,800 Vietnamese airmen out of a total VNAF strength of 7,736 personnel were students, most of them pilots. Of that number, 459 were being trained in the United States. One hundred fourteen attended U.S. Army and Navy training courses since several of the new aircraft in their inventory came from those services.

The Language Problem

Throughout the war the language barrier was a factor that inhibited all U.S. training programs. In early 1962 the Farm Gate detachment—to partly resolve the problem—produced an English-Vietnamese list of basic words for voice communications. Vietnamese airmen studied this as part of their curriculum at the VNAF FAC school at Tan Son Nhut. Also, in October 1962, the Air Force instituted an 8-week language school for Vietnamese airmen in training at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

In July 1963, in a further effort to overcome the language barrier, the Air Force dispatched a 5-man English language training detachment to Vietnam, which it later augmented with five more instructors. These men helped organize three English lan-

guage schools in South Vietnam, two of them operating on two 6-hour shifts per day. One school was located in Saigon, the others at Tan Son Nhut and Nha Trang. By 31 January 1964, a total of 994 Vietnamese students had begun language training and 514 had completed the course.

Subsequently, VNAF personnel sent to the United States for pilot training were required to complete a 15-week English language course at Lackland Air Force Base, Tex. The Lackland school—later assigned to the Defense Language Institute—became the first stop for thousands of Vietnamese airmen trained in the United States. To facilitate the training effort both in Vietnam and the United States, the Air Force also began translating a number of its on-the-job training publications into the Vietnamese language. In South Vietnam, the Air Force used both uniformed and civilian contractor personnel in the OJT program until such time as Vietnamese noncommissioned officers were qualified as instructors. However, the language barrier was never entirely overcome and remained a problem which handicapped all USAF training efforts throughout the war.

As the buildup of the Vietnamese Air Force continued, it reached a December 1964 strength of 10,592 personnel. They manned four tactical fighter squadrons, four helicopter and four liaison squadrons, two troop carrier squadrons, plus other miscellaneous units. In 1965 modernization was accelerated when the single-seat A-1H attack planes and the two-seat A-1G began replacing the VNAF's T-28's. The A-1's were faster and carried a larger bomb load. The transition to the A-1's was completed by April 1965. During the year the VNAF O-1 liaison fleet more than doubled in size, going from 37 in January to 84 in December. Its U-17 inventory rose from 25 to 46 aircraft. In all, during the year, the VNAF acquired 108 additional aircraft, a 38 percent increase over the previous year.





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(1) An Air Force language instructor works with a Vietnamese officer at Nha Trang. (2) Col. Nguyen Huy Anh (l.) commander of the 74th Wing, checks the controls of a new UH-1H helicopter. Col. Robert C. Mathis, Chief, Air Force Advisory Team at Binh Thuy AB, looks on. (3) An Air Force captain and his Vietnamese crewman return to base following a strike mission over South Vietnam.

Throughout 1965 Air Force training efforts were aimed at increasing the number of VNAF fighter, helicopter, and liaison pilots, while also producing mechanics, communication specialists, and other support personnel. A substantial portion of this growing training took place in Vietnam, with 1,232 VNAF personnel completing OJT and 320 language training in 1965. The Air Force continued to make extensive use of ATC field training detachments and mobile teams (including one from the U.S. Navy), and civilian contract technical service personnel. The last-mentioned group, assigned to the Air Force Advisory Group in Vietnam, taught a variety of technical subjects to the Vietnamese, e.g., engines, communications, and radio navigation aids. At Bien Hoa, the 6251st Combat Support Wing, USAF, provided VNAF pilots A-1 transition training, while the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron taught Vietnamese

airmen to fly the O-1F. A U.S. Marine element provided H-34 helicopter upgrade training for Da Nang-based VNAF helicopter pilots.

As the air war escalated, South Vietnamese officials—particularly the new Premier, Nguyen Cao Ky (he continued to head the VNAF)—pressed the United States to provide Vietnam with jet aircraft. They argued that the North Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Thais already possessed jet aircraft. American officials subsequently approved their request, and on 9 August 1965 the first of four B-57's were turned over to the Vietnamese Air Force. Transition training was begun in the Philippines and initially involved 6 pilots, 4 navigators, 4 maintenance officers, and 16 aircraft mechanics. By year's end, four combat-ready VNAF crews began flying training missions with the Air Force B-57 unit at Da Nang.

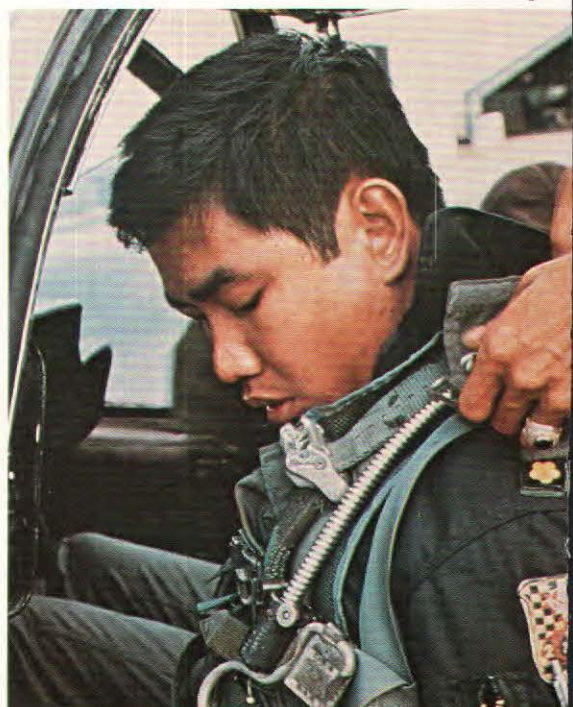
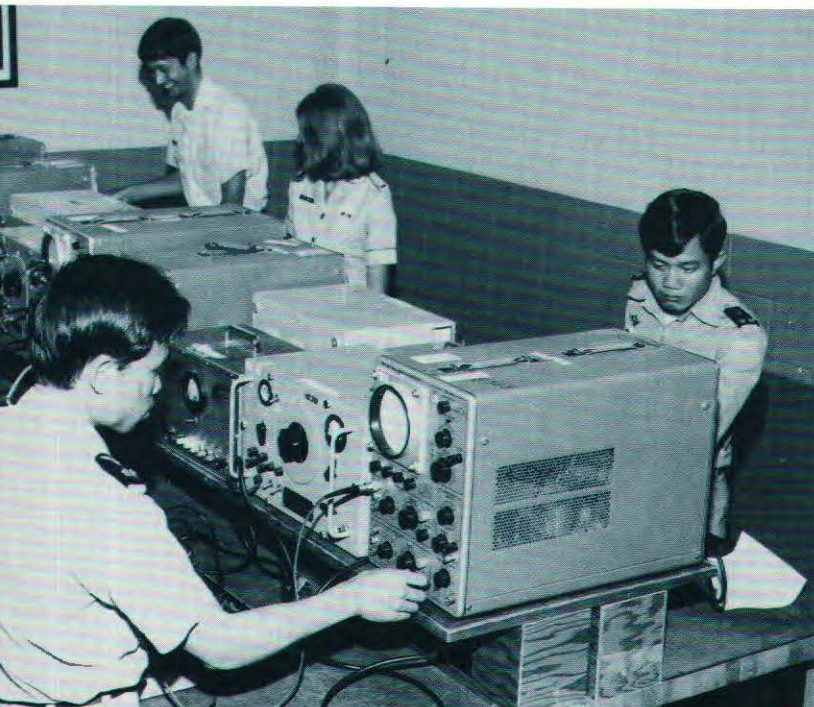
Meanwhile, the Air Force Advisory

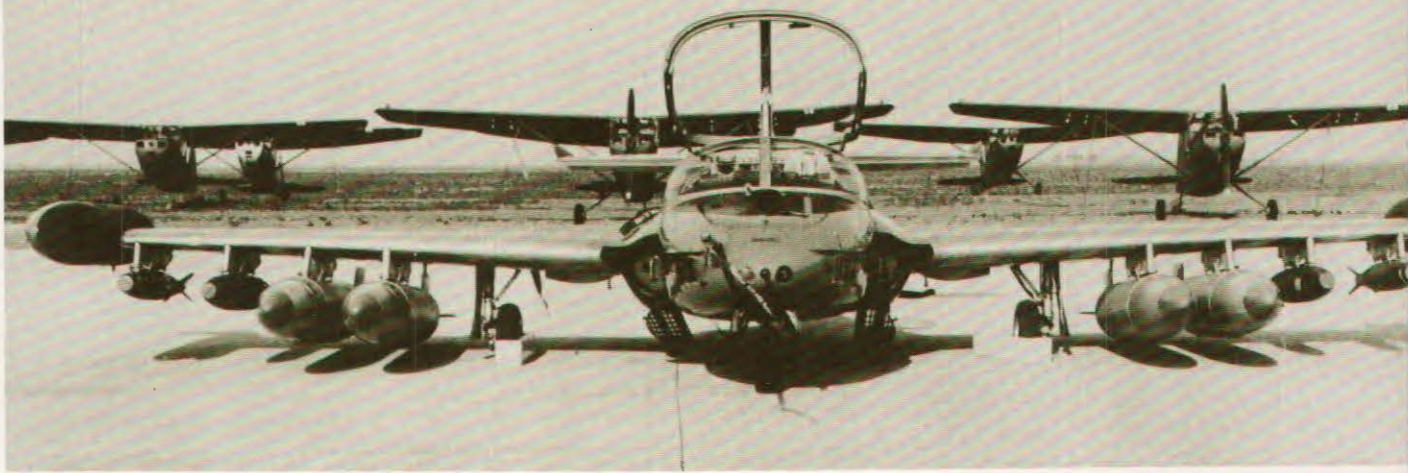


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(1) VNAF students in a classroom at Sheppard AFB, Tex. (2) Vietnamese officers were trained on oscilloscope sets, its chief use being to serve as an indicator in a radar set. (3) VNAF pilot, Lt. Van Lich Hien, prepares for a mission in his A-1 Skyraider at Bien Hoa AB. (4) An A-37A light ground attack aircraft (in foreground) was turned over to the VNAF in October 1970. (5) Maj. Dang-Duy Lac, commander of the VNAF 524th Squadron makes a final adjustment in his equipment, while Lt. Col. Walter V. Woods, 604th SOS commander, starts up the A-37 engine. (6) Air Force TSgt Bruce A. Miller, a 604th Special Operations Squadron aircraft maintenance technician, shows a VNAF mechanic how to install a canopy safety clamp.



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Group studied other options to provide the VNAF an additional jet capability. It focused on the F-5, a new jet aircraft which the Air Force had sent to South Vietnam in October 1965 to begin combat field tests. The Advisory Group recommended, and Secretary McNamara approved, conversion of one A-1 squadron to F-5's. Thirty-two VNAF pilots departed in August to begin F-5 conversion training at the Combat Crew Training Center, Williams AFB, Ariz. Ten of these men, however, were first required to take 9 weeks of language training before entering flight training.

In December 1966, after the first F-5 crews returned from combat crew training in Arizona, an F-5 training detachment arrived at Bien Hoa to continue VNAF pilot training in the jet. The following month 10 USAF non-commissioned officers and a civilian contract engineer were dispatched to Vietnam to provide further training to F-5 officers and airmen. By the spring of 1967 the Vietnamese had flown hundreds of training sorties in their new jet aircraft. On 1 June, at a formal VNAF-USAF ceremony held at Bien Hoa, the planes were officially turned over to the 522d VNAF Fighter Squadron, which immediately began flying combat sorties.

In 1967 USAF personnel also assisted the Vietnamese to modernize their transport fleet. VNAF C-47 officers and airmen were sent to the United States to begin transition training in the C-119. After completing ground courses at Lackland and Sheppard Air Force Bases, they were sent to Clinton County AFB, Ohio, the Air Force's C-119 training center. There they were taught engine and airframe maintenance by ATC's 614th Field Training Detachment and C-119 crewmen of the Air Force Reserve. The first seven VNAF C-119 crews—six pilots, eight copilots, and seven flight engineers—returned home in September 1967. They were followed to Vietnam in October by an Air Force C-119G detach-





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(1) An Air Force captain briefs a Vietnamese airman prior to flying a gunship mission. (2) A VNAF gunner performs maintenance on a UH-1's miniguns at Binh Thuy AB, South Vietnam. (3) A Vietnamese student checks out a night observations scope at Phan Rang AB as his instructor, Capt. William H. King, looks on. (4) With Capt. Jim Downs looking on, a Vietnamese navigator in a flare plane radios defenders below to learn the location of enemy troops.

ment, which continued their training there. By mid-March 1968, more than 200 Vietnamese airmen had completed all C-119 training.

Air Force modernization plans also called for converting three VNAF A-1 fighter squadrons to A-37 jets and one C-47 squadron into an AC-47 gunship unit. During 1967 the Vietnamese Air Force assigned 103 pilots to three squadrons scheduled to receive the A-37's. On 1 January 1968 the first squadron to receive the A-37's stood down to prepare for the conversion, and the following month the first 18 pilots departed for the United States to begin transition training. In May, an A-37 mobile training detachment arrived at Nha Trang to begin maintenance training.

Actual squadron conversion began in November 1968 with delivery of the first A-37 jets from the United States. By May 1969 the full complement of 54 A-37B jets was on hand and assigned to the 524th, 520th, and 516th Fighter Squadrons. The first A-37 jet squadron was declared operationally ready in March 1969, the last one in July. During 1969 VNAF personnel strength grew to about 29,000 officers and airmen, an increase of more than 5,000 over the previous year.

Shortly after becoming President in January 1969, Mr. Nixon announced that one of the primary goals of his administration would be to end U.S. combat in Southeast Asia while simultaneously strengthening South Vietnam's ability to defend itself. In March Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, after visiting officials in Saigon, ordered an accelerated "Vietnamization" program aimed at turning over combat operations to the South Vietnamese. In May Mr. Laird informed the Joint Chiefs that Vietnamizing the war was the Defense Department's highest priority. In June 1969, after conferring with South Vietnamese officials on Midway Island, the President announced plans to withdraw the first U.S. troops from South Vietnam. In



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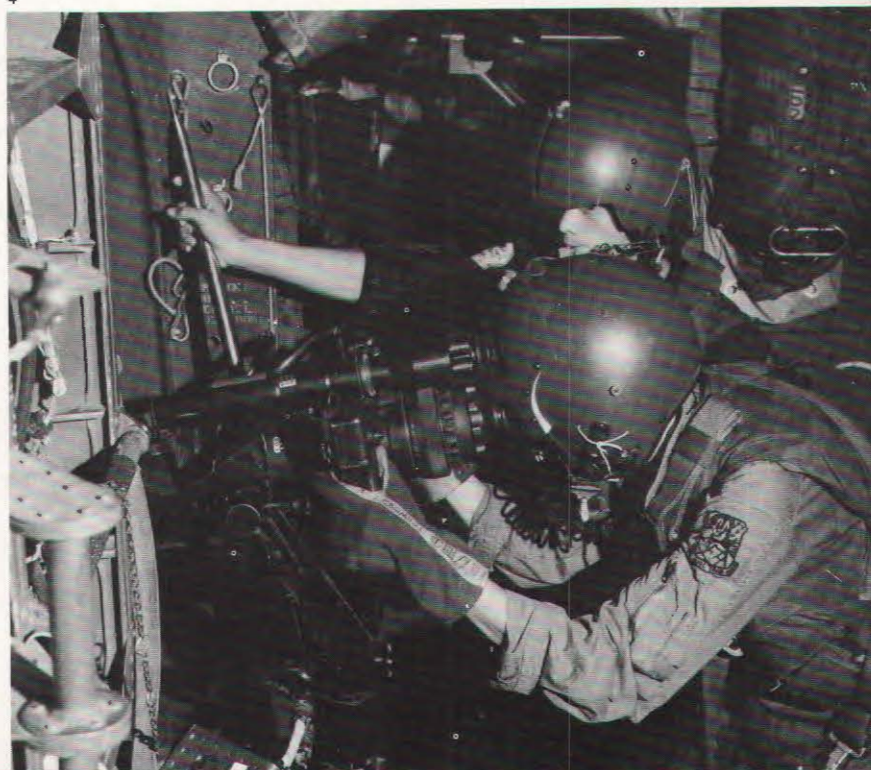




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(1) VNAF students in a classroom at Sheppard AFB, Tex. (2) Vietnamese Air Force Captains stand at attention before the first of 40 A-37 jets were turned over to the VNAF in October 1970. (3) Aboard a VNAF UH-1 helicopter gunship, a Vietnamese gunner fires a minigun during a training mission in South Vietnam. An Air Force adviser, Sgt Isidro Arroyo, Jr., looks on. (4) Two VNAF crewmen check out the Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor system. Their instructors were members of the 17th Special Operations Squadron at Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam. (5) An Air Force staff sergeant, member of an air weather unit, instructs a VNAF airman in plotting weather maps.

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support of this action, the South Vietnamese requested further assistance for Vietnamization. Among other things, they asked for F-4 Phantoms, C-130 transports, and air defense missiles.

In August 1969 Secretary Laird directed the JCS and the services to prepare plans and programs to develop a South Vietnamese capability to cope successfully with a combined Viet Cong/NVA attack. In response, the Air Force began intensive planning on ways to speed the Vietnamization program. A joint Seventh Air Force-USAF Advisory Group Ad Hoc Committee was established in South Vietnam for that purpose. In Washington, an office for the Special Assistant for Vietnamization was organized within Headquarters USAF on 3 November 1969 to monitor all actions concerning transfer of Air Force combat responsibilities to the Vietnamese Air Force.

Integrated VNAF Training

An important innovation in the Vietnamization program took place in 1970 with the start of on-the-job integrated training conducted by USAF C-123 operational crews for their South Vietnamese counterparts. The project was undertaken when it became clear to the Air Force that the VNAF airmen would be completing C-123 combat crew training in the United States about 9 months before activation of the first VNAF C-123 squadron. To maintain VNAF pilot proficiency in the interim, the Air Force decided to integrate the Vietnamese airmen into USAF C-123 units in Vietnam, pending transfer of those aircraft to the VNAF. This was a reversal of the 1962 assignment of 30 U.S. Air Force pilots (the "Dirty Thirty") as crewmen flying with VNAF C-47 transport units. The ensuing on-the-job training by USAF C-123 crews gave Vietnamese pilots current operational experience, reduced the

need to train them in the United States, and also lessened Air Force C-123 pilot requirements in South Vietnam.

The idea of both integrated and OJT training for VNAF officers and airmen subsequently was adopted at all bases where Vietnamese and American air units were collocated. Conventional OJT methods were used with courses tailored to fit VNAF requirements. Special emphasis was given to training the Vietnamese in base support operations, a subject not previously given high priority. Individual skill upgrading resulted from this integrated program but it was designed primarily to achieve VNAF self-sufficiency as soon as possible. By 31 January 1970, more than 900 trainees were enrolled in this integrated training program. By mid-year, more than 1,240 officers and airmen were being taught more than 30 different specialties at Bien Hoa, Nha Trang, Binh Thuy, Pleiku, Da Nang, and Tan Son Nhut. Many of the VNAF airmen were trained in security, fire protection, weather, communications/electronics, air traffic control, and civil engineering.

Meanwhile, Secretary Laird approved further increases in VNAF strength—to 35,786 officers and airmen in 1970 and 44,712 in 1972 to support a VNAF force of 34 squadrons. To support this major expansion, the Vietnamese Air Force was completely restructured. It emerged in 1970 with 5 air divisions, 10 tactical wings, 5 maintenance and supply wings, and 7 air base wings. The VNAF Air Logistics Wing was transformed into an Air Logistics Command, equipped with a modern computer and given control of all VNAF inventory assets. Also with the help of ATC, the Vietnamese began expanding their Nha Trang Training Center, which was the location of six military schools and the English Language School. In the military schools, all instructors were Vietnamese.

To further speed VNAF self-sufficiency, 243 Vietnamese technicians were sent to the United States in 1970 to be trained as instructors to serve in the Nha Trang schools. This training consisted of a basic mechanics course tailored to their specific needs, instructor training, and follow-on training in ATC classrooms or with ATC field training detachments. The first instructor course began in March 1970. By mid-1971 more than 5,500 Vietnamese instructors had graduated and returned to Vietnam, while another 1,330 remained in training in the United States. In addition to this program, the Air Force sent ATC mobile training teams to Nha Trang to teach 37 specialized skills. The Air Force Advisory Group also provided teams at each VNAF base to assist the Vietnamese wherever possible.

During 1971 the VNAF flew more combat sorties in Vietnam than the U.S. air arms combined—63 percent of all such missions. This constituted a 69.8 percent increase over the VNAF's 1970 operations. In September 1971 the Air Force transferred a second AC-119G gunship squadron to the VNAF. During the year the VNAF transport fleet was increased to five squadrons following turnover of three USAF squadrons of C-123's. In addition, 3 C-119's were added to the 16 already being flown by the Vietnamese. In November, the VNAF took control of the direct air support centers at Pleiku, Bien Hoa, and Da Nang. By year's end, the Vietnamese also were solely responsible for operating air navigation facilities at eight bases—Binh Thuy, Ban Me Thuot, Bien Hoa, Nha Trang, Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Phu Cat.

Meanwhile, a plan was adopted to phase out most Vietnamese training in the United States. As part of this plan, the Air Force turned its attention to translating technical orders into Vietnamese and building training aids so that all instruction could be performed in South Vietnam. Additional mobile training teams were sent to Southeast

Asia equipped with specially built training aids to expedite the teaching of VNAF maintenance personnel.

The partial success of Vietnamization of the air war was demonstrated during North Vietnam's 1972 spring invasion of the south. Responding to the enemy attack, the VNAF began flying the first of more than 20,000 strike sorties, which helped blunt the North Vietnamese advance. VNAF transports carried more cargo and troops than ever before, while fighters, gunships, and helicopters provided close air support to ARVN ground forces. In March and July, the VNAF activated its first C-7A Caribou squadrons and subsequently also acquired its first C-130 Hercules transports. The first VNAF C-130 instructor aircrew took its final check in December 1972.

The turnover of all training programs to the Vietnamese continued throughout 1972. English language training went from an almost entirely USAF effort to an almost entirely VNAF responsibility. In May 1972 the VNAF established a communications and electronics school at Bien Hoa. Also, with the aid of USAF mobile training teams, the VNAF took over maintenance training for the C-130, T-28B, and other aircraft systems. An AC-119K mobile training team started cross-training VNAF AC-119G and C-119G aircrews and maintenance crews into the AC-119K.

By December 1972 the Vietnamese Air Force had almost doubled in size over its June 1969 strength. From an organization of about 29,000 men, 20 squadrons, and an inventory of 428 aircraft in 1969, it had grown to 42,000 officers and airmen (with another 10,000 in training), organized into 49 squadrons equipped with about 2,000 aircraft (22 different types). In terms of numbers of aircraft, it had emerged as the fourth largest Air Force in the world—behind Communist China, the United States, and the Soviet Union.



WELCOME
HOME!!!
OUR GREAT DAY!

American POW's and Operation Homecoming

On 23 January 1973 Dr. Henry Kissinger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and Special Adviser Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam reached agreement in Paris to end the war in Vietnam and restore the peace. Four days later the four major combatants—the United States and South Vietnam on the one side and North Vietnam and Viet Cong (the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam) on the other—signed the cease-fire agreement. It required the release of all American prisoners of war held by the Communists simultaneously with withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam, these actions to be completed within 60 days.

For the nearly 600 POW's the 27 January agreement meant freedom after many years of captivity in North Vietnamese, Viet Cong, Laotian, and Chinese prison camps. Three hundred and twenty-five were USAF personnel, mostly combat pilots. Two were Korean war aces—Lt. Col. James L. Kasler and Col. Robinson Risner—who had spent 6½ and 7 years in captivity, respectively. A third Air Force pilot, Col. John P. Flynn, who was shot down in October 1967, was the senior American POW in North Vietnam. Promoted to brigadier general while in captivity (to protect him against harassment, no announcement was made), Colonel Flynn helped to organize and command the "4th Allied POW Wing" in the last years of the war.

USAF officials did not have much

information about the prisoners' living conditions or their treatment during the early years of their captivity. What was known was not encouraging. As early as 25 June 1965, Hanoi radio reported that the Viet Cong had executed Sgt. Harold G. Bennett, an adviser to an ARVN unit, who was captured on 29 December 1964, in retaliation for the execution of Communist terrorists by the Saigon government. In August 1965—after Hanoi radio broadcast the tape-recorded statements of two recently captured Air Force pilots praising their captors for their "humane" treatment—fears were expressed that they had been tortured. These fears eventually were confirmed.

Beginning in late 1965 and during the next 7 years, the U. S. government worked to bring international pressure to bear on Hanoi to insure that the rights of the prisoners under terms of the 1949 Geneva Convention were being observed. Although North Vietnam had signed the convention in 1957, it announced that captured American pilots were not entitled to POW status. According to Hanoi, there had been no formal declaration of war between the United States and North Vietnam (the Geneva convention made no such distinction) and the pilots were "criminals" who could be convicted "under the principles established by the Nuremberg war crime trials."

In its efforts to ease the plight of the POW's, the Johnson administration solicited the assistance of the Interna-

And Colonel Hughes

"We fly to North Vietnam to stop the flow of Communist munitions that are killing our boys in South Vietnam. Return, with my plane sprained and your aircraft, take my children home. If you tell me soldiers for the munitions in the road and a strong tale a legend."
Lt. Col. Frank Knight
May 1, 1967

A Colonel Gordon Smith, USAF
Squadron Commander, 447 Tactical Fighter Squadron
Korat, RSAF Base, Thailand

May 6, 1967 - Shot down over Hanoi
while rescuing a captured aviator.
Lt. Colonel J. Z. Hooper

Major Jim Thompson, Captain Gary Rogers

Hanoi Jeers Yank Flyers
They're Paraded
Captives

HANOI PARADES YANK
Captive Pilots
Jeered by Mob

BANGKOK
3 PLANES LOST IN
LARGE HANOI RAID
Railway Yards, Thai Base Fliers
Jeered in Hanoi

3 US bombers
shot down





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(1) Newsmen swarm around Ambassador Averell Harriman (see arrow), who headed the U.S. delegation to the preliminary peace talks, after emerging from a meeting with French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville at the Quai d'Orsay, in May 1968. (2) Dr. Henry A. Kissinger (l.) and Hanoi's senior representative Le Duc Tho (r.) are shown during a break in the Paris talks on a cease-fire, November 1972. In the center is Tho's interpreter. (3) A group of wives and relatives of U.S. prisoners of war held in North Vietnam conferred with Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird in his office in April 1970. (4) Secretary of State William Rogers signed the Vietnamese Peace Agreement in Paris, 27 January 1973. Shown on his right is Under Secretary Designate of Political Affairs, Ambassador William J. Porter.

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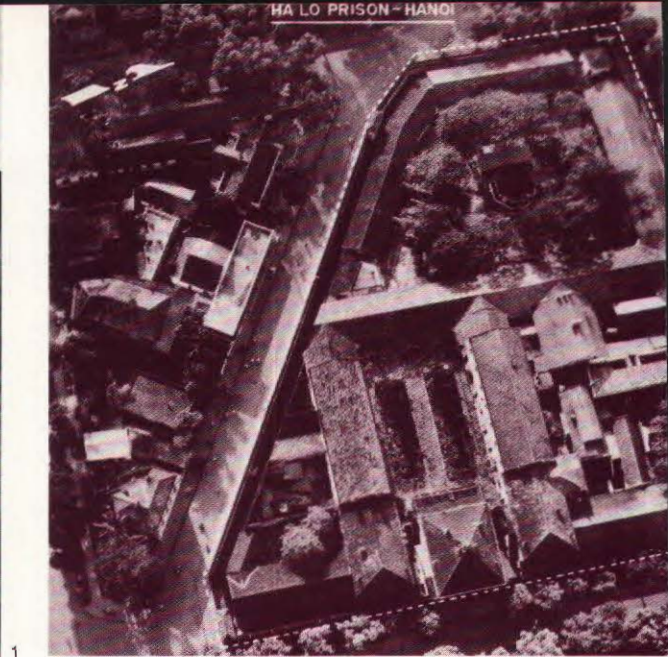


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(1) President Nixon at a White House ceremony presented awards for gallantry to four men who participated in the U.S. raid on the Son Tay POW camp near Hanoi in November 1970. Shown (l. to r.): Air Force Brig. Gen. LeRoy J. Manor, overall commander of the raiding party; Air Force TSgt LeRoy M. Wright, Army SFC Tyrone Adderly; and Col. Arthur D. Simons, the Army Ranger leader of the unsuccessful rescue effort. (2) An aerial view of the Hoa Lo prison in Hanoi where many U.S. prisoners were held. (3) Navy Lt. Cmdr. R. A. Stratton in his prison cell. (4) 1st Lts. J. R. Shivley (l.) and 1st Lt. R. A. Abbott, USAF (r.). (5) Capt. Murphy N. Jones, USAF. (6) Seaman D. B. Hegdahl, USN. (7) Lt. Cmdr. H. A. Stafford, USN.

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WELCOME HOME

WELCOME HOME
"Ex-POW's"

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tional Red Cross and friendly nations to use their influence in obtaining proper treatment. On 29 April 1966, at the request of the White House, the State Department established a Committee on Prisoner Matters which included representatives from several Department of Defense agencies. On 10 May the President designated W. Averell Harriman as his Special Representative and Ambassador to negotiate an exchange of prisoners. The United States also asked the Soviet Union to intervene with North Vietnam to allow Red Cross representatives to visit the POW's, but Moscow referred the Americans to Hanoi.

Hanoi Threatens "War Crimes" Trials

During the early summer of 1966, following increased U.S. air strikes against oil facilities in the Hanoi-Haiphong area, North Vietnam initiated a propaganda campaign leading to the scheduling of "war crime" trials for the captured airmen. As part of this campaign, 52 American POW's handcuffed in pairs were paraded through the streets of Hanoi while agitated crowds stoned, beat, and reviled them. On 7 July 1966 Hanoi radio read depositions from several pilots (they had been tortured) denouncing American war operations and asking for Vietnamese "forgiveness." On 12 July two East European Communist press agencies reported that 60 American military men would be brought to trial later in the month or in early August.

The United States took North Vietnam's plans for war crime trials seriously. President Johnson made no public threats but warnings about his reaction should the trials actually take place were soon dispatched around the world. In Washington, 19 senators who strongly opposed Johnson's Vietnam policies on 15 July issued "a plea for sanity" to Hanoi. Violence against the captured Americans, they warned,

would "incite the public demand for retaliation swift and sure." The next day Sen. Richard B. Russell, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, warned that North Vietnam would be made "a desert" if the trials were held. Sen. George D. Aiken predicted "complete destruction of North Vietnam" if the POW's were killed. The *New York Times* reported that there was little doubt that "Lyndon Johnson's reaction would be severe."

These warnings had a salutary effect on Hanoi, which abruptly ceased its propaganda campaigns about the trials. Its treatment of the captured airmen, however, remained severe. Their lot included torture—ranging from being trussed up by ropes and hung on rafters to being beaten severely by prison guards or having their fingernails pulled out. Some POW's were tortured to persuade them to meet with American antiwar and other visiting delegations and recite dictated statements about their "humane" treatment. Many prisoners—especially senior officers—were placed in solitary confinement for years and fed a bare subsistence diet. Except in certain serious cases, medical care was minimal. Mail privileges were nonexistent for most prisoners. During the Christmas season of 1966, 457 of 467 packages sent to them by their families were returned with the stamp: "Refused by the Postal Authorities of Vietnam."

During 1967 the U. S. government continued its search for ways to persuade Hanoi to allow Red Cross representatives to visit the prison camps in the North. The South Vietnamese government cooperated by opening its camps for Viet Cong and North Vietnamese prisoners to inspection by the International Committee of the Red Cross and allowing mail privileges. Still Hanoi refused to budge. On 26 July 1967 the Department of Defense established a Prisoner of War Policy Committee. Chaired by Paul C. Warnke, Assistant Secretary of De-

fense (International Security Affairs), it had the job of coordinating all POW matters and planning the eventual recovery and repatriation of the prisoners.

Information about the living conditions and treatment of POW's held by the Viet Cong in jungle camps in South Vietnam or Cambodia came to light from the infrequent successful escapee or from the American captive occasionally released by the enemy for political purposes. Living conditions were extremely primitive, with many POW's succumbing to disease and starvation.

In the case of North Vietnamese camps, the first authoritative information became available in February 1968, when Hanoi released three American pilots shot down 4 to 6 months earlier. They were Lt. Col. Norris M. Overly, USAF; Capt. John D. Black, USAF; and Lt. (jg.) David P. Matheny, USN. The North Vietnamese announced their impending release on 27 January, noting that they would be handed over to the U. S. National Mobilization Committee to End the War. Two of its members—the Rev. Daniel Berrigan and Dr. Howard Zinn—flew to Hanoi, where the release took place on 16 February.

The entire affair may have been a North Vietnamese ploy related to the 1968 Tet offensive, launched on 31 January. If, as seems likely, the enemy thought that the 3-man release might ward off U. S. retaliatory strikes in the Hanoi-Haiphong area, they were correct. In Washington, Assistant Secretary Warnke—serving as a member of a working group created by the newly designated Secretary of Defense, Clark Clifford, to prepare new military recommendations for the President—argued against JCS proposals for such bombings. He recommended that the existing bombing ban “should be continued pending the return of the 3 American PWs.”

When the three released captives reached the United States several

weeks later, U. S. officials learned for the first time that many of the American POW's were in prison camps in the Hanoi area. The airmen also identified 40 men as prisoners who had been listed as missing in action. Citing their testimony, Warnke argued that heavy and “indiscriminate” attacks in the Hanoi area “would jeopardize the lives of these prisoners and alarm their wives and parents.”

Subsequently, the President on 31 March 1968 announced a halt to all bombing of North Vietnam (except for the area immediately north of the DMZ) and invited Hanoi to begin peace talks in Paris. The North Vietnamese accepted and, in May 1968, the first meetings got under way in Paris. Apparently, in an effort to further encourage an end to all bombings of North Vietnam, in August 1968 Hanoi released three more captured pilots, all members of the Air Force and recent captives. They were Maj. James F. Low, a Korean War ace shot down in December 1967; Maj. Fred N. Thompson, captured in March 1968; and Capt. Joe V. Carpenter, captured in February 1968. Turned over to members of the U. S. antiwar movement in Hanoi on 18 July, they were escorted back to the United States.

During the waning months of the Johnson administration in late 1968, little progress was made in the Paris talks. The next major event affecting the POW's involved the efforts of the new administration of President Richard M. Nixon, who took office in January 1969. Within days of his inauguration, the President sent Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to Paris to head the U.S. delegation to the peace talks. Mr. Lodge very early proposed to the North Vietnamese the release of POW's held by both sides as part of any peace agreement. Hanoi, however, demanded that the United States end its support of Saigon. As the talks deadlocked over this issue, the administration in early 1969 abandoned quiet diplomacy in dealing with the



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(1-2) POW's were driven to the Gia Lam Airport preparatory to their turnover to American officials. (3) Col. Emil J. Wengel, USAF greets Maj. Hubert K. Flesher (l.), who was shot down on 2 December 1966. (4) Happy former POW's after boarding a C-141 transport taking them back to the United States. (5) The end of a long journey for Army Sgt. Edward W. Williams, greeted by close relatives at Scott AFB, Ill. (6-7) Welcome signs greet returned POW's.

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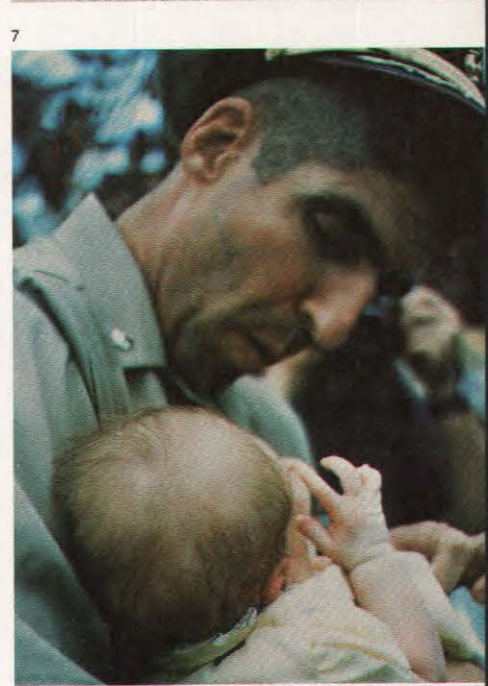
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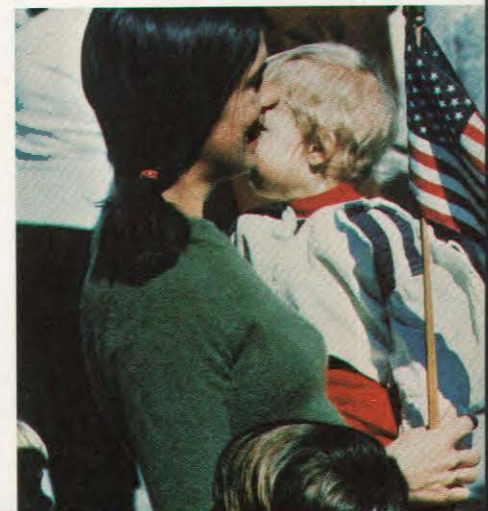


4

(1-8) Scenes of homecoming.

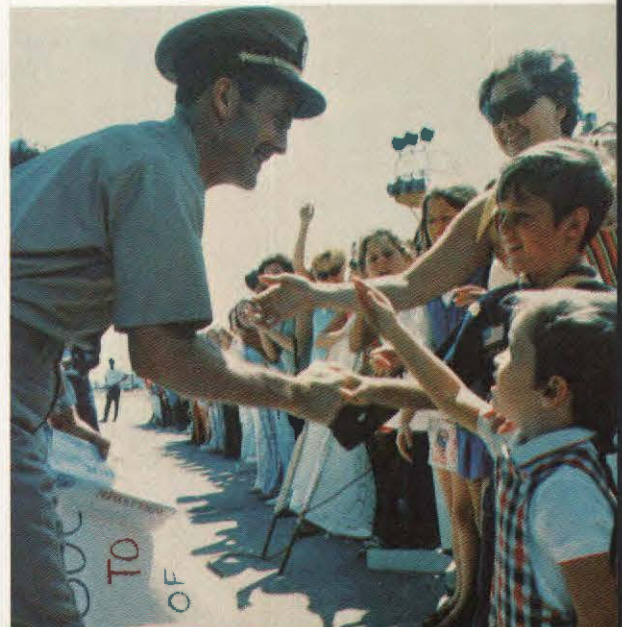
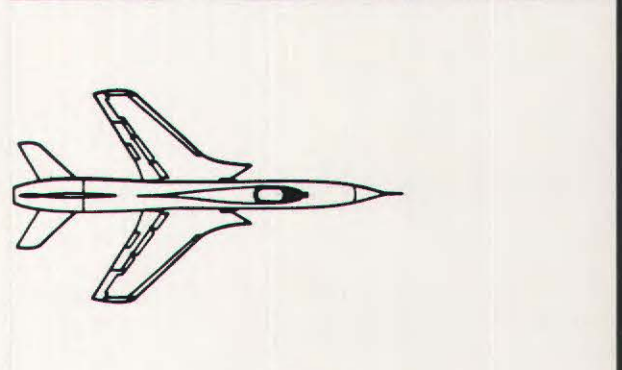
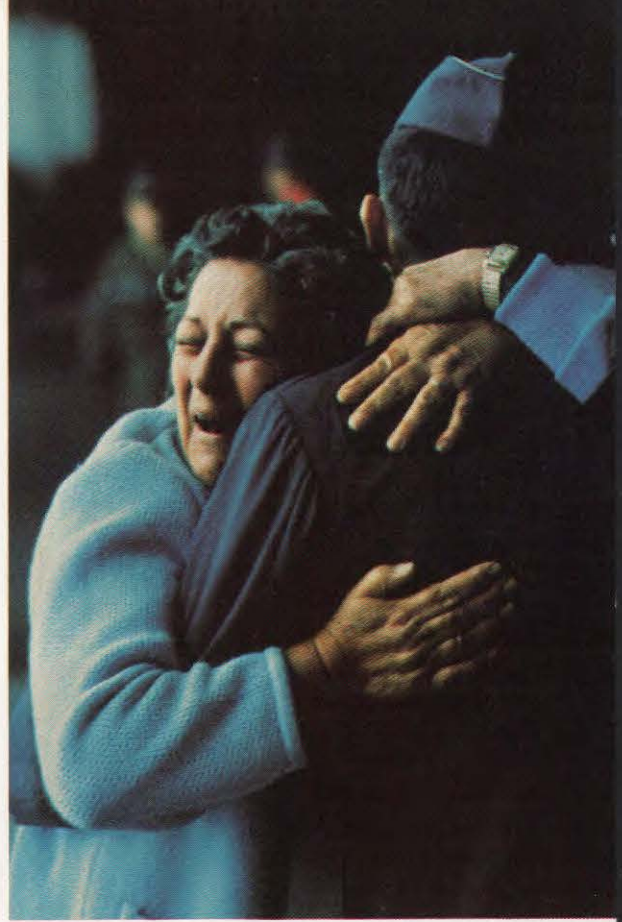


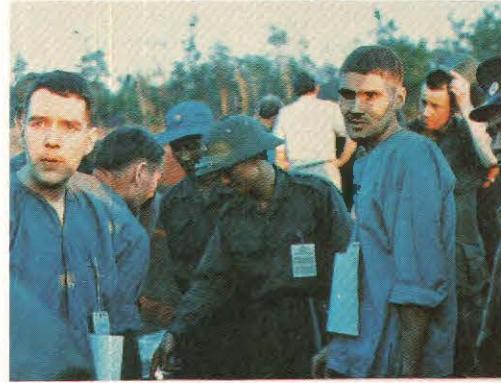
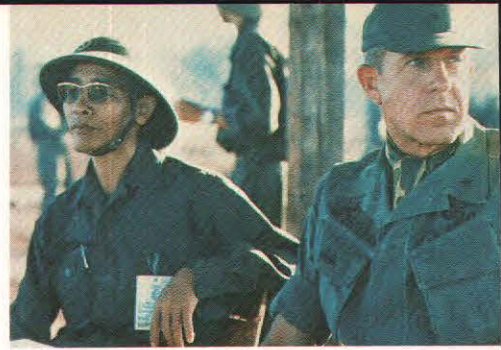
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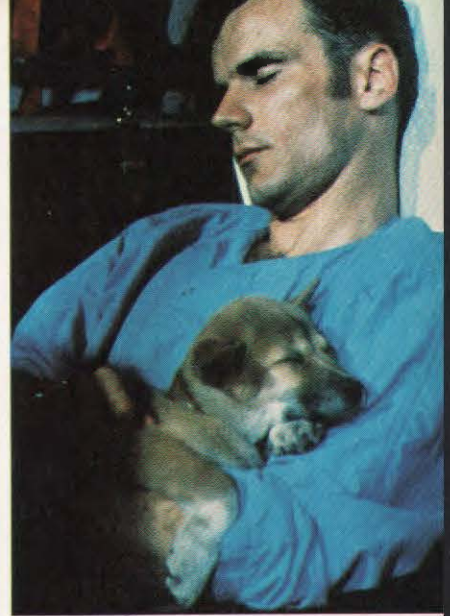


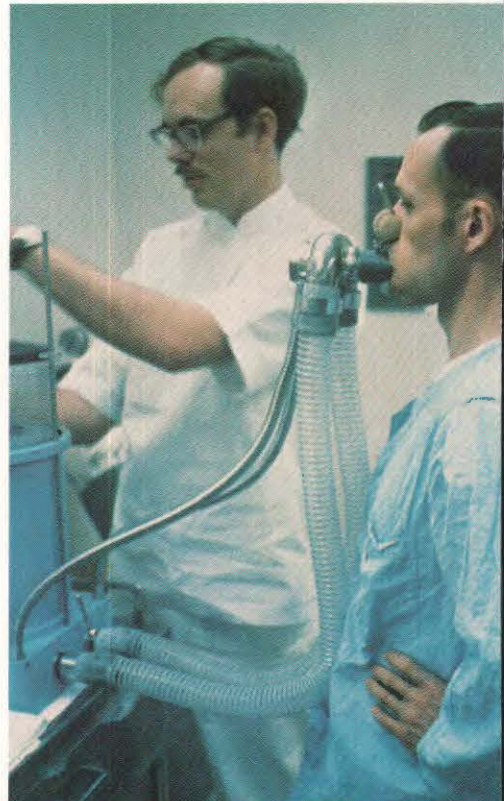
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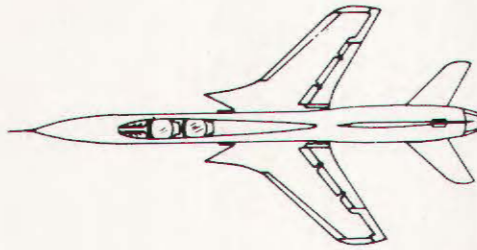












POW issue and proposed discussing it "openly, candidly, forcefully, and repeatedly." In the dozens of meetings with the North Vietnamese during 1969, the Americans repeatedly brought up the subject. They cited "disturbing evidence" that the prisoners were being held "in solitary confinement and being subjected to physical and mental duress." They repeatedly proposed a prisoner exchange, repatriation of the sick and wounded, and inspection of the camps by impartial outsiders. They pressed the North Vietnamese for lists of all POW's so that their families could know "who is dead and who is alive."

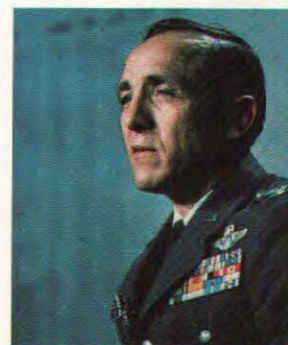
Although it rejected all these proposals, Hanoi on 3 July 1969 announced that "in recognition of the American Independence Day," it would release a third group of prisoners. They were: Capt. Wesley L. Rumble, USAF, a captive 15 months; Seaman Douglas Hegdahl, imprisoned more than 2 years; and Lt. Robert F. Frishman, USN, a prisoner for about 20 months. Prior to their turn-over to another U. S. antiwar group in Hanoi on 18 July, the North Vietnamese warned Lieutenant Frishman not to cause them any "embarrassment" since they would retaliate against those left behind. The other POW's, however, had urged him to speak out about their ill-treatment when he got home.

He did several weeks later, with the encouragement of the administration. On 3 September 1969, Frishman and Hegdahl held a press conference at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, during which the lieutenant reported that POW's had been beaten, tortured, placed in solitary confinement, provided minimal medical care, and otherwise mistreated. Frishman, for example, almost lost his injured right arm, which became shorter than his left arm for lack of adequate medical aid. Based upon these statements and other available information, the U. S. government on 13 September report-



ed to the International Conference of the Red Cross meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, on Hanoi's gross violations of the Geneva Convention.

The publicity about the harsh treatment had a galvanizing effect on the families of the prisoners. Starting in September-October 1969, delegations of wives and relatives of POW's descended on the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris to plead for information about their men. The spectacle produced widespread headlines and television coverage and adversely affected North Vietnam's position in the eyes of the world. On 12 November the United States also took its case to the United Nations General Assembly, where it denounced Hanoi's torture and treatment of the prisoners and its refusal to allow mail privileges to the POW's.





These events finally produced a North Vietnamese reaction. Responding to the unfavorable publicity, Hanoi requested members of the American peace movement to form a "Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam" to transmit letters from the POW's to their families in the United States. Subsequently, on 14 December 1969, North Vietnamese prison officials suddenly directed the POW's: "Everyone will write home for Christmas." There followed a dramatic change in the number of letters sent and received. For example, in the 4½ years ending in January 1969, American families had received only 620 letters from 103 prisoners. During the next 11 months, the number climbed to 940 from 294 writers, most of the additional 320 letters being written in November and December. Of those,

191 came from new writers, whose fate for the most part had remained unknown to their families. This was an important break-through for the prisoners and was followed by noticeable improvement in their living conditions.

The administration continued to hammer away at the POW issue in various forums. In early 1970 both houses of Congress adopted a resolution expressing concern about the prisoners' fates. During the summer, President Nixon appointed Col. Frank Borman (he and two companions orbited the moon in December 1968) as his Special Representative on Prisoners of War. Borman traveled to 14 countries (including the Soviet Union) seeking assistance in persuading Hanoi to exchange American prisoners for the thousands of captured North Vietnamese troops. Although the trip was unsuccessful, it helped to focus the spotlight on the plight of the POW's. After his return to the United States in September 1970, Colonel Borman reported to a joint session of Congress on his efforts.

In October the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia held its first annual convention in Washington, D.C., attended by more than 450 family members. The League grew out of the activities of a group of wives on the West Coast in 1966. In November the U.S. government received—via the antiwar Committee of Liaison—the first news from Hanoi about the death in captivity of six POW's. The committee also turned over a North Vietnamese list of 339 American captives, which included 4 new names.

In late November 1970—as a direct result of the daring U.S. raid on the Son Tay prison camp west of Hanoi—the North Vietnamese evacuated all outlying prisons and brought the POW's—352 of them—to the Hoa Lo prison (Vietnamese for "hell hole" but usually called the "Hanoi Hilton" by the POW's). This consolidation

opened a new era for the prisoners. For the first time they were placed in large open-bay rooms housing 20 to 50 men, enabling them to organize to a greater extent than ever before. Their senior officers, although still kept in isolation by the North Vietnamese, were able to issue policy guidance and directives to the younger men via a variety of clandestine communication methods and maintained effective command of the "4th Allied POW Wing" despite efforts to halt this activity.

During 1971-1972 perhaps the most important influence on Hanoi—and the final peace settlement—was President Nixon's state visits to North Vietnam's major military suppliers—Communist China in February 1972 and the Soviet Union in May. Within months after Dr. Kissinger's secret trip to Peking in July 1971 which led to arrangements for the President's trip to China, a North Vietnamese delegate at Paris offered to release all POW's if the United States promised to withdraw all its forces from Vietnam by a fixed date. The proposal became the foundation for reaching a final agreement between Kissinger and Tho in 1972. There were several setbacks and interruptions in their negotiations, including Hanoi's major offensive in the spring of 1972 to seize territory in South Vietnam and defeat the Saigon government. The heavy bombardment of Hanoi and Haiphong in December 1972—following Hanoi's procrastination over the settlement—apparently was a factor leading to the 27 January 1973 agreement and set the stage for Operation Homecoming, the return of all American prisoners.

Planning the POW Recovery

Operation Homecoming plans, refined over a period of several years, called for each returning POW to remain in medical channels from the time he returned to American control



until he had completed all post-captivity processing in a hospital in the United States. Representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military services, and the State Department attended the final planning conference, held in Honolulu, Hawaii, during August 1972. Among the attendees were physicians, surgeons, lawyers, escorts, consular officials, chaplains, public affairs officers, and others. The Commander, 9th Aeromedical Evacuation Group (PACAF), was appointed overall aeromedical evacuation coordinator for the recovery operation.

The operation was divided into three phases. First, there was to be the initial reception of prisoners at three release sites: prisoners held by the Viet Cong were to be flown to Saigon by helicopter; those in North Vietnam, the majority of the prisoners, would be released at Hanoi; and finally, three American POW's held in China—two U.S. pilots and a CIA agent imprisoned during the Korean War—would be set free at Hong Kong. All would be flown to Clark AB in the Philippines for the second phase of the operation—processing through the Joint Homecoming Reception Center. Then the POW's would fly to 1 of 31 military hospitals



in the United States for detailed medical assistance and processing, the third phase of the operation.

In late September 1972 a realistic rehearsal for Operation Homecoming took place after North Vietnam released three more American POW's: Maj. Edward K. Elias, USAF; Lt. Norris A. Charles, USN; and Lt. Markham L. Gartley, USN. Their release gave Homecoming personnel the opportunity to exercise and refine their procedures. The 9th Aeromedical Evacuation Group, for example, responded five times, sending a C-9A aeromedical aircraft to potential release sites, including Vientiane, Laos.

On 27 January 1973, as specified in the cease-fire agreement, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong provided the United States with a list of 578 American POW's of whom 556 were military personnel and 22 civilians. On 1 February the "Lao Patriotic Front" provided the names of nine other American prisoners—seven military and two civilians. Finally, an additional POW in Viet Cong hands also was reported, bringing the total of American personnel to be released to 588. The Communist side also listed nine non-U.S. personnel: two West Germans,

two Canadians, two Filipinos, two Thais, and one South Vietnamese. The total number of Americans returning home—including the three released by China—was 591.

Under provisions of the cease-fire agreement, POW's were to be released simultaneously with the withdrawal of American troops, at approximately 15-day phased intervals. The first release took place almost on schedule and was followed by another North Vietnamese "good will" release a few days later. When the North Vietnamese fell behind the release schedule, the President ordered a halt in American force withdrawals from the South to make clear the importance the United States attached to prompt and full compliance with the agreement. North Vietnam responded by releasing additional prisoners, the last of them on 29 March. In the South, Saigon officials released 26,508 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong prisoners while the Communist side released about 5,000 South Vietnamese POW's.

For the American people the return of the nation's captured military men was a moment of tears and joyous celebration as they watched the arrival of their servicemen at Clark and then at air bases throughout the United States. A State Department official, Frank A. Sieverts, Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State for Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Matters, told a congressional committee in May 1973 of being at Hanoi's Gia Lam airport on 12 February and his joy when the first group of POW's arrived there for their flight to freedom. He said:

The guards ordered the men off the bus. Suddenly, the senior American officer of the group took command away from the guards and gave the orders for the men to march in formation to the release point. The guards tried to intervene but fell back. It was clear then that, despite the grim experience of their captivity, our men had endured and prevailed. They deserve our thanks and commendation.



Key Air Force Leaders During the War in Southeast Asia

Secretaries of the Air Force

Eugene M. Zuckert	24 Jan 1961- 30 Sep 1965
Harold Brown	1 Oct 1965- 14 Feb 1969
Robert C. Seamans, Jr.	15 Feb 1965- 14 May 1973
John L. McLucas (Act)	15 May 1973- 18 Jul 1973
John L. McLucas	19 Jul 1973-

Under Secretaries of the Air Force

Joseph V. Charyk	28 Jan 1960- 1 Mar 1963
Brockway McMillan	12 Jun 1963- 30 Sep 1965
Norman S. Paul	1 Oct 1965- 30 Sep 1967
Townsend Hoopes	2 Oct 1967- 3 Feb 1969
John L. McLucas*	17 Mar 1969- 18 Jul 1973
James W. Plummer	20 Dec 1973-

*McLucas served in this post through 19 December 1973 in addition to serving as Secretary of the Air Force.

Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force

Gen. Curtis E. LeMay	30 Jun 1961- 31 Jan 1965
Gen. John P. McConnell	1 Feb 1965- 31 Jul 1969
Gen. John D. Ryan	1 Aug 1969- 31 Jul 1973
Gen. George S. Brown	1 Aug 1973- 30 Jun 1974
Gen. David C. Jones	1 Jul 1974-

Commanders in Chief, Pacific Air Forces

Lt. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, Jr.	1 Aug 1959- 31 Jul 1963
Gen. Jacob E. Smart	1 Aug 1963- 31 Jul 1964
Gen. Hunter Harris, Jr.	1 Aug 1964- 31 Jan 1967
Gen. John D. Ryan	1 Feb 1967- 31 Jul 1968
Gen. Joseph J. Nazzaro	1 Aug 1968- 31 July 1971
Gen. Lucius D. Clay	1 Aug 1971- 30 Sep 1973
Gen. John W. Vogt, Jr.	1 Oct 1973- 30 Jun 1974
Gen. Louis L. Wilson, Jr.	1 Jul 1974-



Commanders, Seventh Air Force

Organized at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, 1 April 1966. Replaced 2d Air Division.

Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Moore	1 Apr 1966- 30 Jun 1966
Gen. William W. Momyer	1 Jul 1966- 31 Jul 1968
Gen. George S. Brown	1 Aug 1968- 31 Aug 1970
Gen. Lucius D. Clay, Jr.	1 Sep 1970- 31 Jul 1971
Gen. John D. Lavelle	1 Aug 1971- 6 Apr 1972
Gen. John W. Vogt, Jr.	7 Apr 1972- 30 Sep 1973
Lt. Gen. Timothy F. O'Keefe	1 Oct 1973-

Commanders, Seventh/Thirteenth Air Force

Organized 6 January 1966 at Udorn AB, Thailand as 2/13 Air Force. Redesignated 7/13 Air Force April 1966. Redesignated 13 Air Force ADVON in late March 1973.

Maj. Gen. Charles R. Bond, Jr. (Dep Cmdr)	6 Jan 1966- 31 Mar 1967
Maj. Gen. William C. Lindley, Jr.	1 Jun 1967- 31 May 1968
Maj. Gen. Louis T. Seith	1 Jun 1968- 31 May 1969
Maj. Gen. Robert L. Petit	1 Jun 1969- 5 Mar 1970
Maj. Gen. James F. Kirkendall	15 Apr 1970- 11 Oct 1970
Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Evans, Jr.	12 Oct 1970- 30 Jun 1971
Maj. Gen. DeWitt R. Searles	1 Jul 1971- 8 Sep 1972
Maj. Gen. James D. Hughes	9 Sep 1972- 19 Apr 1973



Commanders, Eighth Air Force

Moved, without personnel or equipment, from Westover AFB, MA to Andersen AFB, Guam on 1 April 1970. Replaced 3d Air Division. Moved without personnel or equipment, to Barksdale AFB, LA on 1 January 1975.

Lt. Gen. Alvan C. Gillem, II	1 Apr 1970- 12 Jul 1970
Brig. Gen. Leo C. Lewis	13 Jul 1970- 31 Jul 1970
Lt. Gen. Sam J. Byerley	1 Aug 1970- 13 Sep 1971
Lt. Gen. Gerald W. Johnson	14 Sep 1971- 30 Sep 1973
Lt. Gen. George H. McKee	1 Oct 1973- 29 Aug 1974
Maj. Gen. Charles F. Minter, Sr.	30 Oct 1974- 31 Dec 1974

Division, Wing, and Group Commanders

2d ADVON

Established by Thirteenth Air Force on 15 November 1961 with four numbered detachments, three located in South Vietnam, and one in Thailand. Inactivated October 1962; replaced by 2d Air Division.

Commanders, 2d Air Division

Organized 8 October 1962. Discontinued 1 April 1966; replaced by Seventh Air Force.

Brig. Gen. (Later, Maj. Gen.) Rollen H. Anthis	8 Oct 1962- 19 Dec 1963
Brig. Gen. Milton B. Adams	20 Dec 1963- 20 Jan 1964
Maj. Gen. (Later, Lt. Gen.) Joseph H. Moore	21 Jan 1964- 2 Apr 1966

*Anthis also wore a second hat as Chief, Air Force Section, MAAG, Vietnam.

Commanders, 3d Air Division 315th Air Division

Activated at Andersen AFB, Guam on 18 June 1954. Inactivated 31 March 1970. Replaced by 8 AF. Activated at Andersen AFB, Guam on 1 January 1975.

Brig. Gen. Harold W.	2 Jul 1963-
Ohlke	16 Jul 1965
Maj. Gen. William J.	16 Jul 1965-
Crumm	7 Jul 1967
Maj. Gen. Selmon W.	8 Jul 1967-
Wells	5 Jun 1968
Lt. Gen. Alvan C.	6 Jun 1968-
Gillem, II	31 Mar 1970
Maj. Gen. Charles F.	1 Jan 1975-
Minter, Sr.	10 Aug 1975
Maj. Gen. Thomas F.	20 Aug 1975-
Rew	17 Aug 1976

17th Air Division (Prov)

Activated 1 Jun 1972 at U-Tapao Afd, Thailand, attached to 8 AF (SAC). Inactivated 1 January 1975.

Brig. Gen. Frank W.	1 Jun 1972-
Elliott, Jr.	5 Jun 1972
Brig. Gen. Glen R.	6 Jun 1972-
Sullivan	1 Feb 1973
Brig. Gen. Billy J.	2 Feb 1973-
Ellis	12 Oct 1973
Brig. Gen. James S.	13 Oct 1973-
Murphy	4 Aug 1974
Brig. Gen. George D.	5 Aug 1974-
Miller	31 Dec 1974

57th Air Division (Prov)

Activated 1 June 1972 at Andersen AFB, Guam, attached to 8 AF (SAC). Inactivated 15 November 1973.

Brig. Gen. Andrew B.	1 Jun 1972-
Anderson, Jr.	14 Jan 1973
Brig. Gen. John W.	15 Jan 1973-
Burkhart	Oct 1973
Brig. Gen. Edgar S.	Oct 1973-
Harris, Jr.	15 Nov 1973

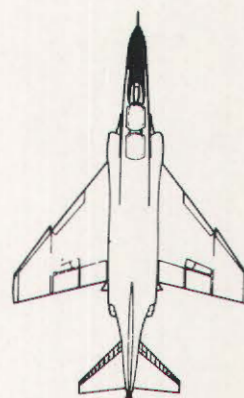
Activated 25 January 1951, Tachikawa AB, Japan. Inactivated 15 April 1969.

Brig. Gen. Theodore.	31 Aug 1963
G. Kershaw	
Brig. Gen. Richard H.	1 Sep 1963-
Ellis	15 Jun 1965
Col. Lester R.	16 June 1965-
Ferris, Jr. (Interim)	12 Jul 1965
Col. Charles W.	13 Jul 1965-
Howe	25 Jul 1968
Col. Robert D.	26 Jul 1968-
Brown	15 Apr 1969

834th Air Division

Organized 25 October 1966 at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN.

Brig. Gen. William G. Moore, Jr.	11 Nov 1967
Brig. Gen. Hugh E.	12 Nov 1967-
Wild	28 Nov 1967
Brig. Gen. Burl W.	29 Nov 1967-
McLaughlin	22 Jun 1969
Brig. Gen. John H.	23 Jun 1969-
Herring, Jr.	1 Dec 1971
Brig. Gen. Eugene W.	24 Jan 1972-
Gauch, Jr.	



3d Tactical Fighter Wing

Arrived at Bien Hoa AB, RVN, 8 November 1965. Inactivated 15 March 1970. Activated 15 March 1971.

Col. Robert A.	8 Nov 1965-
Ackerly	31 Oct 1966
Col. Richard C.	1 Nov 1966-
Catledge	29 Sep 1967
Col. George W.	30 Sep 1967-
McLaughlin	4 May 1968
Col. Homer K.	5 May 1968-
Hansen	31 Mar 1969
Col. Howard M.	1 Apr 1969-
Lane	10 Apr 1970
Col. William E.	11 Apr 1970-
Charlson	Unkn
Col. Abner M.	11 Mar 1971-
Aust, Jr.	20 May 1971
Col. Clement D.	20 May 1971-
Billingslea (Temp)	6 Jun 1971
Col. Abner M.	7 Jun 1971-
Aust, Jr.	16 Nov 1971
Col. Charles A.	17 Nov 1971-
Watry	4 Oct 1972
Col. Paul A.	5 Oct 1972-
Kattu	18 Nov 1973
Col. Harry W.	19 Nov 1973-
Schurr	

8th Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized at Ubon AB, Thailand, 8 December 1965.

Col. Joseph G.	8 Dec 1965-
Wilson	29 Sep 1966
Col. Robin Olds	30 Sep 1966-
	22 Sep 1967
Col. Robert V.	23 Sep 1967-
Spencer	4 Jul 1968
Col. Charles C.	5 Jul 1968-
Pattillo	7 May 1969
Col. Donald N.	8 May 1969-
Stanfield	5 May 1970
Col. David J.	6 May 1970-
Schmerbeck	1 Oct 1970
Col. Lloyd R.	2 Oct 1970-
Leavitt, Jr. (Temp)	3 Oct 1970
Col. Larry M.	4 Oct 1970-
Killpack	18 May 1971

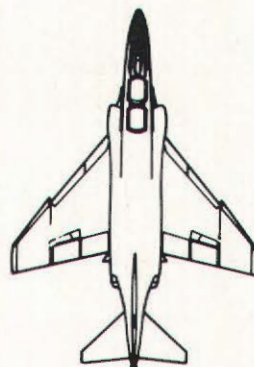
Col. James A.	19 May 1971-
Young	27 Feb 1972
Col. Carl S. Miller	28 Feb 1972-
	24 Nov 1972
Col. Francis A.	25 Nov 1972-
Humphreys, Jr.	24 Jan 1974
Col. Tom M.	25 Jan 1974-
Arnold, Jr.	

12th Tactical Fighter Wing

Arrived Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN, on 8 November 1965.

Moved to Phu Cat AB, RVN, 31 March 1970. Inactivated at Phu Cat AB, RVN, 17 November 1971.

Col. Levi R. Chase	8 Nov 1965-
	17 Oct 1966
Col. Jones E. Bolt	18 Oct 1966-
	19 Mar 1967
Col. Joel D.	20 Mar 1967-
Thorvaldson	8 Apr 1967
Col. Woodard E.	9 Apr 1967-
Davis, Jr.	4 Apr 1968
Col. Floyd White	5 Apr 1968-
	6 Apr 1969
Col. Ramon R.	7 Apr 1969-
Melton	30 Mar 1970
Col. Harry B.	31 Mar 1970-
Trimble	12 Apr 1970
Col. Larry M.	13 Apr 1970-
Killpack	3 Oct 1970
Col. Ralph S. Parr	4 Oct 1970-
	18 Feb 1971
Col. Richard H.	19 Feb 1971-
Schoeneman	3 Oct 1971
Col. Albert L.	4 Oct 1971-
Melton	17 Nov 1971



14th Air Commando Wing

Organized at Nha Trang AB, RVN, 8 March 1966. Redesignated 14th Special Operations Wing, 1 August 1968. Moved to Phan Rang, 15 October 1969. Inactivated 30 September 1971. Redesignated 14th Flying Trng Wg 22 March 1972. Activated 1 June 1972 at Columbus AFB, Miss.

Col. Gordon F. Bradburn	9 Apr 1967
Col. Forrest L. Rauscher	10 Apr 1967- 16 Nov 1967
Col. John M. Patton	17 Nov 1967- 2 Jun 1968
Col. Conrad S. Allman	3 Jun 1968- 4 Mar 1969
Col. William K. Bush	5 Mar 1969- 1 Sep 1969
Col. Clyde S. Cherry	2 Sep 1969- 2 Apr 1970
Col. William H. Fairbrother	3 Apr 1970- 12 Sep 1970
Col. Alfred F. Eaton	13 Sep 1970- 13 Mar 1971
Col. Mark W. Magnan	14 Mar 1971- 12 Sep 1971
Col. Malcolm L. Nurnberg	13 Sep 1971- 30 Sep 1971

31st Tactical Fighter Wing

Arrived Tuy Hoa AB, RVN, 25 December 1966. Redeployed back to the United States, 15 October 1970.

Col. Warren R. Lewis	28 Nov 1966- 6 Dec 1967
Col. William J. Evans	7 Dec 1967- 2 May 1968
Col. Abner M. Aust, Jr.	3 May 1968- 7 Feb 1969
Col. Cuthbert A. Pattillo	8 Feb 1969- 7 Aug 1969
Col. William B. Yancey, Jr.	8 Aug 1969- 14 Jun 1970
Col. Gilbert D. Hereth	15 Jun 1970- 15 Oct 1970

35th Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized Da Nang AB, RVN, 8 April 1966. Moved to Phan Rang AB, RVN, 10 October 1966. Inactivated 30 June 1971 at Phan Rang.

Col. Franklin H. Scott	8 Apr 1966- 9 May 1966
Col. Allan P. Rankin	10 May 1966- 9 Oct 1966
Col. George S. Weart	10 Oct 1966- 27 Feb 1967
Col. James A. Wilson	1 Mar 1967- 31 Jan 1968
Col. Herndon F. Williams	1 Feb 1968- 22 Sep 1968
Col. Frank L. Gailer, Jr.	23 Sep 1968- 8 Aug 1969
Col. Walter T. Galligan	9 Aug 1969- 9 Jun 1970
Col. Walter C. Turnier	10 Jun 1970- 31 Dec 1970
Col. Cregg P. Nolen, Jr.	1 Jan 1971- 30 Jun 1971

37th Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized at Phu Cat AB, RVN, 1 March 1967. Inactivated 31 March 1970.

Unkn	1 Mar 1967- 5 May 1967
Col. Raymond C. Lee, Jr.	6 May 1967- 14 May 1967
Col. Edwin A. Schneider	15 May 1967- 14 May 1968
Col. Leroy J. Manor	15 May 1968- 31 Mar 1969
Col. Harry B. Trimble	1 Apr 1969- 31 Mar 1970



43d Strategic Wing

Activated 1 April 1970 at Andersen AFB, Guam, assigned to 8 AF (SAC) and later attached to Air Division Provisional, 57 during existence of latter. Replaced 3960th Strategic Wing.

Col. Lawrence E.	1 Apr 1970-
Stephens	30 Jun 1970
Col. Glenn R.	1 Jul 1970-
Dunlap	28 Apr 1972
Col. William P.	28 Apr 1972-
Armstrong	14 Jun 1972
Col. James H.	16 Jun 1972-
McGrath	30 Nov 1972
Col. James R.	1 Dec 1972-
McCarthy	1 Jun 1973
Col. Morris E.	1 Jun 1973-
Shiver	Aug 1973
Col. Lawton W.	Aug 1973-
Magee	15 Nov 1973
Col. James R.	15 Nov 1973-
McCarthy	15 Jun 1974
Col. Andrew.	Jun 1974
Pringle, Jr.	Jun 1975
Col. Donald C.	Jun 1975-
Bass	Mar 1976

56th Air Commando Wing

Organized at Nakhon Phanom AB, Thailand, 8 April 1967. Redesignated 1 August 1968 as Special Operation Wing.

Col. Harry C.	8 Apr 1967-
Aderholt	18 Nov 1967
Col. Roland K.	19 Nov 1967-
McCoskrie	6 Nov 1968
Col. Edwin J.	7 Nov 1968-
White, Jr.	30 May 1969
Col. Patrick M.	31 May 1969-
Fallon (Temp)	4 Jul 1969
Col. Edwin J.	5 Jul 1969-
White, Jr.	4 Oct 1969
Col. Samuel E.	5 Oct 1969-
Crosby, Jr.	7 Aug 1970
Col. Edward J.	8 Aug 1970-
Walsh, Jr.	14 Jul 1971

Col. Jack A.	15 Jul 1971-
Robinson	16 Jun 1972
Col. Norbert L.	17 Jun 1972-
Simon	30 Nov 1972
Col. Robert E.	1 Dec 1972-
Wayne	29 Jun 1973
Col. William B.	30 Jun 1973-
Owens	14 Sep 1973
Col. Ralph H.	15 Sep 73-
Bowers, (Temp)	25 Sep 1973
Col. Charles E.	26 Sep 1973-
Woods	22 Jun 1974

72d Strategic Wing (Prov)

Activated 1 June 1972 at Andersen AFB, Guam, attached to Air Division Provisional, 57. Inactivated 15 November 1973.

Col. Kenneth M.	1 Jun 1972-
Holloway	8 Oct 1972
Col. Thomas F.	8 Oct 1972-
Rew	16 Mar 1973
Col. Thomas W.	16 Mar 1973-
Sherman, Jr.	16 Apr 1973
Col. Nathaniel A.	16 Apr 1973-
Gallagher	15 Nov 1973

307th Strategic Wing

Activated 1 April 1970 at U-Tapao AB, Thailand, assigned to 8 AF (SAC) and attached to Air Division Provisional, 17 while the latter was in existence. Replaced 4258th Strategic Wing. Inactivated 30 September 1975.

Brig. Gen. Woodrow A.	1 Apr 1970-
Abbott	4 Jul 1970
Brig. Gen. John R.	5 Jul 1970-
Hinton, Jr.	4 Jul 1971
Brig. Gen. Frank W.	5 Jul 1971-
Elliott, Jr.	31 May 1972
Col. Donald M.	1 Jun 1972-
Davis	10 Feb 1973
Col. Bill V.	11 Feb 1973-
Brown	20 Aug 1973
Col. Frank J.	21 Aug 1973-
Apel, Jr.	9 Apr 1974

Col. Ernest J.	10 Apr 1974-
Stirman	31 Dec 1974
Brig. Gen. George D.	1 Jan 1975-
Miller	21 Jan 1975
Col. Ernest J.	22 Jan 1975-
Stirman	5 Mar 1975
Col. Caryl W.	6 Mar 1975-
Calhoun	30 Sep 1975

310th Strategic Wing (Prov)

Activated 1 June 1972 at U-Tapao AB, Thailand, attached to Air Division Provisional, 17. Inactivated 1 July 1974.

Col. James R.	1 Jun 1972
McCarthy	13 Jun 1972
Col. William L.	14 Jun 1972-
Nicholson, III	5 Dec 1972
Col. Stanley C.	6 Dec 1972-
Beck	12 Jun 1973
Col. Robert T.	13 Jun 1973-
Herres	7 Sep 1973
Col. Vernon R.	15 Sep 1973-
Huber	20 Nov 1973
Col. Richard J.	21 Nov 1973-
Smith	1 Jan 1974
Col. Earl T.	2 Jan 1974-
O'Laughlin	21 Mar 1974
Col. Donald N.	22 Mar 1974-
Webster	1 May 1974
Col. Lavern E.	2 May 1974-
Williams	1 Jul 1974

315th Tactical Airlift Wing

Organized as 315th Air Commando Wing, Troop Carrier, on 8 March 1966 at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN. Moved to Phan Rang AB, RVN, on 15 June 1967. Redesignated 315th Air Commando Wing on 1 August 1967. Redesignated 315th Tactical Airlift Wing on 1 January 1970.

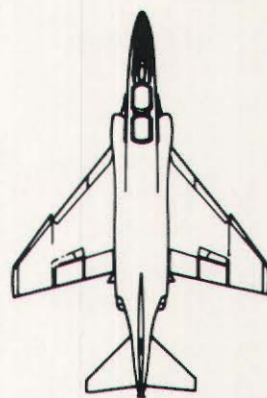
Col. George L.	8 Mar 1966-
Hannah, Jr.	22 Jun 1966
Col. Robert T.	23 Jun 1966-
Simpson	18 Nov 1966

Col. Vernon W.	19 Nov 1966-
Froehlich	8 Aug 1967
Col. Bill M.	9 Aug 1967-
Richardson	19 Nov 1967
Col. Robert D.	20 Nov 1967-
Brown	7 Jun 1968
Col. Noble F.	8 Jun 1968-
Greenhill, Jr.	18 Jul 1968
Col. John W. Pauly	19 Jul 1968-
	9 Jun 1969
Col. Leslie J.	10 Jun 1969-
Campbell, Jr.	26 May 1970
Col. Charles S. Reed	27 May 1970-
	30 Jan 1971
Col. Kenneth T.	31 Jan 1971-
Blood, Jr.	18 Nov 1971
Col. Ray C. Staley	19 Nov 1971-
	31 Mar 1972

355th Tactical Fighter Wing

Based at Takhli AB, Thailand, 8 November 1965 to 10 December 1970. Replaced 6235th Tactical Fighter Wing. Inactivated 10 December 1970.

Col. William H. Holt	8 Nov 1965-
	3 Aug 1966
Col. Robert R. Scott	4 Aug 1966-
	1 Aug 1967
Col. John C. Giraudo	2 Aug 1967-
	29 Jun 1968
Col. Michael C.	30 Jun 1968-
Horgan	26 Jun 1969
Col. Heath Bottomly	27 Jun 1969-
	14 Jun 1970
Col. Clarence E.	15 Jun 1970-
Anderson, Jr.	10 Dec 1970



366th Tactical Fighter Wing

Arrived at Phan Rang AB, RVN 20 March 1966; moved to Da Nang 10 October 1966. On 27 June 1972 transferred to Takhli AB, Thailand. On 1 November 1972 transferred to Mt. Home AFB, ID.

Col. George S. Weart 9 Oct 1966
Col. Allan P. Rankin 10 Oct 1966-
19 Mar 1967
Col. Jones E. Bolt. 20 Mar 1967-
26 May 1967
Col. Robert W. 27 May 1967-
Maloy 18 Dec 1967
Col. Clifford H. 19 Dec 1967-
Meier 16 Jan 1968
Col. Paul C. Watson 17 Jan 1968-
2 Jan 1969
Col. (Later BG) John 3 Jan 1969-
W. Roberts 30 Sep 1969
Col. Joseph C. 1 Oct 1969-
Secino 18 Sep 1970
Col. Daniel C. 19 Sep 1970-
Perry 17 Feb 1971
Col. John R. 18 Feb 1971-
Spalding, Jr. 6 Jul 1971
Col. Julian D. 7 Jul 1971-
Sawyer 21 Mar 1972
Col. George W. 22 Mar 1972-
Rutter

374th Troop Carrier Wing

Organized 8 August 1966. Redesignated 374th Tactical Airlift Wing 1 August 1967. Based at Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan.

Col. John R. Neal 8 Aug 1966-
15 Jun 1967
Col. Russell D. 16 Jun 1967-
Crane 24 Jan 1969
Col. (Later BG) Kelton 25 Jan 1969-
M. Farris 10 Jul 1970
Col. Noble F. 11 Jul 1970-
Greenhill, Jr. 31 May 1971
Col. Andrew P. 1 Jun 1971-
losue 17 May 1973
Col. James I. 18 May 1973-
Baginski

376th Strategic Wing

Activated 1 April 1970 at Kadena AB, Okinawa. Replaced 4252d Strategic Wing.

Brig. Gen. Alan G. 1 Apr 1970-
Edmunds 1 Sep 1970
Col. Jack A. 2 Sep 1970-
Weyant 30 Aug 1972
Col. Dudley G. 30 Aug 1972-
Kavanaugh 9 Sep 1974
Col. Raymond L. 10 Sep 1974-
Horvath 30 Sep 1977

388th Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized at Korat AB, Thailand, 8 April 1966; replaced 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Col. Monroe S. 8 Apr 1966-
Sams Aug 1966
Brig. Gen William S. Aug 1966-
Chairsell 31 Jul 1967
Col. Edward B. 1 Aug 1967-
Burdett 17 Nov 1967
Col. Jack C. 18 Nov 1967-
Berger 21 Nov 1967
Col. Neil J. 22 Nov 1967-
Graham 18 Jan 1968
Col. Norman P. 19 Jan 1968-
Phillips 23 Jun 1968
Col. Paul P. 24 Jun 1968-
Douglas, Jr. 14 Dec 1968
Col. Allen K. 15 Dec 1968-
McDonald 10 Jun 1969
Col. John A. Nelson 11 Jun 1969-
4 Dec 1969
Col. James M. 5 Dec 1969-
Breedlove 29 Jun 1970
Col. Ivan H. 30 Jun 1970-
Dethman 31 Jul 1970
Col. Irby B. 1 Aug 1970-
Jarvis, Jr. 25 Jul 1971
Col. Webb 26 Jul 1971-
Thompson 14 Dec 1971
Col. Stanley M. 15 Dec 1971-
Umstead, Jr. 4 Aug 1972
Col. Richard E. 5 Aug 1972-
Merkling 24 Jan 1973

Col. Mele 25 Jan 1973-
 Vojvodich, Jr. 30 Jun 1973
 Col. Robert K. 1 Jul 1973
 Crouch

405th Tactical Fighter Wing

Activated 9 April 1959 at Clark AB, Philippines.

Col. Edward P. 5 Feb 1968-
 McNeff 9 Jan 1970
 Col. Walter J. 10 Jan 1970
 Brown 31 May 1971
 Col. James E. 1 Jun 1971-
 Tilton 31 Dec 1971
 Col. John R. Geyer 1 Jan 1972-
 5 Jun 1972
 Col. Henry C. 6 Jun 1972-
 Gordon Mar 1973

432d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing

Organized at Udorn AB, Thailand, 18 September 1966.

Col. Robert W. 18 Sep 1966-
 Shick 17 Sep 1967
 Col. Victor N. 18 Sep 1967-
 Cabas 3 Sep 1968
 Col. Wendell L. 4 Sep 1968-
 Bevan, Jr. 6 Jun 1969
 Col. Darrell S. 7 Jun 1969-
 Cramer 27 Jul 1970
 Col. David S. 28 Jul 1970-
 Mellish 25 Nov 1970
 Col. Lloyd R. 26 Nov 1970-
 Leavitt, Jr. 2 Apr 1971
 Col. Lyle E. Mann 3 Apr 1971-
 28 Oct 1971
 Col. Charles A. 29 Oct 1971-
 Gabriel 14 Jun 1972
 Col. Scott G. Smith 15 Jun 1972-
 18 Mar 1973
 Col. Robert W. 19 Mar 1973-
 Clement



460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing

Organized at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, 18 February 1966. Inactivated 31 August 1971.

Col. Edward H. 18 Feb 1966-
 Taylor Jan 1967
 Col. Robert G. Jan 1967-
 Williams 20 Dec 1967
 Brig. Gen. Robert J. 21 Dec 1967-
 Holbury 7 Jul 1968
 Col. Leslie J. 8 Jul 1968-
 Westberg 27 May 1969
 Col. Hal L. 28 May 1969-
 Fitzpatrick 20 Jun 1969
 Col. Harry M. 21 Jun 1969-
 Chapman 30 Apr 1970
 Col. James E. 1 May 1970-
 Tilton 14 Apr 1971
 Col. Dale L. 15 Apr 1971-
 Flowers 31 Jul 1971
 Col. Jerome F. 1 Aug 1971-
 O'Malley 31 Aug 1971

463d Troop Carrier Wing

Constituted 463d Troop Carrier Wing (M), 1 December 1952. Redesignated Troop Carrier Wing (Assault), 1 October 1962; Troop Carrier Wing (M), 15 May 1965; Troop Carrier Wing, 8 December 1965; 463d Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 August 1967. Inactivated at Clark AB, Philippines, 31 December 1971.

Col. Arthur E. 17 Oct 1964-
 Aenchbacher 6 Nov 1966
 Col. Lopez J. 7 Nov 1966-
 Mantoux 6 Dec 1967
 Col. Thomas A. 7 Dec 1967-
 Twomey 11 Apr 1968
 Col. Marion F. 12 Apr 1968-
 Caruthers 8 May 1969
 Col. Charles S. 9 May 1969-
 Wolfe 1 Jul 1970
 Col. John R. Geyer 2 Jul 1970-
 1 Sep 1971
 Col. Stewart Young 2 Sep 1971-
 31 Dec 1971

483d Tactical Airlift Wing

Organized at Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN, 15 October 1966, as 483d Troop Carrier Wing. Inactivated May 1972.

Col. Paul J. Mascot	4 Nov 1966- 7 Oct 1967
Col. William H. Mason	8 Oct 1967- 29 Sep 1968
Col. Wilbert Turk	30 Sep 1968- 3 Sep 1969
Col. Keith L. Christensen	4 Sep 1969- 22 Mar 1970
Col. Abbott C. Greenleaf	23 Mar 1970- 10 Apr 1971
Col. Rodney H. Newbold	11 Apr 1971- 24 Feb 1972
Col. Duane H. Erickson	25 Feb 1972- 15 May 1972

553d Reconnaissance Wing

Based at Korat AB, Thailand, 31 October 1967. Inactivated 15 December 1970.

Col. Gus Weiser	31 Oct 1967- 30 Jun 1968
Col. John W. Emis	1 Jul 1968- 7 Jul 1968
Col. Henry L. Timmermans	8 Jul 1968- 31 Jun 1969
Col. Ted H. Ostendorf	1 Jul 1969- 6 Dec 1969
Col. John W. Mitchell	7 Dec 1969- 10 Dec 1970
Col. Robert A. Sloan	11 Dec 1970-

633d Special Operations Wing

Organized at Nakhon Phanom AB, Thailand, 15 July 1968. Inactivated 15 March 1970.

Col. George P. Birdsong, Jr.	15 Jul 1968- 24 Apr 1969
Col. Samuel D. Berman	25 Apr 1969- 15 Mar 1970

3960th Strategic Wing

Activated at Andersen AFB, Guam 1 April 1955, assigned to 3d Air Division. Underwent short-lived changes of designation to Air Base Wing and Combat Support Group. Inactivated 31 March 1970, replaced by 43d Strategic Wing.

Col. Edward C. Unger	Apr 1964- 21 Jul 1964
Col. Edward D. Gaitley, Jr.	22 Jul 1964- 9 Jul 1965
Col. Joseph J. Semanek	10 Jul 1965- 11 Jul 1967
Col. James M. Smith	12 Jul 1967- 6 Jul 1969
Col. Lawrence E. Stephens	7 Jul 1969- 31 Mar 1970

4133d Bombardment Wing (Prov)

Activated at Andersen AFB, Guam 1 February 1966. Turned over its combat mission to 43d Strategic Wing and inactivated on 1 July 1970.

Col. William T. Cumiskey	1 Feb 1966- 31 Mar 1966
Col. Harold J. Whiteman	1 Apr 1966- 12 Jun 1966
Col. Albert H. Schneider	13 Jun 1966- 20 Sep 1966
Col. Willard A. Beauchamp	21 Sep 1966- 27 Sep 1966
Col. Earl L. Johnson	28 Sep 1966- 28 Feb 1967
Col. Mitchell A. Cobeaga	1 Mar 1967- 30 Oct 1967
Col. Robert E. Brofft	31 Oct 1967- 28 Mar 1968
Col. Madison M. McBrayer	29 Mar 1968- 31 Aug 1968
Col. Robert E. Blauw	1 Sep 1968- 25 Sep 1968
Col. Robert E. Brofft	26 Sep 1968- 20 Mar 1969

Col. Robert E. 21 Mar 1969
 Blauw 19 Sep 1969
 Col. Raymond P. 20 Sep 1969
 Lowman 29 Sep 1969
 Col. Howard P. 30 Sep 1969
 McClain 24 Mar 1970
 Col. Harold E. 25 Mar 1970
 Ottoway Jun 1970
 Col. William P. Jun 1970-
 Armstrong 1 Jul 1970

4252d Strategic Wing

Organized and activated, 12 January 1965, at Kadena AB, Okinawa. Inactivated, 1 April 1970. Replaced by 376th Strategic Wing.

Col. Holly W. 12 Jan 1965-
 Anderson (Acting) 17 Feb 1965
 Col. (Later, Brig. Gen.) ... 18 Feb 1965-
 Morgan S. Tyler, Jr. 18 Jul 1967
 Col. (Later, Brig. Gen.) 19 Jul 1967-
 Eugene A. Stalzer 3 Aug 1969
 Brig. Gen. Alan C. 4 Aug 1969-
 Edmunds 31 Mar 1970

4258th Strategic Wing

Activated at U-Tapao AB, Thailand, 2 June 1966 to 1 April 1970. Replaced by 307th Strategic Wing.

Capt. Ralph W. 2 Jun 1966-
 Ingram 20 Jul 1966
 Col. John W. Farrar 21 Jul 1966-
 30 Jun 1967
 Col. Alex W. 1 Jul 1967-
 Talmant 4 Aug 1968
 Brig. Gen. Richard 5 Aug 1968-
 M. Hoban 10 Jul 1969
 Brig. Gen. Woodrow 11 Jul 1969-
 A. Abbott 31 Mar 1970

6234th Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized at Korat AB, Thailand, 5 April 1965. Discontinued 8 April 1966. Replaced by 388th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Col. William D. 5 Apr 1965-
 Ritchie 13 Dec 1965

Col. Monroe S. Sams 14 Dec 1965-
 8 Apr 1966

6251st Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized at Bien Hoa AB, RVN, 8 July 1965. Discontinued 18 February 1966.

Col. Philip Brooks 8 Jul 1965-
 20 Nov 1965

6252d Tactical Fighter Wing

Organized at Da Nang AB, RVN, 8 July 1965. Discontinued 8 April 1966.

Col. Franklin H. 8 Jul 1965-
 Scott 8 Apr 1966

3d Aero Rescue & Recovery Group

Organized 8 January 1966 at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN.

Col. Arthur W. 8 Jan 1966-
 Beall 31 Oct 1966
 Col. Albert P. 1 Nov 1966-
 Lovelady 5 Oct 1967
 Col. Paul E. Leske 6 Oct 1967-
 19 Sep 1968
 Col. Hollon H. 20 Sep 1968-
 Bridges 16 Jun 1969
 Col. Rayvon 17 Jun 1969-
 Burleson 16 Aug 1969
 Col. Malcolm C. 17 Aug 1969-
 Frazee 16 Jul 1970
 Col. Frederick V. 17 Jul 1970-
 Sohle, Jr. 17 Oct 1970
 Col. George C. 18 Oct 1970-
 Pinyerd Unk
 Col. Warner A. Unk-
 Britton 12 Jan 1972
 Col. Cecil N. 13 Jan 1972-
 Muirhead, Jr. Unk
 Col. Herbert R. Unk-
 Zehnder 16 Dec 1973
 Col. Richard F. 17 Dec 1973-
 Burdett Unk

315th Troop Carrier Group

Organized at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, 8 December 1962. Redesignated 315th Air Commando Group, 8 March 1965. Inactivated 8 March 1966.

Col. Thomas B. Kennedy Mid-June 1964-14 Jun 1965
Col. David T. Fleming 15 Jul 1965-22 Jun 1966
Col. George L. Hannah, Jr. 23 Jun 1966-8 Mar 1966

504th Tactical Air Support Group

Organized at Bien Hoa AB, RVN, 8 December 1966. Inactivated at Tan Son Nhut, 15 March 1972.

Col. Carl E. Taylor 8 Dec 1966-5 Mar 1967
Col. Clyde W. Strain 6 Mar 1967-22 Nov 1967
Col. James M. Fogle 23 Nov 1967-7 Mar 1968
Col. Robert L. Herman 8 Mar 1968-3 May 1968
Col. William I. Williams 4 May 1968-26 Mar 1969
Col. Andrew J. Chapman 27 Mar 1969-11 Feb 1970
Col. Guy E. Hairston, Jr. 12 Feb 1970-14 Oct 1970
Col. Andrew P. Iosue 15 Oct 1970-23 Feb 1971
Col. Fleetwood Pride, Jr. 24 Feb 1971-10 Jun 1971
Col. Patrick G. Long 11 Jun 1971-15 Mar 1972

505th Tactical Control Group

Activated, 8 November 1965 at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN. Inactivated 26 February 1973.

Col. Charles L. Daniel 8 Nov 1965-
Unk

Col. James L. Price Jan 1967-15 May 1967
Col. Delbert R. Smyth 16 May 1967-17 Apr 1968
Col. Emanuel A. Pelaez 18 Apr 1968-6 Apr 1969
Col. Lewis R. Smith 7 Apr 1969-27 Mar 1970
Col. William P. Lehman 28 Mar 1970-23 Jul 1971
Col. Paul L. Park 24 Jul 1971-
Unk
Col. Robert A. Coffin Unk-28 Feb 1973

552d Airborne Early Warning Task Force

552d Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing (Air Defense Command), designated Big Eye Task Force, 4 April 1965. Redesignated College Eye Task Force, 1 March 1967.

Col. Gus Weiser 4 Apr 1965-30 Jun 1965
Col. James Q. McCall 1 Jul 1965-27 Jul 1966
Lt. Col. Waldo W. Peck 28 Jul 1966-14 Aug 1967
Lt. Col. Harold T. Knutty 15 Aug 1967-25 Sep 1967
Col. Ross Davidson 26 Sep 1967-12 Sep 1968
Col. James L. McCall 13 Sep 1968-8 Sep 1969
Col. Floyd M. McAllister 9 Sep 1969-22 Sep 1970
Col. Milton E. McEwen 23 Sep 1970-(1972)
Lt. Col. Elliott Powers (1972-1973)
Col. Harold P. Knutty (Interim) (1973)
Col. Richard E. Williams (1973)

1964th Communications Group

Organized at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, 1 May 1962, as 1964th Communications

Squadron. Redesignated 1964th Communications Group on 1 October 1962. Moved to Ramstein AB, FRG, on 27 March 1973.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Keyte 1 May 1962-19 Apr 1963
 Lt. Col. John M. O'Reilly 20 Apr 1963-27 Oct 1963
 Col. Gilbert H. Bertie 28 Oct 1963-1 Dec 1964
 Col. Erwin F. Matelski 2 Dec 1964-6 Jan 1965
 Col. Lewis L. Bradley, Jr. 7 Jan 1965-19 Jan 1966
 Col. Charles Y. Shultz, Jr. 20 Jan 1966-9 Dec 1966
 Col. Louis A. Raeke, Jr. 10 Dec 1966-31 Aug 1967
 Col. James M. Neff 1 Sep 1967-1 Aug 1968
 Col. Howard R. McKendrick 2 Aug 1968-8 Jul 1969
 Col. Ivey J. Lewis 9 Jul 1969-14 Mar 1970
 Col. Joseph H. Weeks 15 Mar 1970-5 Jul 1970
 Col. Robert E. Sadler 6 Jul 1970-Apr 1971
 Col. Forrest K. Looney Apr 1971-1972

1974th Communications Group

Organized at Korat AB, Thailand, 1 November 1965. Moved to Udorn AB, Thailand, on 1 April 1968.

Lt. Col. Charles R. McMahan 1 Nov 1965-20 Dec 1965
 Lt. Col. Dirk Duys 21 Dec 1965-28 Jan 1966
 Col. George C. Kougias 29 Jan 1966-6 Jan 1967
 Lt. Col. Joseph A. Bailey 7 Jan 1967-13 Jan 1967
 Col. Albert J. Brown 14 Jan 1967-11 Dec 1967
 Col. Robert P. Baumann, Jr. 12 Dec 1967-14 Nov 1968
 Col. Joseph H. Weeks 15 Nov 1968-21 Aug 1969
 Col. Robert A. Bourcy 22 Aug 1969-24 Jul 1970
 Col. John M. Bolger 25 Jul 1970-6 Jul 1971
 Col. William R. Yost 7 Jul 1971-2 Jul 1972
 Col. Theodore F. DeMuro 3 Jul 1972-19 Jun 1973
 Col. Richard A. Goldfogle 20 Jun 1973-6 Jun 1974
 Col. Ben P. Lee 7 Jun 1974-



Air Force Recipients of the Medal of Honor

On 10 March 1966, Major Bernard F. Fisher took off in an A-1E Skyraider from Pleiku, South Vietnam, to fly a routine bombing and strafing mission. Soon after taking off, he was diverted to Ashau where a Special Forces camp was under heavy attack by 2,000 North Vietnamese troops.

Arriving over the area, Major Fisher found four Skyraiders, which had also been diverted, circling over a dense cloud cover. He led his wing man and two of the other A-1E's down through a hole in the overcast. As they flew down a valley leading to the camp, the pilots were informed that it was being overrun by the enemy.

The A-1E's were making strafing runs against the attacking troops when one of the aircraft was hit by ground fire. The pilot crashlanded on the airstrip at the camp, and ran from his burning plane to seek refuge down an embankment. With enemy troops all around him, it appeared certain that he would be captured before a rescue helicopter could reach him.

Major Fisher, quickly realizing his fellow pilot's predicament, made a perilous landing on the airstrip. The steel planking runway was torn up and littered with debris. As he taxied under fire, Major Fisher saw the downed pilot dashing from his hiding place. The A-1E stopped and he clambered aboard. Dodging shell holes and debris, Major Fisher took off safely despite many hits on his aircraft by small arms fire.

The Medal of Honor awarded to Major Fisher for this daring rescue was presented to him by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House on 19 March 1967.



Major Bernard F. Fisher



Captain Hilliard A. Wilbanks

On 24 February 1967, Captain Hilliard A. Wilbanks, a forward air controller, was dispatched in an unarmed O-1 Bird Dog aircraft to assist in an operation against enemy forces attacking near Dalat, South Vietnam.

While flying reconnaissance for a South Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, Captain Wilbanks discovered hostile units concealed on two hilltops. He promptly called in helicopter gunships by radio and alerted the Rangers advancing into the area.

Realizing that their ambush was being compromised, the enemy reacted with a barrage from mortars, machine guns, and automatic weapons. Captain Wilbanks received much of this fire as he marked the enemy positions with white phosphorus rockets for the gunships. He himself opened fire with an M-16 rifle that he carried in his plane when he spotted forward Ranger squads that were pinned down and about to be overrun. Firing out of the side window of his O-1, Captain Wilbanks distracted the enemy troops and momentarily slowed their advance.

The outnumbered Rangers were afforded a chance to withdraw as the attackers diverted their fire against the low-flying aircraft. Despite the hits being scored on his plane, Captain Wilbanks persisted in covering the withdrawal. On his third pass, he was severely wounded and crashed in the battle area. The Rangers managed to rescue Captain Wilbanks from the wreckage of his plane, but he died while being evacuated to a hospital.

For his heroic support of the Rangers, Captain Wilbanks was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The presentation was made to his widow by Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. on 24 January 1968.

On 10 March 1967, Captain Dethlefsen flew on a mission against the steel works at Thai Nguyen some fifty miles north of Hanoi, North Vietnam, with three other F-105 Thunderchief pilots. Their task was to go in ahead of a strike force of fighter-bombers and attack the surface-to-air missile (SAM) complex, antiaircraft guns, and automatic weapons ringing the target.

On the first pass against these defenses the F-105 flight leader was shot down and his wing man was forced to withdraw with severe battle damage. Captain Dethlefsen decided to continue the attack on his own. As he maneuvered, he evaded an intercepting MIG-21 by flying into heavy enemy antiaircraft fire but his F-105 was seriously damaged.

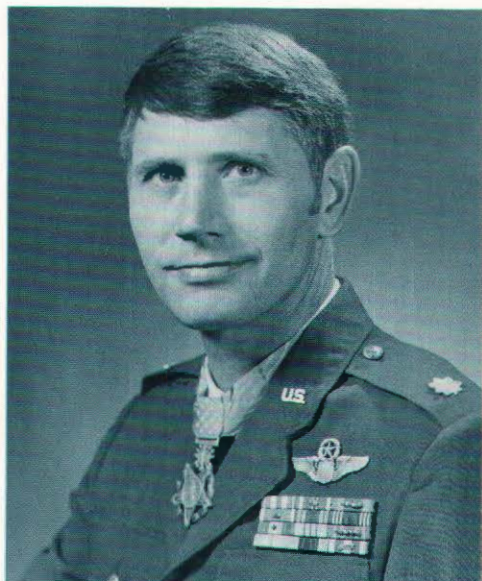
Captain Dethlefsen nonetheless made repeated strikes with his wing man against the defense positions, even after they became obscured by the smoke and dust of the exploding bombs being dropped by the fighter-bombers. The bombing completed, the strike force withdrew but the two F-105's remained over the target.

Evading a second MIG, Captain Dethlefsen was diving through the obscuring haze to locate the missile complex when he was again hit by flak. Making a final dive bombing attack and a strafing run with 20-mm cannon fire, Captain Dethlefsen effectively destroyed two missile sites before leaving for home in his battered F-105

For this action, Captain Dethlefsen was awarded the Medal of Honor. The presentation was made at the White House by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 1 February 1968.



Captain Merlyn H. Dethlefsen



Major Leo K. Thorsness

On 19 April 1967, Major Leo K. Thorsness piloted an F-105 Thunderchief on a combat mission over North Vietnam. He was flying with a strike force sent out to suppress surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites.

Acting with his electronic warfare officer, Major Thorsness first detected one site as it was about to launch an attack and destroyed it with a Shrike missile. Almost immediately, another site was discovered. Major Thorsness flew through heavy anti-aircraft fire to score direct hits on the site with cluster bombs.

On this second strike Major Thorsness' wingman was hit and the two

crew members bailed out. As he circled the descending parachutes, a MIG-17 appeared in the area. Major Thorsness promptly dived but his shots missed the enemy fighter. Attacking again, he closed rapidly to pour 20-mm cannon fire into the MIG. Just as he pulled up sharply to avoid a collision, he saw the fighter go into a tight spin and crash.

Major Thorsness then had to leave because he was low on fuel. While searching for a KC-135 Stratotanker, he learned from the Search and Rescue Center that two helicopters were waiting for an escort before attempting a rescue of the downed crew. Major Thorsness flew back alone, spotting four MIG-17's as he neared the bailout area. He immediately attacked and damaged one of the enemy aircraft with a long burst of cannon fire. He drew the others away by diving and flying close to the ground until they gave up pursuit.

Although now critically short of fuel, Major Thorsness advised another F-105 to fly to the nearest tanker when the crew reported that it would have to bail out unless their aircraft could be quickly refueled. He then diverted to a forward base where he landed with only a 10-minute supply of fuel remaining.

Major Thorsness was awarded the Medal of Honor for his deeds of extraordinary heroism on this mission. Only 11 days later he was shot down over North Vietnam and held prisoner for nearly 6 years. Following his release, Major Thorsness received this highest decoration for valor from President Richard M. Nixon at the White House on 15 October 1973.

Shortly before midnight on November 8, 1967, Captain Gerald O. Young, the commander of a HH-3E rescue helicopter, was dispatched to evacuate the survivors of a U.S. Army reconnaissance team. The soldiers were surrounded and about to be captured in enemy-held territory in the Laotian Panhandle. Two helicopters had already been lost trying to rescue them.

Captain Young and his crew were flying as backup for another helicopter on this night operation. The first aircraft managed to pick up three members of the team before extensive battle damage forced it to withdraw. The commander of the craft advised Captain Young that intense enemy fire made the rescue of two soldiers left behind all but impossible. Accompanying gunships were also running low on fuel and ammunition.

Intent on completing the evacuation, Captain Young guided his helicopter down into the flare-lit darkness, touching down on a slope not far from the two soldiers. Both wounded, they were loaded aboard under heavy attack with enemy troops closing in. As it moved forward for takeoff, the helicopter was fired on at point blank range. It plunged downward and crashed in flames in an upside down position.

Captain Young dropped out of a cockpit window and rolled down the slope, his parachute afire. Although badly burned, he beat out the flames and gave aid to another crew member, a sergeant, who had also escaped. He then tried to reach the burning helicopter but was driven back by the intense heat. When enemy troops approached the crash scene, he led them away from the wounded sergeant hidden in the underbrush.

At dawn, Captain Young reached a clearing and helped to pinpoint his



Captain Gerald O. Young

position for searching aircraft with flares and radio signals, but he broke contact when he realized that he was being used as bait by enemy gunners in the area. He again concealed himself in the dense foliage and continued to evade throughout the day despite the mounting pain of his burns. After 17 hours, Captain Young was finally rescued by a helicopter that he attracted with his radio and by firing tracers with his revolver. He then immediately informed his rescuers of the position of his fellow crew member.

For his heroism in this action, Captain Young was awarded the Medal of Honor. It was presented to him by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 14 May 1968 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.



Lieutenant Colonel Joe M. Jackson

On 12 May 1968, Lieutenant Colonel Joe M. Jackson, commander of an unarmed C-123 transport aircraft, flew from Da Nang to Kham Duc, South Vietnam, on an emergency mission. A Special Forces camp at Kham Duc was being overrun by enemy forces. They had taken the forward outpost and were in complete control of the airstrip. Located in a valley, the airstrip was surrounded on all sides by mountainous terrain.

While orbiting over the battle area Colonel Jackson learned by radio that in the evacuation of the camp by air a three-man Combat Control Team had inadvertently been left behind. Another C-123 transport was ahead of Colonel Jackson in the traffic pattern. The aircraft landed successfully on the airstrip littered with debris, including a wrecked helicopter, but failed to evacuate the team.

Colonel Jackson then descended rapidly from 9,000 feet and made an assault landing on the strip under heavy enemy fire. After he stopped, a rocket fell in front of the transport. A dud, it bounced harmlessly toward the nose of the plane without exploding. Colonel Jackson had landed near the spot where the three men had been reported to be hiding. With the team safely on board, he quickly took off under a mortar barrage and intense automatic weapons fire from the surrounding hills. After landing at Da Nang the crew found that not a single bullet had touched their aircraft during the entire flight.

Colonel Jackson was awarded the Medal of Honor for rescuing the three-man team. The presentation was made by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House on 16 January 1969.

On 1 September 1968 Lieutenant Colonel William A. Jones, III, led a flight of four A-1H Skyraider aircraft on an escort mission. The flight was accompanying two helicopters sent out to rescue the pilot of an F-4 Phantom downed about twenty miles northwest of Dong Hoi, North Vietnam.

Arriving over the area, Colonel Jones made several low passes across a valley to find the pilot and pinpoint enemy gun positions. On one pass he felt an explosion beneath his aircraft and his cockpit was filled with smoke. After the smoke cleared, he continued his search and finally spotted the downed pilot near a towering rock formation. Enemy gunners occupying a position near the top of the formation opened fire on the propeller-driven Skyraider.

Colonel Jones realized that the gun position had to be destroyed before a rescue could be made and that strikes against it would endanger the survivor unless his location was known. He himself attacked with cannon and rocket fire while relaying the pilot's location by radio. While making his second pass, Colonel Jones' aircraft was hit and his cockpit was set ablaze. He sought to eject but the damaged extraction system only jettisoned the canopy without pulling him from the cockpit. At the same time his transmissions to the rescue force were being blocked by repeated calls from other aircraft that he bail out.

Before the fire died out Colonel Jones was badly burned and his radio transmitters were disabled. He chose to return to base to report the downed pilot's exact location. Despite his se-



Lieutenant Colonel William A. Jones, III

vere burns he landed his damaged aircraft safely, and insisted on passing on the vital information before receiving medical treatment. The downed pilot was rescued later that day.

The Medal of Honor was awarded to Colonel Jones for his selfless heroism, but he died in an aircraft accident in the United States before it could be presented to him. His widow received the decoration from President Richard M. Nixon at the White House on 6 August 1970.



First Lieutenant James P. Fleming

On 26 November 1968, First Lieutenant James P. Fleming and four other UH-1F helicopter pilots were returning to their base at Duc Co, South Vietnam, for refueling and rearming when an emergency call for help was received from a Special Forces reconnaissance team.

The home bound force—two gunships and three transport helicopters—immediately changed course and sped to the area without refueling. The

six-man Special Forces team was pinned down by a large, hostile force not far from a river bank. As the gunships descended to attack the enemy positions, one was hit and downed. The remaining gunship made several passes, firing away with its miniguns, but the intense return fire from enemy machine guns continued. Low on fuel, the helicopters were being forced to leave and return to base.

Lieutenant Fleming, piloting the only remaining transport helicopter, descended over the river to evacuate the team. Unable to land because of the dense foliage, he hovered just above the river with his landing skids braced against the bank. The lone gunship continued its strafing runs, but heavy enemy fire prevented the team from reaching the helicopter. The leader advised Lieutenant Fleming by radio to withdraw.

After pulling away, Lieutenant Fleming decided to make another rescue attempt before completely exhausting his fuel. He dropped down to the same spot and found that the team had managed to move closer to the river bank. The men dashed out and clambered aboard as bullets pierced the air, some smashing into the helicopter. The rescue craft and the gunship then returned safely to Duc Co, arriving with their fuel tanks nearly empty.

For this miraculous rescue, in which not a single life was lost, Lieutenant Fleming was awarded the Medal of Honor. He received this highest decoration for valor at the White House from President Richard M. Nixon on 14 May 1970.

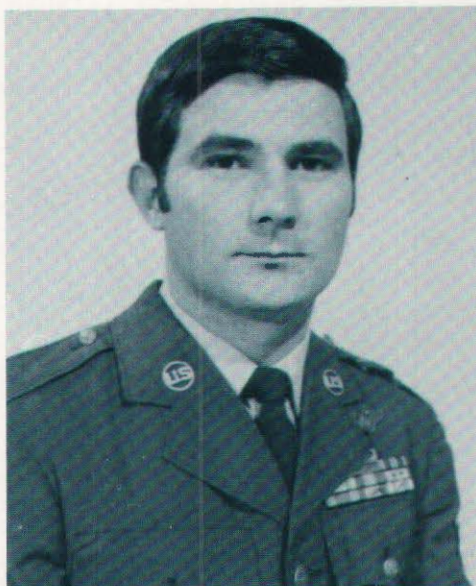
On 24 February 1969, Airman First Class John L. Levitow flew on a combat air patrol over South Vietnam as the loadmaster of an AC-47 Dragonship. The gunship was patrolling in the vicinity of Tan Son Nhut, when the Army Post at nearby Long Binh came under mortar attack. The aircraft was diverted to aid in the defense of the post.

Firing its miniguns at the enemy, the gunship knocked out two mortar positions, but further firings were observed a few kilometers away. As the AC-47 flew in that direction, a mortar shell fell on the top of its right wing. A brilliant explosion shook the aircraft violently and the fuselage was riddled by thousands of shell fragments.

Airman Levitow and another crew member were standing near the open cargo door at that moment, dropping parachute illumination flares. The explosion knocked both of them to the floor, and a flare that they were handling was tossed inside the cargo compartment. Spewing toxic smoke, the activated magnesium flare was due to separate explosively from its canister and ignite within seconds.

Although stunned and wounded by shrapnel, Airman Levitow moved forward in the compartment and flung himself on the flare to keep it from rolling. He then dragged himself and the flare back toward the cargo door and tossed it out. The flare ignited just as it cleared the aircraft.

Airman Levitow was awarded the Medal of Honor for his selfless heroism that saved his fellow crew members and the gunship. The presentation was made by President Richard M. Nixon at the White House on 14 May 1970.



Airman First Class John L. Levitow



Captain Steven L. Bennett

On 29 June 1972, Captain Steven L. Bennett, a forward air controller, was flying an OV-10 Bronco on an artillery adjustment mission near Quang Tri City, South Vietnam. A Marine gunfire spotter occupied the rear seat of the lightly armed reconnaissance aircraft.

After controlling gunfire from U.S. naval vessels off shore and directing air strikes against enemy positions for approximately 3 hours, Captain Bennett received an urgent call for assistance. A small South Vietnamese unit was about to be attacked by a much larger enemy force. Without immediate help, the unit was certain to be overrun. Unfortunately, there were no friendly fighters left in the area, and supporting naval gunfire would have endangered the South Vietnamese.

They were between the coast and the enemy.

Captain Bennett decided to strafe the advancing soldiers. Since they were North Vietnamese regulars, equipped with heat-seeking SAM 7 missiles, the risks in making a low-level attack were great. Captain Bennett nonetheless zoomed down and opened fire with his four small machine guns. The troops scattered and began to fall back under repeated strafing.

As the twin-boomed Bronco pulled up from its fifth attack, a missile rose up from behind and struck the plane's left engine. The explosion set the engine on fire and knocked the left landing gear from its stowed position, leaving it hanging down. The canopies over the two airmen were pierced by fragments.

Captain Bennett veered southward to find a field for an emergency landing. As the fire in the engine continued to spread, he was urged by the pilot of an escorting OV-10 to eject. The wing was in danger of exploding. He then learned that his observer's parachute had been shredded by fragments in the explosion.

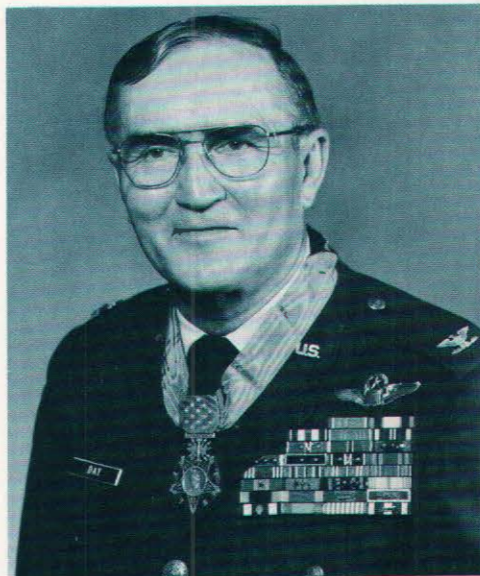
Captain Bennett elected to ditch in the Gulf of Tonkin, although he knew that his cockpit area would very likely break up on impact. No pilot had ever survived an OV-10 ditching. As he touched down, the extended landing gear dug into the water. The Bronco spun to the left and flipped over nose down into the sea. His Marine companion managed to escape, but Captain Bennett, trapped in his smashed cockpit, sank with the plane. His body was recovered the next day.

For sacrificing his life, Captain Bennett was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The decoration was presented to his widow by Vice President Gerald R. Ford on 8 August 1974.

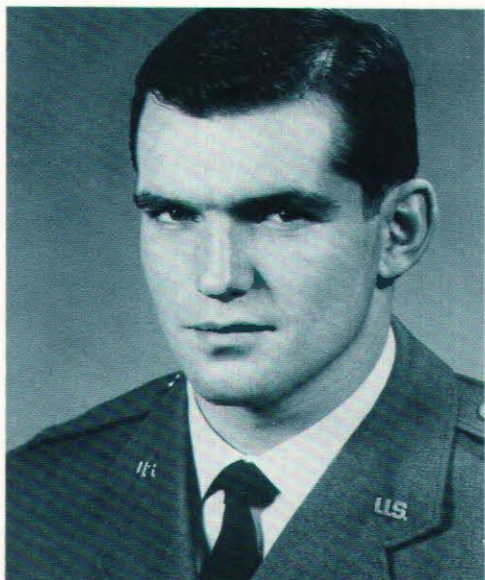
On 26 August 1967, Major Day was forced to eject from his aircraft over North Vietnam when it was hit by ground fire. His right arm was broken in three places, and his left knee was badly sprained. He was immediately captured by hostile forces and taken to a prison camp where he was interrogated and severely tortured. After causing the guards to relax their vigilance, Major Day escaped into the jungle and began the trek toward South Vietnam. Despite injuries inflicted by fragments of a bomb or rocket, he continued southward surviving on only a few berries and uncooked frogs. He successfully evaded enemy patrols and reached the Ben Hai River where he encountered United States artillery barrages. With the aid of a bamboo log float, Major Day swam across the river and entered the demilitarized zone.

Due to delirium, he lost his sense of direction and wandered aimlessly for several days. After a number of unsuccessful attempts to signal United States aircraft, he was ambushed and recaptured by the Viet Cong, sustaining gunshot wounds to his left hand and thigh. He was returned to the prison from which he had escaped and later was moved to Hanoi after giving his captors false information to questions put before him. Physically, Major Day was totally debilitated and unable to perform even the simplest task for himself. Despite his many injuries, he continued to offer maximum resistance. His personal bravery in the face of deadly enemy pressure was significant in saving the lives of fellow aviators who were still flying against the enemy.

Major Day continued in internment by the North Vietnamese until his release on 14 March 1973. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his personal bravery by President Gerald R. Ford on 4 March 1976.



Major George E. Day



Captain Lance P. Sijan

On 9 November 1967, while on a flight over North Vietnam, Captain Sijan ejected from his disabled aircraft and successfully evaded capture for more than 6 weeks. During this time, he was seriously injured and suffered from shock and extreme weight loss due to lack of food. After being captured by North Vietnamese soldiers, Captain Sijan was taken to a holding point for subsequent transfer to a Prisoner of War camp. In his emaciated and crippled condition, he overpowered one of his guards and crawled into the jungle, only to be recaptured after several hours. He was then transferred to another prison camp where he was kept in solitary confinement and interrogated at length.

During his interrogation, he was severely tortured; however, he did not divulge any information to his captors. Captain Sijan lapsed into delirium and was placed in the care of another prisoner, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Craner, to care for him. During Captain Sijan's intermittent periods of consciousness until his death, he never complained of his physical condition and, on several occasions, spoke of future escape attempts. Due to his extreme weakness, adverse living conditions, insufficient clothing, and an inadequate diet, Captain Sijan contracted pneumonia on 18 January 1968. Removed from his cell on 21 January 1968, he died at the Hoa Lo prison camp, as reported by his Vietnamese captors.

The Medal of Honor was presented to his parents on 4 March 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford.

Vietnam War Aces



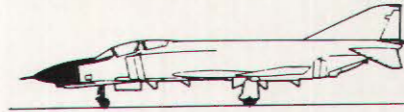
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Lt. Randy Cunningham,
USN
5



Lt. William Driscoll,
USN
5



Capt. Richard S. Ritchie,
USAF
5

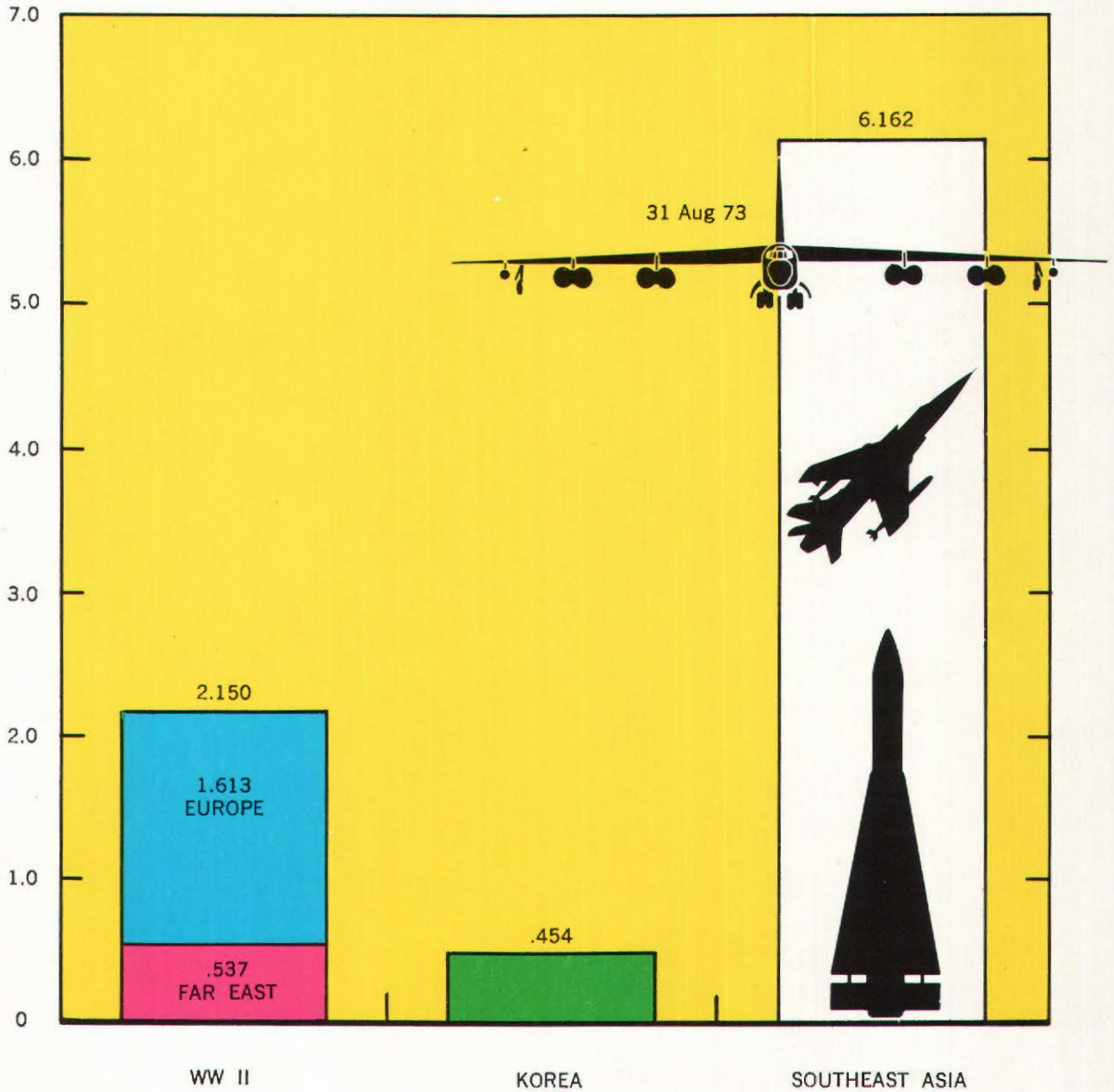


Capt. Jeffrey S. Feinstein,
USAF
5

Appendix IV **USAF Air Munitions Consumption**
WW II, Korea, and Southeast Asia

(Cumulative through period shown)




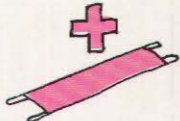


Million Tons



Source: USAF Southeast Asia Summary, 28 Sep. 73, p. 18

U.S. Air Force Losses – Cumulative



<p>AIRCRAFT ¹ (Combat and Operational Causes)</p> <p>2,257</p> 	<p>COST (Millions)</p> <p>3,129.9</p> 
<p>CASUALTIES ²</p> <p>Deaths 2,118</p> 	<p>Wounded 3,460</p> 
<p>Missing 599</p> 	<p>POW's Returned to Military Control 368</p> 

¹ Losses From February 1962 Through 31 August 1973

² From January 1962 Through 25 August 1973

Sources: USAF Southeast Asia Summary, 28 Sep 73, p. 18
Southeast Asia Review, Final Issue, 31 May 74, pp. 12, 25



Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

AAA	antiaircraft artillery	FAC	forward air controller
AB	air base		
AD	air division	GPES	Ground Proximity Extraction System
ADVON	advanced echelon		
AFB	Air Force Base	I&C	installation and checkout
AFLC	Air Force Logistics Command	ICC	International Control Commission
AFROTC	Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps	IFF/SIF	Identification Friend or Foe/ Selective Identification Feature
AFSC	Air Force Systems Command		
AID	Agency for International Development	JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff (U.S.)
ALCC	Airlift Control Center	JGS	Joint General Staff (South Vietnamese)
ALO	air liaison officer		
ANG	Air National Guard	LAPES	Low-Altitude Parachute Extraction System
AOC	Air Operations Center	LBR	local base rescue
APOE	Aerial Port of Embarkation	LCM	landing craft, medium
ARVN	Army of Republic of South Vietnam	LOC	line of communication
ATRC	air traffic regulation center	LORAN	long-range electronic navigation
		LS	Lima Site - Temporary aircraft landing sites in Laos
BLU	bomb, live unit	LZ	landing zone
CAP	combat air patrol	MAAG	Military Assistance Advisory Group (U.S.)
CBU	cluster bomb unit (anti-personnel weapon)	MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (U.S.)
CCC	Combat Control Center	MAF	Marine Amphibious Force
CCK	Ching Chuan Kang (AB, Taiwan)	MAC	Military Airlift Command
CCTW	combat crew training wing	MSTS	Military Sea Transportation Service
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency (U.S.)	NCP	National Campaign Plan (South Vietnamese)
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group	NLF	National Front for the Liberation of Vietnam
CINCPAC	Commander in Chief, Pacific	NORS	not operationally ready, supply
CINCPACAF	Commander in Chief, Pacific Air Forces	NSC	National Security Council (U.S.)
COSVN	Central Office for South Vietnam (Vietnamese Communist headquarters)	NVA	North Vietnamese Army
CRAF	Civil Reserve Air Fleet	NVAF	North Vietnamese Air Force
CRP	control and reporting post		
CSAS	Common Service Airlift System	OJT	on-the-job training
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone	OSD	Office of Secretary of Defense
DASC	Direct Air Support Center	OTS	Officer Training School
DMZ	demilitarized zone		
ECM	electronic countermeasure		
ELF	electronic location finder		
EW	electronic warfare		

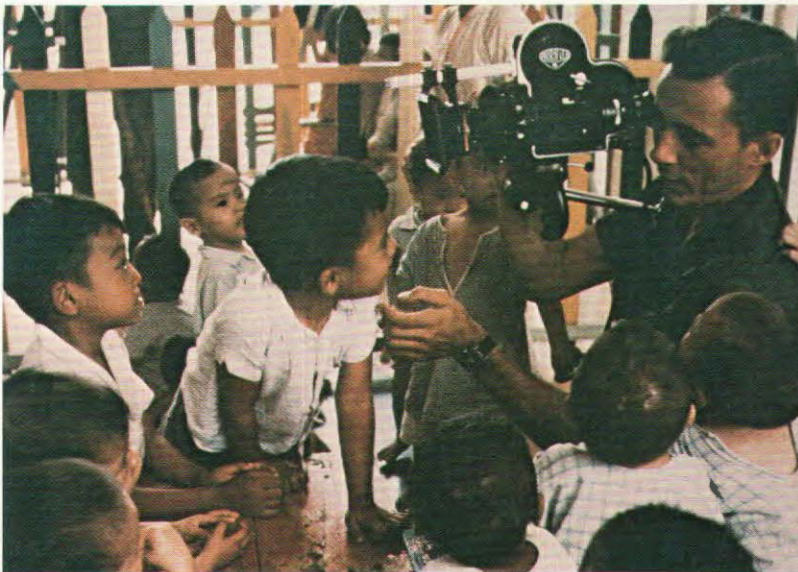
PACAF	Pacific Air Force	USAF	United States Air Force
PACOM	Pacific Command	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
PMEL	Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory	USMACV	U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
POW	prisoner of war	VNAF	Vietnamese Air Force (South Vietnam)
Prime Beef	base engineering emergency force		
R&R	rest and recuperation		
RAM	rapid area maintenance		
RAPCON	radar approach control		
RASS	rapid area supply support		
RATS	rapid area transportation support		
Recce (Recon)	reconnaissance		
Red Horse	rapid engineering deployment and heavy operational repair squadron, engineering		
RESCAP	rescue combat air patrol		
RLAF	Royal Laotian Air Force		
RLG	Royal Laotian Government		
RTU	replacement training unit		
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces		
SAC	Strategic Air Command		
SAM	surface-to-air missile		
SAR	search and rescue		
SARTAF	SAR Task Force		
SAW	special air warfare		
SEA	Southeast Asia		
SEAAS	Southeast Asia Airlift System		
SEAITACS	Southeast Asia Integrated Tactical Air Control System		
SEATO	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization		
TAC	Tactical Air Command		
tac	tactical		
TACC	Tactical Air Control Center		
TACC(NS)	Tactical Air Control Center, North Sector		
TACC(SS)	Tactical Air Control Center, South Sector		
TACS	Tactical Air Control System		
TDY	temporary duty		
TFW	tactical fighter wing		
TTF	Tanker Task Force		
USA	United States Army		

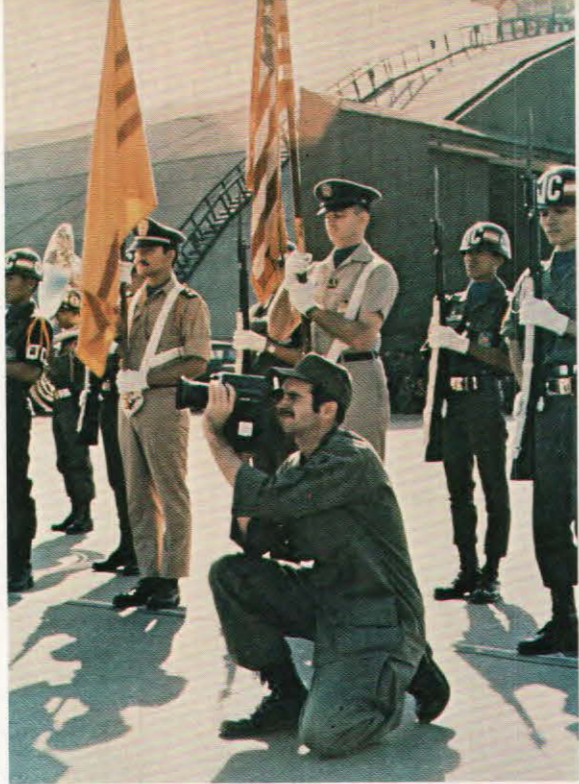


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6 (1-2), Ministère des Armées "AIR"; (3), AF; 7 (4-5, 7), AF; (6), DD Eisenhower Library; 8, source unk; 9, AF; 10, UPI; 11, JFK Library; 12-13, AF; 14, AF; 22-23, AF; 25, source unk; 26 (1), AF, (2), Dwelle; 27, AF; 30, (1), AF, (2), U.S. Army, (3) AF Art Collection; 31, (4) Dwelle; (5-7), AF; 33, Dwelle; 36, AF; 38, (1), U.S. Army; (2), AF; (3) N.G.S.; 39 (1-3), AF; 40, AF; 41, source unk; 42 (1-3), U.S. Army; (2), AF; 43, (4), U.S. Army, (5), USIA; (6-8), AF; 44, source unk; 51, AF; 54, (1), AF, (2), AF Art Collection; 55, (3-5), AF; 58, (1), U.S. Army, (2) source unk; (3), Dwelle; 59, (4) U.S. Marines, (5) source unk, (6), U.S. Army; (7-8), U.S. Army; 60, AF; 62, (1), U.S. Army, (2), AF, (3), Dwelle; 63, (4), source unk; (5-7), AF; 64, source unk; 65, AF; 66 (1), AF Art Collection, (2), U.S. Army; (3), AF; 67, (5-6), U.S. Army; (7-8), AF; 68, AF; 71, Kutyna; 72, (1-3), AF; 73, (4-7), AF; 74, AF; 75; 76, (1-2), Kutyna; (3), AF, (4), AF Art Collection; 77, (5-10), AF; 80, (1-2), AF; 81, (3-4), AF; 82, AF; 83, AF; 84, (1-3), AF; 85, (4-8), AF; 86, (1-4), AF; 87, (5-7), AF; 88-89, AF; 90, (1-2), source unk; (3-5), AF; 91, (6-8), AF; 92, AF; 94, AF; 96, (1-5), AF; 97, (1-4), AF; 98, (1-4), AF; 99, 100, AF; 102, (1), AF Art Collection; (2), AF; 103 (3-4), AF; 106, AF; 107, AF; 110, (1), source unk, (2), U.S. Army, (3), AF; 111, (4), source unk; (5), source unk; (6), AF; 112, AF; 116, (1-8), AF, 117, (3-4), AF; 118, AF; 119, AF; 120, AF; 124, (10, Capt Ray De Arrigunaga, (2) Lt Col Billy Keeler; (3), Keeler; 125, (4), AF, (5-6), Capt Donald W. Randle; (7), Keeler; 128, (1-2), Capt Keith Grimes; 129, (3-4), Keeler; (5), N.G.S.; (6) Col. John S. Wood, Jr.; (7), DOD; (8) Arrigunaga; 132, Keeler, (1-2); 133, Keeler; 134, Grimes; 135, N.G.S.; (4), Keeler; (5), Arrigunaga; 136, AF; 138 (1-2), U.S. Army, (3) AF; 144-145, U.S. Army; 146, (1), ARVN; (2), U.S. Army; (3) source unk; (4) source unk; 147, (1) AF; (2-3), source unk; 148, AF; 152-153, AF; 154-155, AF; 158-159, AF; 163-164 (1-7), AF; (8) U.S. Army; 164-165, AF; 168, AF; 172, (1-4, 7), AF; (5), N.G.S.; 173 (8-10), AF; 176, AF; 177, AF; 178 (1-3) AF; 179 (4-8), AF; 180, AF; 181 (2-3), AF; (4), U.S. Army; 182-183 (1-3), AF; 184, AF; 186, AF; 188, AF; 191, AF; 193-194, AF; 195, AF; 196, AF; 197, AF; 198-199, AF; 200, AF; 202-203, AF; 206, AF; 208, AF; 209, AF; 210, AF; 214 (1-2), AF; (3) Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical; 215, (4), Teledyne; (4-9), AF; 220, AF; 222, N.G.S.; 224, AF; 225, AF; 229, AF; 230-231, AF; 232, AF; 234, AF; 236, AF; 237, AF; 240, (1-2), AF, (3) AF Art Collection; 241, AF; 242-243, AF; 244, AF; 246, AF; 247, AF; 248, AF; 249, AF; 252, (1-2), AF; (3) Dwelle; 253, AF; 254, AF; 255 (1-2), AF; 256, AF; 260, AF; 261, AF; 266-267, AF; 269, AF; 270, AF; 274, AF; 276, AF; 277, AF; 278, AF; 279, (1-2), AF; 280 (3), AF; (4), Sgt. Arlin J. Frerich; 281, AF; 282, AF; 286-287, AF; 290-291, AF; 295, AF; 296, AF; 297, AF; 300-301, AF; 304-305,





The Scenes shown on these pages were taken in Southeast Asia by U.S. Air Force photographers serving with the 1365th Photo Squadron, 600th Photo Squadron, and 601st Photo Squadron, all assigned to the Air Force's Aerospace Audio-Visual Service, Military Airlift Command.

AF; 308, AF; 310, AF; 311, N.G.S.; 312-313, AF; 314, AF; 315 (3), AF; (4), N.G.S.; 320, AF; 322, AF Art Collection; 323, (1-2), (4), White House, (3), DOD; 324, (1) White House, (2) AF; (3) Life Magazine; (4) NBC: Huntley Brinkley Reports; (5) source unk; (6), NBC: Huntley Brinkley Reports; (7) NVN propaganda photo; 325, AF; 328 (1-7), AF; 329, (1-8), AF; 330, AF; 331, AF; 332, AF; 334, AF; 336, AF; 337, AF; 338, AF; 339, AF; 352, AF; 353, AF; 354, AF; 355, AF; 356, AF; 357, AF; 358, AF; 359, AF; 360, AF; 361, AF; 362, AF; 363, AF; 364, AF; 365, AF; 370, AF; 371, AF.



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