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From: gpaul2@ix.netcom.com
To: 109thad@airmail.net
Subject: Riggers

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From: 109thad@airmail.net (Ray Anderson)
Newsgroups: soc.history.war.vietnam
Subject: SOG Operations
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I've been researching Army "Riggers" (Air Drop personel which rigged
parachute and extraction loads to be dropped by Airplane). A few
Riggers were tied to SOG and CIA operations. While Air America was a
CIA operation I get the impression that the *SOG operations in the
north* were done by specially trained South VN Airborne troops and
pilots of Chinese descent. A different operation from CIA and Air
America in Laos. I welcome any information on SOG or CIA operations.
Especially if it concerns US ARMY Riggers.

Ray
109thad@airmail.net

Ray,

May I suggest that you read "Shadow War" re: operations in Laos. I was
a
helicopter pilot for Air America in Laos from 1970-73. As you know,
our

fixed wing operations utilized "kickers" in rigging for air drops. They were of assorted nationalities e.g. American, Filipino, Thai. I'm only slightly familiar with MACV-SOG ops, having only been involved in one in 1965. I'm nor aware of SOG having any air assets of their own. They made extensive of VNAF helicopters in Laos. Air America and associated proprietaries had pilots of Asian nationalities but I'm not aware of them being used in SOG ops. I was involved in CIA/AAM "Special Projects" in 71'-72'. Most of our work was done along the Annamite Mountains between NVN and Laos. At that time, it was my impression that SOG was doing their thing further south, between SVN and the Laotian panhandle. This was mostly HCM trail monitoring activity but we also did a few other things - phone taps, etc.

If you have any specific questions, I'll try to answer them. Much of this stuff was compartmentalized so my knowledge is pretty specific and limited.

Paul