

Ralph McGhee, 05:43 AM 1/9/97 -, Re: SOG Operations

Return-Path: <rmcgehee@igc.org>
Date: Thu, 9 Jan 1997 05:43:07 -0800 (PST)
From: Ralph McGhee <rmcgehee@igc.apc.org>
To: vietnam@panix.com
Subject: Re: SOG Operations
Cc: 109thad@airmail.net

Here are references to SOG from my data base.

Ralph McGhee
CIABASE

vietnam, 64-75 sog-80, searched for crashed aircraft as the recovery and studies div. sog-36, the airborne studies group, parachuted intel agents and psywar teams to confuse and destroy enemy troops. manning, r., (ed), (1988). war in the shadows: the vietnam experience 76

vietnam, 63-73 macv-sog, sacsa ops all plans for ops to sacsa and nsc and c-i-c pacific, office j-46 which monitored sog acts at every level. in tactical situations macv-sog could launch strikes immediately in combat situations. local sog commanders undertook actions on their own, without approval. manning, r., (ed), (1988). war in the shadows: the vietnam experience 77-78

vietnam, 65 sog op called prairie fire. members wore black pajamas and worked with a team of nung mercenaries on long range ops into laos to monitor and interdict. shot field grade nva officers. valentine, d. (1990). the phoenix program 194

cambodia, macv sog under code name daniel boone, later salem house, inserted teams 3 americans and 9 indigenous in cross border ops. sog unit made efforts install agent nets. 400 ops in cambodia 67-68 and 1000 over next two years. prados, j. (1986). presidents' secret wars 300 vietnam, circa 62 cia uses cover of studies and observation group to conduct cross-border ops into cambodia, thailand, laos. sog

stationed

saigon and reported directly to special assistant for counter-insurgency

and special activities. counterspy 5/73 14

vietnam. study and observation group, 60-69 ? cover name of special ops

group. sog's ops triggered nva tonkin gulf reprisal. sog reported to special assistant for counterinsurgency & special activities (sacsa) in

jcs. icc 90. sacsa almost entirely cia oriented. marshall, j., scott p.d.,

& hunter, j. (1987). the iran-contra connection 292

vietnam, 65 sog op called prairie fire. members wore black pajamas and

worked with a team of nung mercenaries on long range ops into laos to

monitor and interdict. shot field grade nva officers. valentine, d. (1990).

the phoenix program 194

green beret who served with macv sog 68-69 a mercenary killed in angola.

prados, j. (1986). presidents' secret wars 346-7

vietnam, 64 sog op timberwork, used u.s. navy seal commandos and svnese

special forces in strikes against coast of nvn. in 7/64, cia officials

coordinated op with intel op run by oni and the nsa. op known as desoto. it

used nsa technicians, using sophisticated tracking equipment, on destroyers

to record radio transmissions ad radar signals as the destroyers cruised

near trouble spots. in 64 op target was island of hon me in the gulf of

tonkin. timberwork raid would hit hon me to get nvnese to turn on radar. on

7/30/64 raid took place. raiders using pt nasties dropped smaller boats.

raiders retreated under fire. another attack 2 days later. nvese pt boats

assuming destroyer part of raid, attacked the maddox. 2 days later another

attack with the turner joy. these attacks called unprovoked generating the

gulf of tonkin resolution. volkman, e., & baggett, b. (1989). secret

intelligence 148

vietnam, 64 details of the gulf of tonkin incident. sog covert maritime

raid had taken place seven hours before the 4 august incident and within

range of the destroyer's electronic ears. discussion between mcnamara and

president johnson re need for hard evidence of the purported nvnese attack.

both well aware of the full scope of 34 a ops. senator fulbright probably

not given info of broader ops of 34a, which included constantly escalating

pm team ops and related u.s. overflights going back to the start of the

decade. within five hours of the reported incident with the maddox and the

turner joy, air strikes ordered against north vietnam. the administration

kept the american people from knowing details of 34a ops. tran bao commander of nvese pt boats said there was no north vietnamese attack of 4

august. oplan 34a maritime ops escalated in fall of 64. in 1/65 some controls relaxed. in 65 macsog continued to drop more agents into north,

but plan soon ran out of personnel inherited by col russell. training

officer told team romeo for every one thousand men sent into the north,

we've been lucky to have just one of them operate successfully. macsog's

missions steadily transformed from covert agent ops to more overt reconnaissance missions. north vietnamese were always waiting for teams. in

spring of 67, macsog developed first four short-range recon teams - became

known as forces of plan 34b. tourison, s. (1995). secret army secret war

149-206

cambodia, circa 60-65 studies observation group (cia cover) and special

forces green berets organize native mercenary groups khmer serei and khmer

krom. called mike forces of civilian irregular defense groups. cia and

special forces agents maintained 3 sog communication and control centers in

vietnam for ops. counterspy may 73 14

vietnam, 63-65 under op plan 34a macsog would carry out increasing level

of physical and psychological harassments ops of nvn, to include air strikes in north vietnam. on 1/24/64 macv set up macvsog under army col.

russell. mission: to execute intensified harassment, diversion, political

pressure, capture of prisoners, physical destruction, acquisition of intel,

generation of propaganda against nvn. to carry out ops, sog inherited about

169 vietnamese pm agents from cia. there was an approved list of 33 targets. maritime ops by maritime ops group of macsog. gen westmoreland met

with officials for 43a ops with vnese special forces against laos called

leaping lena. [in 6/64 u.s. special forces commander at nha trang sent 5

teams of eight men of svnese special forces into laos. five survivors

returned]. a number of air and maritime ops launched against nvn. cia

retained interest in 34a in psychological ops that integrated into every

team mission. air ops conducted by [the chinese nationalists]. by 1/64 when

russell inherited pool of agents from cia, cia and pentagon had already

lost more than 200 agents in nvn without any visible signs of success.

tourison, s. (1995). secret army secret war 110-27, 44

vietnam, cambodia, 67 with creation of icex and re-organization of sog,

cia commissioned project gamma. aka detachment b-57, gamma charged with

cross-border ops into cambodia to discover who in gvt helping nva and vc

infiltrate and attack special forces a camps, recon teams and agent nets.

valentine, d. (1990). the phoenix program 211

vietnam, 64-73 sog-36 teams in north, earth angel teams of intel net of

north vietnamese turncoats mixed with u.s.-indochinese strata (short-term

roadwatch & target acquisition) detachments saturated large regions

in nvn

and laos. sog-36 later sent pike hill intel teams dressed as khmer rouge

and cedar walk cambodian guerrillas to the south. "oodles" secret agents

and "borden" diversionary north vietnamese agents caused problems. manning,

r., (ed), (1988). war in the shadows: the vietnam experience 76

vietnam, cambodia, 67 with creation of icex and re-organization of sog,

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valentine, d. (1990). the phoenix program 211

vietnam, 64 an org called the studies and observation group (sog) combined personnel from the green berets, the cia, and 4 military services

to conduct subversion, sabotage and other ops in nvn, laos and cambodia. it

under broad mandate known as oplan 34-a, which authorized sog to conduct

ops in denied areas. volkman, e., & baggett, b. (1989). secret intelligence

147

vietnam, 64 sog op timberwork, used u.s. navy seal commandos and svnese

special forces in strikes against coast of nvn. in 7/64, cia officials

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attack with the turner joy. these attacks called unprovoked generating the

gulf of tonkin resolution. volkman, e., & baggett, b. (1989). secret intelligence 148

vietnam, sog. study and observation group, a combined force army, navy, and

air force, consisted of both vietnamese and americans. highly classified op

lasting ten years. no single unclassified history. resulted in relatively

minor harassment north vietnam. beginning sog vnese army's 1956. special

forces type unit. to prepare guerrilla stay-behind units just south 17th

parallel. supported by military assistance program (map), and had cia

training organized in 20 15-man teams. 1961 400 sfers to vn train vnese

special forces. those to form networks of resistance, establish bases nvn,

conduct light harassment. national security action memo 5/11/61 called for

explicit unconventional war said: expand present ops...in guerrilla areas

svn, under joint maag-cia sponsorship and direction. full cooperation svses

using vnese civilians recruited by cia. in laos, infiltrate teams under

light civilian cover to se laos to locate, attack vnese communist bases and

lines communications. teams supported by assault units 100 to 150 vnese for

use on targets beyond capability teams. training teams could be combined op

by cia and u.s. army special forces. igb 144-5. cia ops nvn unsuccessful.

teams captured. sog redirected to propaganda using radio broadcasts, leaflet drops, and deception ops. december 63 program switched from cia to

military control in op switchback. cia continued contribute program in

political and propaganda fields, and several cia officers attached to

program. simpson, c.m. iii. (1983). inside the green berets 145-6

at height of war there nearly 800 cia agents in svn along with 5000 agents

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of various military services. for sog there nearly 2500 green berets working with 7500 ethnic minority assets. volkman, e., & baggett, b. (1989). secret intelligence 150

ussr, germany, 49-82 sasha sogolow. joined cia in 49 and served as a case

officer in germany and sr div at hqs. died in 82. wise, d. (1992). molehunt

94

korea, 50-53 seals udt team and marines united into first special ops

group (sog). sog to conduct reconnaissance and demolition raids along

korean coastline. details of ops. udt's continued close ties to cia. a

mixed group air force, army, navy officers with a hundred koreans from rok

to develop a net of guerrilla positions in north korea for pickup of downed

airmen and escape and evasion net (e&e). marine corp major kramer was ops

chief of cia program. details of some failed ops. udt's under cia on demolition raids behind enemy lines. dockery, k. (1991). seals in action

57-72

laos. vietnam op shining brass cross-border ops against nvese installations

and movement laos. 12 man teams, including 3 americans and usually 9 montagnard civilians under employ sog. basic mission shining brass locate

targets for aerial bombing, fight, destroy enemy supplies found undefended.

recon teams later to direct air strikes known targets thru elaborate procedure get approval bomb from u.s. ambassador laos. simpson, c.m. iii.

(1983). inside the green berets 147-152

vietnam. many novel types of books have been written about sog. harve saal,

has written 4 volumes on history of sog. these books are factual, accurate

and contain names, dates, places and ops. for more info contact: jfk center

museum gift shop, ft. bragg, n.c. 28307-5000. tele: (910) 436-2366. cost

for all 4 books including shipping is: \$119.80. email 8/19/95 by stoney

earth.execpc.com

vietnam. sog history. 4 volumes on sog by harve saal. they are accurate,

and outstanding. volume one: historical evolution of sog. volume two:

locations volume three: legends volume four: appendixes. books can be

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436-2366. stoney execpc.com

vietnam. macv organized studies and observation group (sog) as unconventional task force in 1/ 64 special forces and seal units used.

in oplan 34a. propaganda leaflets, air drop of teams to conduct sabotage in

nvn. sog trying establish agents in nvn. sog increased strength to two

thousand americans and 8000 vietnamese. ops included coastal raids, an

attempt to disrupt nvn's fishing industry, and numerous cross border ops

into laos and cambodia. of six sog teams for insertion nvn sept/oct 67

only 3 successfully landed. sog missions had little impact nvn but did in

cambodia and laos. psw 234. cross border ops from svn run by sog. project

shining brass sog code name for cross border ops. code name changed to

prairie fire 65 598 green berets assigned to prairie fire. prados, j.

(1986). presidents' secret wars 280

vietnam. sf troops trained svn special forces. sf involved in every aspect

counterinsurgency: military, economic, psychological, and political with

civilian irregular defense group (cidg). cidg program involved thousands

sfers and hundreds thousands vietnamese citizens, and 100 camps.

cooperation and conflict with maag, macv, aid, sog, etc. igb 95, 112.

operation switchback completed july 63 putting cidg program under u.s.

army. simpson, c.m. iii. (1983). inside the green berets 113

vietnam, 64 special ops group (sog) under directives called

oplans. sog

had absorbed combined studies group. tpp 60. seals as part of leaping lena

program ran ops in laos and nvn. seals sat along ho chi minh trail counting

troops and trucks, shot nvnese, kidnapped prisoners, etc. tpp 61. sog c5

program for ops into cambodia. valentine, d. (1990). the phoenix program 75

vietnam, 67-69 details of ops. in 68 seal team i had personnel allowance

of 33 officers and 195 enlisted men with 5 ops platoons among three detachments in vn. seals occasionally, assigned duties with special op

group of macv (mac-v sog). a number of ops in north vietnam - no details.

ops in svn described. 69 marked beginning of end of seal ops in vn.

description of seal team ambush ops. vietnam: the last years. dockery, k.

(1991). seals in action 89-155

vietnam, 68-69 macv-sog commandos into nvn between 1/68 and 5/69, 140

missions run, 41 craft destroyed, 80 crewmen killed, 185 captured. sog

units suffered 4 killed and 4 missing. bosiljevac, t.l. (1990). seals:

udt/seal ops in vietnam 115

vietnam, 68 combined sog team of 6 vnese and several u.s. seals joint op.

bosiljevac, t.l. (1990). seals: udt/seal ops in vietnam 109

vietnam, 72 no direct action seal teams remained in vn. some seals remained as advisors or attached to macv-sog. last 2 seals in country

attached to ldnn as advisers. seal 162. in sog svese ran most field ops by

spring 72. bosiljevac, t.l. (1990). seals: udt/seal ops in vietnam 163

vietnam, circa 56-71 sog study and observation group, a combined force

army, navy, and air force, consisted of both vietnamese and americans.

highly classified op lasting ten years. op resulted in relatively minor

harassment north vietnam. in the beginning sog vnese army's 56

special

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program switched from cia to military control in op switchback. cia continued contribute program in political and propaganda fields, and several cia officers attached to program. simpson, c.m. iii. (1983). inside

the green berets 145-6

laos, vietnam, 66-68 macv's studies and observation group (sog) led by

john singlaub. sog a cover for special ops in north and south vn. conducted

secret helicopter infiltrations into laos and nvn. secord, r. (1992).

honored and betrayed: irangate, covert affairs, and the secret war in laos

65

vietnam. military terms used in vn include, black box - sensor devices

planted along trails, roads, rivers, and at intersections and junctions to

detect body heat, perspiration, or sound given off by passing troops; sog

(macv) - special observation group that specialized in deep-penetration patrols across borders into svns neighboring countries; kit carson scout - former vc/nva soldiers, repatriated to serve as a scout for u.s. forces; lrp - long range patrol and, lrrp - long range reconnaissance patrol. linderer, g. (1991). the eyes of the eagle: f company lrps in vietnam, 1968 220-1

vietnam, 63-70 singlaub named head of macv-sog - an unconventional-warfare, sabotage, and covert-action organization. sog ops supported by the u.s. navy had triggered the tonkin gulf incident. now participants from all four services plus arvn, sog conducted ops in north and south vietnam and the ho chi minh trial in laos. groups included mercenary troops, montagnards, nungs and ethnic chinese hillsmen. singlaub arrived in vietnam in 66. sog hqs was in the old macv ii compound in cholon. singlaub reported directly to sacsa in the pentagon. a breakdown of the staffs. the private air force operated out of udorn and nakhorn phanom in thailand. planes flown by chinese air force pilots from taiwan. private airstrip in long thanh, vietnam. psywar used counterfeit nvnese currency and a sham resistance movement known as sacred sword of the patriot. black radio transmitter near hue. pre-tuned radios distributed by landing teams in the north. radios from cia. bull simmons ran op-35 - the cross border ops. his ops produced intel and prisoners. used cidg montagnards. some teams specialized induction technology to eavesdrop on nva field telephones without splicing onto lines. by late 67, op-35 had 300 successful cross-border ops in laos. some protracted battles. composition of spike teams. op-34 ops. most teams in north rolled up immediately. his senior air force officer was harry c. heine aderholt. singlaub left saigon in august 68. singlaub, gen. (1991), hazardous duty 292-310

vietnam, 68-70 sog teams prowled nvn, laos and ho chi minh trail looking for pow's or taking a few. stein. j. (1992). a murder in wartime 119

vietnam, cia's cover org combined studies group (csg) responsibilities

turned over to macv's special operations group sog circa 64 national

reporter spring 87 8

vietnam, macv sog, 64-81 studies and observation group executed special

operations and missions under guise of macv. macv sog a joint service high

command unconventional warfare task force engaged in highly classified ops

thru out southeast asia. area responsibility included burma, cambodia,

laos, north and south vietnam and provinces of yunnan, kwangsi, kwangtung

and hainan island in china. activated 1/24/64 subordinate macv command not

a special forces unit but used special forces personnel. cross-border

reconnaissance and intel ops into laos under project shining brass. placed

anti-personnel devices, engaging vc and nva or pathet lao in combat, controlled air strikes. shining brass renamed prairie fire in 68 and phu

dung in 4/81. most macv sog sites with special forces camps along svnese

border. for a detailed description see stanton, s.l. (1985). green berets

at war 230-6

vietnam, 64 in 64 u.s. military took control covert military ops under

macv-studies and observations group (sog) in op switchback. sog est 1/24/64

as joint force that drew men from all branches military. also employed

indigenous personnel from many areas sea. number cia employees worked on

staff. sog had several special areas ops 31 ran all maritime ops; ops 32

all air ops; ops 33 psywar; and ops 34 with penetration of nvn by trained

agents and other means, and ops 35 involved direct action and

strategic

reconnaissance into nvn, laos and cambodia. in 1/64 pres johnson approved

34 alpha raids under code name timberlake. bosiljevac, t.l. (1990). seals:

udt/seal ops in vietnam 23-24

vietnam, 64 special ops group (sog) under directives called oplans. sog

had absorbed combined studies group. valentine, d. (1990). the phoenix

program 60

vietnam, 64 tucker gougleman managed sog ops in da nang. valentine, d.

(1990). the phoenix program ft 256