

SPECIAL ISSUE - THAILAND

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His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Yachivalangkorn, (in back seat) arriving at Royal Thai Air Force Base at Udorn, Thailand.



Air America's welcoming display for Thailand's Crown Prince at the Royal Thai Air Force Base, Udorn.

"AIR AMERICA'S MOTTO: 'ANYTHING, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE—PROFESSIONALLY'"



THAILAND'S CROWN PRINCE VISITS UDORN

On January 4 and 5, 1973, His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Vachiralonghorn, visited the Royal Thai Air Force Base at Udorn; it was his first official visit since his investiture ceremony on December 28, 1972.

The photos on these pages depict the many decorations erected in and around Udorn to do honor to the visit of His Royal Highness.

(All pix on pgs. 2 & 3 by: P. G. Krings MSAFE/G/UTH.)

CAPTIONS THIS PAGE:

1. Arch located just north of Gate 2 of the RTAFB on Thaharn Road (Friendship Highway) leading from the RTAFB to Udorn City. Inscription over the arch reads: "Long Live the Crown Prince."
2. Located halfway between the RTAFB and Udorn City, on Thaharn Road, this decorative arch carries the legend: "Long Live the Crown Prince, we, Municipal Authority, Udorn City."
3. Progressing to downtown Udorn City, this arch carries the wish: "Long Live the Crown Prince," under the likeness of His Royal Highness in the center of the arch. Legend on the left support reads: "Udorn Pittayanukul School"; inscription on the right support says: "Pittayanukul School Old Boys' Association."
4. This structure says: "Long Live the Crown Prince, the Vietnamese People of Udorn."





CAPTIONS THIS PAGE:

1. This arch, next to Udorn City's Town Hall, carries the inscription: "Long Live the Crown Prince" across the center span. Writing across the smaller arches on the right and left says: "AMPHUR MURNGU-DORNTHANT" or: "Administrative Sub-division of Udorn Province."
2. Located in central Udorn City, this Sinafied arch again says: "Long Live the Crown Prince" in Thai across the center span. Across the left arch, the legend says, in Thai: "Chinese Merchants"; across the right arch, the legend says, in Chinese: "Udorn Overseas Chinese."
3. A Chinese Lian Dance being performed in downtown Udorn City by members of the local Chinese Community in honor of his Royal Highness the Crown Prince.
4. This inspiring structure appeared in front of Udorn's Teachers College.



AIR AMERICA LOG ★ 美國航空公司雜誌



"NAME THE CHALLENGE—WE CAN MEET IT"



AIR AMERICA AND THE THAI POLICE

by: Jerry Fink, DLC/TPE

At the end of an era something needs to be said, even if a picture is worth a thousand words. What follows is only a part of the "Air America Story" to go with the accompanying pictures.

Shortly before May, 1962, Air America personnel started working with personnel of the United States Operations Mission to Thailand (USOM/T) and the Thai Government Police on a contract to provide assistance to the then Border Police Patrol of the Thailand National Police (formerly the Border Police Forces). Two H-19 helicopters were involved along with a supply of parts for the aircraft. A contract was finally concluded with USOM/T on July 6, 1962. The contract called for maintenance of the aircraft, repair and overhaul of parts, and establishing, maintaining and operating a supply service.

In May of 1964, the contract concept was revised to provide for Air America to furnish personnel to supervise aircraft maintenance performed by the Border Police mechanics.

In 1966, the contract was amended again for AAM to provide both supervision of aircraft maintenance and training of police personnel in maintenance and supply support. By this time the police aircraft fleet had increased to approximately 26 aircraft. Pilot training and aircraft mechanic training plans became part of the considerations as the police aviation activities increased. The police, using Instructor Pilots trained by Air America, set up their own pilot training program. A separate contract was executed for an aircraft mechanic training program providing for a year's training at facilities used by the Contractor. A second contract was to follow later.

In 1967, a new contract with USOM/T was executed which continued the services previously performed by Air America which encompassed advice and training in aircraft maintenance and supply support, pilot ground school instruction as well as providing for personnel on an on call basis. By this time the former Border Patrol had become the Aviation Division of the Thai National Police Department.

In January, 1970, Air America entered into a tripartite contract with USOM/T and the Thai National Police Department which remained in effect for three years and brought the Aviation Division to its present level of capability. Its present fleet of aircraft has grown to approximately 48

(continued at right)

(continued from left)

helicopters and 16 fixed wing aircraft which, in January, 1973, flew some 1,800 hours. The contract terminated January 31, 1973.

Over the period of 11 years the number of Air America personnel increased from 2 to over 15 advisors and 40 on-call personnel. Police personnel, supply and maintenance facilities were vastly expanded to accommodate the ever-increasing role of aviation activities.

In this short history of the long association much must be left unsaid for lack of space but not without emphasizing that the Company wishes continuing success to the Thai Police Aviation Division in their future missions.

CAPTIONS THESE PAGES:

1. Mr. David H. Nickler, Assistant Vice President/BKK, presents a plaque to the Thai Police Aviation Division's Commander, Major General Pichit Rakasavee, as a symbol of camaraderie and appreciation for many pleasant years of cooperation.
2. Mr. T.J. Korman, Superintendent/Thai Police Contract, examines a plaque presented to him by General Pichit Rakasavee. General Pichit's attractive daughter reads the inscription into a microphone.
3. Mr. Nickler and Mr. Robert V. Davis, Manager, Airport/BKK, enjoy an aperitif with General Pichit.
4. Mr. Korman addresses guests at the party before proposing a toast to His Majesty the King of Thailand. A pretty Thai songstress is in the background.
5. Mr. Alex M. Tinto (l.), Supply Supervisor, Thai Police Contract, and Mr. A.A. Rivers, Sr., Assistant Superintendent/Thai Police Contract, enjoying the party. Both played major roles in making the contracts between the Thai Police Aviation Division and Air America successful.
6. General Pichit (l.), and Mr. Nickler (r.) discuss old times while the General's daughter listens attentively.
7. Class-up of a plaque presented to Mr. Jerry Fink, Deputy Legal Counsel, for his considerable contributions to the Thai Police Aviation Division -- Air America contracts. The inscription under the winged emblem reads:
Presented to Mr. Jerry Fink, for exceptional contributions rendered which provided essential prospectus in the successful evolution of the Thai Police Aviation Division.
May 1962 -- January 1973
Major General Pichit Rakasavee
Commander
8. Mr. Jerry Fink, Deputy Legal Counsel
9. BMD (Regional Maintenance Division) personnel (l. to r.): Maxie F.J. Chang, C.V. Ish and Y.R. Lin with Mr. A.A. Rivers (lited from left).
10. Mr. Chusook Burongtrakul, Air America technician, was Master of Ceremonies for the festivities and was instrumental in arranging a most enjoyable evening for all concerned.
11. Mr. Nickler (l.) extends the Company's sincere appreciation to Mr. Arthur G. Elder (r.), USOM (United States Operations Mission) Air Support Advisor, for many years of effective contractual relationships.
12. Mr. Nickler (l.) presents a plaque to Mr. Rudy Hall, USOM Air Support Advisor, as token of esteem for his many helpful contributions over several years of close cooperation.



AAM VISITS LISU TRIBE TERRITORY IN NORTHERN THAILAND

by: *Captain R. E. Dawson, SZ/CNX*

Air America's Porter PC-6C, N3612R, based at Chiang Mai, ranges all over Northern Thailand on a variety of missions. The photographs on these two pages depict a typical mission — this one to Sahn Meum, 43 nautical miles north-northwest of Chiang Mai, a hamlet inhabited by Lisu tribespeople in Northern Thailand.

CAPTIONS THESE PAGES:

1. A pretty Lisu tribeswoman from Sahn Meum, North Thailand.
2. Standing in front of trusty N3612R at Sahn Meum are (l. to r.): Messrs. Dick Mann, American Agronomist/Missionary; Prince Blisatej, Che Lo So, village headman; Captain R. E. Dawson, SZ/CNX and pilot of the Porter, Che's Lieutenant; and British Consul Malcome McBain.
3. A Lisu woman threshing mountain rice; five stock and village are visible in the background.
4. Two Lisu women with typical packhorse and habitation of the area.
5. Village headman Che Lo So, standing in a field adjacent to his village of Sahn Meum, looks quizzically at the camera.
6. Aerial view of the ruins of the ancient city of Sukhothai, Thailand. It is situated about 100 miles south and a little east of Chiang Mai.
7. Casual camaraderie at Sahn Meum. (Pix by: Captain R. E. Dawson)



"A PLANE IS NO BETTER THAN ITS MAINTENANCE"

AIR AMERICA LOG ★ AKLAT SULATAN NG AIR AMERICA



"FIND A WAY YOU CAN—NOT A REASON YOU CANNOT"



First Officer Ben Sabino (nearest camera in cockpit) with Captain F. E. Stergar and Flight Mechanic M.B. Punzalan in H-15 as it reached record 15,000 flying hour mark. (Pix by W. P. Palmer, SOM/UTH.)

AIR AMERICA LOG

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F.

EDITOR'S EDEN

(or: shortie squibs from here & there)

WISE WORDS

"Mind only how you plow, not what you reap."

—Anonymous



ANYONE FOR FISHING?

CLEVELAND (UPI) — The longest runway at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport was closed for 30 minutes recently as a motorized broom swept the concrete clear of hundreds of thousands of earthworms.

Captains of four jet liners reported that braking action on landing was extremely poor because of the worms.



WORDS OF THE WISE

Fortitude is the marshal of thought, the armor of the will, and the fort of reason.

— Francis Bacon



"I read you loud and clear... what's your position?"

AIR HISTORY (Item 25)

December 31, 1908. A flight of 2 hours, 20 minutes, 23 seconds was made by Wilbur Wright at Le Mans, France.

UDORN



BIENVENIDO SABINO STILL FORGING AHEAD

by: Dick Ford, AVP/UTH

The VOL. V, NO. 8 1971 AIR AMERICA LOG carried an article entitled "Bienvenido Sabino Forges Ahead." It is now our pleasure to report that Ben has taken another giant stride in the advancement of his career with Air America.

The earlier article told how Ben joined Air America as a mechanic in Bangkok in 1960 after a seven-year stint with Pan American World Airways. Ben had progressed through many job assignments including Mechanic, Flight Mechanic, Service Mechanic, Leadman, and Crew Chief. During the course of these assignments he moved to Udorn in 1961. He performed

all these duties in an exemplary manner.

Ben Sabino has an A&P (Aircraft and Powerplant) mechanic's license issued by the United States FAA (Federal Aeronautics Administration) and in December, 1970, he obtained his U.S. Commercial Helicopter Pilot's license.

It was this latest license acquisition which led directly to Ben's most recent advancement. On October 18, 1972, Ben was appointed a First Officer (Trainee) in the Udorn Helicopter program. On November 1, 1972, Ben was flying as Training First Officer — along with Captain Frank E. Stergar and Flight Mechanic M. B. Punzalan on board Udorn-based Sikorsky UH-34D, H-15 — when that helicopter reached a record total of 15,000 flying hours. (AAM LOG, VOL VII, NO. 1, pgs. 1 & 2.)

On November 2, 1972, Ben successfully completed his check ride and is now a full-fledged First Officer in the UH-34D.

First Officer Bienvenido Sabino has amply demonstrated that with intelligence, hard work, application to duty, and a keen sense of determination, the sky is truly the limit.