

## “THAILAND, AMERICA’S SECRET WAR” 1960-1975

During the Vietnam War, the United States Air Force based most of its combat aircraft resources at air bases in Thailand. They joined in partnership with the Government and military of Thailand, who were also protecting its borders from North Vietnamese Communist insurgents attacking from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Thailand bases were a platform used to attack North Vietnam and their supply lines located in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. These USAF Thailand bases as well as those located in Vietnam were protected by USAF Security Police, Thai, and Vietnamese military. These forces manned machine gun bunkers, mortar pits, and guard towers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to protect the bases. They also used K9 Sentry Dogs (mostly German Shepherd Dogs) on the base perimeter to detect the enemy before they penetrated and attacked the aircraft. These K9 handlers and their dogs worked only at night and were the first line of base defense just inside the concertina wire, mine fields, and free fire zones. No USAF base has ever been taken or overrun by enemy forces in the history of the US.