

8 JAN 98

Mike:

PLEASE FORGIVE THE DELAY IN WRITING BUT MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY AT CHRISTMAS AND I PUT EVERYTHING OFF FOR AWHILE.

I FIND THAT IF I KEEP BUSY WITH UHDA RELATED ACTIVITIES, I TEND TO FUNCTION MUCH BETTER. SHE JUST TURNED 90 AT THANKSGIVING AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY (EXCEPT ME) WAS THERE TO PARTY WITH HER. IT IS AT TIMES LIKE THIS THAT BEING A CHRISTIAN IS A TREMENDOUS HELP AS I'M ASSURED THAT SHE IS NOW HOME.

ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND TWO MORE ARTICLES FOR A NEWSLETTER. SORRY THAT I SAT ON THIS INFO., BUT I WAS WAITING FOR UNIT DESIGNATIONS FROM THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON ALONG WITH POSSIBLE PILOT ROSTER.

A MR. MARSHALL AT US EMBASSY - SEOUL WAS JUST ASSIGNED TO EAO ATTENDANCE AT ROK CGSC IN TAEDON. HE WAS ASSIGNED MY REQUEST TO EMBASSY FOR HELP IN LOCATING THE FIVE ROK PILOTS MENTIONED IN NEWSLETTER ALONG WITH ANY OTHER HISTORY AND OR PHOTO'S IF ANY EXIST.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS — I WAS CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT THE BIG MAJOR OIL COMPANIES HAD MILITARY ASSETS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I WROTE SHELL OIL CO. HQ OUT OF LONDON WHO CONFIRMED THIS. THE AMERICAN BASED COMPANY PECTON HAD A SIKORSKY (H-34) BASED OFFSHORE AS PART OF ITS DRILLING PLATFORM. IT WAS USED TO EVACUATE U.S. STAFF (SHELL) FROM SAIGON. AS THIS H-34 WAS BEING USED TO EVACUATE U.S. PERSONNEL, BRUNEI SHELL PETROLEUM COMPANY (BSP) USED ITS HELICOPTERS TO EVACUATE OTHER U.S. PERSONNEL. THIS EVACUATION WAS COORDINATED BETWEEN LONDON, SINGAPORE AND SERIA IN BRUNEI. LETTERS TO THESE COMPANIES SHOULD PRODUCE MORE INFO AND I'M WORKING ON IT AT THE

TIME. I HOPE TO HAVE TYPE HELO'S USED, EMPLOYEE
ROSTER, ETC.... I DO KNOW THAT SHELL VIETNAM
HAD " SHELL AVIATION DEPT'S AT FOLLOWING;

SAIGON

DALAT

DA HANG

HUE

PHNOMPENH (CAMBODIA)

SHELL VIETNAM WENT UNDER NAME " CONG-TY SHELL VIETNAM "
AND WAS STARTED IN 1956

I STILL AWAIT INFO., FROM USAF ON 20TH & 21ST.

DO NOT KNOW WHY IT TAKES SO LONG TO HEAR 'BACK FROM
MILITARY THESE DAYS. I AM WORKING ON IT AND WILL
KEEP YOU INFORMED.

SENT CHARLIE RAY/ PACKAGE WITH AIR AMERICA
INFO ON KIA PILOTS. HAVE HIM FORWARD TO YOU. ALSO
ENCLOSED AIR MONTHLY CENT. FOR 4 OF AA'S FIRST
204B'S IN 1965.

HOPE TO HAVE MORE IN NEAR FUTURE.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF MY FRIEND.

BREAK RIGHT

John

ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE AND THE HELICOPTER FORCE OF THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE (BPP)

THAI NATIONAL POLICE AVIATION CAME OF AGE IN 1967 THANKS TO EFFORTS OF U.S. ADVISORY TEAMS WITH U.S. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE. THE 6,800 MAN BPP (BORDER PATROL POLICE) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PATROLING THEIR BORDER TO A DEPTH OF 15 MILES TO PREVENT SMUGGLING, WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING, INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, COUNTERINSURGENCY, COUNTERSUBVERSION AND CIVIC ACTION IN AND AROUND THE BORDER AREAS.

BEFORE 1967, THE BPP OVERALL FORCE STRENGTH WAS CONSIDERED INADEQUATE FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS IN CONDUCTING THEIR MULTI-PURPOSE MISSIONS. IN 1967, STARTING AROUND JANUARY-FEBRUARY, THE BPP UNDERWENT REORGANIZATION AND EXPANSION INCLUDING ADDITION OF A QUICK REACTION COUNTERINSURGENCY FORCE CALLED "MOBILE RESERVE PLATOONS" WHICH WERE EQUIPPED WITH THREE UH-340 HELICOPTERS PER PLATOON. EARLY INDICATIONS OF PERFORMANCE BY THIS NEW FORCE WAS CREDITABLE, ALTHOUGH AIRLIFT CAPABILITIES WERE STILL INADEQUATE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE AN OF THEIR NEW CAPABILITY. THE NEW "MOBILE RESERVE PLATOONS" CONSISTED OF 30 MEN AND THREE HELICOPTERS PER PLATOON WITH 13 ACTIVATED PLATOONS IN 1967. UP TO 54 ADDITIONAL PLATOONS WERE PLANNED FOR ACTIVATION AFTER 1967. AS OF EARLY 1967, THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE AVIATION DIVISION WERE EQUIPPED WITH 39 UH-340's.

AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE BPP, A 500 MAN POLICE AERIAL REINFORCEMENT UNIT KNOWN AS "SPECIAL BATTALION" WAS ACTIVATED. THIS UNIT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MOBILE FORCE IN SUPPORT OF THE BPP AND WAS UNDER THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE BPP. THEIR MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE AN AIRBORNE GUERRILLA STRIKE FORCE. THE UNIT

WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A VERY EFFECTIVELY TRAINED COMPLEMENT TO THE BPP AND HAD A VERY CREDITABLE RECORD OF AIR RESCUE ACTIONS ALONG WITH BORDER SECURITY ACTIONS. THE 10 MAN OPERATIONAL TEAMS OF THIS UNIT OFTEN FUNCTIONED INDEPENDENTLY.

THE HELICOPTER ASSETS OF THE ROYAL THAI NATIONAL POLICE AVIATION DIVISION WERE CONTROLLED BY THE ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE. THIS 19,200 MAN FORCE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AIR DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY; TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT OF GROUND AND NAVAL FORCES; SUPPORT OF COUNTERINSURGENCY UNITS; AND THE AERIAL MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. THE RTAF OWNED 43 HELICOPTERS WITH 39 ASSIGNED TO THE RTNP AVIATION DIVISION AND THE OTHER TWO, WHICH WERE HH-43A HUSKY'S, TO BASE RESCUE OPERATIONS. 2 UH-34'S WERE INOPERATIVE AND OFTEN USED AS SPARE PARTS.

Royal Lao Air Force (RLAF) Helicopter Assets

ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY OWNED BY THE RLAF, THE THREE (3) UH-34D HELICOPTERS WERE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, FLOWN BY AMERICAN PILOTS (AIR AMERICA) IN SUPPORT OF "WHITE STAR MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS" OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP-LAOS. THE TERM USED FOR THESE FLIGHTS WAS "SAFE-HANDS" PICK-UP WHICH SIMPLY MEANT THAT EXTRACTION OF A WHITE STAR TEAM WAS GUARANTEED TO TAKE PLACE AS ONLY AMERICANS WOULD BE INVOLVED.

THE THREE H-34'S WOULD ALSO BE USED IN SUPPORT OF USOM (UNITED STATES OVERSEAS MISSION) AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT VIENTIANE. ONE H-34 WAS AT PERMANENT STATION AT VIENTIANE AIR PORT WHILE THE OTHER TWO H-34'S WERE BASED OUT OF SAVANNAKHET WHERE AIR AMERICA PILOTS JUST HAPPENED TO BE HOUSED AT THE SENSABAY HOTEL. ONE OF THESE TWO H-34'S OUT OF SAVANNAKHET WAS ON LOAN TO THE ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY WHICH HAD VERY LITTLE USE FOR THIS ASSET OTHER THAN TO USE IT FOR "EXTRA-CURRICULAR-ACTIVITIES" SUCH AS DRUG SMUGGLING.

ONE OF THE H-34'S WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT WITH AN AIR AMERICA FIXED WING WHILE AT TAXI EFFECTUALLY DESTROYING ONE-THIRD OF THE RLAF HELICOPTER FLEET. ACTUAL UNIT DESIGNATION SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY - VIENTIANE.