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MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

SUBJECT: Combined U.S. Army and Royal Thai Forces, Vietnam,  
Air Operations

A Memorandum of Understanding which will allow qualified Thai pilots to fly with U.S. Army aviators was signed at Bear Cat in Bien Hoa Province yesterday, 4 January.

Major General Allen M. Burdett, Jr., commanding general, 1st Aviation Brigade and Major General Swasdi Makkaroon, commanding general of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces signed the agreement.

The agreement will allow Thai pilots to obtain experience and gain proficiency in combat operations. At first, the operations involving the combined participation of both countries will be limited to the Brigade's 240th and 195th Aviation Companies.

Following the ceremony, General Burdett and General Makkaroon exchanged gifts, and then took the first operational flight under the new pact. The command and control flight was piloted by Major Gary E. Williams, commanding officer of the 195th Aviation Company and Major Wichai Nilvises, commanding officer of the Light Aviation Company, Royal Thai Volunteer Forces.

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