AN AIR COMMANDO AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS CHRONOLOGY

1961 - 1991

by

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FIRST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HURLBURT FIELD, FLORIDA



1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING EMBLEM

The emblem of the 1st Special Operations Wing (SOW) is symbolic of the organization's history and its mission.

The blue of the background represents the sky and the Air Force. The 13 red and white stripes stand for the nation's original colonies, the first American force to engage in limited war. The silver dagger is winged to indicate the 1st SOW brings support through the air. A golden lamp of knowledge reflects the wing's civic action role and indicates members of the 1st SOW serve as teachers, as well as warriors, in helping our allies determine their own way of life and form of government.

The wing's motto, "Any Time, Any Place," emphasizes the 1 SOW is a focal point for Air Force special operations matters and is prepared to accomplish its mission whenever or wherever it is called upon to do so.

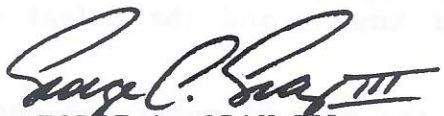
DEDICATION

Since 1961 air commandos have served in Southeast and Southwest Asia, Iran, Grenada, and Panama in imminent danger. They have also served in countless locations worldwide under hazardous conditions on a wide variety of missions and taskings. To the men and women of the past and to those who will serve in the future, this chronology is dedicated. To those who died performing the air commando mission, we offer a special dedication and we remember their loved ones who made that sacrifice understood only by those who have given. May those who serve now and in the years ahead take inspiration from the air commando heritage of devotion to duty and demonstrated high standards by which all others will be measured in their duty.

FOREWORD

This chronology provides a picture of remarkable accomplishments, professionalism, devotion to duty, and sacrifice by air commandos. As a commander and as all of us should, I look back on our history with the highest respect. The nature of our mission is such that we can expect to be the first involved in military action and potentially the most vulnerable. Considering our training requirements and assigned missions, our losses have been remarkably low. I credit that to our training and professional skill. However, any loss is too great. We memorialize our fallen comrades, but that is small reward for their sacrifices. Our true reward must therefore be within ourselves knowing that we have been called to a special duty which we have performed with courage, professional dedication, and devotion and that we will, if called upon, make the ultimate sacrifice in the hope that such sacrifices will not be in vain.

I commend to all air commandos the reading of this chronology for a better appreciation of our heritage. I hope that even in our busy lives we will seek to learn more of our past by increased professional reading. We should understand that over the years the air commando mission has changed in nature and emphasis. It is perhaps largely an intangible value, but an important value, that we know our air commando past as well as we know our individual and family heritage. As air commandos we have developed an esprit de corps, a spirit of unity and cohesiveness, which can be the difference between success and failure and whether or not we return to fly another mission. I believe all air commandos will benefit from reading this chronology.



GEORGE A. GRAY III
Colonel, USAF
Commander, 1 SOW

PREFACE

This chronology was conceived in the knowledge that over the years the activities of air commandos have been cloaked in secrecy to protect them, their capabilities, and missions. However, there have been disadvantages in this situation. Small numbers of air commandos, limited publicity, and a general lack of awareness of the significance of their mission to the military posture of the United States denied adequate support to special operations. Hopefully, this chronology will provide the reader with an appreciation of the wide ranging and essential capabilities available in the special operations community. These include technical training, humanitarian airlift, educational missions, construction expertise, medical care and evacuation, psychological operations and leaflet drops, spraying for disease and insect control, flood relief, and search and rescue as well as conventional and unconventional warfare.

During the Vietnam period special operations expanded to meet the challenges and demands placed upon it. The First Special Operations Wing (1 SOW) possessed 117 aircraft at Hurlburt Field in October 1965. With too many aircraft and too little space at Hurlburt, the training mission in January 1966 was divided with England AFB, Louisiana. The Headquarters 1 SOW moved to England where it remained until July 1969. Its 16 types and almost 200 aircraft made it a unique wing. Maintenance was also the most complex challenge in the Air Force as it included during 1972 five types of reciprocating engines, nine propeller systems, six types of jet engines, 32,000 "black boxes," and 107 different avionics systems. As the United States disengaged from Vietnam the number and types of 1 SOW aircraft declined until as 1977 opened the wing had only four types and 21 aircraft.

While the worth of special operations was recognized during the Southeast Asia fighting, there appeared to be less understanding of the need for peacetime preparation through manning, training, and equipping the 1 SOW for future low intensity conflicts. However, in 1980 with the failed attempt to rescue Americans held hostage in Iran and the adverse publicity Desert One received, the Air Force acted to enhance the capabilities of the wing. Congress provided additional impetus by directing reorganization and new funding to strengthen special operations. The benefits from these actions became apparent during Urgent Fury, the rescue of Americans on the Island of Grenada; Just Cause, the installation of the elected government of Panama and the arrest of Manuel Noriega on drug charges; and most recently Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the freeing of Kuwait and the defeat of Iraqi forces.

The special operations evolution over the past 30 years has been an uneven process. It has been difficult to engender consistent support, especially funding, for this elite force. However, publicity in recent years, as noted, created an environment which provides real hope that this nation will never again lack for highly trained people with the tools to execute the mission which most authorities agree will be the likely challenge in the years ahead. As in the past, the First Special Operations Wing will in the future serve Any Time, Any Place.

I wish to acknowledge the support and assistance I received in preparing this chronology. Colonel George A. Gray III, 1 SOW Commander, expressed wing support and Colonel Gary C. Vycital, 1 SOW Vice Commander, arranged for administrative assistance and, as in other aspects of the history program, took a personal interest in this project. Mr. Donald D. Little, AFSOC Command Historian, endorsed the project and the time from the regular 1 SOW history to permit its completion. My appreciation also goes to Sergeant Pamela Camacho and Aiman Polly Owen for their patience and good nature while typing this entire document and performing their regular duties. I hope this chronology and supplementary information will be of interest and value to all who are concerned with special operations and the 1 SOW. There are few, if any, Air Force missions as fascinating as special operations and none are more dedicated to their mission than the special operators. Courage, dedication, and sacrifice have been the hallmarks of their careers. While others trained, the air commandos also executed their missions in hostile environments and, on occasion, paid the ultimate price - their lives. It is our obligation to remember and honor them.

Herbert H. Kissling

HERBERT H. KISSLING

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INTRODUCTION

"Special Operations" as we know it today is a highly sophisticated and technically challenging Air Force Mission Element. While the Air Force narrowed and concentrated Special Operations as it evolved into a very specialized function, its history antedates the air commandos with which we are personally acquainted today. The challenge of change and adjustment posed by low intensity conflict will continue and, as with most evolutionary developments, will be founded on an understanding and appreciation of the historical past. Therefore, as a reference point let us consider the approved definition of Special Operations.

> Special Operations - Operations conducted by specially trained, equipped, and organized DOD forces against strategic or tactical targets in pursuit of national military, political, economic, or psychological objectives. These operations may be conducted during periods of peace or hostilities. They may support conventional operations, or they may be prosecuted independently when the use of conventional forces is either inappropriate or infeasible.

The Special Operations concept of unorthodox warfare has an illustrious past. While the tactics and technology differed through the years, the principles remained constant. Although especially important to Special Operations, the elements of surprise and daring played significant roles throughout military history. General Wolfe's 4,800 soldiers scaled the supposedly safe cliffs west of Quebec to defeat the French on the Plain of Abraham before the city and win control of a continent in a single battle. General Washington executed a completely unexpected Christmas night crossing of the ice choked Delaware River and marched through a sleet storm to Trenton for a dramatic victory as 1776 ended. The guerrilla warfare of Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox," and his men in the Carolinas late in the Revolution harassed the British and strengthened the resistance. Although historians may or may not call these "Special Operations," they fit the classic mold of surprise, daring, imagination, and irregular combat against superior forces in a normally secure situation. Likewise, the Confederate cavalry rides around Federal forces qualified as Special Operations

even though their value may have been more psychological than tangible and on occasion cost the South more than they gained. The Philippine Insurrection essentially ended in 1901 when a daring guerrilla force of Americans and Filipinos executed a five-week march through rebel country into Aguinaldo's headquarters to capture the rebel leader. Without stretching the analogy too far, the German submarine warfare of both World Wars I and II can be viewed as special operations. They were unorthodox, small unit attacks without prior warning. That they failed to be decisive as to the outcome of the wars demonstrated the limitations of Special Operations after full engagement by large forces in modern conflicts. Special Operations must have limited objectives because of limited resources.

Recognition of these limitations and the effective application of resources in the modern sense first occurred in World War II. Individuals and small groups were inserted behind enemy lines both in the European and Pacific theaters to gather intelligence, assist resistance groups, evacuate escapees, conduct sabotage, and bolster morale in occupied areas. First Special Operations Wing air commandos look primarily to their progenitors in the First Air Commando Group of World War II. They pioneered with imagination, courage, and daring the effective application of air power to the concept of special operations ground support in extraordinarily difficult terrain and environment in the heart of Japanese-controlled Burma.

General H. H. (Hap) Arnold, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Forces, agreed to support an aerial infiltration, resupply, and exfiltration of British Brigadier Orde Wingate's forces behind enemy lines. General Arnold chose Lieutenant Colonel (later Colonel) Philip Cochran to organize and lead the air commandos. This force ultimately consisted of fighters, bombers, transports, helicopters, light planes, and gliders. During three and a half months of daily combat flying with 95 percent of the missions at night on instruments and landing on rough rice paddy strips with short approach and takeoff runs, the 1st ACG lost only one C-47. In a night landing, it struck a water buffalo. Light plane and especially glider losses were much greater. The

majority of these losses occurred during takeoffs and landings on short, rough, unprepared landing strips especially while infiltrating troops and equipment for the development of airstrips and exploitation of occupied territory. The entire operation was impressive. The UC-64 section, even with only ten aircraft before attrition, transported over 400 tons of cargo on 410 missions. The P-51s executed strafing and dive bombing runs on airfields, enemy positions, and bridges with B-25s adding additional bombing support. While destroying 104 enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground, the air commandos only lost seven aircraft to combat operations. In April 1944, they employed a YR-4 helicopter to rescue the crew and three wounded in a light plane forced down on a Japanese-controlled road due to engine failure. This marked the first combat use of a helicopter by Americans. The 1st ACG light aircraft evacuated in excess of 2,200 battle, malaria, fatigue, and general sickness casualties from Japanese-occupied Burma. Not one light plane was lost to enemy air or ground fire. By their actions, the 1st Air Commando Group established a new and successful form of warfare - total airborne invasion.

Lord Louis Mountbatten wrote to Colonel Cochran, "I cannot tell you how impressed and indeed thrilled I was by all I saw of No. 1 Air Commando. Your party has certainly exceeded my most optimistic expectations and it is not too much to say that they have altered the prospects of full success for General Wingate's force." Colonel Cochran received the Distinguished Service Medal for which the citation read:

> For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility from December 1943 to May 1944. Colonel Cochran personally organized a special air task force known as the "First Air Commando Group" and, with brilliant leadership, tactical genius and executive ability, carried his mission to a successful completion, thereby making possible the first airborne invasion of Burma on March 5, 1944, the unique pattern of which has contributed signally to the present success of the Army Air Forces in the India-Burma Sector, China-Burma-India Theater. Colonel Cochran established a formula for conquering, by air ground maneuver, the seemingly impregnable fortress which Central Burma has been since the occupation of that territory by the enemy in 1942.

The First Air Commando Group in 1945 received the Distinguished Unit Citation and after the war on 3 November 1945 the Group inactivated. The unit completely disbanded in October 1948.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1961 - 1989

1961

14 Apr — When the need for an air commando force became apparent, the Air Force designated and organized the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field, otherwise known as Eglin Air Force Base Auxiliary Field Number 9. The Air Force authorized the squadron 124 officers and 228 enlisted personnel and manned it entirely with volunteers. Headquarters Tactical Air Command assigned the 4400th CCTS to Ninth Air Force.

27 Apr — The final operational concept for the 4400th CCTS, nicknamed Jungle Jim, authorized a force of 16 C-47, eight B-26, and eight T-28 aircraft plus the same number in temporary storage. The C-47s were configured for cargo drops; the B-26s included the two-place model to facilitate transition training; and the T-28s were modified to carry .50 caliber machine guns, 2.75-inch rockets, a small quantity of bombs, and armor plating. The concept called for all aircraft to operate from minimal condition, tactical airstrips and C-47s and T-28s from sod runways. The Jungle Jim mission, organization, and equipment closely paralleled World War II counterparts, the 5318th Provisional Air Unit and the 1st Air Commando Group. The new squadron mission involved individual and unit training and potential combat - strike, reconnaissance, and airlift.

1 May — Colonel Benjamin H. King assumed command of the 4400th CCTS.

1961 (cont)

5 May — The first aircraft assigned to Jungle Jim, a T-28A, arrived at Hurlburt Field. The full complement of aircraft arrived before 1 July.

15 Aug — At 0800, only four months after activation, the 4400th CCTS deployed Detachment #1 under the command of Captain Thomas C. McEwen, Jr., to Mali, West Africa under the code name "Sandy Beach I." This was the first of numerous overseas deployments.

23 Aug — The 4400th CCTS was reassigned from the jurisdiction of 9th AF to that of Headquarters TAC.

29 Aug — Detachment #1 in two SC-47s arrived at Bamako Airfield, Mali in the worst storm of the year and the worst flying experience of Det pilots to begin their mission - training Mali paratroopers.

September — Just five months after its inception, the 4400th CCTS successfully passed an Operational Readiness Inspection.

2 Sep — Mali paratrooper training began with 55 jumpers on the first operational day. While at Bamako, Det 1 shared the airfield with Russian and Czechoslovakian aircraft. Sandy Beach personnel also provided a static display and airdrop demonstration for President Modibo Keita of Mali.

1 Nov — Det 1 completed its mission to Mali and departed for home.

6 Nov — Headquarters Pacific Air Forces Operations Plan #222-61 called on the 4400th CCTS to send a detachment to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam to train the Vietnamese Air Force in offensive operations using tactics and techniques developed by the 4400th CCTS. Colonel King organized and commanded Detachment #2, code name "Farmgate," consisting of 41 officers and 115 airmen on a 179-day temporary duty

1961 (cont)

assignment. They were to have four RB-26, four SC-47, and eight T-28 aircraft at Bien Hoa. The detachment ferried the C-47s from Hurlburt Field; Military Air Transport Service airlifted the T-28s and 140 people; and detachment personnel picked up the B-26s from storage in Okinawa for modification in Taiwan before delivery to Vietnam. In addition to training the VNAF, Det 2 would also operate an air control facility for all USAF activities in Southeast Asia not assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group.

25 Nov — Detachment #1 arrived Hurlburt Field from Mali to find Det 2 deployed to Vietnam. Thus early in modern air commando history, "Any Time, Any Place," became a way of life for this unique force. From that time forward there would seldom be a time when the entire command would be at home at the same time. Deployments and TDYs would take them constantly throughout the Continental U.S. and around the world.

21 Dec — Colonel King returned to Hurlburt Field from Bien Hoa to resume his 4400th CCTS command duties. Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Gleason succeeded Colonel King in command of Det 2.

1962

11 Feb — First Farmgate fatalities. Captain Edward K. Kissam, Jr., First Lieutenants Stanley G. Hartson and Jack D. LeTourneau, Technical Sergeant Floyd M. Frazier, and Airman First Class Robert L. Westfall died in a C-47 crash.

March — The wing checked out low-level, mountainous-terrain routes near Little Rock, Arkansas which were developed to familiarize crews with terrain they would encounter in Vietnam.

1962 (cont)

20 Mar — Headquarters Tactical Air Command by special order activated Headquarters 4400th Combat Crew Training Group at Hurlburt along with a Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, a Light Air Transportation Squadron, and an Air Materiel Squadron with the same numerical designations. The 4400th Recon, Transportation, and Materiel squadrons were assigned to the Group. The same order reassigned the 4400th CCTS from HQ TAC to the new 4400th CCTG which, in turn, was assigned to command headquarters.

19 Apr — The Air Force directed the establishment of the USAF Special Air Warfare Center on 25 April.

27 Apr — This was the actual date of SAWC activation at Eglin AFB and its assignment to HQ TAC with an authorized strength of 15 officers and 12 airmen. Brigadier General Gilbert L. Pritchard, New York Air Defense Sector Commander, became the first SAWC Commander. Headquarters TAC reassigned the 1st Combat Applications Group from its jurisdiction to that of SAWC. Also, TAC activated and organized the 1st Air Commando Group as part of SAWC; discontinued the 4400th CCTG; and redesigned the 4400th CCTS as the 4410th CCTS with assignment to the 1st ACG.

27 Apr — The 1st Air Commando Group at Hurlburt Field having the personnel previously controlled by the 4400th CCTG, attained an authorized manning of 211 officers and 581 enlisted spread among itself and its subordinate units - the 6th Fighter Squadron Commando, the 319th Troop Carrier Squadron Commando, and the 1st Air Materiel Squadron Commando. The largest number of people were authorized to Materiel - 12 officers and 440 enlisted. The 1st ACG had been organized with its own personnel, intelligence, operations, supply, maintenance, and medical units. This complete operational organization could deploy worldwide

1962 (cont)

and function with great self-sufficiency. It was the workhorse of the SAWC.

27 Apr General Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, announced the establishment of the Special Air Warfare Center and the 1st Air Commando Group. He identified the 1st ACG mission in a speech in Los Angeles.

> Members of the new Air Commando Group are trained to instruct allied aircrews in all phases of airborne operations, including low-level drop techniques for both personnel and cargo, close air support--in daylight or dark--for counter-guerrilla forces, rapid deployment to areas of suspected or actual guerrilla activity, the use of flares for night-time detection of guerrilla movements and for reconnaissance, the cutting off of retreat routes by use of antipersonnel weapons, the staking out from the air of areas of suspected enemy activity, interdiction raids, destruction of supply points, and the use of psychological operations such as harassment and counterinformation programs. . .
>
> The Air Commando Group concentrates on improving techniques for employment of aircraft in the counterinsurgency (COIN) role, primarily using the T-28 specially fitted fighter trainer, the B-26 light bomber fitted with a wide variety of air commando weapons, the L-28 ultra-light transport, and the C-47 light transport. Aircraft of these types are in general use in many countries.

27 Apr Lieutenant Colonel Miles M. Doyle assumed command of the 1st ACG for only two days. Colonel Chester A. Jack, 4400th CCTG Commander, had been selected to lead the Air Commandos.

29 Apr Colonel Jack officially assumed command of the 1st Air Commando Group. Lieutenant Colonel Doyle became group deputy commander.

1962 (cont)

30 Apr — Detachment #3 of the 1st ACG, known as Bold Venture, officially activated at Hurlburt Field under command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Gleason. The unit had both counterinsurgency training and civic action missions.

May-Dec — During this period, Detachment #3 installed weapons on Guatemalan Air Force aircraft. They fitted six external wing racks to F-51s so they could carry a 2.75-inch rocket on each rack. This increased firepower 600 percent.

May-Dec — Detachment #3 flew 656 sorties providing counterinsurgency training for Latin American nations. They also supported Army Special Forces' civic action missions.

4 May — The SAWC provided static displays and a special aerial demonstration for President John F. Kennedy as part of Operation Silk Hat. For its performance only seven days after activation, the SAWC earned the TAC Unit Award, "For Outstanding Performance in the Demonstration of Air Power for the President of the United States. . ." That set a record for the shortest time to earn the award. Congratulations came from the TAC Commander, General Sweeney, the USAF Chief of Staff, General LeMay, and Secretary of the Air Force Zuckert. The cost to Hurlburt Field had been only $2,079.

10 May — Detachment #3 organized at Howard AFB, Panama with 22 officers and 48 airmen authorized. Bold Venture, the code name for Det 3, was equipped with C-46, L-28, T-28, and B-26 aircraft for their training and humanitarian missions.

15 May — Bold Venture aircraft, two each C-46, T-28, and L-28 (later redesignated as the U-10), deployed from Hurlburt Field. During June, two B-26s were added to the fleet.

1962 (cont)

18 May — Only three days after arriving in Panama, Det 3 prepared to participate in a search mission. However, the subject of the search was located before the Det embarked on the mission.

13 Jun — Design and installation of a public address system in C-47, C-46, L-28, and B-26 aircraft for psychological warfare operations began this date.

Jul-Aug — A Det 3 C-46 also transported cargo between Turbo and Bahio de Salano, Colombia supporting an Army Geodetic Survey unit.

1 Jul — Jurisdiction of Hurlburt Field transferred from Air Defense Command to Tactical Air Command with TAC having the greatest number of people assigned to the base. The 4420th Combat Support Group, which had been the 4751st Air Defense Wing, Missile before being discontinued effective 1 July, was designated and organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the Special Air Warfare Center. The 4751st Air Base Squadron became the 4420th Air Base Squadron and the 4751st Materiel Squadron became the 4420th Materiel Squadron. Both squadrons were assigned to the 4420th CSG.

5 Jul — First class of hand-to-hand combat training for the air commandos began. By the end of the year, approximately 300 military personnel had participated in these ten-hour courses.

15 Jul — During the week beginning 15 July, Det 3 flew a B-26 photo mission of unimproved sections of the Pan American Highway.

19 Jul — The 1st ACG became the first military organization to receive the new Colt AR-15 rifle. Of the 250 shipped to

1962 (cont)

Hurlburt, 150 were sent to Det 2 in Southeast Asia and 670 to Det 3 in Panama.

1 Aug — Detachment #3 staged a demonstration for the command and staff sections of the U.S. Army Caribbean Command at Fort Gulick, Panama using a T-28, C-46, U-10A, and B-26. The Det also presented a static display narrated in Spanish by a Det 3 officer. Command and staff students were then given rides on the C-46 and a demonstration of dropping supplies by parachute.

4 Aug — Bold Venture personnel delivered 200 pounds of books to school children at Nargana, Panama by U-10 aircraft. This provided the students with books and Det 3 with short field training on the Nargana dirt strip in Operation Books.

6 Aug — Lieutenant Colonel Gleason reported that if some of his people could not have spoken Spanish, they would not have been able to train the Hondurans. This was a continuing problem for Det 3. According to Colonel Gleason, fewer Latin American officers spoke English than did the Vietnamese with whom he worked on Farmgate.

19 Aug — During this week, Det 3, using a B-26, began to gather unclassified intelligence of 15 airfields in Panama by collecting data and taking aerial photos. They completed this program in late October using a U-10A.

28 Aug — Farmgate Air Commando Captain Robert L. Simpson died in combat in a T-28.

August — Brigadier General Pritchard noted that in Exercise Swift Strike II his C-47s performed paradrop and aerial resupply. Also, his B-26s flew low-level and accomplished photo reconnaissance and infiltration and exfiltration (infil/exfil) of Army Special Forces. Swift Strike II in North and South

1962 (cont)

Carolina was believed to be the largest combined air and land force peacetime maneuver.

Sep-Dec — Highly successful Det 3 evaluation of the Zuni target marking rocket.

1-7 Sep — Operation Fraternidad in Honduras provided valuable experience for Det 3 which utilized one of its C-46s for photo coverage and as a jump platform for Det 3 combat controllers. The detachment also delivered a photo lab, personnel, a jeep, and a communications van to Tegucigalpa.

14 Sep — Air Commando and Special Forces Field Day in Panama. Emphasis was placed on air-to-ground ordnance delivery for the benefit of Army personnel. The day's activities included a 30-minute briefing by the Det 3 Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Gleason, and static displays of the U-10A, the T-28 with a full range of ordnance, a B-26, photo reconnaissance equipment, a combat controller communications vehicle, the AR-15 weapon, and a C-46 with roller conveyor for a 15-bundle air resupply drop. They followed the static display with C-46 loading procedures, a loud-speaker demonstration, a Special Forces airdrop, and T-28 and B-26 low passes. The day's activities continued at Pina Range with another C-46 loudspeaker demonstration, a U-10A leaflet drop, C-46 flare drops, and air-to-ground delivery of napalm, rockets, and machine gun fire by one B-26 and two T-28s in trail.

September — William Tell 1962. This annual Air Force weapons meet at Nellis AFB in 1962 allowed the air commandos to showcase their increased counterinsurgency capability and skill in simulated counterguerrilla tactical air operations. During William Tell '62 the 1st ACG's combined time error for all its aircraft was only eight seconds.

1962 (cont)

5 Oct — A Det 3 C-46 flew a load of surplus radio equipment to David, Panama. David had one of the best civilian airfields in the country, but it lacked adequate radio equipment and navigational aids. Detachment #3 personnel, after flying in the equipment repaired David's airport communications and installed a VHF transmitter/receiver which provided the airfield with modern radio and navigational capabilities.

10 Oct — The Sans School of Languages in Washington, D.C. received a contract for language training for SAWC personnel. Between 29 October 1962 and 30 June 1963 the Sans School provided 560 people with 80 hours of training. Foreign language proficiency significantly facilitated counter-insurgency training.

15 Oct — Detachment #3 experience, which they debriefed on return to Hurlburt, revealed that aircrews were not fully prepared for the sensations and conditions encountered while flying support missions at altitudes between 12,000 and 18,000 feet. The Physiological Training Flight at Eglin AFB developed a course which emphasized the effects of prolonged exposure to flying at those altitudes and trained 1st ACG personnel to recognize insidious and cumulative hypoxia. In an unusual aspect of the training, aircrewmen drank several ounces of medical alcohol during altitude chamber flight to demonstrate the almost immediate symptoms of intoxication and comparative duration at altitudes such as they encountered at La Pas, Bolivia.

15 Oct — Captain Herbert B. Booth, Jr. and Technical Sergeant Richard L. Foxx were killed in action in an RB-26.

22 Oct — Detachment #3 in Panama was placed on alert due to the "Cuban Crisis." This resulted in above normal flying

1962 (cont)

activity including photo reconnaissance, scrambles for unidentified targets, and search and rescue.

27 Oct Cuban Crisis. Upon determination that the Soviet Union had deployed medium range missiles to Cuba, the President directed an advanced state of alert and readiness. Florida, due to its proximity to Cuba, became a significant forward staging area. Hurlburt Base Operations became a Strategic Air Command Command Post and 16 of the 4420th Air Police Squadron personnel provided security for the command post and three B-47 bombers. The Cuban Crisis affected all Hurlburt Field units to some degree. During the first 24 hours of the Cuban Crisis the 1st ACG Director of Materiel deployed 11 vehicles, 24 people, and 20 tons of equipment to Opa Locka, Florida, where Detachment #4 Provisional Wing was formed with the 319th Troop Carrier Squadron, Commando from the First Air Commando Group. The 1st ACG Director of Intelligence manned intelligence positions for Strike Command, provided briefings on Cuba, distributed intelligence materials to other units, and prepared intelligence kits for deploying personnel. Transportation and supply personnel met unusual demands on their services. The Cuban Crisis was especially challenging due to the movement of forces to Florida. It also offered the 1st ACG and Army Special Forces at Fort Bragg, NC an opportunity to exercise joint planning in a tactical operation. Known as Operation Scabbard, this six-weeks exercise proved invaluable in developing staff procedures, operational plans, logistics and communications requirements, tactics, techniques, and employment concepts. When Army communications proved inadequate, the 1st ACG established a secure communications net between Fort Bragg, Hurlburt Field, and the Joint Staging Base at Opa Locka. For Opa Locka the 1st ACG provided the Joint Staging Base Commander, 37 officers and airmen, and equipment and housekeeping items. After conditions

1962 (cont)

returned to normal, the Air Commandos received letters of commendation from the TAC Commander and SAC's 8th Air Force Deputy Commander.

Early Nov — Detachment #3 air evacuated a Panamanian with a severe head injury from Sona in the province of Veragnas to Panama City. Within two hours and 45 minutes, of which one hour was ground time, the patient had been evacuated to Albrook AFB for transport by ambulance to Santo Toma Hospital.

5 Nov — Captain Robert D. Bennett and First Lieutenant William B. Tully were killed in a U-10 in SEA.

9 Nov — On this night a concentration of Viet Cong on a half-moon shaped strip of marsh along the coast about 50 miles south of Bien Hoa, South Vietnam came under attack. Helicopters escorted by Farmgate T-28s moved Army of Vietnam ground forces into the area and Vietnamese gunboats blocked the river which bordered the area on the north. A U-10 flown by Lieutenant Albert A. Wright picked up a VNAF Forward Air Controller and orbited the strike area while the ARVN began shelling the VC. A C-47 flown by Captain William F. Brown arrived at 2000 hours and, at the direction of the FAC, began dropping flares which kept the area illuminated for the next 90 minutes. The RB-26s attacked the area with various types of ordnance. Although exact casualty figures were, as usual, not available, the operation was a success and the ARVN mopped up the following two days.

11 Nov — Two Det 2 C-47 cargo aircraft delivered 10,000 pounds of sand bags to an encampment which had a small drop zone. It was a small soccer field which permitted only a two-second drop time on each pass. Although this required numerous passes, the sand bags fell on target. Such

1962 (cont)

free-fall drops supplemented air landing and paradrop delivery techniques.

12 Nov — A B-26 from Det 3 flew to Guatemala City, Guatemala at the time of the eruption of the long dormant El Fuego volcano. Using a K-17 oblique camera at a distance of 20 miles at 10,000 feet altitude in a 60 degree banking turn, the aircrew obtained excellent photos of El Fuego in action.

16 Nov — Captain Dalton and his navigator Lieutenant Charles Kuczaj in their RB-26 scrambled at 2325 hours and arrived over the target 30 minutes later. The VC besieged a large fort southwest of Tra Vinh. A VNAF flare ship cleared them to expend ordnance as near as 200 meters from all sides of the fort. They came under small arms fire at an altitude of 200 feet, but pressed the attack with .50 caliber fire, six napalm runs, and two dive bombings with 120-pound fragmentation bombs. As the VC attempted to escape along a river, Captain Dalton attacked with 100-pound general purpose bombs and his remaining ammunition. Close air support such as this was a primary Farmgate mission.

17 Nov — A Det 3 C-46 and U-10A participated in a search and flare drop mission for an Argentine C-54 which crashed in the Panamanian mountains. The C-46 dropped flares, the U-10 searched in the light of the flares, a combat control team member prepared to jump into the area to provide communications, the C-46 photographed the crash scene, and the U-10 transported rescue personnel as close to the crash as possible and then guided them by loudspeaker to the site.

18-24 Nov — During this week, Farmgate crews flew 70 combat support missions, airdropped 9,000 pounds of cargo, and airlanded another 7,000 pounds. One of these combat support

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missions involved Captain Dalton and Lieutenant Kuczaj who, although there had been only limited resistance on the ground, laid down suppressive fire prior to a helicopter landing. The Army wanted to establish a strategic hamlet approximately 12 miles from Bien Hoa. The following day the Air Liaison Officer and the ARVN commander credited Captain Dalton with 20 killed and the capture of six VC who tried to escape the area. Since not all areas struck from the air were followed up by ground action quickly enough to confirm casualties, it was believed that enemy losses were normally greater than could be determined.

19 Nov — A U-10A transported a three-man Caribbean Air Command team to David, Panama to plan Operation Christmas. Detachment #3 agreed to airlift several tons of surplus and donated items ranging from stoves and iceboxes to toys.

20 Nov — Detachment #3 provided 40 machetes to Panamanians participating in rescue operations in the El Valle area. Weather conditions and lack of a suitable landing site forced a change from air to surface delivery.

21 Nov — The Panama Det flew an Army team to Ailigandi Island in the San Blas chain to study the feasibility of drilling water wells and improving farming methods.

23 Nov — A routine mission became an unexpected success. The aircrew struck a large building south of Can Tho and then raked the bordering canal which was obscured by over-hanging trees. Ground troops entered the area and discovered this had been an arms factory with sampans using the canal to transport raw materials in and finished arms out. Of a VC battalion of 296 men hidden along the canal and in the boats, only 15 survived. Lieutenant Colonel Phillip O'Dwyer and Major Robert P. Guertz, the

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aircrew, received credit for 281 casualties, 20 motorized sampans, six smaller boats, and a wrecked arms factory.

26 Nov — Captain Quinton Evans with a VNAF FAC searched an area ten miles northeast of Tra Vinh for over an hour without success. However, when a South Vietnamese Self Defense Force entered the area, the VC attacked. The FAC marked the enemy position with smoke and Captain Evans hit them with a variety of ordnance - white phosphorous 100-pound bombs, 100-pound general purpose bombs, 120-pound fragmentation clusters, and .50 caliber machine gun fire. Post strike intelligence credited him with 16 VC killed.

During Nov — Det 3's C-46 extended Special Forces support to Colombia, Equador, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, and Bolivia and resupplied two Det 3 sub-detachments.

Early Dec — Malfunctions of .50 caliber machine guns were due in part to the ammunition which had been manufactured in 1945 and reissued in 1951. Ammunition crates were rotted, ammunition cans were rusted, ammunition belts fell apart when removed from the cans due to rusty links, ammunition caps were pushed in by the firing pins, and swollen rounds were common.

4 Dec — Personnel of the 9999th Air Reserve Squadron visited Det 3. Senators, congressmen, and senior government officials in the Washington, D.C. area formed the 9999th. The Det provided briefings and a demonstration which included a U-10 infiltration, a combat control team demonstration, a resupply consisting of a bundle drop from a C-46, a loudspeaker demonstration, a firefight on the ground, and a B-26 strike.

8 Dec — Detachment #3 flew two Panamanian teachers to a village in Los Sanitos Province to educate the people in the

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fundamentals of sanitation and public health. This was the first phase of Operation Teachers.

10 Dec A Det 3 C-46 flew people to David to make final arrangements for Operation Christmas.

15 Dec The detachment in Panama used a C-46 to deliver 600 pounds of goods and 24 people to David, Panama in Operation Christmas.

15 Dec The USAF Air Ground Operations School, designated as the 4425th School Squadron, transferred from Keesler Technical Training Center to Hurlburt Field.

16 Dec Operation Teachers continued when two Panamanian teachers and a Special Forces medical officer flew by U-10 to Guanico Abago, Panama. They improved local understanding of sanitation and hygiene needs.

17 Dec Operation Christmas also benefitted Las Minas, Panama when a U-10B delivered 1,000 pounds of foodstuffs, clothing, school supplies, and toys to the 800-foot airstrip. Personnel at Albrook AFB donated the gifts.

17 Dec A U-10B airlifted two Army Special Forces troops to Nargana Island with clothing and supplies.

17 Dec Another U-10B searched for a civilian survey team lost in the jungle. They located the party and used the aircraft loudspeaker to coordinate rescue operations.

18 Dec A U-10B delivered a missionary and 450 pounds of supplies to Jacue, Panama. Two additional U-10 sorties airlifted medical personnel and medical supplies to San Miguel Island. The Det also conducted an aerial survey for a possible landing strip at Chiman, Panama.

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19 Dec — Santa Claus arrived in Colon by Det 3 U-10B to deliver presents as part of Operation Santa Claus.

21 Dec — Not all civic actions involved airlift. A Det 3 party of 25, including five wives traveled by truck and boat to an Indian village on the Chagres River in another phase of Operation Christmas. The air commandos delivered two pigs, five turkeys, cloth, and kitchen utensils.

22 Dec — Santa Claus also arrived by U-10B rather than sleigh to the delight of the children at Fort Gulick.

31 Dec — Hurlburt base facilities included 280 family housing units and 26 officer and 79 NCO bachelor quarters, a base exchange, barber shop, nursery, service club, NCO club, Officers Open Mess, hobby shops, theater, gymnasium, dining hall, commissary, branches of a local bank and the Eglin Federal Credit Union, a post office, library, dispensary, dental clinic, gas station, nine hole golf course, tennis courts, marina, beauty shop, cafeteria, teen club, softball diamonds, chapel, fire station, and necessary administrative and technical buildings.

During 1962 — Due to the need to train air commandos in short takeoffs and landings, base personnel constructed a 300-foot clay landing strip on the southeast side of the field.

During 1962 — Detachment #2 aircrews flew 4,040 sorties in support of the Government of South Vietnam of which they devoted 1,037 flights to escort duty for trains, convoys, and aircraft. The Viet Cong attacked no convoys or trucks when escorted and attacks on forts broke off quickly upon the arrival of air commando aircraft. The reported toll taken on the enemy included 3,381 casualties and 4,151 structures and 405 Viet Cong watercraft destroyed or damaged. Broken down further, of the 4,151 structures, Farmgate destroyed

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2,899 and damaged 1,252. Of the 405 sampans and junks, they destroyed 330 and damaged 75. Detachment #2, code name Farmgate, expended over one-half million items of ordnance.

1963

Jan-Jun The SAWC tested the YC-123H aircraft in Southeast Asia, a C-123 cargo extraction system, a leaflet dispensing device on the C-46 and C-47, a drop ramp for the U-10 aircraft, a float equipped U-10 to be used in Exercise Swift Strike III, flame suppressors for the C-123, and an in-flight pick-up system on the C-46 and C-47. Maintenance personnel at Hurlburt designed and built airborne speaker systems to be used on C-46, C-47, and U-10 aircraft. The C-47 model consisted of either four speakers mounted in the jump door or an eight-speaker system with four in the jump door and four in the cargo door. All systems tested by the SAWC communications squadron could be used with or without a tape recorder. The U-10 system proved very successful in actual operations in Panama.

1 Jan Detachment #1, 1920th Communications Squadron was redesignated and activated as the 2068th Communications Squadron.

2 Jan Not all objectives required attacks on the VC. An ARVN post north of Pleiku under attack was relieved when a C-47 arrived and dropped a flare. Immediately the VC broke off the attack.

8 Jan Hurlburt Field implemented an Automated Digital Network which was a high speed information transmission system utilizing punched cards.

21 Jan Two C-123 aircraft from the 1st Air Commando Group deployed on Sandy Beach II to Bamako, Mali and conducted joint

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training of U.S. and Mali paratroopers. In the training, the 345 troops performed over 2,000 jumps in 3 1/2 months.

1 Feb — A ten-man mobile training team deployed to Saudi Arabia to train Saudi military forces in special warfare operations including air assault landings and takeoffs, low-level navigation, resupply, and infiltration and exfiltration of personnel. In 60 days they trained 20 Saudi aircrew despite a slow start. When the team arrived at Dhahran they released their transport because they had been assured of transport in-country to their destination. However, it took eight days to get to Jidda.

3 Feb — Captain John P. Bartley and Captain John F. Shaughnessy, Jr. were killed during a combat support mission when they diverted to a VC concentration approximately 33 miles west of Soc Trang. Captain Bartley used napalm, bombs, and rockets on the VC and their sampans before the RB-26 went down during a strafing run. During the action which also involved T-28 aircraft, 120 VC were listed as killed in action.

6 Feb — Major James E. O'Neill's RB-26 lost both engines on a training flight while flying at 500 feet. He ordered the other two crew members, an American navigator and a VNAF observer, to bail out. When the VNAF had trouble, Major O'Neill held the aircraft level to assist his exit. However, the RB-26 almost immediately crashed, killing Major O'Neill.

22 Feb — During an attack on a VC installation, only five structures and four sampans were hit; however, one structure exploded in a large fireball and billowing black smoke. There were also secondary explosions.

1 Mar — The Air Force deactivated the 4420th Air Base Squadron and the 4420th Materiel Squadron. Also, the Air Force designated and organized four squadrons - Air Police, Civil Engineering,

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Supply, and Transportation. Each received the 4420th number. Effective 1 March the Air Force established the 4420th Headquarters Squadron and assigned it to the 4420th Combat Support Group. This reorganization provided staff agencies more direct control over line units and gave the Group Commander and his staff more direct communication with the operational elements of each organization.

6-22 Mar For an exercise at Fort Stewart, Georgia in addition to aircraft and crews, SAWC personnel participated in planning and pre-exercise photo reconnaissance, as part of the joint operational staff and as field observers. The exercise consisted of infiltrating special forces trainees into the exercise area during darkness, night resupply drops, simulated air strikes, and a night exfiltration as the exercise terminated. The 1st ACG flew almost 254 hours, dropped 97 troops, accomplished 78 resupply drops, transported 15,517 pounds of cargo, executed 16 assault landings, and exfiltrated 264 people.

7 Mar Seven Air Commandos departed Hurlburt Field for Greece to train Royal Hellenic Air Force personnel in psychological, unconventional, and counterinsurgency warfare. Royal Hellenic personnel completed day takeoffs, landings, and low-level navigation.

18 Mar A two-man team deployed from Hurlburt to Iran to instruct Iranian Army personnel on the use of air power in counter-insurgency operations. However, this mobile training team learned, when they arrived in Europe, that they had been added at the last moment. Better use could have been made of the 1st ACG MTT with better planning.

19 Mar Colonel Chester A. Jack, Commander 1st ACG, was reassigned as Special Assistant Headquarters SAWC and Colonel Gerald J. Dix, Deputy Commander of Headquarters SAWC, assumed command

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of the Group. Colonel Robert W. Gates, Special Assistant to the SAWC Commander, became SAWC's Deputy Commander.

22 Mar — Captains Waldo H. Miller and Donald J. Maxwell received the first Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded by the Air Force to air commandos in Vietnam for their actions on 6 October and 27 December 1962 respectively.

25–31 Mar — A typical week of activity for Farmgate. C-47s flew 67 sorties, delivered 60,229 pounds of cargo and 81 passengers, and dropped 91 paratroopers. T-28s flew 90 sorties and expended ordnance on 58 of them resulting in confirmed claims of nine boats destroyed and five damaged and 15 structures destroyed and seven damaged. B-26s had a better than average week with 69 sorties including 44 during which they fired weapons to account for 81 structures destroyed, 81 structures damaged, and 64 VC killed. U-10s engaged in psychological warfare equipment tests, ferried passengers, acted as airborne relay stations, and conducted search and rescue.

March — The USAF approved wear of the distinctive air commando campaign hat for all air commandos. In June 1962, Chief of Staff Curtis LeMay had given verbal approval to Colonel King, 1st ACG Commander, in the presence of the TAC Commander for wear of the hat. However, it was not that simple. Headquarters USAF, in September 1962, asked for justification and in October, SAWC responded. Approximately six months later, USAF gave formal approval. The hat was a morale booster, practical, of sentimental value, and a factor in air commando esprit de corps.

3 Apr — Installation of KY-9 cryptographic equipment at Hurlburt provided a secure telecommunications capability.

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8 Apr — Captain Andrew C. Mitchell III, pilot, Captain Jerry A. Campaigne, navigator, and a VNAF observer, were killed when their B-26 crashed on a mountain during a two-aircraft interdiction mission. Those who observed the incident reported that part of a wing broke off during a strafing run.

23 Apr — Tactical Air Command Programming Plan 28-63 provided for the assignment of personnel to South Vietnam on a permanent change of station basis rather than on 179-day TDYs after the first of July.

25 Apr-20 May — Exercise Coulee Crest. This Army Special Forces exercise at Yakima, Washington involved SAWC in conventional and unconventional operations such as aerial infiltration, resupply, and exfiltration.

April — The Air Force announced the addition of two A-1E squadrons to the 1st ACW at Hurlburt after 1 July 1963. The 50 aircraft involved came from excess Navy resources and meant an increase of some 300 air commandos. The A-1E was the Air Force designation of the Navy AD-5.

April — Headquarters SAWC, due to renovation of its building on Eglin AFB, moved temporarily to Hurlurt Field. The 1st Combat Applications Group remained at Eglin Main.

1 May — The 602nd Fighter Squadron, Commando was organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACG. The 602nd had been the 2nd Fighter Squadron, Commando previously.

7 May — An Air Commando mobile training team began training El Salvador Air Force personnel in the principles, techniques, and application of aerial counterinsurgency operations.

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8 May — Joint Air Operations Center message to Farmgate: "Your mission number 308 of 8 May was flown on VC departing on a two-day birthday celebration for Ho Chi Minh. As the celebration was to include a track meet, feel your mission may have contributed to meet records."

29 May — A flare ship was used to perform a night orientation for two B-26 crews in a simulated fort defense mission. Simultaneous with the arrival of the B-26s, the Viet Cong attacked the fort. Upon confirmation that it was a real attack, one B-26 fired on the VC who broke off the attack. Farmgate personnel felt certain the quick B-26 response impressed the enemy.

29 May — All Headquarters SAWC enlisted personnel were assigned to the Headquarters Squadron of the 4420th CSG.

1 Jun — The 1st Air Commando Group was redesignated the 1st Air Commando Wing.

8 Jun — Secretary of the Air Force, Eugene M. Zuckert, announced that due to air commando success in Vietnam, the Special Air Warfare Center strength would be increased to 3,000. He also announced that the 1st ACW would be expanded from two flying squadrons to six. By 30 Jun, assigned SAWC strength stood at 2,665.

20-24 Jun — Exercise Water Moccasin IV. This joint Army and Air Force training exercise was conducted near Fort Stewart, Georgia. It stressed UW, COIN, and psychological operations. Participating units trained in aerial photography, infiltration, resupply, reconnaissance, PSYOPs, strike, liaison, and exfiltration in 33 C-46, 24 C-47, two T-28, two U-10, one O-1E, and two CH-34/VHB-1 aircraft sorties. They dropped 65 resupply bundles and airlifted 100,000 pounds of cargo.

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22 Jun First Det 3 candy drop at outlying villages in El Salvador in Operation Ninos (Operation Children).

24 Jun Captain Condon H. Terry and a VNAF observer died when the VC hit their T-28 aircraft with heavy ground fire during a strike mission. On 30 June, Captain Terry's widow wrote to Colonel Dix, 1st ACW Commander, expressing her feelings and describing her husband's dedication.

> Condon spent four years at A&M College preparing to become an officer. He worked so diligently at his goal. The next six years became his whole existence. He did not attain what he had because someone gave it to him, but because his career meant more to him than anything else and he believed in what he was doing, . . . Condon used to say . . . that when he died, it would all have purpose to it. Too many people in our world have forgotten what freedom is. My loss is very great, but your loss is greater. Continue to handpick your men and choose them well, they are the men who still possess a devotion for peace, while the rest of us stand in our corners and cower. God bless these men whose strong shoulders our whole country leans upon.

30 Jun In the preceding six months, Detachment #2, Farmgate, in assisting the VNAF in fighting the Viet Cong was credited with 1,913 VC killed, many wounded, and the destruction or damage of 3,720 structures and 238 watercraft. They also destroyed a major bridge and 79 cargo carrying water buffalo. They supplied Government of Vietnam and U.S. Army Special Forces with almost 900 tons of cargo and equipment by airland, paradrop, and free-fall methods of delivery. Also, 1,140 paratroops jumped from Det 2 aircraft. The efficient and timely delivery in an emergency resupply mission to Army Special Forces at Dak Pek was a key factor in a combined air-ground operation. In one instance in the Seven Mountains region of Vietnam, a transport crew paradropped a bundle directly into a waiting Special Forces truck. This, understandably, impressed Army personnel. However, the accomplishments

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of Det 2 were not achieved without cost. Since January, Farmgate suffered battle damage to 26 aircraft and the loss of five. Also six air commandos died. This brought to 16 the number of air commandos who had paid the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam. The roll of 16 and the dates of the fatal incidents were as follows:

Capt Edward K. Kissam	11 Feb 62
1Lt Stanley G. Hartson	11 Feb 62
1Lt Jack D. LeTourneau	11 Feb 62
TSgt Floyd M. Frazier	11 Feb 62
A1C Robert L. Westfall	11 Feb 62
Capt Robert L. Simpson	28 Aug 62
Capt Herbert B. Booth	15 Oct 62
TSgt Richard L. Foxx	15 Oct 62
Capt Robert D. Bennett	5 Nov 62
1Lt William B. Tully	5 Nov 62
Capt John P. Bartley	3 Feb 63
Capt John F. Shaughnessy, Jr.	3 Feb 63
Maj James E. O'Neill	6 Feb 63
Capt Andrew C. Mitchell III	8 Apr 63
Capt Jerry A. Campaigne	8 Apr 63
Capt Condon H. Terry	24 Jun 63

30 Jun The SAWC's 76 aircraft of the following 11 types had flown 14,217.7 hours since 1 January. The aircraft were two A-1Es, 14 B-26s, 13 C-46s, nine C-47s, four C-123s, two H-21s, four O-1Es, 13 T-28s, one T-29, two T-33s, and 12 U-10s for an extraordinary variety of aircraft assigned to one command.

30 Jun The 1st ACW had under its control the 319th Troop Carrier Squadron, 6th Fighter Squadron, 1st Air Materiel Squadron, and the 602d Fighter Squadron.

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30 Jun The 4420th CSG provided base support at Hurlburt and the 1st ACW served as the primary SAWC operational unit. There were six tenant units on Hurlburt Field - the Joint BOMARC Test Organization, and the 4751st Air Defense Squadron (Missile) of Air Defense Command, the USAF Air Ground Operations School of Tactical Air Command, the 2068th Communications Squadron of Air Force Communications Service, the 3rd Weather Squadron of Military Air Transportation Service, and the Hurlburt Field Dispensary of the USAF Hospital at Eglin.

30 Jun Captain Joseph W. Kittinger, Jr. was assigned to the 6th Fighter Squadron. Captain Kittinger is remembered for his 84,000-foot free-fall from a balloon from 19 1/2 miles altitude before opening his main parachute at 17,500 feet. Captain Kittinger set altitude records in a balloon, in an open gondola, for a parachute jump, and for a free-fall.

Jul-Dec The air commandos in Panama utilized the Flying Dispensary Kit in four civic action missions at Guanico Abajo in Los Sanitos province and at Tupile, Playon Chico, and Ailigandi in San Blas province. They airlifted the kit containing 212 pounds of medical equipment and supplies in a U-10 to these remote areas.

Jul-Dec During this period the 1st ACW embarked on a humanitarian program involving six Latin American countries. Detachment #3 personnel instructed Air Force members from Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, and Paraguay in preventive medicine. As part of a five-year civic action program, each foreign team involved in this training would get a year's medical supplies and a Cessna aircraft. The Det provided training in water and milk testing, tooth extraction, veterinary medicine, cooking, simple inoculations, and other medical assistance. Also, one member of each team would be

1963 (cont)

trained to fly the Cessna. Objective of the program was to assist participating military forces in developing their own capability for preventive medicine. Also, Det 3 people provided directions by aircraft loudspeaker for the construction of three airstrips in remote areas. In this way the local population helped themselves with essential, but limited foreign assistance. Such cooperative efforts were the heart and soul of civic action programs.

Jul-Dec — During this period, TDY personnel began arriving for training before assignment to SEA. Phase I of a three phase program consisted of ten flights totaling 15 hours of aircraft and night transition, instrument, and standardization flying. Phases II and III consisted of 30 hours of day and night normal and tactical formation flying, long-range low-level navigation, instruments, day and night air-to-ground ordnance delivery, strafing, rocketry dive bombing, napalm delivery, air combat manuevers, and reconnaissance. The training further included 25 hours of ground training in aircraft engineering and armament systems, ordnance delivery, map reading, reconnaissance techniques, and ordnance and fusing ground training.

Jul-Dec — During these six months, the case of Airman First Class Charles A. Volack demonstrated that not all mission-related aircraft duty accidents resulted from enemy action or routine training. Airman Volack, TDY to La Paz, Bolivia, worked with the Bolivian Air Force installing airborne loudspeakers in their Cessna 185 aircraft. One of these crashed in La Paz killing Airman Volack.

1 Jul — The 603rd and 604th Fighter Squadrons, Commando were organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACW. The 603rd and 604th had previously been the 3rd and 4th Fighter Squadrons, Commando.

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1 Jul — Farmgate transferred to the operational control of the Second Air Division under Pacific Air Forces. The SAWC however, was still tasked with counterinsurgency tactics and techniques training for Air Force personnel being assigned PCS to Vietnam. Hurlburt Field provided COIN training throughout the Vietnam fighting. The first class began in late June 1963.

6 Jul–17 Aug — Swift Strike III. This joint conventional and unconventional warfare field training exercise in North and South Carolina was a major effort by the air commandos. They flew 2,042 sorties for a total of 3,443 hours and 35 minutes during which they paradropped 436 troops and 309 bundles, infiltrated 50 and exfiltrated 16 people, and dropped 1,943,500 leaflets. Also, they flew 33 loudspeaker missions, 319 simulated air strikes, and 119 photo and reconnaissance missions.

14 Jul — A civic action mission sent to Guanico Abajo and Guanico Arriba, Panama made final arrangements for sealing water wells and completing construction of public restroom facilities.

19 Jul — Detachment #3 presented an ambulance to the city of David, Panama. Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Gleason, Det 3 Commander, learned of the neèd for an ambulance in David. He initiated the project and, through American interservice cooperation, a salvaged vehicle procured from the Navy in Pensacola, Florida was flown to Panama. There, Det 3, with the assistance of the 5700th Air Base Group Aircraft Maintenance Division, completely rebuilt the ambulance, flew it to David, and presented it to the President of the David City Council.

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24 Jul — A Flight Surgeon at Albrook AFB, Panama, flown by U-10 to Guanico Arriba, treated malaria patients identified on a previous visit.

25 Jul — The Joint Chiefs of Staff concurred with the United States Commander-in-Chief Europe in establishing a composite special air warfare squadron in Europe. The Air Force Chief of Staff had indicated that initially a Special Air Warfare detachment to form the nucleus of the squadron, if approved, would be made available to Europe.

31 Jul — Headquarters USAF approved the general use of the name Hurlburt Field, but insisted that the official name, Eglin Air Force Auxiliary Field #9, be used on real property records and when confusion might result from the Hurlburt name.

July — Staff Sergeant Billy J. Davidson received an Army Certificate of Achievement for his participation in experimental testing of fixed wing against rotary wing aircraft. This was a forerunner of the J-CATCH program in the late 1970s.

July — The two A-1E aircraft assigned to the 6th Fighter Squadron in April were transferred to the new 603rd and 604th Fighter squadrons. This left the 6th with an all T-28 force.

July — During a three-day period, Det 3 airlifted 22 doctors and dentists, both military and civilian, to Guatemala. They treated 1,428 patients who suffered from maladies ranging from a simple toothache to acute appendicitis. For many Guatemalans this was their first contact with modern medicine. The Guatemalan Air Force then formed its own air commando group and airlifted equipment and personnel

1963 (cont)

to the Department of Peten, a political subdivision comparable to one of our states.

12 Aug — Despite an unsettled political situation in Greece, the USCINCEUR approved the Greek portion of Exercise Sea Ruler.

16 Aug — Captain John H. McClean, pilot, and First Lieutenant Arthur E. Bedal, navigator, died when their B-26 crashed near the village of Ba To in Vietnam.

21 Aug — Four SAWC C-46 aircraft departed Hurlburt Field for Soudha, Crete. They arrived 26 August for Sea Ruler. Concurrently, the Military Air Transport Service airlifted four U-10s by C-133.

28 Aug — Captain Robert L. Simpson crashed and died in Vietnam from intense Viet Cong ground fire while flying a T-28. The Air Force subsequently awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

August — Headquarters SAWC relocated from Hurlburt Field back to Eglin Main.

August — When hemorrhagic fever broke out in Bolivia, Det 3 flew humanitarian missions delivering doctors and medicines to the village of San Joaquin. The air commandos delivered 20,000 pounds of urgently needed medical supplies. San Joaquin citizens, in appreciation, hosted a Bolivian dinner and then escorted the commandos and doctors to the airstrip where community officials praised the Americans for their unselfish aid in San Joaquin people's struggle "against their unseen enemy."

10-26 Sep — Special Air Warfare Center participated in the European Theater UW portion of Exercise Sea Ruler in Germany,

1963 (cont)

France, Corsica, Greece, Turkey, Crete, and Libya. The Air Force wanted to play in Sea Ruler to disprove frequent Army allegations that questioned the 1st ACW UW support capability. During this exercise, the Air Commandos flew 171 hours on 40 sorties.

12 Sep — An air commando C-46 brought band instruments to Panama for distribution to Costa Rica. They had been donated by the Selmer Music Company of Elkhart, Indiana.

17 Sep — Headquarters TAC designated and organized Headquarters 4475th Tactical Air Warfare Group to support CINCSTRIKE.

27 Sep — The SAWC identified the unit capabilities of a European detachment which consisted of air drop and air assault landing of personnel and equipment; infiltration and exfiltration operations; resupply by free-fall and extraction; aerial delivery of psychological warfare materials; selection and establishment of landing and drop zones; medical evacuation; limited pararescue capability; and day and night operations. Also, the Det would plan and support joint training exercises; plan, support, and conduct joint MTTs of limited size in not more than two areas simultaneously; conduct in-country MTT surveys; provide communications to and from sub-detachments and Sembach, Germany; plan and coordinate joint civic action programs; plan for future UW operations; man joint staffs; and provide visual and photo reconnaissance and photo documentation.

27 Sep — Although SAWC aircraft were of World War II vintage, they were not always the same aircraft. For example, the Air Force contracted with the On-Mark Engineering Corporation of Van Nuys, California in October for an extensive modification of 40 B-26s assigned to PACAF and TAC since a suitable replacement aircraft was three to five years away.

1963 (cont)

That work standardized the aircraft and increased SAW capability.

Oct-Nov — The last T-28B and three T-28Ds retrofitted with R-1820-86A engines transferred to PACAF to replace operational losses in Vietnam. In turn, the 1st ACW borrowed three T-28s from the Navy to maintain the air commando training program.

1 Oct — The SAWC notified by the USAF Chief of Staff that it would participate in the joint training team liaison group visit to Iran about 1 November for approximately three weeks.

15 Oct — Brigadier General Pritchard was assigned additional duty as TAWG Commander.

19 Oct — Technical Sergeant Charles L. Jones received both the Bronze Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross for meritorious service while serving as an air commando combat controller in South Vietnam.

22 Oct — A USAF Chief of Staff message to the Joint Chiefs of Staff advised that the interim Special Air Warfare unit requested by USCINCEUR and approved by the JCS was programmed for the first quarter of calendar year 1964. That unit was designated as Detachment #4, 1st Air Commando Wing.

22 Oct — A contract was signed with On-Mark Engineering to modify 40 B-26s. The prototype for this modification had been evaluated by the 1st Combat Applications Group and it would be the 41st reworked B-26. This was an extensive modification program. The On-Mark B-26 would receive modified KC-135 anti-skid brakes, new engines with water injection, new reversing propellers, modified wing flaps, 165-gallon integral wing tip tanks with a 3 1/2 minute dumping capability, eight external pylons to accommodate

1963 (cont)

4,000 pounds of stores per wing, strengthened wings to handle the external stores and tip tanks, a larger rudder, reworked interchangeable noses either glass or eight gun, deicer boots, anti-icing propellers and windshield, low pressure oxygen systems, a 100,000 BTU cockpit heater, a hydraulic windshield wiper, high capacity hydraulic pumps, an emergency hydraulic system of new design, removeable dual pilot controls, and a redesigned instrument panel. Six major items on the prototype were eliminated from the On-Mark production models. They were power nose wheel steering, six wing mounted .50 caliber machine guns, six jet assisted takeoff units, a fire detection and warning system, cockpit air conditioning, and an auto-pilot. The need for B-26 modifications resulted largely from the failure of the Air Force to replace its aging aircraft for special operations needs. Unfortunately, the B-26 had a basic disadvantage for combat. It was extremely difficult to exit the aircraft quickly. The standard recommended method was to climb out of the cockkpit after blowing the canopy and then dive off the trailing edge of the wing. Difficult at best, it was virtually impossible in other than level flight. Also, there was danger of fouling either the propeller or the horizontal stabilizer.

22-23 Oct Two Det 3 C-46 sorties delivered construction materials for a missionary school building in the Darien Province of Panama. Tangible benefits were anticipated among the Chaco Indians educationally and spiritually and toward the United States.

24 Oct A letter this date identified aircraft authorized for the 1st ACW squadrons. The 6th Fighter would have seven B-26s and 12 T-28s, and the 602nd and 603rd would each possess 19 A-1Es. The exact authorization for the 604th was not noted in this letter.

1963 (cont)

28 Oct — The U-10 satisfied SAWC's interim requirements for a short takeoff and landing aircraft because it could operate from jungle strips of less than 400 feet. However, Brigadier General Pritchard, SAWC Commander, reported to the TAC Commander that it could not meet civic action requirements in Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia due to altitude limitations. General Pritchard asked that the Air Force acquire 12 STOL aircraft, provide for attrition replacements for SAWC aircraft, program a replacement for the U-10B, transfer U-10As from other TAC units to SAWC, procure nine more U-10Bs, raise the U-10B weight limit to 36,000 pounds, and support SAWC's request for utility aircraft.

29 Oct — The Air Staff approved the TAC Commander's recommendation that SAWC be responsible for the development of all future MTTs.

30 Oct — The Secretary of Defense approved changing the name from Counterinsurgency forces to Special Air Warfare forces and the transfer of 75 C-123 aircraft to SAW forces in FY 65. That required $18.4 million and 1,908 manpower spaces. In FY 65-72 the force level was to consist of 253 aircraft in ten squadrons for an increase from the 184 aircraft programmed for FY 64.

30 Oct — Air commandos airlifted students attending the Preventative Medicine civic action course at the USAF School for Latin America to Guayaquil, Ecuador. These students were from Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. Detachment #3 supported this effort with two T-28, ten C-47, and 54 U-10 sorties.

1 Nov — The Tactical Air Warfare Group became the Tactical Air Warfare Center with General Pritchard as commander. Headquarters SAWC provided administrative and logistical support for TAWC.

1963 (cont)

1 Nov — The 605th Air Commando Squadron was organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACW. The 605th had previously been the 5th Fighter Squadron Commando.

10 Nov — Detachment #3 flew to Guanico Abajo to air evacuate two seriously ill Panamanians. While there, they learned of another person who required immediate medical care and she was also transported.

12 Nov — A fourth airstrip construction site nicknamed Pista IV was evaluated by air. Local school teachers in this Tres Hermanas area had requested U.S. assistance in this project. Instructions were airdropped to the natives who, as in the other Pista projects, did the actual construction. These airstrips opened their respective areas to civic action medical, educational, and economic assistance.

15 Nov — Detachment #3 in Panama was renamed the 605th Air Commando Squadron (Composite) with personnel changed from TDY to PCS status.

22 Nov — Detachment #3 or the 605th Air Commando Squadron (Composite) airdropped tools to the residents of Los Uveros to complete construction of their jungle airstrip in central Panama.

22 Nov — The special order designating and organizing Headquarters, 1st Air Commando Wing, Detachment #4 at Sembach, Germany was effective 1 January 1964.

24 Nov — Captain Howard R. Cody, First Lieutenant Otis K. Lielmanis, and a member of the VNAF were killed when their B-26 crashed near friendly ground forces during a heliborne operation southwest of Saigon. Moderately heavy fire from Viet Cong ground forces had been reported by other aircraft in the area.

1963 (cont)

24 Nov — Captain Brooks Morris distinguished himself against an opposing armed force as a pilot-advisor in Vietnam. He flew a close air support mission at minimum altitude over a large concentration of hostile forces. In spite of severe damage from ground fire, Captain Morris completed his mission and landed his crippled T-28 on a marginal air strip. He then voluntarily returned to the battle in an L-19 to direct air strikes against the Viet Cong. Captain Morris subsequently received the Silver Star.

24 Nov — Captain George H. Albrecht also distinguished himself against the enemy while serving as a pilot-advisor in a T-28 fighter bomber. On that date, a downed helicopter crew faced death or capture because rescue efforts were prevented due to concentrated machine gun fire from ground forces. Disregarding his own safety, Captain Albrecht repeatedly strafed the gun emplacements at low level, even after his aircraft was severely damaged by hostile gun fire, until the downed crew was rescued. Captain Albrecht subsequently received the Silver Star.

26 Nov — Department of Defense restrictions on developing new aircraft for the Special Air Warfare mission handicapped force improvement. However, modernization was permitted through procurement and modification of existing aircraft. On this date, USAF reported two B-26s being modified and the YAT-28 and T-37 being prototyped for evaluation as strike aircraft. By the end of FY 64, the 1st ACW was authorized two squadrons of 25 A-1Es each, as well as 15 B-26s, 42 C-45/C-47s, 20 T-28s, and 16 U-10s. The DOD also approved increasing worldwide SAW forces from six to ten squadrons and from 184 to 253 aircraft.

November — Six Detachment #3 pilots were awarded Venezuelan pilot wings by the Venezuelan Air Force in recognition of special tactical training they had provided.

1963 (cont)

1 Dec By this date, all 1st ACW T-28s at Hurlburt Field had been converted from the R-1820-76B to the better R-1820-86A engine. Also, four new engines had been shipped to Panama.

20 Dec Captain Thomas H. O'Brien, assigned to the 1st ACW's 6th Fighter Squadron, was killed in a T-28 accident near DeFuniak Springs, Florida. It was one of those ironies of war that Captain O'Brien had survived two six-month tours in Vietnam to be killed on this routine training mission.

21 Dec General Pritchard on civic action missions by the air commandos:

> I consider the civic action role of the Air Commandos to be one of our most important undertakings. We have made a beginning during 1963 and plan to continue. If we can train allied air forces to use tactical air power as a nation building or civic action vehicle, we may never have to train them to drop bombs or fire rockets or machine guns. I firmly believe that, through civic actions and given enough time, Communist subversion can be stopped before it gets to the shooting stage.

21 Dec A press release identified the medals awarded to air commandos during 1963. They were 23 Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Airman's Medals, six Bronze Stars, one Joint Service Commendation Medal, seven Air Force Commendation Medals, 16 Purple Hearts, and 175 Air Medals. Of these, 11 Distinguished Flying Crosses, ten Purple Hearts, and one Air Medal were awarded posthumously.

31 Dec The Special Air Warfare Center authorized manning increased in the last half of CY 63 from 2,549 to 3,111 and the assigned personnel from 2,665 to 2,797.

1964

Jan-Jun During this period "pipeline" aircrew training at Hurlburt for personnel going to Southeast Asia became the focus which would characterize life at Hurlburt during the Vietnam conflict. Dual-control A-1E Skyraiders began arriving at Hurlburt in great numbers. These facilitated training of student officers enroute to SEA and provided greater safety during training than the single-control models. Also the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the addition of one squadron of C-123 provider assault airlift aircraft to the force in South Vietnam. The aircraft for this increase came from the 1st ACW inventory. With the increase in Pathet Lao combat operations in Laos, the Air Force extended and expanded the 1st ACW's Detachment #6, Water Pump. Deployment was directed on 6 Mar and augmentation on 18 Apr. That had a major impact on Special Air Warfare Center operations since replacement crew training became necessary and the 1st ACW had been authorized only a small number of T-28 Trojan aircraft.

Jan-Jun Air Commando worldwide commitments during this period are shown in summary on the following table:

Locale	Type Aircraft	Number Aircraft	Based At
Iran	Personnel Only		Teheran
Thailand	T-28	4	Udorn
Congo	C-47	2	Leopoldville
Ethiopia	Personnel Only		Addis Ababa
Vietnam	A-1E	50	Bien Hoa
	C-47	6	(Assigned
	U-10	4	PACAF)
	C-123	44	
Europe	C-47	6	Sembach,
	C-123	4	Germany
	U-10	2	(Assigned
			USAFE)

1964 (cont)

Jan-Jun Special Air Warfare Center personnel received 1,757 decorations including 19 Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Silver Stars, one Purple Heart, and 414 Air Medals. In addition, approximately 600 Oak Leaf clusters to the Air Medal were awarded. The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded posthumously to Captains Condon H. Terry and Herbert W. Booth, Jr.

Jan-Jun A bowling alley was built at Hurlburt during this period.

1 Jan Eleven different types of aircraft operated at Hurlburt. These were the A-1E Skyraider, B-26 Invader, C-46 Commando, C-47 Skytrain, C-123 Provider, O-1E Bird Dog, U-10 Courier, and T-28 Trojan assigned to the 1st ACW and SAWC. Base support aircraft were the VC-47, T-33, and H-21 helicopter. The Air Ground Operations School had one T-29. Two YAT-28s and one YAT-37 were provided to the 1st Combat Applications Group before July for testing.

1 Jan Detachment #4, 1st ACW was activated as a tenant unit at Sembach, Germany with the code name Gold Fortune. The Commander in Chief USAFE exercised operational control of Gold Fortune. This detachment supported U.S. and friendly foreign forces in counterinsurgency, unconventional warfare, and psychological warfare operations. Further, Det 4 participated in mobile training teams as required by USAFE. With the concurrence of USAFE, Det 4 engaged in civic action programs either unilaterally or jointly. Initially Gold Fortune was authorized 150 officers and airmen and six C-47, four C-123, and two U-10 aircraft. By the time SAWC issued Operations Plan 2-64 which provided for these authorizations, the U-10s were already in place. The six C-47s were to come from USAFE while Air Defense Command and Strategic Air Command were each tasked for two C-123s. Major Victor F. Janus became the first Gold Fortune commander.

1964 (cont)

Early Jan — Headquarters SAWC learned that HQ USAF was considering deploying a four to six aircraft T-28 detachment to Thailand with three objectives in mind. They would train Laotian Air Force air and ground personnel in COIN, provide an American COIN force nucleus near Laos, and stimulate the COIN program among Royal Thai Air Force composite squadrons. Target date for the detachment to be in Thailand was six weeks after a favorable JCS decision. With PACAF support the detachment would not need a major maintenance capability.

4 Jan — Headquarters Tactical Air Command advised HQ SAWC that the Air Force planned to set up a 1st ACW detachment at Hurlburt Field. That Det would be available for Middle East, Africa South of the Sahara, and Southern Asia operations and be assigned to the operational control of the Commander-in-Chief Air Force Strike Command. This unit would be authorized 185 people and eight strike/reconnaissance, four transport, and four utility aircraft for a total of 16 aircraft. By augmentation from SAWC resources the detachment was to have three capabilities. First, it would form a COIN package utilizing all or part of the Det. Second, it would provide two MTTs each composed of two strike/reconnaissance, three transport, and two utility aircraft and 79 people. Third, the Det would develop a UW capability consisting of two strike/reconnaissance, eight transport, and four utility aircraft and approximately 185 people. Headquarters TAC asked for comments and recommendations including whether the detachment should operate as an entity or whether individuals should be identified to train and serve in the detachment when it was called on to deploy.

7 Jan — A message from HQ TAC identified the types and numbers of aircraft to be provided the 1st ACW for FY 65: 13 T-28, seven B-26, 38 A-1E, 14 C-46, three C-47, and 15 C-123.

1964 (cont)

On 30 June 1964, Hurlburt Field reported 75 aircraft consisting of six T-28, 13 A-1E, 11 C-46, 12 C-47, ten U-10, and 23 C-123 plus for testing, training, and/or support two H-21, one O-1E, one T-29, two T-33, one YAT-28, and one YAT-37.

8 Jan — The SAWC advised the 1st ACW of an MTT requirement in Iran. Seven officers and three airmen were to be in Iran by 1 April for a period of six weeks and five of the officers should plan to stay an additional seven weeks. Their mission was to train 40 Imperial Iranian Air Force personnel in COIN operations, assist Iran in improving IIAF special air warfare organization and operations, train Imperial Iranian Army personnel as forward air guides, and emphasize Phase I training in organization, tactics, and civic actions. Assistance to the IIAF in special air warfare included COIN, CAS, weapons delivery, air/ground communications, tactical delivery of personnel and equipment, and PSYOP with emphasis on airborne loudspeaker techniques.

8 Jan — Headquarters SAWC replied to the 4 January TAC message that it wasn't feasible or practical for the detachment to operate as a distinct entity at Hurlburt. However, SAWC would identify individuals by specialty code for assignment to this detachment, Det 5, on 1 February.

9 Jan — Headquarters SAWC advised HQ TAC that it could deploy a detachment to Thailand.

17 Jan — Headquarters TAC announced that the first C-123 squadron to be assigned to the 1st ACW would arrive during the April-June 1964 quarter. That unit, the 775th Troop Carrier Squadron, would come from Pope AFB and be redesignated the 317th Troop Carrier Squadron (Commando) on 1 July.

1964 (cont)

28 Jan — Special Air Warfare Center learned informally it would be called upon for an MTT to Ethiopia before July. The Ethiopians would receive both academic and Phase II aircrew training, instruction in forward air control, and experience in drop and landing zone operations. Approximately 20 T-28 and 10 C-47 aircrews would receive Phase II training. The MTT would last from 90 to 120 days and four strike pilots, three transport pilots, and one each instructor navigator, instructor flight engineer, instructor loadmaster, and combat controller comprised the team. This MTT, known as Sandy Road, was documented on film for future training of Ethiopian personnel.

3 Feb — A Chief of Staff USAF message authorized one officer and three airmen to arrive Hurlburt Field about 15 March in advance of the 775th TCS.

3 Feb — Headquarters SAWC advised HQ TAC that there was no longer a training requirement for T-28 crews for PACAF since A-1Es would replace them in SEA. Therefore, training at Hurlburt would also switch to the A-1E at the rate of three or four crews per month through September.

7 Feb — Increased use of the A-1E in SEA generated an additional requirement for A-1E maintenance and SAWC recommended that be accomplished at Hurlburt.

11 Feb — The loss of a wing during a B-26 night ordnance delivery demonstration at Eglin's Range 52 cost the lives of the air commando crew (Captain Larry Lively and Captain Stan Moore, navigator and pilot respectively) and caused the grounding of the fleet until the wings could be strengthened. The accident was viewed by 19 people from the news media. Grounding the B-26s put on additional pressure to accelerate aircrew training in the A-1E to replace the B-26.

1964 (cont)

1 Mar — Detachment #5 Provisional, known as Tiger Rag, was officially designated and organized at Hurlburt Field.

3 Mar — Because Major Janus, Gold Fortune Commander, was not a rated officer, Det 4 was advised that Major Daryl Halterman would assume temporary command until Lieutenant Colonel Horace S. Reece arrived.

6 Mar — Headquarters USAF directed immediate deployment of a Special Air Warfare detachment to Udorn, Thailand with the nickname Water Pump. Effective the same day, HQ TAC published the order designating and organizing Water Pump, 1st ACW Detachment #6. Headquarters USAF called for 30 to 40 people and four T-28s to deploy as quickly as possible for approximately six months.

6 Mar — The last four T-28D aircraft assigned to the 1st ACW deployed for inspection and modification before proceeding to Detachment #6, Water Pump, in SEA.

13 Mar — The first 41 officers and airmen deployed on Operation Water Pump to Udorn, Thailand.

17 Mar — Headquarters USAF decided that the 1st Air Commando Squadron should replace T-28 and B-26 aircraft with A-1Es. (The 1st Air Commando Squadron was part of the 34th Tactical Group in Vietnam.) Because of that decision, A-1Es were needed badly in SEA and the first 30 dual-control modified A-1Es were allocated to PACAF.

26 Mar — General Pritchard, in a personal message to the TAC commander, again asked for two dual-control A-1E aircraft for training. In the standard A-1E the instructor pilot had no control over the aircraft and General Pritchard expected that sooner or later a student would have an accident, especially considering the accelerated training.

1964 (cont)

He asked the TAC commander to use his personal influence in assigning the first two modified A-1Es to Hurlburt.

26 Mar-16 Apr — Two each T-28, C-46, and U-10 aircraft deployed to Simmons Army Airfield at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for Operation Quick Kick V. This was a joint exercise with Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, and a Marine Corps battalion. Aircrews from SAWC were prepared to conduct the following missions: infiltration and exfiltration, visual and photo reconnaissance, aerial supply and resupply, loudspeaker operations, leaflet drops, close air support, flare drops, special air warfare control, and low-level day and night tactics.

28 Mar — Colonel Harry C. Aderholt assumed command of the 1st ACW on the retirement of Colonel Gerald J. Dix.

30 Mar — Lieutenant Colonel Reece assumed command of Detachment #4 as projected on 3 March.

1 Apr — Arrival date for an MTT in Iran.

7 Apr — The Vice Commander TAC advised General Pritchard that a compromise had been reached with PACAF despite its need for all the A-1Es possible. The SAWC would get, about mid-June, the 16th and 17th dual-controlled aircraft coming out of modification.

8 Apr — A CSAF to TAC message emphasized the need to satisfy CINCSTRIKE and CINCMEAFSA airlift needs to the maximum possible. In line with this policy, TAC was to furnish, through SAWC, one C-47 and one air commando crew for a TDY to the Republic of the Congo.

9 Apr — A CINCAFSTRIKE message to CINCSTRIKE followed up on the 8 April CSAF message and instructed SAWC to deploy the

1964 (cont)

C-47 and crew for approximately 60 days to support Army Colonel William A. Dodds in Leopoldville, Congo. The air commando crew would provide logistical and administrative support for Colonel Dodds and become familiar with the Congo area for possible future SAWC needs. The tasking did not appear to exploit potential air commando capabilities, a problem which haunted special operations throughout its recent history. However, in addition to the stated tasking, the air commando crew executed reconnaissance sorties in the vicinity of Bukavu when it was in danger, delivered 3,000 pounds of ammunition and two Congolese officers from Stanleyville to Bukavu, evacuated three women and nine children from Kigali to Entebbe, escorted T-28s over rebel targets near Bukavu, and directed rocket and machine gun fire. The air commando crew was fired upon during reconnaissance missions.

9 Apr — The 1st ACW was alerted for another MTT mission to the Congo to provide interim training support for an Israeli-trained Congo paratroop unit.

15 Apr — The 775th TCS completed its move to Hurlburt Field when 34 officers and 31 enlisted joined four officers and six enlisted from the 319th TCS who were then assigned to the 775th. Total authorized squadron manning was 50 officers and 190 airmen. The 775th TCS had 15 C-123 aircraft.

15 Apr — Headquarters SAWC responded to a Commander-in-Chief Pacific offer to provide two C-47 aircraft and required maintenance support for Det 6 training of Lao personnel. Headquarters PACOM asked that Det 6 train 20 pilots and 80 loadmasters, mechanics, and mechanics helpers. Due to the language barrier and hands on training required, SAWC believed three C-47s would be needed to complete the training in five to six months. The initial detachment TDY would end before completion of C-47 pilot training. If

1964 (cont)

Water Pump continued beyond the first T-28 deployment, training could continue. However, if Water Pump concluded as originally envisaged, more C-47 instructor personnel would be needed to complete the program as soon as possible. Also, if more T-28 students were added or initial students required more training time, Det 6 TDY personnel would have to be replaced.

22 Apr — In SAWC Operations Order 6-64, coordinated with USAFE, the European Command would provide a C-47 at Sembach for use by an air commando crew in the Congo.

23 Apr — Detachment #5 deployed aboard C-123 aircraft for a 21-day training exercise at Auxiliary Field #3, Eglin AFB. The Det was evaluating its capabilities which included MTT, day and night resupply by paradrop or air landing, day and night infiltration of personnel, air strike, photo and visual reconnaissance and interpretation, civic action, PSYOP with aircraft loudspeaker or leaflet drop, and rescue and recovery of personnel downed in inaccessible or enemy areas. The Det 5 MTT was prepared to train allied air forces in some 50 tactical special air warfare subjects including COIN and UW.

30 Apr — Project Duck Hook became the 775th TCS's first special assignment. This involved C-123 training for ten Military Assistance Program aircrews.

2 May — The air commando crew arrived at Sembach to pick up a USAFE C-47 for the Congo MTT. Four modifications to the aircraft requested by an Israeli assistance group delayed the departure from Sembach. They were the installation of a static line for paratroopers, a protective covering over the tail wheel and over the rear cargo door hinges, and a buffer bar. Also, one air commando caught the measles. The aircraft and crew arrived in the Congo in late May.

1964 (cont)

During their 120-day TDY, the team conducted dummy and personnel paradrops, airlifted ammunition to Bukavu, air evacuated a Belgian woman with a spine tumor to Leopoldville, and transported a three-man ordnance team from Lulabourg to Leopoldville. Despite similarities in mission and time frame, the April and May MTTs to the Congo should not be confused by the reader. This second MTT completed its mission on 16 July, but due to unrest in the area and the possible need of air evacuation of U.S. civilians, the Joint Chiefs of Staff retained the crew in the area until mid-October.

6 May — A 775th TCS C-123 crashed within the Hurlburt Field boundary while performing a 10,000 pound cargo extraction test. Four airmen were killed - TSgt Cleo C. White from Eglin AFB and three 775th loadmasters. They were SSgt Malcom R. Cardwell, A1C William T. Hansley, and A1C Jeff N. Cecil.

13 May-30 Jun — Desert Strike. This exercise conducted by USSTRICOM in California, Arizona, and Nevada included over 100 SAWC participants who came largely from the 4420th Combat Support Group.

15 May — Special Air Warfare Center was notified that the 1 April Iran MTT would be extended seven weeks at the request of Strike Command.

19 May — Headquarters USAFE advised HQ TAC that it would activate the 6th Air Commando Squadron (Composite) on 1 July 1964. To accomplish this, they planned to use personnel assigned to Detachment #4, 1st ACW, and the aircraft and equipment originally furnished by TAC and SAWC.

22 May — Colonel Earl J. Livesay, SAWC Director Of Operations, announced that the Australian-type bush hat worn with the

1964 (cont)

Air Commando uniform was designated the "Air Commando Hat." The air commando uniform then consisted of jump boots, bloused green fatigues, air commando hat, and blue scarf. Wearing the hat had been denied by HQ TAC on 24 January. However, General Pritchard successfully appealed to General Sweeney, TAC Commander, pointing out the operational value of the hat and its morale benefit.

23 May — The Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce issued a resolution honoring Air Commandos killed in Vietnam. Chamber President, William Powell, believed that in an actual war they would have been remembered with a memorial, but in lieu of a memorial they had to settle for the community resolution. It concluded with the following lines from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

> And some there be, which have no memorial;
> Who are perished as though they had never been.
> Their bodies are buried in peace,
> But their name liveth forever.

25 May-15 Jul — Project Duck Hook involved special C-123 training for 38 Nationalist Chinese and 22 South Vietnamese. Ten of the 60 were interpreters. Training emphasized night low-level missions in mountainous terrain utilizing three specially configured aircraft.

1-15 Jun — Northern Express. A North Atlantic Treaty Organization exercise near Oslo, Norway for which SAWC assigned one officer to Allied Forces North.

2 Jun — The last two B-26s at Hurlburt Field were ferried to Davis-Monthan AFB for storage in the "bone yard."

24 Jun — The Air Force element of Strike Command anticipated augmentation of Det 6 with Det 5 personnel to accomplish C-47 training. August was considered for the start of the

1964 (cont)

training to allow time for adequate preparation. Also, AFSTRIKE expected that Water Pump would continue beyond its first six months by use of TDY replacements in September.

27 Jun — Headquarters TAC provided a revised aircraft authorization for SAW forces. It authorized 88 aircraft for SAWC, reduced SAWC squadrons from five to four, transferred that fifth squadron to PACAF, and built up PACAF's A-1E inventory to 50 while reducing SAWC's to 18.

30 Jun — SAWC personnel since 27 April 1962 had received more than 2,000 awards and decorations.

30 Jun — Subordinate units assigned to the 1st ACW were the 1st Air Materiel Squadron; 319th Troop Carrier Squadron; 6th Fighter Squadron; 602nd, 603rd, and 604th Fighter Squadrons; and the new 775th Troop Carrier Squadron.

Jul-Dec — The variety of types of aircraft assigned to SAWC remained the same at 13 during the period, but the number increased from 77 to 90.

Jul-Dec — The Hurlburt Field control tower had a traffic count of 48,697 aircraft operations and ground controlled approach handled 2,591 radar approaches.

1 Jul — Effective this date, the 605th Air Commando Squadron (Composite) [formerly 1st ACW, Det 3] at Howard AFB, Panama, transferred from TAC to the USAF Southern Command.

1 Jul — The 775th Troop Carrier Squadron was discontinued, inactivated, and replaced with the 317th Air Commando Squadron (Troop Carrier) which was activated, organized, and assigned to the 1st ACW.

1964 (cont)

1 Jul — Effective this date, Det 4, 1st ACW at Sembach, Germany was discontinued and USAFE activated the 7th Air Commando Squadron in its place.

9 Jul — General Curtis LeMay, CSAF, came to Hurlburt to present the Mackay Trophy to a six-man Air Commando crew for accomplishing the most meritorious flight of 1963. On 20 June this C-47 aircrew performed a dramatic rescue of six wounded men from a small landing strip at Loc Ninh, Vietnam, only eight miles from the Cambodian border.

10 Jul — Colonel Gordon F. Bradburn assumed command of the 1st Air Commando Wing succeeding Colonel Harry C. Aderholt.

14 Aug — Floor Plan. Rebel trouble in the Republic of the Congo led the JCS to reassign three B-26s which had been scheduled to go to Hurlburt. They, instead, went directly to Leopoldville in Operation Floor Plan. Air Commando aircrews and maintenance personnel were to remain for 30 days, but that became 50 days for the aircrews and the maintenance personnel didn't return until 15 November or approximately 90 days after deployment. The Floor Plan MTT provided checkouts and maintenance training for the mercenaries who operated the aircraft.

1 Oct — Reorganization of the 1st ACW became effective this date. The 4410th Combat Crew Training Squadron reactivated and became the wing's largest squadron with responsibility for "pipeline training" of students enroute overseas. The squadron's inventory included the Douglas A-1E Skyraider, the North American T-28 Nomad, the Fairchild C-123 Provider, the Douglas C-47 Skytrain, the Douglas B-26K Counter-Invader, and the Helio U-10 Courier. In the maintenance area, the 1st Materiel Squadron Commando, also known as the 1st Air Materiel Squadron (Commando), was deactivated. In its place, three squadrons were

1964 (cont)

formed to carry on the maintenance functions. They were the 850th Field Maintenance Squadron, 850th Organizational Maintenance Squadron, and 850th Armament and Electronics Maintenance Squadron. Also, the 604th Fighter Squadron (Reconnaissance-Technical) was manned to perform an operational and support-type photographic function.

4-15 Oct — Cherokee Trail IV. As with the three previous Cherokee Trail exercises, participants came from the Special Air Warfare Center, John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, the U.S. Army, and U.S. and allied officers who were students at the Army Special Warfare School. Cherokee Trail exercises were scheduled three times per year in North and South Carolina. In the opinion of SAWC, the Cherokee Trails provided realistic training and experience in UW, COIN, and PSYOP. For Cherokee Trail IV the 1st ACW deployed two U-10 utility transports, three A-1E fighter-bombers, and three C-123 Provider assault airlift aircraft. Training sorties included infiltration, exfiltration, resupply, personnel paradrop, loudspeaker, leaflet delivery, visual and photo reconnaissance, air strike, convoy escort, evacuation, liaison, message drop, weather forecasting and reporting, escape and evasion, evaluating equipment and procedures, and deployment, employment, and redeployment.

8 Oct — The 319th Troop Carrier Squadron (Commando) was redesignated the 319th Air Commando Squadron (Troop Carrier) and the 603rd Fighter Squadron (Commando) was renamed the 603rd Air Commando Squadron.

5 Nov — The 5th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron was reactivated as part of the 1st ACW. The Squadron had originally been constituted as the 7th Photographic Technical Unit on 25 September 1944 and activated on 5 October 1944 at Bolling Field, District of Columbia, with

1964 (cont)

1st Lieutenant Mildred R. Bachman as commander. At that time, it was staffed with officers and enlisted personnel of the Women's Army Corps as part of the 311th Photographic Wing (Mapping and Charting). It continued to be manned by women until 18 July 1945. However, men replaced them on 10 September 1945 after an interim period during which the unit was unmanned. It was redesignated the 5th RTS on 16 July 1949 and inactivated 15 April 1955.

21 Nov — Twenty-two streets on Hurlburt Field were renamed in honor of air commandos who died in Vietnam. A command review with more than 1,000 officers and airmen and a fly-by of eight Douglas A-1E Skyraiders highlighted the ceremony. The streets were renamed for Major James R. O'Neill; Captains John P. Bartley, Robert D. Bennett, Herbert W. Booth, Jr., Jerry A. Campaigne, Howard R. Cody, Edward K. Kissam, Jr., Bernard F. Lukasik, John H. McClean, Andrew C. Mitchell, Howard P. Purcell, Robert L. Simpson, and Condon H. Terry; First Lieutenants Arthur E. Bedel, Stanley G. Hartson, Jack D. LeTourneau, Atis K. Lielmanis, and William B. Tully; Technical Sergeants Richard L. Foxx and Floyd M. Frazier; Staff Sergeant Raphael Cruz, and Airman First Class Robert L. Westfall.

31 Dec — Due to extention of the Water Pump operation in Thailand to March 1965, replacements left Hurlburt Field with 2,800 pounds of medical supplies to be utilized in the civic action program among the Thai people as well as for the assigned air commandos. This was a rather typical 1st ACW operation in that it began with a 179-day TDY in March and developed into a much bigger operation with air commandos leaving Hurlburt in December as replacements for an MTT assignment which had originally been scheduled to terminate in early September.

1965

Jan-Jun — Special Air Warfare Center personnel which included the 1st ACW were awarded 200 Air Medals, 18 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Legion of Merit, one Airman's Medal, four Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and a large number of Air Force Commendation Medals.

3 Jan-13 Jun — The third group of rotational Water Pump personnel arrived in Thailand and assumed responsibility for the mission. Experience showed that the most effective aid provided by the 1st ACW in a passive environment was in the area of medical care. By 13 June, Det 6 personnel had conducted over 60,555 medical treatments and immunizations for people in Udorn Province. In all, including Nakhon Phanom Province, over 96,000 Thais received medical attention in this period.

16 Jan — A one-man MTT departed for eight weeks. He participated in joint psychological operations with the Iranian Air Force, surveyed Iranian capabilities in this area, and provided recommendations to the Iranians.

22 Jan — An MTT scheduled to begin 17 February was postponed until the end of 1965 or early 1966, because Mali might send U.S. trained troops to assist Congolese rebels. The MTT's one C-123 aircrew was to have trained Mali Army personnel in parachuting.

Feb-Sep — Red Chief. Project Red Chief had been established to develop the capability to target guerrilla forces who used the rain forest and jungle canopy for concealment. On 19 April 1964, the Martin Company delivered a C-47 test-bed aircraft to Eglin. The Red Chief equipment also established its value as a drop beacon for resupply of friendly forces in areas of restricted access in the jungle. The C-47 deployed to Vietnam with its Red Chief equipment for operational evaluation by the Second Air Division.

1965 (cont)

However, in September a fire and explosion in a wing tank severely damaged the aircraft and ended the Red Chief program in Vietnam.

14-18 Feb In anticipation of Exercise Quick Kick VII, the 1st ACW used an RB-26 to photograph landing and drop zones in Puerto Rico.

24 Feb Operation Red Maple. A message asked the 1st ACW to deploy two RB-26s on call to Leopoldville, Congo to locate two missing T-28 aircraft. B-26s were selected rather than the RB-26s, but the final deployment order never materialized.

22 Mar-17 Apr Quick Kick VII. This exercise held in Puerto Rico provided photo-recce, assault airlift, combat weather, and combat control support. The air commandos worked out of an Air Force forward operating base.

13 Apr Holley Field. When the Department of Defense directed the SAWC to increase its light aircraft training program for Vietnam beginning 3 May, traffic in the Eglin complex had already reached the saturation point. By the end of September, landings and takeoffs at Hurlburt exceeded 11,000 monthly. Holley Field, in the southwest corner of the Eglin reservation, seemed to provide a solution. Since it was under Navy control, a request for 120-day use was sent to the Commander, Naval Air Station, Pensacola. The Air Force offered to provide stand-by crash equipment and traffic control, and the Navy granted the request. A small, ground-level shack in mid-field initially served as a control facility, but it was inadequate since underbrush and the slope of the ground concealed aircraft at the end of the runway from the controller's view. In November, members of the combat control team, 319th TCS, designed and built a portable control tower and installed it at

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Holley Field. An expanded O-1E training program necessitated continued use of Holley Field beyond the initial period and the Navy agreed. This became a significant training facility.

26-29 Apr Blue Chip V. - This exercise was part of the CINCSTRIKE semiannual Operation Poker Chip in the area of Fort Bragg. The air commando element in Cherokee Trail V left equipment for Blue Chip use. Detachment #5 participated in Blue Chip V and performed a number of events for the Armed Forces Staff College, the Air Command and Staff College, government officials, and other guests. A High Altitude Low Opening paradrop by three special forces personnel was accomplished from a B-26K equipped with a bomb bay platform. A C-123 dropped a special forces company at the Holland Drop Zone from 1,200 feet and returned for a Jungle Line paradrop of supplies from 1,000 feet. After personnel and supplies had cleared the drop zone, the C-123 accomplished an assault landing and takeoff in front of the distinguished visitor reviewing stand. A U-10 executed a pop-up bundle drop on the Holland DZ and a C-123 demonstrated a radio controlled parachute employment system. The aircrew kicked the bundle out at 2,300 feet and the ranking distinguished visitor activated the chute by pushing the radio control button. Another C-123 performed a Delayed Opening Paradrop System drop wherein the bundle exited the aircraft at 2,300 feet and opened automatically at 200 feet. A Parachute Low Altitude Delivery System and a Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System were exhibited. The new MK6 canister resupply system and a recovery utilizing a rope-head dummy since TAC would not approve a live pickup were demonstrated using a B-26. Also, a U-10 showed its short takeoff and landing capability and a C-47 its loudspeaker for psychological warfare. In the strike events, the 1st ACW utilized T-28s, A-1Es, and B-26s which

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expended high explosive and incendiary bombs and rockets, and strafed with tracers for effect and better visibility.

2 May — Power Pack. Colonel Gordon F. Bradburn, 1st ACW Commander, received a call from the Pentagon to deploy a speaker equipped aircraft as soon as possible to the Dominican Republic to communicate with the people in the rebel held area. Within three hours, C-47s equipped with speakers were enroute to San Isidro. On the first mission over central Santo Domingo, one aircraft was hit three times by rebel fire. On 17 May, the 1st ACW received a request to provide two C-123s and two U-10s plus support personnel. In all, 30 air commandos deployed and a combat weather team worked with Army Special Forces. Although exposed regularly to ground fire, no aircraft were lost, but A1C William H. Hickman of the 319th Troop Carrier Squadron received a wound in the leg while dropping leaflets from the door of the aircraft. He was evacuated home and recommended for a Purple Heart. The photo work accomplished from the U-10s in the Dominican Republic was rated outstanding. When the situation in the Dominican Republic stabilized, most of the aircraft and people returned to Hurlburt, but one C-123 remained for use by the Theater Commander.

4 Jun — General Walter C. Sweeney, Jr., TAC Commander, asked Headquarters Air Force Systems Command and HQ United States Air Force to redesignate Hurlburt as Hurlburt Air Force Base instead of Eglin Air Force Auxiliary Field #9. He wrote, "The designation of Hurlburt as an 'auxiliary' Field is misleading, confusing, and detrimental to the TAC mission. The term by definition implies a subsidiary. Hurlburt Field, as it exists today . . . is a self-sufficient base valued at $28 million, contains 1,322,851 square feet

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of building space and supports nearly 4,000 personnel." However, Air Force denied General Sweeney's request.

24 Jun — Shortly before noon, two A-1Es collided three miles southeast of Seva, Florida north of Crestview near the Alabama state line killing the pilot and copilot of each aircraft. These four fatalities were the only SAWC personnel losses in the first half of the year.

30 Jun — Flying hours at Hurlburt continued an upward trend. In December 1964 they had been 3,762; in January 1965 they totaled 4,123; and in June 1965 they reached 5,680.8. This increased flying made parking and servicing space critical. New construction and the use of an additional field were under consideration.

8 Jul — Falcon 65. The Air Force Academy sent 2,500 cadets to Cannon AFB to view aerial demonstrations and static displays. The 1st ACW executed target marking with the O-1E and air strikes by B-26K, A-1E, and T-28 aircraft and then placed them on static display.

12 Jul — Draw Play. On this date a U.S. Army helicopter of the joint Ethiopian - U.S. mapping survey landed at a small village in northern Ethiopia. Bandits seized the crew - two U.S. Army personnel and an Ethiopian interpreter - and destroyed the aircraft. The JCS, through the State Department, activated OPLAN 569-1, Draw Play, to effect a military rescue. The SAWC was called upon to provide a U-10B and two pilots plus support personnel. They were processed and placed on three-hour deployment alert. However, the bandits reached the border and released the hostages. Although the 1st ACW did not deploy Draw Play elements, this demonstrated the capability of the air commandos to respond quickly to events halfway around the world.

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1 Aug-1 Nov — Big Shoot/Quick Speak. This program required the establishment of a training detachment of the 1st ACW at Forbes AFB, Kansas. Detachment personnel were in place by 15 August and training began on 29 August. Big Shoot training involved the FC-47 and C-47 modified with three fixed SUU/11A 7.62mm miniguns firing out the left side of the aircraft. This became the AC-47, the first in the series of gunships which culminated in the AC-130H. On the FC-47, gun pods were mounted in the door and the first two windows forward of the door. The third window was fitted with a flare launcher. A cockpit gunsight permitted the pilot to direct the fire of the guns against ground targets while circling the target at approximately 3,000 feet altitude. Commander-in-Chief, Pacific requested a squadron of 16 FC-47s for the 2nd Air Division in Vietnam. Quick Speak was the nickname for the PSYOPS squadron to be deployed to Vietnam in the same time frame as Big Shoot. This squadron was to consist of 16 U-10s and four C-47s all equipped with appropriate speaker systems. Before deciding on Forbes AFB for the training site for these two new squadrons, the Air Force considered Tyndall AFB, Florida, and Maxwell AFB, Alabama. The SAWC activated a training unit known as Detachment #8 of the 1st ACW at Forbes AFB on 9 August. Shortly after training began, the new units were given names and squadron designations. The FC-47 program dubbed Big Shoot would become the 4th Air Commando Squadron and the PSYOPS squadron would be Quick Speak, the 5th Air Commando Squadron. Detachment #8 upon completing the training, inactivated on 1 November 1965.

8 Aug — Until the Quick Speak personnel could be trained and deployed, the CSAF directed a TDY augmentation to Vietnam. An effort to obtain new speaker systems for the aircraft was unsuccessful prior to the 8 August deployment of six crews, four C-47 aircraft, and maintenance

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personnel to Nha Trang. The first mission flew on 1 September. It quickly became apparent that new speakers were required. The old system forced aircrews to fly no higher than 1,500 feet and that subjected them to ground fire. Although no aircraft were lost, SSgt William Loftis was wounded by ground fire. After some delay, new speakers with greater capability were received at Nha Trang and installed in the aircraft. In conjunction with the speaker missions, crews dispensed leaflets in large numbers. From 350,000 leaflets during the week of 18-24 September through a period that averaged 500,000 per week, to a peak of 1 million in the last week in October, the crews kept busy with this drop program as supplement to the speaker operations. The Quick Speak squadron, the 5th Air Commando Squadron, began arriving in theater on 7 November and was operational by 20 November. In connection with that move, the TDY force made a phased move back to Hurlburt with the last person departing SEA on 27 November.

21 Aug — Early Look. The 1st ACW airlifted Navy Sea-Air-Land personnel from Norfolk, Virginia to Hurlburt Field, to infiltrate them into the Eglin Complex by air. As part of the exercise, SEAL Detachments A and B, with one air commando combat controller on each detachment, were to board the submarine USS Sea Lion at Panama City, Florida, and land by rubber boat on the coast of Hurlburt Field. However, an epidemic of hepatitis broke out on the sub and it could not be used for this exercise.

1 Sep-21 Oct — Sea Ruler II. Special Air Warfare Center participation was limited to operations in West Germany in a phase called Fall Fiesta which took place in Bavaria south of Munich. The 1st ACW deployed Alpha Detachment consisting of two RB-26Ks, 14 support personnel, equipment to support a photo reconnaissance mission, and six men who served as

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augmentees to other elements. At the close of its portion of the exercise, Air Commando RB-26Ks remained to photograph drop and landing zones for the Army's 10th Special Forces Group in anticipation of future training.

13-18 Sep — Feather Duster II. This tested offensive and defensive maneuvers against Russian MIG aircraft. The 1st ACW sent two A-1Es to Nellis AFB for low altitude maneuvers.

21 Oct — Water Pump. The CSAF extended Detachment #6 for 180 days beyond its scheduled phase-out date in response to a request from the American Embassy in Vientiane, Laos because of additional Lao pilot training needs.

1 Dec — Colonel Hugh G. Fly, Jr., assumed command of the 1st Air Commando Wing a month and a half before its move to England AFB.

31 Dec — As of this date, over a year after the Goldfire I exercise in 1964, no trace could be found of a deployed forklift which unaccountably disappeared. An aggressive follow-up correspondence effort shed no light on its loss.

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Jan-Jun — Special Air Warfare Center served as the C-123 replacement depot for all Southeast Asia and special purpose C-123 requirements. For example, in January-March, SAWC gained 13 C-123s and lost three to SEA and in April-June, gained 16 and lost 19 to overseas needs. When Pacific Air Forces anticipated a need for 19 additional specialized aircraft for battlefield illumination and spray missions, they looked to the SAWC. In view of future overseas requirements, SAWC suggested that it acquire all Air Force C-123s. Planning began in May for reception of the

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C-123Ks which had a jet engine added to each wing to improve performance.

Jan-Jun — A total 220 SAWC personnel received medals. These included one Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, and seven Distinguished Flying Crosses. One man, Captain Lawrence L. Reed, received two of the seven DFCs.

15 Jan — The 1st Air Commando Wing headquarters transferred to England AFB, Louisiana. At the same time, Detachment #2, 1st Air Commando Wing was organized at Hurlburt Field and attached to the 4420th Combat Support Group. This action was taken due to overcrowded airfield space and facilities at Hurlburt. In October 1965, there had been 117 aircraft assigned to Hurlburt consisting of 34 A-1Es, 24 B-26Ks, 43 VC- and C-47s, 26 C-123s, 15 O-1Es, six T-28s, one T-29, three T-33s, and 13 U-10s.

January — With the expansion to two wings (1st ACW and 4410th CCTW) in SAWC, training requirements increased to an anticipated annual rate of 1,285 aircrew and 1,800 maintenance personnel. That compared with the previous two-year total of 1,245 aircrew and 1,564 maintenance personnel. The PACAF needed 66 more air liaison officers and forward air controllers during the first ten months of calender year 1966. Also, they needed 498 O-1 pilots by March 1967. To meet the expanded training, SAWC asked for an additional five instructor pilots and 77 maintenance and support personnel for a total of 96. In addition to people, SAWC asked for a minimum total of 25 O-1E/F aircraft. The O-1 program had started at Hurlburt in 1963 and by the beginning of 1965, the forecast training load had reached 125 ALOs/FACs.

31 Jan-3 Feb — The SAWC hosted the first Inter-American Air Forces Counterinsurgency Symposium at Hurlburt Field.

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Representives from 16 Latin American Air Forces and USAF units attended.

10 Feb — At the request of the government of Mali, the 1st ACW at England AFB deployed a C-123 to Bamako International Airport. It arrived 17 February to participate in the Mali Army Day activities on the 20th including a live jump demonstration. Two successful jumps of 21 troops each were accomplished with no injuries. The large crowd witnessing the jumps included Soviet and Chinese Communist photographers. Initially it had been planned to redeploy after the demo, but the air commandos were asked to stay and train Mali airborne troops. Additional support was dispatched due to the extended stay.

15 Mar — Clove Hitch I. This exercise in North Carolina tested a concept for conducting special operations in a combined task force. The Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and CIA participated. The 1st ACW provided a psychological warfare equipped C-47 and a combat control team. Colonel Hugh G. Fly, Jr., 1st ACW Commander, served as Deputy Commander of the Special Support Operations Task Force.

1 Apr — The CSAF gave the go-ahead to Project Phyllis Ann. It originally called for two airborne Radio Detection Finding squadrons with 18 C-47Ds each. Tactical Air Command and SAWC were to train 52 aircrews and ferry the aircraft from the modification plant to SEA. Training for Phyllis Ann crews, due to the shortage of ramp space and billeting, was split with two weeks of ground equipment training at Hurlburt and three weeks of transition flying at England AFB. Getting qualified instructors for Project Phyllis Ann posed a problem. It hit SAWC when training for projects Big Shoot (the AC-47 gunship) and Quick Speak (psychological operations) were in full swing in addition to the regular C-47 transport program.

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11 Apr — It had been decided to train Vietnamese A-1E pilots in the United States due to the disadvantages of training them in a combat zone. The first six Vietnamese students arrived at Hurlburt Field from Randolph where they had received T-28 training. The second class of 18 students arrived at Hurlburt on 18 May and the third class, comprising 11 students, arrived 20 June. These Vietnamese faced financial problems because of their low pay and small assistance from the U.S. government. To aid them, they were housed in Hurlburt Field Bachelor quarters at 50 cents per day and were authorized to eat in the dining hall. One special requirement of the Vietnamese was that only Chung-King brand soy sauce be served.

28 Apr — The SAWC proposed the transfer of the entire C-123 spray flight at Langley AFB to Hurlburt. Spray training involving 20 crews per year, became a significant part of SEA C-123 programs. Consolidating all C-123 training on one base increased efficiency. Also, SAWC held that the operational performance of C-123 spray aircraft should be a 1st ACW function. The proposal made the 1st Air Commando Wing the single manager for all air frames, equipment, and personnel involved in SEA C-123 training and operations.

30 Apr — Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command advised that the B-26K was redesignated as the A-26A.

30 Apr — Headquarters TAC advised that a study group had decided that not 50, but 60 O-1 pilots per month would be needed.

May-Jul — A condensed O-1 checkout program of less than two weeks was instituted to meet SEA needs. This provided 25 pilots. Also, in May, the 60 O-1 crews per month requirement was confirmed.

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11 May — The Chief of Naval Air Basic Training approved a long-term use of Holley Field by SAWC. Use of the Navy's Holley Field, 12 miles northwest of Hurlburt, resulted from the need for O-1E training facilities. The amount of A-1E and C-123 training at Hurlburt compromised the O-1E program there. Major physical improvements to Holley Field were accomplished by Hurlburt Field personnel. The training program and those significant improvements, i.e., trailers replacing tents, a control tower, water, and electrical power, plus O-1E training needs explained why SAWC resisted return of Holley to the Navy.

19 May — The Air Force approved the transfer of the COIN course from Air University to Hurlburt Field. By this time, the COIN course, which began in July 1962 as a one-time event for 250 officers, had steadily expanded until the fiscal year 1967 schedule called for 12 classes of 108 students each for a total of 1,296. The move was scheduled for completion before the end of the calendar year.

May — The first AGIL-equipped C-123 deployed to PACAF. The Airborne General Illumination system consisted of a bank of high-intensity Xenon lamps which provided longer and more constant lighting than flares and could be directed to avoid blinding friendly forces. Power supply, cooling, and drag problems were solved during the early 1966 test program run by the 1st CAG. Although AGIL did not work over water due to light penetration, it was far superior for all land operations.

7 Jun — Duck Hook. In this training program for Nationalist Chinese and South Vietnamese aircrews, two crews started training this date with two additional crews scheduled to begin Duck Hook in August 1966. They would be followed by additional crews in 1967 starting in February. The course lasted 14 weeks and included 86 hours per crew.

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8 Jun — Operation Big Eagle marked the first reintroduction of the B-26, renamed A-26, into SEA since withdrawal in 1964. Deployment began this day for the eight B-26Ks and 165 people sent to Thailand as Detachment #9 of the 1st ACW for assignment to the 606th ACS at Nakhon Phanom. Prior to deployment, maintenance thoroughly checked the aircraft for air worthiness and painted their undersides a non-reflective black for night missions.

Jul-Dec — The 603rd ACS had the unusual task of performing an overseas combat mission and a combat crew training mission at home. The 12 crews deployed overseas worked in the Big Eagle program.

Jul-Dec — Big Eagle. Throughout this period the most significant operation conducted by the 1st ACW was Big Eagle, a test and evaluation of the A-26, the former B-26, in night interdiction of enemy lines of communication in Laos. This detachment, Detachment #1, faced a variety of problems. Weather caused numerous sorties to be cancelled, the pierced steel planking runway was very slick when wet, the runway was not long enough to launch with maximum bomb loads, and the propellers suffered damage due to loose stones under the PSP. Also, there was a high dud rate among the bombs and flares initially available to the unit. Despite these and other problems, the A-26 proved effective in Vietnam. For example, their night operations accounted for more than half of the total day and night truck kills during December even though they flew only four percent of the sorties in Laos. During the six month test program, Big Eagle had been scheduled for 1,560 sorties and flew 1,349 of them which required 3,523 flying hours. In that time they dropped 2,126 tons of bombs, expended 717,595 .50 caliber rounds, and released 8,349 flares. Crews which trained at Eglin AFB began arriving at Nakhon Phanom in mid-December permanent change of

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station to replace 1st ACW temporary duty personnel who all returned to England AFB by early January 1967.

Jul-Dec Water Pump medical civic action teams were busy in Laos and Thailand. The 1st ACW provided medical teams consisting of one doctor and several medics. They worked closely with military and political officials who traveled with them in the remote areas which had been receiving the most attention from the Communist terrorists. World Medical Relief Association provided air commando doctors with 50,000 pounds of medical supplies to treat malaria, typhoid fever, dysentery, tuberculosis, and vitamin deficiency. In Laos, more than in Thailand, they treated the wounded from combat across the Mekong River primarily at a 100-bed hospital at Sam Thong, Laos. The hospital staff consisted of an air commando doctor, Captain Robert E. Jackson, an air commando medic, one Lao Army doctor, and 25 young village girls who had been trained in basic nursing care by Dr. Jackson. The U.S. Agency for International Development constructed the hospital. Dr. Jackson established a blood bank at the hospital which significantly improved patient care for 80 percent of the battle casualties in Northern Laos. Sam Thong was also the primary refugee center in the north. Due to the number of casualties from land mines, there were many amputations which required blood transfusions. However, neither Lao or Meo people would give blood. To meet the need, bi-monthly flights to Udorn were set up to collect 25 to 30 pints of air commando donated blood. From July through December, approximately 7,600 patients were treated at the Sam Thong hospital and the medical staff performed an average of four surgeries per day. The impact on the hearts and minds of the people far exceeded the relatively small scale of activity at Sam Thong.

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1 Jul–29 Aug — The 6th ACS, during this period, was authorized 14 A-1E aircraft, but never had more than four. They were used in a test program conducted jointly by the Services to check out instrumentation pods used to determine accuracy in finding specific targets and pilots' ability to keep the aircraft on course. Three of the A-1Es deployed to SEA on 28 August and the other departed the next day also for that theater. That left the squadron with only four T-28s to perform their mission of dive bombing, skip bombing, strafing, and rocket fire training.

12 Jul — The 319th Air Commando Squadron was divided into two separate squadrons - the 317th and 319th. The 319th continued as a troop carrier squadron and the 317th became a utility squadron.

24 Jul — An A-26A crash at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand proved fatal to two Det 1, 603rd ACS aircrew members, Major George C. Duke and his navigator, Captain M. T. Tanimoto.

1 Aug — The 834th Combat Support Group and the 834th Tactical Hospital were relieved from assignment to the 834th Air Division and reassigned to the 1st ACW at England AFB. Also, England AFB and its off-base installations were transferred from command jurisdiction of Ninth Air Force to that of the Special Air Warfare Center.

5 Aug — The 4412th Combat Crew Training Squadron was organized at England AFB and assigned to the 4410th Combat Crew Training Wing at Hurlburt Field for operations and to the 834th CSG at England AFB for administrative and logistical support. At the same time, Detachment #1, 4410th CCTW was discontinued at England.

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5-9 Aug — The 317th ACS provided maximum effort in the search for two Navy pilots and their A-4 aircraft which crashed in the vicinity of Lake Charles, Louisiana on 5 August. The squadron's C-47s flew almost 29 hours on nine sorties and its U-10s flew an additional 18 hours and 20 minutes on five sorties. The 317th located one pilot and flew his body to England AFB.

1 Sep — Major General Thomas G. Corbin assumed command of SAWC succeeding Major General Gilbert L. Pritchard who retired 1 October.

Early September — Captain Charles E. Smith of the Air Commando Combat Weather Team (Det 75, 5th Weather Wing) participated in a Strike Command joint task force operation in the African Republic of Chad. Captain Smith, fluent in French, provided weather information to C-130 crews in Chad. During a ten-day airlift, 556.7 tons of grain were taken to Chad which had been hit by a year-long drought. In that largely arid country in the southern reaches of the Sahara Desert between Sudan and Nigeria, the drought threatened 3,000,000 Chadians before the millet crop harvest in October. The 50 tons per day provided enough grain to feed 80,000 people for a month.

29 Sep-7 Oct — Blue Chip VIII. The main air commando force deployed from England AFB to Pope AFB for this semiannual demonstration and static display at Fort Bragg. Detachment #5 (Provisional) of the 1st ACW worked with the Army 76th Special Forces Group to exhibit its capabilities in the areas of UW, COIN, and PSYOP. The 1st ACW provided 17 officers, 34 airmen, and one each C-123, C-47, AC-47, T-28, A-1E, and O-1G aircraft. As a variation on the usual procedure of introducing the aerial demonstration with a speech from the ground, the C-47 speaker equipped aircraft was used to demonstrate one of the psychological

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warfare capabilities of the air commandos. Severe weather and the resulting runway conditions at the static display area brought on another variation, i.e., towing an A-1E ten miles on North Carolina Highway #84. Demonstrations on 2, 4, and 6 October were highly successful and redeployment occurred on 7 October.

10-20 Oct Cherokee Trail X. The air commandos supported this exercise with approximately 150 people with a variety of skills. In addition to two U-10s, two C-123s, one C-47, and three T-28s and their aircrews and maintenance personnel, the 1st ACW sent information, intelligence, supply, combat control, weather, communications, photo, and medical troops. During Cherokee Trail X, the air commandos flew 177 sorties requiring over 252 hours and executed bundle drop, personnel drop, photo, reconnaissance, infiltration, exfiltration, escort, strike, administrative, training, and speaker missions.

25 Oct The last four T-28 pilots scheduled for Lucky Tiger graduated ending the Lucky Tiger training program. Except for a one aircrew a month requirement for the UH-1F program beginning in 1967, Lucky Tiger had ceased to exist at Hurlburt Field.

8 Nov Lt Xuong, Vietnamese student A-1E pilot, reported missing on his third solo flight, a transition training mission, was presumed lost at sea.

25 Nov An O-1E and an A-1E aircraft collided over Range 77, Eglin AFB during SEA ordnance training. The O-1E pilot, 1Lt James O. Barbre, Jr. was killed instantly.

1967

Jan-Jun A total of 417 awards were given at Hurlburt. These included two Silver Stars, 56 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and one Legion of Merit. Captain Calvin C. Anderson received both the Silver Star and DFC. Major Joseph W. Kittinger, who later gained fame in high altitude ballooning, was one of the DFC recipients.

Jan-Jun Awards to the 1st ACW at England AFB: Seven Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Bronze Stars, 61 Air Medals, 177 Air Force Commendation Medals, one Combat Readiness Medal. Captain Clarence H. Riddle received two of the DFCs.

Jan-Jun The 4410th Combat Crew Training Wing comprised of the 4408th, 4409th, 4410th, and 4412th Combat Crew Training Squadrons carried on a major training program supporting Southeast Asia. The 4408th and 4409th CCTS were at Hurlburt Field, the 4410th CCTS was at Holley Field, and the 4412th CCTS was at England AFB. The 4408th CCTS accomplished training for entire C-123 aircrews, i.e., pilots, navigators, flight mechanics, and loadmasters. This included defoliation training. Conversion to the C-123K was continuous and all instructor pilots were K-model qualified. On an unscheduled basis the 4408th provided flare mission support for A-1E and F-4C training. The 4409th CCTS trained A-1E and T-28 pilots including the Vietnamese students. The 4410th CCTS at Holley Field also trained SEA replacements in direct support of U.S. commitments primarily in the O-1 forward air control mission. That involved 55 students per month in the U-10 and eight per month in the O-2 on average this six months.

Jan-Jun Tropic Moon I. The enemy in SEA moved supplies and mobilized for attack largely under cover of darkness unobserved by aerial reconnaissance. He could not be attacked if he could not be spotted; therefore, a solution

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was to develop a low light-level television. The 1st CAG assisted the contractor in system design, selected and trained operations and maintenance personnel, developed tactics, and recommended whether or not to proceed. They determined that, except in certain limited cases, the equipment required at least one-quarter moon illumination. This marked the beginning of a relatively continuous effort in improving night vision for a variety of clandestine and covert operations and general night infiltration, exfiltration, and resupply missions.

Jan-Jun — As an example of air commando activities, crew members of the 319th ACS accumulated 936 days TDY, 6,104 hours of flying, and 1,379 sorties.

5 Jan — The first C-123K aircraft arrived at Hurlburt Field.

11 Jan — The first class began at the Special Air Warfare School, Hurlburt Field.

13 Jan — Project Big Eagle ended. The final report stated that Big Eagle demonstrated the capabilities and effectiveness of the A-26.

26 Jan — Mrs. Francis A. Kindel received the Vietnamese National Order, Fifth Class awarded posthumously to her husband, Captain James C. Kindel. Captain Kindel died in action on 14 December 1965.

January — The 319th ACS flew two over-water navigational training missions to Panama for eight days and 50 hours of flying while deployed.

13 Mar-7 Apr — Exercise Westward Ho. The 319th ACS supported Army Special Forces and the National Guard in Westward Ho designed to provide realistic unconventional warfare

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training in a mountainous environment. Three C-123 aircraft were to provide airlift from 13 March through 3 April and one C-123 from 4-7 April. However, the first three aircraft did not arrive at Hill AFB until 14 March due to maintenance and weather problems. Weather also posed a problem in the exercise area, but other than weather problems, air operations went as planned.

31 Mar — General G. P. Disosway, TAC Commander, presented 11 Distinguished Flying Crosses to nine air commandos. Lieutenant Colonel Albert R. Howarth received three Distinguished Flying Cross oak leaf clusters at this ceremony.

1 Apr — The 4532nd CCTS was activated and assigned to the 4410th CCTW at Hurlburt Field, but attached to the 834th Combat Support Group at England AFB.

3 Apr — Colonel Alpheus W. Blizzard, Jr., succeeded Colonel Fly as 1st ACW Commander.

Early April — The Mali MTT, the sixth since 1961, involved C-47 aircrew training. In 1965 the U.S. Military Mission to Mali had initiated action to train C-47 aircrew and maintenance personnel and to obtain two C-47s for Mali. Prior to deploying in April, MTT members took French language refresher training.

7 Apr — For Exercise Clove Hitch at Roosevelt Roads, 22 crew members deployed for 18 days. They executed troop and bundle drops and an experimental high-altitude leaflet drop.

10 Apr — The first of 76 C-123K aircraft to be ferried by the 319th ACS to Clark AB in the Philippines departed

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Hurlburt. To accommodate this unprogrammed tasking, TAC was asked to provide 11 aircrews to the squadron.

12 Apr — The Special Air Warfare school officially activated at Hurlburt Field.

15 Apr — The original screwworm eradication concept was furnished to the Special Air Warfare Center.

28 Apr — Lieutenant Colonel John P. Doolittle, son of General James H. Doolittle, received a certificate of training in the O-2 aircraft at Holley Field. The senior Doolittle trained his men at Eglin Auxiliary Field #1 for the B-25 raid on Tokyo in 1942.

1 May — Dr. Don Williams, U.S. Department of Agriculture, was contacted regarding a screwworm program. He agreed to furnish basic information on USDA programs.

10 May — The U.S. Agency for International Development veterinarians claimed they had no plans for screwworm eradication in Latin America.

16 May — Members of the USDA screwworm staff suggested Puerto Rico might be a good place to test the Air Force participation in a screwworm program.

26-27 May — At a meeting in Hyattsville, Maryland, with USDA, USAID, and the Air Force, SAWC capabilities were discussed at length. The Air Force offered to assist in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and any follow-on program in Latin America. Dr. Konnerup of USAID agreed to fund a screwworm survey in Central America and an interagency working group was established.

1967 (cont)

30 Jun–7 Aug — Project Combat Dragon consisted of the movement of the 604th ACS and 25 A-37 aircraft of the 1st ACW from England AFB to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. The aircraft were shipped by C-141 at the rate of two per aircraft. An advance party departed 30 June, the first four aircraft left on 21 July, and the operational ready date at Bien Hoa was 7 August.

Jul-Dec — The 317th ACS civic action projects: (1) Delivery of insecticides to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, ten crew members for five days, (2) Flood relief to Mexico five crew members for seven days, (3) Insecticide spray support for St. Croix, five crew members for nine days, and (4) Christmas airlift to Stewart AFB, New York, four crew members for two days.

Jul-Dec — A total of 186 people in SAWC were decorated exclusive of the 1st ACW at England AFB. These consisted of five Silver Stars, one Legion of Merit, 28 Distinguished Flying Crosses, six Bronze Stars, 15 Air Medals, and 131 Air Force Commendation Medals. First Air Commando Wing awards at England AFB: Six Silver Stars, one Legion of Merit, 42 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Airman's Medal, 12 Bronze Stars, 188 Air Medals, 53 Air Force Commendation Medals, and three Purple Hearts. The 834th CSG personnel were awarded 31 Air Force Commendation Medals.

Jul-Dec — The mobile training team dispatched to Mali during the first half of 1967 continued in place thanks to an extension approved to insure that Mali personnel were fully competent. Failure of the U.S. to continue the training could have led the Government of Mali to secure Soviet assistance. Ten Mali personnel were trained, five pilots, one navigator, two crew chiefs, one line chief, and one loadmaster. Although Mali pilots compared well with others having the same experience, they still had only

1967 (cont)

about one fourth the time Americans possessed before being given command of a C-47. It was suggested to the Mali Chief of Staff that his Air Transport Squadron could perform a variety of missions: reconnaissance, such as spotting outlaw bands, game management, locating insect concentrations threating crops, fire patrol, protection of wildlife, air supply of medicines, food, supplies, doctors, and nurses to remote areas during floods and other natural disasters, distributing information, and using loudspeakers to keep the populace informed.

1 Jul — Activation of the 834th Services Squadron.

3 Jul — The Special Air Warfare Center was alerted to a possible UH-1D MTT helicopter deployment to Argentina.

5 Jul — Dr. Mehren, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, was briefed on the proposal, SAWC capabilities, and Air Force desire to assist in screwworm eradication. Doctor Mehren expressed appreciation, but offered no distinct requirements.

7 Jul — Headquarters United States Air Force activated the MTT to Argentina and directed the SAWC team to join USAF Special Operations forces at Howard AFB, Panama. The teams were to be in Argentina on 13 July where they would qualify H-19 flight crews in the UH-1D helicopter.

11 Jul — Dr. Konnerup, USAID, in a speech in Dallas stated that he was going to work with the Air Force and USDA to destroy screwworms in Latin America. The screwworm fly was found only in the Western Hemisphere. An expanded eradication program could completely eliminate this scourge and end the Mexican barrier program which cost $5 million per year. Estimated yearly savings from this program exceeded a billion dollars worth of meat and dairy products and could mean life to many of the seven million

1967 (cont)

children born each year in Latin America. The program would also expand the civic action concept.

11 Jul — The 1st CAG developed and tested a new fly dispenser for use with either the screwworm or fruit fly.

14 Jul — The Mackay Trophy for 1966 was awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Albert R. Howarth, 603rd ACS Commander, for his exemplary courage and airmanship as the pilot of a disabled A-26A on a SEA combat mission. With one engine in flames and an explosion imminent, Colonel Howarth ordered evacuation of the aircraft, but the second navigator became entangled in his seat belt. "Despite the critical situation and diminishing chances for his own survival, Colonel Howarth, while maintaining firm control on the aircraft, physically assisted the remaining navigator in getting disentangled and only after insuring his safe egression, did he parachute to safety."

17 Jul–30 Sep — As directed, the MTT arrived Buenos Aires, Argentina where they were split for training between El Palomar AB and Quilmes AB with ground school at El Palomar and helicopter assembly at Quilmes. On 4 August they concentrated all training at El Palomar. Flight training began 23 August and ended 30 September. In that time the MTT qualified three Argentine flight crews in the UH-1D. Aircraft systems had been taught to ten other pilots; twenty-five enlisted men and six civilians had attained apprentice-level UH-1D maintenance, and three combined flight-ground crews had qualified in UH-1D sling operations. Due to Argentine Air Force leave policy (9 July-1 August) about half the students had to attend formal classes for half a day in leave status. Starting the training after 1 August would have avoided this leave situation.

1967 (cont)

1 Aug — The SAWC Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans wrote to TAC recommending moving the Clark AB C-123 Field Training Detachment and associated training to Hurlburt to consolidate all C-123 training at Hurlburt. Then to make room for the additional C-123 training, C-47 FTD and associated training should be moved to England AFB. That proposal provided better use of Air Force resources and had a favorable economic impact both on Hurlburt and England.

9 Sep — Colonel Albert S. Pouliot assumed command of the 1st ACW vice Colonel Blizzard.

25 Oct — The 4412th and 4532nd Combat Crew Training Squadrons at England AFB had been assigned to the 4410th CCTW at Hurlburt. Both squadrons were now reassigned to the 1st ACW at England.

15 Nov — An A-1E crashed on takeoff at Hurlburt Field one mile north of the runway. The pilot ejected, but his parachute failed to open and he was killed.

27 Nov — A six-man team of four officers and two NCOs deployed to Korea to explore the possibilities for developing a COIN capability in the Republic of Korea Air Force in light of indications the North Koreans planned guerrilla activities in the South. The team, during its ten-day visit, arrived at both short and long term recommendations to provide the ROKAF with a special air warfare capability.

1 Dec — The 4407th Combat Crew Training Squadron was activated and assigned to the 4410th CCTW. The 4407th assumed the mission and personnel of the 4409th to accomplish A-1E and T-28 training. The 4409th would then train crews in the new OV-10 aircraft due for early arrival at Hurlburt.

1967 (cont)

15 Dec The 4420th Combat Support Group was relieved from assignment to SAWC and assigned to the 4410th Combat Crew Training Wing. Also, the 4420th Supply Squadron was reassigned from the 4420th CSG to 4410th CCTW.

17 Dec Bont Tick Eradication Program. The Island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, faced a severe infestation of the tropical bont tick and asked for assistance. Special Air Warfare Center deployed aircraft, aerial spray equipment, and support personnel from the 1st ACW and 4410th CCTW. The 4410th provided one C-123B rigged for spraying and a spray qualified crew. The 1st ACW provided five combat weather and combat control team members, one radio-equipped vehicle, a C-123 and crew, and C-123 maintenance personnel. Between January and April 1968, no bont ticks were found in the sprayed area and another pest, the fever tick, had been virtually wiped out. However, bont ticks were found in an adjacent area, and although the infestation was light, the Virgin Islands government would probably ask for additional spraying.

30 Dec The 317th ACS was authorized 41 pilots and 19 navigators, but had only 18 pilots and six navigators assigned.

1968

Jan-May The 317th Air Commando Squadron deployed specially trained aircrews and modified C-123 aircraft to Nicaragua in a test project, Savage Fly, to assist in eliminating the Mediterranean Fruit Fly. The larvae of this insect annually caused heavy crop damage. Object of the project was to enhance relations with Latin America and to stop the spread of the fly.

Jan-Jun The bont tick was a major health problem in the Virgin Islands. Every 31 days the 319th ACS flew specially

1968 (cont)

modified aircraft and a two-man team from the Special Air Warfare Weather Team (Det 75, 5th Weather Wing) to St. Croix, V.I. They used an insecticide harmless to animals or humans and non-contaminating to water supplies and sprayed at tree-top altitudes in the effort to eradicate the tick which attached itself to any warm-blooded animal.

Jan-Jun — Exclusive of the 1st Air Commando Wing at England AFB, Special Air Warfare Center people received 259 medals and decorations. They included one Air Force Cross, nine Silver Stars, two Legion of Merits, 31 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 23 Bronze Stars, and 51 Air Medals. Major Charles E. Rogers' Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Air Medal were posthumous.

10 Jan — General Disosway, TAC Commander, presented the Air Force's highest honor, the Air Force Cross, to Major John C. Gruver.

19 Feb — Project Black Spot. This high priority system utilized forward-looking radar, low light-level TV, forward-looking infrared radar, laser range finding, Doppler navigation, roller map display, and a navigation computer. The 1st Combat Applications Group accepted testing of the aircraft, an NC-123K, to determine the feasibility of integrating night sensors into a weapons system which would permit either automatic or manual release of weapons. The test project cost in excess of $14 million, and the 1st CAG also provided crew training which, like the testing, ended 30 June. Both the aircraft and the crews were then ready for deployment to Southeast Asia.

25 Feb-27 May — This seventh Mali mobile training team since 1961 provided C-47 training; however, this time they added desert and search and rescue training.

1968 (cont)

26 Feb — General Corbin, SAWC Commander, and an instructor pilot from the 4409th Combat Crew Training Squadron flew the first production model OV-10A Bronco from the North American Rockwell Company plant to Hurlburt Field to initiate Project Combat Bronco. This was the first of 24 delivered to Hurlburt before July.

February — The Secretary of the Air Force approved a program to develop AC-119G, AC-119K, and AC-130 gunships. He also concurred in the deployment of six AC-119Gs to SEA in July. The AC-119G was configured with four left-side mounted 7.62mm mini-guns, a 20-kilowatt illuminator, aluminum ceramic armor in crew and cargo areas, a semi-automatic flare-launching system, foam in the fuel tanks for fire suppression, and new communications equipment. The AC-119K was further equipped with two auxiliary jet engines, two 20mm cannon, side looking infrared radar, and terrain avoidance radar.

1 Mar — The 4413th CCTS was organized at Lockbourne AFB, Ohio and assigned to the 1st Air Commando Wing at England AFB. The mission was to train combat aircrews in the AC-119G, AC-119K, and AC-130A.

12-22 Mar — Exercise Gobbler Woods I. This joint training exercise involved unconventional warfare between the imaginary countries of Pineland and Satilla. A third imaginary country, Sandalia, offered sanctuary to guerrilla units operating in Pineland. The Army, without notice, introduced Canadian built Twin Otter aircraft which assumed some resupply missions the 1st ACW expected to fly. For Gobbler Woods, the 1st ACW provided three C-123 and two A-26 aircraft.

1 May — The 779th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Pope AFB became Detachment #2 of the 1st ACW.

1968 (cont)

12 May — The 71st Air Commando Squadron (Reserve) was called to active duty at Lockbourne AFB and assigned to the 1st ACW. Personnel of the 71st received aircrew training in the AC-119 before deploying to SEA in late December for assignment to the 14th Special Operations Wing. The gunships of the 71st carried four 7.62mm mini-guns and two 20mm Vulcan cannons.

20 May — Daytime aerial and night firing demonstrations at Hurlburt Field were part of Project Saludos Amigos, the Eighth Annual Inter-American Air Force Chiefs' Conference.

22 May — The first students for training in the OV-10A Bronco arrived. Start of the first class had slipped from April.

1 Jun — Project Savage Fly. This experimental project was designed to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly in areas of Nicaragua and Panama by disseminating sterile male flies raised in San Jose, Costa Rica. In Panama, Savage Fly personnel delivered sterile flies to the city of David by truck for ground level release. In Nicaragua, a C-47; locally built dispenser proved unsatisfactory and the 1st ACW provided a C-47 with a 1st CAG improved dispenser for up to 60 days.

20, 25, & 28 Jun — Briefings at Headquarters TAC and HQ USAF by SAWC provided information on SAWC assistance in combating civil disturbances. Controlling civil disturbances, which often occurred at night, was more difficult due to the darkness. The SAWC development of an airborne illuminator mounted on a C-123 flying at 10,000 feet provided lighting of a two and a half mile diameter surface area with a brightness equal to four times full moonlight.

30 Jun — Category III testing on AC-119 gunships was completed.

1968 (cont)

30 Jun — By this date, the continuing project to ferry C-123 aircraft to SEA had been averaging six to eight aircraft per month. The 319th ACS faced serious hazards in this effort. The relatively slow C-123 lacked the needed range and required two 500-gallon auxiliary fuel tanks. They flew without autopilot on the long trips, without augmented crews, without airborne radar, with limited navigation aids, and with the ever-present danger of engine failure over the Pacific Ocean. Despite all of that, the 319th had delivered 74 aircraft to SEA and returned 69 for modification without mishap.

Jul-Dec — The 1 SOW and its predecessor, 1st ACW, continued as one of the more decorated units in the Air Force. During this period the following decorations were awarded: Silver Star - 6; Legion of Merit - 1; Bronze Star - 2; Distinguished Flying Cross - 43; Air Medal - 257; Air Force Commendation Medal - 82; Joint Service Commendation Medal - 2; and Purple Heart - 2.

Jul-Dec — The 319th Special Operations Squadron continued ferrying C-123K aircraft to SEA and returning older C-123 models for modification. This had been a continuing mission since April 1967. In the last six months of 1968, 20 aircraft were delivered and 19 brought home.

2 Jul — An A-37 crashed during a training flight killing the Vietnamese pilot trainee.

8 Jul — Several redesignations were effective this date. The Special Air Warfare Center became the Special Operations Force. The Special Air Warfare School became the Special Operations School; the 1st Air Commando Wing became the 1st Special Operations Wing; and the 8th, 317th, 319th, 603rd, 930th, and 71st Air Commando Squadrons each became Special Operations Squadrons.

1968 (cont)

15 Jul — Detachment #1, 1 SOW was designated and organized at Otis AFB, Massachusetts to train and maintain an operationally ready capability in logistical air support, infiltration/exfiltration of personnel, visual and photo reconnaissance, psychological operations, flare dispensing, resupply and airlift of forces, leaflet dispensing, and civic action programs. The detachment consisted primarily of personnel and aircraft of the 7th Air Commando Squadron.

5 Sep — The USAF Special Operations Center activated as a unit under the USAF Special Operations Force. The same order discontinued the 1st Combat Applications Group.

12 Sep — Aircrews of the 317th SOS deployed to South America to participate in Project Savage Fly along with the Nicaraguan Air Force.

1 Oct — The 4406th Combat Crew Training Squadron was activated to fly A-37 aircraft.

8 Nov — The first AC-119K arrived for the 4413th Combat Crew Training Squadron.

15 Nov — The 4410th Student Squadron was activated at Hurlburt Field to provide administrative control of all students in training.

17 Nov — Two AC-130s and two AC-119s of the 4413th Combat Crew Training Squadron deployed to Hurlburt Field for Combat Rendezvous. This exercise evaluated the capability of these gunships to strike targets close to friendly forces. The tests validated the gunships' offset mode of fire control.

1969

Jan-Jun A total of 474 decorations were awarded to 1st Special Operations Wing personnel. There were eight Silver Stars, one Legion of Merit, 48 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 27 Bronze Stars, 324 Air Medals, one each Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Purple Heart, and 63 Air Force Commendation Medals.

Jan-Jun The 319th Special Operations Squadron continued ferrying K models to Southeast Asia and returning basic C-123 aircraft to Hagerstown, Maryland for modification. Since this tasking began, the 319th had flown more than two million miles in moving 133 jet-assisted K's and returning 100 other models. In this 28-month program the safety record was perfect.

Jan-Jun During this six months, the training program graduated 1,044 aircrew members including 45 Vietnamese in the A-37. This was a significant training effort in which the following USAF aircrew members by aircraft type were trained: A-37 - 40; AC-47 - 192; C-47 - 61; EC-47 - 258; AC-119G/K - 341; AC-130K - 31; C-130E - 45; and A-26 - 31. Approximately half were pilots.

25 Jan The 18th Special Operations Squadron was organized and activated at Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, and assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing. The 18th flew the AC-119.

10 Feb The first A-37B arrived at England AFB for the 4406th Combat Crew Training Squadron which had been activated and organized in October 1968.

14 Feb Colonel Leonard Volet succeeded Colonel Albert S. Pouliot as 1 SOW Commander. Colonel Volet had been wing vice commander since November 1968.

1969 (cont)

27 Feb–15 Apr — Combat Locust. This was a unilateral Air Force operation in support of Saudi Arabia locust control. It involved spraying designated areas of the country to kill locusts. Although there were communications and supply problems, the program was successfully concluded in time for a 15 April departure for home.

5 Mar — The first AC-119K was delivered to the 18th SOS at Lockbourne AFB.

7 Apr — The 4406th CCTS became operational and began training pilots in the A-37B.

11 Apr — Fifteen Vietnamese pilots graduated from A-37 training at England AFB. They were assigned to the 516th Fighter Squadron (VNAF) stationed at Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam.

27 Apr — Master Sergeant Carlos Christian and Army Warrant Officer Charles L. Jones (formerly Air Force SMSgt), both members of the 1 SOW, were inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame at Eglin AFB. They were selected for their significant contributions to the growth, status, and employment of worldwide special operations forces between 1961 and 1965.

15 May — The 310th and 311th Attack Squadrons activated at England AFB. The squadrons would fly the A-37B.

30 May — Announcement made that some 1 SOW units would be relocated within the next six months.

10 Jun — The 4406th CCTS was at full strength with 20 A-37B aircraft.

1969 (cont)

Jul-Sep The variety of aircraft possessed by the 1 SOW made it a unique wing in the Air Force. During this quarter the wing had the following 16 types of aircraft: A-1, A-26, C-47, C-123, C-130, O-1, O-2, OV-10, T-28, T-29, T-33, T-39, UH-1P, U-10, VC-47, and VT-29. On 11 September, the wing was authorized 174 aircraft, assigned 196, and possessed 180.

Jul-Sep The wing appeared to be in the ferry business in this period. It furnished six pilots to ferry six A-1s from Quonset Point, Rhode Island to McClellan AFB, California. One pilot was detailed to fly an A-1 from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona to Quonset Point and one pilot ferried an OV-10 from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station to McClellan AFB, California. Three crews ferried three C-123s from Hurlburt Field to Phan Rang, Vietnam. Also one navigator and one radio operator helped ferry a C-47 from Spain to the United States and an AC-119 from the United States to Morocco.

11-13 Jul The Wing sent a T-28 to participate in the Antique Aircraft Convention at DuPage County Airport, Chicago, Illinois.

15 Jul Headquarters 1 SOW at England AFB and Headquarters 4410th Combat Crew Training Wing at Hurlburt Field exchanged locations and commanders exchanged assignments. Colonel Robert W. Gates, 4410th Commander became 1 SOW Commander and Colonel Leonard Volet, 1 SOW Commander took command of the 4410th on its move, mostly in name only, to England AFB. Only six officers and 13 airmen transferred from Hurlburt to England. The 603rd SOS transferred from England to Hurlburt with personnel and aircraft, their A-26s. At the same time, subordinate units at Hurlburt were reassigned from the 4410th CCTW to the 1 SOW. These consisted of the 4420th Combat Support Group and Supply Squadron, the 4410th

1969 (cont)

Field Maintenance Squadron, the 4407th, 4408th, 4409th, and 4410th Combat Crew Training Squadrons, and 4410th Student Squadron. Similarly, the two units at Lockbourne, the 18th SOS and 4413th CCTS, which had been assigned to the 1 SOW at England were reassigned to the 4410th CCTW. Altogether, fewer than 200 people actually moved physically in these reassignments.

30 Jul — The 319th SOS transferred from England AFB to Hurlburt Field.

31 Jul — The 4408th CCTS transferred from Hurlburt Field to Lockbourne AFB for reassignment to the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing. To equip the 4408th, Hurlburt Field transferred 11 and England AFB 14 C-123s. The 1 SOW retained responsibility for the 4408th CCTS until 8 September when the squadron was officially incorporated into the 317th TAW.

Aug-Sep — Flintlock II. From the middle of August to the end of September, the 7th Special Operations Flight participated in Flintlock II in Europe. This was a major exercise in Europe in which the 1 SOW became a regular participant.

4-8 Aug — Credible Light. The Wing hosted several people who were filming UH-1 and C-123 training as part of Operation Credible Light.

8 Aug — The 4473rd CCTS was designated and activated at Eglin AFB Auxiliary Field #3 and assigned to the 1 SOW.

9-10 Aug — Wing aircraft demonstrated their capabilities in Exercise Coronet Organ when four A-1s and one O-2B took part in a

1969 (cont)

search and rescue operation and two OV-10s deployed to MacDill AFB, Florida on the 9th to support F-4 strikes on the Avon Park Gunnery Range.

18 Aug — The 4410th Field Maintenance Squadron and 4410th Student Squadron transferred, in name only, to England AFB. The 4410th CCTW had been included in the transfers to England AFB, but that was cancelled on 18 July. On 18 August, in compliance with Tactical Air Command orders to change numerical designations of subordinate units to correspond with that of TAC wings, the 4410th CSG and five subordinate squadrons with the same designation, i.e., Transportation, Civil Engineering, Security Police, Services, and Supply were activated at England AFB and assigned to the 4410th CCTW. Further, on 18 August, the 834th CSG and 834th Transportation, Civil Engineering, Security Police, Services, and Supply Squadrons, the 4582nd Student Squadron, and 8th SOS were all transferred in name only to Hurlburt for assignment to the 1st SOW. The 4406th CCTS had been scheduled to move to Hurlburt, but that was cancelled on 18 July and it remained at England AFB. The transfer of the 834th CSG from England to Hurlburt gave the 1st SOW two combat support groups - the 834th and the old 4420th. To correct that situation, the 4420th and five excess squadrons, the 4420th Transportation, Civil Engineering, Security Police, Supply, and Services all inactivated. Finally, on 18 August, the 834th Field Maintenance Squadron activated at Hurlburt to replace the 4410th FMS which transferred in name to England.

20 Aug — Due to the threat of Hurricane Camille, 1 SOW aircraft evacuated to Sewart AFB, Tennessee near Nashville.

21 Aug — The edge of Hurricane Camille passed through Hurlburt Field causing no damage. Only 50-knot winds were recorded. A total of 278 refugees took shelter on the base.

1969 (cont)

25 Aug A loudspeaker-equipped U-10 circled the base broadcasting an appeal for foodstuffs, clothing, and household articles for relief of those people hit by Camille along the Gulf Coasts of Mississippi and Louisiana.

26 Aug Ten members of the 834th Civil Engineering Emergency Force, known as Prime BEEF, deployed by C-130 to Keesler AFB, Mississippi to assist in recovery from Camille.

27 Aug The 319th C-123s airlifted clothing, blankets, and non-perishable foodstuffs to Keesler for hurricane relief. The 319th also deployed a UC-123 which sprayed insecticide over a 54 square-mile area of the devastated coast.

27 Aug The 319th SOS used its C-123s to airlift 30,000 pounds of medical supplies from Selfridge AFB, Michigan to Keesler AFB, Mississippi for relief of Hurricane Camille victims.

28 Aug Captain Louis A. Meier, an O-1 instructor pilot with the 4410th CCTS at Holley Field, Florida received the USAF "Well Done" award for June 1969. The award went to a pilot who, by outstanding flying skill, made a major contribution to aerospace safety. Captain Meier earned the award for recovering a severely battle-damaged O-1F aircraft while serving in SEA.

1 Sep In a flight line ceremony, the Wing Commander presented a trophy to Lieutenant Colonel James F. Yearly, Commander, 4407th CCTS. His unit passed 10,000 hours of accident-free flying in the "ancient" A-1. This was believed to be a record for this aircraft.

2 Sep A UH-1P helicopter, flying near Eglin AFB, struck a static cable and crashed killing all five crew members.

1969 (cont)

2 Sep — One C-130 infiltrated a Special Forces A-Team into Ft. Polk, Louisiana from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. On 8 September they repeated the mission.

19 Sep — In an awards ceremony, Colonel Gates decorated 55 individuals with various medals including three Silver Stars.

20 Sep–3 Oct — Brass Strike V. From 20 September to 3 October, men and planes of the 1 SOW operated out of MacKall Army Airfield and Pope AFB providing a demonstration of special operations for foreign visitors, senior service colleges, and selected student groups. An advance party of 34 men from Hurlburt Field arrived at MacKall in two C-123s on 10 September to prepare a forward operating base able to support 250 men and 27 aircraft. They had six days, but finished in three. Over 170,000 pounds of supplies and equipment, 90 percent of all used in the operation, were airlifted on the second and third days of Brass Strike. Maintenance facilities set up along the flight line supported the 110 maintenance people who kept the 27 aircraft flying. Ninety percent of maintenance equipment was airlifted from Hurlburt and England and spare parts were flown in during the exercise from Hurlburt and Lockbourne. Maintenance was fully operational two days before the aircraft arrived and had them ready to fly three hours after landing. A bomb dump was set up in a triangle formed by the intersecting runways and there they stored 80,000 pounds of live and inert bombs, 1,000 rockets, and 70,000 rounds of ammunition. No aircraft suffered any delays due to munitions loading during the 11 days of strike missions. On 1 and 3 October the 1 SOW worked with the Army to stage demonstrations for over 9,000 spectators who saw the strike and airlift demonstrations at Ft. Bragg and the static display at Pope AFB.

1969 (cont)

24 Sep — Detachment #1 was designated and activated at Hurlburt Field to reorganize five UH-1 helicopters as a separate entity under the 1 SOW.

25 Sep — Comedian Bob Hope entertained military personnel and dependents at Hurlburt Field following a parade in his honor. Mr. Hope and his wife, Dolores, were hosted by the Wing Commander, Colonel Gates, who flew Mr. Hope on his first USO tour to Alaska in 1942. Mr. Hope also helped dedicate the new Hurlburt Field Officers' Open Mess.

10 Oct — Three YQU-22A aircraft arrived at Hurlburt for assignment to the 4473rd CCTS.

14-27 Oct — Elements of the 1 SOW took part in Exercise Coronet Bare at North Field, South Carolina. Coronet Bare demonstrated the use of air-transported, expendable maintenance and hangar facilities and other mobility gear to convert a bare landing strip into a fully operational base. Coronet Bare was an historic step in the evolution of tactical mobility. It marked the first time aircraft had operated from a base created entirely from pre-packaged, air-transported support facilities.

15 Oct — The 4409th and 4410th Combat Crew Training Squadrons were deactivated at Hurlburt and Holley Fields. The 4409th CCTS became the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron and the 4410th became the 547th Special Operations Training Squadron. The changes were in name only, and both units remained assigned to the 1 SOW.

21 Oct — The 1 SOW evacuated all aircraft except the UH-1Ps, O-1s, and U-10s to Sewart AFB, Tennessee because of the threat of Hurricane Laurie. Light aircraft from Holley Field were housed in Eason Hangar at Hurlburt.

1969 (cont)

23 Oct — When Hurricane Laurie turned east in the Gulf of Mexico and passed over lower Florida, the aircraft returned to Hurlburt.

23 Oct — The A-26 fighter-bombers of the 603rd SOS departed Hurlburt for the last time enroute to retirement at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. Veterans of three wars, the "Invaders" ended their proud history in the aircraft boneyard as part of Department of Defense budget cuts.

30 Oct-22 Nov — Detachment #2, 1 SOW at Pope AFB, flew five missions supporting Operation Cabin Light II in Puerto Rico.

3 Nov — A C-130 aircraft of Det 2, Pope AFB, infiltrated an Army A-Team into the Ft. Polk, Louisiana area.

9 Nov — Hurlburt Field observed the special Day of Prayer for American Prisoners of War in North Vietnam proclaimed by President Nixon.

11 Nov — A 1 SOW O-2B "Speaker Bird" supported the Choctawhatchee High School AFROTC Veterans Day observance in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

13 Nov — Hurlburt's OV-10 aircraft completed 10,000 hours of flying time. Assigned to the 549th TASTS, the Broncos began flying at Hurlburt Field in April 1968.

16-22 Nov — An O-2A of the 547th SOTS air controlled F-4 Phantoms in a firepower demonstration at the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

21 Nov — Captain John Mansur, O-2 Instructor Pilot with the 547th SOTS, received his third Silver Star for duty in SEA.

1969 (cont)

26 Nov — The 4410th CCTW received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service at Hurlburt Field from 1 October 1968 to 30 April 1969.

29 Nov — Staff Sergeant James J. Milonas, crew member with the 319th SOS, lost his life when he fell from an airborne C-123 north of Hurlburt Field.

1 Dec — Personnel from the 834th Security Police Squadron went to New Orleans for Customs Agent training. The Security Police at Hurlburt were assigned responsibility for customs inspections.

1 Dec — Aircrews of the 319th SOS were organized into "hard" crews. Since navigators were in short supply, only one navigator was assigned to every three aircrews.

4 Dec — Major Donald Knutson of the 547th SOTS received a "well done" for safely landing his crippled O-2A on a foamed runway. Cause of the emergency was an empty hydraulic reserve. Repair to the aircraft required 45 manhours and $1,700.

6 Dec — A C-123 of the 319th SOS dropped National Guard Special Forces near Salt Lake City, Utah while two others provided the same support near Jackson, Mississippi.

11 Dec — Major R.E. McClure was named a TAC Pilot of Distinction for safely landing his burning T-28 on a 5,000 foot, bomb-cratered runway near Hurlburt Field. Major McClure was flying his first solo mission in the T-28.

12 Dec — Upon completion of a $382,000 runway repair project at Hurlburt Field, the aircraft which had moved to Eglin at the start of the project on 6 November returned home.

1969 (cont)

12 Dec The USAF Special Operation Forces commander ordered all 319th SOS aircraft airborne before sundown as part of an operational readiness test. By early afternoon, 21 of their 22 aircraft were in the air for an outstanding example of readiness.

17 Dec The 1 SOW's first A-37B jet fighter-bomber arrived at Hurlburt for assignment to the 603rd SOS replacing their A-26s.

1970

20 Jan Lieutenant General Martinez-Zuviria, Chief of Staff Argentine Air Force, visited Hurlburt Field.

27 Jan Lieutenant General Kim, Vice Chief of Staff Korean Air Force, visited Hurlburt Field.

2 Feb Chaplain Major Clarence A. Drumheller, 1st Special Operations Wing, received a Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Freedoms Foundation award for his sermon, "Honor to Whom Honor is Due." He received a George Washington Honor Medal and $500.

18 Feb United States Air Force Special Operations Center inactivated. Its functions were transferred to Deputy Chief of Staff Requirements of the USAF Special Operations Forces.

26 Feb The 1st Special Operations Wing received the Daedalian Maintenance Effectiveness Award for the Tactical Air Command for 1969.

2-3 Mar Four A-1E Skyraiders of the 4407th Combat Crew Training Squadron, three C-123 Providers of the 319th SOS, and two

1970 (cont)

OV-10s of the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron took part in Exercise Coronet Organ II in Nevada.

7 Mar — Four 319th SOS C-123s paradropped Army National Guard Special Forces in Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi.

9 Mar — Major Gordon Bruner and Captain Louis W. Keeby, 549th TASTS, flew the squadron's 10,000th accident-free hour in the OV-10 carrying the serial number 555, "Triple Nickel." Since receiving OV-10 aircraft, the 549th had flown the "Bronco" over 25,000 hours.

26 Mar — The 8th Special Operations Squadron (Reconnaissance-Technical) processed its first color photo print at Hurlburt Field.

26 Mar — An A-37 fighter bomber of the 603rd SOS flew the first night refueling mission in 1 SOW history.

30 Mar — A-37B fighter bombers of the 603rd stayed airborne for four hours on an air refueling mission setting a new squadron record.

30 Mar — A 1 SOW UH-1 helicopter mobile training team of six pilots and 12 enlisted departed Hurlburt for SEA to set up a flight training program for the VNAF.

9 Apr — Captain Kenneth H. Sellers, 1 SOW, received the Air Force Cross from General William W. Momyer, Tactical Air Command Commander. He earned the nation's second highest award for heroism while serving as an O-2 Forward Air Controller in South Vietnam. That brought to three the number of Air Force Cross holders assigned to the 1 SOW.

19 Apr-1 May — Men and planes of the 1 SOW participated in Exercise Brass Strike VI at Pope AFB. Brass Strike VI demonstrated

1970 (cont)

tactical air support of U.S. ground forces to foreign dignitaries, senior service school personnel, the press, and other selected groups. The 1 SOW sent 175 people to this Brass Strike.

27 Apr — The 1 SOW furnished an OV-10, A-37, and O-2A to Eglin AFB for Tactical Air Warfare Center static display viewed by North Atlantic Treaty Organization general officers.

27 Apr-27 May — Four U-10 Couriers and four C-123 Providers assigned to the 317th and 319th SOS's respectively took part in Exotic Dancer II at Pope AFB.

1 May — A 547th SOTS O-2A Skymaster crashed on Eglin Range 78, killing both pilots.

4-8 May — One OV-10 Bronco of the 549th TASTS provided a close air support demonstration for foreign military attaches at Ft. Hood.

14 May — A-37 Dragonfly jets of the 603rd SOS flew non-stop to Howard AFB, Panama. Air National Guard KC-97 tankers aerial refueled the A-37s during their six-hour flight.

14 May — Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Summy, 7th Special Operations Flight Commander, flew the unit's last C-47 to the Davis-Monthan AFB "boneyard" in Arizona. This marked the end of the conversion to the C-123 aircraft.

16 May — The 1 SOW displayed seven different types of aircraft to the public at an Eglin Armed Forces Day celebration. The aircraft were the A-1 Skyraider, T-28 Trojan, C-123 Provider, OV-10 Bronco, O-2 Skymaster, A-37 Dragonfly, and the UH-1P Huey helicopter.

1970 (cont)

19 May — Six A-37 Dragonflies, two OV-10 Broncos, and two U-10 Couriers of the 1 SOW flew to Ft. Benning, Georgia for a night firepower demonstration for the West Point senior class.

5 Jun — Six 603rd A-37 Dragonflies flew to Ft. Benning to support an Army-Air Force firepower demonstration for 5,000 Army infantry students. The dragonflies served as primary strike aircraft delivering napalm, rockets, and cluster bombs.

5-25 Jun — Lieutenant Colonel Richard K. Easley, 834th Combat Support Group, ferried a C-47 to Jakarta, Indonesia.

9 Jun — Major General Deoclecio and 79 instructors and students of the Brazilian Air Force Command and Staff College toured Hurlburt.

17 Jun — A 4407th CCTS A-1E exploded on the runway following a precautionary landing at Hurlburt Field after crew members smelled fuel in the cockpit. The explosion killed both pilots.

17-19 Jun — Mr. Walter Brooks, USAF Art program staff artist, toured Hurlburt and flew in the A-37 Dragonfly.

1 Jul — For administrative reasons, the 4473rd CCTS was renamed the 424th Special Operations Training Squadron.

4 Jul — United States Congressman Robert Sikes participated in the dedication of the A-26 memorial at the Hurlburt Field Air Park. This aircraft was the last A-26 in the Air Force and when it returned from SEA it came to Hurlburt rather than the Davis-Monthan boneyard. The aircraft was mounted as a tribute to all who flew and serviced the aircraft and to

1970 (cont)

all Air Force personnel who had given their lives in the struggle for freedom.

17 Jul — The 319th SOS flying C-123s set a squadron record by flying 55 days without an aircraft being grounded.

27 Jul — The 549th TASTS welcomed six officers from the Royal Thai Air Force who arrived for FAC training in the OV-10 under the military assistance program.

31 Jul — Four OV-10s from the 549th TASTS participated in a missing-man formation at Pensacola, Florida for the funeral service of Lieutenant James Butler, an OV-10 pilot trained at Hurlburt.

3 Aug — The 1 SOW was officially recognized as having the best aircraft maintenance in TAC during 1969. Colonel Robert W. Gates received the Command's Daedalian Selectee Award rotating trophy and permanent plaque.

6 Aug — Medal of Honor. Colonel William A. Jones III, a former student pilot of the 4407th CCTS, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for conspicuous gallantry while piloting an A-1H near Nong Hoi, North Vietnam, on 1 September 1968.

7 Aug — Captain Jorge Garcia of the Guatamalan Air Force completed a flying safety orientation at Hurlburt Field and returned home to serve as Flying Safety Officer for his air force.

16-17 Aug — Seventeen SOF aircraft provided a capabilities demonstration for General Augusto Fragoso and 90 members of the Brazilian National War College. The aircraft force consisted of five different types and performed 11 events.

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18 Aug — A one-man MTT, Major Kenneth A. Kirkpatrick, traveled to Iran to instruct five members of the Imperial Iranian Air Force in tactics and techniques in using the SUU-11A gun pods on the O-2A aircraft.

20-22 Aug — During the visit of Air Commodore Dato Sulaiman Bin Sujak of the Royal Malaysian Air Force and two members of his command, he gave the graduation address at a counterinsurgency class at the USAF Special Operations School.

31 Aug — The 8th SOS (Reconnaissance-Technical) inactivated and the 25th SOS (Reconnaissance-Technical) activated.

4-5 Sep — The 603rd SOS sent an A-37 to the Cleveland Air Races.

5 Sep — The 317th SOS received five new UH-1N Huey helicopters.

10-25 Sep — Brass Strike VII. The 1 SOW made a significant commitment of 180 people, 10 A-37s, five C-123s, two O-2B, one U-10, and three OV-10s to this exercise which demonstrated tactical air support for U.S. Army ground forces.

16 Sep — The first UH-1N class arrived marking the end of UH-1P Phase II and the beginning of UH-1N Phase I and II training. Hurlburt received seven new UH-1Ns.

18 Sep — The 317th SOS received two more new UH-1N helicopters.

Oct-Dec — The forward air controller training at Holley Field declined and reflected the winding down of the war in Southeast Asia. The 43,809 takeoffs, landings, and touch and go operations

1970 (cont)

during the quarter were approximately 10,000 fewer than in the previous three months.

2 Oct — Mr. Joseph Mashman, Vice President of Special Projects for Bell Helicopter, attended the dedication ceremony for the UH-1N at Hurlburt. The Huey was officially accepted by Brigadier General Leroy J. Manor, USAFSOF Commander, and Colonel Robert W. Gates, 1 SOW Commander.

8 Oct — Two OV-10s from the 549th TASTS at Hurlburt supported F-4E aircraft in a simulated close air support mission for the Defense Orientation Conference Agency. They flew the missions at Seymour-Johnson AFB, North Carolina.

12-15 Oct — A C-123 furnished flare support for the 4531st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB.

16 Oct — Four officers and one NCO of the 1 SOW were selected as "1970 Outstanding Young Men of America." They were Captains Kenneth L. Blankenship, Terry S. Robinson, and Arthur W. White, First Lieutenant Robert J. Black, and Technical Sergeant Harold Bass.

28 Oct-5 Dec — The 317th SOS provided the nucleus for an MTT to Lop Puri, Thailand to train Royal Thai Army and Air Force personnel in the XM-93 weapons system adapted to their UH-1N helicopter.

31 Oct — Colonel Robert W. Gates retired and Colonel Michael C. Horgan, succeeded him as 1 SOW Commander.

6 Nov — The first group of Royal Thai Air Force pilots to train in the OV-10 Bronco graduated at Hurlburt Field.

21 Nov — Son Tay prisoner of war raid in North Vietnam only 23 miles from Hanoi. The 4407th made a spectacular deviation

1970 (cont)

from its strict training mission by providing five A-1 instructor pilots for the Son Tay Raid. They flew 25 hours in support of the mission and, although they were hit by rifle and automatic weapons fire, none of their aircraft were downed. This was the first time any A-1 officially crossed the Red River since December 1966. Although the operation was a success, the mission failed in that the prisoners had been moved from Son Tay. For Operation Ivory Coast, providing logistical support for the Son Tay Raid, the 319th SOS flew 14 sorties totaling 32.8 hours.

23 Nov — Air Marshall, Sir John Lapsley, British Defense Ministry, visited Hurlburt Field and the Air Ground Operations School.

9 Dec — The 834th Supply Squadron at Hurlburt Field won the 1969 TAC Supply Effectiveness Award for "sustained superior supply effectiveness" and became TAC's nominee for the Air Force Daedalian Supply Award.

31 Dec — During 1970, 2,135 people left Hurlburt Field permanently with 895 going permanent change of station to SEA, 371 PCS to other continental United States bases, 162 PCS to Europe, and 707 separated from the service.

1971

Jan-Mar — Pilots from the 4407th CCTS completed ferrying 35 T-28s from Pensacola to St. Augustine, Florida.

Jan-Mar — During the quarter one O-1E aircraft, tail number 51-11917, was flown to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB for display. Another O-1 was put on permanent display near the Hurlburt main gate in Memorial Air Park. While Holley Field flying continued to decline, the tower there still recorded 35,911 takeoffs, landings, and touch and go

1971 (cont)

operations during the quarter. The total was almost 8,000 fewer than the previous quarter.

4 Jan — The White House announced the awarding of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 6th Special Operations Squadron.

4-31 Jan — Personnel from the 25th, 317th, 319th, and 603rd Special Operations Squadrons deployed to Ft. Bragg to participate in Exercise Orbit Wings VII. The 1st Special Operations Wing provided four A-37s, two C-123s, and two U-10s.

6 Jan — Two Laotian Air Force officers graduated from a two-week night flying orientation in the T-28. Both pilots had over 1,000 sorties in the aircraft.

19-20 Jan — The USAF Daedalian Supply Effectiveness Evaluation Team visited Hurlburt Field to evaluate the 834th Supply Squadron as TAC's entry in the worldwide competition. On 26 March the squadron learned it had placed second to Eielson AFB.

1 Feb — Hurlburt Field maintenance units were named winners of the TAC Maintenance Daedalion Award for 1970 for the second consecutive year.

3 Feb — For his actions while leading a search and rescue mission in Southeast Asia, Major Dean E. DeTar earned the Air Force Cross which General Momyer, TAC Commander, presented to him.

22 Feb-5 Mar — Initial Military Assistance Advisory Course was presented at the USAF Special Operations School, Hurlburt Field.

22-25 Feb — Two C-123s from the 319th SOS at Hurlburt performed a troop drop at Key West, Florida.

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1 Mar — The 311th Munitions Maintenance Squadron was activated at Hurlburt Field.

1-5 Mar — A 319th SOS C-123 participated in a J-85 jet engine test at Robins AFB, Georgia. The K-model received these jet engines, one on each wing.

2-19 Mar — Approximately 70 people and eight aircraft participated in Gobbler Woods XIII in an area adjacent to Ft. Bragg and Star Field, North Carolina.

3 Mar — A U-10 crashed near Greenville, Alabama, fatally injuring all three on board.

4-5 Mar — Air Vice Marshall Serm Sookswasdi and a party of five from the Royal Thai Air Force visited Hurlburt for briefings and a tour.

31 Mar — Captain Piero Piccolomini became the first Italian pilot to complete training in the O-1E Bird Dog.

31 Mar — The wing had 177 aircraft of 15 different types at Hurlburt Field, Holley Field, Duke Field, Otis AFB, and Pope AFB.

1 Apr — The 1 SOW won the 1970 Major General Clements McMullen Memorial Daedalian Weapon System Maintenance Award.

12-16 Apr — A 25th SOS mobile training team went to Howard AFB, Panama to train personnel of the 24th SOS in the utilization of the C-123 for photo reconnaissance.

15 Apr — Tactical Air Command Commander, General William Momyer, presented Silver Stars to Major Anthony Namlick and Captain Karl Polifika.

1971 (cont)

16 Apr–21 May — Six C-123s, six U-10s, one OV-10, two O-2As, six A-37s, three UH-1Ns and one C-130 from the 1 SOW participated in Exercise Exotic Dancer IV.

24 Apr — Actual presentation to the wing of the Air Force Daedalian Maintenance Trophy at Maxwell AFB. Colonel Horgan accepted for the 1 SOW.

15 May — The 603rd SOS deactivated at Hurlburt Field.

20 May — Part of TAC's Pave Coin competition for short takeoff and landing aircraft was held at Holley Field. A Helio Stallion and a Fairchild-Hiller Peacemaker demonstrated their capabilities before TAC personnel and representatives of several Southeast Asian countries.

20 May — Captain Larry Milburne of the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron organized an MTT to assist six American-trained Royal Thai Air Force instructor pilots in developing and operating an OV-10 training program.

1 Jun — Coronet Roundup. This was a joint USAF/U.S. Department of Agriculture project to eradicate the screwworm from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The fly produced a parsite which caused considerable economic loss to the livestock industry. The 319th SOS airlifted sterile male insects in the pupa stage from Mission, Texas to Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico. They were kept at 50 degrees fahrenheit to prevent premature emergence. After being boxed, the temperature was raised and they were fed a three-to-one syrup/water mixture. The 319th flew a regular pattern over the islands designed to cover the infected areas. Although the female lived only 21 days, she produced approximately 2,000 offspring. Sterile eggs were the key to wiping out the screwworms.

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9 Jun — The last O-1E student sortie was flown at Holley Field. Hurlburt's O-1s were retired to Davis-Monthan AFB.

23 Jun — The last UH-1N class graduated and the training then transferred to Military Airlift Command at Hill AFB.

30 Jun — The Tactical Air Reconnaissance Center at Shaw AFB, deactivated and its functions transferred to the Tactical Air Warfare Center at Eglin AFB. With this change, the 25th SOS was directed to provide the photographic support for all TAC/TAWC directed reconnaissance tests to include processing, printing, duplicating, reproducing, and analyzing both black and white and color products.

Jul-Sep — Coronet Roundup. During this quarter the Coronet Roundup effort against the screwworm fly continued. The C-123s which transported the sterile male flies flew 98 sorties totaling 462.3 hours and the U-10s which dispensed the flies flew 104 sorties for 216.7 hours. They dropped over 20,000 boxes containing 35,000,000 flies.

1 Jul — After graduation of the last class of UH-1N students, the Huey Section was fully operational.

14 Jul — A major aircraft accident occurred when a 424th Special Operations Training Squadron QU-22B ran off the runway while demonstrating a forced landing. However, no one was injured.

17 Jul-7 Aug — Combat VEE. The mission of the Combat VEE Task Force was to provide airlift and aerial spray of insecticides in suppressing mosquitoes that carried Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis, a disease which threatened all horses in the Southwest United States. The first VEE epidemics in 1935-36 spread across Venezuela ravaging horses and infecting humans. During that epidemic a Venezuelan

1971 (cont)

doctor isolated the virus, but intermittent outbreaks of the disease followed in Peru in 1953, Ecuador in 1956, and Colombia in 1967. In 1968 the disease spread through Central America until it reached Mexico in 1970 and recorded its first case in Texas in 1971. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requested Air Force assistance in spraying for the mosquitoes. By 20 July the Combat VEE Task Force consisted of seven C-123s, nine C-47s, and 110 people from ten Air Force operations. The 319th SOS provided six C-123s for Combat VEE and performed the majority of the work especially after four C-47s were withdrawn. They contributed more sorties, more hours flown, more acres covered, and more gallons of spray dispensed than any other unit. Altogether, the 319th flew 98 of 106 sorties scheduled for ferry, training, spray, and support. These 98 sorties amounted to 259.1 hours during which they sprayed 36,052 gallons of spray on 1,810,840 acres. Combat VEE was an unqualified success in controlling this dread disease.

25 Jul — The 415th SOTS arrived from Lockbourne AFB, Ohio and became the 1 SOW's largest squadron.

5 Aug — Staff Sergeant Aldolfo Lopez, Jr., now of the 415th SOTS, was part of a nine-man crew which received the MacKay Trophy for the most meritorious flight of the year 1970.

12 Aug — The 1 SOW asked permission to establish an outdoor museum of air commando aircraft to be displayed on pedestals with plaques identifying them. The wing proposed including in the museum the A-26 which was already mounted, an A-1, C-47, C-123, O-1, T-28, O-2, UH-1, and U-10. Most of them would be acquired when they were retired from active service. General Momyer approved the request and forwarded it to Headquarters USAF recommending approval. While the request was being

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staffed at higher headquarters, the wing planned to mount an A-1 near the A-26. When approved, the museum would be established more formally.

22 Aug-30 Sep — The 7th Special Operations Flight sent 90 enlisted and 24 officers plus four C-123s on Exercise Flintlock IV. On 22 and 23 August they deployed to Sembach Air Base, Germany to form an Air Force Special Operations Facility and from 4 to 24 September the Flintlock missions were flown. During that 20-day period the 7th's C-123s flew 47 sorties and 71.3 hours of infiltration, exfiltration, and resupply missions.

13-30 Sep — The 25th SOS (Reconnaissance-Technical) sent four people to Howard AFB, Panama to augment the Southern Command and assist a local reconnaissance unit, the 24th SOW Reconnaissance Laboratory. The mission was to report on assembly areas, infiltration routes, and unauthorized use of Canal Zone area. They prepared detailed reports on four routes through the Canal Zone which required plotting, annotating, and printing. Several selected area coverages required small mosaics. Further there was a requirement for nine large area coverages necessitating plotting, titling, and printing.

13-30 Sep — Four C-123s, three O-2As, three U-10s, three OV-10s, and two AC-130s participated in Exercise Brass Strike VIII. Forty officers and 95 enlisted accompanied the aircraft.

19-24 Sep — Hurlburt Field sponsored the Fourth Special Air Operations Symposium which included two aerial demonstrations. Delegates from 18 air forces of the Americas met to exchange special air operations information.

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26 Sep Hurlburt Field hosted an Open House highlighted by an Air Force Thunderbirds performance. Over 30,000 people attended.

29 Sep The first newly modified C-130E Combat Talon aircraft arrived for Category III testing. Certain deficiencies had existed for some time and Lockheed Air Service Company prepared modification proposals which the Air Force approved in the fall of 1969 at a cost of $35 million. Modification began in March 1971 consisting of a new terrain following radar, inertial navigation system, autopilot pitch monitor, improved Loran C, and structural strengthening of the tail section to permit high speed cargo drops. That aircraft arrived at Hurlburt on 29 September for testing.

Oct-Dec Coronet Roundup. The screwworm fly eradication program in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continued with modification. On 29 November, sterile Mexican flies were selected becaue they were considered more energetic and "sexually more vigorous" than the previous strain. Changes were also made in the dispersal rate. Through December over 62 million flies had been released which averaged 600 per square mile on Puerto Rico, 1,900 flies per square mile on Vieques Island, and 1,300 per square mile at other locations. Although these should have been sufficient to accomplish the goals of Coronet Roundup, the disease had not been fully controlled. Therefore, they changed the flight paths and reduced the number of flies in each box from 2,200 to 480 hoping to get more effective dispersal. A long range benefit could result from the fact that the screwworm fly in Puerto Rico was close to that in southern Mexico and if it moved north into the United States, the knowledge and experience gained from Coronet Roundup could be very valuable.

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5 Oct — Active testing of Pave Spectre was concluded as scheduled. The Pave Spectre AC-130E program was a follow-on configuration for AC-130 gunships designed to enhance their night, all weather interdiction capabilities. Pave Spectre involved incorporating new and updated sensors that increased the overall effectiveness of gunships as an integrated weapon system.

5-25 Oct — The 1 SOW sent one AC-130, two C-123s, two UH-1Ns, and two U-10s to Ft. Bragg for Cabin Light IV.

20 Oct — General John D. Ryan, Chief of Staff USAF toured Hurlburt Field and awarded Silver Stars to five members of the wing.

21 Oct — Congress approved funding 30 STOL aircraft - 15 Fairchild Peacemakers and 15 Helio Stallions. These were the aircraft which demonstrated their capabilities earlier in the year at Hurlburt in Pave Coin. The purchase of these aircraft was part of the Credible Chase program to improve South Vietnam's counter-infiltration capability.

27 Oct — The 4400th Special Operations Squadron Provisional was activated and assigned to the Credible Chase Task Force Provisional. The 1 SOW supported Credible Chase with personnel and later with training programs for gunners. Before the end of December, the 317th SOS trained 16 Credible Chase gunners.

27 Oct — An OV-10 with Captain Henry Smith, instructor pilot, and Lieutenant Clark Roth, student, crashed south of the runway at Hurlburt. During the landing phase, the aircraft appeared to enter a stall with insufficient time to recover. Both officers were killed.

1971 (cont)

5 Nov — Detachment #2 of the 1 SOW inactivated and the 318th SOS activated in its place. All personnel and equipment of the detachment were reassigned to the 318th.

15 Nov — Former Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford Hardin, presented a Superior Service Award to the 1 SOW for its efforts in Combat VEE which eradicated Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis throughout the Gulf Coast earlier in the year.

16 Nov — A comprehensive, one-day Special Operations/Military Assistance Program orientation was provided for 51 officers representing 25 countries.

16–24 Nov — Boldshot/Brimfire 3-72. The Boldshot/Brimfire quarterly series of exercises did not take significant wing resources, personnel, and time, but they did provide good training and good support for the US Strike Command. Exercise 3-72 was the last of the Boldshot/Brimfire series. On 1 January 1972, the US Readiness Command replaced USSTRICOM and the exercises were renamed Brave Shield.

20 Dec — The Pave Mace modification of the AN/ASD-5 (Black Crow) Systems started on all AC-130A/E aircraft. Purpose of this development effort was to fabricate and test a Black Crow system to detect impulsive radiation from enemy vehicles and radars.

31 Dec — The 424th TASTS was reassigned to the 68th Tactical Air Support Group at Shaw AFB.

1972

Jan–Mar — Progress was noted in the success of Coronet Roundup. However, since the Mexican screwworm fly did not perform up to expectations, consideration was given to raising

1972 (cont)

Puerto Rican flies. The release altitude over the small, uninhabited outer islands was lowered to 500 feet to be sure the flies hit the islands. Also, the optimum release speed was determined to be 100 knots. At 120 knots the boxes "exploded" with possible injury to the flies and at 80 knots the boxes failed to open. The number of flies released was increased from 2,000 per square mile to 20,000 per square mile which represented a total increase of one million per week.

6 Jan — The 1st Special Operations Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service in support of military operations between 1 July 1969 and 15 April 1971.

12 Jan — Lieutenant General Tran Van Minh, Commander-in-Chief Vietnamese Air Force, visited Hurlburt Field to observe 1 SOW operations and to meet Vietnamese Air Force pilots being trained by the 4407th Combat Crew Training Squadron in the A-1 aircraft.

12-23 Jan — A C-123K, two U-10Bs, and one UH-1N deployed to Ft. Stewart, Georgia for Brave Shield I, successor to Boldshot/ Brimfire.

15 Jan — The 317th Special Operations Squadron and the 319th SOS combined to form a composite squadron designated the 317th SOS.

31 Jan — A Tactical Air Command team visited Hurlburt Field to evaluate the 1 SOW for the Daedalion Maintenance Trophy. The wing was USAF Special Operations Force's nominee for the third consecutive year.

10 Feb — Pave Aegis. The 415th Special Operations Training Squadron engaged in the Pave Aegis test program which

1972 (cont)

involved evaluating the 105mm gun on the AC-130 gunship. The increased accuracy of the AC-130E Digital Fire Control System and the greater gross weight of the AC-130E resulted in its selection over the AC-130A. The 105mm gun put 5.6 pounds of high explosive on target compared to .6 pounds by the 40mm weapon. Also, the 105 fired the white phosphorous round as a marker for fighter escort and delivered it accurately from standoff ranges of five to six miles which enabled the fighter escort to deliver laser guided bombs more quickly. On 10 February the 415th concluded its Pave Aegis testing. Ten productive sorties had been flown during which over 1,000 rounds were fired at altitudes from 6,500 feet to 15,500 feet and at slant ranges from 8,000-22,000 feet.

26 Mar-1 Apr — Hurlburt Field observed the National Week of Concern for our prisoners of war and missing in action in SEA.

1 Apr — A maintenance reorganization created the 834th Avionics Maintenance Squadron and the 834th Organizational Maintenance Squadron.

11 Apr — Operational Test and Evaluation of the electronic countermeasures equipment on the gunship began. Although not the first ECM test on a gunship, it marked the first test of the integrated ECM capability of the aircraft, i.e., how well all the pieces of equipment worked together and what combinations of equipment and tactics would provide the best defense against enemy fire. The test involved 31 sorties and 107.5 hours.

18 Apr — Quarterly meeting of the Coronet Roundup Technical Conference. Conferees learned that Texas was infested with the screwworm to the extent of 55 counties and approximately the southern one-third of the state. A problem with the eradication program resulted from the fact

1972 (cont)

that the male fly was sexually active only four days after release and only two to five percent effective. The conference also agreed to continue the Vieques Island release rate at 22,000 per square mile with half the flies released on Monday and the other half on Wednesday to compensate for the four-day activity period. The Virgin Islands would be hit weekly with 2,000 to 4,000 flies in each drop. They also agreed to breed sterile Puerto Rican flies. At the request of the Secretary of Agriculture of Puerto Rico, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird approved continued Air Force support for Coronet Roundup. However, time was running out unless significant progress could be attained.

4-25 May Exotic Dancer V. Of the 50,000 troops from all services, about 175 were from the 1 SOW which also provided two C-123s and two UH-1Ns from the 317th SOS, two OV-10s from the 549th TASTS, and one C-130 from the 318th SOS. Units of the 1 SOW flew 179 sorties and 310 hours of paradrops, scuba drops, helicopter trooplifts, and resupply operations. Included were UH-1N airlifts from ship to shore.

10-14 May CONJEFAMER XII, an Inter-American Air Force Chief's Conference, met at Hurlburt Field and viewed static displays and a firepower demonstration.

13 May Hurlburt Field annual Open House again featured the Air Force Thunderbirds.

15 May The 7th Special Operations Flight concluded operations at Otis AFB and began its move to Hurlburt Field.

23 May The go-ahead was given to install Pave Aegis 105mm howitzers on all 1 SOW AC-130 gunships.

1972 (cont)

26 May Two UH-1N helicopters arrived at Hurlburt Field from the 7th Special Operations Flight.

26 May Hurlburt Field's Service Club was officially redesignated as the "Raiders Reef Recreation Center."

31 May An A-1E crashed and was destroyed, but the crew members escaped unhurt. This was the first major aircraft accident of 1972.

4-17 Jun The Brazilian Air Command and Staff Conference met at Hurlburt Field.

7 Jun One C-123 arrived from the Otis AFB 7th Special Operations Flight.

8 Jun Direction was received to test a trainable 105mm gunship cannon for use on the AC-130s at Hurlburt. The 105s on Hurlburt gunships had been the stiff or untrainable type, but the new trainable cannon linked to the gunship sensors greatly enhanced weapon effectiveness. Between 10 July and 11 August the test was run with great success and thereafter the AC-130 gunships were equipped with trainable cannons.

10 Jun The last A-1H deployed from the 4407th CCTS for Southeast Asia and all South Vietnamese students in training departed for other assignments.

14 Jun Two more C-123s arrived from the 7th SOF.

18-20 Jun Hurricane Agnes forced the evacuation to the north of all 1 SOW aircraft.

23 Jun The last C-123 arrived at Hurlburt from Otis AFB.

1972 (cont)

23 Jun — Colonel Bernard F. Fisher, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, dedicated the A-1E Skyraider which had been placed on permanent display at Hurlburt Field. Colonel Fisher earned the Medal of Honor while flying the A-1E in Vietnam and executing a dramatic rescue.

1 Jul — The 823rd Civil Engineering Squadron Heavy Repair known as RED HORSE, offically moved to Hurlburt Field from Eglin Auxiliary Field #2.

Early July — A helicopter crew from the 317th SOS airlifted a civilian at Milton, Florida, to Eglin AFB due to burns he suffered in an electrical fire. The Air Force then airlifted him by C-9 Nightingale to Brooke Army Medical Center.

3-24 Jul — Personnel and aircraft of the 317th Special Operations Squadron supported Exercise Rocky Rival and the 10th Special Operations Group, Army at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

21 Jul-2 Aug — Labor Trail VII. This exercise was run at the Special Forces Underwater School at Key West, Florida. One C-123 infiltrated 40 people into the exercise area on 21 July.

8 Aug — An OV-10 made a gear-up landing on a foamed runway at Hurlburt. The pilots were uninjured and the aircraft suffered minimal damage.

15 Aug — The 547th Special Operations Training Squadron was redesignated the 547th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron.

16 Aug-14 Sep — Cabot Sound VII. On 16 August one C-123 infiltrated 35 troops into the exercise area near Lake James, North Carolina. Also, the 318th SOS performed Fulton Recoveries at Union City and Clinton, South Carolina on 21 August and at Joanna and Newberry, South Carolina on 22 August.

1972 (cont)

30 Aug — The 6th SOS was renamed the 6th SOTS.

30 Aug–5 Sep — The 318th SOS performed five Fulton Recoveries at Toronto, Canada for the Canadian International Air Show.

31 Aug — Chief of Staff United States Air Force directed inactivation of the 43rd Tactical Airlift Training Squadron on a low key basis with no public announcement. The 43rd had provided the only Phase I and Phase II training in the C-123K. Unit aircraft transferred to the Reserve and, until they could handle the training, the 317th SOS assumed that task.

1-13 Sep — The runway at Hurlburt Field was closed for repairs. Training in T-33, T-29, A-1E, AC-119K, AC-130E, and C-123 aircraft moved to Eglin AFB.

4-8 Sep — The USAF Special Operations School at Hurlburt conducted its first unconventional warfare course.

5 Sep — As part of the TAC Air Operations Tour, five officers from the Republic of China visited the USAF Special Operations School, received the unclassified special operations force briefing, and witnessed a static display of SOF aircraft at Hurlburt Field.

14-16 Sep — Five officers from Thailand visited USAFSOS. They received the SOF briefing, toured the 1 SOW flight line at Hurlburt Field, and were guests of the Tactical Air Warfare Center and SOF commanders for dinner.

15 Sep — The 7th Special Operations Flight from Otis AFB was absorbed into the 317th SOS.

24 Sep–28 Oct — Flintlock V. The 1 SOW sent a detachment from the 318th SOS at Pope AFB and the 7th SOF within the 317th SOS.

1972 (cont)

Two UH-1Ns were shipped by C-141 and four C-123s staged through Langley AFB, Virginia, and Keflavik, Iceland, enroute to Sembach AB, Germany. The C-123s worked in a sub-exercise in Germany while the UH-1Ns went to Denmark. One C-130E Combat Talon from the 318th SOS Pope deployed on 10 October to Sculthorpe AB, United Kingdom.

25 Sep-6 Oct — The AC-130 gunship participated in a search and rescue test with an HH-53 helicopter.

27 Sep — Key staff officers of the Joint Warfare Establishment located at Old Sarum, Salisbury, England arrived at Hurlburt for extended discussions on specialized warfare. Headed by Major General Glyn C. A. Gilbert, the JWE was the British counterpart of our Air Ground Operations School.

28 Sep-1 Nov — Aircrews of the 415th Special Operations Training Squadron ferried two AC-119Ks to Indo-China.

1 Oct — Enhance Plus. The CSAF directed transfer of the 16 AC-119Ks assigned to PACAF and the six assigned to the 1 SOW to the Air Force of South Vietnam. Thus, in one fell swoop, the entire AC-119K Stinger gunship inventory was wiped out. The project to transfer the AC-119Ks and other aircraft to the Vietnamese Air Force was known as Enhance Plus. Tactical Air Command directed that the Hurlburt aircraft be flown to Robins AFB, Georgia not later than 22 October to be equipped with long-range ferry fuel tanks so they could cross the Pacific. All six aircraft were at Robins on the 22nd, but the project was cancelled and three of the AC-119Ks returned to Hurlburt. However, on 26 October the CSAF revived Enhance Plus for these gunships and the three at home again deployed to Robins for modification. They ultimately departed for SEA on 29 October. A second part of Enhance Plus involved A-1E

1972 (cont)

Skyraiders of the 4407th CCTS. On 27 October TAC directed the transfer of all nine A-1Es of the 4407th to the VNAF. The 4407th flew them to the west coast for shipment to SEA so that by 30 October all nine aircraft were in California. Enhance Plus was a quick reaction tasking and the 1 SOW responded to the challenge. Suddenly the 415th SOTS found its manpower and mission halved as students, like the aircraft, departed to other assignments. Near the end of the year, 26 December, six AC-119K aircrew members from the 415th SOTS - one pilot, two navigators, one engineer, one gunner, and one illuminator operator - were sent to train SEA aircrews in the Stinger gunship.

1 Oct — The 834th Munitions Maintenance Squadron activated and the 311th Munitions Maintenance Squadron inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

7 Oct — In conjunction with the stepped-up bombing in Indo-China, two electronic warfare specialists from the 834th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Hurlburt Field departed for a 179-day temporary duty to Guam in support of B-52 operations.

7-9 Oct — The Third Annual Military Jumpfest was held in honor of U.S. prisoners of war and missing in action. The event sponsored by the 1 SOW Combat Control Team was held at Eglin Auxiliary Field #6 with 300 participants.

11-28 Oct — Brass Key I. A new U.S. Readiness Command joint static display and tactical demonstration series replaced the old Brass Strike firepower demō series. Brass Key demonstrated mobility, flexibility, and firepower of forces supporting Army and Air Force readiness commands. The 317th SOS, 415th SOTS, 549th TASTS, 603rd SOS, and 318th SOS flew variations of the basic C-123, C-130, OV-10, UH-1, and C-47 aircraft 371.3 hours in 234 sorties.

1972 (cont)

13 Oct — The new NCO Leadership School officially opened at Hurlburt Field.

15-17 Oct — A group of 111 officers from the Swiss Officers Association visited Eglin AFB with USAFSOF the project office for the entire visit which included briefings and tours at the Air Ground Operations School and the 1 SOW at Hurlburt Field.

20 Oct — The AC-119K student class was notified that their training had been cancelled.

20 Oct-3 Dec — The Pave Aegis mobile training team deployed to Udorn, Thailand to train aircrews of the 16th SOS on the trainable mount, 105mm weapon and to acquaint them with future gunship developments.

26 Oct — The A-1E training program terminated at Hurlburt Field.

26 Oct — The AC-119K gunship training program concluded at Hurlburt Field. The aircraft were delivered to Vietnam.

27-30 Oct — Project Enhance Plus deployed A-1E aircraft from Hurlburt enroute to Indo-China.

31 Oct — The 424th TASTS inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

20 Nov — A group of 52 Allied officers attending Air Command and Staff College visited USAFSOS and AGOS to obtain a comprehensive one-day education in special air operations and air ground operations.

5 Dec — A C-130E Combat Talon from the 318th SOS collided mid-air with an F-102. All personnel were killed.

7 Dec — The 549th TASTS at Hurlburt Field completed the training of three Venezuelan Air Force pilots.

1972 (cont)

29 Dec — An AC-130E gunship of the 415th SOTS provided illumination for searchers looking for survivors of the crash of a commercial airliner in the marshes west of Miami, Florida.

20 Dec 72-5 Mar 73 — A USAFSOF mobile training team conducted AC-119K training for Vietnamese Air Force personnel at Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam.

31 Dec — During 1972, the 1 SOW aircraft models and types declined from 18 models of 13 types to 14 models of 11 types which still made maintenance undoubtedly the most complex challenge in the Air Force. During the year, they maintained five types of reciprocating engines, nine propeller systems, and six types of jet engines. Maintenance also took care of 32,000 "black boxes" and 107 different types of powered aerospace ground equipment. Eight of the 18 models had been unique to the wing and posed problems such as special tools, one-of-a-kind parts with limited procurement, and numerous and varied systems requiring expertise in limited technical data and complex test equipment.

1973

4 Jan — The loss of an AT-28D cost the lives of Major John C. Roberts and Major Harold C. M. O'Donovan. Both were highly decorated Vietnam veterans.

12-15 Jan — Three Thai officers visited the USAF Special Operations School and the 1st Special Operations Wing.

22 Jan — A mobile training team deployed to Kobi Kathiem, Thailand for 13 weeks to train a cadre of pilots and gunners in the AU-23 aircraft.

24 Jan — An MTT left Hurlburt Field for Venezuela for 179 days to assist in their OV-10A training program.

1973 (cont)

8 Feb — A C-130E Combat Talon of the 318th Special Operations Squadron dropped eight Navy SEAL team members into a drop zone in Chesapeake Bay.

9 Feb — An MTT deployed to Takhli, Thailand for 14 weeks to train a cadre of Cambodian pilots and gunners in the AU-24 aircraft.

12 Feb — At 1100 hours very cold rain turned to sleet and by 1900 hours it was snowing at Hurlburt Field. One inch of snow fell during the night for a 15-year record.

18 Feb — Captain Henry Bruckner, 4410th Special Operations Training Group, departed for Scott AFB to participate in Operation Homecoming, the return of prisoners of war from North Vietnam.

26 Feb — A mobile training team deployed to Venezuela for 26 weeks to assist the Venezuelan Air Force with initial pilot training in the OV-10 aircraft.

4 Mar — Captain William A. Buckingham of the 4410th SOTG went to Sheppard AFB to participate in Operation Homecoming.

5 Mar — Captain Gordon Rowe, also of the 4410th SOTG, departed on an extended temporary duty ferrying an aircraft to Southeast Asia.

5 Mar — The AC-119K MTT from the 415th SOTS returned from SEA after having trained Vietnamese Air Force personnel in this gunship.

13 Mar — The first of six CH-3E helicopters arrived to replace C-123Ks in the 317th SOS.

1973 (cont)

20 Mar — Two C-123Ks were flown to Lockbourne AFB for permanent disposition.

20 Mar–8 Apr — Exotic Dancer VI was conducted in the vicinity of Fort Bragg. This was the sixth in a series of joint operations to improve existing tactics and examine new procedures for conducting joint operations and training special operations forces for combat.

22 Mar — Two more C-123Ks went to Lockbourne.

31 Mar — The 1 SOW's inventory of aircraft was down to 85 consisting of 11 different types and 16 models located at Hurlburt, Holley, and Pope.

1 Apr — Colonel James H. Montrose succeeded to command of the 1 SOW upon Colonel Horgan's retirement.

17-27 Apr — Gobbler Woods XIX. This exercise, the 19th in the series supporting the U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance, was conducted in the Uwarrie National Forest of North Carolina.

18 Apr–6 May — Gallant Hand 73. This exercise at Fort Hood, Texas was the 1973 version of a continuing series designed to improve the combat readiness of U.S. forces in a contingency situation and to exercise participating forces in joint combat.

23 Apr — Major Richard P. Dougherty of the 415th SOTS departed for Ubon RTAFB, Thailand for a 30-day TDY to train crews of the 16th SOS on the trainable 40mm cannon. He conducted aircrew ground school for the 40mm cannon as well as the new computer program and how it affected the gun. He also flew several combat missions to monitor the use of the

1973 (cont)

weapon and during the TDY all 16th SOS crews qualified to use the 40mm trainable cannon.

23 Apr — An MTT deployed to Korat, Thailand for five weeks to train a cadre of Cambodian pilots and gunners in the use of the XM-93 mini-gun on the UH-1N helicopter.

24 Apr — One AT-28D Trojan was flown to Pensacola Naval Air Station to be prepared for overseas deployment.

30 Apr — The 4407th CCTS inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

2 May — The last two AT-28Ds were flown to Pensacola NAS for overseas shipment.

4 May — An MTT deployed to Don Muang, Thailand for 25 weeks to train a cadre of Cambodian pilots, navigators, flight mechanics, and loadmasters in C-123K aircraft. They also transitioned Thai Air Force C-123B aircrews into the C-123K.

8 May — The last of six CH-3Es arrived at Hurlburt Field.

9 May — A memorial consisting of a bronze plaque centered on a five-pointed star was dedicated to all who served in SEA. The memorial was located near the main entrance at Hurlburt Field in the Memorial Air Park.

23-24 May — Three OV-10s and two AC-130Es demonstrated their capabilities for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Chiefs at Nellis AFB.

26 May — At 1510 hours a tornado ripped through the 547th TASTS facilities at Holley Field destroying one O-2 aircraft, damaging 10, and causing other damage, but no injuries.

1973 (cont)

30 May — The C-131A was traded for a C-131D model at Offutt AFB, Nebraska.

8 Jun — The move of the 318th SOS from Pope AFB to Hurlburt, which had been ordered on 26 April, was rescinded by Headquarters USAF.

9 Jun — Open House at Hurlburt Field. Mrs. Donald Hurlburt, widow of Lieutenant Hurlburt for whom the base is named, was guest of honor.

9 Jun — An AT-28D and a C-47 on permanent display at the Air Park were dedicated during Open House with State Representative Jerry Melvin, the guest speaker.

15 Jun — Headquarters 4410th SOTG and 4410th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron inactivated.

19-21 Jun — The last C-123K screwworm fly ferry mission flown on Coronet Roundup.

21,28, & 29 Jun — The 1 SOW conducted tests of three types of Cluster Bomb Units for the OV-10.

27-28 Jun — The three U-10s assigned to Coronet Roundup redeployed to Hurlburt Field from Puerto Rico.

29 Jun — The first two of 13 C-47 aircraft were transferred from England AFB to the 1 SOW at Hurlburt.

29 Jun — The 548th SOTS at England AFB graduated its last VNAF pilots from C-47 training. This had been a vital part of Vietnamization designed to give South Vietnamese the capability to defend themselves against North Vietnamese. The 548th inactivated in July and aircrew training for both

1973 (cont)

foreign and U.S. pilots transferred to the 603rd SOTS which activated at Hurlburt on 1 July.

30 Jun Coronet Roundup officially ended for the 1 SOW and responsibility for screwworm eradication transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Coronet Roundup was designed to destroy the screwworm in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by mating sterile male flies with native female flies to produce infertile eggs. What had been planned as a six-month project had to be extended due to the incompatibility of different strains of the flies and an apathetic attitude by natives in supporting the program with data. Flies produced in Mission, Texas were released from a 1 SOW U-10 aircraft after being transported to Puerto Rico by C-123. On 1 February 1973, the total number of flies dropped weekly, increased from 5 to 15 million. During FY 1973, they dropped 186,826 boxes of flies. On 15 November 1972, the Virgin Islands were declared free of the screwworm fly; however, the program, Coronet Roundup, continued in Puerto Rico until 30 June 1973 when Detachment #1, 317th SOS closed at Ramey AFB. During the more than two years of the project, U-10 aircraft flew 1,142 sorties and 2,167.2 hours dispensing sterile screwworm flies in the Caribbean area. The C-123s flew 695 sorties and 3,162.6 hours delivering the flies from Mission, Texas to Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico.

30 Jun The 1 SOW maintained 75 aircraft of 11 different types and 14 models at Hurlburt Field, Holley Field, and Pope AFB.

1 Jul The 603rd SOTS activated at Hurlburt and was assigned to the 1 SOW. This move of the former 548th SOTS brought in 13 C-47Ds.

1 Jul The 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron at Dyess AFB moved to Hurlburt and was reassigned to the 1 SOW.

1973 (cont)

4 Jul — A UH-1N of the 317th SOS searched for a lost party of fishermen who had wandered too far into the confusing creeks of the Eglin Reservation. After 30 minutes of searching, the aircrew spotted a bonfire and located the personnel. Supplies were dropped to them and they were guided to safety the following day.

6 Jul — The Special Operations School conducted a one-day orientation for four officers and eight enlisted men who were going to the Philippines and Korea as members of a C-123 MTT.

7 Jul — The last three C-123Ks left Hurlburt Field for Lockbourne AFB.

6-17 Jul — The final class of the Special Air Operations/Military Assistance Program marked the end of this program which had started in April 1968 and had been conducted three times each year. It produced 441 allied personnel with a better understanding of insurgency.

9-13 Jul — Ten artists visited Hurlburt Field as part of the USAF Art Program.

10 Jul — The last two U-10Bs left Hurlburt Field for Lockbourne AFB.

11-12 Jul — Three officers of the Israeli Air Force visited Hurlburt Field and viewed the AC-130E and UH-1N.

12 Jul — Two CH-3Es from Shaw AFB joined the 1 SOW fleet.

13 Jul — Another CH-3E transferred from Shaw to Hurlburt.

13 Jul — The 603rd SOTS moved from England AFB to Hurlburt Field and continued C-47 training.

1973 (cont)

13 Jul — The last U-10D left Hurlburt Field for Davis-Monthan AFB and the Air Force "boneyard."

23 Jul — A CH-3E airlifted a small research barge from Fort Pickens into Santa Rosa Sound. It had been built for the National Park Service and used as a diving platform in the search for historic shipwrecks in the Sound.

24 Jul-31 Aug — First Special Operations Wing O-2, OV-10, and UH-1N aircraft flew 18 sorties for 25.3 hours in support of a test of the improved 2.75-inch rocket.

26 Jul — One of the original six CH-3E helicopters received by the wing was transferred to Shaw AFB. On 16 August, two more went to Davis-Monthan AFB, and on 8 September another, older CH-3E, moved to Wright-Patterson AFB. These, and the July transfers to the 1 SOW, left the wing with five CH-3Es of which three were new.

31 Jul — Headquarters TAC reassigned the 6th SOTS from the 4410th SOTW to the 1 SOW and deactivated the 548th SOTS and the 4410th SOTW at England AFB.

31 Jul — A Women of the Air Force squadron section was created to administer the large number of female personnel assigned to Hurlburt Field. Captain Susan Horning was named commander.

31 Jul — The life of the 360th TEWS at Hurlburt was short as it inactivated on 31 July after its move from Dyess on 1 July.

6 Aug — Two T-33s left the 1 SOW for retirement at Davis-Monthan AFB.

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10-23 Aug The 1 SOW provided a Combat Talon aircraft in support of Alaskan Air Command's Exercise Ember Dawn V at Eielson AFB.

14 Aug A 1 SOW C-130E flew 52 sorties for a total of 84.6 hours supporting High Speed Low-Level Aerial Delivery System testing.

15 Aug The first AC-130E gunship deployed to Warner Robins Air Materiel Area for new grey paint.

25 Aug The UH-1N mobile training team concluded its assistance visit to the Venezuelan Air Force which began in February. It had been very successful.

26 Aug-23 Sep Flintlock VI. The 7th SOF and an aircrew from the 318th SOS participated in this annual European exercise.

27 Aug A fourth C-130 Combat Talon aircraft arrived from PACAF.

29 Aug One T-33 aircraft arrived from Cannon AFB to join the 1 SOW fleet.

4-7 Sep The 547th TASTS moved from Holley Field to Hurlburt Field.

5 Sep Six people (two each pilots, copilots, and loadmasters) departed by commercial air for Karachi, Pakistan arriving on the 7th. They joined two crew chiefs from Thailand at Lahore where two C-47D aircraft had been flown from Thailand. The Americans installed spray equipment on the aircraft and between 13 and 22 September executed spray missions in areas infested with the rice borer worm which threatened what remained of Pakistan's rice crop after devastating floods. They also dropped leaflets printed in four languages warning the people to avoid contact with the potentially harmful spray. The Agricultural Advisor to

1973 (cont)

the Prime Minister of Pakistan expressed his country's gratitude for the work of the 603rd SOTS.

7 Sep — The O-2 training at Holley Field transferred to Hurlburt.

11 Sep — The intermediate gaining command for the active duty assignment of the 913th Special Operations Group changed from the 1 SOW to the 9th Air Force. The same change applied to the 434th, 917th, and 910th Special Operations Groups.

14 Sep — The 317th SOS used a CH-3E to rescue a sailor. He and another 19-year-old had set sail in a small sloop for Central America when a severe storm smashed their boat on the rocks near the East Pass at Destin, Florida. One man swam to shore, but the other, caught in the currents, only saved himself from being swept out to sea by clinging to a marker buoy. At 0135 the CH-3E picked him up.

20 Sep — While on SAR training, a 317th SOS aircrew diverted to perform a genuine search and rescue. The 23rd TFW Commander's aircraft had crashed and burned. He had ejected, but was caught in a tree and suspended helpless in mid-air. After three and a half hours, the CH-3E crew rescued him. The helicopter was piloted by a 1 SOW officer with a Royal Australian Air Force exchange officer on duty with the 1 SOW.

3-19 Oct — Brass Key II. This USREDCOM joint static display and tactical demonstration was accomplished at Fort Bragg. The 1 SOW at Hurlburt provided 43 officers and 117 enlisted personnel and four UH-1Ns from the 7th SOF, two CH-3s from the 317th SOS, four OV-10s from the 549th TASTS, and two AC-130As and one AC-130E from the 415th SOTS. Also, the 1 SOW arranged for 20 officers, 17 enlisted, and three C-130E Combat Talon aircraft from the 318th SOS at Pope

1973 (cont)

AFB to participate. Among its several taskings, the 1 SOW people and aircraft airdropped 180 troops of which 56 executed high altitude low opening parajumps from the Combat Talon. A total of 268 troops were airlanded of which 128 rappelled from the UH-1Ns. Eight tons of cargo were dropped using the HSLLADS technique. There were also seven Fulton recoveries. Everything went well except for a major aircraft accident in which two men were killed and four others injured. The fatalities were a USAF helicopter mechanic, Sergeant Billy R. Essary, and an Army special forces officer.

4 Oct — One T-33 was transferred to Davis-Monthan AFB.

5 Oct — One T-33 was received from Cannon AFB to replace the T-33 sent to Davis-Monthan the previous day.

6 Oct — The MTT to train members of the Khmer Air Force (Cambodia) concluded its assignment in the unconventional warfare uses of the C-123K. The training located at Don Muang AB, Thailand began in May 1973.

13 Oct — One CH-3E assisted in an over-water search for a drowning person, but without success.

19-21 Oct — The 549th TASTS hosted the second annual forward air controller reunion. Two hundred former and current FACs attended. They came from as far away as Nakhon Phanom Air Base, Thailand. During the reunion, they dedicated a plaque to the memory of all FACs who died in Southeast Asia. It was mounted on a pedestal by the O-1 FAC aircraft at the front base entrance.

27 Oct — On this date, the first AC-130E was redesignated AC-130H after installation of new engines at WRAMA, i.e., T-56-A-15 engines in place of T-56-A-7 engines.

1973 (cont)

2 Nov-24 Dec — In the summer of 1973, all USAF C-123 assets had been transferred to the USAF Reserves. As a result, all active duty USAF qualified to instruct in the C-123K were scheduled for reassignment. Before they disappeared into the system, the Air Force decided to use them to train and set up training programs for certain allied Air Forces. The Philippine Air Force was selected and the MTT deployed with a target completion date of 20 January 1974. The Philippine Air Force had 19 C-123 aircraft at Mactan Air Base. Training progressed well enough that the MTT completed its assignment a month early on 20 December and redeployed on 24 December.

4 Nov — A second AC-130E underwent the required engine change to qualify as an AC-130H. This work was accomplished at Little Rock AFB.

4 Nov — Brigadier General Jose Martini, Chilean Air Force Director of Materiel, visited the 6th SOTS.

6-16 Nov — Gobbler Woods XX. The 1 SOW supported this exercise with two C-119s, two CH-3s, four A-37s, 20 people, and 8,000 pounds of cargo.

16 Nov — Lieutenant General Paulo Sobral, Brazilian Air Force Chief of Staff, visited the 1 SOW.

19 Nov — Two OV-10s transferred to MacDill AFB. Also, on 2 and 13 December one OV-10 was lost to George AFB, California each day.

20 Nov — A demonstration and test of a newly designed mobile microwave landing system was flown a CH-3E helicopter. Although the demo was primarily for the special operations force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1973 (cont)

officials viewed the test because they were considering installing it in a space shuttle vehicle.

November — In November, the 415th SOTS received notification that it had been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 15 September 1970 to 25 July 1971. At that time, it had been stationed at Lockbourne AFB and flew the AC-119K and AC-130A gunships.

17 Dec — A civilian injured in a traffic accident was evacuated by a CH-3E from Eglin AFB to Pensacola, Florida.

26 Dec — A severe thunderstorm damaged five C-47s and one O-2.

1974

1 Jan — Effective this date the 6th Special Operations Training Squadron was relieved from assignment to the 1st Special Operations Wing and assigned to the 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing.

8 Jan-22 Mar — With the termination of all active duty USAF C-123 assets in late FY 1973, the Air Force instituted a short-term program to upgrade allied C-123 contingents in Cambodia, the Philippines, and Korea. The last of these mobile training team deployments was to Korea in this January-March period. The flying training MTT was accompanied by a technical assistance team which accomplished little due to the Koreans' insistence on performing their own maintenance without assistance.

11 Jan — Colonel William J. Holton assumed command of the 1 SOW succeeding Colonel James H. Montrose. This was a step in the direction of consolidating the 1 SOW and the USAF Special Operations Force into one unit in that Colonel Holton was already Commander of the USAFSOF.

1974 (cont)

15 Jan-15 Feb — Exercise Snatch Block 74. On 1 February, the 318th Special Operations Squadron successfully airdropped a Navy sea-air-land team into the Atlantic Ocean south of Moorehead City, North Carolina. This was the first time a Combat Talon had dropped SEALS after rendezvousing with the recovery ship which picked up the SEALs.

28 Jan-4 Feb — Seven members of the Canadian Department of National Defense visited Hurlburt Field to study AC-130 gunship sensors. Also, some flew on a night live-fire mission on 31 January.

14-27 Feb — One Combat Talon, 13 officers, and 22 enlisted of whom 16 were maintenance deployed to Alaska for Ace Card VII/ Punch Card XX. The men of the 318th SOS flew their C-130E in weather averaging minus 30 degrees fahrenheit and often as low as minus 55 degrees fahrenheit.

22 Feb — One VC-47D transferred to Paraguay. Three more C-47Ds went to Paraguay on 6, 11, and 24 March.

1 Mar — The 8th Special Operations Squadron transferred from Clark AB, Philippines without personnel and equipment to Hurlburt. The 8th was scheduled to acquire the mission, personnel, and aircraft of the 318th SOS in mid-1974.

6 Mar — Two OV-10As transferred to the 601st Tactical Composite Wing at Wiesbaden AB, Germany.

10-25 Mar — Foal Eagle 74. One aircrew of the 318th SOS deployed to Korea for this exercise to assist the 1st Special Operations Squadron which also flew the Combat Talon. However, it was equipped with the C-130H model Talon. When the 318th crew arrived, they checked out in the H-model which was equipped with different engines. The men of the 318th flew nine sorties for 17.9 hours during which they airdropped

1974 (cont)

20 troops and airlanded another 15 plus airdropping 2.25 tons of cargo and airlanding .75 tons.

25 Mar — One UH-1N transferred to Detachment #14 of the 43rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at MacDill AFB.

28 Mar — The High Speed Low-Level Aerial Delivery System which the Combat Talons had demonstrated was approved as a tactic.

30 Mar — The 1 SOW's last two UH-1Ns transferred to Det 2, 43 ARRS at K.I. Sawyer AFB. Also, one CH-3E transferred to the 302nd SOS at Luke AFB.

3 Apr — Headquarters Tactical Air Command directed that the 302nd SOS, Air Force Reserve, if it were called to extended active duty, be assigned to the USAFSOF as its gaining command for the duration of its call-up. This meant that USAFSOF and the 1 SOW would provide assistance to the 302nd while it remained in reserve status. The 302nd, located at Luke AFB, Arizona had received the CH-3E helicopters formerly flown by the 1 SOW's 317th SOS.

6 Apr — The Wing lost another C-47D to Paraguay.

11, 18, & 22 Apr — With the transfer of one CH-3E on the 11th and 18th and three on the 22nd, the Wing lost the last of its CH-3E helicopters to the 302nd SOS at Luke AFB.

15-25 Apr — Robin Sage I. This exercise at Camp Mackall, North Carolina continued the Gobbler Woods series. The name change reflected a change in purpose from simulating Southeast Asia conditions to simulating a more general, worldwide situation. As with Gobbler Woods, Robin Sage I was essentially a graduation exercise for student officers of the U.S. Army Institude for Military Assistance.

1974 (cont)

22 Apr — The USAF Air Ground Operations School was reassigned from HQ TAC to USAFSOF.

22-24 Apr — Three O-2s from the 547th TASTS were at England AFB to provide FAC support for A-7D and A-37B student training.

24-26 Apr — Three more O-2s deployed to England AFB and replaced the three already there.

30 Apr — The 317th SOS and 7th SOF inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

14 May — Headquarters TAC ordered the inactivation of the 1 SOW and the activation of the 834th Tactical Composite Wing. Later, however, that action was changed to a unit redesignation which preserved the emblem and lineage of the 1 SOW.

14 May — Headquarters TAC directed the inactivation of the 4582nd Student Squadron effective 1 July. This squadron had processed all students for the 1 SOW, AGOS, and the Special Operations School at Hurlburt. However, on 26 June, Headquarters TAC changed that inactivation to a reassignment from the 834th Combat Support Group to the 834th TCW effective 1 July.

20 May-6 Jun — Solid Shield I. This new series of exercises continued the Exotic Dancer series in concept and involved Army, Navy, and Air Force regular and counterinsurgency forces. The 1 SOW sent 61 people and one Combat Talon aircraft.

20-23 May — Again three O-2 aircraft from the 547th TASTS deployed to England AFB to provide FAC support to A-7D and A-37B student training.

1 Jun — The Air Force promoted Colonel William J. Holton to Brigadier General.

1974 (cont)

1 Jun — The 318th SOS officially moved from Pope AFB to Hurlburt and inactivated. The 8th SOS which had transferred from Clark AB on 1 March took over the men, materiel, and mission of the 318th.

15-17 Jun — One Combat Talon of the 8th SOS participated in Exercise Brave Crew 74 at Fort Hood, Texas.

24 Jun — Two of the Wing's C-47Ds were transferred to Honduras.

30 Jun — Remaining personnel of the 603rd SOTS transferred to the new C-47 section of the 547th TASTS. The 603rd inactivated the following day, 1 July.

Jul-Sep — Fifteen foreign students in training with the wing as part of the military assistance program came from Ethiopia, Laos, Nigeria, and Cambodia.

1 Jul — A number of administrative actions became effective this date. The 1 SOW and the USAFSOF were consolidated as the 834th Tactical Composite Wing. The only unit not consolidated was the 603rd SOTS which inactivated with a portion of its men and mission transferring to the 547th TASTS. United States Air Force Air Ground Operations School and United States Air Force Special Operations School were assigned to the 834th TCW. The intelligence resources of USAFSOF, USAFAGOS, USAFSOS, and 1st Special Operations Wing consolidated into one staff-level office. The USAFSOF Plans office became the 834th TCW Plans office. Also, the USAFSOF Special Assistant for Guard and Reserve Forces became a staff-level office of the 834th TCW which took over Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units formerly supported by USAFSOF. Brigadier General Holton became the 834th Commander.

1974 (cont)

6 & 7 Jul — On 6 July, El Salvador received a 1 SOW C-47D and on 7 July gained another two C-47Ds and one TC-47D.

7-17 Jul — Robin Sage II. Wing participation was limited to three Combat Talon aircraft since all Air National Guard and Reserve forces were already committed to other missions. Due to a security compromise, the Combat Talons which were to infiltrate Army forces were used to drop dummies onto the primary drop zone while a helicopter infiltrated the real troops into a secondary drop zone.

10 Aug — One T-33A transferred to the 2851st Air Base Group at Kelly AFB, Texas.

16 Aug — One T-33A was reassigned to the Army Ballistic Research Laboratory Proving Ground.

6 Sep — The threat of Hurricane Carmen forced the wing to evacuate aircraft and take other precautionary measures. However, the storm did not strike Hurlburt.

8 Sep-18 Oct — Flintlock 74. The 8th SOS participated in Flintlock 74 representing the 1 SOW.

30 Sep — The 25th SOS inactivated and its assets transferred to the Wing Operations Photo Section.

19-22 Nov — Hurlburt hosted the Worldwide FAC Tactics Conference.

24-27 Nov — The 8th SOS picked up 5th Special Forces troops at Pope AFB/Fort Bragg and infiltrated them directly into a drop zone in Panama and subsequently exfiltrated them directly to Pope.

1974 (cont)

9 Dec — If called to active duty, the 919th Tactical Airlift Group and its subordinate units were assigned to the 834th TCW as the intermediate gaining command.

1975

1 Jan — A 1 SOW tri-deputy structure became effective with Deputy Commanders for Operations, Maintenance, and Resources. This divided the former Logistics into Maintenance and Resources.

4 Jan — Major Roger A. Huntington, Office of Safety, departed for Thailand as a member of a C-123 mobile training team.

12 Jan — Deployment for Alaskan Joint Exercise Jack Frost began with the departure of two C-130 Combat Talons. More than 100 Hurlburt personnel participated. On 23 January, an AC-130H also deployed to Jack Frost.

30 Jan — Colonel Richard A. Dutton spoke at the annual National Prayer Breakfast at Hurlburt. He had been among the American POWs held the longest by North Vietnam and later served as USAFSOS Commandant at Hurlburt.

31 Jan — Resurfacing virtually all of the parking ramp and taxiways was completed.

1-31 Mar — A Bare Base Airfield Lighting System test and evaluation was conducted at Hurlburt. The test evaluated capabilities for providing adequate lighting on unimproved airfields which was an important subject to special operators.

13-16 Mar — An 8th Special Operations Squadron C-130 participated in joint training with SEAL Team Two operating from Langley AFB, Virginia.

1975 (cont)

28 Mar — The 415th Special Operations Training Squadron briefed five Vietnamese Air Force officers on gunship training.

1 Apr — An Affirmative Actions Plan was implemented at Hurlburt Field.

7 Apr — The Wing received a Tactical Air Command Special Order dated 25 March which redesignated the 834th Tactical Composite Wing as the 1st Special Operations Wing effective 1 July 1975.

11-23 Apr — One 8th SOS C-130, one 415th SOTS AC-130H, and 101 people from the 834th participated in Exercise Gallant Shield 75 at Biggs AAF, El Paso, Texas.

14 Apr — One VT-29B retired to the Military Aircarft Storage and Disposal Center (otherwise known as the boneyard) at Davis-Monthan AFB.

25 Apr — Aerial photography for a landfill and drain-off project northeast of Hurlburt was provided by an OV-10.

30 Apr — The 547th TASTS deactivated and all assets were absorbed into the 549th TASTS.

29 Apr-13 May — Operation New Horizons. Beginning 30 April, Civil Engineering, working with RED HORSE and Eglin personnel, erected a tent city which, when completed in May, contained living quarters for over 5,000 people plus facilities for processing, religious, welfare, and morale activites for Vietnamese refugees on a previously unimproved site at Eglin Auxiliary Field #2. Hurlburt personnel were involved daily in the camp's initial phases and as Vietnamese refugees arrived, they served as escorts, interpreters, and liaison officers. Aircraft maintenance personnel spent many hours in the support and turnaround

1975 (cont)

of airlift aircraft bringing in supplies. Special Operations School personnel helped provide a smooth transition into camp life for the refugees. Among other senior Hurlburt personnel who participated, Colonel Billie R. Keeler served as Director, Refugee Liaison Office, Lieutenant Colonel John S. Connors became Executive Officer of the Center, and Major Richard G. Schweikhart helped write the camp plan. Operation New Horizons was one justification for an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award submission for the Wing.

1 May — The 549th TASTS became the only USAF training squadron for airborne controllers, i.e., FACs.

20 May — Air Marshall Sockanto of the Indonesian Ministry of National Defense visited the United States Air Force Special Operations School.

31 May-1 Jun — The 834th Transportation Squadron furnished two 40-foot trailers to assist in the support of the Muscular Dystrophy charity drive.

2 Jun — A C-131D transferred to the Air National Guard.

27 Jun — The last class of AC-130A students graduated.

27 Jun — The Air Force conducted a retirement ceremony in Eason Hangar at Hurlburt for the last C-47 in the inventory. An official of McDonnell-Douglas presented the keynote address.

30 Jun — The 415th SOTS deactivated and its AC-130A aircraft transferred to the 919th Special Operations Group, Air Force Reserve, at Duke Field. The AC-130H aircraft and crews became part of the 8th SOS.

1975 (cont)

30 Jun — The last active duty C-47 in the Air Force inventory departed for the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. Brigadier General Holton was a crew member.

1 Jul — The 834th Tactical Composite Wing was redesignated as the 1st Special Operations Wing. The 1 SOW regained the designation it had held from 8 July 1968 to 1 July 1974. The change to the 834th TCW had been predicated on a plan to assign certain tactical airlift squadrons to the Wing, but that plan had been abandoned even before the redesignation of July 1974 took place. General Holton's request that the 1 SOW designation be retained was denied and the July 1974 redesignation went forward, but in less than a year, the decision had been made to restore the 1 SOW name on 1 July 1975.

24 Jul — Ten Israeli officers completed an official visit to the 1 SOW which included a static display of all wing aircraft.

28 Jul — Torrential rains caused flooding in the local area. The Hurlburt main gate was closed for a time because of high water. In slightly over 48 hours, a low pressure area dumped approximately 19 inches of rain on Hurlburt.

31 Jul — The Women of the Air Force Squadron deactivated and the unit of assignment of each WAF assumed responsibility for administration, discipline, etc. of their women.

11-25 Aug — Brave Shield XII. Among the 1 SOW personnel who participated was the Wing Commander, General Holton, who served as Commander for the composite air units. Two Combat Talons and one gunship deployed to Fort Hood.

26 Aug-22 Oct — Flintlock 75. This European exercise to which the wing had been deploying every year called upon the 1 SOW to provide one Combat Talon aircraft with crew, two liaison

1975 (cont)

officers, and support personnel in 1975. For the 1 SOW the exercise took place in Germany and Denmark. The Talon made personnel and cargo airdrops both day and night.

27 Aug–2 Sep — An 8th SOS Combat Talon demonstrated the Fulton Recovery System at the Toronto International Air Show.

28 Aug — One UH-1N helicopter arrived at Hurlburt in anticipation of the activation of the 20th SOS on 1 January.

2–7 Sep — The AC-130H gunships participated in a search for a four-year-old boy missing north of Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine since 31 August. One gunship deployed on the 2nd and conducted a 2.7-hour search before redeploying to Hurlburt on the 3rd. It returned to Maine on 5 September and flew a 4.7-hour sortie. Over eight hours of search were flown on 7 September, but results were negative. The weather and terrain in the search area severely limited the effectiveness of the gunship's sensors.

12 Sep — The USAF Air Ground Operations School celebrated its 25th anniversary.

23 Sep — Hurricane Eloise. Other aircraft were hangared at Hurlburt, but the two AC-130Hs, three of the C-130Es, and ten OV-10As had been evacuated the previous day in anticipation of Eloise and 130 mile-per-hour winds. However, the base was not hit directly and highest recorded winds were 85 miles per hour. A total of 13.74 inches of rain fell during the storm and damage to the base was estimated at some $430,000 in roads, culverts, drainage systems, and a 20-foot section of the roof of Eason Hangar.

25 Sep — A gunship diverted from a scheduled operational flight to search for a lost civilian aircraft in Kentucky. With only two hours of search time, results were negative.

1975 (cont)

16 Oct–5 Nov — Brave Shield XIII. This Joint Readiness Command exercise involved some 14,000 Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel. The 1st Special Operations Wing provided two Talons and one gunship and established an Air Force Special Operations Base at Hurlburt and an Air Force Special Operations Facility at Pope AFB. The Talons flew 19 infiltrations, 14 resupplies, one exfiltration, three Fulton Recoveries, one weather reconnaissance, and two airlands totaling 64.7 hours. The gunship flew ten close air support and aerial reconnaissance missions for 48.8 hours.

October — The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration named Hurlburt Field an official Bicentennial Air Force Installation.

29 Nov — Independence Road and Heritage Gate opened to provide a north access to Hurlburt Field. It relieved some congestion at the main gate and provided easier and quicker access for personnel living in certain areas of the nearby community.

5 Dec — The first of the 16th SOS gunships arrived.

12 Dec — The 8th SOS earned the AFOUA with Combat V device for its service against opposing armed forces in Southeast Asia from 5 April to 7 July 1972.

15 Dec — The 549th TASTS flew its aircraft to its new base at Patrick AFB. The move involved 20 OV-10s, 23 O-2As, and 162 people to form the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Group.

1976

1 Jan — The 20th Special Operations Squadron activated at Hurlburt.

1976 (cont)

5 Jan — Under the direction of the Coast Guard, a gunship searched for an 18-foot sailboat missing south of Biloxi, Mississippi with three persons on board. Later it was learned that they had found safety on an island while waiting out heavy weather.

8 Jan — Deployment of 1st Special Operations Wing personnel and equipment to Exercise Jack Frost 76 at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska involved two gunships and 22 people.

14 Jan — A gunship searched for a tugboat which was three days overdue in the Mississippi River area, but with negative results.

25 Jan — One AC-130H participated in search and rescue training with Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service HH-53 helicopters at Hill AFB.

29 Jan-25 Feb — Bold Eagle 76. This joint readiness exercise held in southern California and Nevada involved 22,000 Air Force, Army, and Navy personnel including the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Exercise objectives included training both active and reserve components in joint tactical operations and joint aspects of command and control. The 1 SOW provided two gunships and crews and a total of 96 people.

2 Feb — One Combat Talon deployed to the Naval Air Station at North Island, California to participate in Exercise Bead Chevron. The exercise simulated joint unconventional warfare involving the Navy and the Air Force. This included infiltration airdrops, exfiltration landings, and Fulton Recovery. Passive detection and electronic countermeasures were practiced with the USS Cleveland and USS Kirk to evaluate the capabilities of the Talon against surface vessels.

1976 (cont)

8 Mar — A gunship flew to the Panama Canal Zone for an orientation visit to the US Southern Command. Three general officers received rides on missions on which all three weapons systems were fired, i.e., the 20mm, 40mm, and 105mm.

8 Mar — Brigadier General Charles Edward Theriault and 32 students from the Canadian Air Navigation School visited the 1 SOW, received briefings, and viewed a static display.

15 Mar — General Theriault, Chief of Staff for Operations at Air Command, Winnipeg, Canada returned with 31 students of the Canadian Air Navigation School for additional briefings on the wing and its gunships.

16 Mar — Indonesian helicopter escort training shifted from the 20th SOS to Military Airlift Command rotary-wing assets at Patrick AFB. This training task had been hampering the 20th SOS in attaining a readiness posture.

Late March — Over 500 people at Hurlburt Field who participated in Project New Arrivals or New Horizons as the Vietnamese refugee program was alternately called received the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

31 Mar — The 20th SOS only had one of its six authorized UH-1N helicopters and none of four CH-3Es.

Early April — The escalation of the civil war in Lebanon prompted increased activity in the planning sector of the wing. The Readiness Command, through Tactical Air Command, tasked the 1 SOW for an increased deployability posture of two AC-130H aircraft for code name Fluid Drive. The aircraft and personnel were to assist in the evacuation of the U.S. citizens from the battle area in Lebanon if needed.

1976 (cont)

13-22 Apr Near Hurlburt Field the 1 SOW participated in a test program designed to airdrop one or two inflatable boats to be used as raiding craft by the SEALs. The Royal Air Force already had this capability. A 16-foot boat with a 40-horsepower outboard motor, fuel tank, and supplies packaged inside the boat was mounted on a plywood platform to which sandbags of sufficient weight were attached so that when the boat separated, the platform would sink. Twelve drops, eight day and four night, were accomplished. Most of them were with SEALs following the boats into the water. The tests were generally successful except for some problems with delayed parachute opening due to the vacuum created above the platform. Several modifications to the test articles were required during the test program.

14 Apr A new locally designed camera mount for the Combat Talons was used successfully on this its first photographic mission. Chief Master Sergeant Clarence E. Sibley and Staff Sergeant Francisco C. Sablan each received the Air Force Invention Award for development of the mount.

21-23 Apr A Combat Talon provided an aerial demonstration for the Chief of Staff of the French Army and others at Pope AFB.

26 Apr Ten Indonesian officers arrived at Hurlburt for FAC training in conjunction with the purchase of OV-10s by the Indonesian government.

4-25 May Solid Shield 76. This involved about 50,000 Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, and Air Force personnel in one of the largest and most important exercises held on a recurring basis. Unconventional warfare operations and objectives included strategic reconnaissance; destruction/neutralization of enemy communications, logistics systems, and weapons; development of resistance forces; suppression of

1976 (cont)

enemy activities; reduction of enemy capability to take aggressive action against U.S. interests and forces; assistance to U.S. conventional forces; and evacuation and/or rescue of key U.S. and allied personnel. The 1 SOW provided two AC-130H gunships and two Combat Talons. The 302nd SOS (AFRES), for which the 1 SOW was the intermediate gaining command, provided two CH-3 helicopters.

5-12 May — A gunship participated in a search and rescue mission working out of Langley AFB.

29 Jun — The 20th SOS received its second aircraft.

July-September — During this quarter the 1 SOW flew six different types of aircraft to accomplish its mission. They were five C-130E Combat Talons, nine AC-130H Spectre gunships, 23 O-2A Skymasters, 20 OV-10A Broncos, and six helicopters (four UH-1Ns and two CH-3s). The Wing received two UH-1Ns and both CH-3s early during this three months. The O-2A and OV-10 aircraft were at Patrick AFB, Florida.

1 Jul — The 1 SOW was relieved from assignment to Headquarters Tactical Air Command and assigned to Headquarters 9th Air Force.

1 Jul — Colonel Edward Levell, Jr. assumed command of the 1 SOW from Brigadier General William J. Holton who retired from active duty.

12 Jul — The 1 SOW Deputy Commander for Operations presented the Special Operations Force Capabilities Briefing to the Chief of Staff United States Air Force. The audience consisted of nine generals, ten lieutenant generals, and many other

1976 (cont)

generals and colonels representing all USAF major combat air commands.

25 Jul–1 Aug — Two AC-130Hs and one Combat Talon supported Canal Zone joint training at Howard AFB.

11–13 Aug — One AC-130H and support personnel participated in a joint MAC/SAC exercise, Giant Sentry, at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

28 Aug — The 1 SOW was tasked to maintain the capability to deploy four gunships for Korean augmentation due to an incident in which two American officers were killed in the DMZ by North Koreans.

28 Aug–3 Sep — Three gunships and support personnel deployed to Europe in support of Coronet Spectre and provided augmentation for Reforger 76, a NATO/USAFE exercise.

24 Sep — Headquarters 9th Air Force was named intermediate gaining command for the 919th SOG, AFRES and the 302nd SOS, AFRES replacing the 1 SOW in that capacity.

26 Sep–18 Oct — The 1 SOW provided one C-130E Combat Talon aircraft and crew for participation in Flintlock 76 in the European theater.

1 Oct — Operations Order Coronet Cloud placed two AC-130H gunships and three UH-1N helicopters on 12 or 24-hour alert through 1 March 1977.

5–8 Oct
8–17 Oct — The 1 SOW provided support to Exercise Brave Shield XV with six helicopters, two Combat Talons, and two gunships from 5–8 October and six AC-130H gunships from 8–17 October. The Wing also provided 235 support personnel.

1976 (cont)

27 Oct Colonel Edward Levell, Jr., Wing Commander, cut the ribbon officially opening the multi-purpose hobby shop at Hurlburt Field.

28 Oct The new Base Exchange opened at Hurlburt Field.

31 Oct An AC-130H participated in a SAR mission for a boat missing in the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 6.7 hours were flown with negative results.

26 Nov A concept paper on Special Operations Forces Consolidation was forwarded to 9th AF and TAC. The paper established the need to upgrade the special operations forces in order to meet terrorist threats and future Communist adventurism. It proposed to enhance Air Force special operations capabilities by combining under TAC the assets and mission of Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service with those of the 1 SOW. (Later this was accomplished, but under MAC rather than TAC.) The consolidation could provide the needed assets to maintain an unconventional warfare task force for use in response to emergency crises worldwide by strengthening the mobility, flexibility, capabilities, and responsiveness which were paramount to success and only available through air power. These factors had been severely weakened by budgetary constraints and lack of mission priority. The paper drew the conclusion that the U.S. was faced with a crucial need to maintain a viable force worldwide to counter the Soviets short of conventional armed confrontation. It was also in the national interest to be able to thwart terrorist attempts to disrupt the international political environment through hijackings, kidnappings, and blackmail. Those threats could be countered by Army Special Forces and Navy SEALs who jointly trained and exercised with the Air Force Special Operations Force.

1976 (cont)

29 Nov — Ten members of the Combat Control Team parachuted from 25,000 feet in a HALO exercise.

7-10 Dec — The 1 SOW provided one C-130E Combat Talon and one CCT for TAC-sponsored Exercise Blue Flag I in the Eglin complex.

14 Dec — Fifteen Chilean Air Force officers visited Hurlburt and received briefings from USAFAGOS and USAFSOS in addition to touring the base.

31 Dec — During this quarter numerous projects for maintenance of base facilities and for construction were completed at a cost of $7.3 million. These included completion of the NCO Club at $1 million; construction of 100 new units and renovation of 129 units of military housing at $4.3 million; the new Base Exchange at $424,000; and completion of the new multi-purpose hobby shop at a cost of $471,000.

31 Dec — At the end of the calendar year, the 20th SOS still lacked one each of its authorized UH-1N and CH-3E helicopters. One each of them had been delivered in the last quarter and the other two had been identified by tail number, but not delivered as the quarter and year ended.

31 Dec — In an October message the wing was directed to loan on a temporary basis one C-130E to the 7th SOS. However, the 1 SOW lost the use of this aircraft for almost two years. On 31 December the Wing inventory of assigned aircraft stood at 21 at Hurlburt Field and 43 at Patrick AFB.

QUANTITY	TYPE	STATION
4	C-130E(CT) Combat Talon	Hurlburt Field
9	AC-130H Gunship	Hurlburt Field
5	UH-1N Helicopter	Hurlburt Field

1976 (cont)

QUANTITY	TYPE	STATION
3	CH-3E Helicopter	Hurlburt Field
23	O2-A Skymaster	Patrick AFB
20	OV-10A Bronco	Patrick AFB

1977

1 Jan — The 549th TASTG at Patrick AFB was reassigned from the 1st Special Operations Wing to the 507th Tactical Air Control Wing. This confined the 1 SOW's operations and training to Hurlburt Field.

5 Jan — The 1 SOW became the advisory unit for the 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Group, the 919th Special Operations Group, and the 302nd Special Operations Squadron.

11 Jan-3 Feb — The 1 SOW supported U.S. Readiness Command Joint Readiness Exercise Jack Frost 77 in central Alaska with one C-130E Combat Talon, two AC-130H gunships, and one Special Operations Combat Control Team, one Special Operations Weather Team, and support personnel.

13 Jan — The 20th Special Operations Squadron conducted a mini-exercise at Hurlburt Field named Green Flag I. It evaluated joint missions and operations with the UH-1N and CH-3E helicopters.

25 Jan — Two members of the SOCCT participated in submarine/swimmer operations training aboard the USS Skate off Cape Canaveral, Florida.

27 Jan — Colonel George E. Day, Medal of Honor winner and former prisoner of war, was guest speaker at the National Prayer Breakfast at the Officers Club.

1977 (cont)

17 Feb Tactical Air Command redesignated the C-130E Combat Talon as the MC-130E to recognize its multi-mission capabilities.

8 Mar Lieutenant Colonel Hugh L. Hunter assumed command of the 8th SOS. In 1983 he returned to Hurlburt Field to command the 1 SOW.

14 Mar-13 Apr Foal Eagle 77. The United Nations Command sponsored this joint/combined unconventional warfare field training exercise in Korea. The 1 SOW augmented the 1st SOS from Clark AB, Philippines by deploying one Combat Talon and two aircrews, an aerial photo team, four maintenance personnel, and an officer for a total of 12 officers and 16 airmen.

17 Mar The 834th Civil Engineering Squadron received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 June 1974 - 31 March 1975.

30 Mar Chaplain (Captain) Gloria J. Orengo reported for duty with the Chaplain Section. She was the first woman chaplain assigned to Hurlburt Field.

31 Mar The 20th SOS was still short one UH-1N and one CH-3E of its authorized six and four respectively.

2 Apr Open House at Hurlburt Field drew approximately 25,000 people. Highlights included static displays, various exhibits, demonstration of the Fulton Recovery System, and music by the Air University Band. However, inclement weather forced the cancellation of the Thunderbirds' show. They returned 18 May.

10-22 Apr Two Saudi Arabian officers attended the Combat Operations Specialist Course at the Air Ground Operations School.

1977 (cont)

11 Apr — Two CH-3E and one UH-1N crews qualified in shipboard landings on the USS Lexington aircraft carrier at Pensacola.

25 Apr — The 20th Special Operations Squadron participated in a search and rescue for an F-4 aircraft which crashed on the Eglin Reservation. The helicopter aircrew medically evacuated the F-4 crew from an almost inaccessible site in the proximity of exploding munitions.

1 May — The 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Group was redesignated as the 193rd Special Operations Group.

2-17 May — Solid Shield 77. The 1 SOW furnished two each AC-130H, MC-130E, and CH-3E plus one CCT and numerous support personnel for this exercise in the Fort Bragg vicinity.

18 May — Hurlburt Field sponsored an Open House in observance of Armed Forces Week. The Commander of the Mexican Air Force, Lieutenant General Hector Berthier Aguiluz, was a special guest and the Air Force Thunderbirds performed for an estimated crowd of more than 10,000.

30 Jun — The 20th SOS had all six authorized UH-1Ns, but was still short one of its four authorized CH-3Es.

26 Jul-5 Aug — Two AC-130Hs deployed to Alaska in a quick reaction exercise known as Black Lightning.

29 Jul — Colonel Richard H. Dunwoody assumed command of the 1 SOW at a formal change of command ceremony and parade.

31 Jul-3 Aug — One MC-130E Combat Talon supported the 7th Special Forces (Army), Canal Zone on an infiltration mission to Puerto Rico.

1977 (cont)

9-13 Aug One MC-130E again supported a 7th Special Forces paradrop infiltration in Puerto Rico.

22-30 Aug Two gunships, one Talon, one CH-3E, and two UH-1N aircraft, a Combat Control Team, a Photo Processing Cell, and various support personnel participated in Tactical Air Command Exercise Blue Flag 77-3 on the Eglin Reservation. The 1 SOW often supported this recurring exercise.

29 Aug In an unscheduled operation, the 16th SOS responded to a SAR request. A Marine F-4 had crashed in the Gulf of Mexico 75 miles south of Panama City, Florida. Also, a rescue helicopter from Tyndall AFB ditched in the same area. The gunship deployed in the early evening and joined two helicopters and two Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft at the scene. The gunship functioned as on-scene command post, provided illumination for the night search, and used its visual sensors. Before departing the area due to thunderstorms, the gunship crew saw the ditched helicopter roll over and sink. Although ready immediately, it was not until 31 August that the 20th SOS was called on to participate in this SAR mission. At 0630 local time, a CH-3E launched and began a "creeping line" search of the area. Although the Coast Guard discontinued its search efforts earlier, the Air Force and the 20th SOS continued until 2 September what turned out to be a fruitless search. The 20th SOS flew 13 sorties and 25.5 hours in this SAR.

12 Sep One AC-130H deployed to George AFB, California, in a quick reaction exercise named Rapid Retriever.

1977 (cont)

15 Sep — Colonel Harlan B. Hume, 1 SOW Vice Commander, was killed in an EC-135 aircraft crash in New Mexico while enroute to Nellis AFB, Nevada to participate in an exercise. Colonel Hume had succeeded Colonel Dunwoody as 1 SOW Vice Commander when he became wing commander on 29 July.

30 Sep — The 1 SOW aircraft inventory in its three flying squadrons, the 8th, 16th, and 20th Special Operations Squadrons consisted of five MC-130E, nine AC-130H, six UH-1N, and three of its four authorized CH-3E aircraft.

11 Oct-11 Nov — Bold Eagle 78. The 1 SOW supported this USREDCOM joint readiness exercise on the Eglin AFB reservation involving approximately 20,000 Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel. The wing provided two MC-130E, three AC-130H, four UH-1N, and two CH-3E aircraft for Bold Eagle. They performed infiltration, resupply, Fulton Recovery, close air support, armed escort, reconnaissance, and exfiltration missions.

25 Oct — Severe and unpredicted winds from a dissipating water-spout swept across the Hurlburt Field flight line damaging two aircraft.

1 Nov — Operating Location AA, 1 SOW, was established at Fort Bragg. Establishment of an OL resulted from the requirement for a liaison officer exchange program between the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance and the 1 SOW. The USAJFKCENMA and the 1 SOW were the primary work centers for developing tactics and day-to-day realistic training to maintain and improve the readiness of special operations forces.

19-21 Nov — One Combat Talon supported Navy SEAL Team #2 with rubber raiding craft drops at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

1977 (cont)

25 Nov–19 Dec — Red Flag 78-2. This TAC-sponsored major exercise involved aircraft from each 1 SOW flying squadron. They were two each Talons, Spectres, and Hueys which flew 199.8 hours on 78 sorties.

1 Dec — The Pennsylvania Adjutant General issued an order changing the designations of the 193rd SOG to the 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Group. The redesignation was a political expedient because funds had been allocated specifically for tactical electronic warfare operations.

1978

14 Jan–2 Feb — Empire Glacier 78. The 1st Special Operations Wing deployed four helicopters, two gunships, and one Talon for this exercise in the upstate New York and Massachusetts areas. With support personnel, the total 1 SOW force numbered 245.

10–15 Feb — To support Navy SEAL Team #1 and rubber raiding craft airdrop training, the 1 SOW provided one MC-130E at North Island Naval Air Station, Coronado, California.

7–17 Mar — The 1 SOW provided two gunships, one Talon, and 199 people for Exercise Team Spirit 78 in the Republic of Korea.

27–29 Mar — The wing provided one Talon for the Very Low Altitude Program evaluation conducted by the 8th Special Operations Squadron in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

March — Staff Sergeant James T. Carter of the 20th SOS was selected to receive the 1977 Cheney Award. That award for a humanitarian act of valor, extreme fortitude, and/or self sacrifice in connection with aircraft went to Sergeant

1978 (cont)

Carter for risking his life in the rescue of the crewmen of an F-4 which crashed on the Eglin Reservation on 25 April 1977.

3 Apr — The 1978 Open House attracted 23,000 visitors.

26 Apr-14 May — The 1 SOW augmented the 7th SOS with one Talon, eight officers, and six enlisted personnel for Flintlock 78 in Europe.

3-26 May — Solid Shield 78. The Wing deployed 252 people, two AC-130H gunships, two MC-130E Combat Talons, and two CH-3E helicopters to support this exercise in the Carolinas.

11 May — Colonel Dunwoody announced that Headquarters USAF had awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to the 1 SOW for the period 1 January 1976 - 31 March 1977.

22-26 May — The 1 SOW participated in Exercise Sea Spectre with six AC-130H and two MC-130E aircraft. This was a 9th Air Force generated exercise to test the rapid response capabilities of the wing.

31 May — Headquarters Tactical Air Command advised the 1 SOW of approval to wear the campaign or bush hat with bloused fatigues and boots. Colonel Dunwoody, in turn, advised the wing that the bush hat was authorized and he encouraged all to wear it proudly.

8-23 Jun — An MC-130E, on 16 June, while on deployment to Korea, demonstrated its Fulton Surface-to-Air Recovery capability during Korean Independence Day in Operation Coronet West.

23-30 Jun — The wing provided one MC-130E to support the 20th Special Forces Group in Exercise Cable Thrasher II at Hill AFB, Utah and in the mountains of Idaho.

1978 (cont)

1-28 Aug The 1 SOW participated in a joint readiness training exercise, Brave Shield 18, conducted in the Colorado Springs, Colorado area. Wing tasking was relatively light in both aircraft and personnel at this exercise which was the first large scale completely unconventional warfare oriented operation in history. Reserve forces were also tasked.

23 Aug Staff Sergeant James T. Carter, 1 SOW helicopter gunner, received the Pitsenbarger Award for valor in ceremonies in San Antonio, Texas. This was the same event for which he received the Cheney Award which, although announced earlier, was formally presented to Sergeant Carter by the Chief of Staff two days later, 25 August, at the Pentagon.

29 Aug The 1 SOW regained possession of Combat Talon MC-130E, #64-0567, which had been on loan to the 7th SOS at Rhein Main AB, Germany since 1976 to fill a "temporary" inventory shortage.

5-7 Sep The very low altitude training conducted by the 8th SOS in upper Michigan provided realistic training on 100-foot altitude routes over terrain which closely resembled that found in Central Europe. This was similar to training the squadron conducted during the previous spring.

7-9 Sep Brigadier General Yang Hae Doo, Chief of Staff, Special Forces, Korea visited the wing for an orientation tour.

30 Sep Major General Winston W. L. Choo, Chief of the General Staff, Singapore Armed Forces, visited the 1 SOW for orientation.

30 Sep As the 1978 fiscal year ended, the wing still had not received its fourth CH-3E helicopter. Wing inventory stood

1978 (cont)

at five MC-130E, ten AC-130H, six UH-1N, and three CH-3E aircraft.

1 Oct — The wing initiated Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Training, a centralized program that streamlined training for newly assigned maintenance personnel.

1 Oct — The wing implemented Project New Look, a Tactical Air Command program which upgraded the appearance and working conditions in the maintenance area.

5-7 Oct — The 1 SOW deployed an MC-130E Combat Talon to Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station, Puerto Rico to support U.S. Navy SEAL and German Kampfschwimmer training.

14 Oct — The Mexican Secretary of Defense, Lieutenant General Galvan, visited the 1 SOW for an orientation briefing and static display of assigned aircraft.

16 Oct-3 Nov — Gallant Eagle 79. To this exercise, sponsored by U.S. Readiness Command and held on the Eglin Reservation, the 1 SOW committed approximately 275 people, one MC-130E, three AC-130H, one CH-3E, and two UH-1N aircraft. Colonel Thomas J. Wicker, 1 SOW/DO, served as the Deputy Commander for the Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force.

1 Nov — The 1 SOW provided MC-130E support for the USAF Thunderbirds to photograph them over the Eglin AFB complex.

8-10 Nov — The wing deployed one AC-130H to McChord AFB, Washington to support the 9th Infantry Division with live-fire training on the Yakima Firing Range.

1978 (cont)

13 Nov–4 Dec — Kiowa Trail 79. The 1 SOW deployed two AC-130Hs, one MC-130E, and a total of 36 officers and 120 enlisted to Howard AFB, Panama to support this Southern Command exercise.

31 Dec — The 1 SOW inventory of authorized and assigned aircraft was five MC-130E, ten AC-130H, four CH-3E, and six UH-1N.

1979

January–June — During this period, four people from the 834th Non-Destructive Inspection Branch were sent temporary duty to Enewetak Atoll to monitor the radiation cleanup of the island so the natives, many years after the nuclear testing, could return home. This 179-day TDY was important to the joint Defense and Energy department cleanup.

9 Jan — An RF-4 reconnaissance aircraft from Shaw AFB recovered at Hurlburt where its film was down-loaded, processed, and interpreted. This was the first of a number of such missions in a 9th Air Force test program.

10 Jan–15 Feb — Jack Frost 79. This exercise in central Alaska involved two AC-130H, one MC-130E, and 176 people from the wing.

1 Feb — The wing provided a static display of the MC-130E and CH-3E plus a capabilities briefing on the aircraft and the Fulton system for visiting Latin American military honor graduates.

8 Feb — The wing flew an infrared mission over Hurlburt Field to determine heat loss from base facilities as part of the utilities conservation effort.

1979 (cont)

1 Mar — The 1 SOW received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 January 1976 - 31 March 1977.

6 Mar — The wing provided a static display of each type 1 SOW aircraft, the Fulton Recovery System, the Special Operations Combat Control Team, and the Special Operations Weather Team for 40 members of the Inter-American Defense Board.

22 Mar — The wing asked that the 4582nd Student Squadron be reassigned to the 834th Combat Support Group. Headquarters 9th AF concurred in this realignment on 9 April.

11 Apr-2 May — Flintlock 79. The 1 SOW provided one MC-130E and 15 support personnel.

1 Jun — The 834th CSG assumed supervision and control of the 4582nd Student Squadron.

22 Jun — The 8th SOS celebrated its 62nd birthday with an open house, static display, and cake cutting ceremony. The squadron was the second oldest, continuously active squadron in the Air Force. The unit's proud heritage dated to the 8th Aero Squadron activated on 21 June 1917 with subsequent service in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam including the Son Tay Prisioner of War Rescue.

26 Jun — Peace Pharoah. The 1 SOW assisted this program by detailing one sheet metal specialist to Homestead AFB to accomplish modifications on F-4E aircraft sold to Egypt.

June — The 1 SOW solved a serious problem on the CH-3E helicopters. The fabric ejection chute which should have caught all expended brass cartridges failed to meet the need. As a result, cartridges and cartridge links entered

1979 (cont)

the slip stream and were carried into the tail rotor causing damage and potiential loss of aircraft. A 1 SOW solution and local manufacture solved this problem.

8 Jul — The 1 SOW responded to a potiential need to evacuate American Embassy personnel from Managua, Nicagagua. Two gunships and 79 people organized and deployed as 1 SOW, Detachment #1. They went on alert immediately. Although the need for an evacuation did not materialize, the deployment demonstrated quick wing response and readiness to fly on the first day.

12 Jul — The 20th SOS successfully flight tested an infrared, searchlight filter system built by the Army and modified at Hurlburt for helicopter use.

2 Aug — A 20th SOS three and a half hour VFR flight from Little Rock AFB to Hurlburt Field tested the long range navigation accuracy of a Teledyne system with excellent results.

3 Aug — The 16th SOS provided one gunship for a dry-fire simulation at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was a one-day round trip mission.

8 Aug — The SOCCT's Zodiac craft was successfully dropped into Hurlburt Lake from the rear of an AC-130H for a first for the 1 SOW.

9 Aug — A Zodiac and two-man combat control team were deployed 28 nautical miles south of Eglin AFB in the Gulf of Mexico by a CH-3E.

13 Aug — A CH-3E made an emergency landing in Choctawhatchee Bay near Eglin due to a fire and engine failure. The aircraft was successfully recovered.

1979 (cont)

20 Aug A CH-3E dropped an Army rubber boat and a seven-man scuba team simultaneously.

25 Aug Colonel Phillip G. Cochran, first leader of the 1st Air Commando Group in World War II, died.

29 Aug For the first time since 27 February, the 8th SOS flew a very low altitude training mission. For an hour and a half they flew a Combat Talon at 100 feet above ground level. Although the 1979 Combat Talon Management Review rejected approving this tactic, the 8th SOS intended to continue seeking approval for this more realistic training.

10 Sep The 1 SOW performed normal training events for the benefit of some 60 of its military personnel and dependents in a one-hour period. All four 1 SOW aircraft types participated, that is, one AC-130H, one MC-130E, two CH-3Es, and three UH-1Ns. The scenario called for a CH-3E to land and deplane an M-151 jeep with a daytime Fulton recovery kit and two SOCCT personnel. Then at five and ten-minute intervals, an MC-130E performed a HSLLADS, a CH-3E accomplished a HALO paradrop, a two-man SOCCT rappelled from a UH-1N and recovered by rope ladder, an MC-130E performed a Fulton STAR, and finally an AC-130H attacked with its 20mm, 40mm, and 105mm weapons.

12-14 Sep Aircraft were evacuated to Dyess, Moody, and Shaw AFBs due to the threat from Hurricane Frederick.

17 Sep The USAF Special Operations School received the Air Force Association's Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award for Education.

24 Sep Headquarters USAF approved the Statement of Need for a follow-on special operations force helicopter and the request for aerial refueling probes for the H-3 helicopters.

1979 (cont)

1-5 Oct — The 1 SOW briefed TAC and USAF on UH-1N rapid deployment and C-5/UH-1N direct ground refueling concepts. This led to the Coronet Chopper test program to develop procedures for rapid airlift and deployment of the UH-1N on MAC aircraft.

4 Oct — Lieutenant General Braswell, 9th AF Commander, announced the selection of Hurlburt Field as the best looking base in Tactical Air Command.

12-28 Oct — Bold Eagle 80. This was a major exercise which involved about 20,000 Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel in the Eglin area. The Air Force alone provided over 100 aircraft and more than 4,600 people. They came from TAC, MAC, SAC, AFRES, ATC, ESC, AFCC, and the ANG. All types of 1 SOW aircraft participated. The proximity of Bold Eagle impacted Hurlburt support as well as operational functions. That included a tent city to accommodate 3,500 people.

16 Oct — The 20th SOS earned the AFOUA for the period 6 November 1978 to 2 March 1979.

29 Oct — The Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center approved Hurlburt Field's request to fly the American flag at the Air Commando Memorial Air Park. This allowed the flying of two American flags at Hurlburt Field.

13-15 Nov — Four AC-130H aircraft departed Hurlburt on a non-stop flight to Anderson AFB, Guam. The 7,219 nautical mile trip required four aerial refuelings with flight levels restricted to below 10,000 feet. This was the longest non-stop flight ever by the C-130 Hercules. Average mission time was 29.5 hours.

13 Nov 79-3 Mar 80 — This Guam or Western Pacific deployment by the 16th SOS and 1 SOW personnel again demonstrated the quick

1979 (cont)

reaction and varied capabilities of the AC-130H aircraft. The deployment and establishment of 1 SOW, Detachment #1, involved four aircraft, five aircrews, a self-sufficient maintenance contingent, and a small support staff. The 16th SOS deployed 79 people, 1 SOW Headquarters an additional 11, and Maintenance another 95 for a total force of 185. This deployment responded to a Joint Chiefs of Staff directive which resulted from increasing Far East tensions in Korea. While based at Guam, Det 1 carried on extensive training related to the situation in Korea. These included 18-hour round trips from Guam to Korea during which various combat tactics were performed. Altogether, the deployment involved 113 sorties requiring 850.1 flying hours.

17-18 Nov — The wing provided airlift support for the Alabama Army National Guard for their no-notice operational readiness inspection.

11 Dec — The 1 SOW requested support from 9th AF for construction of an assault strip.

12 Dec — The Noncommissioned Officers School received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1980

4 Jan — The 20th SOS received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award primarily in recognition of its performance during the Joint Countering Attack Helicopter tactics evaluation conducted 6 November 1978 to 2 March 1979. The goal of J-CATCH was to develop helicopter tactics against other helicopters and fixed-wing fighters.

7 Jan-1 Feb — Empire Glacier 80. This Joint Chiefs of Staff directed, U.S. Readiness Command sponsored joint readiness exercise was

1980 (cont)

conducted at Fort Drum, New York. Purpose of the exercise was to train selected active and reserve infantry, armor, and tactical air forces in a winter environment.

18-19 Jan — Colonel Carlos Augusto Morales Villatoro, Commander of the Guatemalan Air Force, and party visited the 1st Special Operations Wing.

7 Feb — Over 70 Air Force Commendation Medals were awarded to members of the 20th Special Operations Squadron for their contribution to the success of the J-CATCH program.

12 Mar — The 834th Combat Support Group relinquished control of the 2068th Communications Squadron to the wing commander.

13 Mar — Colonel T.W.A. Stuart assumed command of the 1 SOW replacing Colonel (Brigadier General Selectee) Dunwoody.

14 Mar — Eight AC-130H and six MC-130E aircraft deployed to Eglin AFB to conduct flying activities while Hurlburt's runway underwent repairs. Helicopter flying continued at Hurlburt.

4 Apr — Headquarters Tactical Air Command advised that Air Force Logistics Command had initiated a contract for procurement of in-flight refueling kits for five AC-130H and four MC-130E aircraft.

9 Apr — Hurlburt Field received a UH-1P helicopter for display at the Air Commando Memorial Air Park.

16 Apr-18 May — Flintlock 80. The 1 SOW provided one Combat Talon for this annual European exercise. The 8th SOS played in the Schwarzes Pferd sub-exercise in Germany while based at RAF Wethersfield, United Kingdom. Seven officers and six airmen represented the 1 SOW.

1980 (cont)

21 Apr A no-notice Coronet Chopper (helicopter airlift) exercise accomplished with a C-5A from the 60th Military Airlift Wing at Travis AFB, California and four UH-1Ns from the 20th SOS.

24-25 Apr Desert One. Americans had been held hostage in Iran since the capture of the American Embassy in Tehran some six months previously. The attempt to rescue them involved staging the rescue force in the Iranian desert. The plan required the use of six H-53 helicopters along with C-130 transports. Eight helicopters flew from the USS Nimitz to the rendezvous site, nicknamed Desert One, but three malfunctioned. One landed enroute and the crew was picked up by another chopper, a second had to return to the Nimitz, and the third developed hydraulic trouble at Desert One. With only five serviceable helicopters, the mission was aborted and, in the dark of the night, the evacuation began. However, a helicopter collided with an MC-130E Combat Talon of the 8th SOS killing eight and injuring four Americans. The five Air Force fatalities were all from the 8th SOS - Captains Richard L. Bakke, Lyn D. McIntosh, Charles T. McMillan, and Harold L. Lewis, Jr., and Technical Sergeant Joel C. Mayo. One of the injured was Airman First Class William V. Tootle also of the 1 SOW.

27 Apr A memorial service for the 1 SOW personnel killed in Iran was held at Niceville, Florida with 2,000 in attendance.

30 Apr A memorial service at Hurlburt for the five men killed in the rescue attempt was attended by Secretary of the Air Force, Hans Mark; U.S. Senators Lawton Chiles and Richard Stone; 1st District Congressman Earl Hutto; Tactical Air Command Commander, General William L. Creech; and 9th Air Force Commander, Lieutenant General Arnold W. Braswell. General Creech, in his remarks, quoted Edmund Burke who wrote in the 18th century that, "The only thing

1980 (cont)

necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." During subsequent days, services were held at the Air Force Academy, Arlington National Cemetery, and other places of interment.

3-19 May Solid Shield 80. The 1 SOW contributed two AC-130H, four UH-1N, two CH-3E, and one MC-130E aircraft to this exercise in the southeast United States. The Guantanamo Bay, Cuba portion had been cancelled on 1 May.

6 May Hurlburt was assigned responsibility for Dormitory #19 at Eglin for the temporary housing of 2,000 Cuban refugees in Project Red, White, and Blue. The refugees were released by Fidel Castro's government. When assigned to Hurlburt, Dorm 19 was empty, without furnishings, and awaiting renovation. While the 1 SOW task force was inspecting the building, seven buses carrying 300 refugees arrived. Out of disorganization, inadequate facilities, and a lack of planning, the 1 SOW personnel provided much better than expected billeting and messing for the Cubans even when Dorm 19 housed 2,000 refugees. A refugee camp, Camp Liberty, was built on the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds for 10,000 Cubans. Hurlburt and Eglin personnel built Camp Liberty, but materials and supplies had to be imported. Lumber and fencing came from Texas, tents from Virginia, plumbing supplies from New Jersey, and electrical supplies from various parts of the country. When completed, Camp Liberty consisted of 370 sleeping/living quarters, ten dining halls, four kitchens, six latrines, three concrete showers, two laundry tents, and various administrative and supply tents and trailers. Camp Liberty cost $6 million and, to be more exact, served 10,025 Cubans.

1980 (cont)

28 May The Community College of the Air Force advised the Special Operations School that it had been accepted as a fully associated school.

5 Jun A static display of all 1 SOW aircraft types, the Combat Control Team, and the Weather Team for British Special Air Service and Navy SEAL personnel.

16 Jun The Air Force announced the beddown of HH-53H helicopters at Hurlburt Field. Approximately 200 new people would be added to the 1 SOW.

17 Jun Nine HH-53H Pave Low helicopters were transferred to the 1 SOW. These would provide a rescue capability the wing lacked at the time of the hostage rescue attempt in Iran.

26 Jun Headquarters TAC estimated Pave Low additive costs at Hurlburt for fiscal years 1980 and 1981 at $2,552,000.

25-28 Jul Universal Trek 1-80. This was the first in a series of semi-annual Caribbean Contingency Joint Task Force exercises. The scenario consisted of a low intensity, unsophisticated insurgency threat to an island. It required securing and protecting U.S. facilities, evacuating American and other personnel, and conducting defensive operations with Navy and Air Force tactical air forces and naval gunfire. The 1 SOW provided two MC-130E Talons. They both flew infiltration missions, but one did it without landing enroute thanks to an aerial refueling north of Puerto Rico.

8 Aug A one each AC-130H, MC-130E, UH-1N, and HH-53H static display for the Portuguese Chief of Staff and party.

29 Aug The 1 SOW provided HQ TAC with a list of facilities needed to support the HH-53H Pave Low III program at Hurlburt.

1980 (cont)

These included a new hangar, other buildings and additions, and a new aircraft parking area.

17-18 Sep — Headquarters TAC cancelled 1 SOW participation in Gallant Knight 81, Foal Eagle 81, and Brim Frost 81 due to higher priority assignments.

26 Sep — The 1 SOW was reassigned from 9th AF directly to HQ TAC.

11 & 19 September — The 1 SOW, having received the HH-53H Pave Low III, released its four CH-3Es. Three were transferred on 11 September and the fourth on the 19th. An earlier loan of two to the 302nd SOS for a month had been denied due to flight restrictions which, at the time, kept them in the local area.

24 Oct — Five streets on Hurlburt were renamed in honor of the five men who died in the attempt to rescue Americans held hostage in Iran. They were named McMillan Street, Bakke Street, McIntosh Court, Lewis Drive, and Mayo Street.

1-3 Nov — Two USAF Special Operations School faculty members briefed 200 personnel of the 150th Tactical Fighter Group on Egyptian culture, religion, history, and military structure prior to their deployment to Egypt in the hope of avoiding unfortunate incidents that ignorance could create.

7-18 Nov — Exercise Proud Spirit 80 was one of a series of command post exercises sponsored by the JCS which simulated a conflict with the Warsaw Pact.

11 Nov — On this Veterans' Day, Colonel Stuart conducted a mass reenlistment of 55 airmen.

11 Nov-13 Dec — At Nellis AFB for Red Flag 81-1, the 1 SOW provided five UH-1N helicopters, 35 aircrew, and 66 support personnel.

1980 (cont)

The helicopters infiltrated and exfiltrated a SOCCT, a SOWT, an Air Base Defense Team, a Security Police Special Action Team, and aircrew survival instructor personnel. Also, the UH-1N provided live-fire escort, forward operating location defense, and airfield/Embassy attacks using both armed and unarmed helicopters.

21 Nov — MGM Grand Hotel fire. The MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas caught fire and the men of the 20th SOS who were TDY to nearby Nellis AFB were called on to assist in rescue efforts. Early in the morning, after late night operations, the crews returned to base from quarters in Las Vegas and, only 45 minutes after being alerted to the need, were enroute to the MGM Grand Hotel parking lot which was used as a helicopter landing area. During the fire they transported firemen, rescue squads, paramedics, and medical and rescue supplies to the hotel and removed people trapped by the fire. They flew 13 hours during the day involving 31 shuttles and were credited with saving five lives in evacuating critically injured people. After the fire was controlled, the 20th SOS removed 56 bodies from the hotel roof.

26 Nov — The wing provided a static display for Major Maloney of the New Zealand Special Air Service.

5 Dec — A UH-1N deployed to Exercise Red Flag 81-1 and recorded the wing's 100,000th flying hour without a major aircraft accident. This completed just over seven years without a Class A accident and was an extraordinary accomplishment considering the variety of aircraft flown and the unusually hazardous flying by the 1 SOW.

15-19 Dec — Colonel Richard A. Dutton, USAFSOS Commandant and long-term prisoner of war in North Vietnam, visited Great Britain and served as a consultant to the British Defense

1980 (cont)

Ministry in formulating a Code of Conduct for their armed forces.

19 Dec — At a meeting of Eglin Foreign Weapons Technology and Hurlburt personnel it was agreed that 1 SOW weapons and tactics people would assist in testing foreign manufactured equipment and munitions. Test items included the Norwegian 20mm and .50 cal ammunition and cold weather gear for the SOCCT.

1981

Jan-Mar — A tenant unit at Hurlburt which supported the 1st Special Operations Wing mission, Detachment #75 of the 3rd Weather Squadron, received the Grimes Award as the weather unit which exhibited the highest state of readiness to support the wartime Air Force or Army tactical mission. The award was named for the late Colonel Keith R. Grimes who organized the first Air Weather Service unconventional warfare detachment.

5 Jan — Personnel from the 1 SOW attended the Flintlock 81 planning conference at Vaihingen, Germany.

12-16 Jan — The 1 SOW supported C Company, 2nd Special Forces Group with a static display, four live-fire missions, three resupplies, three assault landings, three static-line jumps, one high altitude low opening jump, a combat control team briefing, a Fulton Recovery class, and a wing briefing.

19 Jan — The 1 SOW received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 15 July 1979 - 15 May 1980. This was the Wing's fourth AFOUA.

1981 (cont)

1-6 Feb The 1 SOW instructed and supported a Military Airlift Command special operations low level aircrew on temporary duty to Hurlburt.

10 Feb The Hurlburt Field Open House scheduled for 29 April was cancelled by Colonel Stuart due to a conflict with exercise Solid Shield. With C-5, C-141, CH-3, A-10, F-4, F-16, A-7, O-2, OV-10, F-106, F-101, F-105, A-37, C-7, and C-123 aircraft and the Thunderbirds, there would have been too many visitors and exercise and static display aircraft on base.

11 Feb Effective this date, the 919th Special Operations Group and the 302nd Special Operations Squadron were assigned to the 1 SOW as their intermediate gaining command. That meant that in case these reserve units were called to active duty, they would report to the 1 SOW. Actually, this merely formalized an existing understanding that in times of mobilization the 9th AF as IGC would immediately assign them to the 1 SOW as the only active duty special operations wing in the Air Force.

14-24 Feb The 1 SOW participated in Black Hawk IV in Panama with one Combat Talon, two AC-130Hs, a SOCCT, and a SOWT. This Southern Command joint air, ground, and naval defensive exercise included protection of the Canal against guerrilla attack. While on this exercise, one gunship participated in a SAR mission in Ecuador searching for an Army helicopter flying a border mission for the Organization of American States. However, eight sorties failed to locate the aircraft. It had been hoped that the gunship's sensors would locate it despite the bad weather in the search area.

1981 (cont)

26 Feb — A Pacific Air Forces MC-130E crashed and one 1 SOW officer, Major Russell D. Darden, Chief of Safety, served on the accident investigation board.

11-18 Mar — Team Spirit 81. The 16th SOS participated with two gunships and maintenance personnel. The AC-130Hs flew eight deployment, 12 employment including air base defense, armed escort, and close air support, and eight redeployment sorties.

30 Mar — The 20th SOS, flying a UH-1N, rescued one Coast Guardsman whose boat had capsized in the East Pass to the Gulf of Mexico at Destin, Florida.

30 Mar — At this date the scholarship fund for children of the five men of the 8th SOS killed in Iran amounted to $90,000. The goal was to assure that all 17 children whose fathers had been killed attempting to rescue Americans held hostage would be able to attend college without cost to their families.

16 Apr — The 1 SOW provided a static display of the AC-130H for the New Generals Orientation Course at Langley AFB.

23 Apr-23 May — Flintlock 81. Wing personnel and aircraft participated in this exercise in Europe and North Africa specifically in sub-exercises Schwarzes Pferd (Germany), Muflone (Italy), and Sahel (Tunisia).

24 Apr — On the first anniversary of the Iran raid a memorial service was held for the five 8th SOS aircrewmen who died attempting to rescue Americans held hostage. At the service a monument to the five Air Commandos was unveiled at the Air Commando Memorial Air Park.

1981 (cont)

27-29 Apr The Sea Spray demonstration in the Fort Bragg area included the transport of small helicopters on the MC-130. That established another combat capability for the 1 SOW.

29 Apr Ground test firing of a .50 caliber machine gun was completed. Results indicated that it could be used on the UH-1N.

3-8 May The wing supported KC-10 air refueling tests at Edwards AFB with an AC-130H.

16-23 May CONJEFAMER XXI. The 1 SOW provided a 39-minute capabilities demonstration for this annual meeting of 15 Air Force Chiefs from countries in this hemisphere plus observers from Canada, Haiti, and Mexico.

21 May Refueling Test. This involved ground refueling of helicopters directly from an MC-130 equipped with Benson tanks by using only its fuel transfer pumps. This was successful with two Army UH-60 and three Air Force UH-1N helicopters and demonstrated the feasibility of using 1 SOW aircraft to support helicopters in remote areas. The wing used this capability in Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989.

13-17 Jun Business Effort was the nickname for the air refueling training program in which KC-135 tankers of the Strategic Air Command deployed to Hurlburt for a week at a time to work with the 8th and 16th SOSs. Refuelers from SAC came from Forbes on 13-17 June, Grand Forks on 27-31 July, Loring on 3-7 August, Plattsburgh on 10-14 August, and Grissom on 14-18 September for Business Effort training.

Jul-Sep The 8th SOS earned the Colonel Joseph B. Duckworth Award for 1980 for having made the most significant contribution to the art or science of instrument flight. The squadron

1981 (cont)

developed an innovative precision airborne radar approach for night and adverse weather landings.

9 Jul — The Assistant Chief of Staff, Dominican Republic Air Force viewed a static display.

17 Jul — The 1 SOW participated in the demonstrations for the President's Council on Foreign Relations.

1 Aug — The 1 SOW was reassigned from Headquarters TAC to 9th AF after less than a year.

7-11 Aug — Ocean Venture 81. The wing supported this Caribbean area exercise with AC-130H, MC-130E, and UH-1N aircraft. The UH-1Ns deployed as a Coronet Chopper package. Although it was a profitable exercise for the wing, Ocean Venture was cut short by a hurricane threat.

24 Aug — The 1 SOW Directorate of Plans managed and conducted a load test program for three UH-1N helicopters on a C-141B transport. Results of this test were to be used as a basis for a new concept of deployment, employment, and redeployment of UH-1Ns supporting limited combat operations and to refine requirements, operational procedures, and training. The test established the capability of the C-141B to handle three UH-1N helicopters, but further testing was needed to establish the operational effectiveness, suitability, and sustainability of the concept.

24 Aug-11 Nov — The 1 SOW participated in Credible Sport II/Phase I. The objective of Credible Sport was to satisfy prototype test requirements for Combat Talon II avionics and unique airframe modifications compared to the current Talons.

1981 (cont)

25 Aug — The 1 SOW provided orientation flights on the AC-130H, MC-130E, and HH-53H for personnel from the Office of Management and Budget.

27 Aug — The 1 SOW Command Post assisted the Florida State Highway Patrol in successfully apprehending an escaped prisoner.

2-4 Sep
3-5 Sep — The wing supported Underwater Demolition Team #21 in Puerto Rico with an MC-130E and from 3-5 September supported a SEAL Team in the same area.

13-26 Sep — Marvel Exodus. This exercise trained the 2nd Battalion Rangers of the 75th Infantry in combined operations. A variety of Air Force units deployed from their home stations at Hurlburt Field, Pope, Dyess, Charleston, Grissom, Plattsburgh, McClellan, and Eglin Air Force bases to several locations in the Northwest United States. The 1 SOW provided three MC-130Es, two AC-130Hs, six HH-53Hs, and 271 crew members and support personnel.

25 Sep-
1 Oct — The National Defense Transportation Association met in Indianapolis and at this national convention recognized the 834th Transportation Squadron at Hurlburt as the Department of Defense unit which demonstrated the best mission accomplishment.

2 Oct — An AC-130H flew an overwater, air refueling/navigational training mission from Hurlburt Field to Howard AFB, Panama.

5 Oct — The Command Post supported an Air Force Rescue Coordination Center request for assistance in a search which was terminated later the same day.

1981 (cont)

11 Oct — Two aircraft, a C-123 and a UH-1P, and a plaque in memory of the 52 men of the 16th SOS killed in Vietnam were dedicated at the Air Park during the Air Commando Reunion.

13-19 Oct — Three HH-53Hs supported the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Airborne Readiness Training and Evaluation Program at Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine.

13-19 Oct — The 1 SOW participated in Bold Eagle 82 with two MC-130Es, three AC-130Hs, two HH-53Hs, four UH-1Ns, a SOCCT, a SOWT, and a Special Operations Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility. Colonel Robert E. Mayo, 1 SOW Deputy Commander for Operations, commanded the AFSOB in Eason Hangar. The wing flew 194 sorties for 405.7 flying hours.

2 Nov — An F-15 from Eglin AFB crashed in the Gulf of Mexico. Wing AC-130Hs and HH-53Hs on normal training flights diverted to assist in the SAR which ended without success.

9 Nov — Major Gerald J. Uttaro learned that he had won the first annual Lance P. Sijan award for leadership.

11 Nov — This was the second Veterans' Day mass reenlistment at Hurlburt Field with 37 people continuing their Air Force service.

19 Nov — One AC-130H flew an overwater air refueling/navigational training mission from Hurlburt Field to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

22 Nov-13 Dec — Bright Star 82. The 1 SOW participated in this exercise in Egypt with two MC-130Es, two HH-53Hs, a SOCCT, a SOWT, an Air Transportable Clinic, and maintenance personnel. The 1 SOW flew 113 sorties for 272.3 hours.

1981 (cont)

24 Nov — The 1 SOW, with three AC-130Hs and three HH-53Hs, joined the search for an F-4 stationed at Seymour-Johnson AFB. This, like the 2 November search, was not successful. These incidents pointed up the special difficulties involved in deep water SAR.

1 Dec — Hurlburt Field had been involved to some extent in TAC's search for a site for its Combat Arms School known as Silver Flag Alpha. However, a site survey had failed to identify a site on the Eglin Reservation and a Programming Plan published 1 December only identified Nellis AFB as a school site for Silver Flag activities. Hurlburt Field had no further involvement in this matter.

1982

20 Jan-8 Feb — The 1st Special Operations Wing participated in Red Flag 82-2 with five UH-1N helicopters and 75 people. They flew 107 sorties and 198 hours employing tactics against airborne and ground threats.

30 Jan-7 Feb — Vagabond Warrior. Nine Army, Navy, and Air Force units participated in this JSOC exercise. The 1 SOW's involvement consisted of 490 officers, 117 enlisted, two MC-130Es, two AC-130Hs, and two HH-53Hs. They operated from Barking Sands, Hawaii. A C-5 airlifted the helicopters while the gunships and Talons flew directly utilizing aerial refuelings. The AC-130Hs used external fuel tanks and three refuelings while the MC-130Es only needed two refuelings. The aircraft began deploying on the 29th and all were operationally ready by noon on the 31st, Hawaiian time. The exercise demonstrated the Wing's ability to deploy on short notice and for long distances.

10-19 Feb — Kindle Liberty 82. The 1 SOW supported this Southern Command joint ground and naval defense exercise with two AC-130H and

1982 (cont)

one MC-130E aircraft and a Special Operations Combat Control Team. The gunships flew two sorties per night from the 10th until the end of Kindle Liberty except on the 17th when the two aircraft flew three sorties. They averaged 11 hours per night of gunship operations. The Combat Talon conducted a long-range SEAL Team (Norfolk, Virginia to Panama) infiltration with two combat rubber raiding craft. Overall, 1 SOW aircraft flew 160.2 hours and all of the 21 scheduled sorties.

13 Feb–26 Apr — Team Spirit 82. The 1 SOW devoted two gunships, 23 officers, and 124 enlisted including a SOCCT to this exercise in Korea.

19–24 Feb — Wing explosive ordnance disposal personnel assisted in a search for ammunition fired by mistake into the Ocala National Forest near Pinecastle Range, Florida.

26 Feb — Colonel Hugh L. Cox III succeeded Colonel T.W.A. Stuart as Commander, 1 SOW. Colonel Cox had been Wing Vice Commander and was succeeded in that position by Colonel Robert E. Mayo, Deputy Commander for Operations.

8 Mar — The 1 SOW deployed two AC-130H, three MC-130E, and two HH-53H aircraft, aircrews, and 57 maintenance personnel to Charleston, South Carolina for a joint forces demonstration. The wing flew 51 sorties and 100.2 hours during this deployment.

23 Mar — At a meeting at Robins AFB, representatives from the 1 SOW, the H-53 System Manager's Office, the Navy, Israel, and Sikorski, the manufacturer, discussed a helicopter flight loads survey. They also discussed what was needed to keep the H-53s in service through the year 2000.

1982 (cont)

2 Apr — A static display was provided for Ms. Angi Proctor, three-star equivalent, a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services known as DACOWITS.

18 Apr-28 May — Flintlock 82. The 1 SOW supported the exercise with two MC-130E and two HH-53H aircraft, a SOCCT, SOWT, and support personnel. The wing's first aircraft departed Hurlburt on 16 April and the last returned on 18 May.

23 Apr — A stained glass window in the Chapel, donated by citizens of the Florida Panhandle, was dedicated to the men lost in the Iran hostage rescue mission. Congressman Earl Hutto was guest speaker. The window, 12.5 feet by 9.5 feet, consisted of 1,200 pieces of glass. It showed an American eagle perched on the 1 SOW emblem. From the eagle flowed a rainbow of color containing eight translucent diamonds and ending in an eight-point starburst. According to the artist, the diamonds represented the lives of the men who were killed and the starburst symbolized the uniting of eight lives in death. The window was to be moved to the new Chapel when it was built.

26 Apr-17 May — Ocean Venture 82. This 1982 Caribbean exercise involved the 1 SOW to the extent of one MC-130E, two AC-130H, two HH-53H and one UH-1N aircraft, and a SOPPIF, SOCCT, and SOWT.

4-5 May — The wing provided an aerial demonstration of all four of its aircraft types for Mr. R. L. Rylander, Assistant for Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

12-16 May — A static display at Nellis AFB, Nevada for Vice President George Bush.

1982 (cont)

25 Jun — Orientation and capabilities flights of all 1 SOW aircraft types for Mr. R.D. Hale, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

July–September — During this quarter special recognition was extended to a Hurlburt employee, Vincent Wojsko, on his 40 years of government service. While that was not a record, he had accumulated 3,120 hours of sick leave and the fact that he had not taken sick leave for the past 30 years may well be unmatched in the federal service.

7 Jul — Wing personnel returned from Seoul, Korea after serving on the Combined Exercise Planning Staff for Foal Eagle 82.

12–15 Jul — Wing personnel attended an Air Employment Conference at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska for Brim Frost 83.

14 Jul — Flight testing began on the dual sling method for carrying a 22-foot Boston Whaler boat beneath an HH-53H.

17–26 Jul — The Wing supported Trial Mace III at Boscombe Down RAFB, United Kingdom with one AC-130H.

3–6 Aug — Wing personnel attended the Team Spirit 83 Initial Planning Conference at Osan AB, Korea.

11 Aug — Colonel Cox, 1 SOW Commander, proposed changing the SOCCT to a squadron. The Air Force later accepted that proposal and established the 1723rd Combat Control Squadron.

23–27 Aug — Wing personnel attended the Brim Frost 83 Logistics Planning Conference at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

1982 (cont)

3 Sep — The wing vice commander convened a meeting to begin work on the transfer of the wing from TAC to MAC. Transfer target date was 1 March 1983.

10-20 Sep — Wing personnel conducted a site survey at Taegu AB, Korea for Foal Eagle 82 and attended a planning conference at Osan AB, Korea for Team Spirit 83.

14 Oct — One AC-130H participated in a SAR mission at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

20-21 Oct — One AC-130H and one HH-53H participated in a SAR operation.

1-19 Nov — Foal Eagle 82. For this annual UW field training exercise in Korea, the 1 SOW provided one MC-130E, two HH-53Hs, nine SOCCT troops, and maintenance and staff personnel. From 15-17 November, the helicopters participated in a SAR for a missing F-16.

3 Nov — A static display of an AC-130H provided for the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College.

14 Nov-18 Dec — A 1 SOW mobile training team deployed to Panama with three UH-1Ns.

28 Nov-2 Dec — One HH-53H conducted a boat sling test at Norfolk, Virginia.

1 Dec — The 1 SOW supported a SOCCT combat rubber raiding craft drop and personnel jump in the Puerto Rico area with one MC-130E. From 3-9 December, the wing supported the SOCCT in Puerto Rico.

5-12 Dec — Silver Flag Alpha 83-1. The 1 SOW supported this air base ground defense training at Nellis AFB with one gunship.

1982 (cont)

6-13 Dec The wing supported Exercise Label High at Holloman AFB, Pope AFB, and Fort Bliss, Texas, with two MC-130Es and three HH-53Hs.

9 Dec Headquarters MAC advised the 1 SOW Commander, Colonel Cox, that the consolidation of special operations and combat rescue under Military Airlift Command had been approved for implementation on 1 March 1983.

10 Dec The 1 SOW briefed General Creech, TAC Commander, on third generation night vision goggles capabilities. Also, wing support was instrumental in a feasibility study demonstrating use of the advanced NVGs in special operations aircraft.

13-14 Dec A series of orientation and capabilities flights for the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Tactical Warfare Programs by one each AC-130H, MC-130E, and HH-53H and three UH-1Ns.

1983

12-13 Jan Orientation and capabilities flights for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs by one each AC-130H, MC-130E, and HH-53H.

13 Jan Headquarters USAF approved the HQ MAC request to designate the new organizations resulting from the 1 March consolidation as the 23rd Air Force and 2nd Air Division.

13-21 Jan Shipboard operations near Norfolk, Virginia were conducted by two HH-53H and three UH-1N aircraft.

1983 (cont)

18 Jan General Wilbur L. Creech, Commander Tactical Air Command, presented the 1 SOW with its fifth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award which covered the period 15 May 1980 - 30 April 1982.

18 Jan General Creech also presented the wing his Special Achievement Award for the period 1 January 1979 - 28 February 1983. In his two years as Tactical Air Command Commander, he had only presented his achievement award a few times. General Creech made the selection entirely on his own without any nominations. The short citation read as follows:

> During this period, the 1st Special Operations Wing increased the combat capability, readiness, and stature of the Tactical Air Forces by developing and testing new special operations techniques and procedures and by courageous participation in worldwide operations of great national and international significance. These achievements attest to the superior ability and dedication to duty displayed by personnel of the 1st Special Operations Wing, and earn them the special recognition symbolized by this personal award from the Commander, Tactical Air Command.

21 Jan-3 Feb Brim Frost 83. This U.S. Readiness Command exercise in Alaska involved 16,000 personnel of which 173 came from the 1 SOW. The wing also provided one MC-130E and two HH-53Hs.

1 Feb Colonel Hugh L. Cox's selection to command the 2nd Air Division was announced.

1 Feb Colonel Hugh L. Hunter was selected to command the 1 SOW upon activation of 2nd Air Division and Colonel Cox's transfer.

1983 (cont)

1 Feb–16 Apr — Team Spirit 83. The 1 SOW participated regularly in this exercise, but for this eighth annual exercise only six special operations combat control team members deployed from Hurlburt to Korea.

2 Feb — Colonel Cox advised all personnel that they could begin changing uniform patches from TAC to MAC in anticipation of the official reassignment on 1 March.

4–5 Feb — The wing participated in Exercise Prairie Runner at Patrick AFB with two AC-130H, two MC-130E, and three HH-53H aircraft.

6–17 Feb — Kindle Liberty 83. This combined, joint field training exercise in defense of the Panama Canal was supported with two HH-53Hs which flew 28 sorties and 57.7 hours.

17 Feb — Colonel Cox sent letters identifying 61 individuals for reassignment from the 1 SOW to the 2nd AD.

1 Mar — Second Air Division was officially activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the new 23rd AF. Subordinate units of the 2nd AD were the 1 SOW, Hurlburt Field; 1st Special Operations Squadron, Clark AB, Philippines; 7th SOS, Rhein Main AB, Germany; and Detachment #1, Howard AFB, Panama. Colonel Cox assumed command of the 2nd AD and Colonel Hugh L. Hunter assumed command of the 1 SOW.

4–8 Apr — Test drops of two combat rubber raiding craft during a single pass were accomplished.

6 Apr — The 1 SOW recovered three bodies from a boating accident in the Gulf of Mexico. One of the victims was assigned to the 834th Civil Engineering Squadron.

1983 (cont)

16 Apr-11 May — Solid Shield 83. The 1 SOW established an Air Force Special Operations Base at Hurlburt Field to conduct unconventional warfare operations. Other force locations were Fort Bragg, Saufley Field, Florida, and Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, and missions were flown at various locations, but mainly at Camp LeJeune and Fort Stewart, Georgia. The Wing provided MC-130E, UH-1N, and HH-53H aircraft which flew 32 sorties transporting 161 passengers and 3,600 pounds of cargo in 128.1 flying hours. Missions consisted of infiltrations, resupply, armed escort, and exfiltrations. Coronet Chopper helicopter airlift techniques were exercised.

20 Apr-20 May — Flintlock 83. The 1 SOW provided one MC-130E, two UH-1N, and two HH-53H aircraft. Altogether, Special Operations forces participated in ten sub-exercises during Flintlock with a full range of activities. Those exercises were Muflone in Italy, Windmill in the Netherlands, Oesling in Luxembourg, Schwarzes Pferd, Green Sea, and Bold Falcon in Germany, Moskus in Norway, Sly Fox in Jordan, Chergui in Morocco, and Sahel in Tunisia.

30 Apr — Headquarters USAF issued the deployment order for 1 SOW support of Operation Bahamas and Turks which was the effort to curb the heavy flow of illegal drugs into the United States through the Bahamas and Turks Islands. What was initially a short term tasking actually continued for approximately two and a half years.

3 May — The 1 SOW published Tasking Order 83-41, Operation BAT. It dedicated two 20th SOS UH-1N aircraft to the war on drugs. The 20th transported law enforcement officers to the sites of possible drug activities, but was not actually involved in arrests.

1983 (cont)

4 May — Almost immediately the 20th SOS UH-1N aircrews became involved in Operation BAT with the capture of a Cessna 210 and destruction at sea of 26 duffle bags of suspected cocaine.

5 May — A 25-foot MAKO boat and one person were captured in Operation BAT and 20 kilos of marijuana were destroyed.

8 May — In Operation BAT two pilots and a Cessna 410 aircraft were captured and 30 to 40 bales of marijuana destroyed at sea. Authorities found marijuana residue in the aircraft.

13 May — A Cessna 206 aircraft and its two pilots were captured and another 30 to 40 bales of marijuana were destroyed at sea in Operation BAT. On the same day 15 pounds of cocaine and one person were captured at one storage site and 200 pounds of marijuana were seized at another location. Operation BAT was getting the attention of smugglers.

16 May — A Cessna 185 crashed and burned in a swamp. One pilot was captured and 20 bales of marijuana were destroyed in the fire.

17 May — A suitcase of prescription drugs was taken at a crash site in Operation BAT.

19 May — One pilot was captured at an aircraft crash site in Operation BAT.

28 May — A Cessna 402, two pilots, and 1,300 pounds of marijuana were taken after the smuggler pilot made a dead stick landing.

2 Jun — One person was captured and a 100-gallon fuel cache was destroyed in Operation BAT.

1983 (cont)

3 Jun — A Piper Aztec aircraft and 25 bales of marijuana were destroyed at sea, but two pilots were captured.

4 Jun — A DC-3 aircraft, three pilots, and 1,000 pounds of marijuana were captured. Prior to the capture they dumped an uncertain number of bales of marijuana at sea.

6-11 Jun — The employment phase of Universal Trek 83 was designed to demonstrate and improve the capability of U.S. forces in the Caribbean region. Training was conducted in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, military bases in the Continental U.S., and on ships in the Caribbean. Among the missions accomplished was a long-range infiltration of troops from Pope AFB to Puerto Rico by a 1 SOW Combat Talon.

12-18 Jun — Two 1 SOW HH-53H Pave Low helicopters flew to Norfolk, Virginia for shipboard operations before moving to Exercise Casino Dancer.

12-18 Jun — Volant Rodeo. This annual tactical airlift competition involved both American and foreign aircrews. This was the first Rodeo in which the 1 SOW participated since it was the first year the wing was part of MAC. The wing provided one MC-130E flown by a 1st SOS crew and maintained by the 1 SOW. Also, SOCCT and Security Police personnel from Hurlburt participated. Of 34 entrants, the 2nd AD combined entry placed a very respectable 15th for, as noted, its first competition.

12-25 Jun — Casino Dancer. This was an Army Reserve training exercise which the Air Force supported. The 1 SOW provided one MC-130E, two crews, a SOWT, an Air Force Special Operations Base Commander, and maintenance and support personnel. The two HH-53Hs which had been at Norfolk on

1983 (cont)

shipboard operations training arrived late due to that commitment.

17 Jun — Three people, weapons, and equipment were captured in Operation BAT.

18 Jun — Destroying a light aircraft and capturing two people, weapons, and 363 pounds of cocaine added up to a very good Operation BAT mission.

23 Jun — A Lockheed C-45 was destroyed in Operation BAT.

25 Jun — A Douglas DC-3 was captured in Operation BAT.

27 Jun — Two people, weapons, and a truck were captured in Operation BAT.

28 Jun — A total of 321 bales of marjuana were seized in Operation BAT.

2 Jul — A 20th SOS UH-1N on location at Operation BAT responded to the report of DC-3 crash. They located the aircraft with an estimated four tons of marijuana on board. Both pilots had been killed in the crash.

4 Jul — Two Operation BAT missions were flown on this American national holiday that the smugglers did not observe. A Cessna 404, one pilot, 22 cardboard boxes and seven duffle bags of cocaine weighing 863 pounds were captured on Gorda Cay. One smuggler crewman escaped apparently on the boat to which they planned to transfer the drug cargo. Their problems began when they made such a hard landing that they blew three tires. The second incident involved a report of a "mother ship" with 30 tons of marijuana colliding with the small boats during the night at Little Darby Island. The Operation BAT crew located the 70-foot

1983 (cont)

motor vessel Crenen abandoned with 300 bales of marijuana already on the beach and an estimated 2,750 bales still on the Crenen. Police captured seven Columbians reported by island residents. The marijuana seized on this raid weighed 61,655 pounds with an estimated wholesale value in the United States of $15.5 million.

9-17 Jul — Granite Scar I. This operational test and evaluation of aircraft defensive systems was supported by the 1 SOW with an AC-130H and an MC-130E. However, the scheduled HH-53H could not participate.

18 Jul-5 Aug — Six HH-53H Pave Lows conducted mountain training working out of Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

19 Jul — Operation BAT support was extended for ten months.

29 Jul — The 1 SOW provided a static display for four Sundanese general officers.

1 Aug — The 20th SOS was directed to train an ARRS crew for Operation BAT. Additional qualified crews would ease the heavy burden the operation had imposed on the squadron and the 1 SOW.

4 Aug — An Operation BAT recap identified the cumulative successes thus far. One thousand two hundred forty three pounds of cocaine and 83,460 pounds of marijuana had been seized. Also, 100 bales of suspected marijuana, 26 packages of suspected cocaine, and one unidentified load had been jettisoned at sea and lost. In two aircraft crashes, 9,000 pounds of marijuana had burned. On the captured list were two vessels, four aircraft, four vehicles, 11 weapons, and various equipment such as an HF radio, a motorcycle, and two night vision goggles. As noted above, two air-

1983 (cont)

craft had crashed. Also, 35 individuals had been apprehended.

13-29 Aug The 1 SOW participated in Exercise Bright Star 83 in Egypt working out of Cairo West AB. The wing provided one MC-130E and two AC-130H aircraft which accomplished almost all objectives.

17-24 Aug Copper Flag 83-3 involved intercepts with jet fighters, simulated airdrops, and ECM training.

22 Aug-23 Sep The 1 SOW supported Granite Scar II at Eglin AFB with seven AC-130H, three MC-130E, one UH-1N, and three HH-53H sorties. This was a follow-on to Granite Scar I in July.

7 Sep The wing supported the 4th Psychological Operations Group with a leaflet drop.

10-11 Sep The 1 SOW participated in ECM and air intercept training with the 119th Fighter Interceptor Group at Hector Field, Fargo, North Dakota.

11-15 Sep Orbit Dagger. The 8th SOS provided a Combat Talon for a long range infiltration from Pope AFB, North Carolina to Holloman AFB, New Mexico. The return on 15 September was to include a personnel drop, but the drop had to be cancelled and the aircrew airlanded the troops at Pope before continuing to Hurlburt Field. In Orbit Dagger the 1 SOW flew 26.6 hours, airdropped 24 troops, and airlanded another 54.

16 Sep Assistant Secretary of State DiCarlo flew with an Operation BAT crew on an orientation flight.

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20-30 Sep Nine SOCCT members deployed to Key West, Florida, for scuba training.

21 Sep Big Squirt. The objective was to perform, certify, and document aircraft-to-aircraft ground refueling for a Joint Exercise Service Manual.

26 Sep An orientation and capabilities flight for the Commander-in-Chief Military Airlift Command, General Ryan, included an NVG blacked-out landing and off-load of SOCCT personnel.

26-29 Sep One of seven Special Operations Planning Exercises planned for the year to sharpen skills was conducted in this period.

8-12 Oct For Quick Force 84-1 the 1 SOW deployed one MC-130E to Pope AFB, North Carolina, for a long-range infiltration in California.

9 Oct A 16th SOS flyby by one AC-130H supporting the Air Commando Association Reunion and the Air Commando monument dedication.

22 Oct-24 Nov Urgent Fury. This was the operation which rescued Americans mostly medical students, considered in imminent danger on the Island of Grenada. Five Combat Talons and three gunships participated in the air assault on Grenada early on 25 October. The aircraft arrived at Grenada experiencing ceilings of less than 1,000 feet, inflight visibility of less than three nautical miles in moderate rainshowers and thunderstorms, and 25-knot winds. In addition to these very poor conditions, the first aircraft to drop troops on Grenada did so despite severe ground fire. The 1 SOW gunships suppressed the ground fire and provided close air support throughout the invasion. The

1983 (cont)

wing's Talons and gunships contributed significantly to the success of the operation. In addition to airlifting troops, the MC-130Es also executed leaflet drops to encourage Cuban forces to end their resistance. The number of armed and trained Cubans was a surprise, but they were quickly defeated by the combined Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force task force. For their work in Urgent Fury, the 1984 William H. Tunner Award as MAC's outstanding aircrew went to a 16th SOS gunship aircrew commanded by Major Clement W. Twiford. Although the island was secured quickly, AC-130H gunships remained in the area in the event they were needed through most of November. Without the 1 SOW participation, Urgent Fury would not have been such a low cost success.

24 Oct — Operation BAT authorities seized 180 kilos of cocaine with a wholesale value of $5.4 million, two "druggers," and an aircraft.

2 Nov — General Vessey, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, sent a congratulatory message to participants in Urgent Fury.

7 Nov — President Ronald Reagan hosted a reception at the White House for students rescued in Urgent Fury and for representatives of the rescue force. Lieutenant Colonel James L. Hobson, Jr., 8th SOS Commander, and three others on the mission represented the 1 SOW.

11-14 Nov — Low-level mountain training in the Charleston, West Virginia area during which a bird strike on the wing of the MC-130E interrupted training.

26 Nov — A Bahamas school requested airlift support for a Santa Claus mission which the American Embassy quickly approved in the interest of improving relations with the Bahamians. The Embassy, in turn, asked Operation BAT

1983 (cont)

personnel to provide a short helicopter flight to deliver Santa Claus to the school. They also readily agreed; however, the Bahamian Foreign Ministry withdrew its sanction of the Christmas mission which effectively terminated the proposal.

26 Nov–2 Dec — Five SOCCT personnel deployed to Edwards AFB, California for NVG testing.

30 Nov — President Ronald Reagan sent Colonel Hunter, 1 SOW Commander, a letter of appreciation for the wing's participation in Urgent Fury.

7–15 Dec — In Copper Flag 84-1, an 8th SOS Combat Talon executed coastal penetration at Tyndall AFB and engaged in air intercept training with F-15, F-101, and F-106 aircraft.

8 Dec — Headquarters USAF advised that Operation BAT might be extended through May 1985.

10 Dec — Florida Governor Bob Graham dedicated a section of Highway 98 in front of Hurlburt Field as Air Commando Boulevard. He also worked as a gunner on an AC-130H earlier in the day during a live-fire mission. The Florida State Legislature approved the Air Commando Boulevard name to honor the air commandos of World War II, the men who executed the Son Tay prisoner of war camp rescue, the first officer graduate of the Air Force Academy wounded in Vietnam, the first combat controller killed in action in Vietnam, the men who carried out the Iran rescue, and all special operations personnel.

1984

6 Jan — A DC-3 radioed for help advising it was ditching five miles from Nassau. Captain Dyke H. Whitbeck and crew

1984 (cont)

responded and located an oil slick and 25 bales of marijuana floating five miles north of Rose Island. They returned to Nassau for fuel and strike force personnel when it became apparent that drugs were involved. Three men were arrested, and the marijuana was recovered by boat.

9 Jan — A 20th Special Operations Squadron UH-1N assigned to the Operation BAT mission crashed north of Nassau. Captain Dyke H. Whitbeck, First Lieutenant Thomas L. Hamby, and Staff Sergeant Edgardo L. Acha died in the accident. Staff Sergeant Paul B. Cartter survived seriously injured. These were the only casualties suffered by the 1st Special Operations Wing during this hazardous operation which lasted two and a half years.

10-14 Jan — Three 1 SOW HH-53H Pave Lows participated in the search for survivors of the 9 January UH-1N accident. Despite an extensive Air Force, Coast Guard, and Navy search effort, the aircraft and crew were not recovered.

17 Jan — A memorial service for the three crewmen lost on Operation BAT was held at Hurlburt.

27 Jan — Following a report of a DC-3 airdrop of drugs, 22 large 100-pound bales were recovered for a total of 2,200 pounds of marijuana.

13-22 Feb — Southern Knight was a four HH-53H exercise in Puerto Rico.

25 Feb — In addition to its normal mission of transporting police to the scenes of drug activity, the 20th SOS provided other assistance when possible. A Bahamian patrol disappeared at sea and authorities requested search and rescue assistance from Operation BAT. A major search which continued until 3 March failed to locate the patrol.

1984 (cont)

29 Feb While on the search for the lost Bahamian patrol, Operation BAT personnel sighted a small boat with four people 30 miles from More's Island. It turned out they had been adrift for three days without fuel and for a day and a half they had been without water. The sighting and assistance given, in the opinion of the survivors, saved their lives. Operation BAT received very favorable local press and television coverage in the Bahamas.

13 Mar A static display was provided for the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy.

14 Mar Alteration and repair of the wing headquarters building at Hurlburt was completed at a cost of $302,700.

19-30 Apr Exercise Ocean Venture based at Hurlburt included low-level missions to drop zones and operations against U.S. naval vessels. The 8th SOS and 20th SOS participated.

24 Apr-24 May Exercise Flintlock 84 in which the 1 SOW participated involved two MC-130E and two HH-53H aircraft in sub-exercises Schwarzes Pferd in Germany, Oesling in Belgium and Luxembourg, Muflone in Italy, Chergui in Morocco, Trabuco in Spain, and Fleet Deer in Germany in the Schwarzes Pferd area.

25 Apr Customs and Drug Enforcement Agency aircraft followed a known drugger northward through the Bahamas toward the Bimini Chain. When the druggers discovered they were being followed, they landed their Beech 18 at Cistern Cay. The DEA aircraft could not land on the short runway and orbited the runway until an Operation BAT aircrew ferried a DEA agent and Bahamian authorities to seize the aircraft. The druggers, by that time, had escaped, but they lost their aircraft and 41 bales of marijuana weighing 1,845 pounds.

1984 (cont)

26 Apr A static display was provided for the Mayor of Philadelphia, the Tactical Air Warfare Center Commander, and 50 distinguished visitors.

27 Apr An orientation and capabilities flight was flown for Congressman William Dickinson.

1 May This was an unusually successful day. The Operation BAT crew planned to exfiltrate a Royal Bahamian Strike Force team and a prisoner from Mangrove Cay, but that was delayed as they were diverted to search for a crashed aircraft. They found a DC-3 without crew or cargo. An RBSF team was placed at a small cove at Bight Point, Current Island where they seized 76, 80-pound bales of marijuana, a boat, and an individual. At the same time, the other Operation BAT aircraft checked a report of another crashed aircraft at Chub Cay which turned out to be a Cessna 402. They found two men dead on the aircraft and a cargo of 1,000 pounds of marijuana. The score for the day was two aircraft destroyed, two persons dead, and one boat, two prisoners, and 7,000 pounds of marijuana in possession of the authorities.

7 May The Installation Chaplain received the keys to the new Chapel Center. It had been completed 13 April at a cost of $1,573,700. The stained glass memorial window dedicated to the men killed in the attempt to rescue Americans held hostage in Iran was moved to the new facilities.

22 May The Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff signed a Memorandum of Agreement which, among other things, transferred the Special Operations Force rotary wing mission to the Army. However, this decision was reversed before implementation due largely to Congressional intervention.

1984 (cont)

28 May — Dogwood Street, Storage Road, and Myrtle Drive names were changed to Whitbeck Street, Hamby Place, and Acha Drive in honor of the crewmen lost in Operation BAT.

31 May — An orientation and capabilities flight was provided for the Scientific Advisory Board.

4-13 Jun — All three 1 SOW flying squadrons participated in Exercise Eight Falcons. Two MC-130Es, three AC-130Hs, and six HH-53Hs deployed to Hunter AAF and operated under field conditions.

6 Jun — Operation BAT achieved a three-ton marijuana seizure with a crashed aircraft as a bonus. This topped a two-ton day in mid-May.

17-23 Jun — Volant Rodeo. In this sixth annual MAC tactical competition the 1 SOW participated with a Combat Talon and 32 people. While the 1 SOW did not win, it placed second among active duty USAF units. An Italian team was the overall winner. The Combat Control Team won top honors in the heavy equipment airdrop, two CCT members finished first and second in the six-mile cross-country run while carrying a 44-pound rucksack, and the airdrop inspectors finished seventh among 23 in what was their additional rather than primary duty. Team success in this, the Wing's second year of participation and in view of their heavy mission responsibilities, was an outstanding accomplishment.

21-22 Jun — This overnight mission was a good one for Operation BAT. Police forces infiltrated onto Andros Island and interrupted an unloading operation. Final tally on this operation was 1,327 pounds of marijuana, one Cessna 411, nine prisoners, one van, two trucks, and one car seized. All prisoners were Bahamian except for one Nigerian.

1984 (cont)

10-20 Jul Safe Defender One. The 1 SOW provided one gunship and various personnel for this Air Base Ground Defense exercise at Little Rock AFB.

17-23 Jul The wing supported the 143rd Infantry and the British SAS at Hurlburt Field.

22 Jul-3 Aug Goblin Chaser 84. This MAC-directed joint special operations exercise involved night, mountain terrain-following and airdrops.

24 Jul The 16th SOS provided live and dry fire support for Exercise Goblin Elevate. The squadron returned to Goblin Elevate on 31 July to provide additional live and dry-fire.

24 Aug The Operation BAT Commander reported examples of the problems they faced with limited resources. On the two previous nights, the authorities had asked for Operation BAT airlift, but without a crew with enough crew duty day time left, the requests had to be denied and the druggers proceeded undeterred.

27 Aug Although there was no USAF involvement, an Operation BAT "bust" netted 915 pounds of cocaine worth $22.5 million. Shortly after this success the Operation BAT team transported police to search a suspect's house. Evidence and documents revealed that marijuana had been processed there which had been sold by the druggers for $1,736,000. The $1,260,000 profit on these drugs clearly showed why so many people were willing to take the risks involved in drug smuggling and sale.

27 Aug-1 Sep The 8th SOS provided an aircraft capabilities demonstration for the 435th Squadron, Canadian Tactical Aircraft School at Edmonton, Canada.

1984 (cont)

1-21 Sep The 8th and 20th SOSs participated in Gallant Eagle, the largest exercise ever held in the continental U.S., and in the Blue Chip exercises at Nellis AFB.

10 Sep An Operation BAT crew on routine patrol diverted to Grand Bahama Island to assist customs in a chase. The target aircraft landed to transfer its cargo of cocaine to a van. However, the Operation BAT UH-1N landed at almost the same time and the police brought the Piper Aztec under fire. It executed a dramatic, through the trees escape, jettisoned its cargo offshore, and flew to Fort Lauderdale, Florida where customs agents arrested the people on board and seized the aircraft. On Grand Bahama Island the police arrested one person and seized 191 kilos of cocaine. Later a fisherman recovered another 63 kilos of cocaine from the water. The prisoner reported the cocaine, with a wholesale value of $13,208,000, was to go to a major drug violator.

20 Sep The AC-130H aircrew, commanded by Major Clement W. Twiford, received the William H. Tunner award for action during Urgent Fury.

28 Sep A general purpose aircraft shop was completed at Hurlburt at a cost of $1,858,000.

5 Oct After 11 years of service, Hurlburt's GCA was decommissioned in conjunction with the installation of a solid state instrument landing system.

8-17 Oct Cope Thunder 85-1. This exercise ended for the 1 SOW with a Class A aircraft accident when an HH-53H Pave Low crashed in the Philippines killing the entire crew on 17 October.

1984 (cont)

18 Oct — An Operation BAT aircraft transported 211 pounds of captured cocaine to Nassau.

24 Oct — An AC-130H of the 16th SOS illuminated the Bob Hope Benefit Show at Fort Walton Beach for Mr. Hope's entrance and opening remarks.

29 Oct — The 20th SOS accomplished high altitude UH-1N training in Costa Rica.

29 Oct-23 Nov — The 8th SOS participated with the 1st SOS from Clark AB, Philippines in Exercise Foal Eagle 84 in the Republic of Korea. Pave Low helicopters from the 20th SOS had been scheduled for Foal Eagle, but the fatal accident at Cope Thunder in the Philippines reversed that decision. The 8th SOS accomplished air refuelings, night vision goggle operations, infiltrations, HSLLADS resupplies, in-theater transport, forward area ground refueling, dummy Fulton recoveries, and exfiltrations.

31 Oct — Alteration and addition to the Hurlburt Recreation Center was completed at a cost of $754,200.

13-17 Nov — The 16th and 20th SOSs deployed aircraft to Pope AFB for a demo for U.S. Congressmen and the Chief of Staff USAF. Joint training followed.

14 Nov — A 20th SOS HH-53H carrying 15 people suffered a Class A mishap while deployed to Pope AFB, but fortunately there were no fatalities. Lieutenant Colonel Bo Johnson executed an autorotation landing despite very low prospects of success following catastrophic engine failure.

25 Nov — The Air Force Operation BAT contingent embarked on Operation Hat Trick which was a major surge effort through Christmas Eve by all participants engaged in Operation

1984 (cont)

BAT. There was no adverse effect on the helicopter force which was provided a third UH-1N and a total of five crews. That augmentation virtually eliminated instances when crew day or equipment precluded providing support.

5 Dec — The wing provided a static display for the Peruvian Center for Advanced Military Studies students.

10 Dec — Resurfacing the operational apron at Hurlburt was completed at a cost of $3,473,200.

10 Dec — The chase of a drugger aircraft exploited a new technique in this war on drugs. The 20th SOS Operation BAT crew worked with a customs aircraft in conducting a chase which took them to Bimini and on to Seabring, Florida. Police made two arrests and seized the aircraft and its load of marijuana. The UH-1N recovered at Homestead AFB for fuel with Bahamian police on board. For the first time, an Operation BAT helicopter landed in the United States with Bahamians on board. This new arrangement, approved in early October, meant that they could conduct pursuits which previously would have been terminated because of the helicopter's short range.

14 Dec — The Operation BAT aircraft intercepted a 36-foot Mirage Ocean Racer boat with two 400 horsepower motors. The boat crew dumped about 40 bales of marijuana and headed for Bimini. Chase aircraft from the DEA, Customs Service, and the Coast Guard, as well as the 20th SOS, followed the boat for 12 hours until it ran out of fuel and the police made three arrests.

31 Dec — Operation BAT summary. Beginning April 1983, Operation BAT personnel flew 2,117.6 hours on 2,054 sorties in which 4,038 pounds of cocaine and 222,967 pounds of marijuana had been seized. In addition, 1,121 bales of marijuana

1984 (cont)

and 28 packages of cocaine had been jettisoned at sea and 9,000 pounds of marijuana had burned in aircraft crashes. Twenty vessels and 28 aircraft had been captured and six aircraft had crashed while being chased.

31 Dec — The 1 SOW inventory stood at ten AC-130H, six MC-130E, five UH-1N and seven HH-53H aircraft. These figures reflected the tragic loss of two HH-53Hs, one UH-1N, and nine aircrew members during the year. Those men who lost their lives in the service of their country were Captain Dyke H. Whitbeck, First Lieutenant Thomas L. Hamby, and Staff Sergeant Edgardo L. Acha in the UH-1N and Major James S. Prowell, Captain Michael W. Skeen, Technical Sergeants Thomas M. Ortiz, Jr., and Wayne A. Johnson, Staff Sergeant Robert G. Barker, and Sergeant Max B. Lincks, Jr., in one HH-53H crash. On the brighter side was the accomplishment of the HH-53H aircraft commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bo Johnson, who, following a catastrophic engine failure near Pope AFB, executed an autorotation landing which quite probably saved the lives of all 15 men on board. Due to the low probability of a successful autorotation under the circumstances, the 1 SOW Vice Commander described the achievement as an "extraordinary feat of airmanship."

1985

12-17 Jan — The 8th Special Operations Squadron deployed to Pope AFB in support of a classified exercise in which the crew planned and executed a long-range infiltration into Nellis AFB, Nevada and two exfiltrations of the same troops.

16 Jan-5 Feb — The 8th SOS supported Exercise Brim Frost with one aircraft, two aircrews, and mission planners. In this every-other-year exercise in Alaska, the squadron tested U.S. radar defenses with low-level coastal penetrations.

1985 (cont)

The 8th SOS personnel contributed significantly to Brim Frost planning and Alaskan Air Command Operation Plan execution. While deployed to Alaska, the aircrews tested night vision goggles on ice and snow.

22 Jan — Brim Frost. The 16th SOS joined the 8th SOS with two gunships and command and control personnel for this exercise in Alaska.

12-23 Feb — Two MC-130Es deployed to Guam supporting a classified mission. They demonstrated a rapid deployment capability and their ability to execute with a minimum mission planning team.

19-21 Feb — The 16th SOS provided one crew for a Special Operations Planning Exercise demonstration for the Scientific Advisory Board.

25 Feb-20 Mar — Five HH-53H Pave Low helicopters with 73 crew members participated in mountain training out of Dobbins AFB, Georgia.

12 Apr — The CINCMAC announced the award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to the 1st Special Operations Wing for the period 1 May 1982 to 30 April 1984. This was the wing's sixth AFOUA. During the period of the award, the Wing labored under almost overwhelming taskings of over 250 operational and training missions in less than two years. They included Flintlock 82 and 83, Foal Eagle 82, Bright Star 83, Knight March, Knight Venture, Brim Frost 83, Kindle Liberty, Granite Scar, Celestial Strike, Demo II and III, Casino Dancer, Southern Knight, Big Squirt, and a great number of flying demonstrations and static displays. The 16th SOS

1985 (cont)

participated with distinction in Joint Chiefs of Staff missions in Central America and both the 8th and 16th SOSs played significant roles in the Grenada invasion (Urgent Fury) while the 20th SOS filled a need which no other Air Force organization could in Operation BAT. In that operation the 20th flew over 1,100 sorties which resulted in the capture or destruction of over $1.5 billion in drugs, vessels, vehicles, aircraft, equipment, and weapons.

17 Mar–4 Apr — In support of a JCS-directed exercise, the 8th SOS deployed one MC-130E and staff personnel to Amman, Jordan where they infilled and exfilled U.S. and Jordanian special forces. They planned and flew missions which helped the Jordanians evaluate their air defense network.

20 Apr–11 May — Elusive Time. From 20-30 April, 8th SOS personnel worked at Pope AFB planning low-level routes at Nellis AFB and from 30 April to 11 May, one MC-130E flew the missions in conjunction with MAC tactical airlift aircraft. Elusive Time provided data on the 8th's ability to infiltrate forces in a dense electronics environment.

28 Apr–12 May — Five HH-53H aircraft and 42 crew members deployed to Kirtland AFB, New Mexico for mountain training.

12 May — The wing provided an aerial demonstration at Eglin AFB for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Air Chief's tour.

15–17 May — The Scientific Advisory Board visited Hurlburt and observed a Special Operations Planning Exercise.

1–30 Jun — The 16th SOS supported a test of a palletized inertial navigation system by providing an aircraft.

14 Jun — A static display was presented to former Hurlburt commanders.

1985 (cont)

17-22 Jun Label Ocean was an escape and evasion exercise in which one crew participated to acquaint them with the problems they would face if forced down in hostile territory.

11 Jul Lieutenant Colonel James L. Hobson, Jr., and his Combat Talon crew received the Mackay Trophy for FY 1984 for their actions in Urgent Fury.

12 Jul Colonel Leonard A. Butler assumed command of the 1 SOW.

21 Jul The 1 SOW was nominated for another AFOUA which, if it had been awarded, would have covered activities during the period 1 May 1984 to 30 April 1985. The Wing's heavy workload continued with over 25 JCS-directed operational and training exercises including Flintlock, Bright Star, Foal Eagle, Brim Frost, Team Spirit, Bold Eagle, Eight Falcons, Gallant Eagle, Labrador Strike, Universal Trek, Ocean Venture, and numerous flying demonstrations and static displays. The justification for the AFOUA also included the extended gunship deployment to Panama, the training of El Salvadoran aircrews, the Operation BAT war on drugs, working with Jordanian and Canadian aircrews, and developing and testing new tactics and equipment.

27 Jul-25 Aug Bright Star. This annual exercise in which the 8th SOS worked out of Cairo West airport included missions in and to Egypt, Jordan, Oman, and Somalia plus ECM and air intercept missions against a U.S. aircraft carrier task force in the Mediterranean Sea.

15 Aug-4 Sep One 8th SOS member participated in the Ulchi Focus Lens Command Post exercise at Osan AB, Korea.

23-26 Aug One MC-130E went to Plattsburgh AFB for joint training with the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne. They flew low-level routes in New York, practiced rapid on and

1985 (cont)

off-load of Army troops, and dropped personnel at Moore AAF.

26-30 Aug
10-13 Sep
8-11 Oct — Personnel from the 8th SOS advised the Lockheed Corporation and other contractors working on special operations forces improvements. They provided the contractors with guidance on avionics, ECM, and aircraft configuration.

1-20 Sep — After five HH-53Hs evacuated Hurlburt due to a hurricane threat, they further deployed to Boise, Idaho to participate in a 1 SOW operational readiness evaluation.

21 Sep-
1 Oct — This rather unusual tasking called for the 8th SOS to deploy to Osan AB, Korea to perform a Fulton STAR for the President of the Republic of Korea. The aircraft arrived on target within five seconds of the planned time.

30 Sep — The 20th SOS and the 1 SOW concluded their involvement in Operation BAT.

1 Oct — All 1 SOW UH-1N Huey helicopters were officially transferred to Homestead AFB. They took with them the Operation BAT mission which the 20th SOS had handled since April 1983.

2-10 Oct — One Combat Talon deployed to Torrejon AB, Spain to support joint U.S. and Spanish special forces training. They flew a number of HALO drops from altitudes up to 25,000 feet.

11 Oct — The 8th SOS flew a low-level route to a blacked-out landing followed by a rapid off-load of a SOCCT with their bikes and trikes for ground mobility.

12 Oct-
13 Nov — Foal Eagle 85. One MC-130E, two crews, and planning personnel deployed to Taegu, Korea for this, the largest

1985 (cont)

unconventional warfare exercise in the Pacific theater. The 8th SOS crews flew night, mountain terrain-following missions, dropped U.S. and Republic of Korea special forces, and penetrated Korean air defenses.

11-13 Nov The 16th SOS supplied a gunship for ECM tactics development at China Lake Naval Air Station, California.

2-10 Dec Exercise Purple Duck was the nickname for a 1 SOW operational readiness inspection. It involved four MC-130Es, four AC-130Hs, and all the aircraft assets of the 20th SOS at Biggs AAF, El Paso, Texas. During the ORI, the 8th SOS executed a medical evacuation of an expectant mother to the premature baby facility at Keesler AFB. That action prevented the development of complications.

31 Dec The Wing's aircraft inventory consisted of ten AC-130Hs, six MC-130Es, one C-130E, and eight HH-53Hs for a total of 25. This reflected the loss of the UH-1Ns by transfer to Homestead AFB.

1986

10 Jan In a Program Management Document the Air Staff directed the upgrade of ten H-53s to the Pave Low III Enhanced or MH-53J configuration. An additional aircraft was added to the program in May and by the end of calendar year 1986 the program was funded at $59.6 million with completion scheduled for fiscal year 1988. The prototype arrived at the Pensacola Naval Air Rework Facility on 4 August 1986. The "enhancement" included an integrated inertial navigation system, Doppler, and Global Positioning System navigation suite; improved radar and Forward Looking Infrared Radar; a night vision goggle heads up display with improved instrument lighting; internal fuel bladders

1986 (cont)

to increase range; better defensive systems and weapons; and improved secure communications.

15-21 Jan — One AC-130H from 15-17 January and two MC-130Es from 19-21 January supported Army Ranger training at Fort Bragg. Productive training resulted because more than the minimum number of crew members deployed and conducted upgrade and continuation training sorties between taskings by the "customer."

29-31 Jan — A gunship firepower demonstration at Fort Sill, Oklahoma which the 16th SOS understood was only for Army personnel working on ammunition enhancements for the AC-130H was, without notice, opened to community civilians and news media.

10 Mar-1 Apr — Team Spirit 86. The 16th SOS deployed two gunships to Korea for this annual exercise. They logged 86.5 hours on deployment, 37.2 hours on 12 employment sorties, and 78.9 hours on redeployment. The long overwater and overland distances between Hurlburt and Korea provided good navigation training and air refueling proficiency opportunities; however, they were not allowed to fire on the Koon Ni Range for fear, on the part of the Koreans, that the gunships would destroy the smudge pots they used to mark targets. The 1 SOW deployed 119 people who endured five enroute stops, four aircraft changes, three bus rides, and 53 hours of nonstop travel.

16-21 Mar — An HH-53H and a 12-man maintenance team deployed to Norfolk Naval Air Station on 16 March and to the USS Saipan the following day to test and develop workable maintenance procedures for helicopter shipboard operations.

1986 (cont)

24 Mar — Powerful Gaze. This exercise had been known about since October 1985, but the 1 SOW had not been scheduled as a player. With five days notice in March 1986, Hurlburt HH-53Hs replaced Army and Air Force UH-60s which had been grounded. Two 20th SOS helicopters rushed home from Dobbins where they were engaged in mountain training, two returned from Kirtland where they had been part of a radar improvement test, and one engaged in shipboard training was also recalled. An all-out effort went into preparing the aircraft, aircrew, and maintenance personnel packages for deployment to Pope AFB early on 24 March.

31 Mar–4 Apr — Following Exercise Powerful Gaze, 41 aircrew members from the 20th SOS and 40 maintenance personnel from the 1 SOW deployed to Norfolk Naval Air Station for shipboard operations. The training, interrupted earlier in the month on the USS Saipan, was completed on the USS Iwo Jima.

2 Apr — One gunship flew a live fire demonstration for a camera crew from NBC Nightly News.

8 Apr–23 May — Flintlock 86. The 8th SOS provided two Combat Talons for this annual European exercise. They were configured for ECM, NVG operations, Fulton STAR, in-flight refueling, HSLLADS, and personnel airdrops and also carried full loads of chaff. The Talons only paticipated in sub-exercises Oesling in Belgium and Luxembourg and Schwarzes Pferd in Germany.

22-24 Apr — Hammer of Justice. An AC-130H provided dry-fire close air support for Army Rangers at Redstone, Alabama. The aircrew gained valuable experience flying five-hour sorties on three consecutive nights for a total of 15.6 hours. Each sortie began and ended at Hurlburt.

1986 (cont)

22 Apr–12 May — Two 16th SOS gunships participated in Ocean Venture 86 working out of Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station, Puerto Rico.

13–23 May — Elated Cyclone. This exercise involved the 20th SOS in their most challenging operation since Exercise Eight Falcons in June 1984. After intensive planning and coordination at Fort Bragg, five HH-53H Pave Lows, personnel, and support equipment deployed to the Southwest CONUS. They operated under bare base, field conditions at all locations with an exercise scenario designed to tax all personnel and aircraft to their limits. Sadly, the exercise was marred by a Pave Low accident on 21 May which killed Major Richard C. Brims.

3–9 Jun — Quiz Icing. A Combat Talon deployed to Pope AFB on 3 June for two days of intensive mission planning by the aircrew with intelligence, assault force, and other personnel. The aircraft launched from Pope AFB early on 5 June and after two air refuelings airdropped Army personnel at an overseas location. The aircraft flew a very demanding 14 1/2 hours on this mission. They redeployed using ground refuelings on 8 and 9 June compared to 14 1/2 hours by in-flight refueling.

15 Jun–16 Aug — Five MH-53Hs deployed to Kirtland AFB for the purpose of upgrading mission-ready crews and to verify new formation procedures for special operations helicopters.

11 Jul–9 Aug — Gallant Eagle 86. This joint field training exercise provided an excellent simulated combat environment to exercise deployment, rapid setup, and training in a desert environment. The Wing operated at two locations with an Air Force Special Operations Base at Lemore Naval Air Station, California and a Wing Operations Center at March AFB. The AFSOB, commanded by the 2nd Air Division

1986 (cont)

Commander, Colonel William R. Mainord, consisted of 61 officers and 250 enlisted while WOC manning was 50 maintenance, 42 aircrew, and 10 staff personnel. The 1 SOW deployed two MC-130Es to Lemore and two AC-130Hs to March. They flew missions on the Twenty-Nine Palms Range, California, at Dugway, Utah, and to San Clemente Island, California.

28 Aug — Colonel Hanson L. Scott assumed command of the 1 SOW.

29 Aug — The Commander-in-Chief Readiness Command announced that the Joint Warfare Center would be located at Hurlburt Field.

11 Sep — Static display at Hurlburt for the Air Command and Staff College International Officers' tour.

19 Sep — Hurlburt personnel had not forgotten them and provided a static display for Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day.

28 Sep — A capabilities exercise at Fort Bragg which required precise navigation accuracy demonstrated the Pave Low's ability to operate successfully at night.

29 Sep — Congress passed the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act which became law this date. Among the provisions was the creation of the Special Operations Command and an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. It appeared that special operations would receive increasing attention at the highest levels in the Department of Defense and especially in the Air Force.

30 Sep — The FY 1986 military construction program was significant. The contract amounts awarded and in progress totaled $11,095,499. The largest single project at $4.5 million, the

1986 (cont)

Consolidated Support Center, had been approved so old facilities could be demolished and activities consolidated. However, before the Wing and Base activities occupied the building, Headquarters 23rd Air Force, in 1987, moved from Scott AFB into the CSC. The FY 1986 minor construction program was also large. Projects in this category awarded and in progress ranged from $2,600 to $437,895 for a total of slightly over $8 million. The MCP and minor construction programs were paid for with money appropriated by the Congress. However, there were other improvements and repairs to the physical plant at Hurlburt Field which in FY 1986 were sizeable enough to note. Ranging from $2,000 to $165,461 these nine projects awarded, or in progress, cost almost $500,000 in non-appropriated funds generated by the users of the facilities. These and other benefits to the area placed the economic impact of Hurlburt Field at over $117 million. Also, at the end of FY 1986, the land on which Hurlburt Field had been developed which had originally cost the government $22,200 was valued at $5,676,300. This mirrored the inflation in land values which this area of the Florida Gulf Coast had experienced in recent years.

30 Sep — The FY 1986 military payroll amounted to $109,349,926 out of the total Hurlburt Field payroll of $120,175,125. Air Force civilian employees earned $7,905,468.

2 Oct — Hurlburt Field provided a static display and live fire demonstration for the Fourth NATO/Commonwealth Representatives Air Transport Trials and Development Symposium.

19-22 Oct — Three HH-53Hs deployed to NAS Jacksonville, Florida for annual training to qualify and requalify personnel in shipboard operations.

31 Oct — Forward Look. This was the name given to the 23rd AF proposal to reorganize special operations. A briefing this

1986 (cont)

date envisioned an increase of 120 special operations aircraft and 3,000 personnel worldwide by the year 1999. Ultimately Forward Look would result, among other changes, in the inactivation of 2nd AD and the assignment of the 1 SOW directly to 23rd AF which occurred on 1 February 1987. The 2nd AD flag came down on the last Friday and the last duty day of the month, 30 January, in a ceremony which the 23rd Air Force Vice Commander attended.

Oct 1986–Jun 1992 — The planned Phase I of the Combat Talon I improvement program identified in MAC Statement of Need 05-83 included all 14 Air Force MC-130Es. Phase I involved providing the aircraft with dual precision INS, dual mission computers, the WJ-1840 panoramic receiver, a digital message device group for data burst, and 60/90 KVA generators. Phase II, from December 1989 to September 1993, called for three additional modifications - the ALQ-117 Pave Mint radar jammer, the ALE-40 flare and chaff system, and the AAR-44 infrared warning receiver. Funding through FY 1992 totaled almost $200 million.

7-27 Nov — The 8th SOS participated again in Exercise Foal Eagle, an annual exercise in Korea.

23-27 Nov — Live and dry fire missions were flown on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico to train Army Rangers.

30 Nov–5 Dec — One AC-130H and crew participated in defensive tactics training at China Lake, California.

31 Dec — During CY 1986 the 1 SOW generated 123 tasking orders calling for the employment of 256 airframes.

1986 (cont)

31 Dec — The 1 SOW inventory stood at 31 with ten AC-130H, six MC-130E, two C-130E, and 13 of H-53 aircraft of various models.

1987

22 Jan — Colonel Hanson L. Scott, 1 SOW Commander, was notified of his nomination to Brigadier General.

1 Feb — The 1 SOW was reassigned from 2nd AD which inactivated to 23rd AF. Also, Det 1, 2nd AD became Det 1, 1 SOW.

2-7 Feb — The 20th SOS sent a helicopter to Robins AFB for a titanium rotor blade test.

13 Mar — Detachment #1, 1 SOW at Howard AFB, Panama deployed to Ecuador on an earthquake relief mission. They flew 189.7 hours and 117 sorties transporting 576 passengers and 91,935 pounds of cargo.

13-15 Mar — The 16th SOS provided one aircraft and crew for a dry-fire demonstration, ECM testing, and a static display at Wright-Patterson AFB for key Air Force Systems Command personnel.

18-22 Mar — The 16th SOS provided both live and dry-fire close air support at Yuma Marine Air Station, Arizona.

20 Mar-14 Apr — Team Spirit 87 was supported by two gunships and three crews in Korea.

23-27 Mar — The 20th SOS deployed three aircraft to Pope AFB for Army Ranger sustainment training. The 8th SOS provided the same support from 24 Mar - 2 Apr and the 16th SOS from 24 Mar - 13 Apr.

1987 (cont)

25 Mar–7 Apr — The 16th SOS provided an aircraft and crew in the Hurlburt area supporting A-10/AC-130 tactics development on nine sorties.

5–10 Apr — Three aircraft and crews from the 16th SOS participated in joint close air support training with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg.

17 Apr–21 May — The wing participated in Exercise Flintlock in Europe with one MC-130 and operations and support personnel plus people from the 1723rd Combat Control Squadron and Det 75 of the 6th Weather Wing.

22 Apr — A static display of wing aircraft was provided for the Scientific Advisory Board.

4 May — Det 1, 1 SOW at Howard AFB, Panama flew a MEDEVAC mission to Ecuador. They flew 22 sorties, 19.9 hours, 54 passengers, and 800 pounds of cargo.

8 May — The 8th SOS flew a long-range resupply mission from Hurlburt to Honduras as part of Exercise Solid Shield.

13–30 May — Detachment #1, 1 SOW at Howard AFB deployed to Costa Rica for high altitude training.

21 May — Captain Bob Kadlec was named Air Force Flight Surgeon of the Year for 1986.

4 Jun — The wing provided a static display for the Chief of Special Operations, Korea and senior PACAF Intelligence officers.

5–8 Jun — The 16th SOS sent one aircraft to Ontario, Canada for the London International Airshow.

1987 (cont)

25 Jun — A Little Rock AFB missile wing tour of Hurlburt viewed a gunship static display.

13 Jul — Colonel Dale E. Stovall assumed command of the 1 SOW. He succeeded Colonel (Brigadier General Selectee) Hanson L. Scott who became Vice Commander of 23rd AF.

17 Jul-14 Aug — The 20th SOS deployed three aircraft to Knoxville, TN and Norfolk, VA for mountain and water training.

31 Jul-9 Aug — The 16th SOS engaged in low-level training at St. Joseph, MO and Davis-Monthan AFB.

3-7 Aug — The 16th SOS conducted a firepower demonstration for the Army 2nd Armored Division.

15-28 Aug — The 16th SOS participated in joint interoperability training with the Navy at San Diego, CA.

18 Aug — A static display and flyby was executed at an Eglin AFB memorial service.

24-26 Aug — The 20th SOS deployed to MacDill AFB for weapons and tactics training.

24-28 Aug — The 20th SOS sent three aircraft to Lawson AAF, GA for Ranger sustainment training and the 16th SOS conducted bilateral training in support of the 1724th Combat Control Squadron.

27 Aug — The wing presented a static display for the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee staff.

3 Sep — The wing provided a static display and demo for the Commander-in-Chief U.S. Special Operations Command.

1987 (cont)

27 Sep–8 Oct — The 20th SOS deployed two aircraft to Pope AFB for a search and rescue exercise.

1 Oct — The 1720th Special Tactics Group was activated. Assigned to it were the 1723rd Combat Control Squadron at Hurlburt, the 1724th Special Tactics Squadron at Fort Bragg, and the 1730th Pararescue Squadron at Eglin.

15 Oct — Mr. Bob Hope performed in Fort Walton Beach with the proceeds going to the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home in Fort Walton. This was Mr. Hope's fifth benefit performance in this area.

15 Oct — Detachment #1, 1 SOW at Howard AFB concluded its flying mission.

20 Oct–13 Nov — The 8th SOS deployed to Korea for Exercise Foal Eagle with one MC-130E, the Air Force Special Operations Base Commander, four AFSOB staff, four combat controllers, two NCOs from Intelligence, four Special Operations Weather Team members, 19 aircrew, 13 personnel from maintenance, and four Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force augmentees.

30 Oct–19 Nov — The 16th SOS provided two aircraft and three crews for an operational readiness exercise at Volk Field, Wisconsin.

1-7 Nov — The 16th SOS supported an Army Ranger Battalion in close air support training at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico.

1-19 Nov — The 20th SOS deployed six aircraft to Martinsburg, WV for Exercise Casino Gambit.

1 Dec — The Comptroller Division became the 834th Comptroller Squadron.

1987 (cont)

6-9 Dec — The 16th SOS supported the 10th Mountain Division in training at Little Rock AFB.

31 Dec — Detachment #1, 1 SOW at Howard AFB, Panama reported all actions complete in its deactivation.

1988

9-23 Jan — One MC-130, two AC-130, and six MH-53 aircraft participated in joint readiness training. Also, 75 maintenance people deployed to support this training.

14 Jan — An HC-130 of the 301st Air Reserve Rescue Squadron at Homestead AFB suffered bleed air duct and wing leading edge damage shortly after departing Hurlburt Field. Returning to Hurlburt and after inspection, the decision was made to accomplish the extensive repairs here rather than at an Air Logistics Center. This was a major accomplishment for wing maintenance.

26 Feb-3 Mar — Three MH-53s conducted mountain training in Colorado and Washington supported by 25 maintenance personnel.

24 Mar-12 Apr — Two AC-130s supported by 40 maintenance people participated in Exercise Team Spirit in Korea.

2 Jul — The 1 SOW provided AC-130 objectives for Exercise Gallant Knight 88. They included aerial refueling, ECM training, armed reconnaissance, close air support, troops in contact, fighter escort, forward air control, dry and live-fire operations, helicopter escort, landing zone survey, and night base defense.

5-15 Jul — Six MH-53s conducted mountain training and shipboard operations.

1988 (cont)

7 Sep–10 Oct	Four MH-53s participated in Exercise Alaskan Husky supported by 29 people from maintenance.
9–11 Sep	Aircraft evacuated Hurlburt due to the threat of a hurricane which did not strike the base.
15–24 Sep	Four MH-53s deployed to Panama for an exercise, Pave Jungle.
13 Oct–16 Nov	Two AC-130s and one MC-130 participated in Exercise Foal Eagle 88 in Korea. This was the first use of gunships in this annual exercise. The deployment period for the 1 SOW was 24 Oct - 24 Nov.
20 Oct	The only Class A aircraft accident of the year occurred during a helicopter airland exfiltration from the Fort Pickens, Virginia complex. Damage to the aircraft exceeded $6.7 million from a hard landing, but there were no fatalities.
4–18 Nov	One AC-130 conducted bilateral training at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico supported by 25 people from Hurlburt maintenance.
19 Dec	The House Armed Services Morale, Welfare, and Recreation panel released the new Hurlburt Field commissary for construction award.

1989

9–13 Jan	An AC-130 engaged in an airdrop test at Fort Bragg for Hurlburt's Special Missions Operational Test and Evaluation Center.
9–23 Jan	An MC-130 conducted heavy equipment drops on the Eglin Reservation in Exercise Gothic Bonus.

1989 (cont)

15-22 Jan Four Hurlburt Field explosive ordnance disposal personnel supported the Presidental inauguration by providing protection for the President and Vice President and their families.

18 Jan-14 Feb The HQ MAC Inspector General team conducted an Operational Readiness Inspection of the 1 SOW at widely deployed locations and under extremely adverse weather conditions. They utilized Exercise Jaguar Bite for the ORI on which the wing earned an overall rating of Excellent. Jaguar Bite was a special operations readiness exercise coordinated by the JCS and sponsored by the U.S. Special Operations Command. This was a first for the USSOCOM.

23 Jan The Hurlburt EOD team responded to a Pensacola Police Department request for assistance. Two suspected bombs turned out to be expended Jet Assisted Takeoff bottles.

20 Feb A C-141 on final approach to Hurlburt crashed north of the runway killing all on board. The flight originated at Norton AFB.

16-28 Mar During this period, an AC-130 and crew supported open houses at Norton and Mather AFBs before flying to Hill AFB for electronic countermeasures training.

19-25 Mar Deck landing qualifications training was conducted on the USS Charleston by three MH-53s.

8 Apr A gunship on a local training mission was diverted to intercept a suspected drug smuggling aircraft. It was located and tracked by the AC-130 and the crew provided valuable information to the Customs Service.

18 Apr The 9th Special Operations Squadron flying the HC-130, the 55th Special Operations Squadron flying the MH-60, and the

1989 (cont)

655th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron which supported the 9th SOS and the 55th SOS all transferred to the 1 SOW. They remained at Eglin AFB.

24-28 Apr — For the first time, aircraft from all five of the 1 SOW flying squadrons participated together in an exercise. Wing involvement in this capabilities exercise was two AC-130s, two MC-130s, four MH-53s, three MH-60s, and two HC-130s.

25 Apr-5 May — The 8th SOS participated in bilateral training in Honduras.

April — Personnel from the 1 SOW deployed to RAF Woodbridge to investigate aircraft cracks which threatened to ground the MH-53 fleet.

1 May — A tornado struck Eglin AFB and did considerable damage to buildings and to two 55th SOS helicopters. Losses exceeded $1 million.

2 May — Two MC-130 aircraft dropped combat rubber raiding craft at Vacapes.

3 May — An HC-130 responded to a 1 SOW Command Post request for immediate assistance in recovering a student pilot whose F-15 crashed off the coast of Florida. A 20th SOS MH-53 and a 55th SOS MH-60 also participated in the search which failed to locate either the aircraft or the pilot.

14 May-17 Jun — Exercise East Hills 89 located overseas was a four-phase joint/combined special operations exercise in which the 1 SOW played.

15 May — Operation Promote Liberty ended.

1989 (cont)

4-10 Jun — Four MH-53s from the 20th SOS conducted DLQ training on the USS Charleston at Vacapes. Also, one HC-130 provided air refueling for the helicopters.

14 Jun — The Pinecastle (Florida) Range again provided ECM training for a 1 SOW gunship.

21 Jun — Colonel George A. Gray III assumed command of the 1 SOW vice Colonel Dale E. Stovall. Major General Robert B. Patterson, 23rd AF Commander, presided at the change of command.

22 Jun — While on a local training mission, an AC-130 diverted to assist in the search for a downed civilian aircraft, but without success.

30 Jun — The 1345th Student Squadron inactivated at Hurlburt Field. Students who had been in this squadron became the responsibility of the units to which they were assigned for training.

30 Jun — Headquarters MAC constituted and activated the 834th Mission Support Squadron. The new squadron was formed by assigning to it the Consolidated Base Personnel Office, the Education Office, Social Actions, Information Management, and the Family Support Center.

June — During June, Propulsion Branch specialists deployed to the Virgin Islands to recover a C-130 and assisted Dobbins AFB with a nose gear box change on an MH-53.

19 Jul — The quick actions of Staff Sergeants Brian K. Mitchell and Bruce L. Brackett saved a Combat Talon from loss by fire.

4 Aug — Groundbreaking was held for the new 71,500 square-foot Consolidated Support Center scheduled for completion in

1989 (cont)

June 1991. This building would allow for the consolidation of base functions and the destruction of sub-standard facilities.

10 Aug — The 55th SOS deployed four MH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters to Ethiopia by C-5 to search for Congressman Leland of Texas and his party. They had disappeared on a flight to a refugee camp. Later, two HC-130 tankers of the 9th SOS also deployed on this mission. On 13 August, the second day of the search, the 55th located the crash site in which all on the aircraft died.

21 Sep — Hurricane Hugo struck South Carolina causing great devastation. Hurlburt Field assisted in recovery both in South Carolina and St. Croix.

21 Sep-14 Oct — This was the period of deployment through redeployment by HC-130s from the 9th SOS participating in Exercise Frequent Storm 89 in Alaska. They trained in day and night operations in mountainous terrain.

24 Sep — One gunship flew an out-and-back mission to Fort Bragg for Army Rangers close air support training.

1 Oct — The Base Contracting Division changed its name to Operational Contracting and divided into three branches - Construction, Services, and Commodities.

12-15 Oct — One AC-130 conducted hot refueling/rearming testing at Ft. Campbell. Results of this test expanded gunship operational capabilities under austere field conditions.

20 Oct — The 2068th Communications Squadron won its third Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

1989 (cont)

31 Oct — Chief Master Sergeant Robert Young retired. He had been the last enlisted Accounting and Finance Officer in the Air Force.

31 Oct-9 Nov — For Exercise Foal Eagle 89 in Korea the 1 SOW provided two AC-130H, one MC-130E, a Wing Operations Center, and other augmentation.

22 and 27 Nov — Local live-fire missions were flown so audio-visual personnel could film the gunship in action. One AC-130 fired while another served as the photography platform.

27 Nov — The Core Automated Maintenance System was activated at Hurlburt. The system managed maintenance equipment and personnel and provided data for other commands and agencies relative to aircraft, missile, and communications-electronics maintenance.

5 Dec — The 16th SOS flew a five-hour mission involving formation air refueling.

12 Dec — An out-and-back mission to the Pinecastle ECM range by the 16th SOS provided the crew with valuable threat training.

15 Dec — The new state of the art digital switch telephone system went operational at Hurlburt Field. It replaced a system which had been installed in the early 1950s and had become most difficult to maintain and impossible to expand to meet Hurlburt needs. The cost of the new system exceeded $2 million.

16 Dec — The National Assembly of Panama under Manuel Noriega declared that Panama was at war with the United States.

1989 (cont)

17 Dec President George Bush authorized the execution of Operation Just Cause which had several objectives. They were to capture General Noriega and deliver him to the United States to face drug charges; the protection of American personnel and United States interests under the Panama Canal treaty; the restoration of democracy in Panama; and the establishment of the elected government which had been prevented by Noriega.

18 Dec Aircraft of the 1 SOW from the 8th, 9th, 16th, and 20th SOSs began to deploy for Operation Just Cause.

19 Dec A C-5 airlifted MH-60s of the 55th SOS while later in the day Talons and additional gunships flew directly to assigned targets in Panama.

20 Dec Operation Just Cause began with AC-130H gunship attacks on Noriega's Comandancia and coordinated strikes on other targets in Panama. The 1 SOW also successfully provided support at diverse locations such as the Torrijos/Tocumen International Airport, Paitilla Airfield, Colon, the Rio Pacora bridge, and the Rio Hato airport. At Rio Hato an MC-130E provided refueling and rearming support for Army helicopter gunships. Also, one Combat Talon at Rio Hato experienced propeller damage and executed the first three-engine C-130 short field, night vision goggle takeoff. The massive air and ground assault in Just Cause effectively defeated General Noriega and his Panamanian Defense Forces in a matter of hours so that by morning only scattered resistance remained. The other unresolved issue was Noriega's capture. For the first time in its history, the Panama Canal was closed due to military action.

22 Dec An AC-130H controlled the surrender of from 200 to 300 Panamanian Defense Force troops at Penonome Airfield. The aircrew illuminated the field and directed the PDF to

1989 (cont)

form up shoulder to shoulder to await the formal surrender to ground forces. This showed the respect they had for the gunship.

24 Dec — General Noriega sought refuge in the Vatican Embassy in Panama City and avoided capture temporarily. An AC-130 orbited the Embassy to prevent his escape.

25 Dec — Among the missions flown on this day was the MC-130 flight to David, Panama to airlift Lieutenant Colonel Del Cid to Howard AFB. The runway at David had a crater which reduced its usable length to only 3,900 feet, but Colonel George Gray, 1 SOW Commander, landed successfully, picked up this important prisoner, and delivered him to Howard. Lieutenant Colonel Del Cid was then flown by C-130 to the United States.

29 Dec — The 1 SOW executed a search and rescue of 19 international students who were stranded on El Porvenir Island in the Gulf of San Blas. They had severe dysentery and one person had a heart problem. Despite bad weather, two MH-53s medevaced the six Australians, five Icelandics, one Dane, three Panamanians, and four Americans to Howard AFB for subsequent transport to Gorgas Army hospital and credit for 19 saves.

1990

3 Jan — General Noriega surrendered at the Vatican Embassy and was flown by helicopter to Howard AFB. From there an 8th SOS MC-130E flew him to Florida to stand trial on drug charges.

1 Feb — Just Cause sorties and flying hours totaled 515 and 1,317.4 respectively. All flying from the deployed location, Howard AFB, had been accomplished on schedule with no

1990 (cont)

ground or air aborts. One gunship which launched from Hurlburt Field could not fire its weapons and returned to base.

9 Feb — The 1 SOW reported its strength at Howard AFB at the pre-Just Cause level after approximately one month of Promote Liberty, the follow-on name for Just Cause.

16 Feb — All four maintenance squadrons, i.e., the 834th AGS, CRS, and EMS, and the 655th CAMS received MAC Maintenance Effectiveness awards for FY 1989.

1 Mar — The 655th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was redesignated as the 655th Special Operations Maintenance Squadron (SOMS).

15 Mar — The 1 SOW learned that the Chairman of the JCS approved award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for personnel who participated in Operation Just Cause from 20 December 1989 to 3 January 1990. Those who served in Panama including internal waters, territorial seas, and the airspace above and adjacent to Panama were entitled to the award. The Chairman also directed that units which participated in Just Cause were authorized the Expeditionary Streamer "Operation Just Cause" for display on their flagstaffs or guidons. The following local units qualified because they had one or more individuals who earned the Just Cause expeditionary medal: 1 SOW; 8th, 9th, 16th, 20th, and 55th SOSs; 655th CAMS; 834th AGS, CRS, EMS, Supply, Transportation, and Comptroller squadrons; 23rd AF; 1720th Special Tactics Group; and 1723rd Combat Control Squadron.

1 Apr — The 1723rd Combat Control Squadron was redesignated the 1723rd Special Tactics Squadron.

1990 (cont)

18 May — Captain Mark P. Transue's 16th SOS aircrew received the 1990 William H. Tunner Award as the outstanding MAC aircrew for its work in Operation Just Cause. Captain Transue's crew consisted of Captains Edward R. Appler, Philip G. Bradley, Scott E. Taylor, and John T. Virgione; First Lieutenants Dennis T. Beatty and Stephen D. O'Connor; Master Sergeants Steven W. Hicks and Frederick T. Kramer; Technical Sergeants Guy M. Davis II, William B. Walter, and Wayne S. White; Staff Sergeants Frank T. Demchenko, Bernard R. Gilbert, William T. Jackson, William L. Jennings, and Michael K. McCarthy, and Sergeant Barry M. Clark. By the end of the first day the crew had been airborne nearly 16 hours, had flown more than 4,000 miles, had accomplished three aerial refuelings, and had provided eight hours of close air support to ground forces. This award was given each year by the Air Force Association in honor of General Tunner.

21 May — The Air Force redesignated the 834th Combat Support Group as the 834th Air Base Wing effective this date and assigned it from 23rd AF to 21st AF. Also, the 834th Supply, Transportation, and Comptroller squadrons which had been assigned to the 1 SOW were reassigned to the 834th ABW. Those three squadrons plus the 834th Civil Engineering, Mission Support, Security Police, and Services squadrons which had been assigned to the 834th CSG were reassigned to 21st AF through the 834th ABW.

22 May — The Air Force established its 14th and newest major command when it redesignated 23rd Air Force as Air Force Special Operations Command of Hurlburt Field. The 1 SOW was reassigned from 23rd AF to AFSOC.

2 Aug — Iraq invaded neighbor Kuwait. The response to this aggression was nicknamed Desert Shield. Later the actual military defeat of Iraq was called Desert Storm.

1990 (cont)

5 Aug — President George Bush ordered ground, sea, and air forces to Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf as part of a multinational Desert Shield force which ultimately totaled in excess of 500,000 troops.

7 Aug — The 1 SOW began deploying forces until all flying and maintenance squadrons plus support personnel were in place for Desert Shield. During Desert Storm MC-130E aircraft dropped leaflets on Iraqi forces and for the first time the 1 SOW Talons dropped BLU-82 bombs in combat. The MH-53 Pave Lows teamed with Army helicopters to knock out Iraqi early warning sites and open a hole in their air defense system. They then served primarily in a combat search and rescue role as in the rescue of a downed Navy flier on 21 January 1991. The AC-130H Spectre gunships flew armed reconnaissance and destroyed targets identified during Desert Shield. The MH-60 Pave Hawks performed CSAR and inserted Special Forces behind enemy lines. Also, HC-130 tankers flew deep into Iraq to refuel 1 SOW helicopters in that high threat environment. Wing personnel and aircraft played a very active role in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. By 13 March 1991 they had flown over 10,000 hours and more than 5,000 sorties. During that time, the 1 SOW lost one AC-130H and its crew of 14 who were supporting Marine ground forces.

19 Sep — The Air Force Association selected the Air Force to receive the David C. Shilling Award for Flight for its total force effort in Operation Just Cause. The 1 SOW, as a significant participant in Just Cause, shared in the award and the 16th SOS was specifically recognized for its work at La Comandancia and at the international airport. The Shilling Award was the Association's top award in the field of flight.

1990 (cont)

20 Sep — Hurlburt's Temporary Lodging Facility consisting of 24 units was accepted for beneficial occupancy. This project cost $1,191,147.

10 Oct — Hurlburt's new back gate opened replacing Heritage Gate which had served that part of the base since 29 November 1975. Construction of the gate house, road, and other elements of the project was done by RED HORSE, the 823rd CES. The new entrance to the base was one part of an improved traffic pattern for access to developments on the east side of the runway including the new commissary and clinic.

6 Nov — Major General Thomas E. Eggers, AFSOC Commander, announced that the 1 SOW had won its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. This encompassed the period 1 May 1988 - 30 April 1990 and included accomplishments such as the search for Congressman Leland of Texas in Ethiopia, Operation Just Cause in Panama, and participation in over 75 JCS and USSOCOM directed exercises worldwide.

28 Nov — Headquarters AFSOC issued the special order identifying the subordinate and tenant units which shared in the 1 SOW's eighth AFOUA. They were the 8th, 9th, 16th, 20th, and 55th SOSs; 655th SOMS; 834th AGS, CRS, EMS, CSG, Civil Engineering, Comptroller, Mission Support, Security Police, Services, Supply, and Transportation squadrons; and the 1723rd Special Tactics, 2068th Communications, Det 8/1361st Audiovisual, Det 14/1600th Managinement Engineering, and Det 75/6th Weather squadrons.

7 Dec — Upgrade with the Enhanced Navigation System II completed on all home-station MH-53J aircraft.

1990 (cont)

7 Dec — An HC-130P returned from a Uniform Airway Refueling Receptacle Slipway modification program. This gave the aircraft the capability to be refueled in flight.

7 Dec — Another HC-130P returned from a Self-Contained Navigation System modification for a further improvement in capability.

8 Dec — Modification completed on four MH-53J Pave Lows. They received 600-gallon cargo bay fuel bladders.

8 Dec — Installation of a Global Positioning System completed on two AC-130Hs. By 21 December, all on-station gunships had the new GPS.

10 Dec — An MH-53J was modified with a Combined Altitude Radar Altimeter system.

12 Dec — Headquarters AFSOC nominated Captain Charles G. McMillan's gunship crew for the Mackay Trophy for Just Cause. They subsequently won this prestigious award for the most meritorious flight of the year.

21 Dec — The AC-130U, the newest model gunship, made its first flight from Rockwell International's Palmdale, California facilities to Edwards AFB.

1991

10 Jan — Instrumentation began on an AC-130H for testing the 40mm SABOT armor piercing shell to determine its effectiveness against hardened targets.

16 Jan — The air war began in what was named Desert Storm. The first coordinated aircraft missions were launched at 1550 hours Hurlburt time.

1991 (cont)

21 Jan A 20th SOS MH-53 Pave Low rescued a Navy pilot who was shot down near Baghdad.

31 Jan Senior Airman Kevin L. Robinson's ". . . decisive actions quite possibly save a multimillion-dollar aircraft and 14-man crew." He was recognized for his heroic actions while on a combat mission in Desert Storm. He earned the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in protecting a 105mm white phosphorous shell from detonating which could have caused a fire and loss of the aircraft.

31 Jan An AC-130H from the 16th SOS was lost on a combat mission. The aircraft was not located until after the fighting ended because it crashed in the Persian Gulf. The entire 14-man crew - Major Paul J. Weaver; Captains Dixon L. Walters, Arthur Galvan, and William D. Grimm; First Lieutenant Clifford Bland, Jr.; Senior Master Sergeant Paul G. Buege; Master Sergeant James B. May II; Technical Sergeant Robert K. Hodges; Staff Sergeants Timothy R. Harrison, John P. Blessinger, John L. Oelschlager, and Mark J. Schmauss; and Sergeants Damon J. Kanuha and Barry M. Clark - was killed. Four crew members awaiting promotion received their new awards, i.e., Captain Bland, Senior Master Sergeant May, Technical Sergeant Oelschlager, and Staff Sergeant Kanuha.

12 Feb Groundbreaking for the new Hurlburt Field military family housing project. This $18 million project would provide 300 units to be assigned to enlisted personnel. A contractor would build the houses and lease them to the Air Force on a long-term lease of 20 years for $2 million per year. The Air Force would provide all maintenance in this housing area.

12 Feb United States Senator Connie Mack of Florida visited Hurlburt Field and received briefings on the AC-130 and

1991 (cont)

MH-53 by crew members. Senator Mack was a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

20 Feb — Vice President Dan Quayle visited Eglin AFB primarily to talk with families of the men and women of Hurlburt, Eglin, and Duke Field who were deployed on Desert Storm. He spoke privately with the families of the crewmembers on the gunship lost on a combat mission.

22 Feb — Air Force Chief of Staff General Merrill A. McPeak wrote to Major General Thomas E. Eggers, AFSOC Commander, to congratulate the 16th SOS gunship crew which had won the Mackay Trophy for FY 1990. The 15-member aircrew led by Captain Charles G. McMillan consisted of Lieutenant Colonel Billy B. Napier, squadron commander; Captains Michael A. Radford, William R. Lane, Philip D. Ladd, and John M. Hicks; Senior Master Sergeant Michael J. Hosenbackez; Master Sergeant Jerry L. Anderson; Technical Sergeants Glenn P. Lemay, Bruce H. Grieshop, Tony J. May, and Derral W. Skinner; and Staff Sergeants Larry D. Bower, Mark S. Johnson, and Stephen H. Jones. They were honored for their performance in Operation Just Cause. This aircrew led the two-aircraft attack which devastated the PDF headquarters, La Comandancia. The award presentation by General McPeak was scheduled for 15 July 1991 at the Pentagon.

27 Feb — At 2100 hours Eastern Standard Time, President Bush announced Desert Storm offensive operations would be suspended at midnight after only 100 hours of combat.

4 Mar — The wreckage of AC-130H, Spirit 03, lost in action while engaging enemy forces on 31 January was located in the Persian Gulf about one-half mile offshore near the Kuwaiti/Saudi Arabian border. All 14 crewmembers had been killed.

1991 (cont)

13 Mar The FY 1990 Air Force Daedalian Maintenance Award was won by the 1 SOW to a great extent for an extraordinary maintenance effort during Operation Just Cause with its 100% launch and effectiveness rate while deployed at Howard AFB. The Daedalian Maintenance Award was established by the Order of Daedalians, an organization founded by World War I pilots. This award was presented each year to the Air Force unit displaying the highest degree of maintenance professionalism. Success at the Air Force level placed the 1 SOW in competition for the Department of Defense Phoenix Award, the top maintenance award in the DOD. Three major individual awards - the Tunner Award, Jabara Award, and the Mackay Trophy - went to 1 SOW people for Operation Just Cause which was also a significant factor in the wing winning its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Air Force Daedalian Maintenance Award.

15 Mar A memorial service was held in the Commando Hangar at Hurlburt Field for the aircrew of the gunship lost in Desert Storm. Approximately 3,500 people attended. At the conclusion of the service, an HC-130 and two each MH-53 and MH-60 aircraft executed a flyby and three AC-130s flew the missing man formation.

25 Mar Secretary of the Air Force Donald B. Rice attended a Desert Storm victory rally at Hurlburt and presented medals to 1 SOW people for their service in Operation Just Cause.

26 Mar Headquarters USAF announced that the 655th SOMS won the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award for FY 1990 in the consolidated aircraft maintenance category. The squadron's maintenance effort in operations Just Cause and Desert Shield played a significant role in earning this award. Sergeant Kevin Sparks, a 655th SOMS crew chief, won the Air Force Lieutenant General Leo Marquez

1991 (cont)

Outstanding Aircraft Maintenance Technician of the Year Award for FY 1990. Just Cause and Desert Shield challenges which he met successfully contributed to his selection for this recognition.

27 Mar — The list of approved awards for Just Cause totaled 346. They consisted of one Bronze Star for Colonel Gray, one Airman's Medal, 12 Air Force Achievement Medals, 17 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 61 Air Medals, and 254 Air Force Commendation Medals of which 99 were awarded for the difficult flight to Panama.

1 Apr — An AC-130H began ALE-40 chaff and flare modification which would enhance its survivability in a high threat environment.

6 Apr — The 1 SOW began its participation in Operation Provide Comfort which provided relief aid to Kurdish people in Iraq who had been persecuted by Saddam Hussein.

27 Apr — The 1 SOW provided MC-130, HC-130, MH-53, and MH-60 aircraft for static display at the Eglin AFB Open House. The Talon, Pave Low, and Pave Hawk also gave a flight demonstration.

30 Apr — The AC-130U test team from Edwards AFB visited the 1 SOW. They provided briefings and a static display for 16th SOS and maintenance personnel on this next generation gunship.

28 May — A 1 SOW MH-60 Pave Hawk on a search and rescue training exercise crashed off the coast of Antigua. The six men on board from the 55th SOS and 655th SOMS were injured, but no one was killed.

1991 (cont)

3 Jun The Presidential Unit Citation nomination package for Operation Just Cause was submitted. It was hoped that the President would make the presentation in person when the PUC received final approval.

10 Jun Ribbon cutting for the Consolidated Support Center was held. Groundbreaking for this 71,500 square-foot building which cost approximately $7.5 million had been on 4 August 1989.

14 Jun The new commissary opened for business. Groundbreaking for this over $5 million facility had been on 5 October 1989.

20 Jun Colonel Charles R. Holland succeeded Colonel George A. Gray III as 1 SOW Commander.

30 Jun The 1 SOW had 51 aircraft assigned. They consisted of nine AC-130s, five MC-130s, 10 HC-130s, two C-130s, 15 MH-53s, and 10 MH-60s including the aircraft seriously damaged on 28 May. These figures reflect the loss of one AC-130, Spirit 03, on 21 January in Desert Storm.

MILITARY TRAINING TEAM (MTT), CIVIC ACTION, & HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

1961:

Sandy Beach I MTT to Mali, West Africa trained paratroopers.

Farmgate, 1 SOW Detachment #2, in South Vietnam trained South Vietnamese and operated an air control facility for Air Force activities in Southeast Asia (SEA).

1962:

Bold Venture, 1 SOW Detachment #3, in Panama:

installed weapons on Guatemalan Air Force aircraft.

provided counterinsurgency training for Latin American countries.

delivered books to students at Nargana, Panama in Operation Books.

delivered pencils to isolated areas in Panama in Operation Pencils.

flew surplus radio equipment to David, Panama for airport use.

evacuated a Panamanian civilian with a severe head injury from the interior to Panama City.

participated in a search and flare drop mission for an Argentine C-54 which crashed in Panamanian mountains.

flew an Army team to Ailigandi Island in the San Blas chain to study the feasibility of drilling water wells and improving farming methods.

extended Special Forces support to Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, and Bolivia.

flew two Panamanian teachers to an interior village in Operation Teachers to improve local understanding of sanitation and hygiene.

delivered 600 pounds of goods and 24 people to David in Operation Christmas which also benefited Las Ninas, Panama by delivering 1,000 pounds of foodstuffs, clothing, school supplies, and toys.

airlifted clothing and supplies to Nargana Island.

located a survey party lost in the jungle and coordinated rescue operations.

delivered a missionary and 450 pounds of supplies to Jaque, Panama.

1962 (cont)

airlifted medical personnel and supplies to San Miguel Island and conducted an aerial survey for a possible landing strip at Chiman, Panama.

delivered Santa Claus and gifts to two locations in Operation Santa Claus.

provided 40 machetes to Panamanians participating in rescue operations in the El Valle area. Weather and lack of landing sites forced a change from air to surface delivery.

1963:

Sandy Beach II MTT to Mali, West Africa for joint training of U.S. and Mali paratroopers.

Ten-man MTT to Saudi Arabia trained Saudi forces in special warfare operations.

A seven-man MTT to Greece trained Royal Hellenic Air Force personnel in psychological, unconventional, and counterinsurgency warfare.

A two-man MTT to Iran instructed Iranian Army personnel in the use of airpower in counterinsurgency operations.

An MTT trained El Salvador Air Force personnel in the principles, techniques, and application of aerial counterinsurgency operations.

Bold Venture, 1 SOW Detachment #3, in Panama:

executed a candy drop in El Salvador in Operation Ninos (Operation Children).

utilized its Flying Dispensary Kit in civic action missions to Guanico Abajo, Playon Chico, and Ailigandi.

trained Air Force personnel from Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, and Paraguay in preventive medicine as part of a five-year civic action program.

made final arrangements at two locations for sealing water wells and completing construction of restroom facilities.

delivered to David an ambulance which had been obtained from salvage and rebuilt in a joint-service effort.

flew a flight surgeon to the interior to treat malaria patients.

airlifted 22 doctors and dentists to Guatemala to treat a wide variety of illnesses.

flew humanitarian missions to Bolivia during a hemorrhagic fever epidemic.

1963 (cont)

delivered to Costa Rica band instruments donated by the Selmer Music Company.

delivered construction materials to Darien Province for a missionary school building.

air evacuated three Panamanians from the interior to obtain medical care.

airdropped instructions and tools to Panamanians who constructed airstrips in the interior.

provided special tactical training to Venezuelan Air Force personnel.

1964:

A two-man MTT to Iran trained Imperial Iranian Air Force personnel in special air warfare operations.

Water Pump deployed to Thailand to provide six months of military training initially. However, the primary benefit came from the medical civic action program.

A mobile training team to Ethiopia provided aircrew, forward air control, and drop and landing zone training.

1965:

A one-man MTT to Iran for eight weeks participated in joint psychological operations with the Iranian Air Force. He surveyed Iranian capabilities and provided recommendations to them.

1966:

Another MTT to Mali participated in Mali Army Day activities and trained Mali airborne troops.

The Wing searched for two Navy pilots and their A-4 aircraft in the vicinity of Lake Charles, LA. They recovered one body.

1967:

The 6th Mali MTT involved C-47 training.

An MTT to Argentina provided helicopter training.

An eight-man team explored the possibility of developing a COIN capability in Korea to counter the threat from the North.

The Wing attacked screwworms in Latin America to eliminate that scourge and end the Mexican barrier program.

1967 (cont)

The Bont Tick eradication program utilized aerial spraying in the Virgin Islands.

Flood relief in Mexico involved five crewmen for seven days.

The Christmas airlift to Stewart AFB, NY involved four crewmembers for two days.

1968:

Project Savage Fly to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly in Nicaragua and Panama used sterile male flies to end reproduction.

1969:

The Combat Locust program provided locust control in Saudi Arabia through aerial spraying.

The Wing engaged in relief efforts along the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Camille. Clothing, blankets, and non-perishable food items were airlifted to Keesler AFB and insecticide was sprayed over a 54 square mile area. Also, they flew in 30,000 pounds of medical supplies from Selfridge AFB, Michigan.

1970:

A UH-1H helicopter MTT consisting of six pilots and 12 enlisted deployed to SEA.

A one-man MTT to Iran instructed in tactics and techniques on O-2 aircraft gun pods.

The Wing provided the nucleus for an MTT to Thailand to train Royal Thai Army and Air Force personnel on the UH-1N weapon system.

1971:

An MTT to Panama trained personnel in the utilization of the C-124 for photo reconnaissance.

Coronet Roundup eradicated screwworms from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands using sterile male flies.

The Combat VEE task force provided aerial spray against the mosquito which carried Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis (VEE) which threatened all horses in the Southwest United States.

1972:

Coronet Roundup continued into 1972.

A civilian at Milton, Florida was airlifted by helicopter to Eglin AFB for further transport for care of his burns from an electrical fire.

1972 (cont)

An AC-119K MTT trained Vietnamese at Da Nang.

A 1 SOW gunship provided illumination for searchers at the crash site of a civilian airliner at Miami, Florida.

1973:

An MTT deployed to Kobi Kathiem, Thailand for 13 weeks to train pilots and gunners in the AU-23 aircraft.

A mobile training team deployed to Venezuela for 179 days to provide OV-10A training.

Another MTT went to Thailand for 14 weeks to train Cambodian pilots and gunners in the AU-24 aircraft.

An MTT deployed to Venezuela for 26 weeks to assist their Air Force with initial pilot training in the OV-10.

A five-week MTT deployment to Korat, Thailand trained a cadre of Cambodian pilots, navigators, flight mechanics, and loadmasters in the C-123K. Also, they transitioned Thai Air Force C-123B aircrews into the C-123K.

Another C-123 MTT to Thailand assisted the Khmer Air Force.

A UH-1N searched and located a party of fishermen lost on the Eglin Reservation.

A CH-3E airlifted a small research barge from Fort Pickens into Santa Rosa Sound for the National Park Service.

Wing personnel installed spray equipment on two C-47s at Lahore, Pakistan and sprayed areas infested with the Rice Borer worm which threatened what remained of the rice crop after devastating floods.

A CH-3E rescued a sailor whose boat had capsized near the East Pass at Destin, Florida. In danger of being swept out to sea, he clung to a marker buoy until picked up at 0135 hours.

A search and rescue successfully accomplished for the 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing commander who had ejected and been caught in a tree and suspended helpless in mid-air.

A CH-3E assisted in an over-water search for a drowning person, but without success.

A civilian injured in a traffic accident was evacuated by CH-3E from Eglin AFB to Pensacola.

1974:

Mobile training teams deployed to Cambodia, the Philippines, and Korea to improve their capabilities. Little benefit accrued to the Koreans who were not receptive to maintenance assistance by the team.

1975:

Operation New Horizons, the Vietnamese Refugee Program, was supported by Hurlburt personnel in the construction and operation of the tent city.

A gunship search for a lost child in Maine was unsuccessful due to terrain and weather.

A search for a lost civilian aircraft in Kentucky by a gunship which had been diverted from another mission was not successful in the two hours of available time.

1976:

A gunship searched for an 18-foot sailboat missing south of Biloxi, Mississippi, but with negative results.

Working out of Langley AFB, a gunship participated in a SAR mission.

An AC-130H participated in a SAR mission for a boat missing in the Gulf of Mexico, but again with negative results.

1977:

A helicopter SAR mission for an F-4 which crashed on the Eglin Reservation was successful. The aircrew was medically evacuated from an almost inaccessible location amid exploding munitions.

The 16th SOS and 20th SOS participated in a SAR mission in the Gulf of Mexico 75 miles south of Panama City, Florida.

1978:

One AC-130H participated in an actual SAR of a C-130 which crashed near Nelson Lake, CA. The gunship diverted to the scene and vectored to the crash site a rescue helicopter which had been heading in the wrong direction. Upon arrival of rescue forces, the gunship relinquished on-scene commander duties.

1979:

Two gunships and 79 people deployed to Managua, Nicaragua for possible evacuation of American Embassy personnel.

1980:

Desert One was a rescue mission to free Americans held hostage in Iran. However, the effort had to be aborted and in the

1980 (cont)

exfiltration from the Iranian desert five 1 SOW people were killed.

Hurlburt personnel helped construct and operate the Cuban refugee camp at the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds which housed over 10,000 Cubans.

The MGM Grand Hotel fire rescue involved 20th SOS aircrews who saved five people from the roof of the hotel during the fire and recovered 56 bodies afterwards.

1981:

The 20th SOS executed a helicopter rescue of a Coast Guardsman whose boat had capsized in the East Pass at Destin, Florida.

Wing AC-130Hs and HH-53s on normal training flights diverted to assist in the SAR for an F-15 which crashed in the Gulf of Mexico, but without success.

Again, AC-130Hs and HH-53s conducted a search for an aircraft down at sea. However, this F-4 from Seymour Johnson AFB could not be located.

1982:

An AC-130H flew a SAR mission at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

An AC-130H and an HH-53H participated in another SAR operation.

An MTT deployed to Panama with three UH-1Ns.

1983:

The 1 SOW recovered three bodies from a boating accident in the Gulf of Mexico.

The 20th SOS participated in Operation BAT to interdict drugs entering the United States through Florida. Participation continued for 2 1/2 years with very positive results.

Operation Urgent Fury rescued Americans, mostly medical students, in Grenada. Wing gunships and Talons played significant roles.

Operation BAT personnel readily agreed to airlift Santa Claus to a school in the Bahamas, but the Bahamian Foreign Ministry withdrew its approval.

1984:

Operation BAT personnel sighted a small boat with four people 30 miles at sea. They had been adrift for a day and a half without water. The sighting and assistance provided quite likely saved their lives, but at a minimum facilitated their rescue.

1985:

The 8th SOS airlifted an expectant mother from Texas to Keesler AFB which prevented medical complications.

1986:

During Exercise Cabanas in Honduras the wing flew a real-world rescue of two Army Scecial Forces members who had been knifed by a Honduran soldier.

Detachment #1, 2nd Air Division participated in civic action projects throughout Latin America.

1987:

Detachment #1, 1 SOW deployed to Ecuador on an earthquake relief mission in March.

The Det returned to Ecuador in May on a MEDEVAC mission.

1988:

1989:

Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel responded to a Pensacola Police Department request for assistance and determined that the items of concern were expended Jet Assisted Takeoff bottles.

A gunship diverted from local training to intercept a suspected drug smuggling aircraft, tracked it, and provided valuable information to the Customs Service.

An HC-130, an MH-53, and an MH-60 participated in a search for a student pilot missing in an F-15, but without success.

An AC-130 searched for a missing civilian aircraft, but again results were negative.

The 55th SOS and 9th SOS participated in the search for Congressman Leland of Texas whose aircraft had disappeared in Ethiopia on a flight to a refugee camp. The 55th SOS located the crash, but all on board had been killed. The bodies were recovered from difficult terrain by MH-60 helicopters.

The 1 SOW provided relief assistance to the Virgin Islands and South Carolina following Hurricane Hugo.

Operation Just Cause in which the 1 SOW played a significant role resulted in the capture of General Manuel Noriega and the installation of the elected government in Panama. The 8th SOS flew General Noriega to the United States to stand trail on drug charges. The 1 SOW executed a search and rescue of 19 international students stranded on El Porvenir Island in the Gulf of San Blas during Operation Just Cause. The wing was credited with 19 saves.

1990:

The 1 SOW responded to President Bush's call for military buildup and action in Desert Shield/Desert Storm to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. During Desert Storm the 1 SOW's 16th SOS lost a gunship and its crew of 14 to enemy action while supporting Marine ground forces.

1991:

A 20th SOS MH-53 Pave Low rescued a Navy pilot who had been shot down near Baghdad.

The 1 SOW participated in Operation Provide Comfort which provided relief aid to Kurdish people in Iraq who had been persecuted by Saddam Hussein.

AIR COMMANDO AND 1 SOW COMMANDERS

Col Phillip G. Cochran	29 March 1944 - 19 May 1944
Col Clinton B. Gaty	20 May 1944 - 6 April 1945
Col Robert W. Hall	7 April 1945 - 1 November 1945

Unit inactivated 2 November 1945; disestablished 8 October 1948; reestablished 18 April 1962; activated and organized 27 April 1962.

Lt Col Miles M. Doyle	27 April 1962 - 28 April 1962
Col Chester A. Jack	29 April 1962 - 18 March 1963
Col Gerald R. Dix	19 March 1963 - 27 March 1964
Col Harry C. Aderholt	28 March 1964 - 9 July 1964
Col Gordon F. Bradburn	10 July 1964 - 30 November 1965
Col Hugh G. Fly	1 December 1965 - 2 April 1967
Col Alpheus W. Blizzard, Jr.	3 April 1967 - 8 September 1967
Col Albert S. Pouloit	9 September 1967 - 13 February 1969
Col Leonard Volet	14 February 1969 - 14 July 1969
Col Robert W. Gates	15 July 1969 - 30 October 1970
Col Michael C. Horgan	31 October 1970 - 31 March 1973
Col James H. Montrose	1 April 1973 - 10 January 1974
Col/Brig Gen William J. Holton	11 January 1974 - 30 June 1976
Col Edward Levell, Jr.	1 July 1976 - 28 July 1977
Col Richard H. Dunwoody	29 July 1977 - 12 March 1980
Col T. W. A. Stuart	13 March 1980 - 25 February 1982
Col Hugh L. Cox III	26 February 1982 - 28 February 1983
Col Hugh L. Hunter	1 March 1983 - 11 July 1985
Col Leonard A. Butler	12 July 1985 - 27 August 1986
Col Hanson L. Scott	28 August 1986 - 12 July 1987
Col Dale E. Stovall	13 July 1987 - 20 July 1989
Col George A. Gray III	21 June 1989 - 19 June 1991
Col Charles R. Holland	20 June 1991 -

LINEAGE AND HONORS DATA
1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

Lineage: Established as 1st Air Commando Group on 9 Aug 44 replacing the 1st Air Commando Group (a miscellaneous unit) which was constituted on 25 Mar 44, activated 29 Mar 44, and consolidated on 9 Aug 44 with the headquarters unit of the new establishment. Inactivated on 3 Nov 45. Disestablished on 8 Oct 48. Reestablished on 18 Apr 62. Activated and organized on 27 Apr 62. Redesignated 1st Air Commando Wing on 1 Jun 63, 1st Special Operations Wing on 8 Jul 68, 834th Tactical Composite Wing on 1 Jul 74, and 1st Special Operations Wing on 1 Jul 75.

Assignments: Army Air Forces India-Burma Sector on 29 Mar 44 (original unit to 9 Aug 44, establishment thereafter), Tenth Air Force on 10 Jul 45, and Army Service Forces from 6 Oct-3 Nov 45. USAF Special Air Warfare Center (later USAF Special Operations Force) on 27 Apr 62, Tactical Air Command on 1 Jul 74, Ninth Air Force on 1 Jul 76, Tactical Air Command on 26 Sep 80, Ninth Air Force on 1 Aug 81, Military Airlift Command on 1 Mar 83, and Air Force Special Operations Command on 22 May 90.

Stations: Hailakandi, India 29 Mar 44 (original unit); Asansol, India 20 May 44-6 Oct 45; Camp Kilmer, New Jersey 1-3 Nov 45. Hurlburt Field 27 Apr 62, England AFB 15 Jan 66, and Hurlburt Field 15 Jul 69.

Commanders: Col Philip G. Cochran, 29 Mar 44; Col Clinton B. Gaty, 20 May 44; Col Robert W. Hall, 7 Apr 45. Lt Col Miles M. Doyle, 27 Apr 62; Col Chester A. Jack, 29 Apr 62; Col Gerald R. Dix, 19 Mar 63; Col Harry C. Aderholt, 28 Mar 64; Col Gordon F. Bradburn, 10 Jul 64; Col Hugh G. Fly, Jr., 1 Dec 65; Col Alpheus W. Blizzard, Jr., 3 Apr 67; Col Albert S. Pouloit, 9 Sep 67; Col Leonard Volet, 14 Feb 69; Col Robert W. Gates, 15 Jul 69; Col Michael C. Horgan, 31 Oct 70; Col James H. Montrose, 1 Apr 73; Col/Brig Gen William J. Holton, 11 Jan 74; Col Edward Levell, Jr., 1 Jul 76; Col Richard H. Dunwoody, 29 Jul 77; Col T.W.A. Stuart, 13 Sep 80; Col Hugh L. Cox III, 26 Sep 82; Col Hugh L. Hunter, 1 Mar 83; Col Leonard A. Butler, 12 Jul 85; Col Hanson L. Scott, 28 Aug 86; Col Dale E. Stovall, 13 Jul 87; Col George A. Gray III, 21 Jun 89; Col Charles R. Holland, 20 Jun 91.

Aircraft: B-25, 1944; P-47, 1944-45; P-51, 1944, 1945; UC-64, 1944-45; L-1, 1944; L-5, 1944-45; C-47, 1944-45; YR-4, 1944-45; CG-4 Glider, 1944-45; TG-5 Glider, 1944-45; C-46, 1962, 1964; C/TC/VC-47, 1962, 1970, 1973-75; B/RB-26, 1962-66; T/AT-28, 1962-73; L-28 (later U-10) 1962-73; C/UC-123, 1963-73; A-1, 1963-66, 1969-72; YAT-28, 1964-65; YAT-37, 1964; O-1, 1964-67, 1969-71; AC-47, 1965, 1967-69; U-3, 1966-67; U-6, 1966-67; UH-1, 1966, 1969-74, 1976-85; A/RA-26, 1966-69; A-37, 1967-69, 1969-71, 1973-74; EC/HC-47, 1967-69, 1973; AC-123, 1967; C/MC-130, 1968-; AC-130, 1968, 1971-; EC-130, 1969; HC-130, 1989-; C/AC-119, 1968-69, 1971-72; O-2, 1969-76; OV-10, 1969-76; YQU-22, 1969-70; QU-22, 1970-71; CH-3, 1973-74, 1976-80;

LINEAGE & HONORS DATA
1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (cont)

HH-53, 1980-; MH-60, 1989-. In addition to primary aircraft the wing also flew T-29, 1969-73; VT-29, 1969-75; T-33, 1969-75; T-39, 1969-75; C/VC-47, 1969-70; C-131, 1970-75; VC-131, 1973-75.

Operations: Replaced the 5318th Provisional Air Unit in India in Mar 44. As a miscellaneous unit, the group was comprised until Sep 44 of operational sections rather than units: bomber, fighter, light plane and helicopter, transport, glider, and light cargo. The group provided fighter cover, bomb striking power, and air transport services for Wingate's Raiders fighting behind enemy lines in Burma. Operations included airdrop and airland of troops, food, and equipment; evacuation of casualties; and attacks against enemy airfields and lines of communication. Converted from P-51 to P-47 fighters and eliminated its B-25 bomber section headquarters component of the new establishment (also called 1st Air Commando Group), the sections were replaced by a troop carrier, two fighter, and three liaison squadrons. The group continued performing supply, evacuation, and liaison services for allied forces in Burma until the end of the war, including movement of Chinese troops from Burma to China in Dec 44. It also attacked bridges, railroads, airfields, barges, oil wells, and troop positions in Burma and escorted bombers to Burmese targets including Rangoon. Switched back to P-51s in May 45. Left Burma in Oct 45 and inactivated in New Jersey in Nov 45.

Replaced the 4400th Combat Crew Training Group in Apr 62 and assumed air commando operations and training responsibilities. Also assumed a detachment in Vietnam from the prior group and continued training USAF and Vietnamese Air Force aircrews in U.S. and Vietnam throughout the Southeast Asian conflict. The group (later wing) maintained a quick reaction force and conducted specialized operations in unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency, psychological activities, and civic actions at trouble spots around the world by deploying mobile training teams, detachments, and components as required. Although Southeast Asia received the bulk of the unit's attention until 1973, air commando (later special operations) personnel were active in Panama, Central and South America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East at various times. Personnel of friendly nations were trained, sometimes in the U.S. and sometimes by deployed teams. Nations receiving training included Iran, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Mali, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Guatemala, the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and the Republic of the Congo.

The group (wing) also worked closely with U.S. Army Special Forces, developed combat tactics for numerous types of aircraft, and conducted combat crew training for USAF and foreign aircrews. It participated in a number of tactical exercises, both at home and abroad, and participated in mercy missions and humanitarian operations.

Campaign Streamers: India-Burma; Central Burma.

LINEAGE & HONORS DATA
1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (cont)

Decorations: Distinguished Unit Citation (Burma and India); Mar-20 May 44. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 1 Jul 63-30 Jun 65; 1 Jul 69-15 Apr 71; 1 Jan 76-31 Mar 77; 15 Jul 79-15 May 80; 15 May 80-30 Apr 82; 1 May 82-30 Apr 84 with Combat V for valor; 1 May 85-30 Apr 87; and 1 May 88-30 Apr 90.

LINEAGE OF UNITS RELATED OR ASSIGNED TO THE 1 SOW AND PREDECESSOR COMMANDS

Air Ground Operations School

15 Dec 62: AGOS transferred to Hurlburt Field from Keesler AFB.
22 Apr 74: School reassigned from HQ TAC to the USAF Special Operations Force.
1 Jul 74: School reassigned to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: School reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Feb 78: School reassigned to the Tactical Air Warfare Center.

Special Air Warfare Center

27 Apr 62: Center activated at Eglin AFB and assigned to HQ TAC.
8 Jul 68: Special Air Warfare Center redesignated as the Special Operations Force.
1 Jul 74: USAF Special Operations Force inactivated.

Special Air Warfare School

12 Apr 67: School activated at Hurlburt Field.
8 Jul 68: Special Air Warfare School redesignated as the Special Operations School.
1 Jul 74: School reassigned to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: School reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Mar 83: Special Operations School reassigned to 23rd Air Force.
22 May 90: School reassigned to HQ AFSOC.

Special Operations Force

27 Apr 62: Special Air Warfare Center activated at Eglin AFB.
8 Jul 68: Special Air Warfare Center redesignated as the Special Operations Force.
1 Jul 74: USAF Special Operations Force inactivated.

Special Operations School

12 Apr 67: School activated at Hurlburt Field as the Special Air Warfare School.
8 Jul 68: Special Air Warfare School redesignated as the Special Operations School.
1 Jul 74: School reassigned to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: School reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Mar 83: School reassigned to the 2nd Air Division.
1 Feb 87: School reassigned to the 23rd Air Force.
22 May 90: School reassigned to the HQ AFSOC.

Tactical Air Warfare Center

1 Nov 63: Tactical Air Warfare Group redesignated as the Tactical Air Warfare Center.

USAF Special Operations Center

5 Sep 68: Special Operations Center activated under the USAF Special Operations Force.
18 Feb 70: Center inactivated.

Women of the Air Force Squadron

31 Jul 73: WAF squadron activated.
31 Jul 75: WAF squadron deactivated. The women were absorbed into the various units of assignment.

1st Air Commando Group

27 Apr 62: 1st Air Commando Group activated, organized, and assigned to the SAWC.
1 Jun 63: 1st ACG redesignated as the 1st Air Commando Wing.
15 Jan 66: 1st ACW transferred from Hurlburt Field to England AFB.
8 Jul 68: 1st ACW redesignated as the 1st Special Operations Wing.
15 Jul 69: Headquarters 1 SOW moved from England AFB to Hurlburt Field.
1 Jul 74: 1 SOW consolidated with the USAFSOF as the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: 834th TCW redesignated as the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 76: 1 SOW reassigned from HQ TAC to 9th AF.
26 Sep 80: 1 SOW reassigned from 9th AF to HQ TAC.
1 Aug 81: 1 SOW reassigned from HQ TAC back to 9th AF.
1 Mar 83: The Wing transferred from TAC to MAC and was assigned to the 2nd Air Division.
1 Feb 87: 1 SOW reassigned from 2nd AD to 23rd AF.
22 May 90: 1 SOW reassigned to HQ AFSOC.

1st Air Commando Wing

1 Jun 63: Redesignated from the 1st ACG to 1st ACW at Hurlburt Field.
15 Jan 66: 1st ACW transferred to England AFB.
8 Jul 68: 1st ACW redesignated as the 1 SOW.
15 Jul 69: Headquarters 1 SOW moved from England AFB to Hurlburt Field.
1 Jul 74: 1 SOW consolidated with the USAFSOF as the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: 834th TCW redesignated as the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 76: 1 SOW reassigned from HQ TAC to 9th AF.
26 Sep 80: 1 SOW reassigned from 9th AF to HQ TAC.
1 Aug 81: 1 SOW reassigned from HQ TAC back to 9th AF.
1 Mar 73: The Wing transferred from TAC to MAC and was assigned to the 2nd Air Division.
1 Feb 87: 1 SOW reassigned from 2nd AD to 23rd AF.
22 May 90: 1 SOW reassigned to HQ AFSOC.

1st Air Materiel Squadron Commando

27 Apr 62: Unit assigned to the 1st Air Commando Group.
30 Jun 63: Unit assigned to the 1st Air Commando Wing.
1 Oct 64: Squadron inactivated.

1st Combat Applications Group

27 Apr 62: 1st CAG reassigned from HQ TAC to the SAWC.
17 May 63: Unit redesignated as the 1st Combat Applications Wing effective 1 Jun 63.
27 May 63: Action designating wing status rescinded.
5 Sep 68: 1st CAG inactivated.

1st Special Operations Wing

14 Apr 61: 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron designated and organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to HQ TAC.
20 Mar 62: 4400th CCTS reassigned to the new 4400th Combat Crew Training Group.
27 Apr 62: 4400th CCTS redesignated as the 4410th CCTS and reassigned to the 1st Air Commando Group.
1 Jun 63: 1st ACG redesignated as the 1st Air Commando Wing.
15 Jan 66: 1st ACW transferred to England AFB from Hurlburt Field.
8 Jul 68: 1st ACW redesignated as the 1 SOW.
15 Jul 69: Headquarters 1 SOW moved from England AFB to Hurlburt Field.
14 May 74: Wing inactivation ordered by HQ TAC, but that was changed.
1 Jul 74: 1 SOW consolidated with the USAFSOF as the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: 834th TCW redesignated as the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 76: 1 SOW reassigned from HQ TAC to 9th AF.
26 Sep 80: 1 SOW reassigned from 9th AF to HQ TAC.
1 Aug 81: 1 SOW reassigned from HQ TAC back to 9th AF.
1 Mar 83: The Wing transferred from TAC to MAC and was assigned to the 2nd Air Division.
1 Feb 87: 1 SOW reassigned from 2nd AD to 23rd AF.
22 May 90: 1 SOW reassigned to HQ Air Force Special Operations Command.

2nd Air Division

1 Mar 83: The Air Division reactivated at Hurlburt Field and was assigned to 23rd AF, Military Airlift Command. Units assigned to 2nd AD were the 1 SOW, 1st SOS at Clark AB, Philippines, 7th SOS at Rhein Main AB, Germany, and Detachment #1, Howard AFB, Panama.
1 Feb 87: 2nd AD inactivated.

5th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron

5 Nov 64: 5th RTS reactivated and assigned to the 1st ACW.
15 Jan 66: Squadron transferred with the 1st ACW to England AFB.
15 Jun 66: 5th RTS redesignated as the 8th Air Commando Squadron (Reconnaissance Technical).

6th Special Operations Training Squadron

18 Apr 62: Reconstituted and activated as the 6th Fighter Squadron, Commando.
27 Apr 62: Squadron organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACG.

15 Jan 66: Squadron moved to England AFB.
15 Jun 66: 6th Fighter Squadron, Commando redesignated as the 6th Air Commando Squadron, Fighter.
15 Jul 68: 6th Air Commando Squadron, Fighter redesignated as the 6th Special Operations Squadron.
15 Nov 69: Squadron inactivated.
8 Jan 70: 6th SOS activated at England AFB and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
31 Aug 72: 6th SOS redesignated as the 6th Special Operations Training Squadron.
31 Jul 73: Squadron reassigned from the 4410th CCTW to the 1 SOW.
1 Jan 74: Squadron reassigned to the 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing.
15 Sep 74: 6th SOTS inactivated.

7th Special Operations Flight

18 Mar 69: Unit constituted.
1 Jul 69: Unit activated at Otis AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
31 May 72: Flight moved to Hurlburt Field and reassigned to the 317th SOS.
30 Apr 74: Flight inactivated.

8th Special Operations Squadron (Second oldest continuously active Air Force squadron)

21 Jun 17: Organized as the 8th Aero Squadron.
c. Jun 21: 8th Aero Squadron redesignated as the 8th Squadron.
25 Jun 23: 8th Squadron redesignated as the 8th Attack Squadron.
15 Sep 39: 8th Attack Squadron redesignated as the 8th Bombardment Squadron (Light).
28 Sep 42: 8th Bombardment Squadron (Light) redesignated as the 8th Bombardment Squadron (Dive).
25 May 43: 8th Bombardment Squadron (Dive) redesignated as the 8th Bombardment Squadron (Light).
25 Jun 51: 8th Bombardment Squadron (Light) redesignated as the 8th Bombardment Squadron (Light, Night Intruder).
1 Oct 55: 8th Bombardment Squadron (Light, Night Intruder) redesignated as the 8th Bombardment Squadron (Tactical).
18 Nov 69: 8th Bombardment Squadron (Tactical) redesignated as the 8th Attack Squadron.
30 Sep 70: 8th Attack Squadron redesignated as the 8th Special Operations Squadron.
1 Oct 72: 8th SOS transferred from South Vietnam to Clark AB, Philippines.
1 Jul 73: 8th SOS redesignated as the 8th Fighter Squadron.
1 Mar 74: 8th Fighter Squadron transferred from Clark AB to Hurlburt Field and redesignated as the 8th Special Operations Squadron.
1 Jul 74: 8th SOS reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: 8th SOS reassigned to the 1 SOW.

9th Special Operations Squadron

18 Apr 89: 9th Special Operations Squadron relieved from assignment to the 39th Special Operations Wing.
18 Apr 89: 9th Special Operations Squadron reassigned to the 1 SOW.

16th Special Operations Squadron

18 Feb 42: Constituted as the 16th Air Corps Ferry Squadron.
16 Apr 42: Squadron activated.
12 May 43: Squadron redesignated as the 16th Ferrying Squadron.
1 Apr 44: 16th Ferrying Squadron disbanded.
9 Jun 44: Constituted as the 16th Combat Cargo Squadron.
13 Jun 44: Squadron activated.
29 Dec 45: Squadron inactivated.
8 Oct 48: Squadron disbanded.
11 Oct 68: Squadron constituted and assigned to PACAF.
30 Oct 68: Squadron activated at Ubon, Thailand and assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing as the 16th SOS.
12 Dec 75: 16th SOS reassigned to the 1 SOW.

18th Special Operations Squadron

25 Jan 69: Activated at Lockbourne AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 4410th CCTW.
1 Oct 69: Moved to Phan Rang and reassigned to PACAF.
Aug 71: Moved to Nakhon Phanom.
31 Dec 72: Squadron inactivated.

20th Special Operations Squadron

5 Feb 42: Constituted as the 20th Observation Squadron (Light).
2 Mar 42: Squadron activated.
4 Jul 42: 20th Observation Squadron (Light) redesignated as the 20th Observation Squadron.
2 Apr 43: 20th Observation Squadron redesignated as the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter).
11 Aug 43: 20th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter) redesignated as the 20th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.
27 Nov 45: Squadron inactivated.
24 Feb 56: Constituted as the 20th Helicopter Squadron.
9 Jul 56: 20th Helicopter Squadron activated.
8 Mar 60: Squadron discontinued and inactivated.
24 Sep 65: 20th Helicopter Squadron activated.
8 Oct 65: Squadron organized.
1 Aug 68: 20th Helicopter Squadron redesignated as the 20th Special Operations Squadron.
1 Apr 72: Squadron inactivated.
1 Jan 76: 20th SOS activated at Hurlburt Field.

25th Special Operations Squadron (Reconnaissance Support)

31 Aug 70: 25th SOS (Reconnaissance Technical) activated at Hurlburt Field and was assigned to the 1 SOW.
8 Oct 71: Designation changed to the 25th SOS (Reconnaissance Support).
1 Jul 74: Squadron reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th TCW.
30 Sep 74: Squadron inactivated.

43rd Tactical Airlift Training Squadron

20 Jul 71: Unit redesignated from the 43rd Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium) to the 43rd Tactical Airlift Training Squadron.

1 Sep 71: Unit activated and assigned to the 4410th Special Operations Training Group, England AFB.
31 Aug 72: Unit inactivated and transferred to the Reserve.

55th Special Operations Squadron

18 Apr 89: 55th Special Operations Squadron relieved from assignment to the 39th Special Operations Wing.
18 Apr 89: 55th Special Operations Squadron reassigned to the 1 SOW.

71st Special Operations Squadron

1 Jul 67: Redesignated as the 71st Tactical Airlift Squadron.
13 May 68: Ordered to active duty from the Reserve.
1 Jun 68: Moved to Lockbourne AFB and reassigned to the 1st ACW (later 1 SOW).
15 Jun 68: Redesignated as the 71st Air Commando Squadron.
8 Jul 68: Redesignated as the 71st Special Operations Squadron.
13 Dec 68: Initiated deployment to Nha Trang.
20 Dec 68: Reassigned to the 14th SOW (PACAF).
10 Jun 69: Returned to the CONUS and to the AFRES.

310th Attack Squadron

15 May 69: Activated at England AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.
28 Nov 69: Unit deployed to South Vietnam.

311th Attack Squadron

15 May 69: Activated at England AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.
14 Dec 69: Unit deployed to South Vietnam.

311th Munitions Maintenance Squadron

1 Mar 71: Activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Oct 72: Squadron inactivated.

317th Special Operations Squadron

6 Apr 64: Constituted as the 317th Air Commando Squadron, Troop Carrier.
1 Jul 64: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACW (later 1 SOW).
15 Jan 66: Moved to England AFB.
15 Jun 66: Redesignated as the 317th ACS, Utility.
8 Jul 68: Redesignated as the 317th SOS.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Apr 70: Moved to Hurlburt Field and reassigned to the 1 SOW.
30 Apr 74: Squadron inactivated.

318th Special Operations Squadron

21 Oct 71: Redesignated as the 318th SOS.
15 Nov 71: Activated at Pope AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Jun 74: Moved to Hurlburt Field and inactivated.

319th Troop Carrier Squadron Commando

18 Apr 62: Designated as the 319th TCS and activated.
27 Apr 62: Unit assigned to the 1st ACG.
8 Nov 64: Squadron redesignated as the 319th Air Commando Squadron, Troop Carrier.
15 Jan 66: Squadron moved to England AFB.
1 May 67: Unit redesignated as the 319th Air Commando Squadron, Tactical Airlift.
8 Jul 68: Unit redesignated as the 319th Special Operations Squadron.
15 Jul 69: Squadron reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change.
30 Jul 69: The 319th transferred to Hurlburt Field and reassigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Jan 72: The 319th SOS inactivated.

360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron

1 Jul 73: Unit moved to Hurlburt Field from Dyess AFB.
31 Jul 73: Unit inactivated.

415th Special Operations Training Squadron

25 Jul 71: Unit arrived Hurlburt Field from Lockbourne AFB.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
30 Jun 75: Squadron inactivated.

424th Special Operations Training Squadron

1 Jul 70: Unit activated and designated the 424th Special Operations Training Squadron and assigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Jan 72: Squadron reassigned to the 68th Tactical Air Support Group, Shaw AFB.

424th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron

9 Jun 70: Reconstituted and redesignated as the 424th Special Operations Training Squadron.
1 Jul 70: Squadron activated and assigned to the 1 SOW.
30 Sep 71: The 424th SOTS redesignated as the 424th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron.
1 Jan 72: The 424th TASTS reassigned to the 68th Tactical Air Support Group at Shaw AFB.
31 Oct 72: Squadron inactivated.

427th Special Operations Training Squadron

9 Jun 70: Redesignated as the 427th SOTS.

1 Jul 70: Activated at England AFB and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 72: Squadron inactivated.

547th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron

15 Oct 69: 547th Special Operations Training Squadron activated with the personnel and equipment of the inactivated 4410th CCTS.
15 Aug 72: 547th SOTS redesignated as the 547th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron.
7 Sep 73: Squadron move from Holley Field to Hurlburt Field completed.
30 Apr 75: Squadron inactivated.

548th Special Operations Training Squadron

22 Aug 69: Redesignated as the 548th SOTS.
15 Oct 69: Activated at England AFB and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
31 Jul 73: Squadron inactivated.

549th Tactical Air Support Training Group

15 Dec 75: Unit activated at Patrick AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Jan 77: 549th TASTG reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 507th Tactical Air Control Wing, Patrick AFB.

549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron

18 Aug 69: Unit redesignated as the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron.
15 Oct 69: Squadron activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Dec 75: The 549th TASTS transferred to Patrick AFB and assigned to the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Group.
1 Jul 88: Squadron inactivated.

602nd Special Operations Squadron

15 Apr 63: Unit reconstituted, redesignated, and activated as the 602nd Fighter Squadron Commando.
8 Nov 64: Redesignated as the 603rd Air Commando Squadron.
15 Jan 66: Squadron moved to England AFB.
15 Jun 66: Redesignated as the 603rd ACS, Strike/Reconnaissance.
8 Jul 68: Redesignated as the 603rd Special Operations Squadron.
15 Jul 69: Squadron moved to Hurlburt Field.
15 May 71: Squadron inactivated.
1 Mar 73: Squadron redesignated as the 603rd Special Operations Training Squadron.
1 Jul 73: Activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 74: Squadron inactivated.

603rd Special Operations Training Squadron

15 Apr 63: Reconstituted, redesignated, and activated as the 603rd Fighter Squadron Commando.

1 Jul 63: Squadron organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st Air Commando Wing (later 1 SOW).
8 Nov 64: Redesignated as the 603rd Air Commando Squadron.
15 Jan 66: Squadron moved to England AFB.
15 Jun 66: Redesignated as the 603rd ACS, Strike/Reconnaissance.
8 Jul 68: Redesignated as the 603rd Special Operations Squadron.
15 Jul 69: Squadron moved to Hurlburt Field.
15 May 71: Squadron inactivated.
1 Mar 73: Squadron redesignated as the 603rd Special Operations Training Squadron.
1 Jul 73: Activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 74: Squadron inactivated.

604th Fighter Squadron Commando

15 Apr 63: Unit reconstituted, redesignated, and activated as the 604th Fighter Squadron Commando.
1 Jul 63: Squadron organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACW.
8 Nov 64: Squadron discontinued. (Later active in Vietnam.)

605th Special Operations Squadron

1 Nov 63: Originally scheduled to be activated at Hurlburt Field.
15 Nov 63: 605th Air Commando Squadron, Composite organized at Howard AFB and assigned to the 1st ACW.
1 Jul 64: Squadron reassigned to the USAF Southern Command.
8 Nov 67: Squadron reassigned to the 24th Composite Wing.
15 Jul 68: 605th Air Commando Squadron, Composite redesignated as the 605th SOS.
30 Apr 72: 605th SOS inactivated.

655th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

18 Apr 89: 655th CAMS relieved from assignment to the 39th Special Operations Wing and reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Mar 70: 655th CAMS redesignated as the 655th Special Operations Maintenance Squadron.

775th Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium) (Assault)

15 Apr 64: Completed move to Hurlburt from Pope AFB.
1 Jul 64: Unit discontinued and inactivated.

823rd Civil Engineering Squadron Heavy Repair (RED HORSE)

1 Jun 72: 823rd CES (RH) reactivated at Eglin Auxiliary Field #2. It had previously been designated as the 557th CES (RH).
1 Jul 72: Squadron moved to Hurlburt Field from Eglin Auxiliary Field #2.

834th Aircraft Generation Squadron

1 Aug 78: Unit redesignated from the 834th Organizational Maintenance Squadron.

834th Civil Engineering Squadron

18 Aug 69: Unit transferred to Hurlburt Field in name only from England AFB.
18 Aug 69: Unit assigned to the 834th Combat Support Group.
21 May 90: Unit reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

834th Combat Support Group

30 Aug 57: HQ 834th Air Base Group constituted at England AFB.
25 Sep 57: 834th ABG activated at England AFB and assigned to the 834th Air Division.
1 Apr 59: 834th ABG inactivated.
1 Jul 64: Unit redesignated as the 834th Combat Support Group at England AFB and assigned to the 834th Air Division.
1 Aug 66: Unit relieved from assignment to the 834th Air Division and assigned to the 1st Air Commando Wing, England AFB.
15 Jul 69: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW (formerly the 1st ACW) to the 4410th CCTW with no change of station at England AFB.
18 Aug 69: Unit reassigned from the 4410th CCTW to the 1 SOW and transferred in name only to Hurlburt Field.
1 Jul 74: 834th CSG reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
21 May 90: 834th CSG redesignated as the 834th Air Base Wing.
21 May 90: 834th ABW reassigned to the 21st Air Force, Military Airlift Command.

834th Component Repair Squadron

1 Apr 72: 834th Avionics Maintenance Squadron created by a maintenance reorganization.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th TCW.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned from the 834th TCW to the 1 SOW.
1 Aug 78: 834th Avionics Maintenance Squadron redesignated as the 834th Component Repair Squadron.

834th Comptroller Squadron

1 Dec 87: Unit activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1 SOW.
21 May 90: The 834th Comptroller Squadron reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

834th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

1 Aug 78: Unit redesignated from the 834th Field Maintenance Squadron.

834th Field Maintenance Squadron

18 Aug 69: Unit activated at Hurlburt Field to replace the 4410th Field Maintenance Squadron which transferred to England AFB.
18 Aug 69: Unit assigned to the 1 SOW.

1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Aug 78: 834th Field Maintenance Squadron redesignated as the 834th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

834th Mission Support Squadron

30 Jun 89: Unit activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 834th Combat Support Group.
21 May 90: The 834th Mission Support Squadron reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

834th Munitions Maintenance Squadron

1 Oct 72: Squadron activated at Hurlburt Field.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Aug 78: Unit inactivated.

834th Organizational Maintenance Squadron

1 Apr 72: Created by a maintenance reorganization.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Aug 78: 834th Organizational Maintenance Squadron redesignated as the 834th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

834th Security Police Squadron

18 Aug 69: Unit transferred to Hurlburt Field in name only from England AFB and assigned to the 834th Combat Support Group.
21 May 90: Unit reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

834th Services Squadron

1 Jul 67: Unit activated at England AFB.
18 Aug 69: Unit transferred to Hurlburt Field in name only from England AFB.
18 Aug 69: Unit assigned to the 834th Combat Support Group.
21 May 90: Unit reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

834th Supply Squadron

15 Jul 69: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW at Hurlburt Field to the 4410th CCTW at England AFB without change of station.
18 Aug 69: Unit transferred to Hurlburt Field from England AFB in name only and assigned to the 834th Combat Support Group.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
21 May 90: Unit reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

834th Tactical Composite Wing

1 Jul 74: 1 SOW consolidated with the USAFSOF as the 834th Tactical Composite Wing.
1 Jul 75: 834th TCW redesignated as the 1 SOW.

834th Tactical Hospital

1 Aug 66: Relieved from assignment to the 834th Air Division.
1 Aug 66: Assigned to the 1st Air Commando Wing (later 1 SOW), England AFB.
15 Jul 69: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW with no change of station at England AFB.

834th Transportation Squadron

18 Aug 69: Unit transferred to Hurlburt Field in name only from England AFB and was assigned to the 834th CSG.
1 Jul 74: Squadron reassigned to the 834th TCW.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
21 May 90: 834th Transportation Squadron reassigned to the 834th Air Base Wing.

850th Armament and Electronics Maintenance Squadron

18 Sep 64: Unit constituted and activated.
1 Oct 64: Squadron organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACW.
15 Dec 65: Squadron discontinued and inactivated.

850th Field Maintenance Squadron

1 Oct 64: Formed from the 1st Air Materiel Squadron Commando.
15 Jul 69: Unit reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.
18 Aug 69: 850th FMS inactivated at England AFB.

850th Organizational Maintenance Squadron

1 Oct 64: Formed from the 1st Air Materiel Squadron Commando.
1 Nov 66: Unit discontinued and inactivated.

850th Munitions Maintenance Squadron

3 Dec 65: Unit constituted and activated.
15 Dec 65: Unit organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 1st ACW.
15 Jan 66: Squadron moved to England AFB.
15 Dec 67: Squadron discontinued and inactivated.

1345th Student Squadron

15 Jul 69: 4582nd Student Squadron was reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.

18 Aug 69: Squadron transferred in name only from England AFB to Hurlburt Field and was reassigned from the 4410th CCTW to the 1 SOW.
18 Feb 70: Unit transferred from the 1 SOW to the 834th CSG.
14 May 74: Squadron ordered inactivated at Hurlburt Field effective 1 Jul.
26 Jun 74: Unit inactivation revoked.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 834th CSG to the 834th TCW.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Mar 83: 4582nd Student Squadron redesignated as the 1345th Student Squadron and assigned to the 834th CSG.
30 Jun 89: 1345th Student Squadron inactivated.

2068th Communications Squadron

1 Jan 63: Named the 2068th Communications Squadron.
12 Mar 80: Control of the unit transferred from the 834th Combat Support Group to the 1 SOW Commander.
21 May 90: Unit transferred from the 1 SOW to the 834th Air Base Wing.

4400th Air Materiel Squadron

20 Mar 62: Designated and organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4400th Combat Crew Training Group.
27 Apr 62: Squadron discontinued.

4400th Air Transportation Squadron, Light

20 Mar 62: Activated at Hurlburt Field.
20 Mar 62: Assigned to the 4400th Combat Crew Training Group.
27 Apr 62: Squadron discontinued.

4400th Combat Crew Training Group

20 Mar 62: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to HQ TAC.
27 Apr 62: Group inactivated.

4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron

14 Apr 61: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to 9th AF.
22 Aug 61: Reassigned from 9th AF to HQ TAC.
20 Mar 62: Reassigned to the 4400th CCTG.
27 Apr 62: Redesignated as the 4410th CCTS and reassigned to the 1st ACG (later 1st ACW).
1 Dec 65: Reassigned to the 4410th CTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Oct 69: Squadron inactivated.

4400th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron

20 Mar 62: Activated at Hurlburt Field.
20 Mar 62: Assigned to the 4400th Combat Crew Training Group.
27 Apr 62: Squadron discontinued.

4406th Combat Crew Training Squadron

1 Oct 68: Organized at England AFB and assigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW.
1 Jul 70: Squadron inactivated.

4407th Combat Crew Training Squadron

1 Dec 67: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW.
30 Apr 73: Squadron inactivated.

4408th Combat Crew Training Squadron

1 Dec 65: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Aug 69: Moved to Lockbourne AFB.
22 Sep 69: Reassigned to the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing.
15 Aug 71: Moved to England AFB and reassigned to the 4410th SOTG.
1 Sep 71: Squadron inactivated.

4409th Combat Crew Training Squadron

1 Dec 65: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW.
15 Oct 69: Squadron inactivated.

4410th Combat Crew Training Squadron

14 Aug 61: 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron designated and organized at Hurlburt Field.
14 Aug 61: Squadron assigned to 9th Air Force.
22 Aug 61: 4400th CCTS reassigned to HQ TAC.
20 Mar 62: Squadron reassigned from HQ TAC to the 4400th CCTG.
27 Apr 62: 4400th CCTS redesignated as the 4410th CCTS and assigned to the 1st ACG.
1 Dec 65: 4410th CCTS reassigned to the 4410th CCTW.
1 Dec 65: The 4410th CCTS operated at Holley Field, FL.
2 Jun 69: Squadron directed to move to England AFB without personnel and equipment on 18 Aug.
15 Jul 69: Squadron reassigned to the 1 SOW.
18 Jul 69: Move to England AFB cancelled.
15 Oct 69: 4410th CCTS inactivated.
15 Oct 69: 547th Special Operations Training Squadron activated the personnel and equipment of the 4410th CCTS.
15 Aug 72: 547th SOTS redesignated as the 547th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron.
7 Sep 73: Squadron move from Holley Field to Hurlburt Field completed.
30 Apr 75: Squadron inactivated.

4410th Combat Crew Training Wing

1 Dec 65: Activated at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the USAF Special Air Warfare Center.
15 Jul 69: Moved from Hurlburt Field to England AFB.
15 Jul 70: Redesignated as the 4410th Special Operations Training Group.
31 Jul 73: Group inactivated at England AFB.

4410th Field Maintenance Squadron

1 Dec 65: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW from the 4410th CCTW without change of station at Hurlburt Field.
18 Aug 69: Reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW and transferred to England AFB.
15 Sep 70: Squadron inactivated.

4410th Munitions Maintenance Squadron

1 Dec 65: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Dec 67: Squadron discontinued.

4410th Organizational Maintenance Squadron

1 Dec 65: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Dec 67: Squadron discontinued.

4410th Special Operations Training Group

1 Dec 65: Activated as the 4410th CCTW and assigned to the USAF Special Air Warfare Center.
15 Jul 69: Moved from Hurlburt Field to England AFB.
15 Jul 70: Redesignated as the 4410th Special Operations Training Group.
31 Jul 73: Group inactivated at England AFB.

4410th Student Squadron

15 Mar 68: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned from the 4410th CCTW to the 1 SOW.
18 Aug 69: Transferred to England AFB and reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW.
30 Apr 70: Squadron inactivated.

4412th Combat Crew Training Squadron

25 Aug 66: Organized at England AFB and assigned to the 4410th CCTW.
25 Oct 67: Reassigned to the 1st Air Commando Wing (later 1 SOW), England AFB.

15 Jul 69: Reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.
15 Oct 69: Squadron inactivated.

4413th Combat Crew Training Squadron

1 Mar 68: Organized at Lockbourne AFB and assigned to the 1st ACW (later 1 SOW).
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 4410th CCTW from the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 70: Squadron inactivated.

4420th Air Base Squadron

1 Jul 62: 4751st Air Base Squadron redesignated as the 4420th Air Base Squadron.
1 Jul 62: Unit assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.
1 Mar 63: Squadron inactivated.

4420th Air Police Squadron

1 Mar 63: Designated and organized at Hurlburt Field.
1 Mar 63: Assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.
1 Apr 67: Redesignated as the 4420th Security Police Squadron.
18 Aug 69: Squadron inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

4420th Civil Engineering Squadron

1 Mar 63: Designated, organized, and assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.
18 Aug 69: Unit inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

4420th Combat Support Group

1 Jul 62: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the Special Air Warfare Center.
15 Dec 67: Reassigned to the 4410th CCTW.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW from the 4410th CCTW without change of station at Hurlburt Field.
18 Aug 69: 4420th CSG inactivated.

4420th Materiel Squadron

1 Jul 62: 4751st Materiel Squadron redesignated as the 4420th Materiel Squadron and reassigned to TAC.
1 Jul 62: Unit assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.
1 Mar 63: Squadron inactivated.

4420th Services Squadron

1 Oct 66: This newly formed squadron became operational at Hurlburt Field.
18 Aug 69: Unit inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

4420th Supply Squadron

1 Mar 63: Designated and organized.
1 Mar 63: Assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.

15 Dec 67: Reassigned to the 4410th Combat Crew Training Wing.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW from the 4410th CCTW without change of station at Hurlburt Field.
18 Aug 69: Unit inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

4420th Transportation Squadron

1 Mar 63: Designated, organized, and assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.
18 Aug 69: Unit inactivated at Hurlburt Field.

4473rd Combat Crew Training Squadron

7 Aug 69: Designated and activated at Eglin Auxiliary Field #3 and assigned to the Tactical Air Warfare Center.
21 Aug 69: Reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Jul 70: Unit inactivated and absorbed in the activated 424th Special Operations Training Squadron.
1 Jan 72: Unit reassigned to the 68th Tactical Air Support Group, Shaw AFB.

4475th Tactical Air Warfare Group

17 Sep 63: Designated and organized.
1 Nov 63: Redesignated as the Tactical Air Warfare Center.

4532nd Combat Crew Training Squadron

1 Apr 67: Organized and assigned to the 4410th Combat Crew Training Wing at England AFB.
25 Oct 67: Reassigned to the 1st ACW (later 1 SOW), England AFB.
15 Jul 69: Reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.
28 Jul 70: Squadron inactivated. Mission assumed by the 427th SOTS.

4582nd Student Squadron

15 Jul 69: 4582nd Student Squadron was reassigned from the 1 SOW to the 4410th CCTW without change of station at England AFB.
18 Aug 69: Squadron transferred in name only from England AFB to Hurlburt Field and was reassigned from the 4410th CCTW to the 1 SOW.
18 Feb 70: Unit transferred from the 1 SOW to the 834th CSG.
14 May 74: Squadron ordered inactivated at Hurlburt Field effective 1 July.
26 Jun 74: Unit inactivation revoked.
1 Jul 74: Unit reassigned from the 834th CSG to the 834th TCW.
1 Jul 75: Unit reassigned to the 1 SOW.
1 Mar 83: 4582nd Student Squadron redesignated as the 1345th Student Squadron and assigned to the 834th CSG.
30 Jun 89: 1345th Student Squadron inactivated.

4751st Materiel Squadron

1 Apr 58: Organized at Hurlburt Field and assigned to the 4751st Air Defense Missile Wing (ADC).
1 Jul 62: Reassigned to TAC and redesignated as the 4420th Materiel Squadron.
1 Jul 62: Assigned to the 4420th Combat Support Group.
1 Mar 63: Squadron inactivated.

Detachment #1, 1st Air Commando Wing

15 Dec 65: Detachment established at England AFB.
14 Jan 66: Detachment discontinued at England AFB.

Detachment #1, 1 SOW

15 Jul 68: Detachment designated and organized at Otis AFB.
1 Jul 69: Detachment inactivated.

Detachment #1, 1 SOW

26 Sep 69: Detachment designated and activated at Hurlburt Field.
26 Sep 69: Unit mission was to reorganize five UH-1 helicopters as a separate entity under the 1 SOW.
15 Apr 70: Det 1 redesignated as the 317th SOS which had moved in name only from England AFB.

Detachment #1, 1 SOW

1 Mar 83: 2nd AD, Det 1 formed from the 24th Composite Wing, Howard AFB, Panama.
1 Feb 87: Detachment redesignated as the 1 SOW, Det 1.
1 Jan 88: Detachment inactivated.

Detachment #1, 603rd Special Operations Squadron

18 Feb 69: Detachment designated and activated at Hurlburt Field.
1 Jul 70: Detachment inactivated.

Detachment #1, 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron (Sandy Beach I)

15 Aug 61: Detachment deployed to Mali, West Africa.
29 Aug 61: Detachment arrived Mali.
1 Nov 61: Mission completed.
25 Nov 61: Detachment arrived Hurlburt Field and disbanded.

Detachment #2, 1st Air Commando Wing

15 Jan 66: Detachment designated and organized at Hurlburt Field.
15 Jan 66: Detachment attached to the 4420th CSG.
1 Jul 66: Detachment discontinued.

Detachment #2, 1 SOW

1 May 68: The 779th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Pope became 1 SOW, Det 2.
15 Nov 71: Detachment inactivated.

Detachment #2, 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron (Farmgate)

6 Nov 61: Detachment deployed to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam.
1 Jul 63: Detachment transferred to the operational control of 2nd Air Division, Southeast Asia.

Detachment #3, 1st Air Commando Group (Bold Venture)

10 May 62: Detachment designated and organized at Howard AFB, Panama.
10 May 62: Bold Venture attached to HQ Caribbean Air Command.
15 Nov 63: Redesignated as the 605th Air Commando Squadron (Composite).
1 Jul 64: Bold Venture transferred to USAF Southern Command.

Detachment #4, 1st Air Commando Wing (Gold Fortune)

1 Jan 64: Detachment designated, activated, and organized at Sembach, Germany.
1 Jul 64: Gold Fortune discontinued.

Detachment #5 Provisional, 1st Air Commando Wing (Tiger Rag)

1 Mar 64: Tiger Rag designated and organized at Hurlburt Field to support the Middle East, Africa South of the Sahara, and Southern Asia (MEAFSA) for Air Force Strike Command as needed.

Detachemnt #6, 1st Air Commando Wing (Water Pump)

6 Mar 64: Detachment designated and organized at Hurlburt Field for immediate deployment to Thailand for six months.
31 Dec 64: Deployment extended to March 1965 and subsequently further extended.
13 Jun 65: By this date over 96,000 Thais had received medical attention.
21 Oct 65: The CSAF extended Water Pump for 180 days.
Jul-Dec 66: Water Pump medical civic action continued in Laos and Thailand.

Detachment #8, 1st Air Commando Wing

1 Aug 65: Detachment activated at Forbes AFB.
1 Aug 65: Detachment trained AC-47 aircrews for SEA.
1 Nov 65: Detachment inactivated upon completion of training program.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AAF	Army Airfield
AB	Air Base
ABDT	Air Base Defense Team
ABG	Air Base Group
ABGD	Air Base Ground Defense
ACG	Air Commando Group
ACS	Air Commando Squadron
ACSC	Air Command and Staff College
ACW	Air Commando Wing
AD	Air Division
ADC	Air Defense Command
AF	Air Force
AFB	Air Force Base
AFCC	Air Force Communications Command
AFCM	Air Force Commendation Medal
AFCS	Air Force Communications Service
AFLC	Air Force Logistics Command
AFOUA	Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
AFRCC	Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
AFRES	Air Force Reserve
AFSC	Air Force Specialty Code
AFSOB	Air Force Special Operations Base
AFSOC	Air Force Special Operations Command
AFSOF	Air Force Special Operations Facility
AFSOF	Air Force Special Operations Force
AFSTRIKE	Air Force Strike Command
AGE	Aerospace Ground Equipment
AGIL	Airborne General Illumination
AGOS	Air Ground Operations School
AID	Agency for International Development
ALO	Air Liaison Officer
AMS	Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
ANG	Air National Guard
ARRS	Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service
ARRS	Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron
ARVN	Army of Vietnam
ASD	Assistant Secretary of Defense
ATC	Air Training Command
ATC	Air Transportable Clinic
AUTODIN	Automatic Digital Network
BAT	Bahamas and Turks
CAG	Combat Applications Group
CAMS	Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
CAMS	Core Automated Maintenance System
CAMT	Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Training
CAS	Close Air Support
CBU	Cluster Bomb Unit
CCAF	Community College of the Air Force
CCS	Combat Control Squadron
CCT	Combat Control Team
CCTG	Combat Crew Training Group
CCTS	Combat Crew Training Squadron

CCTW	Combat Crew Training Wing
CES	Civil Engineering Squadron
CINC	Commander-in-Chief
CINCAFSTRIKE	Commander-in-Chief Air Force Strike Command
CINCEUR	Commander-in-Chief Europe
CINCMAC	Commander-in-Chief Military Airlift Command
CINCPAC	Commander-in-Chief Pacific
CINCSTRIKE	Commander-in-Chief Strike Command
COIN	Counterinsurgency
CONUS	Continental United States
CPX	Command Post Exercise
CRRC	Combat Rubber Raiding Craft
CSAF	Chief of Staff Air Force
CSC	Consolidated Support Center
CSG	Combat Support Group
CY	Calendar Year
DACOWITS	Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
DET	Detachment
DFC	Distinguished Flying Cross
DLQ	Deck Landing Qualification
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
DOD	Department of Defense
DV	Distinguished Visitor
DZ	Drop Zone
ECM	Electronic Countermeasures
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ESC	Electronic Security Command
EW	Electronic Warfare
FAC	Forward Air Controller
FIG	Fighter Interceptor Group
FLIR	Forward Looking Infrared
FMS	Field Maintenance Squadron
FOB	Forward Operating Base
FOL	Forward Operating Location
FTD	Field Training Detachment
FTX	Field Training Exercise
FY	Fiscal Year
GCA	Ground Control Approach
GPS	Global Positioning System
GVN	Government of Vietnam
HALO	High Altitude Low Opening
HQ	Headquarters
HSLLADS	High Speed Low Level Aerial Delivery System
HUD	Heads Up Display
IIAF	Imperial Iranian Air Force
IG	Inspector General
IGC	Intermediate Gaining Command
INS	Inertial Navigation System

JATO	Jet Assisted Takeoff
J-CATCH	Joint Countering Attack Helicopter
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
JRX	Joint Readiness Exercise
JSOC	Joint Special Operations Command
JTX	Joint Training Exercise
JWC	Joint Warfare Center
JWE	Joint Warfare Establishment
JUWTF	Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force
KIA	Killed in Action
LAPES	Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System
LIC	Low Intensity Conflict
LLLTV	Low Light Level Television
LORAN	Long Range Navigation
LZ	Landing Zone
MA	Maintenance
MAAC	Military Assistance Advisory Course
MAC	Military Airlift Command
MAP	Military Assistance Program
MATS	Military Air Transport Service
MAW	Military Airlift Wing
MCP	Military Construction Program
MEAFSA	Middle East, Africa South of the Sahara, and Southern Asia
MIA	Missing in Action
MMS	Munitions Maintenance Squadron
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MSSQ	Mission Support Squadron
MTT	Mobile Training Team
MWR	Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
NAF	Non-Appropriated Fund
NARF	Naval Air Rework Facility
NAS	Naval Air Station
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCO	Noncommissioned Officer
NDI	Non-Destructive Inspection
NVG	Night Vision Goggles
OAS	Organization of American States
OL	Operating Location
OP BAT	Operations Bahamas and Turks
OPLAN	Operations Plan
ORE	Operational Readiness Exercise
ORI	Operational Readiness Inspection
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
PACAF	Pacific Air Forces
PACOM	Pacific Command
PCS	Permanent Change of Station
PLADS	Parachute Low Altitude Delivery System
PMD	Program Management Document
POW	Prisoner of War
PSP	Pierced Steel Planking

PSYOPS	Psychological Operations
PSYWAR	Psychological Warfare
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAPES	Radio Activated Parachute Employment System
RBSF	Royal Bahamian Strike Force
RECCE	Reconnaissance
REDCOM	Readiness Command
ROK	Republic of Korea
ROKAF	Republic of Korea Air Force
RTAF	Royal Thai Air Force
RTS	Reconnaissance Technical Squadron
SAB	Scientific Advisory Board
SAC	Strategic Air Command
SAF	Secretary of the Air Force
SAR	Search and Rescue
SAS	Special Air Service
SAW	Special Air Warfare
SAWC	Special Air Warfare Center
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEAL	Sea-Air-Land
SF	Special Forces
SFG	Special Forces Group
SMOTEC	Special Missions Operational Test and Evaluation Center
SO	Special Operations
SOCCT	Special Operations Combat Control Team
SOCOM	Special Operations Command
SOF	Special Operations Force
SOF	Special Operations Flight
SOG	Special Operations Group
SOLL	Special Operations Low Level
SON	Statement Of Need
SOPE	Special Operations Planning Exercise
SOPPIF	Special Operations Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility
SOS	Special Operations School
SOS	Special Operations Squadron
SOTG	Special Operations Training Group
SOTS	Special Operations Training Squadron
SOW	Special Operations Wing
SOWT	Special Operations Weather Team
STAR	Surface to Air Recovery
STG	Special Tactics Group
STOL	Short Takeoff and Landing
STS	Special Tactics Squadron
TAC	Tactical Air Command
TACW	Tactical Air Control Wing
TAG	Tactical Airlift Group
TASTG	Tactical Air Support Training Group
TASTS	Tactical Air Support Training Squadron
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
TATS	Tactical Airlift Training Squadron
TAW	Tactical Airlift Wing
TAWC	Tactical Air Warfare Center
TAWG	Tactical Air Warfare Group

TCS	Troop Carrier Squadron
TCW	Tactical Composite Wing
TDY	Temporary Duty
TEWG	Tactical Electronic Warfare Group
TEWS	Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron
TFG	Tactical Fighter Group
TFR	Terrain Following Radar
TFW	Tactical Fighter Wing
TIC	Troops in Contact
UK	United Kingdom
UNC	United Nations Command
USAF	United States Air Force
USAFE	United States Air Forces Europe
USAFSOF	USAF Special Operations Force
USAFSOS	USAF Special Operations School
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAJFKCENNA	U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance
USCINCEUR	United States Commander-in-Chief Europe
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USREDCOM	United States Readiness Command
USSTRICOM	United States Strike Command
UW	Unconventional Warfare
VC	Viet Cong
VEE	Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
VLA	Very Low Altitude
VNAF	Vietnamese Air Force
WAF	Women of the Air Force
WOC	Wing Operations Center
WRAMA	Warner Robins Air Material Area

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NIGHT WINGS


55th SOS
NIGHT HAWKS