

Glossary (U)

A-1 Skyraider	Single-engine propeller-driven attack aircraft used by the USAF, Navy, and the VNAF. A-1E had two seats; other models had one. Originally Navy AD-series aircraft. (Douglas) ¹
A-4 Skyhawk	Single-engine turbojet attack aircraft. Primarily a Navy and Marine aircraft with a single crewmember. (Douglas)
A-6 Intruder	Twin-engine turbojet, two-place attack aircraft. Used by the Navy and Marines. (Grumman)
A-7 Corsair II	Single-engine turboprop, single-place light attack aircraft. Originally a Navy aircraft, purchased by the Air Force beginning in 1968. (Vought)
A-26 Invader	Twin-engine propeller-driven, WW II-era attack aircraft. Version modified for special warfare missions, including photoreconnaissance, designated A-26K Counter Invader. Three crewmembers. (Douglas)
A-37	Twin-engine turbojet attack aircraft modified from the T-37, has three times the power and two times the gross weight of the T-37. See T-37.
AA	antiaircraft
AAA	antiaircraft artillery
AAR	after action report
AB	air base
ABCCC	airborne battlefield command and control center
Able Mable	Limited reconnaissance by Air Force RF-101s over selected areas of Laos and South Vietnam.
About Face	An operation combining American air power with indigenous forces in Laos against a larger and better equipped enemy (1969).
ABS	air base squadron
AC-47	C-47 transport converted into a gunship by adding side-firing miniguns. The AC-47 had several nicknames: Puff the Magic Dragon, Dragon Ship, and Spooky. See C-47.
AC-119	C-119 transport modified into the AC-119G and AC-119K gunships. See C-119.
AC-130	C-130 transport modified into a gunship through the installation of side-firing guns and night-vision devices. See C-130.
ACS	air commando squadron
ACS/ actg	Assistant Chief of Staff for acting
ACW	air commando wing
AD	air division
AD-6	Early Navy designation for the A-1H. See A-1.
ADC	<i>Auto Defense de Choc</i> (Laotian irregular forces)
ADVON	advanced echelon
ADO	<i>Auto Defense Ordinaire</i> (Laotian irregular forces)
ADR	air division regulation
AF	Air Force
AFB	Air Force Base
aff	affairs
AFLC	Air Force Logistics Command
AFSC	Air Force Systems Command
AFSHRC	Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center (former name), now the Air Force Historical Research Agency
AFSSO	(S) Air Force special security office(r)
AFXOP	Directorate of Operations, United States Air Force
AGM	air-to-ground missile
AID	Agency for International Development
AIE	air intelligence estimate
AIG	address indicating group
AIRA	air attaché

1. Aircraft manufacturer shown in parenthesis.

The War in Northern Laos

Air America	Contract airline that flew for the Central Intelligence Agency in Southeast Asia.
ALCC	airlift control center
ALO	air liaison officer
amb	ambassador
AmEmb	American Embassy
AMFPA	Air Materiel Force Pacific Area (USAF)
AN-2 Colt	Soviet-built, single-engine propeller-driven utility transport biplane. Specially designed for operation from small airfields.
analys	analysis
Anniversary Victory	An operation in Laos during late 1964 in which the Meo sought to recapture several Pathet Lao strongpoints east and south of Xieng Khouangville, relieving pressure on Tha Thom.
AOC	air operations center
app	appendix
aprt	airport
Arc Light	Strategic Air Command B-52 strikes in South and North Vietnam and Laos.
ARDF	airborne radio direction finding
AREFS	air refueling squadron
ARMA	Army attaché
ARRS	aerospace rescue and recovery squadron
ARS	air rescue squadron
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
ASD/ISA	Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs
ASOC	air support operations center
asst	assistant
atch	attachment
Atlanta/Falcon	Teaming in 1969 of Atlanta RF-4s and Falcon F-4s to combine photo and visual reconnaissance into a single mission. The two shared the visual recce task while the F-4 also acted as escort for the unarmed RF-4; later changed to Laredo/Bullpup.
AU	Air University (USAF)
AWACS	Airborne Warning and Control System
AWS	Air Weather Service (USAF)
B-26 Invader	See A-26 Invader.
B-52 Stratofortress	All-weather, intercontinental, strategic heavy bomber powered by eight turbojet engines. Its range is extended by inflight refueling. Flight crew of six. (Boeing)
B-57 Canberra	Twin-engine turbojet medium bomber developed from English Canberra bomber. Two crewmembers. (Martin)
B-66 Destroyer	Twin-engine turbojet light bomber developed from Navy A-3 Skywarrior. Modified into RB-66 (reconnaissance) and EB-66 (electronic countermeasures) models. Three to seven crewmembers. (Douglas)
Bango/Whiplash	F-4s at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base (Bango) and F-105s at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base (Whiplash) placed on alert for rapid response to requests from the air attaché at Vientiane for interdiction or support of Royal Laotian Army troops; began in May 1965.
Ban Kao (Old Village)	A FAR operation in March 1966 that sought to seize Ban Mok Plai (Lima Site 193) and to choke off enemy infiltration routes eastward toward Nam Bac.
Barrel Roll	Interdiction and close air support operations in eastern Laos (beginning in December 1964). Operations with this name later reduced to only northern Laos (April 1965).
BDA	bomb damage assessment
Beagle	See IL-28.
BI	Battalion Independent (Laotian), generally <i>Forces Armées du Royaume</i> (FAR) or <i>Forces Armées Neutre</i> (FAN).
Big Eagle	A-26K night reconnaissance begun in 1966.
Big Eye	EC-121D with radar and communications equipment for early warning and control; began in 1965, redesignated College Eye in 1967. See EC-121D.
Black Spot	Modified C-123s with forward-looking radar, low-light-level television, forward-looking infrared detector, laser range finder, advanced navigation system, weapon-release computer, and CBU dispenser. See C-123.
Black Watch	RB-26 night reconnaissance of Laos that commenced in 1962.
BLU	bomb, live unit

Glossary

Blue Chip	Seventh Air Force command and control center in Saigon that controlled out-country combat operations.
bn	battalion
Booster Shot	A crash operation to provide economic aid to Laos inaugurated in 1958, the program included civic action projects.
BR	Barrel Roll. See Barrel Roll.
Bullpup	Air-to-surface guided missile, visually guided by launching aircraft command. Used by fighters, light attack aircraft, and helicopters. Intended for close support of ground troops and interdiction and for small targets ashore and afloat.
Butterfly	A forward air controller in Laos until September 1967.
C/	chief of
C-7 Caribou	Twin-engine propeller-driven, all-weather transport, designed for short-takeoff-and-landing in forward battle areas or unimproved strips. Three crewmembers. As Army transports, designated CV-2. (de Havilland)
C-8 Buffalo	Twin-engine turboprop, short-takeoff-and-landing transport. Enlarged version of C-7. Three crewmembers. Army designation CV-7. (de Havilland)
C-47 Skytrain	Twin-engine propeller-driven, WW II-era transport, nicknamed "Gooney Bird." Modified into AC-47 (gunship), EC-47 (electronic countermeasures), and RC-47 (reconnaissance). Two to seven crewmembers; used by USAF and VNAF. (Douglas)
C-54 Skymaster	Four-engine propeller-driven, WW II-era transport adapted from commercial DC-4. (Douglas)
C-118 Liftmaster	Four-engine propeller-driven, long-range transport; military version of commercial DC-6. Five crewmembers (Douglas)
C-119 Flying Boxcar	Twin-engine, twin-boom, high-wing, propeller-driven transport used by the USAF and VNAF. Modified versions included the AC-119G Shadow and AC-119K Stinger gunships. The K model had auxiliary jets mounted outboard of the piston engines. Four crewmembers in transport; eight to ten in gunships. (Fairchild)
C-123 Provider	Twin-engine propeller-driven, high-wing transport used by the USAF and VNAF. Four crewmembers. C-123K has two auxiliary turbojet engines. UC-123 was modified for Ranch Hand defoliation missions. (Fairchild)
C-124 Globemaster	Four-engine propeller-driven, large transport. Five crewmembers. (Douglas)
C-130 Hercules	Four-engine turboprop, medium-range, high-wing transport. Variants include AC-130 gunship and EC-130 command/electronic warfare aircraft. Four crewmembers; AC-130 had fourteen. (Lockheed)
C-133 Cargomaster	Four-engine turboprop, high-wing, long-range transport. Four to ten crewmembers. (Douglas)
C-141 Starlifter	Four-engine turbofan, high-wing, long-range transport, first all-jet strategic transport. Eight crewmembers. (Lockheed)
CAP	combat air patrol
CAS	close air support; Controlled American Source
CBU	Cluster bomb unit; antipersonnel weapon consisting of a dispenser containing smaller explosive devices (bomblets) that contained steel spheres.
CDIN	Committee for the Defense of National Interests (<i>Comite pour la Defense des Interets Nationaux</i>)
CEG	combat engineering group
CG	commanding general
ch	chief
Ch/	Chief of
CH-3 Sea King	Twin-turbine passenger/cargo helicopter with single five-blade main rotor, capable of operating from land or water. Three to four crewmembers. HH-3 variant modified for rescue operations (Sikorsky)
chasseurs	Lao infantry companies made part of the French colonial army.
CHECO	Contemporary Historical Evaluation of Counterinsurgency Operations (1962); Contemporary Historical Evaluation of Combat Operations (1965); Contemporary Historical Examination of Current Operations (1970)
CHJUSMAGTHAI	Chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand
CHMAAG	Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group
CHPEO	Chief, Programs Evaluation Office
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency

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The War in Northern Laos

CINCPAC	Commander in Chief, Pacific Command
CINCPACAF	Commander in Chief, Pacific Air Forces
CINCPACFLT	Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet
CINCUSARPAC	Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific
cmdr	commander
CNA	Center for Naval Analysis
CNO	Chief of Naval Operations (US)
COC	combined operations center; combat operations center
COIN	counterinsurgency
College Eye	EC-121D airborne early warning/ground controlled intercept/Mig warning and control aircraft staging out of Korat RTAFB.
Combat Skyspot	MSQ-77 and SST-181 radar-controlled bombing system.
comdr	commander
comm	communication(s)
Commando Club	Code name of the entire project to install a TSQ-81 radar at Phou Phathi, Laos, in 1967.
Commando Hunt	Air interdiction of the overland flow I, III, V of supplies from North Vietnam to Viet Cong and North Vietnam forces in South Vietnam and Cambodia.
Commando Sabre	Operations begun in June 1967 to demonstrate the feasibility of using jet aircraft in the FAC role in high-threat areas where O-1s and O-2s were vulnerable.
COMUSMACV	Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
Corona Harvest	A USAF project to collect documents on the SEA conflict for historical purposes.
Counterpunch	An operation from November 26, 1970, to January 5, 1971, entailing a large-scale raid on Ban Ban, Laos, to pinch off the main supply corridor and possibly lure the communists from the Plain of Jars.
Covey	Call sign of the FACs of the 20th TASS operating in North Vietnam and Laos
CRC	control and reporting center
Cricket	Special air and air-ground program in central Laos with many targets selected by CIA-organized tribal and roadwatch teams.
C/S	chief of staff
CSA	Chief of Staff, United States Army
CSAF	Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
CSG	combat support group
CTG	carrier task group
curr	current
CV-2 Caribou	Army designation of C-7. See C-7.
CY	calendar year
DA	Department of the Army
DABIN	Data Base Inventory
DAF	Department of the Air Force
DAS	direct air support
DASC	direct air support center
DBA	designated battlefield area
DCS/	Deputy Chief of Staff for
DDIR	Department of Defense Intelligence Information Report
Demilitarized Zone	The neutral zone separating the two Vietnams, consisting of demilitarized zones of not more than five kilometers on either side of the demarcation line, the Ben Hai River; located at about the 17th parallel.
dep	deputy
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI	Deputy Chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand
DEPCOMUSMAGTHAI	Deputy Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand
DEPSECDEF	Deputy Secretary of Defense
dept	department
Desert Rat	An operation in February-March 1971 in which four guerrilla battalions sought to cut Route 23 north of Saravane, Laos, and then link up with the South Vietnamese. See Lam Son 719.
De Soto	United States offshore intelligence collection.
det	detachment
DI	director of intelligence; directorate of intelligence
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency

Glossary

Dir/ div	Director of; Directorate of division
Dixie Station	The location of U.S. naval forces in the South China Sea with strike responsibility for South Vietnam.
DISM	Director Joint Staff Memorandum
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
DNC	Directorate of National Coordination, Royal Laotian Government
doc	document
DOD	Department of Defense
Dog Patch	Call sign of a specially configured RC-47 acting as an airborne battlefield command and control center in Barrel Roll.
DRV	Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam)
Duck Soup	Airborne alert aircraft (2d Air Division, June 4-10, 1965) intended to intercept enemy resupply aircraft in northeast Laos.
EB-66	B-66 modified to a special electronic configuration. See B-66.
EC-47	A C-47 with radio direction finding equipment. First designated RC-47. See C-47.
EC-121D Constellation	A C-121 (four-engine propeller-driven transport built by Lockheed) modified as a special search aircraft with bottom and top radar. Sixteen crewmembers. Official nickname is Warning Star; see Big Eye.
EC-130E	C-130E with special electronic configuration. See C-130.
ECCOIL	Eastern Construction Company in Laos
El Paso	A major ground campaign in III Corps during June-July 1966 by the 1st Infantry Division and the III Corps ARVN forces.
EM	enlisted man, enlisted men
encl	enclosure
EOTR	End of Tour Report
Erawan	Code name for program in 1959 whereby U.S. Special Forces trained a few Lao in unconventional warfare and antiguerrilla tactics.
exec	executive
F-4 Phantom II	Twin-engine turbojet, all-weather, supersonic tactical fighter-bomber developed from Navy's F-4B (F-4C first USAF model). F-4E had an internal 20-mm Gatling gun; all previous models carried either missiles only or missiles and an external gun pod. Used by USAF, USN, and USMC. Two crewmembers. (McDonnell Douglas)
F-5 Freedom Fighter	Twin-engine turbojet, supersonic, light tactical fighter. Nicknamed Skoshi (little) Tiger in Vietnam. F-5A has one crewmember, F-5B two crewmembers. Used by USAF and VNAF. (Northrup)
F-8 Crusader	Single-engine turbojet, supersonic day jet fighter. Used by USN and USMC. One crewmember. (Vought)
F8F Bearcat	Prop-driven, single-engine, WW II-era Navy fighter. Maximum speed at sea level, 425 miles-per-hour; service ceiling, 42,300 feet; normal range with drop tank, 1,650 miles. Fitted with four 12.7 machineguns or four 20-mm cannon; could carry 2,000 pounds of bombs or four 5-inch rockets under wings. One crewmember. (Grumman)
F-100 Super Sabre	Single-engine turbojet, supersonic fighter with a low, thin, swept wing. The F-100F used as a jet FAC had two crew members; other models had one. (North American)
F-105 Thunderchief	Single-engine turbojet, all weather, supersonic fighter-bomber. The two-place F-105G was an F-105F modified for the "Wild Weasel" role for destroying surface-to-air missile sites. (Republic)
F-102 Delta Dagger	Single-engine turbojet, supersonic, delta-wing fighter-interceptor. TF-102 had two crewmembers; others had one. (Convair)
F-104 Starfighter	Single-engine turbojet, supersonic, light-weight fighter. One crew member in A and C models; two in B and D models (trainers). (Lockheed)
F-111	Twin-engine turbofan, all weather, supersonic, variable-geometry wing fighter-bomber. Most sophisticated USAF aircraft in Vietnam; advanced electronics allowed missions in all conditions. Two crewmembers. (General Dynamics)
FAC	forward air controller
FAG	forward air guide
FAL	Forces Armées de Laos (Lao army), succeeded by FAR.
FAN	Forces Armées Neutre (Lao neutralist army)

The War in Northern Laos

FAR	<i>Forces Armées du Royaume</i> (Royal Laotian Army), a rightwing component that succeeded the FAL.
Farm Gate	The detachment of the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron deployed to Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam with C 47s and T-28s in November 1961.
FE	Far East; far eastern
Field Goal	United States Air Force RT-33 photo jet reconnaissance in Laos (1961). Supplanted by Able Mable.
FIR	field information report
Fireflies	(S) Nickname of ex-Royal Thai Air Force pilots who flew T-28s based at Udom RTAFB. Later known as Thai B pilots.
FIS	fighter interceptor squadron
Flaming Dart	Retaliatory strikes against North Vietnam in early 1965; superseded in March 1965 by Rolling Thunder.
FM	frequency modulation
FMM	French Military Mission
FOV	Field Office Vientiane
fr	from
frag	To issue a fragmentary operation order covering details of a single mission.
fragmentary	The daily supplement to a standard operation order governing the conduct order of the air war in Southeast Asia. It contained mission number and function, type of ordnance, time on target, and other instructions.
FSB	fire support base
FSC	fighter squadron commando
FTT	field training team
FWAF	free world assistance force
FW	fighter wing
FY	fiscal year
GCI	ground-controlled intercept
Geneva accords	The agreements of the Geneva Conference of 1954 that led to the withdrawal of French forces from Vietnam and the division of the country into North and South Vietnam; specified Laos as a neutral country and restricted number and type of outside military forces in Laos.
GM	Groupe Mobile, a French unit designation used by the Laotian army. Consisted normally of three infantry battalions and one 105-mm howitzer.
gp	group
Gooney Bird	Unofficial nickname of the C-47 aircraft.
GS	General Staff
gunship	Any of several modified USAF fixed-wing transport aircraft equipped with side-firing weapons and night-vision devices. (Term also applies to U.S. Army and Marine helicopters equipped with weapons.)
H-19 Chickasaw	Single-engine (piston) transport helicopter with a single three-blade main rotor. Two crewmembers. (Sikorsky)
H-34 Choctaw	Single-engine (piston) transport helicopter with a four-blade main rotor. Two crewmembers. (Sikorsky)
hangar queen	An aircraft deadlined for some time due to a shortage of parts.
hard target	A preplanned target such as a truck park, bridge, bivouac and storage area, or chokepoint.
HC-47	C-47 equipped for search and rescue operations with twice the fuel load, stronger landing gear, and jet-assisted takeoff. See C-47.
HC-54	C-54 modified for search and rescue missions. See C-54.
HC-130	C-130E modified for search and rescue missions. See C-130.
HE	high explosive
HH-3 Jolly Green Giant	Search and rescue version of the CH-3, modified with armor plating, jettisonable external fuel tanks, refueling probe, and two 7.62-mm guns. See CH-3.
HH-43 Huskie	Single-engine (turbine) helicopter designed for crash-rescue operations with two contra-rotating, two-blade rotors set at opposing angles above fuselage. F model has armor plating around engine, crew area, and cargo compartment. Two crewmembers. (Kaman)
high-drag bomb	A weapon fitted with extra fins to slow its speed and increase the time of fall.
hist	history

Glossary

Ho Chi Minh Trail	The NVA logistic supply route of roads and trails through the passes from NVN into Laos and down the eastern side of Laos into South Vietnam and Cambodia.
HS	helicopter squadron
HU-16 Albatross	Twin-engine propeller-driven, amphibious, high-wing, search and rescue aircraft with all-metal hull and wing floats. Four crew members. (Grumman)
Huey	nickname for the UH-1 helicopter
ICC	International Control Commission
IFR	instrument flight rules
Igloo White	Air-supported antivehicular and antipersonnel system using acoustic and seismic sensors.
IL	Ilyushin, used in the designation of Russian aircraft designed by General Sergei V. Ilyushin.
incendejel	napalm
intel	intelligence
intvw	interview
IR	infrared
IRAN	inspection and repair as necessary
iron bomb	An unguided, high-explosive bomb
Iron Hand	Specially equipped F-105F aircraft that flew suppression against surface-to-air missiles and radar-controlled antiaircraft artillery.
JANAF	Joint Army-Navy-Air Force
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
JCSM	Joint Chiefs of Staff Memorandum
JOC	joint operations center
JP-4	Jet petroleum, a liquid aircraft fuel whose chief ingredient is kerosene.
J-Staff	Joint Staff. Used in numerical combinations such as J-1 (Personnel), J-2 (Intelligence), J-3 (Operations), J-4 (Logistics), J-5 (Plans), and J-6 (Communications and Electronics).
JTF	joint task force
Junction City	The massive two and one-half month (February-April 1967) sweep of War Zone C aimed at opening the area for clearing operations that would eliminate this major enemy sanctuary. The plan was to root out the COSVN and cripple the 9th VC Division.
Jungle Jim	The 4400th Combat Crew training squadron and subsequent USAF air commando activity at Eglin AFB, Florida.
JUSMAG	Joint United States Military Advisory Group
JUSMAGTHAI	Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand
karst	An irregular limestone region with jagged ridges, sinks, underground streams, and caverns.
KBA	killed by air
KC-135 Stratotanker	Long-range, high-performance tanker powered by four turbojet engines. Has a flying boom for high-speed, high-altitude, aerial refueling of bombers and fighters. Can be used as a cargo and/or troop transport, carrying up to eighty troops. Four crewmembers. (Boeing)
KIA	killed in action
kip	The basic monetary unit of Laos from 1955.
km	kilometer
Knight Watch	An operation in which A-1s directed North Vietnam strike packages against targets in Barrel Roll when weather precluded striking their primary targets in North Vietnam.
L-19	Previous designation for the O-1. See O-1.
LAAF	Laotian Army Air Force
Lam Son 719	South Vietnamese incursion into Laos during February and March 1971. First major operation of its kind—large South Vietnamese ground forces operating independently of U.S. Army ground advisors but with almost complete dependence on U.S. air support. See Atlanta/Falcon.
Laredo/Bullwhip	"Clandestine Army," the name applied to trained Meo troops.
L'Armee Clandestine	

[REDACTED]

The War in Northern Laos

laser	light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation
lima site	Aircraft landing site (dirt strip) in Laos used as resupply point.
Linebacker I	An operation authorized by President Nixon after he suspended peace talks in Paris on May 8, 1972. For the first time, the United States imposed a naval blockade and mined the waters of Haiphong and other North Vietnamese ports. Simultaneously, the President authorized a renewal of air strikes throughout North Vietnam above the 20th parallel. Linebacker I ended on October 22, 1972.
LOC(s)	line(s) of communication
Lonesome Tiger	Forward-looking infrared detection system in the 1966 A-26 aircraft flight test.
loran	Long-range electronic navigation system that uses a time divergence of pulse-type transmissions from two or more fixed stations. From (LO)ng (RA)nge (N)avigation. Used a computer aboard an aircraft to measure the time difference between signals received from two pair of radio stations. Maps using loran D overlay translated geographic coordinates into loran coordinates. This allowed bombing of targets regardless of weather.
loran D	
LS	lima site
LST	landing ship, tank
LTAG	Lao Training Advisory Group
lt gap	loran targeting, grid annotated photography
ltr	letter
Lucky Dragon	Reconnaissance of the Laos and South and North Vietnam borders and selected target areas by U-2 aircraft of the Strategic Air Command. Began in February 1964.
M-16	A 5.56-mm, magazine-fed, gas-operated, air-cooled, shoulder weapon designed for either semiautomatic or automatic fire.
MAAG	Military Assistance Advisory Group
MAC	Military Airlift Command
MACLAOS	Military Assistance Coordinator, Laos
MACTHAI	Military Assistance Command, Thailand
MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MAF	Marine amphibious force
MAP	Military Assistance Program
MASF	Military Assistance Service Funded
MATS	Military Air Transport Service
MAW	Marine aircraft wing
mbl	mobile
memo	memorandum
MiG	Popular designation for fighter aircraft designed and developed by the Russian Mikoyan and Gurevich design bureau.
mil	military
Millpond	Materiel, financial, and advisory/combat assistance to Laos, approved by President Kennedy in March 1961.
minigun	A 7.62-mm mutibarrel weapon firing 6,000 rounds per minute with a muzzle velocity of 2,750 feet-per-second.
mm	millimeter
monsoon	A seasonal wind in Southeast Asia that blows from the southwest during April to October and from the northeast during the rest of the year.
Montagnard	Mountain tribesmen of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia who had a history of antipathy toward the Vietnamese.
Morane-500	Prop-driven, single-engine, high-wing, Cricket liaison aircraft. Two crewmembers. (Morane Saulnier)
MR	memorandum for record; military region
msg	message
mtg	meeting
MTT	mobile training team
Mule Train	The nickname of the initial USAF C-123 detachment in Vietnam.
Muscle Shoals	Air-supported antivehicular and antipersonnel system using acoustic and seismic sensors; started in 1966 and renamed Igloo White in July 1968.
Nail	Call sign for FAC aircraft operating in Laos from the 23d TASS at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB.

Glossary

nape	napalm
nat	national
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCO	noncommissioned officer
n.d.	no date
Niagara	USAF participation in the battle for Khe Sanh in January-March 1968.
Nimrod	Call sign for A-26s of the 56th Air Commando Wing, Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, operating in Laos.
NLHX	Neo Lao Hak Xat, Laotian Patriotic Front (communist Pathet Lao political party in Laos).
NM	nautical mile
NMCC	National Military Command Center
NORM	not operationally ready, maintenance
NORS	not operationally ready, supply
NSA	National Security Agency
NSAM	National Security Action Memorandum
NSC	National Security Council
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
NVN	North Vietnam
O-1 Bird Dog	Single-engine propeller-driven, high-wing, light observation aircraft. One or two crewmembers. Formerly designated L-19. (Cessna)
O-2 Super Skymaster	Twin-engine (one push, one pull), propeller-driven, twin-boom light observation aircraft. One or two crewmembers. (Cessna)
ofc	office
Ofc/	Office of
off	officer
Off Balance	An operation in 1969 to retake Muong Soui, Laos, from the communists.
One Buck	Tactical Air Command composite air strike force deployment to Southeast Asia in August 1964 in response to the Gulf of Tonkin attack.
OPlan	Operation Plan
OpOrd	Operation Order
ops	operations
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
OV-1 Mohawk	Twin-engine turboprop, surveillance (day and night) airplane with visual observation and photographic capabilities. Two crew members. (Grumman)
OV-10 Bronco	Twin-engine, twin-boom, light-weight, armed reconnaissance aircraft. More versatile than the O-1 or O-2, used in Vietnam after 1968. Two crewmembers. (North American)
PACAF	Pacific Air Forces
PACFLT	Pacific Fleet
PACOM	Pacific Command
PAF	Pacific Air Force (1954-56)
Palace Dog	Project under which Air Force personnel were sent on temporary duty to staff the air operations centers in Laos.
PARU	(S) Police Aerial Resupply Unit, actually a Thai Special Forces unit.
Pathet Lao	Laotian Communist force or person.
Pathfinder	An aircraft with special navigation equipment (radar, loran) that guides other aircraft on a mission.
Patricia Lynn	RB-57 reconnaissance aircraft.
Pave Way	Guidance systems for bombs: Paveway I—laser, II—electro-optical III—infrared. Also used to describe the aircraft delivering the bombs.
PDJ	Plaines des Jars (Plain of Jars). A militarily strategic area northeast of Vientiane in Laos.
PEO	Programs Evaluation Office
perm	permanent
Pierce Arrow	Tactical Air Command composite air strike force made up of fighter, reconnaissance, and airlift units, intended to bolster Pacific Air Forces tactical forces in the Far East in August 1964. Later called One Buck.

The War in Northern Laos

Pig Fat	A Meo operation in northern Laos during late November and December 1968, supported by allied air power.
Pipestem	Limited reconnaissance in October 1981 by four Air Force RF-101s over selected areas of Laos and South Vietnam. Replaced in early November by Able Mable.
PL	Pathet Lao
POL	petroleum, oil, and lubricants
Pony Express	Support provided by Air Force helicopter units to tribal intelligence gathering and targeting operations in southern Laos and North Vietnam.
PPC	Photographic processing cell; a facility, generally mobile, equipped for the processing, printing, and interpretation of reconnaissance sensor products and other production normally related to the reconnaissance intelligence function.
Prairie Fire	Formerly Shining Brass. Consisted of air-supported ground reconnaissance teams sent into enemy territory to select targets for air strikes and to make poststrike assessments of damage.
Prasane	An operation in 1966 to clear the Pathet Lao from Nam Bac and the Ou River Valley in Luang Prabang Province, Laos.
pres	president
prgm	program
proj	project
psp	pieced steel planking
psyop(s)	psychological operation(s)
psywar	psychological warfare
PT (boat)	patrol torpedo boat
PT-76	Soviet amphibious light tank with 76-mm gun.
R&D	research and development
R&R	rest and recuperation.
RB-26	B-26 modified for reconnaissance. See A-26.
RB-57	B-57 modified for reconnaissance. See B-57.
RB-66	B-66 modified for reconnaissance. See B-66.
RC-47	C-47 transport modified for reconnaissance. See C-47.
RF-4	F-4 modified for photographic and/or electronic reconnaissance missions. See F-4.
RF-8	F-8 modified for reconnaissance missions. See F-8.
RF-101 Voodoo	Reconnaissance version of the F-101. A twin-engine turbojet aircraft, the first supersonic reconnaissance aircraft of the USAF, one crewmember. (McDonnell)
Rain Dance	Air operation against communist transshipment points, base camps, storage areas, and headquarters in formerly restricted areas on the eastern edge of the Plain of Jars (1969). Forward air controllers in Laos (name changed from Butterfly in September 1967).
Raven	record
rerd	reconnaissance squadron
RCS	retired
ret	retired
RLA	Royal Laotian Army
RLAF	Royal Laotian Air Force
RLG	Royal Laotian Government
RLGAF	Royal Laotian Government Air Force
RO	requirements office
ROK	Republic of Korea
Rolling Thunder	Air strikes against lines of communication and other targets in North Vietnam (March 1965-October 1968).
Route Packages	Numbered geographic areas (I through V, VIA, VIB) in North Vietnam, designated by CINCPAC to permit the assignment of Rolling Thunder responsibilities to CINCPACAF, CINCPACFLT, and COMUSMACV.
RPL	Laotian People's Rally, a party formed in 1958 when several conservative groups merged with Souvanna Phouma's constituents. Goal of the new party, led by Souvanna, was to unite the national forces to fight communism and subversion.
tpt	report
rqmts	requirements
RT-28	T-28 configured for reconnaissance. See T-28.
RT-33 Shooting Star	The reconnaissance configuration of the T-33, a single-engine, two-place, jet trainer version of the F-80. (Lockheed)
RTA	Royal Thailand Army



Glossary

RTAF	Royal Thai Air Force
RTAFB	Royal Thai Air Force Base
RTG	Royal Thailand Government
RTS	reconnaissance technical squadron
RVN	Republic of Vietnam
S-2 Tracker	Twin-engine propeller-driven, carrier-based, search and attack, antisubmarine aircraft. (Grumman)
SAC	Strategic Air Command
SAF	Secretary of the Air Force
sappers	Individuals who conduct attacks and sabotage using mines, satchel charges, and/or other demolition devices.
SAR	search and rescue
SAW	special air warfare
SAWC	Special Air Warfare Center (USAF)
Sayasila	An all-Laotian operation in 1971 to recover the Bolovens Plateau.
SC-47	C-47 transport especially equipped for search and rescue missions, and with twice the normal fuel load, stronger landing gear, and jet-assisted takeoff. Later designated HC-47.
scty	security
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEATO	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
SEACORD	Coordinating Committee for United States Missions Southeast Asia
SECDEF	Secretary of Defense
SECSTATE	Secretary of State
secy	secretary
Seed Joy	A program to modify the Bullpup for flak suppression.
Sentinel Lock	A program that produced photomaps referenced to loran beacon locations. Similar to lt gap (loran-targeting, grid annotated photography). Aircraft's computer recorded loran coordinates at the point beneath the aircraft at the instant the photo was taken. From this data a photomap was made with a grid overlay giving exact coordinates of every position on the map.
sess	session
Shadow	Call sign of the C-119G gunships.
Shed Light	A USAF program to improve night attack/interdiction capability.
sheep-dip	(S) Give a military member civilian clothes, civilian identification, and a suitable cover story.
Shining Brass	Shining Brass United States-led South Vietnamese probes into the Ho Chi Minh Trail with Army and Air Force helicopter and aircraft support (renamed Prairie Fire on March 1, 1967). Began September 15, 1965.
short rounds	The inadvertent or accidental delivery of ordnance with resultant injury or death to friendly forces or noncombatants. The term originally described rounds or bombs that fell short of the target.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
SITREP	commander's situation report
Skyspot	See Combat Skyspot.
SL	Steel Tiger
SLAR	Side-looking airborne radar; views at right angles to the axis of the aircraft, producing a presentation of terrain or moving targets.
slicks	low-drag weapons; unarmed troop-carrying helicopters
smart bomb	A bomb with a system allowing internal or external guidance after release.
Snake Eye	A high-explosive bomb with three retarders similar to a four-armed umbrella, thus permitting low-altitude release and enhancing accuracy.
Snare Drum	Air attacks to catch the enemy by surprise, just before dawn and after dusk. A single high-speed pass was made by sixteen to twenty-four F-4s. To produce the most lethal concentration over a wide area, a combination of CBU-24 antipersonnel bombs and 500-pound general purpose bombs were used.
SOIC	sector operational intelligence center
soft target	A target usually acquired by aerial visual or photo reconnaissance in conjunction with ground operations. Suitable for a onetime strike.

(b) (1)
 (b) (3) (b)
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CIA

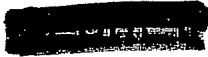


The War in Northern Laos

SOS	special operations squadron
SOW	special operations wing
sp	special
Special Forces	Military personnel with cross-training in basic and specialized military skills, organized into small multiple-purpose detachments with the mission to train, organize, supply, direct, and control other forces in guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency operations and conduct unconventional warfare operations.
spt	support
sqdn	squadron
Steel Tiger	Air Force/Navy interdiction in southern Laos on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, beginning April 3, 1965, after which Barrel Roll was confined to northern Laos.
STOL	Short-takeoff-and-landing
Stranglehold	Scaled-down version of Rain Dance, designed to cut Route 7 in Laos (1969).
STRICOM	Strike Command
subj	subject
sum	summary
sup	supplement
SVN	South Vietnam
T-6 Harvard or Texan	Prop-driven, single-engine, two-seat, low-wing, trainer airplane.
T-28 Nomad	Single-engine propeller-driven, 1950-era trainer. The T-28s used in Vietnam had been extensively modified for use as counterinsurgency aircraft. Used by USAF and VNAF; two crewmembers. (North American)
T-37	Twin-engine turbojet trainer with side-by-side seating for instructor and student. The A-37 was a highly modified version of this aircraft. (Cessna)
TAC	Tactical Air Command
tac	tactical
tacan	tactical air navigation, a radio air navigation system
TACC	tactical air control center
TACS	tactical air control system
Tally Ho	An intensified interdiction campaign in southern route package 1.
targets of opportunity	Perishable or fleeting targets like trucks, boats, or personnel.
TAS	tactical airlift squadron
TASG	tactical air support group
TASS	tactical air support squadron
TBS	tactical bomb squadron
TCS	troop carrier squadron
TCW	troop carrier wing
tech	technical
Tet	The Lunar New Year holiday celebrated in Vietnam and other Asian countries during the first seven days of the first month of the lunar calendar, occurs between January 21 and February 19.
TEWS	tactical electronic warfare squadron
TF	task force
TFS	tactical fighter squadron
TFW	tactical fighter wing
TG	task group
34-A operations	Operations carried out covertly north of the demilitarized zone.
Tiger Hound	Nickname of a special Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Army task force that began interdicting southeastern Laos on December 5, 1965.
Tiger target list	Target list prepared by Seventh Air Force/Thirteenth Air Force
TOT	time over target; time on target
Triangle	An operation featuring a combined FAR/neutralist/Meo assault on an enemy pocket at Sala Phou Khoun, Laos, that threatened Route 13 and the rear of General Kong Le's Muoung Soui headquarters (1964).
TRS	tactical reconnaissance squadron
TRW	tactical reconnaissance wing
Turnpike	An interdiction operation between April 19 and October 31, 1968. B-52s and tactical fighters, using laser-guided bombs for the first time, waged an around-the-clock campaign against all known truck parks and storage areas along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and in Route Package I in southern North Vietnam.

Glossary

U-2	Single-engine, high-altitude, long-range, turbojet reconnaissance aircraft with long, wide, straight wings and a glider-like appearance and characteristics. One crewmember. (Lockheed)
U-6 Beaver	Single-engine propeller-driven utility aircraft. One crewmember, five passengers. (de Havilland)
U-10 Super Courier	Single-engine propeller-driven, STOL aircraft. Two crewmembers, two passengers. (Helio)
U-17 Skywagon	Single-engine propeller-driven utility aircraft. One crewmember, five passengers. (Cessna)
UC-123	C-123 transport modified for spraying. See C-123 and Ranch Hand.
UH-1	Iroquois Single-engine (turbine) general purpose helicopter with a single two-blade main rotor. Used by U.S. Army. Two crewmembers, five to eleven passengers. (Bell)
UHF	ultra high frequency
UN	United Nations
U.S.	United States (of America)
USA	United States Army
USAF	United States Air Force
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USARMA	United States Army attaché
USARV	United States Army, Vietnam
USIA	United States Information Agency
USIS	United States Information Service
USMACTHAI	United States Military Assistance Command Thailand
USMACV	United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam
USMC	United States Marine Corps
USN	United States Navy
USOM	United States Operations Mission
USSTRICOM	United States Strike Command
VC	Viet Cong
VC-47	The C-47 equipped for administrative operations. See C-47.
VHF	very high frequency
Viet Cong	Informal name for South Vietnamese Communist forces, ranged from guerrillas to well trained and equipped main forces.
Viet Minh	Short name for a Vietnamese independence group (<i>Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi</i> —League for the Independence of Viet Nam) formed in 1941 that led the struggle for the independence of Vietnam from the French and fought the French in the Indochina War. Viet Minh leaders were absorbed into the Vietnamese Communist Party, the dominant force in North Vietnam, and elements merged with the Viet Cong in South Vietnam.
VNAF	Vietnamese Air Force
vol	volume
VR	visual reconnaissance
VTOL	vertical takeoff and landing
Water Pump	Nickname for Detachment 6, 1st Air Commando Wing, that deployed to Udon RTAFB in April 1964 to training and provide logistic support for Thai and Laotian air force personnel.
West Wind	Seventh Air Force operations against the North Vietnamese logistic buildup in Laos (1969).
wg	wing
White Star	Mobile training teams consisting of Special Forces personnel from Okinawa. They acted as cadres for General Phoumi's FAR troops but were most adept in working with General Vang Pao's Meo guerrilla fighters.
WIA	wounded in action
Wild Weasel	The name applied to specially configured multiplace fighter aircraft and aircrews used to hunt and kill enemy-controlled surface-to-air missile sites.
WIS	Weekly Intelligence Summary (Seventh AF)
WRS	weather reconnaissance squadron



The War in Northern Laos

- Yankee Station The location of U.S. naval forces in the Gulf of Tonkin that had strike responsibility for North Vietnam.
- Yankee Team A USAF and USN tactical recon program that began in northern and southern Laos on May 19, 1964.
- Zulu (or Z) Zulu Time (Greenwich Mean Time)



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(U) Documents addressed to or emanating from the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, served as the chief source for this volume. Included are messages to and from the ambassador, military attaches, Central Intelligence Agency, requirements office, and others. The CINCPAC communications center recorded these messages on microfilm and deposited them with the Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C. Since all telecommunications lines between Southeast Asia and the continental United States passed through the CINCPAC communications center, the collection contains virtually all telegraphic messages to and from the theater, including messages from the Pacific Command; Pacific Air Forces; Pacific Fleet; United States Army, Pacific; Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; Military Assistance Command, Thailand; Deputy Chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand (and its predecessor, Programs Evaluation Office/Military Assistance Advisory Group, Laos); 2d Air Division; Seventh Air Force; Thirteenth Air Force; Seventh Air Force/Thirteenth Air Force (and its forerunner, 2d Air Division/Thirteenth Air Force); U.S. Support Activities Group; Joint Chiefs of Staff; Defense Intelligence Agency; Central Intelligence Agency; and the Department of State and its embassies.

(U) The second major source was the Project CHECO¹ microfilm collection at the Air Force Historical Research Agency,² Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. During the war, Project CHECO microfilmed the records of most all USAF activities in Southeast Asia. Among them are the air attache offices, Seventh Air Force, Seventh Air Force/Thirteenth Air Force, and the various Air Force units assigned to Southeast Asia. The collection is by no means complete because many documents were destroyed before CHECO personnel had a chance to record them. Even so, the records give valuable insights into day-to-day operations of these activities. Besides collecting and recording documents, Project CHECO prepared a number of specialized studies on aspects of the war. These are cataloged in Edward T. Russell, *Research Guide to the Published Project CHECO Reports, 1964-1976* (Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center, 1976).

(U) The Air University's Project Corona Harvest gathered a rich lode of documents, collected End of Tour Reports from nearly all unit commanders in Southeast Asia, and conducted interviews with key personnel who served in the theater. A listing and abstract of each interview are in the *U.S. Air Force Oral History Catalog*, issued by the Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center in 1977. Like Project CHECO, Corona Harvest published numerous special reports. One particularly valuable to this work is Pacific Air Forces Activity Input to Project Corona Harvest, *Out-Country Strike Operations in Southeast Asia*, covering December 1964 to December 1969. A complete index to CHECO and Corona Harvest material, and many other sources as well, can be found in the computerized data base system maintained by the Air Force Historical Research Agency.

(U) Other document collections consulted were those of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Air Staff agencies at the Washington National Records Center, Suitland, Md.; Commander in Chief,

1. (U) Contemporary Historical Evaluation of Counterinsurgency Operations (1962); Contemporary Historical Evaluation of Combat Operations (1965); Contemporary Historical Examination of Current Operations (1970)

2. (U) The USAF Historical Research Agency has gone through a number of name changes. Established in 1942 as the AAF Historical Division, it was redesignated Air Historical Group in 1948, USAF Historical Division in 1949, Historical Research Division in 1969, Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center in 1972, USAF Historical Research Center in 1983, and USAF Historical Research Agency in 1992.

UNCLASSIFIED

The War in Northern Laos

Pacific Command, at the Federal Records Center, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Seventh Air Force and Pacific Air Forces at the Air Force Historical Research Agency; and the files of the Department of State, Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency. In addition, the U.S. Special Operations School (formerly the Special Air Warfare Center), Hurlburt Field, Fla., keeps an extensive library on air commando activities in Southeast Asia. And the Center for Air Force History, Bolling Air Force Base, District of Columbia, has a large collection of personal papers and memorabilia of major USAF personalities.

(U) The Defense Intelligence Agency's *Cold War (Counterinsurgency) Analysis, Laos* (1965) supplies a useful summary of the war up to that year. The DIA/JCS quarterly *Southeast Asia Military Fact Book* furnishes data on the force structure and order of battle for the countries in Southeast Asia. A running account of JCS actions regarding Laos is in *History of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War in Vietnam, 1960-1968* (JCS Historical Division, 1970). Convenient guides to researching JCS files are *Chronology of JCS Recommendations Concerning Military Involvement in Laos* (JCS, 1972) and *JCS Chronology* (JCS, 1973).

(U) Semiannual histories of Air Staff directorates present a picture of the war as seen from Washington and put it within the framework of worldwide USAF activities. The Air Force's *Journal of Mutual Security* (renamed *Journal of Military Assistance* in September 1961) tells in words and statistics the story of military aid to the Royal Laotian Air Force. The USAF Management Summary, Southeast Asia, provides data on Air Force operations as does the USAF Trends, Indicators, and Analyses.

(U) Indispensable to any study of the war in Laos are the command histories of Strategic Air Command; Pacific Command; Pacific Air Forces; Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; Military Assistance Command, Thailand; 2d Air Division; Seventh Air Force; U.S. Support Activities Group; Thirteenth Air Force; and Seventh Air Force/Thirteenth Air Force. Unit histories are a mixed bag, but the best of them provide penetrating insights into how the war was actually fought.

(U) Historical summaries of the Deputy Chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand, are essentially extended End of Tour Reports affording an overall account of the Military Assistance Program from 1962 on. The early period is depicted in the Final Report of the Military Assistance and Advisory Group, Laos, November 6, 1962; study, PEO, Missions and Functions of Program Evaluation Office, n.d. [ca Sep 24, 1957]; and MAAG Laos Briefing, Laos: Pawn of Destiny, August 1961.

(U) Statistics and a short narrative of air operations in Laos are set forth in two monthly Pacific Air Forces publications: *Effects of Air Operations, Southeast Asia*; and *Summary of Air Operations, Southeast Asia*. The PACAF *Weekly Intelligence Digest* contributes helpful information on the war. A PACAF special study, *Target Barrel Roll, March-October 1969*, treats Operations Rain Dance and About Face. Another good source of information is the *Seventh Air Force Weekly Air Intelligence Summary*.

(U) Special studies of the Center for Air Force History and of USAF commands have been helpful in preparing the present volume. These are listed in Jacob Neufeld, *et al*, *Guide to Air Force Historical Literature, 1943-1983* (Office of Air Force History, 1985). Missing from this catalog is an important study, *USAF Communications and Air Traffic Control Operations in Southeast Asia, 1960-1973* (Air Force Communications Service, 1976). A valuable chronicle of the war, edited by Carl Berger, is *The United States Air Force in Southeast Asia: An Illustrated Account* (Office of Air Force History, 1977).

(U) The authors also interviewed participants in the war, and frequently consulted with historians of the Office of Air Force History who were working on volumes in the United States Air Force in Southeast Asia series.

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Index (U)

- Able Mable 63, 74, 102-3, 107, 111, 146, 157
 About Face 269, 271, 307, 310-11, 313-17, 319,
 321-23, 327, 331, 333, 337, 339, 345
 Abrams, Creighton W., Jr. 326
 Afanasseyev, Sergei 78
 Agency for International Development 7, 11-12,
 14-16, 18-19, 27, 29, 31, 33, 45, 57, 62, 64,
 71-72, 76, 78-79, 88-91, 93, 149, 182, 184, 199,
 201, 207, 209, 228, 232, 247-48, 251, 252, 257,
 265, 267, 273, 276, 307, 328, 331, 333, 341, 357,
 364, 366-67
 Air America 30, 34-36, 39-40, 42, 46, 53, 59, 65, 70,
 73-75, 78-80, 89-90, 93, 94, 101-6, 109-11,
 118-19, 121-22, 128-29, 132-33, 139, 142, 149,
 153, 160, 164-67, 169, 172, 174-76, 178-79,
 182-83, 189, 192, 204, 206-7, 214-15, 221, 225,
 236-37, 251, 254-55, 257, 261-62, 264-65, 276,
 286, 302-3, 310, 317, 363, 364-66
 Air attaché 34-35, 54, 56, 73, 89, 96-97, 101, 103-4,
 107-8, 110, 112, 118, 129-30, 133, 153-54, 169,
 174, 182, 185, 187, 193, 200, 203, 208, 210, 215,
 221, 225, 227, 231-32, 240, 243, 245, 259-61,
 266, 267, 271, 273-74, 276, 280-81, 283-84, 287,
 294, 296, 298, 303, 305, 310-11, 315, 321, 323,
 339, 341, 344, 346-47, 349, 354, 360, 364, 366-67
 Airborne battlefield command and control center 195,
 216, 221, 228, 281, 311, 335
 Air commandos 93, 96, 100-101, 103, 129, 142-43,
 195, 204, 214, 220, 227, 245-46, 256, 263,
 272-73, 276
 Aircraft, fixed wing
 A-1 110-11, 120, 133, 137-38, 146-47, 157, 167,
 174, 180, 195, 196, 211, 213-14, 216, 218, 220,
 226-29, 233-36, 238, 241-46, 254-57, 263, 285,
 287, 292, 302-3, 315-16, 333, 335, 339, 341,
 343-45, 355, 357, 359
 A-4 68, 147
 A-6 169, 360
 A-7 359-61
 A-26 36, 209-11, 217, 219, 228, 234-35, 238, 241,
 243, 244-46, 254-55, 257, 263, 284
 A-37 348
 AC-47 188-89, 191, 210, 275, 296-97, 302, 317-18,
 319, 324-25, 328, 331, 342, 344-46, 357, 365
 AC-119 325, 328, 333-35, 339, 342-44, 355, 357
 AC-130 243, 284, 296, 311, 317, 328, 355, 357,
 359, 360
 AN-2 79, 253-54
 B-26 36, 39, 42-43, 46-51, 53, 67, 209
 B-47 25
 B-52 156, 263-64, 277, 300, 309, 318, 325-26, 342,
 344, 354-57, 359-62
 B-57 82, 146
 C-7 109, 111, 121-22, 153
 C-45 37, 119
 C-46 30, 65, 89-90, 93, 175
 C-47 15-16, 23, 26, 29-30, 37, 42, 47, 49, 55-57,
 63, 65, 77, 81, 90-91, 93, 101, 105, 129, 150,
 172, 187-88, 200-203, 207, 236, 260, 266, 272,
 274, 276-77, 296-97, 318-19
 C-119 16-18
 C-123 78-79, 109, 121, 146-47, 164-66, 169, 172,
 236, 258, 286, 365-66
 C-124 17, 24, 48, 132
 C-130 16, 24, 27, 35-36, 42, 132, 146-47
 DC-4 42
 EC-47 293
 EC-130 221
 F-4 147, 166, 168-69, 171-72, 174-75, 189, 220,
 227-28, 234, 241, 243, 255, 263, 287, 292, 293,
 300, 305, 315, 335-36, 339-41, 343-45, 346,
 353-55, 357, 359-61
 F-5 93, 348
 F-8 110-11, 147
 F-86 43
 F-100 48, 51, 68, 82, 95, 110-14, 127-28, 131, 139,
 146-49, 155, 175, 244
 F-102 208
 F-104 211, 214, 220
 F-105 127, 139, 146-49, 155, 157, 166, 169, 172,
 178, 180, 186, 189, 192-93, 212-14, 217, 220,
 226-28, 233-35, 239, 243, 263, 285, 287, 300,
 301, 333
 F-111 275, 359-62
 F8F 43
 HC-54 172
 HC-130 221
 HU-16 133, 160, 164-65, 169, 172, 203
 II-14 34, 51, 63, 79-80, 171, 175
 II-28 359
 Ilyushin transports 33-34, 78
 KC-135 114, 156
 L-19 16, 54, 122, 143
 LT-6 16
 MiG-21 236
 MS-500 15
 O-1 57, 119, 187, 204, 209, 215, 221-22, 226, 262,
 277, 291, 303, 316-18, 349, 357, 365
 O-2 221-22, 262
 OV-1 293-94, 334
 OV-10 262, 325, 355
 PA-18 260
 RB-26 47, 49, 73-74
 RB-57 146
 RC-47 195, 216, 221
 RF-4 220, 292, 315, 336, 355
 RF-8 109, 103, 114
 RF-101 49, 63, 74, 102, 104, 111, 117, 146, 149,
 152-53, 157, 186, 220
 RT-28 49, 91, 102, 105, 107, 139, 141-42
 RT-33 41, 49, 62-63
 SC-47 41, 47, 49, 67

The War in Northern Laos

- T-6 16, 35-37, 39-42, 47, 50-51, 53-54, 56-58, 65, 67, 76-76, 85, 87-89
- T-28 37, 58, 67, 76-77, 87-93, 95-98, 100-107, 109-16, 118-30, 138-44, 150, 152-53, 164-72, 174-75, 182, 187-89, 196, 200, 201-4, 206-9, 214-17, 223-27, 236-39, 241, 243, 245, 258-61, 266, 267, 272-77, 286, 294-95, 302, 310, 313, 316-18, 322, 330-31, 334, 340-41, 344-49, 354, 357, 360, 364-67
- T-34 351, 354
- U-2 114, 117, 142, 154, 239
- U-6 215
- U-10 20, 36, 63, 109-10, 125, 261
- U-17 90, 119, 125, 215, 261, 292
- VC-47 34-35, 41, 49
- Air Divisions, U.S.
- 2d 97, 107, 110, 117, 131-32, 146, 153, 155, 160, 163, 165-66, 171-72, 175, 178-79, 183-86, 191, 315th 24, 36, 46, 132
- Air Laos 16, 23, 30
- Air liaison officer 142, 170
- Air operations center 103-4, 106, 109, 111, 122, 125, 132, 204, 237, 259, 272-74, 277, 295, 316, 319
- Air Staff 24, 74, 94, 232
- Air support operations center 131-33, 152-53, 165, 166, 169, 172
- Amkha Soukhavong 88, 98-100, 123, 127
- Annamite Mountains 1
- Anniversary Victory 141-42
- Arc Light 326
- Area-denial munitions 311
- Armee National Laos 19
- Army attaché 34, 47, 89, 96, 104, 107-8, 123, 126-27, 130, 200, 225, 239, 266, 271, 293-94, 334, 347, 364
- Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs 22, 30, 62, 79, 101, 201, 281
- Ashiya AB, Japan 16
- Associated States of Indochina 11
- Atlanta/Falcon 292
- Attopeu, Laos 119, 122, 223, 264-66, 269, 331
- Auto Defense de Choc 126, 167, 203-4, 212, 217
- Baer, John W. 279
- Baguio, Philippines 159, 162
- Baldwin, Clarke T., Jr. 200-201, 206-7
- Ball, George W. 74, 174
- Baltimore Sun 149
- Ban Ban, Laos 81, 83, 88, 117, 120, 153, 184, 196, 209-10, 218, 222, 301, 303, 310, 321, 327, 337, 341
- Ban Ban Valley, Laos 139, 339
- Ban Cha Thao, Laos 178
- Bangkok, Thailand 2-5, 7-8, 16-17, 24, 29, 35-36, 46-48, 54-55, 66, 68, 72, 74, 92, 100, 131-32, 163, 167, 169, 187, 272, 275-76, 279, 294, 318
- Bango/Whiplash 166, 168-70, 184-87, 189, 196, 211, 216, 240, 335
- Ban Hong Non, Laos 150, 153
- Ban Houa Xieng, Laos 154, 155
- Ban Kao, Laos 217
- Ban Ken bridge, Laos 139-40, 146-48, 158
- Ban Liang, Laos 191, 192, 196
- Ban Mok Plai, Laos 217-18
- Ban Muong Ngan, Laos 301
- Ban Na, Laos 330, 341
- Ban Na Lieu, Laos 153
- Ban Nam Hiang, Laos 182
- Ban Nhik, Laos 346-47
- Ban Padong, Laos 53-54, 56
- Ban Pha Tang, Laos 90
- Ban Song, Laos 196
- Ban Tang Vai, Laos 316, 342
- Barrel Roll 144, 146-48, 150, 152-60, 162-63, 168-69, 178, 181-88, 191-96, 198-99, 209-11, 213-14, 216, 220-22, 228-29, 234-36, 243-45, 247-48, 251-52, 262-63, 280-85, 287, 292-93, 296, 301, 304, 307, 309-11, 313, 315, 321-22, 325, 333-37, 340, 342-45, 347, 354, 356, 359-60
- Barrel Roll East 311
- Barrel Roll North 311
- Barrel Roll West 311
- Barrel Roll Working Group 281, 313, 343
- Barthelemy Pass, Laos-North Vietnam 5, 64
- Battalions
- Laotian
- 1st 33
- 2d Paratroop 29, 122-23, 188, 207
- 4th Paratroop 99
- 401st Paratroop 217
- Neutralist
- 85th 212
- Independent Battalion 8 192
- Pathet Lao
- 1st 22
- 2d 22, 30, 191
- 701st 191
- Bay of Pigs 48
- Beacons, radio, air navigation 16, 49, 199, 359
- Bennington, USS, aircraft carrier 46
- Berlin 61
- Bien Hoa, South Vietnam 74, 105, 142
- Big Eagle 209-10
- Bird and Sons 101
- Black Watch 73-74
- Blood, Gordon F. 242
- Blue Chip 228
- Blueprint for Improving RLG Military Forces, Sullivan's 317-19, 331, 348
- Bolovens Plateau, Laos 5, 29, 206, 285, 330-31, 342-43, 346, 347, 351, 353, 359, 362
- Bomb damage assessment 114, 146, 186, 211, 226, 229, 315, 335
- Bomblets 218, 336
- Bond, Charles R., Jr. 183, 194, 199
- Boonchoo Chandrueksa 103
- Booster Shot 15-19
- Bouam Long, Laos 344-45, 359-60
- Bouathong Phothisongsa 365
- Boun Neua, Laos 16
- Boun Oum, na Champassak 6-7, 34, 36, 45, 47, 61-62, 64-67, 69, 71, 202, 207, 328

Index

- Bounchanh Savadphayphane 225-26, 236-37
 Bounleut Saycocie 207-8
 Bounleuth Sanichan 39, 65, 70, 98
 Boumpone Makthepharak 150, 201, 207, 223, 328, 348, 366
 Bowles, Chester 50
 Box Score 325, 327
 Boyle, Andrew J. 40-43, 45, 51, 53, 57-58, 62-65, 69, 75-76
 Bridge, John E. 208
 Brigade, 3d Marine Expeditionary 23
 Bringle, William F. 107-8, 110
 Britain 3, 5, 11, 46, 50, 67, 88, 99, 123-24, 126, 207, 367
 Brown, George S. 247, 261, 277, 279-80, 298, 311, 313, 314, 321, 326, 330
 Brown, Rothwell H. 14, 18
 Brown, Winthrop G., U.S. ambassador to Laos 30-31, 35-36, 40-42, 45, 47-53, 56, 59-60, 63-65, 67, 69-70, 72, 92, 305
 Brownfield, Alfred R. 29
 Buddhist 2, 4, 143, 227, 306
 Buffer state, Laos as 1, 3, 11.
 Bullpup 147-49, 155, 256, 301, 310
 Bullwhip 292, 315
 Bundy, McGeorge 144, 156
 Bundy, William P. 62, 79, 98-99, 101-2, 113, 115, 123-24, 137, 248, 291
 Bureau of the Budget 22
 Burke, Arleigh A. 50
 Burma 1-3, 4, 43, 50, 224
 Butler, Robert A. 124, 126
 Butterfly FACs 213-16, 221, 222
- Ca Dinh River, Laos 160
 Cadre, Laotian trained by U.S. 22, 274, 349
 Cadre, North Vietnamese in Pathet Lao 14, 58-59, 64, 68, 84, 95, 106, 212, 224
 Cadre, Viet Minh in Pathet Lao 58
 Cambodia 1, 6, 11, 16, 20, 33, 62, 92, 107, 326, 330, 333
 Canada 11, 71
 Cavanaugh, Michael E. 303, 316
 Cease-fire 11, 44, 46, 48-51, 53, 58-59, 61-62, 64, 68, 76, 78, 81, 87, 98, 341, 359-65, 367
 Central Intelligence Agency
- Chadbourne, Philip H., Jr. 88-89, 102
 Champassak 2, 6-7, 202, 348, 351
 Chargé d'affaires 92, 201, 291, 364, 367
 Chasseurs 5
 Chathasone (RLAF captain) 260, 266-67
 Cheng Saignavong 99
 Chemnault, Claire L. 17
- Chiang Kai-shek 17
 China 1-4, 6, 7, 12, 17, 20, 23-24, 26, 37, 40, 42-43, 46, 50, 64, 68, 70-71, 82-83, 103, 105, 114, 124, 126, 141-42, 152, 168, 186, 212, 224, 239, 282, 300, 304-6, 311, 365
 China-Burma-India theater 43
 Chinamo barracks, Vientiane, Laos 33, 207
 China Sea 23, 46, 365
 Chokepoints 149, 158-60, 162, 168, 227, 310
 Christmas 8, 186, 187, 264, 285, 360
 CINCPAC 14, 16, 20, 23-24, 26, 35-37, 39, 41-42, 48, 50, 53, 59, 62, 67-68, 72-73, 75-76, 80, 82, 92, 100, 103, 105, 107, 121, 124, 140, 148, 154-56, 159, 162, 166-69, 187, 195, 197, 222, 243-44, 246, 248, 257, 261, 275-76, 279, 294-96, 304, 311, 339, 347, 350
 CINCPACAF 37, 82, 110, 165, 220, 243
 CINCPACFLT 37, 109
 CINCUSARPAC 68, 125
 Civil Air Transport Corporation 17, 23, 30
 Civil war 30-31, 33, 44-45
 Clark AB, Philippines 25, 35-36, 48-49, 68, 112, 114, 146
 Clay, Lucius D., Jr. 101, 341, 345
 Close air support 37, 106, 121, 169, 181, 185, 188, 193-94, 201, 218, 227-228, 231, 234, 238, 240, 242-44, 261, 266, 269, 282, 296, 315, 322, 324, 333-34, 337, 339-40, 343-46, 353-56
 Cluster bomb unit 146-48, 166, 238, 315, 336
 Coalition 7, 15, 19, 65, 67, 71-72, 76, 99
 Cochran, Drexel B. 97, 100, 102, 111, 119
 Code of Conduct 180
 Colby, William E. 101
 Coleman, Harry S. 57.
 College Eye 311, 333
 Collins, James F. 68
 Combat zone 30, 77
Comite pour la Defense des interets Nationaux 19-20, 25-26
 Commando Club 252-54
 Commando Hunt 231, 277, 279-80, 284, 293, 296, 311
 Commando Nail 293, 311
 Commandos, French 6, 44
 Congress, U.S. 19, 111, 115-16, 327, 328, 367
 Conley, Eugene O. 212-13
Constellation, USS, aircraft carrier 127
 Continental Air Service 36, 206, 214-15, 363-64, 366
 Coordinating Committee for United States Missions Southeast Asia 140, 142, 148, 155-57, 160, 162-63, 165, 248
 Cornelius, Arthur B. 243
 Cornett, Jack G. 97, 176
 Counterpunch 339
 Country team 14, 45, 48, 67, 72, 75, 78, 80, 83, 92, 108, 138, 140, 143, 153, 158, 162, 171, 176, 190-91, 193-94, 203, 206, 222-23, 226-27, 232, 273, 350-51
 Coup d'etat 26, 29, 330
 Cratering 91, 96, 141, 149, 158, 168
 Cricket FACs 15, 191, 198, 204, 209, 210, 214, 216

(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(S)

CIA

The War in Northern Laos

- Curry, Hayden C. 341, 344, 347, 349, 353, 356, 360
 Curto, Domenico A. 210
 Cushman, Robert E. 247
- Da Nang, South Vietnam 110-11, 113-14, 133, 146, 155, 166, 180-81, 220-21, 265
 Dawee Chunlasap 93, 183
 Dean, John G. 364-65
 Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos 71
 Defense Department, U.S. 11-12, 14, 22, 24, 30, 35, 42, 44, 48-50, 62, 72, 74-75, 83, 91-92, 115, 117, 124, 128, 130, 137-38, 144, 149-50, 164, 179-80, 182, 195, 198, 202, 240, 242-44, 248, 251-52, 281, 304-5, 309, 325-26, 339-40, 350, 364
 DeGroot, Albert J. 364-67
 Demilitarized Zone 82
 DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI 72, 93, 97, 122, 131, 176, 204
 Desert Rat 342
 Deuan Sunnalath 79-81
 Diem, Ngo Dinh 20
 Dien Bien Phu, North Vietnam 3, 8, 11, 28, 34-35, 55, 65, 105, 175, 204, 206, 222, 236, 355
- Divisions
 North Vietnamese
 312th 326
 316th 307, 315, 345
 U.S.
 3d Marine 46, 48
 25th Infantry 125
 27th Infantry 67-68
 Dogpatch RC-47 216
 Dong Hoi, North Vietnam 83
 Don Muang, Thailand 35, 48, 63, 73-74, 131, 152
 Dragonfly A-1s 213
 Drop zone 17-18, 34
 Dry season 1, 18, 55, 76, 147, 150, 181, 184, 195-96, 209-11, 217, 219, 222, 224, 233, 253, 269, 283-84, 287, 297, 322, 331, 336-37, 340, 342, 359
 Duck Soup 172, 174-75
 Dulles, John Foster 11, 14, 40
 Duskin, Edgar W. 271, 293-94, 334
- Easterbrook, Ernest F. 131-32, 163-64
 Eastern Construction Company in Laos 54
 Eastern Construction Company of Manila 54-55, 73, 76
 Eglin AFB, Florida 67, 92
 Eisenhower, Dwight D. 12, 24, 36, 40, 104
- Elections
 Laos 14-16, 19, 26-27, 29, 61, 216, 219, 222, 363
 U.S. 140
 Emory, Joe 36, 37
 Emrick, Paul S. 176
 England AFB, Louisiana 209
 English language, problems with 7, 16, 22, 54, 58, 77, 128, 183, 208-9, 211, 214, 259, 274, 349
 Erawan 28
 Evans, Andrew J., Jr. 262, 343, 345-46
- Falaize, Pierre L. 88
 Far Eastern Affairs, Assistant Secretary of State for 66, 98, 144, 174, 202, 339
 Farm Gate 67, 74, 87, 92, 97, 105, 138
 Federal Electric Corporation 184
 Felt, Harry D. 20, 24-25, 31, 34-37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45-46, 49-50, 53, 57, 59, 62, 64-66, 68-69, 72-73, 75-76, 80-82, 87, 89-91, 93-95, 98, 102, 105, 107, 109-11, 116-17, 120-21, 124, 129-31, 155, 305
 Ferguson, Charles L. 149
 Ferrari, Robert S. 204
 Field Goal 49, 62-63
 Field training team 22
 Flareship 146, 266, 286-87, 316, 340
 Flying Tigers 17
 Forces Armees de Laos (FAL) 26-30, 34, 37, 39, 42-45, 47-49, 51, 55, 58-59, 62
 Forces Armees du Royaume (FAR) 62, 64, 66-72, 77, 79-81, 83-84, 87-88, 91-96, 101, 106, 108-12, 118-20, 124-26, 130, 139-41, 143, 150, 154, 165-67, 169, 179, 183-84, 188, 191-93, 195, 197, 199-202, 206-9, 211, 216-19, 222-23, 234, 236-37, 239, 240, 258, 264-67, 269, 272-74, 304, 306, 309-10, 313-14, 318, 326-27, 331, 347, 359
 Forces Armees Neutre (FAN) 219, 252, 302, 306
 Forrestal, Michael V. 80
 Forward air controller 117, 119, 121-22, 125, 141-42, 144, 166, 168-69, 174, 187, 189-91, 195, 197-98, 204, 209, 214-16, 221-22, 228, 248, 261-63, 272, 274, 280-81, 286-87, 292-93, 295, 298, 305, 310-11, 313, 315-17, 322-23, 326, 335-36, 341, 344, 349, 357, 361, 365
 Forward air guide 91, 95, 118, 121, 124, 142, 169-70, 172, 174, 187, 189, 196, 210-11, 214, 274, 311
 France 2-8, 11-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22, 24-25, 27-28, 33, 36, 39, 44, 54-57, 71, 77, 83, 88-91, 95, 97, 99, 112, 116, 120, 130, 137, 167, 203, 227, 367
 Franco-American 20, 22-23, 28
 Free French 6, 44
 Free-strike zone 168, 304, 341
 French Military Mission 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 27-28, 57, 83, 88, 120, 130
- Garrity, John J., Jr. 215-16
 Ground controlled intercept 171, 175
 Geneva accords 11-12, 14, 17, 22, 25, 28, 54, 71, 73-74, 77, 81, 84, 93-95, 98-99, 101, 105, 107, 109, 113, 115, 120-21, 129-31, 133, 137, 139, 141, 150, 160, 164, 179, 204, 222, 239, 267, 307, 363-64
 Geneva conferences 46, 61, 84, 126
 Giap, Vo Nguyen 20, 192
 Gilpatric, Roswell L. 48
 Godley, G. McMurtrie 294, 305-7, 309, 311, 317-18, 325-26, 330-31, 339-40, 343, 345-46, 348, 350-51, 360
 Gould, Robert P. 229
 Government of National Union 25, 77, 81, 84, 98, 363
 Green Berets 22
 Greenhill, Denis A. 123, 124
 Grimes, Keith R. 169
 Gromyko, Andrei 46, 83

Index

- Gross, Charles T. 304, 336
- Groups, U.S.
- 1st Mobile Communications 132, 182-84, 199, 251, 265
 - 1st Special Forces 46
 - 2d Airborne Battle 46
 - 5th Tactical Control 132
 - 35th Tactical 131-32
 - 504th Tactical Air Control 222, 261
 - Marine Air Group 16 46
- Groupes Mobile*
- 2 195
 - 11 204, 206, 217-18, 236
 - 12 236-37
 - 13 142
 - 15 39, 236-37
 - 16 119, 121-22
 - 17 99, 126, 211-12
 - 18 202-3
 - 21 266
- Gulf of Siam 48, 67, 68
- Gunships 188-89, 210, 243, 275, 277, 286-87, 296-97, 300, 302, 311, 317-19, 324, 328, 333-35, 342-45, 353-56, 360
- Habib, Philip C. 231
- Hainan Island, China 82
- Hamilton, William C. 201-2
- Haney, John D., Jr. 213-14
- Hanoi, North Vietnam 4, 7, 20, 25, 33, 50, 78, 81-83, 105, 113-16, 137, 140, 144, 147-48, 152, 158, 163, 175, 187, 190, 192, 242, 248, 251, 253, 293, 363
- Harkins, Paul D. 68, 116, 131
- Harriman, W. Averell 46-47, 51, 61, 66-67, 83-84, 115, 144
- Harris, Hunter 146-48, 153, 157, 165, 167, 180, 210
- Haze, obstacle to aviation 18, 114, 147, 218, 324, 326-28, 330, 339, 354-56
- Heintges, John A. 20, 22-23, 29, 37, 40
- Helicopters
- CH-3 176, 178-80, 183, 204, 221, 302
 - CH-53 302
 - H-19 15-16
 - H-34 42-43, 46, 47, 53, 90, 109, 128, 133, 139, 164, 166, 169, 176, 178, 180, 216, 221, 236, 302, 365
 - HH-3 166, 176, 183, 212
 - HH-43 160, 164-67, 176, 178, 180
 - HH-53 302
- Herter, Christian A. 40
- Hickam AFB, Hawaii 68
- Hilsman, Roger 67, 80
- Ho Chi Minh 44, 192
- Ho Chi Minh Trail 20, 51, 71, 75, 84, 95-96, 102, 107, 109, 137, 150, 181, 185, 197, 201, 212, 220, 229, 231, 264, 265, 277, 291-92, 316-17, 321, 330, 333, 342, 347
- Hodgdon, Leigh A. 354
- Honolulu 14, 24, 42, 49, 66, 129, 164, 210, 255
- Hopson, Donald C. 88, 123-24, 126
- Houei Mun, Laos 260, 266-67, 269
- Houei Thom, Laos 182, 188, 196
- Hua Muong, Laos 152-53, 170-71, 178, 186
- Hua Xieng, Laos 154
- Hue, South Vietnam 7, 82
- Hughes, James D. 350, 357
- Hurlburt Field, Florida 129, 272-73
- Hurwitz, Robert A. 293, 298, 300, 303-5
- Igloo White 334
- India 3, 11, 43, 46, 50, 67, 71, 265
- Infiltration surveillance center 313
- Insurgents 25, 26, 51
- Intelligence 6, 26, 36-37, 44, 49, 62-63, 66, 72-75, 78, 87, 107, 112, 122, 141, 143, 147, 152-54, 156-57, 162, 171-72, 182, 194-95, 204, 208, 211, 218-19, 222, 226, 231-32, 235-36, 239, 248, 251, 257, 262-63, 271-73, 279, 280, 283-84, 293-94, 307, 313, 315, 321, 325, 331, 334-35, 343
- Interdiction 59, 68, 96, 107, 121, 137, 140, 148, 158-60, 168, 181, 185, 187, 191-94, 196-97, 201, 209-11, 219-20, 222, 231, 234-35, 238, 240, 243, 246, 265, 277, 310-11, 313-14, 321-22, 325, 328, 334, 336-37, 339, 343-44, 346, 355-56, 359
- International Civil Aviation Organization 34
- International Control Commission 11, 14, 16, 50, 53, 61, 71, 73-74, 80-81, 84, 89-90, 98, 102, 104, 107-8, 114, 167, 175, 186, 265
- Irregular forces 39, 42, 44, 318, 331, 348, 357, 363
- Irwin, John N., II 30
- Japan 5, 6, 16, 17, 41, 44, 63, 108, 129
- Jet forward air controllers 280, 292, 313
- Johnson, U. Alexis 43
- Johnson, Lyndon B. 94, 96, 108, 110, 112-13, 121, 127, 129, 131, 139-40, 144, 147, 150, 156, 171, 186-88, 240, 256, 281
- Joint Chiefs of Staff 11-12, 16, 20, 22-26, 36, 40-43, 46, 48, 50, 53, 59, 62, 65, 67-68, 74-75, 82-83, 87, 94, 96, 100-102, 107, 112, 114, 120-21, 127, 129-30, 140, 142, 144, 146-47, 154, 156, 159-60, 162-63, 167-68, 172, 174-75, 183, 187, 193, 210, 240, 242-44, 247-48, 257-58, 264, 281-82, 294-95, 309, 311, 318, 321-22, 325-26, 333, 339, 347, 353
- Joint operations center 273-74, 295, 318
- Joint Task Force 116 23-25, 34, 36, 39, 46, 48, 57, 68, 82, 131
- Jones, Charlie 216
- Jones, David C. 300
- Junction City, Junior 316-17, 321, 330, 342
- Jungle Jim 67
- Kading River, Laos 30-31
- Kane Insisiengmay 223
- Karst 1, 199
- Keegan, George J., Jr. 279
- Kennedy, John F. 40, 42-50, 59-61, 65-72, 80, 82-84, 87, 90-91, 94, 131, 163, 232
- Keo Fa Mut hill, Laos 169-70

The War in Northern Laos

- Ketsana Vongsouvan 78, 81
 Key West, Florida 46
 Kham Keut, Laos 47, 94
 Khamkong Vongnarath 99, 142, 200
 Khangkhai, Laos 66-67, 78, 81, 83, 114-15, 120, 168, 186, 191, 196, 218, 298, 300, 304-6, 311, 315
 Kha tribe 2, 3, 28
 Khe Sanh, South Vietnam 5, 133, 244, 246-47, 249, 265
 Kho tribe 2
 Khrushchev, Nikita S. 61, 83, 124, 126
 Kirnasovsky, Boris Y. 190
 Kittenger, Joseph W., Jr. 354
Kitty Hawk, USS, aircraft carrier 103, 107, 109-10
 Klusmann, Charles F. 109-11, 114, 131
 Knight Watch 228-29
 Kokotiem, Laos 36, 76-77, 88, 91
 Kong Le 28-30, 33-37, 39-41, 43, 45-48, 50-51, 54-56, 59, 64, 78-81, 83-84, 87, 90, 98-101, 103-4, 106, 109, 116, 118-21, 128, 139-41, 143-44, 153, 181, 185, 188, 190, 192-93, 195, 200-201, 206-8, 219-20
 Korat, Thailand 36, 68, 127, 129, 146, 157, 166, 172, 189, 193, 220
 Korea 11, 41-42, 83, 94, 105, 209
 Korean War 43, 46, 59
 Kot Venevongsos 265
 Kou Abhay 26
 Kouprasith Abhay 33, 98-99, 150, 193, 200, 203, 206-9, 211, 237, 272, 348, 364-66
 Kum Kam River, Laos 185
 Kunming, China 6

 Laird, Melvin R. 304-5, 325, 339
 Lak Sao, Laos 94
 Lam Son 719 342
 Lampighter C-123 263
 Lancrenon, Robert A. 83, 88-89, 120
 Lao ethnic group 2-6, 8, 295, 306, 310, 322
 Lao Issara 7, 8
 Lao Ngam, Laos 219, 223, 264-65, 346-47, 360
 Lao People's Democratic Republic 367
 Laos Working Group 40
 Laotian Army Air Force 15-16, 23, 26, 29-30, 34-37, 39-40, 47, 50-51, 53-59, 65
 Laotian National Assembly 7, 15, 19, 27, 29, 34, 67, 216
 Laotian People's Rally 19
 La Pathammavong 208
 Laredo/Bullwhip 292
L'Armeé Clandestine 45
 Law, William 34, 37, 64, 89, 94, 104-5, 113, 119, 120, 123, 126-28, 130, 143, 153, 175, 260, 271
 Lebanon 104-5
 Leftist 29, 31, 33, 81
 LeMay, Curtis E. 35, 47, 67, 96, 111-12
 Lemnitzer, Lyman L. 68
 Leuam Insiengmay 207-8, 223
 Leuschner, Karl W. 226, 237-39, 259
Lexington, USS, aircraft carrier 46
 Lik River, Laos 36, 45, 49-51, 61

 Lima sites 111, 119, 150, 152-53, 165-67, 169-72, 174, 176, 178-84, 186-92, 195-97, 199, 209, 211-14, 216-19, 223, 228, 235, 248, 251, 253-57, 262-64, 266-67, 269, 282-83, 285, 287, 291-92, 296-98, 300-302, 310-11, 313, 324-25, 330, 334-35, 337, 341-42, 344
 Linebacker 359
 Locher, Roger C. 354
 Locke, Eugene M. 241-42
 Lodge, Henry Cabot 98, 175, 186
 Lodge, Robert A. 354
 Lon Nol 330
 Long Tieng, Laos 54, 119, 153, 172, 174, 183, 200, 215, 257, 260-61, 271, 287, 291, 295, 297, 302-3, 306-7, 310, 315-18, 323, 326-28, 330-31, 337, 339, 341-45, 351, 354-57, 359-60
 Lop Buri, Laos 201
 Loran 293, 310, 325, 328, 336, 355
 Lu tribe 236
 Luang Prabang, Laos 2-8, 16, 22, 27, 29-30, 39, 45, 49, 64-65, 94, 98-99, 116, 119, 122-24, 141-42, 149, 169, 175, 199, 202-4, 206, 212, 216, 217-18, 222-26, 236-38, 258-60, 296, 303, 307, 309, 311, 351
 Lucky Dragon U-2 114
 Lyfound, Touby 29
 Ly Lee 260, 295-96, 306
 Ly Liddhuluja 258, 266, 366
 Lynn, Doyle W. 111-12, 114

 Macmillan, Harold 46
 Maddux, Sam, Jr. 132, 152-53, 162
 Mahaxay, Laos 265
 Malaysia 123
 Mangkhala Souvanna Phouma 259
 Manila, Philippine Islands 11, 54
 Mao Tse-tung 8
 Marine Amphibious Force 194, 247
 Martin, Graham A. 92-93, 97, 101, 103, 109-10, 121-22, 129, 131-33, 140, 162, 163, 166, 183, 193, 204, 241-42, 246
 McConnell, John P. 164, 167, 180, 182, 242, 248, 280, 283
 McCoskrie, Roland K. 92, 110, 246
 McCreery, Jack H. 132, 170
 McNamara, Robert S. 42-43, 47, 50, 62, 68, 72, 74, 75, 77, 82-83, 90, 93-94, 96-97, 112, 129-30, 139, 142, 147, 156, 164, 174-75, 185, 187, 195, 242, 244, 258
 McNaughton, John T. 101
 Mekong River 1, 3-5, 7-8, 26, 33, 45, 66-68, 94, 133, 192, 206, 217, 224, 239, 266, 271, 282, 342
 Mengla, China 141, 239
 Mengla-Phong Saly road 141
 Meo tribe 2-6, 29, 39, 42, 44-45, 51, 53-54, 56, 72-76, 78, 83-84, 88-90, 92-95, 106, 109, 118-19, 126, 140-43, 150, 152-56, 167, 169-70, 172, 179, 181, 184, 186, 189, 192, 195-96, 199-200, 203, 209, 211-12, 214-19, 222-24, 234-36, 240, 245, 251, 253, 254-63, 266-67, 269, 271, 282-83, 285, 287, 291, 295-98, 300-304,

Index

- 306-7, 309-10, 313, 315, 317-19, 321-28, 330-31,
337, 342-43, 351, 357, 363, 366
- Midway*, USS, aircraft carrier 46
- Military Advisory Group, Thailand 42, 59, 72, 275,
296, 350, 363
- Military Air Transport Service 17, 48
- Military Assistance Advisory Group, Laos 49, 51, 57,
62, 64-65, 69-73, 75-77
- Closed 84, 87, 99, 106
- Not allowed in Laos by Geneva accords 12, 14
- Needed in Laos 24
- Programs Evaluation Office converted to 48
- Military Assistance Command, Thailand 59, 68, 60,
131-32, 163-64, 279
- Military Assistance Command, Thailand-Military
Assistance Command, Vietnam 163
- Military Assistance Command, Vietnam 60, 109, 132,
138, 141-42, 152, 153, 155-56, 158, 162-64, 168,
181, 183, 185, 187, 198, 204, 240, 243, 294, 326,
350
- Military Assistance Program 17, 27, 37, 58, 72, 76-77,
79, 90, 130, 163, 176, 227, 350
- Military Assistance Service Funded 350
- Military Region 44, 55, 85, 96, 98-99, 141-42, 150,
153, 169-70, 172, 196, 201, 203, 209, 215,
223-24, 256, 258-59, 265, 267, 272-74, 285, 295,
317, 324, 331, 343, 348, 361
- Miller, Pierre L. M. 116
- Millpond 42, 46-47
- Milton, Theodore R. 155-56
- Misawa AB, Japan 63
- Momyer, William C. 204, 207, 210-11, 221-22, 231,
242-43, 246-48, 255-57, 277
- Mon-Khmer tribe 2
- Monsoon 1, 8, 23, 26, 51, 58-59, 84, 106, 119, 122,
125, 158, 203-4, 206, 210
- Moore, Joseph H. 97, 107-10, 117, 122, 129, 131-33,
139, 146-49, 152, 154, 162-63, 165-67, 172, 180,
182-83, 194-95, 197-98
- Moorer, Thomas 116, 147
- Moscow, USSR 45, 46, 82-83, 124, 195
- Muang Ngan, Laos 231
- Muang Ngan Valley, Laos 224
- Muone River, Laos 160
- Muong Kassy, Laos 45, 47, 59, 126, 307
- Muong Khao, Laos 153
- Muong Kheung, Laos 168
- Muong Moc, Laos 178
- Muong Nga, Laos 169
- Muong Ngoi, Laos 236, 237, 239
- Muong Phalane, Laos 51, 165, 264-65, 269, 317
- Muong Phan, Laos 84, 99
- Muong Phine, Laos 316-17, 321, 342
- Muong Sai, Laos 49-50, 64, 217, 222, 236
- Muong Sing, Laos 34, 233, 236
- Muong Son, Laos 199, 282-83, 285
- Muong Soui, Laos 100, 103-4, 116, 118-23, 125, 128,
139, 141, 143-44, 153, 181, 184, 186, 188,
190-93, 195-96, 200-201, 209, 212, 215, 217-19,
287, 291, 293, 297, 301-4, 306-7, 310, 313-15,
326-27, 337, 341, 362
- Murphy, John R. 170, 174, 183
- Murphy, Robert D. 24
- Muscle Shoals 265
- Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement 11
- Mutual Security Act 12, 14
- Na Kay airfield, Laos 94
- Na Kay plateau, Laos 94
- Na Khang, Laos 153, 169, 172, 174, 178-80, 182, 184,
186-90, 196, 199, 212, 214, 222, 228, 262, 287
- Nakhon Phanom AB, Thailand 133, 160, 165-67, 171,
176, 179, 181, 204, 209, 213, 220-22, 245, 252,
261, 286, 293, 313, 325, 333, 335, 359
- Nam Bac, Laos 203-4, 206, 212, 217-19, 222-27, 231,
233, 236-39, 254, 258-61, 266-67, 269
- Nam Phong, Thailand 275
- Nam Tha, Laos 64-65, 67, 69, 70, 73, 76, 85, 119, 131,
141, 142, 168, 225, 236
- Napalm 35-37, 40-43, 51, 76, 87, 90-91, 96, 112-13,
116-17, 120-21, 123-24, 126-29, 137-38, 144,
147-48, 168, 188-91, 197-98, 218, 234, 237, 243,
263, 284-85, 303, 311, 335
- Nape Pass, Laos-North Vietnam 160
- National Observer* 181
- National Photographic Interpretation Center 108
- National Security Action Memorandum 87, 91
- National Security Agency 239
- National Security Council 45, 67-68, 144, 148, 159,
240, 333
- National Union 25, 77, 81, 84, 98, 363
- Nehru, Jawaharlal 46
- Neo Lao Hak Xat party (Laotian Patriotic Front) 15,
19, 25, 81, 192
- Neutral government, Laos 29, 61, 71-72
- Neutralists 30-31, 47, 62, 64, 66, 69, 71-73, 78-81,
83-84, 88-89, 91-94, 99-100, 102-4, 106, 108,
112, 114, 116, 118-23, 126-28, 143-44, 153,
184-86, 190-93, 195, 200-201, 206-7, 209, 212,
217-19, 222-23, 297, 302, 304, 306-7, 309, 313,
315, 326-27
- Neutral state, Laos 11, 20, 46-47, 66-67, 71, 74-75,
95, 105, 181
- New Delhi, India 46
- Newman, Ralph 276
- New York Times* 149, 181, 327
- New Zealand 11
- Ngum River, Laos 306
- Nhommareth, Laos 94
- Night operations 76, 146, 172, 210, 234, 319, 322
- Night photography 63, 74
- Nimrod A-26 209-10, 262, 263
- Nixon, Richard M. 239, 318, 327
- Nong Boua, Laos 97
- Nong Het, Laos 146, 307
- Nong Khai, Thailand 66
- Nong Pet, Laos 83, 146, 301, 310
- Norodom Sihanouk 61, 330
- North Africa 16, 54
- North Vietnam 14, 20, 22, 24-26, 40-43, 44, 46, 63,

The War in Northern Laos

- 68, 71, 75, 81-83, 87, 95-96, 102-3, 105, 108,
121, 126-27, 137, 156-57, 160, 163-68, 171, 176,
178-82, 185, 187, 193-96, 199, 204, 211, 216,
218, 220, 227-29, 234-36, 240, 242, 245-48,
251-56, 262, 269, 277, 279, 282, 291-93, 307,
309-10, 321, 333, 337, 353-56, 359-60
- North Vietnamese 14, 20, 22-26, 33-35, 39, 43, 47, 58,
64, 67, 69, 72-73, 75, 78, 80-84, 88, 90-91,
94-96, 105, 107, 121, 123-24, 126-28, 130, 133,
137, 139, 141, 142-44, 157-58, 165, 169-72,
174-75, 178, 184, 186, 187-92, 195-96, 198-99,
202, 209, 212, 214, 216-19, 223-24, 228, 231,
233, 236-39, 241, 247, 249, 251, 253-54, 256-57,
262, 264-65, 267, 281-83, 285-87, 291-92, 297,
300-303, 306-7, 309, 311, 314-15, 317, 319, 321,
323-24, 326-28, 330, 331, 337, 341-48, 351,
353-56, 359-60, 362-63, 367
- North Vietnamese Army 39, 51, 64, 68, 70, 72-73, 75,
80, 84, 88, 95, 105-6, 108-9, 116, 120, 128, 138,
142, 153, 160, 190, 192, 193, 198, 212, 216, 218,
224, 233, 235-37, 254-55, 257, 263, 265-67, 301,
307, 328, 344, 357, 359, 361
- Nouphet Daoheuang 202-3, 207-8
- O'Donnell, Emmet, Jr. 37, 39, 57-58, 68, 82
- Off Balance 304, 306-7, 310, 313
- Okinawa 23-24, 46, 68
- Olmsted, Frederick S., Jr. 354
- Operation Plan 23-24, 26, 68, 82, 105, 121, 255, 339
- Ouane Rathikone 19, 22, 26, 70, 150, 175, 193,
200-204, 206-9, 222-25, 237, 258, 348
- Oudone Sananikone 200, 202, 207-8, 238, 272, 309,
319, 348
- Oun Sananikone 99
- Ou River, Laos 28, 203-4, 206, 225
- Pacific Air Force 16
- Pacific Air Forces 18, 23-25, 37, 63, 73, 76, 131-33,
146-48, 165, 171-72, 220, 243, 292, 319
- Pacific Command 14, 164
- Pacific Corporation 17
- Pacific Fleet 37, 147, 160, 187
- Pak Beng, Laos 239
- Pakistan 11
- Paksane, Laos 31, 33, 39, 47, 49, 100-101, 141, 142,
218
- Pakse, Laos 16, 58, 122, 202, 258-59, 273-74, 296,
331, 361, 365
- Pak Song, Laos 346-47, 351, 353, 356, 359-62
- Palace Dog 273
- Parsons, J. Graham 15, 17, 19, 30
- Pathet Lao 8, 11, 14-15, 19, 20, 22-23, 25-27, 29-31,
33, 35, 40-45, 47-48, 50-51, 53, 54, 58-59,
61-64, 66-68, 71-76, 78-81, 83-85, 87-100,
102-4, 106-16, 118, 120-24, 128, 130, 133,
137-39, 141-44, 152-53, 156, 160, 165-66,
168-69, 171, 178-80, 184, 191-92, 196, 200, 203,
206, 211-12, 216, 224-25, 236, 251, 253-54, 264,
267, 281, 291, 305, 307, 309, 323, 330, 342-43,
348, 351, 353, 359-60, 363, 366-67
- Pavie, August J. M. 3-5
- Peace talks 264, 282, 305, 309, 343, 348
- Peking, China 20, 50, 82, 113-14, 116, 141, 163, 186
- Pétain, Philippe (Henri) 5
- Peterson, Chesley G. 279
- Petit, Robert L. 325
- Pettigrew, Paul A. 182, 184-88, 190-91, 193-94, 203,
207-10, 215, 221-22, 225, 227, 237-38, 245,
259-62, 271
- Pham Van Dong 72
- Phasouk Somly 201, 202, 223, 258, 328, 348
- Pha Thom, Laos 153
- Phetsarath 6-8, 15
- Philippine Islands 6, 11, 25, 29, 35, 43, 49, 51, 54-55,
68, 73, 108, 128-29, 159, 264, 319
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia 34, 40, 45, 73
- Phong Saly, Laos 4, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 23, 25, 27, 44,
58, 141, 142, 239, 267
- Phong Savan, Laos 114, 298, 311, 315
- Photographic processing cell 63
- Photo intelligence 63, 157
- Phou Den Din, Laos 253, 254
- Phou Douk, Laos 191, 212
- Phoui Sananikone 19-20, 22-26
- Phou Kate mountain, Laos 182-83
- Phou Kout mountain, Laos 116, 118, 122-24, 126-28,
137, 143-44, 153, 181, 184-88, 190-92, 195-96,
204
- Phoumi Nosavan 26-31, 33-36, 39-42, 44-45, 47,
49-51, 53-56, 59, 61-62, 64-67, 69-74, 76-77,
80-81, 83-85, 87-89, 93-95, 97, 99, 119, 131,
141, 150, 168, 192, 199-200, 208, 258, 348
- Phou Nok Kok mountain, Laos 310, 313, 323-24
- Phou Phathi mountain, Laos 44, 199, 212, 218-19, 228,
231, 233, 249, 251, 253-54, 256, 258, 267, 283,
285
- Phou San hill, Laos 99
- Phou Seu, Laos 337, 341
- Phou Song, Laos 191
- Pierce Arrow 127
- Pierced steel planking 16
- Pietsch, William H. 37
- Pig Fat 284-85, 287, 291, 295-96
- Pipestem 63
- Plain of Jars, Laos 2-3, 5, 8, 14, 16, 22-23, 30, 35, 37,
39, 40, 42, 44, 47, 51, 53, 59, 61-64, 71, 74, 76,
78-81, 83-84, 87-89, 91-92, 98-106, 108-9, 112,
114-18, 120, 122, 137, 144, 147, 168, 171, 181,
184, 186, 188, 190-91, 193, 194, 200, 218, 222,
228, 233, 235, 253, 256-57, 269, 287, 297-98,
300, 307, 310, 313-14, 317, 321, 323, 324-27,
334, 336-37, 339, 341-43, 345, 347, 351, 353-54,
356-57, 359-60
- POL 83, 90, 179, 189, 213, 229, 298, 301
- Poland 11, 71, 124
- Pony Express 204, 221
- Potter, Joseph W. 316
- Prairie Fire 204
- Prasane 203, 204, 206
- Princeton, USS, aircraft carrier 82
- Programs Evaluation Office 14, 16-18, 20, 27-30, 34,
36-37, 40-42, 44-45, 47-48, 54-57, 72, 130

Index

- PT boats 127
- Qui Nhom, South Vietnam 156
- Quinim Pholsena 29, 31, 33, 81, 99
- Quinn, James 366
- Radar 83, 108, 126-27, 133, 152-53, 171-72, 175, 181, 208, 251-53, 255-56, 269, 285, 293-94, 325, 328, 334-36, 344, 354-55, 359
- Radio Vientiane 29
- Rain Dance 298, 300-301, 309-10
- Rainy season 3, 5, 23, 59, 63, 100, 105, 159, 196, 209, 219, 222, 224, 227-28, 231, 256, 269, 335-37, 356
- Raven FACs 222, 261-63, 272, 274, 280, 286-87, 291-92, 298, 300, 303, 305-6, 310, 313, 315-18, 322-23, 325-26, 331, 341, 344, 349, 357, 360, 364
- Reconnaissance 16, 24, 26, 34-36, 41, 47, 49, 53, 62, 63, 73-74, 77, 82, 87, 91, 94-96, 98, 100-104, 106-13, 115-22, 130, 138, 140-42, 144, 146, 148-49, 152-54, 157-59, 162, 168-69, 181, 191-92, 194-96, 198, 204, 209-10, 212, 215, 220, 227-28, 231, 233-35, 239, 242-43, 254, 280, 292, 310-11, 313, 315, 317, 325, 327, 333-35, 340, 344, 355, 359-60
- Red River, North Vietnam 4, 251
- Regiments, North Vietnamese
- 148th 285
 - 174th 214
 - 336th 236-37
 - 924th Engineer 235, 297
- Requirements Office 72-73, 79, 89, 130, 273, 276, 319, 363-64
- Richardson, Elliott 305
- Richardson, James J., Jr. 68
- Roberts, Carson A. 24
- Rogers, William P. 305
- Rolling Thunder 156-58, 162-63, 178, 181, 185, 187-88, 193, 194, 196-97, 211, 216, 240, 251, 331, 333
- Rostow, Walt W. 40, 42, 281
- Royal Thailand Air Force
- Royal Thailand Government 28, 36, 41, 54, 68, 93, 97, 100, 112, 122, 127, 129, 131-33, 152, 157, 162-64, 166-67, 180, 183, 193, 208-9
- Rusk, Dean 42-43, 50-51, 65, 68-69, 75, 81-82, 88-90, 94-96, 98, 100, 112-13, 133, 144, 174-75, 280
- Russians 12, 33-37, 47, 63, 75, 78-81, 100, 157, 181, 291, 309
- Ryan, John D. 220, 243, 255, 339
- Saigon, South Vietnam 6, 7, 11, 20, 34, 47, 73, 97-98, 109, 131, 132, 137, 138, 148, 152, 156, 163, 186, 191, 228, 241, 244, 248, 260, 281, 292, 294, 301, 321, 327, 339, 343, 361, 367
- Sala Phou Khoun, Laos 39, 45, 56, 59, 103, 118-19, 126, 362
- Samneua, Laos 3, 4, 8, 11, 14-16, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30, 35, 39, 44, 54, 58, 73, 76, 94, 117-18, 141, 150, 152, 154-55, 159-60, 166, 168, 169, 171-72, 182, 184, 196, 199, 211, 216, 218, 222, 228, 236, 251, 253-54, 256, 258, 267, 283-85, 307, 311, 367
- Sam Thong, Laos 54, 153, 184, 327-28, 330, 351, 354, 356
- San Tiau, Laos 209
- Sandy FACs 195
- Sapper 223
- Sarit Thanarat 28, 35, 41-43, 48-49, 64-66, 68, 87, 93, 119, 131
- Sasorith Vatthana 16, 201, 364
- Savang Vatthana 6, 66, 98, 116, 203, 217, 367
- Savannakhet, Laos 5, 7, 16, 29-30, 33-34, 36-37, 49, 54-57, 70, 77, 81, 87, 89, 91-92, 114, 118-19, 129, 138-39, 141, 164-65, 182-84, 199, 202-4, 207-8, 225, 258-60, 265-66, 274, 276, 296, 317, 342, 361
- Sayaboury, Laos 4, 7
- Sayasila 346-47, 353
- Schneiderbach, Robert T. 142
- Scott, Jesse E. 319
- Search and rescue 108-11, 128-29, 132-33, 139-40, 150, 154, 157, 160, 164-67, 169, 172, 174, 176, 178-83, 195, 199, 206, 221, 233, 236, 242-43, 246, 251, 262, 311, 330, 334, 340, 344, 355
- Searles, Dewitt R. 345-46
- Sea Serpent 82
- Secretary of Defense, U.S. 11, 22, 24, 42, 48, 62, 129-30, 144, 149, 164, 195, 240, 244, 251, 281, 304, 325-26, 339, 350
- Secretary of State, U.S. 11, 14, 24, 30, 40, 42, 74, 94, 174, 280, 291, 295, 304-5, 339, 350
- Seith, Louis T. 240, 279-80, 283, 300
- Seno, Laos 16, 24, 44, 57, 65
- Sensors 220-21, 233, 243, 277, 293, 294, 311, 313, 322, 333-34, 360
- Sentinel Lock 359
- Seventh Air Force 184, 193-95, 198, 204, 208-11, 214, 220-21, 226-29, 231-32, 234, 235, 240, 242-48, 253-58, 261-64, 267, 273, 275-77, 279-85, 287, 292, 294, 296-98, 300-301, 304-6, 309-11, 313, 315-16, 321-22, 325-28, 330, 333, 335, 339, 341-47, 350-51, 354, 357, 360-61
- Seventh Air Force/Thirteenth Air Force 208, 229, 232, 240, 255, 262, 273, 275-76, 279-81, 283-85, 287, 292, 294, 297-98, 300, 309-10, 315-16, 325, 333, 339, 343, 344-46, 350-51, 357, 360
- Seventh Fleet 23, 43, 67, 69, 164
- Shanghai 3
- Sharp, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr. 43, 92-98, 109, 116-17, 124, 127, 129, 138, 140-42, 147, 148, 154, 156, 158-59, 162-65, 167, 174-76, 183, 187, 191, 193-95, 199, 210, 218, 220, 243-44, 248, 256-57, 264
- Shaw, Ronald G. 51, 54-55, 57
- Shining Brass 204, 246
- Short Rounds 118, 120, 157, 163, 166, 169, 181-82, 197, 214-305, 315
- Short takeoff and Landing 75, 217

(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(S)

CIA

(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(S)**The War in Northern Laos**

Sides, John 37, 46, 68
 Siho Lamphouthacoul 51, 98-99, 200
 Simler, George B. 194
 Sing Chanthakouman 184, 206
 Sisavang Vong 6-8
 Sisouk na Champassak 202, 348, 351
 Sisoumang Sisaleumsak 195
 Skyline Ridge, Laos 184, 199, 328, 330, 351, 356
 Skyspot 310, 335-36
 Slash and burn 1, 18
 Smart, Jacob E. 34, 110, 117, 131, 305
 Smith, Horace H. 20, 22, 23
 Snake Eye 147, 336
 Snare Drum 315, 325
 Somboun Vongphrachanh 143, 144
 Somphet Sotsavan 206
 Son Tay, North Vietnam 14
 Sonnenberg, Eugene P. 260, 279
 Soulideth Rattanakone 99-100
 Soulivanh Singhavara 206
 Souphanouvong 7, 8, 15, 19, 22, 27, 30, 61, 64, 66, 71, 74, 79, 81, 102, 114, 171, 323, 360, 367
 Sourith Don Sasorith 16, 55-56, 201-3, 207, 227, 237, 238, 259-60, 269, 295, 349, 364-65
 Soutchay Vongsavanh 361
 South China Sea 23, 46, 365
 South Vietnam 5, 20, 50, 58, 60, 63, 67, 74-77, 80, 82-84, 92, 94-95, 97, 98, 102, 105, 107, 109, 113, 121, 123, 127, 131, 133, 137, 140, 142, 144, 146, 149, 153, 156, 160, 162-65, 168, 175, 180-82, 185-87, 192-95, 197, 210, 216, 220-21, 231-32, 234, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 251, 254, 261, 264-65, 267, 269, 277, 279, 281-82, 291, 293-94, 297, 321, 327, 330, 333, 343, 349, 351, 354, 355-57, 359, 367
 South Vietnamese 95, 137, 186, 204, 260, 269, 326, 342
 South Vietnamese Air Force 101-3, 105, 109, 120, 137-39, 156, 295
 Southeast Asia Treaty Organization 11, 14, 17, 23-24, 26, 48-50, 62, 68, 70-71, 81-82
 Souvanna Phouma 7, 15, 19-20, 25, 27-31, 33-34, 36, 40, 45, 47, 61-62, 65-67, 69, 71-76, 78-81, 84, 87-91, 93-104, 107, 108, 110-13, 115-18, 120-24, 126-28, 130, 133, 137-39, 141, 144, 146, 149, 154-55, 157-60, 163-64, 166, 171-72, 174-76, 178-79, 181-82, 185-87, 190, 192-95, 197-98, 200-202, 206-7, 218-19, 222-23, 225, 239, 252, 256, 258-59, 263, 265-66, 279, 282, 291, 298, 300, 303, 307, 309, 318, 323, 326, 343-44, 348, 351, 360, 367
 Soviet ambassador to Laos 78, 102-3
 Soviet Union 31, 33-36, 39, 46, 50, 51, 59, 61, 63, 64, 67, 75, 78, 80, 83, 89, 90, 102, 124, 157, 171, 174, 190, 366
 Special Air Warfare 92-93, 96, 105, 124, 129, 141-42, 167, 214, 272-75
 Special Air Warfare Center 92, 214, 272-75
 Special Forces 22-23, 28, 46, 54, 73, 265
 Spectre gunships 296, 297, 360-61
 Spooky gunships 188-89, 198, 296-97, 324

Squadrons

USAF
 37th Aerospace and Recovery 206
 40th Aerospace and Recovery 302
 333d Air Base 121
 1st Air Commando 220
 602d Air Commando 195, 213, 228-29, 263
 1st Air Rescue 133
 38th Air Rescue 178-80
 4400th Combat Crew Training 67
 1973d Communications 184
 20th Helicopter 204, 206, 221
 21st Helicopter 221
 67th Reconnaissance Technical 41, 49, 108-9
 4th Special Operations 296-97, 319
 20th Special Operations 302-3
 21st Special Operations 302
 23d Tactical Air Support 221-22, 261
 12th Tactical Fighter 155
 13th Tactical Fighter 220
 435th Tactical Fighter 220
 510th Tactical Fighter 48, 68
 555th Tactical Fighter 220
 11 Tactical Reconnaissance 333
 14 Tactical Reconnaissance 220
 15 Tactical Reconnaissance 49
 45 Tactical Reconnaissance 49, 63
 State Department, U.S. 11-12, 14, 23-25, 29-31, 35, 40, 42-43, 45, 47, 50, 59, 61-62, 66-67, 71, 74-76, 78-80, 83-85, 87-91, 94, 97-98, 101-2, 107-8, 111-13, 115, 117, 119-21, 123-24, 128-29, 140-42, 144, 149-50, 152, 154, 156, 159, 174-75, 179-80, 198, 202, 204, 206-7, 231-32, 242-44, 246, 248, 252, 280, 291, 295, 300, 304-6, 309, 318, 339-40, 343, 347, 350, 355
 Steel Tiger 160, 162-64, 168-69, 176, 182, 185-88, 193-95, 197-98, 201, 209, 212-14, 220-21, 231, 234-35, 240, 244-47, 292-93, 296, 313, 321, 330, 333, 346
 Stewart AFB, Tennessee 36
 Stranglehold 301-2, 307
 Strategic Air Command 25, 142, 325
 Strike Command 129
 Subic Bay, Philippine Islands 68, 82
 Subversion 8, 15, 19
 Sullivan, William H.
 Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs 339
 Harriman's deputy in Geneva 61
 U.S. ambassador to Laos 67, 101, 144, 146, 148-50, 152-60, 162-72, 174-76, 178-87, 189-94, 197-203, 206-11, 215, 218, 219, 220, 222, 224, 231, 232, 234, 235, 239-49, 251, 252, 255, 256, 257, 258, 261, 263, 264, 269, 271, 272, 275, 277, 279, 280, 282, 283, 288, 291, 294, 318
 Supreme Command, Thai 162, 167
 SUU-11 gun pod 296, 318, 319
 Swank, Emory C. 159, 170, 178, 186, 204
 Swan Lake 302, 303

Index

- Sylvester, Arthur 149
 Symington, Stuart 319, 327-48, 350
- Tacan 49, 182-84, 199, 251-52, 254-56, 264-65
 Tachikawa AB, Japan 129
 Tactical Air Command 24, 26, 167, 225, 238, 258
 Tactical air control center 132, 184, 208, 262, 333
Tactique Nord 225
 Taipei, Taiwan 20
 Taiwan 17, 20, 36, 43, 46
 Takhli AB, Thailand 36, 43, 46-47, 68, 82, 110, 112,
 127, 131, 157, 169, 189, 220, 333
- Tanks
 Destroyed by air strikes 301-2
 Enemy 100, 144, 154, 168, 217, 265, 302, 306, 307,
 314-15, 345, 356, 360
 Laotian 116
 Tan Son Nhut Airport, Saigon, South Vietnam 97, 102,
 107, 108, 112, 132, 133, 152, 184
 Targeting 117, 120, 195, 226-27, 231, 235, 237, 254,
 257-58, 262, 267, 280-81, 292-93, 313, 321,
 325-26, 335-36, 341
 Targeting Group 281
 Task Groups, U.S. Navy carrier
 76.5 82
 77.0 185
 77.4 107
 77.5 82
 Taylor, Maxwell D. 20, 140, 148, 156
 Tchepone, Laos 5, 51, 63, 90, 94, 117-18, 265, 317,
 321, 342
 Tcherniakov, Yuri N. 291
 Tet 233, 244, 246, 247, 249, 254, 264, 269
 Thakhek, Laos 7, 8, 20, 30, 41, 94, 185, 186, 192, 266
 Tha Lin Noi, Laos 92, 94
 Thao Ly 348, 366
 Thao Ma 51, 54-58, 76-77, 87-92, 95, 97-98,
 100-101, 104-5, 114, 118-19, 126, 129, 138-42,
 163-66, 182-83, 197, 199-204, 206-9, 219-20,
 227, 258-59, 364-65
 Thao tribe 3
 Tha Tam Bleung, Laos 341
 Thateng, Laos 269, 285-87, 324, 330, 347, 351, 353,
 359-60
 Tha Thom, Laos 39, 47, 99-100, 140-42, 187, 211
 Tha Viang, Laos 362
 Thirteenth Air Force 131-32, 152-53, 155, 183, 208,
 214, 229, 232, 240, 255, 262, 273, 275-76,
 279-81, 283-85, 287, 292, 294, 297, 298, 300,
 309, 310, 315-16, 321, 325, 333, 339, 343-44,
 346, 350-51, 357, 360
 Thompson, Robert G. 123
 Tiao Sayavong 223
 Tiao Somsanith 27, 29
Ticonderoga, USS, aircraft carrier 82, 126, 127
 Tiger Hound 187-88, 194, 196-98, 244
 Tokyo, Japan 5, 195
 Toland, Butler B., Jr. 34-35, 49
 Tonkin Gulf 82, 126-27, 164
 Tonkin region 11
- Toumlane, Laos 317, 321
 Training 4, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-24, 27-28, 35-37,
 44, 47, 54-59, 64-65, 67, 69, 74-78, 88, 92, 93,
 95, 97, 101, 103, 105-6, 118, 121-22, 129-31,
 133, 139, 142-43, 146, 167, 174, 176, 183, 193,
 201, 203, 219, 243, 253, 259; 272-76, 281, 294,
 295, 297, 317-19, 323, 333, 348-49, 365
 Trefry, Richard G. 364
 Triangle 118-23, 125, 137, 142, 204, 214
 Triantafellu, Rocky 194
 Tripartite government 47, 61, 64, 271
 Tucker, Reuben H. 69-73, 81
Turner Joy, USS, destroyer 126
 Turner, Robert E. 213, 214
 Tumpike, U.S. interdiction operation 277
 Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam 221
 Tyrrell, Robert L. F. 89, 92, 97, 100, 109-10, 118-19,
 123, 125-26, 128, 130, 138, 140-42, 148, 154-55,
 168, 174, 200, 271-77, 279-80, 292, 294-96, 298,
 300, 304, 306, 309, 316-19, 323, 325, 328, 331
- Ubun AB, Thailand
 Udorn AB, Thailand
- Unger, Leonard 92, 72-73, 76-81, 83-85, 87-121,
 123-24, 126-32, 137-42, 144, 147, 174, 202, 214,
 279, 294, 318
 United Nations 24-25, 35, 206
 United Nations General Assembly 206
 United Nations Security Council 25
 United States Information Service 54, 364
 United States Operations Mission 12, 14
 U-Tapao AB, Thailand 326
- Valley Forge*, USS, transport 68
 Vance, Cyrus R. 144
 Vang Pao 39, 44, 53-55, 74, 76, 83, 106, 119, 141-43,
 150, 153, 169-72, 178-79, 181, 184, 186, 189-90,
 192, 196, 199-201, 203, 209, 212, 214-15, 218,
 223-26, 228, 231, 236-37, 240, 243-44, 246, 253,
 256, 258-64, 267, 279-80, 282, 283-85, 287, 295,
 297-98, 300-301, 303, 306, 309-11, 313-14, 317,
 319, 321, 323-25, 327-28, 330, 336-37, 339, 341,
 343-47, 351, 354-57, 359, 366-67
 Vang Vieng, Laos 34-37, 39, 47-48, 51, 59, 63, 119,
 122, 123, 125, 192, 206, 307, 309
 Vessey, John W. 350-51
 Vichy 5, 6
- Vienna, Austria 61
 Vientiane, Laos 2, 4, 7, 12, 14-18, 22-25, 28-30,
 33-34, 36-37, 39-40, 44-45, 49-51, 54-55, 57,
 59, 61-62, 66-67, 69-71, 74-76, 78-79, 81,

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)
 (S)

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)
 (S)

ALL
 CIA

The War in Northern Laos

- 89-90, 92-93, 97-99, 101, 103-8, 111, 115, 119, 122, 125-26, 132-33, 141-42, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152-53, 166, 168-70, 172, 174-76, 178, 181-84, 187, 190-91, 194, 198-200, 202-4, 206-8, 212, 216, 221, 224, 226, 231, 238, 240-41, 258-61, 265, 273-74, 276, 279, 281, 291, 293, 295-96, 303-5, 307, 309-11, 314, 319, 323, 328, 331, 339, 345, 355, 364-65, 367
- Viet Cong 123, 156, 160, 181, 186, 221, 247
- Viet Minh 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22, 28, 33, 58, 62, 66, 82, 91, 105, 113, 123, 168
- Vietnam, undivided, pre-WW II 1, 3-8
- Vietnam Working Group 144
- Vinh, Laos 6, 78, 83
- Vogt, John W., Jr. 357, 361
- Vollmer, Albert C. 149
- Volley, Gerald R. 354
- Volunteers
 Laotians for training 22
 USAF, for service in Laos 43, 46, 97, 261
- Von Platen, William G. 54, 55
- Walt, Lewis W. 40, 194, 195, 281
- Warnke, Paul C. 281, 282
- Water Pump 96-97, 100-101, 103, 105-6, 110-11, 113, 118-19, 121-22, 125, 129-31, 133, 139, 141, 142, 165, 167, 174, 181, 204, 260, 261, 273-76, 316-19, 330, 349, 363-65
- Wattay Airfield, Vientiane, Laos 17, 29, 33-34, 40, 51, 57, 79, 98, 101, 103-6, 110-11, 118, 139, 150, 152, 188, 206-7, 216
- Westmoreland, William C. 138, 140-42, 148, 152-54, 156-58, 160, 162-63, 165, 168, 175, 182-83, 185-86, 193-98, 222, 231, 240, 242-43, 246, 248, 350
- West Wind 321-22
- Wheeler, Earle G. 183
- White Star 70, 75
- White, Thomas D. 1, 18, 24, 25, 40, 47, 65, 70, 75, 87, 144, 150, 166, 169, 213-14, 224, 228-29, 238, 327, 334
- Wilson, Charles E. 11, 24
- Wings, USAF
 1st Air Commando 96
 14th Air Commando 204
 56th Air Commando 245-46, 256, 263
 1st Marine Aircraft 194
 8th Tactical Fighter 193, 292
 355th Tactical Fighter 189
 432d Tactical Reconnaissance 220, 292, 315, 359
 483 Troop Carrier 16, 18
- Wolf FACs 292
- Working Groups
 Barrel Roll 281, 313, 343
 Laos 40
 Vietnam 144
- World War II 4, 5, 20, 36, 43, 44, 59, 209
- Xieng Khouang 2, 3, 5, 15-16, 39, 44, 54, 58, 63, 76, 81, 83, 88, 109, 112-15, 117-19, 141, 168, 184, 196, 284, 298, 300, 301, 307, 315, 324, 345
- Yankee Team 107-12, 114-20, 122, 130, 138-42, 144, 146-47, 152-54, 157-59, 162, 168, 171, 186
- Yao tribe 2, 142, 236
- Yokota AB, Japan 41, 49, 108
- Yorktown, USS, aircraft carrier 82
- Yost, Charles W. 14
- Young, Kenneth T. 74
- Zuni rockets 147
- Zurich, Switzerland 61