

USAF-Detachment 1, 56th Special Operations Wing History

Note to reader: The following typed version is my understanding of my copy of the unit history from my former unit, Detachment 1, 56th Special Operations Wing taken from an old and poorly typed and misspelled mimeographed history (copied below typed version) that I obtained on my exit from the unit in June, 1970:

The 56th Fighter Group was officially activated in early spring 1942. After completing an intensive training program the 56th Fighter Group was deployed to Europe, where it served with distinction during six campaigns. Unit was cited twice by President Roosevelt during 1944. Unit was deactivated in the fall of 1945 upon the close of WW II.

Project "Waterpump" was implemented in February 1964 at Udorn airport, Thailand. "Waterpump" was manned by TDY personnel from 1st Air Commando Wing, England AFB, LA. Unit was known as Detachment 6, 1st Air Commando Wing.

On 10 June 1966 the unit was designated Detachment 1, 606th Air Commando Squadron by authority of Commander 7th Air Force.

The 56th Air Commando Wing was activated on 15 September 1967 at Nakorn Phanon airport by the authority of Special Order G-160, HQ PACAF, APO San Francisco 96553, dated 13th September 1967. Same order transferred "Project Waterpump" to 56th Air Commando Wing. Detachment 1, 56th 606th Air Commando Squadron became Detachment 1, 56th Air Commando Wing.

Detachment 1, 56th Air Commando Wing was redesignated Detachment 1, 56 Special Operations Wing on 1 August 1968 by the authority of CINCPACAF message 130510Z 15 July 1968.

THE 56TH FIGHTER GROUP WAS OFFICIALLY ACTIVATED IN EARLY SPRING OF 1942. AFTER COMPLETING AN INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM THE 56TH FIGHTER GROUP WAS DEPLOYED TO EUROPE, WHERE IT SERVED WITH DISTINCTION DURING SIX CAMPAIGNS. UNIT WAS CITED TWICE BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DURING 1944. UNIT WAS DEACTIVATED IN THE FALL OF 1945 UPON THE CLOSE OF WW II.

PROJECT "WATERPUMP" WAS IMPLEMENTED IN FEBRUARY 1964 AT UDORN AIRPORT, THAILAND. "WATERPUMP" WAS MANNED BY TDY PERSONNEL FROM 1ST AIR COMMANDO WING, EWINGLAND AFB, LA. UNIT WAS KNOWN AS DETACHMENT 6, 1st AIR COMMANDO WING

ON 10 JUNE 1966 THE UNIT WAS REDESIGNATED DETACHMENT 1, 606th AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON BY AUTHORITY OF COMMANDER 7 AIR FORCE.

THE 56TH AIR COMMANDO WING WAS ACTIVATED ON 15 DECEMBER 1967 AT NAKORN PHANOM AIRPORT BY AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL ORDER G-160, HQ PACAF, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96553, DATED 13th SEPTEMBER 1967. SAME ORDER TRANSFERRED "PROJECT WATERPUMP" TO 56TH AIR COMMANDO WING. DETACHMENT 1, 606TH AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON BECAME DETACHMENT 1, 56TH AIR COMMANDO WING.

DETACHMENT 1, 56TH AIR COMMANDO WING WAS REDESIGNATED DETACHMENT 1, 56 SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING ON 1 AUGUST 1968 BY AUTHORITY OF CINCPACAF MSG 130510Z 15 JULY 1968.