

1st COMBAT APPLICATIONS GROUP

LINEAGE

1st Combat Applications Group activated, 1962

STATIONS

Eglin AFB, FL, 17 Apr 1962-5 Sep 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col. Benjamin H. King

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 1st Combat Applications Group mission was to develop the doctrine, tactics, techniques, and hardware that the 1st Air Commando Group would use in operations and training. The 1st Combat Applications Group was given special funding priority. It also had arrangements with Air Force Logistics Command that allowed the group greater flexibility and fewer delays than most research and development organizations have. The 1st Combat Applications Group could design and research and construct new hardware, purchase goods locally, or use modify off-the-shelf products.

Leaning heavily on reports from such areas as South Vietnam, where the first Air Commandos already are on the job, this group will utilize both USAF and Army capabilities in the research-and-development area.

The success of this organization in providing counterinsurgency and civic action equipment gave Special Air Warfare Center a valuable resource. It also gave the center the flexibility to handle the unusual missions that came its way.

The 1st Combat Applications Group accomplished literally thousands of projects between 1962 and 1972. These ranged from testing the prototype VC-123 under field conditions to designing an efficient dispenser for sterile screwworm flies. The 1st Combat Applications Group developed low-light television equipment for night strikes and reconnaissance, as well as cargo extraction systems. It also tested the AC-47, AC-119, and AC-130 gunship platforms. The 1st Combat Applications Group also a new set of target-marking rockets for use by forward air controllers. The tests went well; the air commandos reported that the rockets were effective for marking targets.

In 1962, the 1st Combat Applications Group developed a mobile medical dispensary. This 212-pound, three-piece unit fit easily in a U-10 light utility aircraft and contained almost all the necessary medicines and equipment needed for ailments encountered in a tropical environment. On many occasions, the air commandos flew into villages to give medical and dental care. From appendectomies to inoculations, the air commandos provided treatment that had never been available before. This type of civic action created much public support for both the air commandos and the local government.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.