

5th RADIO RESEARCH UNIT (PROVISIONAL)

LINEAGE

5th Radio Research Unit (Provisional), Sep 1959

STATIONS

Bangkok, Thailand

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In September 1959, the 5th Radio Research Unit (Provisional) was created in Bangkok, Thailand. Two Rock Ranch Station, Petaluma, California, deployed 37 soldiers to the 9th ASA Field Station, Clark Air Base, Philippines, on 120 days temporary duty to staff the new unit. Cryptographer Paul Codinha was in the first group of men who continued to Bangkok to activate the 5th RRU (P). American Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson went to their house to greet them.

The operations site was between Bangkok and Don Muang Airport. They traveled to work in Volkswagen buses with Thai drivers, and while the compound was being built, they worked out of two-and-a-half ton trucks.

The enlisted men were housed together, the NCOs were lodged in another house, and the OIC had his own house. We wore civilian clothes and received per diem in addition to our regular pay. We had special Thai badges in addition to our own, which provided diplomatic immunity.

The men lived in large civilian houses with many bedrooms, each furnished with several standard army cots for beds. Using their per diem (\$19/day), the soldiers shared the cost of food, housemaids, laundry girls, shoeshine boy, cooks, gardeners, etc. Not your standard barracks living, but change lay ahead. By early 1962, the Army had rented a hotel-like building from Madam Seri at 192 Pradiphat Road in northeast Bangkok. Evolving into Mekhala Station, "Seri Court" became home to the 5th RRU.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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