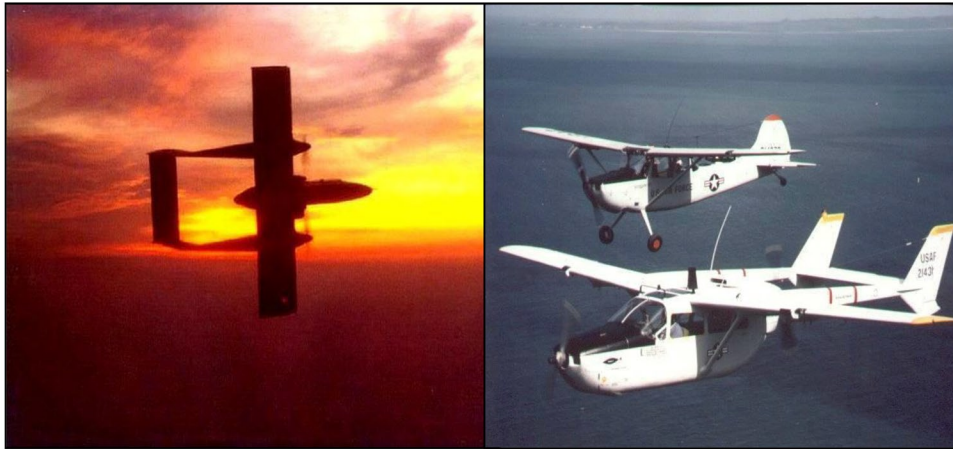


Forward Air Controllers (FACs) of Southeast Asia (SEA)

FAC Team:

FACs were U.S. & Allied Airmen who principally flew small, slow-flying, lightly armed aircraft such as the O-1, the O-2, & the OV-10 throughout Southeast Asia (SEA) from 1962-75. Serving alongside them were maintenance & munitions personnel who ensured that the airplanes were kept operational, fueled, & armed. Additionally, radio operators maintained & helped operate the FAC's radios & performed their duties alongside those FACs deployed with ground forces in the field.



OV-10 'Bronco'

O-2 'Skymaster' (f) & O-1 'Bird Dog' (r)

FAC Duties:

FACs flew day & night at low altitude in every sort of weather, & they also served in the field with U.S. ground forces. They probed targets, directed air strikes to support embattled U.S. & Allied ground units, interdicted enemy infiltration routes, & coordinated rescue operations for downed airmen. Using smoke rockets & smoke grenades to mark targets, FACs controlled air strikes, naval gunfire, & artillery fire against enemy positions. Fighter aircraft knew where to drop their weapons when they heard the FAC's trademark radio call directing them to:

"HIT MY SMOKE!"

FACs were the eyes, ears, & voices above the battlefield. They were gallant airmen who provided the vital link between troops in the field, the various command & control agencies, & U.S. & Allied warplanes.

FAC Units:

Air Force FACs were in Air Commando Detachments, the 504th Tactical Air Support Group & the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, & 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadrons. Marine FACs were in VMO-2, VMO-3, VMO-6, H&MS-11, H&MS-13, H&MS-16, & HML-367

FAC Call Signs:

FACs became known by the individual radio call signs they used throughout SEA. Rarely did the plea for "Any FAC" go unanswered.

Some of the call signs used by FACs in SEA were:

Aladdin, Allen, Andy, Antar, Ascot, Aunt, Barky, Baron, Bart, Bilk, Bird Dog, Blind Bat, Bomber, Boron, Bully, Butterfly, Cagey, Candlestick, Chamba, Chico, Chirp, Cobra, Condole, Copperhead, Cottonmouth, Covey, Cutie, Dart, David, Deadlock, Delta, Drama, Easy, Elliott, Falcon, Fingerprint, Gimpy, Gombey, Habu, Hammer, Head Beagle, Helix, Herb, Hostage, Hound Dog, Hussey, Idaho Brave, Issue, Jade, Jake, Kenny, Kingsnake, Klondike, Klondike Playboy, Laredo, Little Puff, Lopez, Manual, Mike, Misty, Nail, Nile, Oakgrove, Owl, Playboy, Pretzel, Python, Quail, Ragged Scooper, Rake, Rash, Raven, Red Marker, Ringo, Rod, Rustic, Scarface, Seaworthy, Sidewinder, Sleepy Time, Slugger, Smokey, Snake, Snap, Snoopy, Snort, Solid, Spat, Speedy, Spike, Stormy, Sundog, Tally Ho, Tamale, Tangerine, Tango, Tiger, Tiger Hound, Tilly, Tonto, Toy, Trail, Tum, Typhoon, Vampire, Viper, Walt, Wolf, X-Ray, Zipgun

Captain Hilliard A. Wilbanks and Captain Steven L. Bennett

were two of the 220+ FACs who perished in SEA.

Both were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



Captain Wilbanks flew the O-1 & Captain Bennett flew the OV-10.