

OUTLINE

1959

Spring: House hearing - Robertson on strategic importance of Laos

July: Special Forces training teams arrive Laos

Summer: Fighting between RLG and PL; crisis eases in October

1960

March: Jorgensen replaces Hecksher

July: Brown arrives, replacing Smith

August: Kong Le seizes VTE - Dulles statement

November: Phoumi begins drive on VTE

December 29: Felt cable urging US intervention

December 31: White House conference; Burke to JCS in favor of intervention

December 1960/January 1961: Decision to support Hmong

1961

January: JFK inaugurated

February: Brown visit to Washington

March 7: Phoumi driven back

March 9: White House meeting - two-track policy; steps to improve Phoumi's position

March 19: TF 116 placed on alert

March 23: JFK press conference

April 19: White Star

April 22: Vang Vieng falls; panic in Washington

May 3: Cease-fire agreement; fighting continues at Padong

May 29: JFK letter re authority of ambassador
July: Lansdale memo on CIA assets in SE Asia
August: NSAM 80: increase in US advisers & support of Hmong

1962

May 5/6: Nam Tha falls
June: NSAM 162: increase of Special Forces
July: Unger replaces Brown; Whitehurst replaces Jorgesen
July 23: Geneva agreements
October: US military departs; 4802d JLD established; Hmong force of 15,000

1963

Spring: CIA authorized to conduct harrassing operations;
NVA strength increases to 70,000
Summer: Air America dropping 40 tons of supplies daily

1964

February: Expansion of Hmong forces
March: Waterpump; F-100s to Takhli
April: Expansion of Ho Chi Minh Trail
May: PL capture PDJ; Blaufarb replaces Whitehurst
June: Unger opposes reactivation of White Star
September: Souvanna's negotiations in Paris break down
November: Sullivan arrives
December: Barrel Roll begins

1965

January: CIA reports enemy troop movement along Trail

February: Enemy offensive; capture of Hua Muong (LS-58),
valuable radio facility for operations north of PDJ

[AAM hires 303 pilots in 1965, compared to 79 in 1964]

February 24: Rolling Thunder begins

August: SNIE: Communists show now signs of wanting to stir
up situation in Laos; primary purpose is to protect
supply routes

October: Battle of Ia Drang Valley

1966

[Project 404: 120 USAF/USA assigned BKK but covertly serve
in Laos]

February: NVA expand role in Laos; no major operations.
NVA occupy LS-36

May: Hmong retake LS-36 (NVA withdraw)

July: Shackley replaces Blaufarb

Summer: FAR capture Nam Bac Valley; expansion of trail-
watching program

1967

January: NVA attack on LS-36 fails

Summer: FAR offensive in Nam Bac

December: NVA attack Mounq Phalane; US troop strength in
Vietnam reaches 500,000

1968

January: NVA introduce new forces and overrun Nam Bac

January 31: Tet Offensive begins

March: LS-85 falls; SNIE on Communist intentions
April: NVA advance nears Sam Thong
August: Lair leaves; Devlin replaces Shackley
November/December: Hmong effort to retake LS-85

1969

January: NVA launch major offensive
March: LS-36 abandoned
July 1969: Godley arrives
July 25: Nixon Doctrine announced
August-October: About Face: recapture of PDJ
December: NVA begin major offensive with two divisions; US
troop strength in Vietnam reduced by 60,000

1970

February: B-52s used for first time
March: Sam Thong falls; enemy on Skyline; Thai troops
brought in; enemy withdraws in late March - (SNIE
April: 67,000 NVA)
September: Tovar replaces Devlin
December: NVA reoccupy PDJ; US troops strength in Vietnam
now 280,000

1971

February: Fighting on Skyline
April: TACAIR and Thai irregulars (first used in January)
relieve pressure on Skyline
June-July: About Face II - Thai artillery bases on PDJ
[Hmong casualties for 1971: 2,259 KIA; 5,775 WIA]

December: NVA attack PDJ

1972

January-April: Battle for Skyline

August: Limited Hmong offensive on PDJ

1973

February: Cease-fire

March 30: NVA offensive across DMZ in Vietnam

May: Arnold replaces Tovar