

6204 AEROSPACE SUPPORT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

6204 Aerospace Support Squadron

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The mission of the American (Armed) Forces Thailand Network was to support the major, in-country commanders and all organization commanders with the management tool of professional radio and television broadcasting to help implement their missions where other means of immediate mass communications are not available.

A combined services operation, AFTN was the sole agency in Thailand providing U.S. forces personnel programs of information and entertainment no otherwise available to them by other means.

Headquarters AFTN, was located at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, exercised area responsibility, provided coordinated guidance and maintained operational control of all AFTN radio station outlets, administrative control of assigned personnel, and budgets for and utilized all AFRTS (American/Armed Forces Radio-Television Service) equipment involved.

The development of the network began as Project Lamplighter in the mid 1960s with the securing of the Thai government for operation of radio and television stations within Thailand. Although there were a number of stations that began operation in 1966, the headquarters assumed control of the network on February 5, 1967.

The network finally received squadron status as the 6001 Support Squadron for PACAF on September 1, 1970. Later, it would be redesignated as the 6001st Aerospace Support Squadron.

15 Nov 74 6001st Aerospace Support Squadron (AFTN) Thailand, and 6204th Broadcasting Squadron, Republic of the Phillipines, were consolidated and became the 6204th Aerospace Support Squadron (S.O. Ga-42, 8 Oct 74). It was organized as a tri-service activity with operational responsibility assigned to the commander, 13 AF.

15 Nov 74 6001st Aerospace Support Squadron Headquarters Korat RTAFB, Thailand, becomes Detachment 1 of the 6204th Aerospace Support Squadron

Early 75 Sgt Rik Delisle does the last newscast from Korat for the AFTN network.

16 May 75 Ubon television ceased operation

12 July 75 Army manning in Thailand will not be addressed by the Army.

13 July 75 Ubon radio operation signed off the air at 1500 hours

14 July 75 NKP Station Manager MSgt Frank Leary sent TDY to Subic Bay Station

20 Sept 75 NKP television signed off the air

10 Oct 75 NKP FM radio operations signed off at 2359.

1 Jan 76 Korat airs 19 hour "Hitmakers" music history special

2 Jan 1976 Korat and Udorn off-air target dates extended

4 Jan 1976 NKP television van departs Thailand via C-5

10 Jan 1976 Udorn television ends broadcasting

13 Jan 1976 Thailand radiated broadcasting deadline set to cease 20 March 1976.

14 Jan 1976 Udorn television van departs Thailand via C-5

18 Jan 1976 Super Bowl disseminated from Clark television production

22 Jan 1976 Udorn and NKP AFRTS assets shipped out of Thailand

30 Jan 1976 6204AEROSS wins unprecedented three out of five Air Force Information Media Awards.

1 Feb 1976 Korat television ends broadcasting

5 Feb 1976 Udorn ends radio broadcasting

Feb 76 The remains of the Udorn Radio/TV station. The tower has been disassembled and the TV van transferred.

8 Feb 1976 6204AEROSS TDY engineering team begins installation of Ramasun television facility.

Korat radio ceases local studio originated broadcasting. Network news preparation dissemination responsibility shifts to U-Tapao.

16 Feb 1976 Ramasun television studios begin broadcasting, with deactivated TV van from Korat

20 Feb 1976 PCA/TASA engineers begin on-site survey for closed-circuit radio network in Thailand for residual forces.

24 Feb 1976 Korat radio ends broadcasting

17 Mar 1976 Ramasun television ends broadcasting

18 Mar 1976 Ramasun radio satellite begins broadcasting

6204AEROSS orders continued radiated broadcasting in Thailand beyond 20 March cessation deadline.

30 March 1976 Closed-circuit radio on-site survey in Thailand ends with departure of PCA engineer

31 March 1976 U-Tapao, last television station of 6204AEROSS in Thailand, ends broadcasting.

23 May 1976 Final closure of AFTN with U-Tapao signing off the air.

The chapter on the American Forces Thailand Network, one of the largest US Air Force broadcasting networks ever, signs off the air on May 23, 1976.

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