

HC-1 Det 5

I thought this may be of interest to the Seadevils who came from HC-1. I plan on sending the report to Lil Ron so he can put it in a folder for all to read.

It basically relives 1966 telling of Dets going and coming and their accomplishments. Det 5 was formed at IB and trained by LCDR McCracken they even got their helo there and deployed on the USS England to the Tonkin Gulf where they also made line periods on the Coontz, Bainbridge and Worden.

Their det had M-60's and Thompson Sub machine guns which reports show they used on junks firing at them during a rescue and the M-79 grenade launcher, they received their M-16's while on station when they were hand delivered by an officer to the det.

Det 5 was the most decorated SAR Det in HC-1 the men were awarded 2 Silver Stars, 3 Distinguished Flying crosses, 1 Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V. 23 Air Medals or Gold Stars. Det 5 was the only SAR Det to be awarded the Navy Unit Commendation which was the smallest unit to ever receive the award a record that stands today.

I also got some rescue reports which had been written by each crewmember but most are faded and unreadable. Tom Phillips retired HAL-3 pilot just sent his "Combat SAR" book to the publisher I will keep you posted when its published as HC-7 rescues are among all the others Tom has spent a lot of time gathering the info for this book and Lil Ron helped a lot. John Birch

LCDR McCracken later took out another Det 5 which was on the Mahan and some of his crew on this det later came to HC-7