South Vietnamese volunteers dropped into North Vietnam but most of them were taken prisoner. They also tried clandestine maritime missions off the North Vietnamese coast using specially built patrol boats but these missions were also relatively unsuccessful. It was then decided that SOG would be formed by doing something never before accomplished in the US military - Russell combined the sharpest, most elite members of the US Special Forces to form the first SOG teams. With the arrival of America's first combat troops in South Vietnam in 1965, the state of Southeast Asia shifted into an official armed conflict. “We had three major command control detachments. From these bases, we would launch our teams into Cambodia and Laos,”1.