

## An Air Commando Menagerie



A circa 1960 photo of the flight line at Eglin AFB, Fla., shows some of the aircraft available to the Air Force Special Air Warfare Center, a forerunner of today's special operations units. The Air Force began to greatly expand its special operations—air commando—capability during the Vietnam War, establishing the SAWC at Eglin in 1962. Among the aircraft seen at the center were these

prop-driven workhorses, able to operate from unimproved airstrips and in the most austere conditions. At far left is the U-5, a unique twin-engine version of the U-10 light transport aircraft, located on the far right. Next to the U-5 is a C-47, followed by a C-46, B-26, and T-28. In 1968, the Air Force redesignated the SAWC as the USAF Special Operations Force. At the same time, the SAWC's air

commando units took the name "special operations."