

Last AC-119 Update

- Tail # 850 located at Tan Son Nhut:
 - Airframe corroded & mayfall apart if we try to take it apart; it will be too expensive to restore; & there are other Stinger aircraft in Taiwan, China, or somewhere we can get

NOTE: project team did not propose restoration to flyable; just display
- 2010-2011: No Association money spent; no other action
 - No Air Attaches for Vietnam anymore; therefore no determination of recoverability
 - No other AC-119 aircraft exist (HQ DoD-wide & Pentagon answer)
- Currently: jacked & towed last year to another location
 - Risk of destruction or inclusion in Vietnam “American War” Museum
- We will continue to try stay updated on 850’s status



March 2006
satellite image



March 2006
satellite image

AC-119
located
here



- AC-119 aircraft previously identified from Google Earth satellite image at Tan Son Nhut Airport confirmed as AC-119K Stinger tail #53-7850





March 2010
satellite image



March 2010
satellite image

New parking pad for big jets
Recently constructed hanger





Dwight Mackie photo – August 2010

Recently constructed hanger

New parking pad for big jets



March 2010
satellite image

AC-119 has
been moved to
this location
behind new
building

Feb 23, 2006

March 2006
satellite image



Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

©2010 Google

Imagery Date: Feb 24, 2006

10°48'39.27" N 106°39'25.98" E elev 32 ft

Eyealt 2161 ft

Mar 29, 2010

Original AC-119 location

March 2010 satellite image

AC-119 has been moved to this location behind new building

New parking pad for big jets
Recently constructed hanger

Image © 2010 GeoEye

© 2010 Google

Mar 29, 2010

AC-119 current location

Image © 2010 Google

Google







Image © 2010 GeoEye

Imagery Date: Mar 30, 2010

10°48'24.88" N 106°39'34.02" E elev 0 m



The Vietnam People's Air Force Museum



Mi 24A Hind Helicopter



UH-1 Helicopter



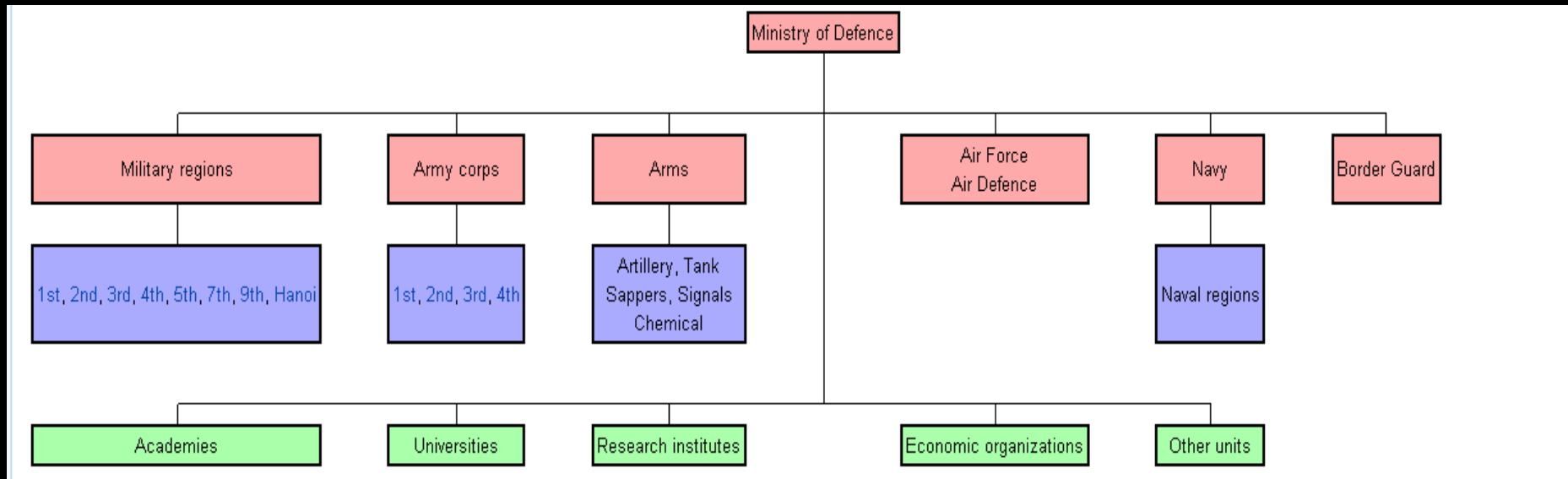
MiG-21 MF Fighter Jet



Current Status – October 2011

- No money Association money spent on efforts.
- Contacts still viable on the ground in Ho Chi Minh City.
- Last communication with Vietnam local officials indicated “no interest in allowing ‘export’ of AC-119 as it is the only one they have in inventory”. Offered a C-130 instead.
- Aircraft appears somewhat safe right now – grouped neatly with other US military airplanes. Destined for museum?
- Continue to monitor situation and open door for negotiation.
- Possibly contact Vietnam Defense Dept. directly.

Organization of the Defense Ministry of Vietnam



Components

[edit]

The Ministry of Defence is the supreme command of the [Vietnam People's Army](#) which contains several arms and army corps, the [Vietnamese People's Navy](#), the [Vietnamese People's Air Force and Air Defence](#) and the [Vietnamese Border Guard](#). To organize the military activities and units, the territory of Vietnam is divided into 7 military regions and the High Command of Capital which contains the region of Hanoi.^[6]

The principal and core military force of Vietnam is the Vietnam People's Army (VPA)^[7] with a regular force of 450,000 soldiers and officers and the reserve force of about 5 million.^[8] The land-based units of the VPA consists of four army corps (*quân đoàn*): 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th; six arms (*binh chủng*): Artillery, Tank and Armoured Warfare, Sappers, Signals and Chemical; seven military regions (*quân khu*) and one command (*bộ tư lệnh*): 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th and the [High Command of Capital Hanoi](#).^[9] The border guard, air force-air defense and the navy are organized as arms of the VPA, the navy in particular is divided in five naval regions (*vùng hải quân*) (from 1st to 5th).^[10]

Besides, the Ministry of Defence also manages a system of academies, universities and research institutes with a total number of 21 academies (*học viện*), universities (*trường đại học*) and one college (*trường cao đẳng*). The principal academy of the ministry is the [Vietnam Academy of Defence](#) (Học viện Quốc phòng), it is the only institution for training strategical officers.^[11] The Ministry of Defence has its own branch of economic organizations^[12] which contains the [Viettel Mobile](#), one of the leading mobile network operator in Vietnam.

Phung Quang Thanh

Phùng Quang Thanh (born February 2, 1949) is currently Vietnam's minister of defense and is ranked as the No. 2 leader in the country's Communist Party.^[2] He is an officer of the **Vietnam People's Army** and a member of the **Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam**. Enlisted in 1969, Thanh fought in various battles during the **Vietnam War** and was honored with the title **Hero of the People's Armed Forces** in 1971 at the age of 22. Thanh was appointed minister in June 2006, succeeding General **Phạm Văn Trà**.

Military career

[[edit](#)]

Thanh was born on February 2, 1949 in Thạch Đà commune, **Mê Linh, Hanoi**.^[1] In 1967, he joined the army at the age of 18 and was admitted to the **Communist Party of Vietnam**, then known as the **Vietnam Workers' Party**, one year later.^[1]

In his early years, Thanh fought in various battles of the **Vietnam War** notably in the **Quảng Trị** campaign and during the counter-attack of the **Vietnam People's Army** against **Operation Lam Son 719** where he served as **company** commander (đại đội trưởng) in the 9th Battalion, 64th Regiment, **320th Division**. In combat on February 10, 1971, Phung Quanh Thanh led a squad (*tiểu đội*) in defending a hill against a company of airborne troops of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) with aerial support, finally his unit was able to drive back the attack after putting out of action 38 enemy soldiers for which Thanh alone was credited with eight killed. Two days later, he was once more recognized when Thanh, despite being wounded in the left hand, stayed in battle and commanded his platoon to accomplish the mission. For his feat of arms, Thanh was bestowed the prestigious title **Hero of the People's Armed Forces** (*Anh hùng lực lượng vũ trang nhân dân*) on September 20, 1971.^{[1][3]} In June 1971 he was ordered to leave combat to study in the School for Infantry Officers, later in the Academy of Infantry, he was also appointed commander of the 9th Battalion, 320th Division, **1st Army Corps** (*Quân đoàn 1*) from 1972. During the war, he received total three Liberation Distinguished Service Medals, 1st Order (*Huân chương Chiến công Giải phóng hạng nhất*), three Brave Soldier Titles (*Danh hiệu Dũng sĩ*) and other awards.^[1]

After the Vietnam War, Thanh continued to hold several positions in the 1st Army Corps from chief of staff of the 64th Regiment to acting commander of the 312th Division in 1988. In 1991, after two years studying in the **Soviet Union** and the **Military Academy of Vietnam**, Thanh was promoted to commander (*sư đoàn trưởng*) of the 312th Division. Afterwards, he served in the **General Staff** of the Vietnam People's Army from 1993 to 1997 and as commander (*tư lệnh*) of the **1st Military Zone** from 1997 to 2001. In May 2001, Thanh became Chief of the General Staff and **Deputy Minister of Defence of Vietnam**. Five years later, he was elected to the **Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam** and began to hold the position of Minister of Defence of Vietnam, succeeding General **Phạm Văn Trà**.^{[1][3][4]}

Rank

[[edit](#)]

Phung Quang Thanh was promoted to **Major General** (*thiếu tướng*) in 1994, **Lieutenant General** (*trung tướng*) in 1999, **Colonel General** (*thượng tướng*) in 2003 and **General** (*đại tướng*) in 2007.^[1]

Notes

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ "*Độc đáo "Anh hùng lực lượng vũ trang nhân dân Phùng Quang Thanh"* (in Vietnamese). Museum of Military History of Vietnam. 2009-07-12.
- ↑ "Party Congress announces CPVCC Politburo members" , *Online Newspaper of the Socialist Republic of Việt Nam Government*, January 19, 2011. "Ông Nguyễn Phú Trọng đắc cử Tổng Bí thư" , *BaoOnline.vn*, January 20, 2011. Includes pictures of the entire leadership.
- ↑ "Túi đựng cơm vắt của Anh hùng Phùng Quang Thanh" (in Vietnamese). Qdnd.vn. 2008-01-24.
- ↑ Lorraine Carlos Salazar (2007). Daljit Singh, Lorraine Carlos Salazar. ed. *Southeast Asian Affairs 2007*. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. p. 386. ISBN 9812304428.



General Phung Quang Thanh in December 2009

Minister of Defence	
<div>In office</div>	
2006 – present	
Preceded by	Phạm Văn Trà
Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam	
<div>In office</div>	
2006 – present	
Deputy of the National Assembly of Vietnam	
Personal details	
Born	February 2, 1949 (age 62) <div>Mê Linh, Hanoi, Vietnam</div>
Political party	Communist Party of Vietnam
Alma mater	Voroshilov Academy <div>Military Academy of Vietnam^[1]</div>
Signature	



Phung Quang Thanh

- **Minister of Defense – Vietnam**
- **#2 leader of Communist Party**
- **Wounded in battle – Operation Lam Son 719 – Feb 1971**
- **Recent joint US/Vietnam military ops & cooperation**



The End

