

## AC-119 Gunship Losses Southeast Asia

<b>Date</b>	<b>Acft</b>	<b>T/N</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Crew KIA</b>	<b>Crew Survivors</b>	<b>Source</b>
11-Oct-69	AC-119G <b>Shadow</b>	52-5907	17th SOS, Det 1, 14 SOW	Phan Rang Detached to Tan Son Nhut, S. Vietnam	An AC-119, call sign Shadow 76, crashed as it was taking off from Tan Son Nhut when an engine failed and caught fire. With all its armament and ammunition together with a full fuel load the single-engined performance of the AC-119G was insufficient to enable it to stay airborne. Six of the ten crew were killed in the incident	Lt Col Bernard R. Knapic Maj Moses L. Alves Maj Jerome J. Rice Capt John H. V. Hathaway SSgt Ellsworth S. Bradford SSgt Abraham L. Moore	Four Survivors, names unknown	Hobson Pg 5
19-Feb-70	AC-119K <b>Stinger</b>	53-3156	18th SOS, 14 SOW	Phan Rang Detached to Danang, S. Vietnam	An AC-119K Stinger returning from a night-time armed Reconnaissance mission over the Ho Chi Minh Trail landed short of the runway at Danang and was damaged beyond repair. About two miles from touchdown the engines on the port wing suddenly lost power due to fuel starvation and the pilot was unable to maintain control. The crew escaped with minor injuries		10 crew, name's unknown	Hobson Pg 198
27-Apr-70	AC-119G <b>Shadow</b>	53-8155	17th SOS, Det 1, 14th SOW	Phan Rang, Detached to Tan Son Nhut, S. Vietnam	An AC-119G, radio call sign Shadow 78, had an engine failure at about 100 feet just as it was taking off from Tan Son Nhut on a Mission over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The crew struggled to keep the aircraft airborne but it crashed about two miles beyond the end of the runway. Six of the eight men on board were killed in the crash. This was the second Shadow lost to an engine failure on take off and following this latest accident the USAF limited the AC-119Gs gross takeoff weight in order to achieve a safe rate of climb on a single engine.	1Lt Thomas L. Lubbers 1Lt Charles M. Knowles Maj Meredith G. Anderson MSgt Joseph C. Jeszeck SSgt Robert F. Fage Sgt Michael P. Vangelisti	Maj Robert Bokern SSgt Alan Chandler	Hobson Pg 203

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6-Jun-70	AC-119K <b>Stinger</b>	52-5935	18th SOS, 14th SOW	Phan Rang, Detached to Danang, S. Vietnam	As an AC-119K Stinger took off from Danang for a night gunship mission it suffered a runaway propeller on the number one engine. The pilot tried to to return to the airfield to attempt an emergency landing but he could not control the aircraft. The crew abandoned the aircraft over the sea just to the east of Danang and all but one crewmember was rescued. The aircraft continued flying out to sea and caused a brief panic when it seemed to be heading for Chinese airspace around Hainan Island. However, the aircraft crashed into the South China Sea well before it reached Hainan.	TSgt Clyde D. Alloway	9 crew, names unkown	Hobson Pg 205
2-May-72	AC-119K <b>Stinger</b>	53-7826	18th SOS, 56th SOW	Nakhon Phanom, Thailand	The first, and indeed only, AC-119 lost to enemy action by the USAF during the war was shot down during a daylight mission on 2 May. Six AC-119s were deployed to Bien Hoa on 15 April to assist in the defense of An Loc. It. It was rare for the slow and vulnerable AC-119s to fly during daylight hours but a C-130 had dropped ammunition to the defenders of An Loc and the load had fallen into enemy-held territory and had to be destroyed before the NVA found it. The AC-119K, call sign Stinger 41, orbited over An Loc, which was strill under intense seige, and waited to take its turn on the target. The AC-119 and an accompanying FAC were fired upon by a 37mm anti-aircraft gun, which immediately became their new target. As the aircraft circled at 4,700 feet it was hit in the starboard wing by 37mm flak and limped away with the wing on fire. The piston engine on the starboard wing failed, the jet engine was blown off and the undercarriage leg swung down causing extra drag that the pilot was unable to counter.. Seven of the crew bailed out while Captain Courtney fought to maintain control of the aircraft, but he and two other crewmen were killed when the aircraft crashed about five miles from An Loc. The FAC was monitoring the bail out and the survivors were rescued over the next four hours by two HH-53s and a US Army UH-1 with the assistance of much suppressive fire from AC-130s, strike fighters and helicopter gunships. Stinger daylight missions were terminated following this incident. Captain Terrence Courtney was awarded the Air Force Cross.	Capt Terrence F. Courtney Capt David R. Slagle SSgt Kenneth R. Brown	Lt Jim Barkalow Lt Col Tashioglou Lt Larry Barbee SSgt Bare SSgt Dale Iman SSgt Sledzinski A1C Craig Corbett	Hobson Pg 223

