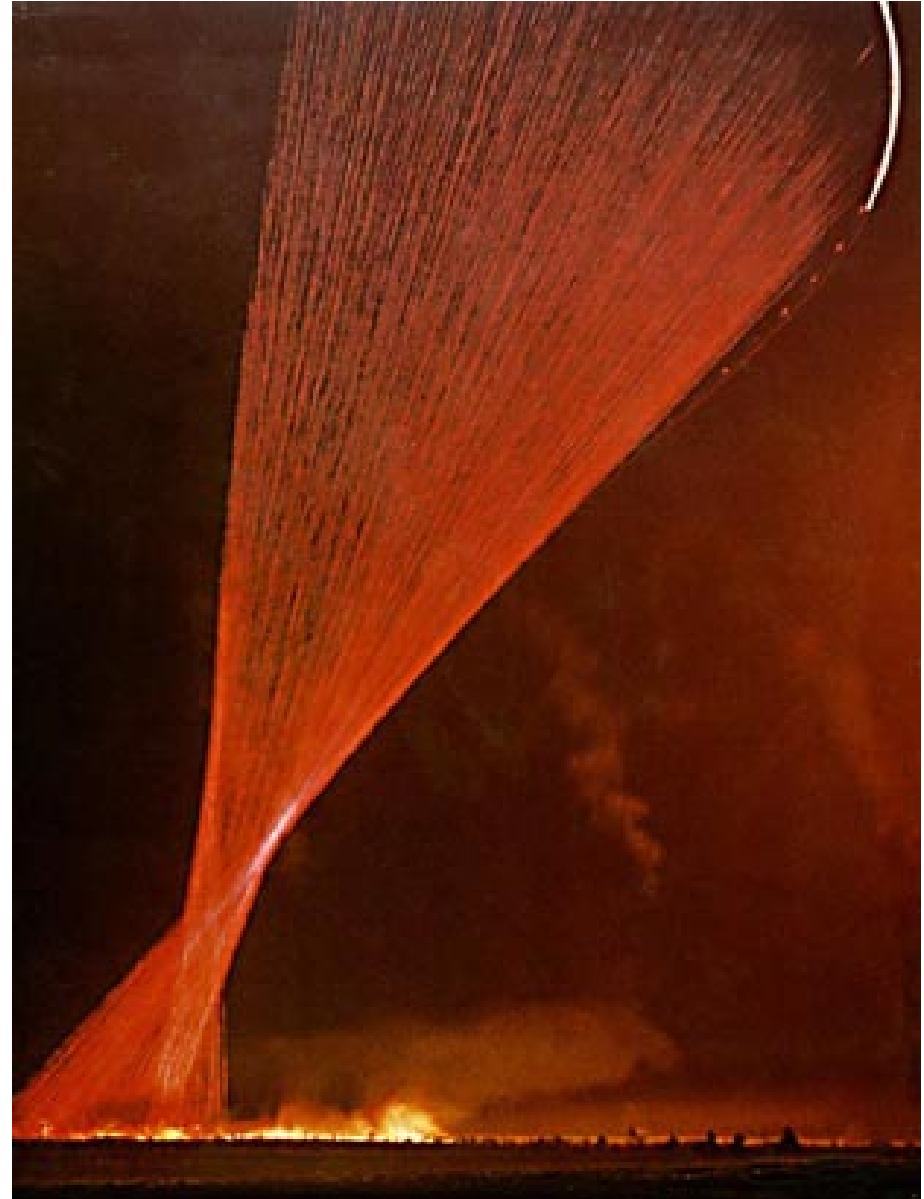


“AC-119K Stinger”



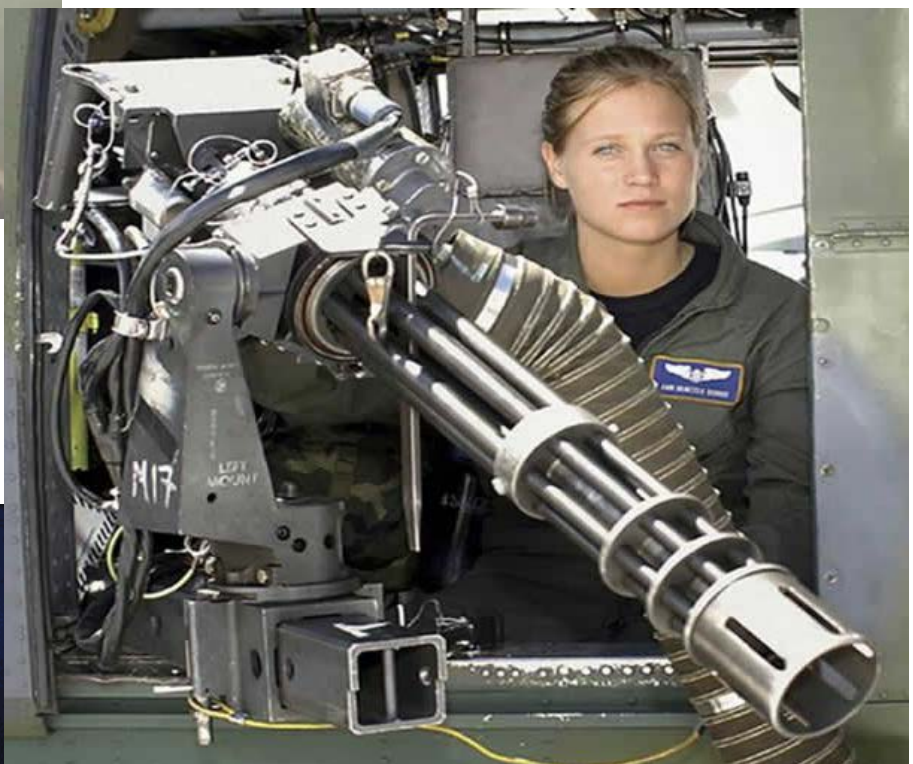
Cone of Fire



Fixed Wing Gunships 101

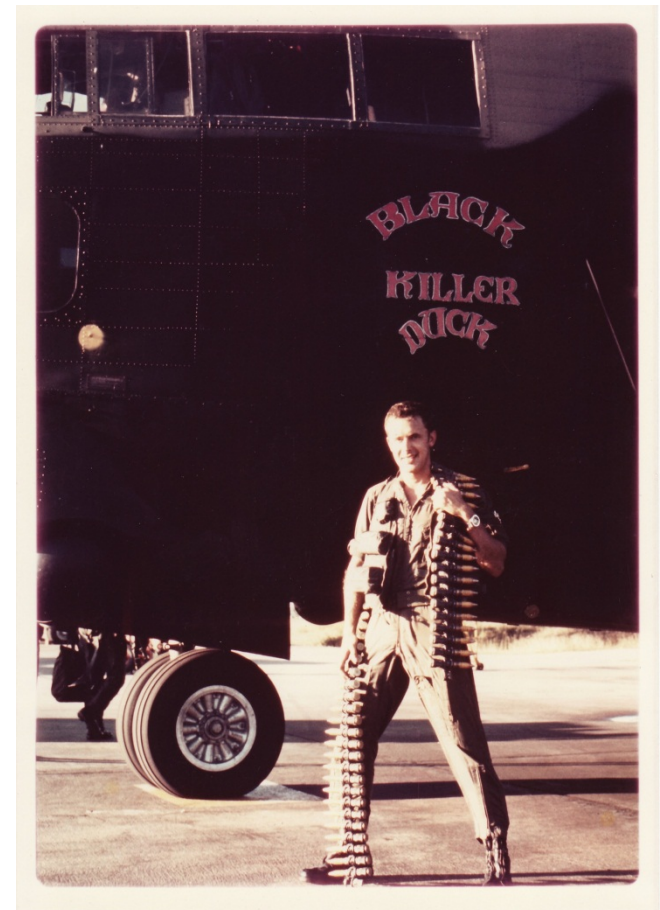
- Started with a tough Capt named Ron Terry (now retired Col)
- First production gunship: 26 AC-47 *Spooky* aka “Puff ”
 - Three 7.62 Mini-guns up to 3,000 rpm, great job but low & lots of losses
- AC-130 planned next, but they needed all the existing air frames for tactical airlift in Vietnam & Laos
- Boneyard search resulted in 26 “interim” AC-119G *Shadow*
 - Four Minis, more ammo, better targeting: Cambodia & Vietnam ‘68-71
- Shadow worked so well they accelerated 26 follow-on “interim” AC-119K *Stinger*
 - Four Minis, two 20mm Vulcan cannons up to 4,000 rpm HEI/API mix, FLIR: Ho Chi Minh Trail, Vietnam TICs ‘69-73
- Eighteen AC-130 *Spectres* did make it to Vietnam

AC-119 message: we were there, we were good.....don't forget us!



Recips & Me – A Lt's Story

- “I’m gonna fly cargo birds out of San Fran!!!!”
- How many pounds of thrust do you get out of a 3350?
- What do you mean “Your” throttles?
- AAA & Split S’s, SA-7s, Migs, & even Iraq
- FAC capable & Fighter AAA Suppression
- Frackin’ Rockets isn’t about increasing our oil supply
- Tank Busters



Guns and Cannons.....



Guns and Cannons.....



John Rucker

Kilgore Texas 1951-1973



“The Last AC-119K”





March 2006
satellite image

**AC-119K
located here**

Feb 23, 2006

March 2006 satellite image



Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

©2010 Google



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



First Response to What We “Found”

- First response to what we found
 - Airframe corroded; concerns it may fall apart if we try to take it apart
 - It will be expensive to restore
 - We do have all the original conversion tooling
 - No Air Attaches for Vietnam anymore; therefore no Air Force or DoD determination of recoverability
 - No other AC-119 aircraft exist (HQ DoD-wide & Pentagon answer)
 - Don't spend an \$\$ on it
- “Please continue to stay updated on 850's status” but we just continued to try to learn more, despite the nay-sayers.



March 2010 satellite image

Our guy on the ground
keep us advised & in early
2010 said” Something’s
happening!”

Google Map came through
again, and here’s what we
found....



March 2010 satellite image

Aircraft jacked & towed to another location & it sure as hell didn't fall apart.

Project team does not propose restoration to flyable; just display.

Risk of destruction or inclusion in Vietnam "American War" Museum

AC-119 was moved to this location behind new building

New parking pad for big jets & recently constructed hanger

Mar 29, 2010

Original AC-119 location

March 2010 satellite image

New parking pad for big jets; recent hanger construction

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

Image © 2010 GeoEye

© 2010 Google

Mar 29, 2010

N

AC-119 current location



Imago © 2010 GooEye

Google







Image © 2010 GeoEye

Imagery Date: Mar 30, 2010

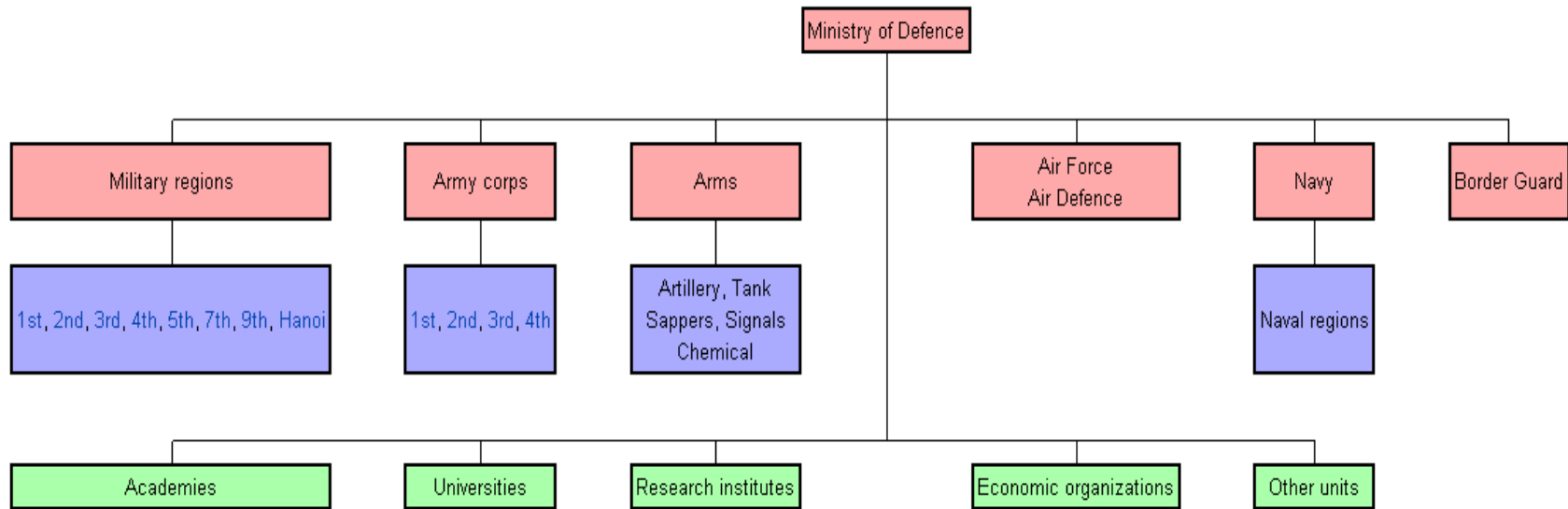
10°48'24.88" N 106°39'34.02" E elev. 0 m

Status – October 2011 & Still the same Today

- The aircraft IS viable for recovery & restoration for static display; not likely restorable to flyable.
 - ❖ We checked on tooling again (“Go”), barges to get it to the port (“Go”), containerized cargo options (difficult but “Go”), & funding sources (Lots of philanthropists, enthusiasts, patriots, even Vietnamese Gunshippers – Doable)
- 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?
 - ❖ We will 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]

- ↑ *abcdefg*"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.
- ↑ *abcd*"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

In office

2006 – present

Preceded by Phạm Văn Trà

Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam

In office

2006 – present

Deputy of the National Assembly of Vietnam

Personal details

Born February 2, 1949 (age 62)
Mê Linh, Hanoi, Vietnam

Political party Communist Party of Vietnam

Alma mater Voroshilov Academy
Military Academy of Vietnam^[1]

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**



Some Day.....



For Now, the Flight of the Hupe! This AC-119 is being Resurrected!



Being refurbished by RC Model
Club in FWB, FL

Will “fly” again September 28,
2012 near FWB

Then on permanent displayed in
the 18th FLTS Heritage Room

Every flight starts with a critical pre-departure action –
For tonight, mine is to answer any questions.

