

BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front): AF is probably not staffed, able, or willing to give us the assistance we desired. There's lots of info now available. Somebody might tackle getting it & Tom Pilsch's info at <http://www.pilsch.gatech.edu/Vietnam.html> might help us. Tom was my Wing Commander when I returned to Travis in 1985.

Good Luck! Wayne

From: Gus Sininger [stinger7172@live.com] **Sent:** Tues, Mar 19, 2013 6:02 AM **To:** Wayne Laessig **Subj:** FW: AC-119 FOIA 2013-01605 Request
Hope this helps.

From: Amy.Winter@hurlburt.af.mil **To:** stinger7172@live.com **Date:** Mon, 18 Mar 2013 09:04:59 -0500

I've been working on this, albeit slowly. I've also requested additional help from TSgt Garcia, with more, detailed information, and hopefully that comes through for everyone. Below is some of what I can find; I know some of it may be redundant, but I hope the original links help some.

AC-119 search - The National Archives; Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

- <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=485&q=ac-119&popup=Y>
- http://aad.archives.gov/aad/free-text-search-results.jsp?cat=all&q=ac-119&btnSearch=Search&as_alq=&as_anq=&as_epq=&as_woq
- Combat Air Activities Files (CACTA), created, 10/1965 - 12/1970, documenting the period 10/1965 - 12/1970

18 SOS search - The National Archives; Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

http://aad.archives.gov/aad/free-text-search-results.jsp?cat=all&q=18sos&btnSearch=Search&as_alq=&as_anq=&as_epq=&as_woq=

AC-119 search - The Vietnam Center and Archive <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/QuickSearch.php?srch=ac-119> - various .pdf files

AC-119 search - Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)

[http://dsearch.dtic.mil/search?site=default_collection&q=ac-119&client=dticol_frontend&proxystylesheet=dticol_frontend&proxyreload=1&filter=0&tlen=200&getfields=*](http://dsearch.dtic.mil/search?site=default_collection&q=ac-119&client=dticol_frontend&proxystylesheet=dticol_frontend&proxyreload=1&filter=0&tlen=200&getfields=)

A few .pdf, there are a lot:

- -Project CHECHO Southeast Asia Report: OV-1/AC-119 Hunter-Killer Team (Continuing Report) - 10 Oct 1972 <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a486774.pdf>
- -Project CHECHO Southeast Asia Report: Fixed Wing Gunships in SEA (Jul 69 - Jul 71) (Continuing Report) <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a486516.pdf>
- -Project CHECHO Southeast Asia Report: Short Rounds January 1972 - August 1973 <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a486931.pdf>

18 SOS search - Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)

V/R, Amy L. Winter, TSgt, USAF 18th Flight Test Squadron Hurlburt Field, FL 32544 Comm. 850.884.3588

From: Huebert, Kevin LtCol USAF AFSOC 18 FLTS/DO **Sent:** Tues, Feb 12, 2013 4:48 PM **To:** Winter, Amy L TSgt USAF AFSOC 18 FLTS/DOC Amy, Special project for you. Can you please help the AC-119 Association track down the correct avenues to pull their mission history from? I would think the Air Force Research Center at Maxwell AFB would be a great repository. Other options would be the Air Commando Association here in Mary Esther - they may have some data or resources to pull from.

The attached FOIA request was less than helpful - the TSgt pulled the stories from the AC-119 Association's own website! Not very helpful. Thanks, Hubie

Kevin D. Huebert, Lt Col, USAF 18 FLTS/DO DSN 579-1204 Comm (850) 884-1204 email:

kevin.huebert@hurlburt.af.mil

From: Gus Sininger [stinger7172@live.com] **Sent:** Mon, Feb 11, 2013 9:14 AM **To:** Huebert, Kevin LtCol USAF AFSOC 18 FLTS/DO **Subj:** FW: AC-119 FOIA 2013-01605 Request Here is what Wayne has come up. Look it over and let me know if you think you could help us out with this, Many Thanks Gus Sininger Past President AC-119 Gunship Association

From: Huebert, Kevin LtCol USAF AFSOC 18 FLTS/DO [Kevin.Huebert@hurlburt.af.mil] **Sent:** Fri, Mar 15, 2013 8:25 AM **To:** qadvocate@sbcglobal.net; stinger7172@live.com **Subj:** FOIA Request

Wayne/Gus, Thanks for your patience on this while I did some digging. I submitted a request to the Air Force Historical Research Agency requesting any and all info related to the 17/18/71 SOS.

They provided me two microfilm reels (M0470-M0471) which contain a .pdf document in excess of 2200 pages. These include 14 SOW and squadron histories (including **MISREPS, decorations, public news releases**, etc) I think if the AC-119 Association submits a FOIA to this agency, requesting those two reels of film, you may find the documentation you are looking for.

That would be the legal way of obtaining these documents, as they are all labeled FOUO. Legally, I can't release them to the Association.

Contact info: www.airforcehistoryindex.org AFHRANEWS@maxwell.af.mil (for inquires)

I hope this helps get you pointed in the right direction. If this route gets blocked, let me know and I'll see what else we can do from this end. Hubie

Kevin D. Huebert, Lt Col, USAF 18 FLTS/DO

DSN 579-1204 Comm (850) 884-1204

email: kevin.huebert@hurlburt.af.mil

From: Wayne Laessig [qadvocate@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Tues, Mar 12, 2013 2:33 PM **To:** 'Kevin.Huebert@hurlburt.af.mil' **Cc:** Gus Sininger (stinger7172@live.com) **Subj:** Declassified Fixed Wing Gunship historical info

Col Huebert Thanks for talking with me today. Our search for historical info about our AC-119s has been ongoing for many years, & it includes a declassified *CHECO Report on Fixed Wing Gunships in SEA, July 1969-July 1971*. Bottom Line up front: we're looking for any additional CHECO reports on Gunships for the AC-119 operational periods before & after that report's time frame:

1. From 5 January 1969 (our first AC-119G combat mission) through June 1969;
2. From August 1971 through 1 March 1973 (our last AC-119K combat training mission – training the South Vietnamese);
3. If there are any, we'd also like any reports about the South Vietnamese Gunships from 2 March 1973 through 29 April 1975.

If you get any historical info or need a "go to" person for historical info, I'm the AC-119 Association's funnel for that & can either help you or put you in touch with the right person. One of our goals is to assure each of our heritage squadrons has as much access to info as we have as they desire. Thank you! Wayne Laessig Gus's Copilot in AC-119s, & current AC-119 Gunship Association President Cell Phone 707-592-4492

p.s. Here's some interesting background. Col Tom Pilsch was a Wing Commander at Travis who I worked for in the late 1980s; he told me about putting together a SEA History database many years ago as a War College project, & years later we finally dug into it at <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html#Gunships> It includes tons of references, like the following, including CHECO Report 110 that we do have:

Gunships

[Fixed-Wing Gunships \(history\) • Photos • A Gunship History • More • More](#)

[Fixed-Wing Gunships in SEA \(CHECO Report 110\)](#)

[AC-119 \(Gunship III\) • More • Profiles • AC-119G Shadow • More • AC-119K Stinger • More • Combat Tactics • Tactics Diagram • Stories](#)

CHECO Report 110 caught our eye. According to the attached info, Project CHECO (Contemporary Historical Examination of Current Operations), under HQ, PACAF, produced histories of important events during the war. Most CHECO reports have been declassified, in whole & in part. Copies of many are available from Dalley Book Service, 90 Kimball Lane, Christiansburg VA 24073. Copies of some can be purchased from the [National Technical Information Service](#) (NTIS). Complete or almost complete texts of many of the reports have also been placed online in the [Virtual Vietnam Archive](#) of the Vietnam Project, at Texas Tech University. For a listing, with links to the full texts, enter "Contemporary Historical Examination Of Current Operations (CHECO) Reports Of Southeast Asia (1961-1975)" in the "Collection Title" field. Some have also been placed online by the Defense Technical Information Center ([DTIC](#)). In the listing below of those that are available either online in hard copy from Dalley, bear in mind that many of those available online can also be obtained from Dalley. We'll eventually have one of our guys do the footwork to see what else we can get via this source.

From: Gus Sininger (stinger7172@live.com) **To:** Wayne Laessig [qadvocate@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Fri, Feb 15, 2013 2:11:59 PM

I will give him your name for the contact as historian OK. Gus

From: Kevin.Huebert@hurlburt.af.mil **Date:** Fri, 15 Feb 2013 05:54:26 -0600 **To:** stinger7172@live.com

Gus, Good news, I've got 3 people working different leads, & initial blush it looks like at least 2 have high potential to pan out with some success. I may need a little more details on the type of info you are looking for to help narrow the search. I'm also exploring the option of getting you in direct contact with the agencies that have the source documents so you can screen them without us as middle-men. That option is still TBD though. Does the Association have a historian who would be a single POC to funnel requests through? I hope this works out for you guys.

Different topic: we have begun planning for a 28 Jun change of command. More details will be sent once we get more finalized. Anyone from the Association is invited. Take care, Hubie Kevin D. Huebert, Lt. Col, USAF 18 FLTS/DO Sent from BlackBerry

From: Gus Sininger **Sent:** Mon, Feb 11, 2013 09:09 AM **To:** Huebert, Kevin LtCol USAF AFSOC 18 FLTS/DO **Subj:** Declassified Fixed wing Gunship in SEA

Hubie can we get together & talk about some help in getting this information. We tried & we got very little from a Tsgt that sent us our own information that we have on our web site. He did not re-search it at all. I will send you what Wayne has come up with so far. Thanks Gus Sininger Past President AC-119 Gunship Association

From: Wayne Laessig **Sent:** Sun, Feb 10, 2013 3:23 PM **To:** Gus Sininger (stinger7172@live.com) **Subj:** AC-119 FOIA 2013-01605 Request
Gus, Tim Rider opened the door for us & I greatly appreciate that. I thought his request was clear enough, & that we would get a much better response. My thoughts on how we might proceed: do a teleconf with you, me, & Hubie to see what his thoughts are on how we/they might escalate this. Please ask Hubie to give us 15 minutes on a teleconf. You can forward this to him as info to bring him up to speed. Tim is reducing the size of the actual declassified file (Project CHETCO South East Asia Report – Fixed Wing Gunships in SEA [Jul 69-Jul 71]) from 56 Mb to 5.7 Mb – when he does, I'll send so we can include the actual "example" of exactly the documents we want. Here's info for Hubie to chew on:

1. We realize AFSOC has high deployment rates etc but the AFSOC FOIA POC's response is unprofessional & non-responsive. He sent us the same documents we had created & posted on our own website to fulfill our FOIA document request!! That is a slap in the face & I expected more.
 - a. We can submit a formal appeal to TSgt Garcia's response, but it has to happen within the 60 calendar days after the date of his letter (NLT 4 April) & include the reasons we disagree with his decision.
 - b. However, if we appeal his decision that what he sent us fulfills our request, we need to submit it to the SecAF – but through the Hurlburt FOIA Office, which seems to indicate the Hurlburt AFSOC guy can decide to act "before" he elevates it to SecAF.
2. Before we submit a formal appeal, it seems worth a try at informally resolving this. For example, Tim may not have been specific enough, & my thoughts are that we can help TSgt Garcia gain a little more perspective on this request by supplementing Tim's request with an active duty 18th FLTS request.
3. Specifically, if Hubie can find out who the TSgt's Commander is, & personally/informally clarify our request with that Commander, I believe we can resolve this without getting too bureaucratic.
 - a. If Hubie supplements the initial request with "active duty Commander" support from a heritage & historical perspective, we may be able to get the declassified documents we want – not just for us, but for the 18th FLTS, the 17th SOS, the 71st SOS, the 73rd SOS, & the 58th SOW.
 - b. We can attach the sample declassified document of what we really want to make it VERY clear that a bullshit (sorry, I just had to say it) regurgitation of what we already know (& that we created) doesn't hack it for a FOIA document request.
 - c. I have the declassified doc in pdf (Project CHETCO South East Asia Report–Fixed Wing Gunships in SEA [Jul 69-Jul 71]) but it's 56 Mb & can't send it by email. I attached a picture of that doc's 1st pg as proof that what we requested was Declassified & Approved for Public Release in 2006!
 - d. Also, Hubie can 'explain' the link to (& STRONG support of) our Active Duty Heritage Squadrons.
4. If all that doesn't result in a response that satisfies us, we can escalate (still within AFSOC) & bring our other heritage squadron commanders in for added support. Along with Lt Col Pope, the 17th Commander Lt Col Mullarkey at Kadena; 73rd Commander Lt Col Donald Purdy at Cannon; 71st Commander at Kirtland; & 58th SOW's prior Wing Commander Col Cardoso & Wing Historian Lance Blythe are ALL very strong advocates for maintaining our heritage & historical links with their troops. They might be willing to elevate this as THEIR request to the TSgt's commander. If that doesn't get us what we need, we can submit the formal appeal to SecAf but that's a last resort.
5. Lastly, if needed, we can get all our AC-119 General-level retirees to endorse or sign the request.

From: frider@nc.rr.com **Sent:** Wed, Feb 06, 2013 2:58 AM **To:** Wayne **Cc:** Tim

Hi Wayne, The response from the Air Force is disappointing at best. I feel it is disrespectful to those of us who put our lives on the line for them to have sent us back documents which were our recollections of events written years after the fact instead of the requested Air Force documents. It would appear that they did not even look for the official documents as requested. Not sure what you want done but I'd recommend an appeal. They make the process frustrating don't they. Sincerely, Fred Rider

From: Rider, Tim [tim.rider@vykincorp.com] **Sent:** Tues, Feb 05, 2013 1:37 PM **To:** Fred Rider; frederick rider **Subj:** FW: Final Response Letter to Requester on FOIA 2013-01605

Pretty sure we can do better than this. Best regards, Tim Rider COO Vykin Corporation (813) 943-5781

On 2/5/13 1:31 PM, 'AFSOC FOIA/PA' AFSOC.FOIA@hurlburt.af.mil wrote:

Good afternoon, Mr. Rider Please see attached the final update to your FOIA request. V/R ROCIO GARCIA, TSGT, USAF AFSOC FOIA Manager HQ AFSOC/A6OK DSN:579-6919 Comm:(850)884-6919