
Note: The Air Force has made a lot of its publications available online; I have given links to as many as I could, below. Recently, however, probably as part of a security upgrade in the aftermath of 9/11, some items (particularly publications of the Air University at Maxwell AFB) have been placed on a server that is only accessible to web browsers configured for 128-bit encryption. This does not mean you have to be in some way associated with the U.S. government to have access; it simply means that you have to have what is, by the standards of ordinary civilian Internet users, a pretty good web browser. I use Netscape 4.7, but there is probably some version of Internet Explorer that will work. I have been trying to notice cases in which a publication has been shifted to a new URL on this more secure server, & change the links in the listing below, but there are probably some cases I have not noticed, so some of the links may go to an old URL that is no longer valid.


The United States Air Force in Southeast Asia. The volumes of this series make up the Air Force's main official history of the war.


Ray L. Bowers, Tactical Airlift. Washington: Office of Air Force History & GPO, 1983. xxvi, 899 pp. A prosaic accounts of the facts, without much analysis, but this is not a topic that calls for much deep thought. A lot of factual detail. The FULL TEXT is available online at an Air Force web site. D 301.86/2:Ai 7


Bernard C. Nalty, Air War over South Vietnam, 1968-1975. Washington: Air Force History & Museums Program, 2000. xii, 540 pp. Also includes air war over Cambodia. Although the title page says it was published in 2000, I don't think it was actually released until around the end of 2001. D 301.82/7:V 67


[Captain] Betty Barton Christiansen, Civic Action. Washington: Air Force History & Museums Program, 1998. vi, 274 pp. I get the impression the Air Force may originally have intended to publish this on paper like the rest of the series, but it seems to be available only as an electronic publication; full texton an Air Force web site.

Jacob Van Staaveren, Gradual Failure: The Air War over North Vietnam, 1965-1966. Washington, DC: Air Force History & Museums Program, 2002. xiv, 388 pp. This was originally written in the 1970s as a classified history; some modest revisions were apparently made in this unclassified version. The only part I have found time to read so far is the discussion of the Tonkin Gulf incidents on pp. 48-49. This section is distressingly inaccurate, but I don't assume this means the book as a whole will be bad. The FULL TEXT is available online at an Air Force web site.
Wayne Thompson, *To Hanoi & Back: The U.S. Air Force & North Vietnam, 1966-1973*. Government Printing Office, 2003. 428 pp. It is not unusual for an official history volume, after publication by the Government Printing Office, to be reprinted by a private-sector publisher. But in this case what would normally have been the private-sector reprint came out first, in 2000 (see listing under "The Air War"). In any case, from what I have seen of it (I have not yet found time to read it all) this book is quite good. The FULL TEXT is available online at an Air Force web site.

**Air Force Health Study.** In 1978, Congress directed the Air Force to do a study, at first called the Ranch Hand Study, of the effects of Agent Orange on the personnel of Operation RANCH HAND, who suffered a considerable exposure to Agent Orange while spraying the stuff in Indochina. Much of the work was done by private contractors, mainly the Science Applications International Corporation, of McLean, Virginia. The organization responsible for the Air Force side of the project was described initially as the Epidemiology Division, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Human Systems Division (AFSC); later as the Epidemiology Research Division, Armstrong Laboratory, Human Systems Division (AFSC). Under both names it was located at at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. Many of the reports of this project used to be available on the Internet on an Air Force web site, but I am not sure they still are. Many are now available in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project, at Texas Tech University. A partial listing, with links:

- Maj. Donald I. Blackwelder, *The Long Road to Desert Storm & Beyond: The Development of Precision Guided Bombs*. Maxwell AFB: Air University Press, 1993. x, 40 pp. The 1992 thesis (School of Advanced Airpower Studies) from which this was derived, 61 pp., has been placed online. D 310.26/6:long 85 X
- Aloysius G. Casey & Patrick A. Casey, *Velocity: Speed with Direction: The Professional Career of Gen Jerome F. O'Malley*. Maxwell AFB, Alabama: Air University Press, 2007. x, 286 pp. O'Malley entered the Air Force after graduation from West Point in 1953. He piloted the first SR-71 mission over North Vietnam on 21 Mar 1968. In Apr 1971 he became vice commander, then soon afterward commander, of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, at Tan son Nhut, flying the RF-4C. The unit stood down at the end of Aug, as the US was withdrawing from Vietnam. Soon after, he became vice commander of the 432d TRW, based at Udorn in Thailand. The 432d had F-4D & RF-4C aircraft; O'Malley flew operational missions in both. The book discusses at some length the increase in US air strikes on North Vietnam in late 1971 & early 1972, & the controversy over the controversy over whether these had violated the rules of engagement.
Student research paper, Air Command & Staff College, 1997. The FULL TEXT is available online at an Air University web site.

Commando Hunt V. Headquarters Seventh Air Force, May 1971. 307 pp. The air interdiction campaign directed against PAVN dry-season supply efforts from 10 Oct 1970 to 30 Apr 1971. The text has been placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project, at Texas Tech University, in seven parts. Start by going to front matter & pp. 1-45, & then access the other sections by changing the A just before the .pdf at the end of the URL to B, C, D, E, F, & G.

Marc DiPaolo, Combat Rescue Operational Review: A Summary of Combat Rescue Operations from Vietnam to Kosovo. Langley AFB, VA: HQ ACC/DRMR, Mar 2001. The text has been placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project, at Texas Tech University, in six parts. Pages 2-2 to 2-59 cover the war in Southeast Asia, 1961-1975. These pages can be found in the first two of the six parts that have been placed online: front matter & pp. 1-1 to 2-19, & pp. 2-20 to 2-59.


Dennis M. Drew, Military Art & the American Tradition: The Vietnam Paradox Revisited. Maxwell AFB, AL: Air University Press, 1985. iii, 9 pp. A version that has been reformatted to fit onto fewer pages, but not actually abridged so far as I can tell, has been placed online. D 301.26/6:AR 7 (Clemson has this on microfiche only)

Dennis M. Drew, Rolling Thunder 1965: Anatomy of a Failure. Maxwell AFB: Air University Press, 1986. vi, 60 pp. A version that has been reformatted to fit onto fewer pages, but not actually abridged so far as I can tell, has been placed online. D 301.26/6:R 65 (Clemson has this on microfiche only)


Lt. Col. Marc D. Felman, The Military Media Clash & the New Principle of War: Media Spin. Maxwell AFB: Air University Press, 1993. vii, 42 pp. The 1992 thesis (School of Advanced Airpower Studies) from which this was derived, 59 pp., has been placed online. Felman does not appear to have made any significant effort to look at what actually appeared in the media during the Vietnam War, when writing the chapter on Vietnam.

D 310.26/6:Mi 58 X


Earl H. Tilford, Jr., *Search & Rescue in Southeast Asia*. Washington: Center for Air Force History, 1992. ix, 212 pp. The FULL TEXT is available online at an Air Force web site. D 301.82/7:Se 1


Captain Gilles Van Nederveen, *Wizardry for Air Campaigns: Signals Intelligence Support to the Cockpit*. Maxwell AFB, Alabama: Air University Press, 2001. iv, 38 pp. The Vietnam section is about the way Project Teaball, introduced in mid 1972, gathered radar, sigint, & elint info to give real-time threat warnings to US aircraft over North Vietnam. The text is available online at an Air University web site

Jacob Van Staaveren, *USAF Plans & Policies in South Vietnam, 1961-1963*. USAF Historical Division Liaison Office, Jun 1965. 106 pp. This was originally published as a "Top Secret" document. A declassified copy has been placed online by the National Security Archive.

Jacob Van Staaveren, *USAF Plans & Policies in South Vietnam & Laos, 1964*. USAF Historical Division Liaison Office, Dec 1965. 104 pp. This was originally published as a "Top Secret" document. A declassified copy has been placed online by the National Security Archive.

Jacob Van Staaveren, *USAF Plans & Operations in Southeast Asia, 1965*. USAF Historical Division Liaison Office, Oct 1966. 102 pp. This was originally published as a "Top Secret" document. A declassified copy has been placed online by the National Security Archive.


Jacob Van Staaveren, *The Air Force in Southeast Asia: Toward a Bombing Halt, 1968*. Office of Air Force History, Sept 1970. vii, 102 pp. This was originally published as a "Top Secret" document. A declassified copy has been placed online by the National Security Archive.


Daniel L. Haulman, "Vietnam Evacuation: Operation FREQUENT WIND" (PP. 83-93)

Daniel L. Haulman, "Cambodian Airlift & Evacuation: Operation EAGLE PULL" (PP. 95-104)

Daniel L. Haulman, "Crisis in Southeast Asia: Mayaguez Rescue" (pp. 105-114)


**USAF Southeast Asia Monograph Series.**


Volume IV, Monograph 6: *Last Flight from Saigon*. D 301.86:4/6


**CHECO Reports**

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:

**General**


Bernell A. Whitaker & L.E. Paterson, *Assault Airlift Operations*. vii, 129 pp. Mostly deals with transport operations. "Background of Operations" (pp. 3-7) is an interesting summary of USAF support for the French in the First Indochina War, but the main body of the study (pp. 15-121) covers the years 1962 to 1966. The text.


Kenneth Sams, *Command & Control 1965*. iv, 40 pp. The longest chapter is on command & control of strikes against Laos & North Vietnam; the second longest is on air support for III MAF. There is a short chapter on command structures for South Vietnam, & a short one on air support for the 1st Cavalry Division. The text.

Rules of Engagement  
In 1985, Senator Barry Goldwater arranged for declassification & publication in the *Congressional Record* of substantial portions of three CHECO reports relating to the rules of engagement. These have been gathered, along with some other materials, in a composite .pdf file & placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University:  
North Vietnam  


M.F. Porter, *Linebacker: Overview of the First 120 Days*. xii, 83 pp. Most of the text (some of the front matter missing) has been placed on-line in Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project, at Texas Tech University, in a large file that may be slow to download.


**South Vietnam**


Laos


"Captain Melvin" [Melvin F. Porter], *The Defense of Attopeu*. 64 pp. Airborne use of the starlight scope, enabling an AC-47 gunship to operate at night without using flares, was pioneered during the defense of Attopeu (extreme southern Laos) against Communist attack in Mar 1966. This document has been placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University, in two parts: pp. 1-13 & some original documents, & more original documents.

Melvin F. Porter, *Second Defense of Lima Site 36*. v, 14 pp. Vang Pao's forces had retaken LS 36, on Route 6 near the Plain of Jars, on May 25, 1966. This brief study describes the role of close air support in the defense of the site against a serious Communist attack in Jan 1967. This document has been placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University.

Edward Vallentiny, *The Fall of Site 85*. ix, 56 pp Site 85, also called Phou Pha Thi, in northeast Laos near the Vietnamese border, had a radar navigation system that guided strike aircraft in considerable parts of Laos & North Vietnam. It was overrun in a PAVN surprise attack on the
morning of Mar 11, 1968. This document has been placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University, in two parts: front matter & pp. 1-29, & pp. 30-56.


Harry D. Blout, *Air Operations in Northern Laos, 1 Apr - 1 Nov 70*. ix, 42 pp. This document has been placed on-line in the Virtual Vietnam Archive of the Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University.


**Cambodia**


**Thailand**


Benjamin H. Barnette, Jr., & James R. Barrow, *Base Defense in Thailand*. Feb 18, 1973. xv, 91 pp. Most CHECO reports are not yet available, so far as I am aware, either from Dalley or online. Some of the ones that look interesting include:

**General**


**South Vietnam**


*Attack against Tan Son Nhut* (report dated Jul 8, 1966).100 pp Deals with attack on Apr 13, 1966


**Thailand**

Readers interested in identifying additional reports might start by consulting the bibliographies of several of the volumes of the series *The United States Air Force in Southeast Asia* (see above), which list numerous CHECO reports. For a still more comprehensive listing, with a short summary of each report, one can obtain, from Dalley, *Research Guide to Contemporary Historical Examination of Current Operations (CHECO) Reports of Southeast Asia (1961-1975)*. Compiled by Secretary of Air Force Southeast Asia Declassification & Review Team. Maxwell AFB, Alabama: Air Force Historical Research Agency, 1992. vii, 110 pp.

**Air Force Journals**

*Air University Review*, "The Professional Journal of the United States Air Force." Six issues per year. Published by the Air University, Maxwell AFB, 1947-1987. (It was replaced in 1987 by *Airpower Journal*, later *Aerospace Power Journal*, *Air & Space Power Journal*—see below.) I believe that during part of the Vietnam War era there was also a classified version of *Air University Review*, titled *Aerospace Commentary*. D 301.26:

Many articles published in *Air University Review* have been placed on-line. There is an index to the available articles, *Air University Review Index*, with links to the full texts. Articles relevant to the Vietnam War include:


Anthis, Maj General Rollen H., "Twentieth Century Centurions Needed," Vol. XVIII, No. 2 (Jan-Feb 1967): 15-23. Argues that the United States needs people with skills other than combat-advisers, economists, specialists in psychological operations, etc.--to defeat insurgency.


Millett, 1st Lt Stephen M., "The Air Force, the Courts, & the Controversial Bombing of Cambodia," Vol XXVII, No 5 (Jul-Aug 1976), pp 80-88. Congressmanwoman Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) & four Air Force officers, three of whom had been disciplined for refusing to fly bombing missions in Cambodia, sued for a halt to the bombing a federal court in Brooklyn. On Jul 25, 1973, Judge Orrin C. Judd ordered a halt to the bombing, effective Jul 27. The issue remained under appeal until it was rendered moot by a congressionally mandated halt to the bombing, on Aug 15


Parks, W. Hays, "Rolling Thunder & the Law of War," Vol. XXXIII, No 2 (Jan-Feb 1982): pp 2-23. There is a letter to the editor by Major General J.P. Wolfe, Canadian Defense Forces, arguing that Parks is too willing to accept collateral damage as legitimate in bombing campaigns, & a response by Parks, in the Sept-Oct 1982 issue


Zeybel, Lt Col Henry, USAF (Ret) "Truck Count" Vol. XXXIV, No. 2 (Jan-Feb 1983): pp. 36-45. A very interesting account of attacks by AC-130 Spectre gunships against trucks on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, 1970-1972, & the problem of figuring out how many trucks had actually been destroyed.


Air & Space Power Journal Index. This is a complete subject index to articles published since 1987 in the journal, published by the U.S. Air Force Air University, at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, now called Air & Space Power Journal, formerly Airpower Journal & Aerospace Power Journal. These titles are successors to Air University Review (above). The texts of the articles are available online.

Some of the ones relevant to the Vietnam War are:

DeRemer, Maj Lee E. "Leadership between a Rock & a Hard Place," Vol X, No 3 (Fall 1996): 87-94


D 301.60:
The Air War: Congressional Committee Hearings & Reports
The Air War: Private Sector Publications

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