

From: DuneIntl@aol.com **Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2009 7:49 PM **To:** STINGER7172@COX.NET; qadvocate@sbcglobal.net; ac119k@earthlink.net; Invl@earthlink.net; chuckhole@earthlink.net; dashbym@yahoo.com **Subject:** Re: Status Request on AC-119K Gunship Recovery + Teleconf Call
Hi all, Hope everyone is ok - we're slugging through a hot & humid summer in Houston (...*but SE Asia was good training for that...*) Either this Friday (7/24) or next **Tuesday (7/28)** looks like a good time for me - time flexible. I will touch base with Dwight tomorrow and see if he has any updates or news for us. Bruce Byrd 713-785-2608

From: [Wayne Laessig](mailto:Wayne.Laessig) **To:** 'Bruce Byrd Jr.'; 'Lee'; 'Lee Kyser'; 'John C. Williams'; 'GUS STINGER'; dashbym@yahoo.com **Sent:** Tues, July 21, 2009 4:12 PM **Subj:** Status Request on AC-119K Gunship Recovery + Teleconf Call
Greetings all! Been a while so I figured it was time to splat an e-mail to you-uns. I talked with Bruce about a month ago and the last I understood was that our bird WAS still there. First, any new info or updates? Second, we do need to prepare for the reunion coming up in a little more than 2 months. What do we want to cover? What is our current plan? Izzit time to contact Mr Marchant (Hanoi in Embassy office)? Let's talk before the reunion to do a reality check and figure out things. **I can do a teleconf anytime Friday, or next Tuesday & Wednesday. Please send me dates and times you can do one on those days.** Thanks! Wayne

From: DuneIntl@aol.com **Sent:** Mon, Apr 20, 2009 8:22 PM
I have put together a basic outline of how to dismantle an AC-119 - 4 flatbed truckloads should do the trick. Getting the parts wrapped/crated/containerized, moved through town and loaded on a boat is another story - but one problem at a time please... Right now we have a more immediate issue in that a photo taken by my contact Dwight on April 19th appears to indicate that the aircraft has been moved from its position on the tarmac. Some type of construction is underway at the former storage location (see attached photos and E-mail traffic). We are trying to establish contact with the proper personnel on location to help determine where the aircraft went. If we find the aircraft is still intact we need to pull out all the stops and make a play for the plane - with whoever will talk to us. We'll keep you updated on status. Bruce Byrd

TO: dashbym@yahoo.com, ac119k@msn.com 4-20-2009
I don't think this is good news. I reviewed the photos that Dwight took this week and compared the field of view from the camera angle with the original GoogleEarth satellite photos and Dwight's photo should have seen the AC-119 (see attached .pdf file).
It appears to have been moved, along with several of the C-130 aircraft seen in the original GoogleEarth image. There appears to be some type of construction taking place where the AC-119 was originally stored. Also - the C-130's are now bunched 'nose to tail' and tightly packed in front of the buildings in the background - not parked in the revetments as in the GoogleEarth photo. I suspect they are being prepared for salvage. I think we need to check very quickly to (1) see if our aircraft is still around and (2) if so where is it. Dwight - any chance you can quickly contact your guy and see if he can give us an update on aircraft status? Thanks for all your help. Bruce 713-785-2608

Howdy guys, I left VN for Singapore yesterday but had to ride a bus to the plane. By luck, it was as close to the 119 as possible, so I got these two pics. It is hard for me to tell if it is our plane or not. The tails don't look right but the props do?!?!? I'll have my man check with his guys to re-verify again if indeed it is still there. However, if yall can see that it is in the pic, then please email me. Later-Dwight

In a message dated 4/18/2009 1:29:43 P.M. qadvocate@sbcglobal.net writes:
Greetings! Lots of e-mail traffic since our call.
4a. Chuck; did you re-contact Dinh Lao & what is his "advice"
4c. Yes, 850 is still there; no "known" demolition schedule, just "it is still at risk" Dwight is in Vietnam (returning early May) & may have added info or a contact on the ground we can use to keep up to date on anything happening to 850. No guarantees, AND the risk factor is still high, so this is close hold to just us.
4d. Henry Nuoi-Hoang provided contact of Christian Marchant at the US Embassy in Hanoi. We will wait until we see how the rest of our investigations turn out before contacting him.
4e. Chuck; did you contact Congressman Joseph Lao's CS & any what is his interest level and/or support level?
Also, Bruce was going to follow-up with Bill Dudley to "begin" a more detailed discussion on how we might dismantle 850. Chuck, hope your moving is going well and you're finding a place to settle in there! Once we have your updates, we'll do the next teleconference. Thanks! Wayne

From: Wayne Laessig [qadvocate@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Sat, Mar 28, 2009 1:22 PM **To:** 'John C. Williams'; 'Linvel'; 'GUS STINGER'; 'Lee'; 'Bruce Byrd Jr.' **Subj:** Teleconf on AC-119K Gunship Recovery
Teleconference Call Summary:
1. Vietnamese Embassy's military attaché (Senior Colonel Dien) states the AC119K became the property of the Vietnamese government, and they will not deal with a private citizen for its release. They say we need to work this issue through the US Dept of State.

2. Ho Chi Minh airport storage yard appears to be getting emptied of the old aircraft kept there.
3. Dinh Lai runs the South East Asia policy desk in OSD. He is a former Vietnamese “boat person” and a former White House Fellow. He has a personal relationship with Senior Col Dien and will meet with him next week to find out if there is a good unofficial way we can pursue recovering 850 before it is scrapped.
4. For now:
 - a. Next week, Chuck will find out what Dinh Lao learned about 850 and any less formal options to get it released to us.
 - b. Bruce will ask if his Houston Vietnamese contact can identify any “power brokers” in the US Vietnamese community we can contact.
 - c. Bruce will contact Dwight to ask him if he can determine if 850 is still there, if it was moved, and if there are any known schedules for demolition/scraping it
 - d. Bruce and Lee will coordinate and contact Harold Bach and Henry Nuoi-Hoang of the South Vietnamese Association to see if they have contacts who can help us get 850 released.
 - e. Chuck will contact the Chief of Staff of Joseph Cao, the new Republican Congressman from Louisiana (he was also a Vietnamese ‘boat person’) to determine his interest/ability to help us with our request, or to help “influence” any action we might take with the State Dept..
5. We will plan another teleconference after Dwight returns in mid-to-late April and (hopefully) have enough info to decide whether to press on with an option(s) and whether the risk assessment indicates we need to go official with the State Dept.

There will be plenty to deal with when we get a “release” approved: export/import licenses, taxes, military equipment paperwork, etc, etc but for now our focus is:

- a. Is 850 still there?
- b. Is 850 in imminent risk of being demolished/scrapped?
- c. How can we get 850 released?

Everyone, please provide updates to this group as you close your loop(s). Much thanks to all! Wayn