

Books for the AC-119 Website “Book Hootch” – Submitted by Larry Fletcher
7/27/2015

Those interested in purchasing any of these books will have to contact the publisher or look into ordering them from a retailer or Amazon.com. Some might be out of print but there are “used book” sections at the websites of Amazon and Barnes & Noble. I believe Presidio Press has gone out of business as of 2015.

FROM A DARK SKY, the story of U.S. Air Force Special Operations by Orr Kelly. A must read for anyone interested in a complete history of Air Force special operations from the beginning in the 1940's to the Gulf War and beyond. Includes development and implementation of fixed-wing gunships in Southeast Asia.

Presidio Press
505 B San Marin Drive, Suite 300
Novato, CA 94945-1340
Copyright 1996
ISBN: 0-89141-520-3

INTO CAMBODIA, Spring Campaign, Summer Offensive, 1970 by Keith William Nolan. A combat narrative at its best with soldier's slang weaved expertly into the account of the Cambodian Campaign. Vivid description and pictures make this a compelling read.

Presidio Press
505 B San Marin Drive, Suite 300
Novato, CA 94945-1340
Copyright 1990
ISBN: 0-89141-368-5 (hardcover)
ISBN: 0-89141-673-0 (paperback)

Flying Black Ponies, The Navy's Close Air Support Squadron in Vietnam by Kit Lavell who flew 243 combat missions as a Black Pony. He takes readers into the cockpit of twin-engine OV-10s, skimming treetops above Vietcong bunkers hidden in mangrove swamps of the Mekong Delta to attack the enemy and support allies on the ground. AC-119 "Shadow" gunships flew combat with OV-10 "Black Ponies" in Cambodia.

Naval Institute Press
291 Wood Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5034
Toll Free Telephone: (800) 233-8764
Fax: (410) 571-1703
Web address: www.usni.org

THE CAMBODIAN CAMPAIGN, The 1970 Offensive and America's Vietnam War. Author John M. Shaw accurately reports the AC-119 gunship's role in Cambodia. Shaw writes on page 142, "Also flying above Cambodia were the gunships, especially the AC-47, AC-119G, and AC-119K. Depending on the specific model, they carried an assortment of 7.62mm or 20mm Gatling-style guns and were particularly effective

against NVA supply columns or infantry attacks. ... As gunship crews knew too well, if the enemy was in range of the gunship's weapons, the gunship might well be in range of the enemy's." For readers of Vietnam War history, especially those involved in the Cambodian War, Shaw's book captures the big picture of the campaign in 170 pages. I highly recommend the book.

Author: John M. Shaw

Copyright 2005

University Press of Kansas

Lawrence, KS 66045

www.kansaspress.ku.edu

THE FENCE - A novel by Bill Morales resulting from his experiences in the Barrio and the War in Vietnam. In 1972, he flew combat with the 16th SOS in Ubon. He flew over one-hundred missions in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

iUniverse.com, Inc.

5220 S. 16th, Ste. 200

Lincoln, NE 68512

www.iuniverse.com

ISBN: 0-595-17820-0

Copyright 2001

ROAD to the KILLING FIELDS-The Cambodian War of 1970-75 by Wilfred P. Deac. A sweeping historical narrative that will engage both the historian and the general reader interested in gaining a fuller understanding of the war in Southeast Asia and the violence that led to Cambodia's killing fields.

Texas A&M University Press

College Station, Texas 77843-4354

ISBN: 0-89096-750-4

Copyright 1997

<http://www.tamupress.com>

THE SECRET WAR AGAINST HANOI by Richard H. Shultz, Jr.

Based on thousands of pages of declassified top-secret Studies and Observation Group (SOG) documents and interviews with sixty officers who ran SOG's covert program from 1964 to 1972. Schultz tells of Kennedy's and Johnson's use of spies, saboteurs, and covert warriors in North Vietnam.

HarperCollinsPublishers

www.harpercollins.com

Copyright 1999 - 407 pages

ISBN: 0-06-019454-5

Cambodia: Report from a Stricken Land by Pulitzer Prize winner, Henry Kamm.

Beginning with the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in March 1970, Kamm clarifies the course of events taking place in Cambodia thru 1998. Eight of the first ten chapters cover the rise and fall of Lon Nol's regime followed by the aftermath of defeat

and the take-over and rule by Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. In all, there are twenty chapters totally 252 pages telling the sad story of Cambodia and its people. Extremely well-written history.

Arcade Publishing

New York

Copyright: 1998

ISBN: 1-55970-433-0

CALL SIGN RUSTIC - The Secret Air War Over Cambodia, 1970-73 by Richard Wood, retired USAF colonel. Story of the OV-10 "Rustic" FACs and the War in Cambodia. AC-119 Shadow gunship crews flying in Cambodia certainly remember the Rustic FAC. Excerpts from pages 91 thru 93: "The column began taking mortar fire and asked for air support. There was a Shadow (AC-119 gunship) in the area, so Don (the Rustic 02 FAC pilot) brought him (the Shadow) in to fire on the mortar position. With Shadow at work, Don orbited in a lazy circle at about 3,000 feet. Several minutes later, the relief column commander told him (Don) that he could hear machine gun fire every time the plane passed over a certain village. Ten minutes later, there was a loud explosion and the plane began to shake violently. "Gil, we've been hit! Get ready to get out!"Gil's ejection took off the top of the canopy and the airflow drew the fire into the cockpit. Don initiated his own ejection.....Enroute to the shutdown, Rustic 05 learned that Ramrod had initiated SAR support. Ramrod already had a Shadow gunship on the scene.....By now, Rustic 05 arrived on scene and heard Shadow announce that he was losing an engine and would try and make it into Phnom Penh. Jim (Rustic 05) joined up on the AC-119 and saw it streaming oil. The crew had opened up the rear doors and were throwing out everything they could including ammunition to lighten the load. The AC-119's single-engine performance was very poor and they just barely made it to Phnom Penh." Highly recommended reading!

Smithsonian Institute Press

Copyright 2002 - 186 pages

ISBN: 1-58834-049-X

A Saigon Party - And Other Vietnam War Short Stories by Diana Dell who was Program Director at the USO Aloha Club in Cam Ranh Bay for six months before becoming the civilian organization's In-country Director of Public Relations and the host of a daily radio show, "USO Showtime," on American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN), the military station in Saigon. In all, Dell lived and worked in Vietnam from October 1970 to May 1972. The reason she went to Vietnam was because her younger brother was killed in the Mekong Delta in 1968 when his scout dog tripped a land mine. Her tales are not about battles, blood, gore, or angst. Most are true, some are exaggerated but all are funny. Twenty-one short stories cover the gamete of characters found in Saigon from donut dollies to rock stars, REMFs, generals, monks, and pilots to name a few.

Xlibris Corporation

Toll Free Telephone: 1-888-7-XLIBRIS

Telephone Number: 1-609-278-0075

www.Xlibris.com or Orders@Xlibris.com

Copyright 1998 - 225 pages
ISBN: 0-7388-0285-9 (Hardcover)
ISBN: 0-7388-0286-7 (Paperback)

NAM-A-RAMA by Phillip Jennings; a Marine helicopter pilot in Vietnam and an Air America pilot in Laos. Jennings' humorous novel is just what the doctor ordered for many Vietnam Vets. A fresh, hilarious look at the war from oatmeal dropped on the VC to the naked movie star parachuting into Hanoi. Nam-A-Rama is Catch 22 meeting Apocalypse Now. The adventures of Almost-Captain Gearheardt and his buddy, Almost-Captain Armstrong are funny. If you like to laugh, read this one.

A Forge Book - 332 pages
Published by Tom Doherty Associates, LLC
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10010
www.tor.com
Copyright 2005
ISBN: 0-765-31120-8

The War in Cambodia 1970-75 by Kenneth Conboy and Kenneth Bowra with Color plates by Mike Chappell. A Men-At-Arms Series #209 of Osprey Publishing London. Forty-eight pages with photographs telling about and showing military uniforms of the Cambodian Forces (FANK & Air Force) and the Communist Forces (Khmer Rouge, NVA, Vietcong). Excellent resource book. Great pictures.

Osprey Publishing Ltd.
59 Grosvenor Street
London, W1X9DA
Copyright: 1989
ISBN: 0-85045-851-X

POL POT - ANATOMY OF A NIGHTMARE by Philip Short. For the serious reader, this 449 page biographical history takes time. A gripping and definitive portrait of the man who headed one of the most enigmatic and terrifying regimes of modern times, the Khmer Rouge. For AC-119 gunship flight crews who flew missions in Cambodia, read and learn about the enemy below.

A JOHN MACRAE BOOK
Henry Holt and Company
115 West 18th Street
New York, New York 10011
www.henryholt.com
Copyright: 2004
ISBN-13: 978-0-8050-6662-3
ISBN-10: 0-8050-6662-4

Quoth the Raven by Jim Roper. Retired USAF Colonel Jim Roper writes of his experiences as an 0-2 Covey FAC working in Southern Laos and the Ho Chi Minh Trail

with AC-119 Shadow and Stinger gunships and other USAF support aircraft before signing-up with the Top Secret Steve Canyon Program Raven FACs to fly in Northern Laos. Excellent account of air combat.

ISBN: 1-591129-051-1

Copyright 2001 – 357 pages - \$18.95 Paper-Back Copy

Published by America House Book Publishers - Baltimore

www.publishamerica.com

Fairchild C-82 Packet and C-119 Flying Boxcar by Alwyn T. Lloyd. Aircraft historians will truly appreciate the obvious pain-staking research and dedication of the author in compiling and writing about the “Packet” and the “Boxcar” from their beginnings to their endings. Who would have believed that the “Flying Boxcar” would become an Attack Gunship during the Vietnam War? The work contains a wealth of information, great photographs and statistics of both aircraft throughout the 192 page paperback book. A definite addition to the personal library of those who flew, maintained, rode, and jumped from either of these twin-tailed birds.

ISBN: 1-85780 201-2

Copyright: 2004 Alwyn T. Lloyd

Published by Midland Publishing; Hinckley, England

E-mail: midlandbooks@compuserve.com

Telephone: 01455 254 490

North American Distributor: Specialty Press Publishers

www.specialtypress.com

Telephone: 800-895-4585

Paperback: \$23.28 + \$3.99 S&H at www.amazon.com

Shadow & Stinger - Developing the AC-119G/K Gunships in the Vietnam War by William P. Head, chief of the Air Logistics Center Office of History at Warner Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Citing unpublished and published sources, Head provides a fully documented account of the fixed-wing AC-119G “Shadow” and AC-119K “Stinger” gunships through the planning, modification, and employment phases of this “little known” flying weapons system of the U.S. Air Force. A “keeper” for libraries of fixed-wing gunship historians.

ISBN: 13:978-1-58544-577-5

ISBN: 10-1-58544-577-0

Copyright: 2007; Hard Cover 340 pages, \$49.95 + \$5.00 S&H

Published by Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Texas A&M University Press Consortium

<http://www.tamu.edu/upress/springbooks07.htm>

Toll Free Telephone Orders: 800-826-8911

AC-119 Gunships * History Book * 1968-1973 - Conceived, created, and published by the AC-119 Gunship Association, this 300-page book is packed full of AC-119 gunship history and photographs. Lineages and chronological histories of the three AC-119 gunship squadrons and brief histories of the AC-119G Shadow and AC-119K Stinger gunships are followed by 240 short biographies along with war stories of the men who flew, maintained, or supported the AC-119 gunships during the Vietnam War period from

1968 to the end of the war in 1973. The book is available in soft cover spiral bound. For cost and order information, see the order form on this website www.ac-119gunships.com

GUNSHIPS: The Story of Spooky, Shadow, Stinger, and Spectre by Wayne Mutza.

This book contains the story of transforming military cargo transports into deadly ground-attack side-firing aircraft used by the U.S. Air Force and other countries in worldwide conflicts from the Vietnam War to the Middle East today. From piston-powered WWII-era C-47 Skytrains and post WWII-era C-119 Flying Boxcars to turboprop C-130 Hercules, the 9x9 hard bound book tells how fixed-wing gunships evolved from the Vietnam War to become instrumental in fighting world terrorists during darkness of night. To order, visit www.specialtypress.com

ISBN 978-1-58007-123-9

\$34.95 plus shipping

THE SIEVE OF ANGKAR by Sovannara Ky with Howard Glass. This is a memoir of Sovannara's family experiences upon the Khmer Rouge take-over of Phnom Penh and Cambodia in 1975. Survival is the name of the game in this book. Excellent!

ISBN: Hardcover 978-1-4568-3597-2

Softcover 978-1-4568-3596-5

Ebook 978-1-4568-3598-9

Copyright: 2011

To order, visit www.Xlibris.com or Orders@Xlibris.com

THE RUSTICS: A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia by the Rustic Forward Air Controller Association, Inc. A history of the Rustic FACs 1970-1973. Lots of war stories that include Shadow and Stinger gunships. Outstanding work in compiling, editing, and publishing this record of the O2-A & OV-10 Rustics. This 8 ½ X 11 hardcover book is well worth the money. Outstanding!

ISBN: 978-0-9703068-5-2

Copyright: 2011

To order, visit <http://www.lulu.com/content/10870776>

CHARLIE CHASERS:History of USAF AC-119 "Shadow" Gunships in the Vietnam War by Larry Elton Fletcher. Nonfiction, the story about the 71st and 17th Special Operations Squadrons which flew the AC-119G "Shadow" gunships in Southeast Asia from 1968-1971. Available in hard back, soft cover, and e-book from publisher Hellgate Press (<http://hellgatepress.com>), Barnes & Noble (www.b&n.com), and Amazon (www.amazon.com). Also available in many book stores.

IBSN: 978-1-55571-754-4 (Hard Back)

IBSN: 978-1-55571-731-5 (Soft Cover)

Copyright: 2013

NIGHT HUNTERS: The AC-130s and Role in US Airpower by Dr. William P. Head. Nonfiction. Texas A&M University Press; College Station, TX. www.tamupress.com

Copyright: 2014

SPECTRE GUNNER: The AC-130 Gunship by MSgt. David M. Burns. Self-published; iUniverse, Inc/Bloomington. www.iuniverse.com

POINT OF THE SPEAR – COVEY: Forward Air Controllers in Vietnam by Covey Association. Collection of personal stories and photos. www.covey.fac.com or Covey Association; 2191 Speight's Chapel Road; Whitakers, NC 27891

FLYBOYS, ROUND ENGINES and SPOOKS: The Adventures of a Young Lieutenant Flying Old Transport Airplanes in a Viet Cong, Jet Fighter War. A Historical Novel by Lee Croissant. www.leecroissant.com Copyright: 2012

AIR COMMANDO ONE: Heinie Aderholt and America's Secret Air Wars by Warren A. Trest. Smithsonian Institution Press/Washington and London 2000. ISBN: 1-56098-807-X. Copyright: 2000

List below transferred from the original AC-119 Web Site (7/27/2015):

Special note: In your Book Hootch you are advertising several of our publications, specifically "Air War Over South Vietnam, 1968-1975" "Interdiction in Souther Laos: 1960-1968," and "The War Against Trucks: Aerial Interdiction in Southern Laos 1968-1972." Unfortunately, the demand has now exceeded the supply, so the books are out of print. That means, there are no more free copies. I do not know the status of the supply at GPO. They are **available as a free download in PDF format at the Air Force History web site.** The old site still works, <http://www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil/> although it will migrate soon to <http://www.af.mil/history/publications/index.asp> which has some of our publications but not all.

Sorry, but we will probably not be reprinting any paper copies in the future. Thanks for your interest in our books.

Best Regards, Richard

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Chief, Production Division
Air Force History
202.404.2186
richard.wolf@pentagon.af.mil

Some of our Favorites:

[Air War Over South Vietnam 1968-1975](#) *available as a free download(see note above)*

The United States Air Force In Southeast Asia

by Bernard C. Nalty

Available online and through the

Center for Air Force History

Government Printing Office

Washington D.C

[Interdiction in Southern Laos: 1960-1968](#) *available as a free download (see note above)*

The United States Air Force In Southeast Asia

by Jacob Van Staaveren

Available online and through the

Center for Air Force History

Government Printing Office
Washington D.C

[Shadow Warriors](#)

by Tom Clancy, 2003

Available online at Amazon.com and others

[Departure Message](#)

by Charles Lundsford, 2002

Available online at Amazon.com and others

[The War Against Trucks: Aerial Interdiction in Southern Laos](#)

[1968-1972](#) available as a free download (see note above)

by Bernard C. Nalty, 2005

Available online or through the GPO

[Fairchild C-82 Packet and C-119 Flying Boxcar](#)

by Alwyn T. Lloyd, 2005

Available online or at most book stores

[Air Force One](#)

by Robert F. Dorr, 2002

Available online or at most book stores

[Shadows of Saigon](#)

by Elton "Larry" Fletcher, Xlibris Corporation, 2001

ISBN: 0738869295

Available online or at most book stores

[Gunships: A Pictorial History of Spooky](#)

by Larry Davis, Squadron/Signal Publications, 1982

ISBN 0-89747-123-7

[Apollo's Warriors:](#)

[United States Air Force Special Operations During the Cold War](#)

by USAF Col. Michael E. Haas

Air University Press, 1997

Superintendent of Documents

US Government Printing Office, Washington DC 20402

[The Development & Deployment of Fixed Wing Gunships](#)

by Jack S. Ballard

Air University Press, 1982

Superintendent of Documents

US Government Printing Office, Washington DC 20402

[Shadow Spirit](#)

by Elton "Larry" Fletcher, Xlibris Corporation, 2004

341 pages

ISBN: 1-4134-4425-3, Paperback
ISBN: 1-4134-4426-1, Hardback
Available online or at most book stores

[The Secret Commandos: Behind Enemy Lines with the Elite Warriors of SOG](#)

by John L. Plaster, Simon & Schuster, 2004
Available online or at most book stores

[The Rescue of BAT 21](#)

by Darrel D. Whitcomb, Naval Institute Press, 1998
Available online or at most book stores

[AC-119 Gunships – History Book – 1968 -1973](#)

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the AC-119 Gunship Association. to order your copy [click here](#)

[GUNSHIPS: The Story of Spooky, Shadow, Stinger, and Spectre](#)

by Wayne Mutza.

ISBN: ISBN 978-1-58007-123-9

Format: Hardcover, \$34.95 plus shipping.

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