



The Stinger presented a menacing image, a far cry from its previous role as an airlift platform. (U.S. Air Force)



The added FLIR and 20mm cannons gave the Stinger a capability far superior to that of the Shadow in the search and destroy role. An armor panel covered the lower half of the forward doorway to protect the night observation sight operator. Two smoke-clearing air scoops immediately rearward of the doorway are closed. On the forward fuselage of S/N 52-5910 is the emblem of the 1st SOW. On some AC-119s, the two lower cockpit windows on both sides of the fuselage were painted over with black. (Stephen Miller)



This impressive view of a Stinger firing one of its four miniguns illustrates the importance of wind spoilers used to direct gun smoke and gasses into the slipstream. (U.S. Air Force)



Serial number 53-7854 at Phan Rang AB in 1969. The upper air scoop of the smoke-clearing system is open. Montezuma's Revenge was lost in Thailand in 1972. (via Jeff Kolln)



The crew of 53-3154 prepares for a mission from Nakhon Phanom RTAFB in 1971. Stingers were regular residents of NKP, flying interdiction missions in Laos. Heavy exhaust from the gas turbine stains the aircraft's mid-fuselage. (Tony Bautz)