

AIR AMERICA: WREN

by Dr. Joe F. Leeker

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An unknown Wren 460 (modified Cessna 182G) was flown by Air America's Jack Webb out of Vang Vieng, Laos, in July 64 (e-mail dated 27 August 2003 sent by Jack Webb to Erik Carlson, who kindly forwarded it to the author), apparently for tests. The purchase of 1 Wren 460 was approved by the Executive Committees of Air Asia and Air America on 15 September 64. However, this approval was contingent upon USAID's acceptance of Air America's Wren bid (Minutes ExCom-AACL/AAM of 15 September 64, in: UTD/CIA/B7F3). But while Air America's competitor Bird & Sons bought two Wren 460s in 1964 (N2449R, c/n 182-55549, sold as N8968 in 1968, and N3790U, c/n 182-55190, sold as HS-PCA in 1968), Air America never bought one, as USAID accepted a new PC-6 on its Bangkok contract (Minutes ExCom-AACL/AAM of 12 November 64, in: UTD/CIA/B7F3).



Bird & Sons Wren 460 N2449R, probably somewhere in Laos in 1964
(UTD/Wiren/B2)



Bird & Sons Wren 460 N3790U, probably somewhere in Laos in 1964
(with kind permission from Joe Hazen)