

ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE: SE.3130 ALOUETTE II

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Roundel of the Royal Lao Air Force
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According to ACIG (at http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_347.shtml), 2 Alouette IIs were acquired in January 1960, according to *Aeroflight / World Air Forces* (at <http://www.aeroflight.co.uk/waf/aa-eastasia/laos/laos-af2-aircraft.htm#aero>), even six Alouette IIs were delivered – possibly already in 1959 –, but were withdrawn from use in 1964. Reportedly, the RLAf also received some Alouette IIIs in 1963. There is no trace of these aircraft in the documents preserved at the Air America Archives, and the Alouette II Production history published by *CopterCrazy* at <http://copterCrazy.brinkster.net/menu/drop-index.html> only lists 2 Alouette IIs for the RLAf, but no Alouette IIIs. No Alouette IIs or IIIs are mentioned in John C. Pratt, *The Royal Laotian Air Force 1954-1970*, Christiansburg, VA (Project CHECO Report, no 185), 5 files, at (etc.): <http://www.virtual.vietnam.ttu.edu/cgi-bin/starfetch.exe?mdlF68qLGRLqMWTefSFCAeWVZBGXaFJpJL5H4vAf1uTdXjXlkrTUgmSkx1PpYqo1gJlZ63hZdTdUWq654gJC0SXuAfzaR3Pq4gkAO5t0PiY/0390103001a.pdf> (= first of 5 files). And Peter A. W. Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, Christiansburg, VA (Project CHECO Report), at: <http://www.virtual.vietnam.ttu.edu/cgi-bin/starfetch> (etc.), pp.154 and 156, mentions only 2 Alouette helicopters as assigned to the RLAf's Composite Squadron at Savannakhet in Fiscal Years 1963 and 1964, i.e. for the period from 1 July 1962 to 30 June 1964, but no more after that date. General Kouprasith had procured these 2 Alouettes for the FAL (*Forces Armées du Laos*) during his term as defense attaché in France (Conboy/Morrison, *Shadow war*, p.46, note 30). On 10 December 60, Laotian General Phoumi Nosavan used a FAL Alouette to fly to Tha Deua for a right-wing strategy session (Conboy/Morrison, *Shadow war*, p.39). In late June 62, a RLAf Alouette II was used by a CIA case officer to oversee the emergency exfiltration of a PARU team from the Lao panhandle made by an Air America UH-34D (Conboy / Morrison, *Shadow war*, p.118).

The individual aircraft histories:

Type	serial	c/n (msn)	date acquired	origin
SE.3130		1314 (C141)	January 1960 ?	factory
SE.3130		1315 (C142)	January 1960 ?	factory