RLAF C-47s at Thakhek West in November 1965, taken by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

RLAF C-47s maintained by Air America’s Udorn facility:

As to maintenance of RLAF aircraft carried out by Air America during the sixties, no contract stating this in a clear way is available at the time of writing, but from other sources, it is known that already in June 1964, Air America’s Udorn facility maintained the T-28s operated by the Royal Lao Air Force, that already in September 65, RLAF C-47s were repaired by Air America teams at the crash-site, while RLAF T-28s that had crashed were taken back to Udorn for repair at the Air America facilities, as John Tarn shows on his video tape (Video tape made by John Tarn at 0.16.16 and 0.37.48 minutes). IRAN for RLAF C-47s was first done by China Airlines on Taiwan and then by Thai-Am at Bangkok (Liebchen, MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972, pp.45+53). But then it passed to Air America’s Udorn facilities. The best evidence comes from Jack Forney, who had been in charge of the Air America maintenance at Udorn. He states: “The AAM operation at Udorn provided all heavy maintenance and almost all intermediate maintenance for the entire RLAF fleet during the period in question” (E-mail dated 2 April 2002 kindly sent to the author by Jack Forney). Contract no. F04606-71-C-0002 of 1 July 70 that Air America had with the USAF’s Sacramento Air Material Area has more details: In Part II, Section E-1 (“Statement of Work”), no. 0005, the contract lists the various types of aircraft maintenance covered, and in no. 0005AB it says: “Scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on C-47, UH-1, O-1, U-4, U-6, U-10, U-17, T-28, T-41, C-46 and CH-54 type aircraft and UH-34 aircraft at Udorn excluding those in 0005AA above” (in: UTD/Bisson/B5, microfilm reel no.24). But unlike the RLAF UH-34Ds or Beavers, the RLAF C-47s are not described in any list of aircraft maintained by Air America Udorn. So most of the following info comes from J. Gradidge’s The Douglas DC-1/DC-2/DC-3. The first seventy years (2006). C-47s not mentioned there are marked with an *; their serials have been derived from Gradidge’s material, so may not be correct. Additional info comes from photos, especially those of Dr. Jonathan Pote, and from Air America’s listings of competitive aircraft. A precious source is Peter Liebchen’s MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972 (Project CHECO Report, at: http://www.virtual.vietnam.ttu.edu/cgi-bin_starfetch etc.). Details about the losses of RLAF C-47s come from an anonymous list entitled “Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett
Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, and were kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011. In this inventory, some of the C-47s are listed as AIRA aircraft. This does not mean that they were Air America aircraft, but that their last mission was controlled by the AIRA, that is by the U.S. Air Attaché, Vientiane, Laos. For details about Air America’s own C-47s, see my C-47 file at http://www.utdallas.edu/library/specialcollections/hac/cataam/Leeker/aircraft/index.html.
From National Archives sources, the following details of MAP Grant Aid deliveries to Laos were submitted to the author by Sid Nanson (e-mail dated 30 May 2013, kindly sent by Sid Nanson to Paul Oelkrug who forwarded it to me); it should be noted, however, that these are deliveries that were programmed – they may not necessarily have taken place that way:

**RLAF C-47**

4 C-47's delivered to Laos 2nd quarter of FY57 (1 Oct 1956-31 Dec 1956).
1 C-47 delivered 1st quarter of FY 1958 (1 July 1957-30 Sep 1957)
1 C-47 del. 3rd quarter FY 1958 (1 Jan 1958-31 Mar 1958)
2 C-47's received 2nd quarter FY 60 (1 Oct 1959-31 Dec 1959)
1 C-47 received 4th quarter FY 60 (1 Apr 1960-30 June 1960)
4 C-47's received 2nd quarter FY 61 (1 Oct 1960-31 Dec 1960)
1 C-47 received 1st quarter FY 63 (1 July 1962-30 Sep 1962)
1 C-47 received 4th quarter FY 63 (1 Apr 1963-30 June 1963)
4 C-47s received 1st quarter FY 64 (1 July 1963-30 Sep 1963)
1 C-47 received 3rd quarter FY 64 (1 Jan 1964-31 Mar 1964)
5 C-47's received 1st quarter FY 65 (1 July 1964-30 Sep 1964)
1 C-47 received 1st quarter FY 67 (1 July 1966-30 Sep 1966)
1 C-47 received 2nd quarter FY 67 (1 Oct 1966-31 Dec 1966)
2 C-47 received in FY 68 (1 July 67-30 June 68)
5 C-47s received in FY 69 (1 July 68-30 June 69)
19 AC/C-47A/D received in FY 70 (1 July 69-30 June 70)

Also coming from National Archives sources, the following details of attrition for the RLAF were submitted to the author by Sid Nanson (e-mail dated 30 May 2013, kindly sent by Sid Nanson to Paul Oelkrug who forwarded it to me)

**RLAF C-47**

C-47, 1 (Combat) attrition in FY 68 (1 July 67-30 June 68)
C-47, 3 (1 Combat, 2 Operational) attrition in FY 69 (1 July 68-30 June 69)
AC/C-47A/D, 3 (2 Combat, 1 Operational) attrition in FY 70 (1 July 69-30 June 70)
AC/C-47A/D, 1 Operational attrition in FY 71 (1 July 70-30 June 71)
C-47s acquired in 1956:
According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, p.6, the Royal Lao Air force had 6 C-47s in 1959 – aircraft they had once received from the French Air Force.

C-47A “15666” taken at Thakhek East in 1966 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47A “666” c/n 20132 10 Aug.56 ex 43-15666 > “315666”/FRBDD (Armée de l’Air)

**Service history:** also flown as “315666”; at photo of RLAF C-47 “315666” can be found at [http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_347.shtm](http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_347.shtm). In 1965/6, it was flown as “15666”, seen at Thakhek West on 12 November 65 and at Luang Prabang in 1966 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

**Fate:** C-47 43-15666 was reportedly lost in Laos on 16 September 1966, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

C-47B “349129” c/n 26390 10 Aug.56 Ex 43-49129 > 349129/FRBDQ (Armée de l’Air)

**Fate:** ?
RLAF C-47 “356” prior to 1966
(Photo no. 1-DH54-6-PB12 in UTD/Hickler)

C-47B “49356” at Pakse on 2 May 66, taken by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47B “49356” c/n 26617 10Aug.56 Ex 43-49356 > 349356 Armée de l’Air

Service history: seen at Vientiane on 2 October 65 as “356” and at Pakse on 2 May 66 as “49356” (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); another photo of RLAF C-47 “49356” can be found at http://www.impdb.org/images/thumb/e4/Aa00m.jpg/500px-Aa00m.jpg.

Fate: reportedly to “49356” Royal Thai AF in 1972, but according to Steve Darke, this is unlikely (e-mail of 4 October 2013, kindly sent to the author by Steve Darke).
C-47 “349685” at Vientiane on 25 July 57, before it became the presidential aircraft (UTD/Kirkpatrick/B17, photo no. 1KP-17-PB-213-2)

C-47 “685” taken at Thakhek West in November 65 by Dr. J. Pote (with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47B “349685” c/n 26946 10 Aug.56 Ex 43-49685 > 349685 Armée de l’Air

Service history: was Vientiane on 25 July 57 as “349685” in regular colors (see photo no. 1KP-17-PB-213-2 in UTD/Kirkpatrick/B17); flown as “685” in 1965/6 with a plush airline interior, used as presidential aircraft, when Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma arrived in it at Thakhek West on 19 November 65 (Dr. J. Pote, Caption to Neg 4-15)

Fate: ?
C-47s “991” and “0-15519” taken at Thakhek West in November 65 by Dr. J. Pote (with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47B “991” c/n 34256 10 Aug.56 Ex 45-991 > “45991”/FRBDB Armée de l’Air

Service history: seen at Savannakhet on 8 September 65 and again in December 65 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); according to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating in Laos” dated 26 May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C), C-47 “991” belonged to the USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn in May 72

Fate: ?
C-47s received in 1959:

According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, pp.7+12+145, the Royal Lao Air Force received 2 additional MAP C-47s in 1959 and one additional C-47 in 1960, making a total of 9 C-47s received by 30 September 60 (p.148):

![RLAF C-47 “374” taken at Thakhek West in 1965/6 by Dr. J. Pote](image)

(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47B  “374”    c/n 26635 (?)    Sep.59    Ex 43-49374 > MAP 1 Sep.59

**Service history:** at Savannakhet on 8 September 65, also at Thakhek East (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); on 27 May 67, Air America UH-34D H-46 taxied too close to RLAF C-47 “374”, after landing at Nam Bac (LS-203), so that the main rotor blades struck the nose of the C-47, causing substantial damage to both aircraft (XOXO of 27 May 67, in: UTD/Hickler/B26F16; Accident report for 27 May 67, in: UTD/CIA/B59F4).

**Fate:** RLAF C-47 “374” was reportedly lost in Laos on 14 January 1971 (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

*C-47  “806”    c/n ?

**Identity:** possibly C-47 “800”, that is “0-48800” (c/n 26061), which went to the SVAF as “348800” in the fifties and belonged to the USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn in May 72 according to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating in Laos” dated 26 May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C).

**Service history:** seen at Thakhek East on 23 March 66 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

**Fate:** ?
C-47s acquired between 1960 and 1966:

According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, p.150, the Royal Lao Air Force received 4 additional MAP C-47s in Fiscal Year (FY) 1961, i.e. between 1 October 60 and 30 September 61:

C-47B “501” taken at Thakhek West in 1965 by Dr. J. Pote (with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47B “501” c/n 26762 Dec. 60 Ex 43-49501 > MAP 5 Dec.60

Service history: seen at Savannakhet at 8 September 65 as well as at Thakhek West in November 65 and on 20 March 66 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

Fate: ?

*C-47B “375” c/n 20841 Dec. 60 Ex 43-16375 > MAP 7 Dec. 60

Service history: C-47 43-16375 was reportedly lost in Laos on 2 April 1964, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011); seen at Savannakhet in a hangar as “375”, with all center fuselage skin removed, on 8 September 65; seen again at Savannakhet on 2 May 66, this time as “0-316375”, with blue serial and cheat line, but rudders and elevators removed (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

Fate: derelict at Savannakhet around 1967 (see the photo taken by Jim McDearis at [http://www.angelfire.com/home/laoslist/galleryl3903.html](http://www.angelfire.com/home/laoslist/galleryl3903.html), where it is erroneously given as 0-316376; blowing up the photo, it becomes clear that the last digit is a 5).
C-47A “633” after its crash-landing at Thakhek East on 1 July 66, taken by Dr. J. Pote (with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47A “633” c/n 20099 (?) Dec. 60 Ex 43-15633 > MAP 9 Dec. 60  
**Service history:** seen at Vientiane on 24 Sep.65 and at Thakhek West in November 65 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); undershot the runway at Thakhek East on 1 July 1966; repaired there and flown to Thailand for full overhaul in mid-July 66 (Dr. J. Pote, Caption for color slide no. 1003)  
**Fate:** C-47 43-15633 was reportedly lost in Laos in May 1969, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, p.154, the Royal Lao Air Force received 2 additional MAP C-47s in Fiscal Year (FY) 1963, i.e. between 1 October 62 and 30 September 63:

*C-47 “21057” c/n Dec. 62 (?)  
**Identity:** possibly c/n 20523 ex 43-16057, which left the USAF on 10 December 62 on transfer to an unknown recipient  
**Service history:** seen at Savannakhet on 8 September 65 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)  
**Fate:** ?

C-47B “47658” c/n  
**Identity:** possibly c/n 32990 ex 44-76658, which was last reported as recl. 3 May 48  
**Service history:** seen at Pakse on 8 September 65 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); a photo taken in Laos in October 71 of what looks like “658” can be found at [http://i47.photobucket.com/albums/f178/HappyAsian/C-47-1.jpg](http://i47.photobucket.com/albums/f178/HappyAsian/C-47-1.jpg)  
**Fate:** ?

C-47B “76644” c/n 32976 10 Oct.62 Ex 44-76644 > MAP 10 Oct. 62  
**Fate:** ?
C-47A  “117”  c/n 11882  Nov.62  Ex 42-92117 > transf. 5 Nov.62

Fate: ?

According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, p.31, the Royal Lao Air Force received 4 additional MAP C-47s in 1963:

C-47A  “30678”  c/n 13829  Sept. 63  Ex 43-30678 > MAP 7 Sep. 63

**Service history:** to MAP Laos on 7 September 63; seen at Thakhek West on 1 March 66 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); a photo taken in October 71 is in the possession of the author

**Fate:** C-47 43-30678 was reportedly lost in Laos in May 1964, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011). However, a C-47 serialled “678” of the Air Force of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) was seen at Vientiane on 4 October 77 (Telex no. 01391 dated 5 October 77 sent by the US Embassy, Vientiane, to the Secretary of State, Washington, online readable at [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629), kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 30 December 2014).

*C-47  “869429”  c/n ?

**Identity:** reportedly seen at Pakse on 8 September 65; probably an error for “349129”

*C-47A  “348014”  c/n 25275  early 60s  Ex 43-48014 > NC79970 > HC-SBS > G-AMBW > XB246 > F-VNAU > SVAF 348014 crashed 1960 > repaired

**Service history:** A photo of RLAF “348014” is in the possession of the author

**Fate:** ?

*C-47A  “0-23599”  c/n 9461  8 Sept.63  42-23599 > MAP 8 Sept.63

**(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)**

**Service history:** to MAP Laos on 8 September 63

**Fate:** C-47 42-23599 was reportedly lost in February 1964, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).
C-47 “656” taking off from Savannakhet in November 65, taken by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47 “656” c/n 25917 43-48656 USAF > Greece >

Service history: C-47 “656” was seen and photographed at Savannakhet on 8 September 65 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); another C-47 – “374656” – was reportedly also present at Savannakhet on 8 September 65; as 2 different RLAF C-47s whose serial end with the same 3 digits are unlikely, “374656” is probably what “656” seemed to have on the data plate.

Fate: C-47 “43-48656” was reportedly lost in Laos on 9 June 1968, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

C-47 “24178” taken at Thakhek East on 8 May 1966 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47A “24178” c/n 10040 63? Ex 42-24178 > MAP 10 Sep.63

Service history: seen at Vientiane on 29 January 66 and at Thakhek East on 8 May 66; had a 20 seat airlines VIP interior (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); a photo of USAF C-47A “24178” flown in RLAF markings can also be seen at http://members.tripod.com/chancefac/Laos/AirCraft/RLAFC-47.htm.

Fate: ?
C-47B “51127” taken at Thakhek East on 16 July 66 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47B “51127” c/n 34397 1963 Ex 45-1127

Service history: delivered thru Prestwick on 20 April 63, still in basic USAF colors (see the photos at http://www.dhc-2.com/M0624_127_C-47_Ken_Marshall_051965_1280a.jpg and at http://www.dhc-2.com/Ken_Marshall_USAF.html); seen at Savannakhet on 8 September 65 as “127” in RLAF colors, then at Thakhek East on 16 July 66 as “51127” (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote).

Fate: seen devoid of all markings at Nam Phong, Thailand, in the early seventies, said to be an Air America aircraft, although it wasn’t; see the photo at http://www.sgtmacsbar.com/CCTPhotos/Gallery03/Stu/Stu/images/scan10057.jpg; to the Khmer Air Force as “45-1127” in 1974 (?); to Royal Thai Navy “51127” in 1975, seen derelict U-Tapao in October 97 and still in January 2013 (e-mail dated 4 October 2013 kindly sent to the author by Steve Darke).

C-47A “108976” in the colors of MAP Laos at Thakhek East in 1965/66, taken by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)
C-47A “976” in RLAF colors at Udorn in October 73, taken by Ward S. Reimer
(with kind permission from Ward S. Reimer)

C-47A  “976”  c/n 13608  64?  Ex 42-108976 > MAP 11 July 64
Service history: believed flown as RLAF “976”; newly repainted as “108976” with MAP Laos without markings in 1965/6; flew Col. Burner, the US Military Attaché; during that time, it had “976” painted on the right wing; then to RLAF as “976” operating in RLAF colors again; a photo taken at Pakse in 1969 can be found at http://www.flickr.com/photos/60121715@N00/4047453843/in/photostream/
Fate: stored at Udorn in October 73 in full RLAF colors (see the photo below)

Unmarked MAP C-47 taking off from Thakhek West on 18 November 65
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47  unmarked  c/n 19442 ?  ?  Ex 42-100979 ?
Service history: seen at Thakhek West on 18 November 65; completely unmarked; corroded aluminum overall, with sanded off old style USAF markings and markings “0-00979” plus a batch still discernable; believed operated by MAP Laos
Fate: ?

*C-47  “48157”  c/n ?
Service history: reportedly seen at Savannakhet as on 8 September 65, probably an error for “48159”
C-47A “0-48159” taken at Thakhek West in November 65 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

C-47A “0-48159”  c/n 25420  64?  Ex 43-48159 > MAP 17 July 64
Service history: seen at Thakhek West on 18 November 65 and 20 February 66 as “0-48159” (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)
Fate: Royal Thai Army “48159” (in 74?)

C-47A “0-15316” taken at Thakhek West in 1966 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47A “0-15316” c/n 19782  15 Feb. 64  Ex 43-15316 > MAP 15 Feb. 64
Service history: at Vientiane on 29 January 66 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote); according to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating in Laos” dated 26
May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C), C-47 “316” belonged to the USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn in May 72

**Fate:** taken over by the Air Force of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) in 1975; seen at Vientiane on 4 October 77 as “316” (Telex no. 01391 dated 5 October 77 sent by the US Embassy, Vientiane, to the Secretary of State, Washington, online at [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629), kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 30 December 2014).

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C-47A “0-23398” taken at Thakhek East in June 66 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47A “0-23398” c/n 9260 11 July 64 Ex 42-23398 > MAP 11 July 64

**Service history:** seen at Pakse and Savannakhet on 8 September 65, at Thakhek West on 15 Nov. 65 and at Thakhek East in June 66 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

**Fate:** C-47 43-23398 was reportedly lost in Laos on 25 October 1966, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

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C-47A “0-47965” taken at Thakhek West in November 65 by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47A “0-47965” c/n 25226 1964? Ex 43-47965 > MAP South Vietnam on 26 August 64

**Service history:** seen as “47965” with RLAF titles at Pakse on 8 September 65, then at Vientiane on 24 Sept. 65, then as “965” all silver at Vientiane on 8 October 65
(probably operated for the US Military Attaché Col. Burner), then as “0-47965” with RLAF titles at Thakhek West in November 65, with “Kim Gia / Burner Special” on the nose (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

Fate: ?

C-47A “0-15519” at Thakhek East in July 66, taken by Dr. J. Pote
(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

*C-47A “0-15519” c/n 19985 13 Feb. 65 Ex 43-15519 > transf. 13 Feb. 65

Service history: seen at Savannakhet on 8 September 65, at Pakse on 2 May 66, and at Thakhek East in July 66 (List of aircraft seen by Dr. Jonathan Pote in Laos, e-mail kindly sent to the author on 8 August 2008 by Dr. Pote)

Fate: reportedly lost in Laos 21 July 1967, AIRA-controlled aircraft – probably identical with the unknown RLAF C-47 that was reportedly lost on 27 July 67 (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

According to Liebchen, MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972, pp.38+45, the Royal Lao Air Force received 2 additional MAP C-47s in the summer of 1966, so that on 31 December 66, the RLAF had a fleet of 17 active C-47s:
RLAF C-47 “809”
(in: Air America Yearbook 1984, vol. 1)

*C-47B “809”  c/n 26070  24 June 66  Ex USAF 43-48809 (?)

**Previous History:** USAF 43-48809 to Davis-Monthan on 29 July 62; refurbished at Miami by AIIMF on 22 March 66; to MAP on 24 June 66.

**Service History:** a photo of RLAF C-47 “809” was published in the Air America Yearbook 1984, vol. 1, in: UTD/Smith/B1.

**Fate:** taken over by the Air Force of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) in 1975; seen at Vientiane on 4 October 77 as “809” (Telex no. 01391 dated 5 October 77 sent by the US Embassy, Vientiane, to the Secretary of State, Washington, online at [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629), kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 30 December 2014).

*C-47 “425”  c/n 32757  July 66  Ex 44-76425 > MAP 28 July 66

**Service history:** C-47 44-76425 to MAP Laos on 28 July 66

**Fate:** C-47 44-76425 was reportedly lost in Laos on 19 July 1967 ("Aircraft All Loss by Tail number", pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011); a photo of the wreck of “425” taken by MacAlan Thompson at Luang Prabang in 1969 can be found at [http://firepirates.com/photos/mac/rlaf.jpg](http://firepirates.com/photos/mac/rlaf.jpg)

C-47A “100937”  c/n 19400  Dec.66  ex 42-100937 > NC61190 > 4X-AON > 06 IDF

**Service history:** to the RLAF in December 66

**Fate:** to the Royal Cambodian Air Force as “42-100937” in 1967; became the Khmer AF in 1970; to RThAF “100937”/L2-48/18 on 28 Nov.75 crashed at Don Nok AFB on 15 March 78.
C-47s acquired between 1967 and 1969:

According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, pp.50+54, the Royal Lao Air Force received 2 additional MAP C-47s in 1967, so that by 31 December 67, the RLAF had received 29 MAP C-47s:

C-47D “51122” c/n 34392 July 67 ex 45-1122

*Service history:* transfer to non-USAF in July 67

*Fate:* lost in Laos on 2 June 68, AIRA-controlled aircraft – possibly also the unknown RLAF C-47 that was reportedly lost on 6 June 68 (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

C-47D “51135” c/n 34405 July 67 ex 45-1135

*Service history:* transfer to non-USAF in July 67

*Fate:* lost in Laos on 15 December 68, AIRA-controlled aircraft – RLAF C-47 “135” was reported to have been lost on 19 December 68, probably the same aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

On 21 March 68, the crew of an RLAF C-47 was arrested in Saigon after landing with a load of gold and opium. This abuse prompted Ambassador Sullivan to withhold delivery of five more C-47 that were already in the pipeline (Conboy / Morrison, *Shadow war*, p.365). According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, p.66, the Royal Lao Air Force received a total of 34 MAP C-47s by 31 December 68 so that in 1968, they had received 5 additional MAP C-47s:

C-47D “248” c/n 32580 13 July 68 44-76248

*Service history:* to MAP Laos on 13 July 68

*Fate:* RLAF C-47 “248” was lost in Laos on 4 September 69, AIRA-controlled C-47 44-76248 was reportedly lost in Laos on 2 October 69 – probably the same aircraft operating for AIRA (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

C-47D “322” c/n 32654 68? Ex 44-76322

*Service history:* to MAP Thailand on 7 August 68; according to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating in Laos” dated 26 May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C), C-47 “322” belonged to the USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn in May 72

*Fate:* returned to USAF 405FW, Udorn as 44-76322 on 19 July 74 > N102BL > crashed at El Paso TX on 30 July 82

According to Liebchen, *MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972*, pp. 82 and 76, the Royal Lao Air Force received a total of 46 MAP C-47s by 31 December 69 so that in 1969, they had received 12 additional MAP C-47s, including 8 former VNAF AC-47Ds (p.76):
AC-47D  “0-43263”  c/n 25524  24 Dec.69  43-48263 > MAP 24  
Dec.69 > SVAF

Service history: also flown as “43-263” (see the photo in:  
http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_349.shtml )  
Fate: ?

AC-47D  “348909”  c/n 26170  Sep.69  Ex 43-48909 > 348909 SVAF on  
4 Jan. 66

Service history: according to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating 
in Laos” dated 26 May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C), C-47 “0-48909” belonged to the 
USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn in May 72  
Fate: ?

AC-47D  “476370”  c/n 32702  24 Dec. 69  Ex 44-76370  
(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)

Service history: AC-47 44-76370, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to  
MAP Laos on 24 December 69; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly  
sent to the author by Sid Nanson)  
Fate: ?

AC-47D  “349423”  c/n 26684  28 Dec. 69  Ex 43-49423  
(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)

Service history: AC-47 43-49423, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to  
MAP Laos on 28 December 69; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly  
sent to the author by Sid Nanson)  
Fate: C-47 43-49423 was reportedly lost in Laos on 4 March 1970, AIRA-controlled  
aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10,  
Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly  
sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

AC-47D  “349516”  c/n 26777  28 Dec. 69  Ex 43-49516  
(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)

Service history: AC-47 43-49516, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to  
MAP Laos on 28 December 69; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly  
sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
Fate: to the Royal Thai Air Force as “516” and L2-43/18, taken on charge on 9 Sep.  
75; to the Royal Thai Police for display, believed to be aircraft marked “219789” at  

AC-47D  “316368”  c/n 20834  31 Dec. 69  Ex 43-16368  
(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)

Service history: AC-47 43-16368, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to  
MAP Laos on 31 December 69; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly  
sent to the author by Sid Nanson); also reported with the VNAF as “316368”  
Fate: ?

C-47B  “49468”  c/n 26729  ?  Ex 43-49468 > KK146 >  
VMYAB > “349468” Armée de l’Air > 468 Ambassade de France

Fate: Royal Thai Air Force “49468” 1968-94 ??
C-47B “519” c/n 26780 69? Ex 43-49519 > SVAF “349519”

Service history: to MAP (South Vietnam?) on 21 June 62; according to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating in Laos” dated 26 May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C), C-47 “0-49519” belonged to the USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn, in May 72

Fate: RLAF C-47 “519” was reportedly lost in Laos on 23 March 1972 (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

C-47A “348071” c/n 25332 ex 43-48071, Armée de l’Air “FRBCJ” and SVAF “348071”
(taken at Udorn in Oct. 73 by Ward S. Reimer, with kind permission from the photographer)

*C-47A “348071” c/n 25332 1969? Ex 43-48071, Armée de l’Air “FRBCJ” and SVAF “348071”

Fate: stored at Udorn in October 73

C-47s acquired between 1970 and 1975:

According to Liebchen, MAP Aid to Laos 1959-1972, p.99, the Royal Lao Air Force received a total of 53 MAP C-47s by 31 December 70 so that in 1970, they had received 7 additional MAP C-47s and AC-47s. On 3 February 72, the number of MAP C-47s received at that date was still 53, i.e. 12 AC-47s and 41 C-47s (Liebchen, p.115), so that all C-47s the RLAF received in 1971 came from other sources, mostly from Australia:

AC-47D “50927” c/n 34188 1 Jan. 70 Ex 45-0927
(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)

Service history: AC-47 45-927, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to MAP Laos on 1 January 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson)

Fate: C-47 45-0927 was reportedly lost in Laos on 21 February 1973, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

AC-47D “51121” c/n 34391 5 Jan. 70 Ex 45-1121 > MAP 5 Jan. 70
(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)

Service history: AC-47 45-1121, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to
MAP Laos on 5 January 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).

**Fate:** C-47 45-1121 was reportedly lost in Laos on 27 June 1970 and RLAF “121” on 30 June 70 – probably the same AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011); the landing gear had not been lowered (Pratt, *The Royal Laotian Air Force 1954-1970* (CHECO), pp.126/7).

**AC-47D** “51117” c/n 34387 5 Jan. 70 ex 45-1117  
*serial as painted on the aircraft not known*  
**Service history:** AC-47 45-1117, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to MAP Laos on 5 January 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).

**Fate?**

**AC-47D** “76625” c/n 32957 7 June 70 ex 44-76625 > MAP 7 June 70  
*serial as painted on the aircraft not known*  
**Previous history:** AC-47 44-76625, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to 432nd TRW, Udorn, on 11 December 69 (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
**Service history:** AC-47 44-76625 of 432nd TRW, Udorn to MAP Laos on 7 June 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
**Fate?**

**AC-47D** “51047” c/n 34316 1 Jan.70 ex 45-1047  
*serial as painted on the aircraft not known*  
**Service history:** AC-47 45-1047, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to MAP Laos on 1 January 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
**Fate?**

*AC-47B** “16133” c/n 20599 7 June 70 Ex VC-47D 43-16133  
*serial as painted on the aircraft not known*  
**Previous history:** AC-47 43-16133, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to 432nd TRW, Udorn, on 11 December 69 (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
**Service history:** AC-47 43-16133 of 432nd TRW, Udorn to MAP Laos on 7 June 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
**Fate?**

**AC-47B** “49010” c/n 26271 7 June 70 Ex VC-47D 43-49010  
*serial as painted on the aircraft not known*  
**Previous history:** AC-47 43-49010, 4th Special Operations Squadron, Phan Rang, to 432nd TRW, Udorn, 11 December 69 (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).  
**Service history:** AC-47 43-49010, to MAP Laos on 7 June 70; with the RLAF (E-mail dated 19 March 2015, kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson).
**Fate:** to the Royal Thai Air Force as “010” and L2-46/18, taken on charge on 11 Nov. 75; SOC by April 91; displayed at Surasri Army Camp, Kanchanaburi, by 1995

C-47B  “76510”  c/n 32842  Aug.70  Ex 44-76510 > 0-76510 Royal Cambod. AF

**Fate:** ?

C-47s “976” c/n 13608 ex USAF 42-108976, and “348704” c/n 25965 ex Armée de l’Air “FRBFR” and South Vietnamese AF “348704”, both taken at Udorn in October 73 by Ward S. Reimer
(with kind permission from Ward S. Reimer)

C-47B  “348704”  c/n 25965  Dec.70  Ex 43-48704 > 348704/FRBFR  Armée de l’Air > 348704 SVAF  

**Fate:** stored at Udorn October 73

**C-47s received from Australia:**

C-47A  “998”  c/n 9998  21 Aug.71  ex 42-24136> VH-CTP> VH-AFF  VH-TAI (TAA>Australian Aid)  
**Service History:** a photo of RLAF C-47 “998” taken in December 74 can be found at [http://i47.photobucket.com/albums/f178/HappyAsian/C-47.jpg](http://i47.photobucket.com/albums/f178/HappyAsian/C-47.jpg)  
**Fate:** taken over by the Air Force of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) in 1975; seen at Vientiane on 4 October 77 as “998” (Telex no. 01391 dated 5 October 77 sent by the US Embassy, Vientiane, to the Secretary of State, Washington, online at [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629), kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 30 December 2014).

C-47B  “565”  c/n 25826  Sep.71  Ex 43-48565 > KJ881 > VH-PTM > VMLMD > VH-PTM > VH-EQB > RAL dd 28Sep71, canx 30 Sep. 71  

**Identity:** also reported as c/n 26826 ex 43-49565 sold 21 April 59  
**Fate:** ?

C-47B  “77131”  c/n 33463  Sept. 71  Ex 44-77131 > A65-119 > VMJRM > N16896 > VH-EQO, canx 30 Sep.71 as given to Laos  

(serial as painted on the aircraft not known)
**Fate:** C-47 44-77131 was reportedly lost in Laos on 1 May 1974, AIRA-controlled aircraft (“Aircraft All Loss by Tail number”, pages 1-134, no date, Folder 14, Box 10, Garnett Bell Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, details kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 2 June 2011).

More MAP C-47s: According to Air America’s list “Aircraft other than AAM operating in Laos” dated 26 May 72 (in: UTD/Hickler/B8F7C), the following C-47s belonged to the USAF Military Assistance Program, Udorn in May 72:
- “0-48800” (c/n 26061) > SVAF “348800” in the fifties
- “0-48324” (c/n 25585) > MAP 2 Sept.65; **Fate:** taken over by the Air Force of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) in 1975; seen at Vientiane on 4 October 77 as “324” (Telex no. 01391 dated 5 October 77 sent by the US Embassy, Vientiane, to the Secretary of State, Washington, online at [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=231599&dt=2532&dl=1629), kindly sent to the author by Sid Nanson on 30 December 2014).
- “494” (probably c/n 32826 ex 44-76494 to MAP 9 July 68)
- “760” (probably c/n 27021 ex 43-49760 to MAP 19 July 68)
- “362” (probably c/n 32694 ex 44-76362 to MAP 27 July 68)

C-47B  “632”  c/n 32964  73?  Ex 44-76632 > SVAF 476632  
**Fate:** Philippine AF in 1975?

C-47  “563”  c/n  ?  
**Fate:** ?

After the creation of a Provisional Government of National Union (PGNU) in Laos on 4 April 74, the US Embassy at Vientiane decided to reduce the number of T-28s to 40, which were distributed among Long Tieng, Pakse and Savannakhet, as Vientiane and Luang Prabang were declared neutral towns that had to remain off limits to RLAF strike aircraft. The number of AC-47s was reduced to 6. Then all AC-47 miniguns were removed, so that all AC-47s became C-47 transports (Conboy / Morrison, *Shadow war*, p.412).

**Losses:**

- An unknown RLAF C-47 was lost at Pakse, when it taxied into a stack of flares (photo in: Air America Yearbook 1984, vol.1 (in: UTD/Smith/B1))

In December 1962, Laos received 4 Li-2s as a gift from Russia:
- “611” (olive drab)
- “627” (olive drab)
- “651” (olive drab), and
- “01” (silver)

In 1963, they were abandoned at Vientiane’s Wattay airport, and what remained of them in 1965, can be seen on this photo taken by Dr. J. Pote (Caption to color slide no.1049):

(with kind permission from Dr. Jonathan Pote)

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