

Down and Deadly

USAF photo



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In South Vietnam, allied troops on the ground received air support from many different types of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, which were flown by all four US services. Some aircraft were notable for their ability to mount low-altitude operations. Two of the most prominent were the A-1 Skyraider and AC-47 gunship, both seen in action in these photos. The A-1 is considered by some to have been the finest prop-driven ground support aircraft ever built. The AC-47 was likewise legendary for the sheer firepower it could generate.

[1] USAF A-1 Skyraider of 6th Special Operations Squadron dives to unload bombs in a close air support mission. [2] Crew of a USAF AC-47 gunship—the famed “Puff the Magic Dragon”—pours nighttime fire on a target in 1966. [3] In this 1966 action, an A-1E pummels a Viet Cong position with a white phosphorous bomb.



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Photo by Larry Burrows



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