



The AC-130A, first flown on 7 April 1955 as an original Roman-nosed C-130A (53-3129) suffered a major engine fire after landing at Marietta on its third flight a week later. It was rebuilt and flew again on 6 February 1956, subsequently being modified as a JC-130A for work on the Eastern Test Range and then as an AC-130A 'gunship' in the late 1960s for service in Vietnam. It received an armament array that comprised four GAU-2 7.62mm miniguns and four 20mm M-61s. After its service in SE Asia it passed to the Air Force Reserve, remaining as an AC-130A and is operated today by the 919th Special Operations Wing, 711th SOS, at Duke Field, Florida, with the appropriate name *First Lady*. APM/GF/PRM

