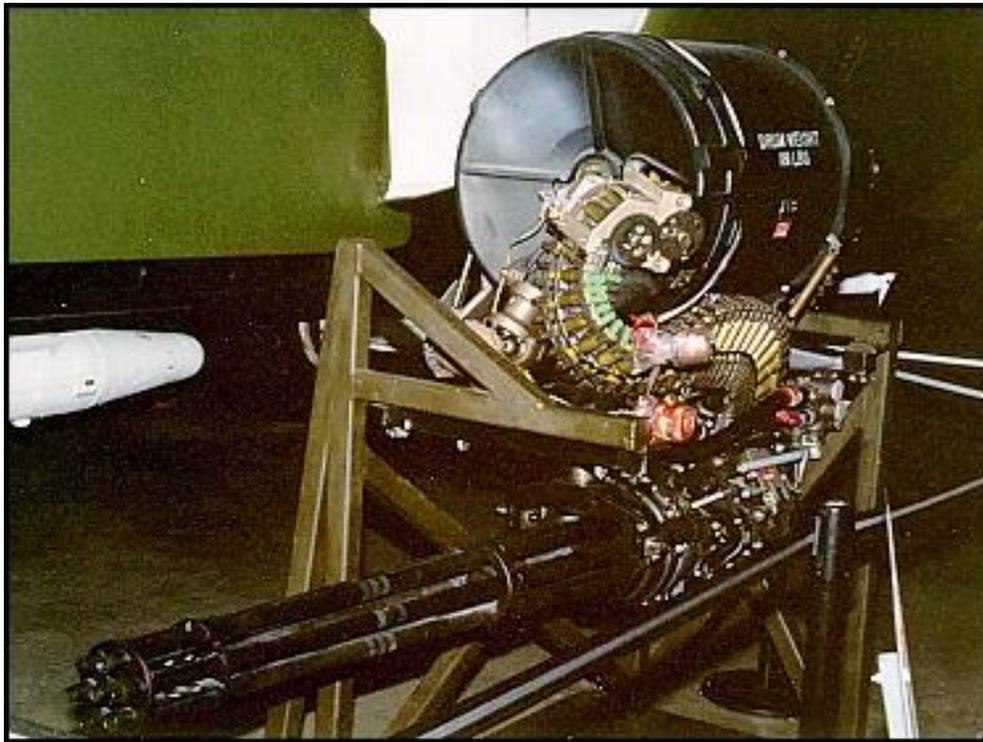


General Electric M61A1 "Vulcan" 20mm Cannon



The M61A1 Vulcan cannon is a six-barrel 20mm gun capable of firing 6,600 rounds per minute. Its operation is based upon the principle used in the rapid-firing gun invented by Richard J. Gatling in the 1860s. The six rotating barrels, firing one at a time, permit a high rate of fire while at the same time reducing the problem of barrel wear and heat generation. The gun can be driven electrically, hydraulically, or by a ram-air turbine. The Vulcan has equipped such USAF aircraft as the [F-104](#), [F-105B/D/F](#), [F-15](#), [F-16](#), [A-7D](#), [F-111A](#), [F-4E](#), [B-58](#), and [B-52H](#). A ram-air driven M61A1 is the heart of the SUU-16/A external gun pod that can be carried under the wings of high-performance aircraft lacking internally mounted guns. The Vulcan is one of the USAF weapons that served in Operation Desert Storm.

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