

This limited edition and numbered lithograph is presented to the VA Hospital (Insert actual name of hospital) by members of the 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron (SOS) from Columbus, Indiana and the AC-119 Gunship Association. Titled “Rolling In”, the lithograph depicts an AC-119G *Shadow* combat mission firing on an enemy position to protect friendly forces on the ground in Southeast Asia.

The AC119 “G” model, whose Call Sign was *Shadow*, provided close air support for our American troops, our South Vietnamese and Cambodian allies, and others needing help to stay alive and fight another day. Enemy troop concentrations learned they could not escape the deadly rain of fire from *Shadow*'s 4 side-firing mini-guns as her crews flew in pylon turns to stay on target and thwart enemy attacks again and again. The Fairchild AC-119G *Shadow* gunship proved to a worthy replacement for the well-known AC-47 *Spooky* gunship.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Air Force Reserves unit based out of Bakalar AFB, Indiana, reactivated on April 11, 1968 to begin the AC-119G *Shadow* lineage. These reservists developed tactics and training, ferried their vintage aircraft to Vietnam, and became the first operational AC-119 Gunship Squadron. The men of the 71<sup>st</sup> logged hundreds of combat missions before turning their aircraft and mission over to the active duty 17<sup>th</sup> SOS on June 18, 1969. Every proud reservist who deployed returned home, a testament to the professionalism of these aircrew, their maintenance troops who kept their aircraft safe and flying, and their leadership. These Indianan Air Force Reservists served our nation proudly and well.

In 2003, the AC-119 Gunship Association commissioned artist and Air Force Reservist Darby Perrin to complete an original *Shadow* oil painting, which was presented to The National Museum of the United States Air Force in 2004. The Association printed signed and numbered lithographs from the original oil painting.