



# THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

## Notes from the President

On May 20, 2005, the 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron will be reactivated at Kirtland AFB, NM. They will be the first USAF CV-22 Osprey unit. This will make the circle complete with the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> SOS squadrons all serving with the USAF. As with missions and airframes, the patches have all made changes as well. Here is the new 71<sup>st</sup> SOS patch.

We are less than six months away from AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion VII back at Ft Walton Beach. As I write this message lots of work is going on to ensure each of you attending will



have a grand time. As usual, Gus Slinger and Norm Evans have been our permanent forward deployed members working the many issues to ensure things go smoothly upon your landing at the Sheraton Four Points.

We owe a lot to these two individuals as we couldn't put Reunion VI together without them. This year we are adding some new events and venues to provide something different. Also as you arrive, you will be handed a special gift that I'm sure you will treasure. Friday evening we'll take squadron pictures and if we have enough crew pictures. Please be there by 5 p.m. so we can get you and your guest in the photos. We also encourage you to wear flight suits if you can still get them on.

The Association hopes to unveil the AC-119K Stinger Memorial in the Hurlburt Air Park if we get AFSOC approval before the event. The bureaucracy is alive and well. I will have more information regarding the monument in the next news letter.

(continued in next column)

While on base, AC-130 gunships will be on display for your viewing. We will continue gathering member inputs for our history project. Saturday evening's banquet will be special with Brigadier General Heine Aderholt (ret), Father of the Air Commandos as our guest speaker at the Elk's Club. Sunday is open for you to spend as you desire with golfing, fishing or whatever else you wish. There will be a VA briefing that will focus on Vietnam era vets. As I said, lots of work is being accomplished by a few to make Reunion VI special. I hope you can join us for a terrific time.

Early in the year, we asked each of you to complete a survey. That survey is extremely important as it is your voice to the board so that we can provide what you want. Unfortunately, there has been little response. This means we are operating on autopilot for the time being and it also means that this year's membership meeting will be extremely important. There are many issues that need to be addressed concerning how this Association will operate and continue to exist. Please take the time to complete the on-line survey prior to the reunion. The survey can be found at [www.ac-119gunships.com/association/reunion/surveypage.htm](http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/reunion/surveypage.htm)

Please stay tuned as we hope to have a decision on the Stinger Monument soon. I forward to seeing each of you at Reunion VI.

Craig Corbett, President



Craig & Jan Corbett

## THE FIRING CIRCLE

### WHAT IS THE

#### AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION?

Formed during our first-ever AC-119 Gunship Reunion in October 2000, the AC-119 Gunship Association is a brotherhood of men who served with the 71st, 17th and 18th Special Operations Squadrons in the US & Southeast Asia during The Vietnam War.

### WHO CAN JOIN THE

#### AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION?

You are eligible for membership if you served with the 71st, 17th or 18th SOS as an Air Crew or Ground Crew Member, on the AC-119G Shadow or the AC-119K Stinger Gunships. There are also Associate and Family (only annual memberships) (there is no charge for surviving spouse's of deceased life members) memberships available. Contact the Association Secretary for full information on all types of memberships available.

### HOW DO I JOIN?

Obtain an application for membership in this newsletter or on the Association Website, fill out & submit the application to the Association Membership, with a money order or check made out to *The AC-119 Gunship Association*. We offer an annual membership at \$20.00 per year or a lifetime membership for \$119.00 (available only to regular members). Surviving spouse's of life members, become life members automatically

### WHAT ARE MY OBLIGATIONS AS A MEMBER?

Just like Southeast Asia, where it took every man in the 71st, 17th & 18th SOS to accomplish assigned missions, every member of the AC-119 Gunship Association is essential to the preservation and betterment of the Association. As a member, you can help solidify and improve the Association by attending reunions if possible, contacting and enlisting new eligible members, making suggestions, and communicating with any of the Association Officers.

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**If you have questions or contacts with new members or our fallen heroes (families), or changes in address information, please contact the following officers at:**

#### **New Member/Family Research Officer**

Jim Terry

707-422-6774

[Shadow70@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Shadow70@sbcglobal.net)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Everett Dale Sprous

636-305-6534 or cell 314-614-6131 (Cingular)

[esprous@sbcglobal.net](mailto:esprous@sbcglobal.net)

**If you have concerns, suggestions or questions, please contact any of the officers at:**

#### **Reunion VI**

##### **Coordinators**

(Ft Walton Beach)

Sept 30, Oct 1, 2, 2005

Phone (850) 863-9649

[g.sininger@seii.net](mailto:g.sininger@seii.net)

& Norm Evans

Phone (850) 864-0923

[normevans873@cox.net](mailto:normeans873@cox.net)

##### **Chaplain**

Larry Hunter

850-244-0530

[Lhunter@bsc.net](mailto:Lhunter@bsc.net)

##### **Chaplain**

Leigh Norstrum

915-795-1132

##### **VA Information Officer**

Ray Barradale

570-722-2067

[raynsue@ptd.net](mailto:raynsue@ptd.net)

##### **Awards & Dec's Officer**

Steve Mac Isaac

(302) 249-4130

[NMacisaac@aol.com](mailto:NMacisaac@aol.com)

##### **President**

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(703) 923-0476

[ccandjc@cox.net](mailto:ccandjc@cox.net)

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##### **Vice President**

Henry "Bud" Buchanan

253-924-0257

[Budb35@hotmail.com](mailto:Budb35@hotmail.com)

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813-781-5728

[busch791@aol.com](mailto:busch791@aol.com)

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##### **Webmaster**

Bill Petrie

405-721-4490

[RetCMSgt@aol.com](mailto:RetCMSgt@aol.com)

##### **Past Board Member**

Rogers Stevens

304-584-4506

[rogac119@aol.com](mailto:rogac119@aol.com)

In order to save time & expense, we will attempt to send the Newsletter to all members we have email addresses for. If a member can not download the Newsletter, or if we do not have an email address, it will be sent by regular mail. If you want back issues of the Newsletter, please contact Everett Sprous.

Acrobat Reader free download:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

(for members of the 71st, 17th & 18th SOS only)

If you need assistance applying for a decoration you feel you should have received in Southeast Asia, and didn't, please read **this entire page**

Fellow Gunshippers,

On behalf of the *Awards and Decorations Recovery Board*, I want to thank all of you, in advance, for your help on this noble project. The hallmark, and legacy, of any great Association is that 'they take care of their own'....so is our task. The *AC-119 Gunship Association Awards & Decorations Recovery Board* is a small but necessary attempt to do just that... 'take-care-of-our-own'.

CONCEPT OF OPERATION

We have fellow Gunshippers; aircrew, maintenance, and support personnel, who may not have been given full and just credit for their actions in Southeast Asia. There is an established DOD/Federal process to deal with lost & missing Awards & Decorations. It is a difficult and very time consuming 'process'.....and very easy to get a 'rejection or disapproval' because of the lack of supporting documents. The system is set with *NO* as the "going in" position. On behalf of the Association I have worked with the 'process' at the Military Personal Center (MPC) at Randolph AFB, TX., with the hope that I, along with the board, can assist our members with their decoration recovery process.

What the AC-119 Gunship Association needs to do, to support its members, is to be able to present an 'airtight' package into the system so that it has a good, to excellent, chance for approval. However, *the burden of 'proof' rests with the member* requesting the decoration. What the AC-119 Gunship Awards & Decorations Recovery Board will provide the member is 'assistance' on making his 'package' as complete, justified, and as endorsed as possible. **The paperwork and leg work burden is on the Member!!**

The *Association Awards & Decs Board* will provide the Member with a checklist and process requirements. These Awards & Decorations pages will provide the member information and an avenue to request 'missing data/support material.' Once the Member completes his 'package', he will send it to the appropriate Board Member that has the necessary qualifications to review the package, ie. Pilot, Navigator, Gunner, etc. That Board Member will help polish the 'package' as required. If there is a question in the mind of that Board Member as to the justification or other circumstances, that Board Member can go to any and all other Board Members to resolve the issue.

When all is said and done, our goal is to return the 'package' to the requesting Association Member, with a strong endorsement letter from the Senior Crew Position, Maintenance, or Support person so that the requesting member can submit his claim into the 'formal' process.

On these pages you will find hotlinks to a downloadable checklist/ worksheet, and other information, that you can print out from your computer. Or, you can contact your particular Awards and Dec's Board Member to have a package sent to you. This package is what our A & D Board will use to assist any association member who wants to file a claim/appeal.

Together we can do this....it is the right thing to do .... especially while our brothers are still alive.

We want to make this package as strong and as complete as possible! However, we can not do this alone. We need a combat hardened crew just like the good 'old days.' Finding supporting documents is critical, so check your old flight/frag logs and search for old orders. You may hold the key to your brothers successful submission.

Thanks & Cheers,  
Mac

Awards and Decs on the Web

The Awards & Decorations pages are posted on the site. You can access the pages from the DFC icon in the right hand navigation column on both the Main Welcome page <http://www.ac-119gunships.com/welcome.htm> and the Association Welcome page [http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/assoc\\_welcome.htm](http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/assoc_welcome.htm).

All the A & D pages hot link to each other. Ops check them when you have an opportunity and let me know if you encounter any problems. Everything worked fine on this end including being able to download the PDF worksheet.

Note: If you do not have access to computers may contact Col Mac or any of the Dec Board Members by phone or mail:

Col Steve Mac Isaac, USAF Ret.  
6449 Coventry Hills Dr., NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144  
(h) 505-867-3367  
(cell) 302-249-1499  
(email) [Nmacisaac@aol.com](mailto:Nmacisaac@aol.com)

Awards & Decorations Board

**Maj. Gen Doug Metcalf**

(18th SOS) - Board President & Maintenance/  
Support Advisor (407) 628-8889

**Steve 'Mac' Mac Isaac**

(18th SOS) - Aircraft Commander

**Charles 'Chuck' James**

(17th SOS) - Aircraft Commander  
(208) 543-8116 [chasjas2u@rmci.net](mailto:chasjas2u@rmci.net)

**Fred Blum**

(18th SOS) - NAV/FLIR/NOS  
210-492-4264 [dodie@stic.net](mailto:dodie@stic.net)

**Bernie Smith**

(17th SOS) - NAV/NOS  
(817) 624-3018 [bernardsmith@charter.net](mailto:bernardsmith@charter.net)

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805-733-2443 [ac119k@msn.com](mailto:ac119k@msn.com)

**Craig Corbett**

(18th SOS) - Gunner  
(703) 923-0476 [Richard.Corbett@DTRA.Mil](mailto:Richard.Corbett@DTRA.Mil)

**Frank Bartlett**

(18th SOS) - Gunner  
661-723-5356 [snfbarths@as.net](mailto:snfbarths@as.net)

**Allen Chandler**

(17th SOS) - IO  
480-502-3285 [allenbchandler@aol.com](mailto:allenbchandler@aol.com)

## THE FIRING CIRCLE

### Brigadier General Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt Announced as 2005 Guest Speaker

Brigadier General Harry C. (Heinie) Aderholt was commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Thailand, and chief, Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group, Thailand, with headquarters at Bangkok.

General Aderholt was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1920. He entered active military duty through the aviation cadet program in April 1942 and graduated from pilot training with a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps in May 1943.

During World War II, from October 1943 to August 1945, General Aderholt served in North Africa and Italy as a B-17 and C-47 pilot.

In September 1945 General Aderholt went to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., assigned as a staff pilot with the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command. After completion of Air Tactical School at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in December 1948, General Aderholt returned to Maxwell and served as a flight instructor and flying safety officer with the 3800th Air Base Wing.

During the Korean War, from July 1950 to September 1951, General Aderholt commanded a Special Air Warfare Detachment of the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron. He next was assigned as an operations staff officer with the 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group in Washington, D.C. In June 1953 he was transferred to Donaldson Air Force Base, S.C., where he served with Headquarters Eighteenth Air Force as tactical and operations staff officer in the Directorate of Operations and Training.

In October 1954, General Aderholt was assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany, and served in the Directorate of Plans as an unconventional warfare planning staff officer.

In September 1957 General Aderholt returned to Washington, D.C., assigned to the 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group as a special warfare staff officer, and in September 1959 joined the 1040th U.S. Air Force Field Activity Squadron in the same capacity.

General Aderholt left for Okinawa in January 1960 where he became commander of the 1095th Operational Evaluation Training Group. During this assignment, he contributed to the pioneering of special air warfare techniques, and was instrumental in developing the Laos airfield complex known as Lima sites. These fields were used throughout Southeast Asia as support sites for special warfare operations and as "Jolly Green" helicopter forward staging bases for rescue and recovery operations in Laos and North Vietnam.

From August 1962 to February 1964, General Aderholt served as special advisor to the commander of the U.S. Air Force Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. During this period, he contributed to and participated in RAND Corp. studies which resulted in the publication of the Single Integrated Attack Team Study. He then was transferred to Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he served as vice commander and commander of the famed 1st Air Commando Wing.



General Aderholt left for the Republic of the Philippines in August 1965 where he was assigned as deputy commander for plans and operations with the 6200th Materiel Wing at Clark Air Base. While in this assignment, he joined the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, where he conceived and activated the Joint Personnel Recovery Center in Saigon, and served as chief from July to December 1966. He then was selected by Headquarters Pacific Air Forces to activate the 56th Air Commando Wing at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. This wing, which he organized and commanded from December 1966 to December 1967, conducted low-level night interdiction missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and North Vietnam, using prop-driven aircraft. The efforts of this wing were so successful in slowing infiltration that the enemy reacted by greatly increasing anti-aircraft defenses and committing a large amount of his total assets to keep the trail open.

In January 1968 General Aderholt was reassigned to the U.S. Air Force Special Air Warfare Center, later redesignated U.S. Air Force Special Operations Force, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to serve as deputy chief of staff for operations.

General Aderholt returned to Thailand in June 1970 for a two-year tour of duty as chief of the Air Force Advisory Group, Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, in Bangkok. He retired from active military duty in December 1972 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

He was recalled to active duty in October 1973 and assigned as deputy commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand, and deputy chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand, with headquarters at Bangkok.

General Aderholt became commander, USMACTHAI, and chief, JUSMAG, Thailand, in May 1975.

His military decorations and awards include:

- the Distinguished Service Medal,
- Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters,
- Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster,
- Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster,
- Meritorious Service Medal,
- Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters,
- Joint Service Commendation Medal,
- Air Force Commendation Medal,
- Presidential Unit Citation Emblem,
- and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster.

He is a command pilot and wears the Parachutist Badge.

He was promoted to the grade of brigadier general effective May 31, 1974, with date of rank May 25, 1974.

On Jan 18th 2001, the enlisted personnel of the Air Force Special Operations Command awarded General Aderholt the Order of the Sword. This award proclaimed him a General among Generals who has established new standards for leadership while serving in the Special Operation arena. It was his dynamic leadership, his sincere personal concern for the well being of all enlisted men and women and his continuous adherence to the highest standards of personal integrity.

Read the autobiography about *Air Commando One: Heinie Aderholt and America's Secret Air Wars*.  
by Warren A. Trest.

**HISTORY PROJECT** by Wayne Laessig

During Reunion V in Dayton, OH; we collected over 5 hours of AC-119 Gunship History "Stories". To those who participated in our Association Story Project, we say a hearty "THANK YOU". The stories deal with everything from maintenance technique, to actual flights, to how "Stanley and Ollie" got on our gunships. They are all informative, some are funny, some are serious recounts of what we experienced, and overall they provide the beginnings of a balanced answer to those who might ask us "What was it like flying gunships in SEA?"

We're setting up another opportunity to let YOU "Tell Your Story" at Reunion VI. Association History Project Officers Wayne Laessig and Rogers Stevens are making arrangements for a videographer to record more stories.

We intend to continue to do these recordings at each reunion until ALL our stories are told. We'll "add" the new stories to the DVD from the Dayton Reunion to continue our ongoing Association History Program. Each year we plan to add more, and eventually have a pretty accurate account of life in SEA by year and by unit. Your stories will provide an opportunity for our families, associates, historians, and those just curious about SEA to hear firsthand what we experienced and what made an impression on us while we were there with our AC-119 Gunships.

So, once again, we need you to think about making notes about YOUR special mission or story about life in SEA; be it scary, frightening, rewarding, funny, or whatever, you want to add to the Association's History DVDs. We'll be ready to record your story at Reunion VI. The recordings are very informal, can last from 2-3 minutes up to 10-15 and we need as many stories as possible to capture who we were, what we did, and what life was like then. Since one of our Association reasons for existence is to preserve our history, **with the AC-119 included**, your stories are an important part of that.

**Reunion VI Agenda**

Where: Ft Walton Beach at the Sheraton Four Points  
**When:** Sept 30 – Oct 2, 2005

**Events:**

**Friday: Photo Shoot:** photos will be taken at 5 p.m. in Hudson Hall before the Cocktail Party at the pool. We will start with Squadrons first and others as needed. Please make every effort to attend this shoot.

**Cocktail Party,** Sheraton Pool Side 6 p. m. – till ?  
 Dress casual, party or flight suits. \$ 15.00 each

**Saturday:**

8 am: General Meeting  
 11:30: Memorial Service, Hurlburt Air Park, Dedication of a new monument for the AC-119K—Stinger  
 A static display of an AC-130U after the services.

Evening: Banquet

5 pm, Cocktails Happy Hour. –

6 pm Dinner at Elks Lodge, Dress is semi-formal or party suits

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$20, Fried Shrimp-- \$20.00,  
 Prime Rib-- \$25.00

Dancing to Stormin Norman

**Sunday:**

9 am Golf at Hurlburt Golf Course, \$10.00 plus green fees. The \$10.00 is for prize money.

4 pm Farewell Pool Party at the Four Points – \$20.00 each

Make your Hotel reservations Today by calling the Sheraton Four Points at 800-874-8104.

Reservation must be made no later than two weeks prior to arriving and tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship reunion.

**Room Rates** – with free full breakfast buffet each morning for registered guest.

Courtyard -- \$78.00 + 10%

Beachfront -- \$92.00 + 10%

More information and details will be available as Gus gets everything finalized. It will be fun!



**THE FIRING CIRCLE**

Reunion Registration Form  
AC-119 Gunship Reunion V  
Sept 30, October 1, 2, 2005  
**Fort Walton Beach, Florida**

Mail your Reunion registration to Doug Wohlgamuth **TODAY!!!**

**THIS IS NOT YOUR HOTEL REGISTRATION**

Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
To join, please fill out application on page 11

**Make checks payable to "The AC-119 Gunship Association"**

Mail this form along with your payment to:

**Doug Wohlgamuth**  
**504 Shea Place**  
**Sun City Center, FL. 33573** cell 813-781-5728 [busch791@aol.com](mailto:busch791@aol.com)

Note: for those wanting to do a map quest:  
The address is:  
**1325 Miracle Strip Parkway East (Highway 98)**  
**Fort Walton Beach**  
**Florida 32548**

Reunion Registration Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

(Unit) 71st, 17th or 18th, etc: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country (e.g. 1969): \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: (# \_\_\_ ) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

YES ! I WILL ATTEND : (Check all that apply)

COCKTAIL NIGHT \$15.00 ea. Xs Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Photo Shoot**, photos will be taken at 5 p.m. Friday in Hudson Hall before the Cocktail Party at the pool. We will start with Squadrons first and others as needed. Please make every effort to attend this shoot.

MEMORIAL SERVICE (n/c) Xs Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

AC-130U TOUR (n/c) Xs Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET: ELKS LODGE Chicken Cordon Bleu \$20.00 ea Xs No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Fried Shrimp \$20.00 ea Xs No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Rib \$25.00 ea Xs No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

GOLF MATCH \$10.00 ea Xs No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap/s \_\_\_\_\_

(Pay Green Fees at Golf Course, varies by Rank)

SUNDAY POOL PARTY \$20.00 ea Xs Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTALS : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please don't forget to include your payment

CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

**REUNION V – DVDS ARE AVAILABLE**

The **First DVD set** is a two DVD set of the Reunion Events and Speakers. Disc 1 is of the Welcome Social, Memorial Service, Banquet “Under the Wings” inside the National Museum of the United States Air Force, and the Farewell Social. Disc 2 is of the Reunion Speakers: Mr. Bill Dudley – Fairchild Hiller conversion of the C-119 to an AC-119, Captain Rob Doremus, USN (ret) – words of encouragement, and Keynote Speaker Colonel Ron Terry, USAF (ret.) – the presentation of how the “gunship concept” was sold to the Air Staff along with his presentation about the STOL C-130 Program. This two-disc DVD set is 3 hours and 30 minutes long.

The **Second DVD set** is a two DVD set of the Year Groups. Disc 1 is of year groups 1968/69 and 1970; Disc 2 is of year groups 1971 and 1972/3. These two discs identify by year group, where we were operating, what were our missions, what crew living conditions were like and exceptional experiences we encountered. This two-disc DVD set is 3 hours and 13 minutes long.

The **Third DVD set** is a two DVD set of the History Vignettes or “Stories”. There are 18 stories about the activities that occurred while flying or working on the AC-119 Gunships. These stories are funny, scary, or nerve racking accounts of actual events. Each Vignette is presented by the individual/s who was/were directly involved in the experience. This two-disc DVD set is 2 hours and 32 minutes long.

Cost to purchase the DVDs: (Includes postage within the Continental US)

All 3 Sets (6 DVDs) in 3 holders	\$35.00
Any 2 DVD Sets (4 DVDs) in 2 holders	25.00
Any Set (2 DVDs) in a holder	15.00
Any Single (1 DVD) in a holder	9.00

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER THE FOLLOWING REUNION V DVD Discs:

<input type="checkbox"/>	All Three DVD sets		\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any Two DVD sets	Sets No. ____ and ____	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any Single DVD set	Set No. ____	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any Single DVD	Set # ____ Disc ____	9.00

Total enclosed

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **Rogers Stevens and send to:  
c/o AC-119 Gunship Association  
P. O. Box 369  
Clarksburg, WV 26302-0369**

**THE FIRING CIRCLE**

**Association Reunion T-Shirts**

The Reunion VI T's have the SEA map on the right sleeve and the US flag on the left sleeve. **T-shirts are no longer squadron specific. They will reflect that we are an association that includes the 71st, 17th and 18th Special Operations Squadrons. If you have any questions contact Gus Sininger**  
**T-shirt colors** are teal, light gray, Tan or sand, natural or off white.  
**Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge \$20**  
**XX-Large and XXX-Large \$21 NOTE:** Please order EARLY! Factory needs a minimum order of 144 shirts



Check with Gus on availability of Reunion I, II, & III T-Shirts

**AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION VI T-Shirts**



- Power Restored
- Sand Out of Pool
- Rooms Dried Out
- Food Service On
- Roads & Runway Open
- Bar Open

**CLEARED IN HOT!!!!**

Ft. Walton Beach, FL, 2005



Reunion V T-Shirts



Golf Shirts



Reunion IV T-Shirts



**MULTIPLY YOUR QUANTITY BY THE UNIT PRICE TO GET YOUR TOTAL PRICE**

Reunion VI T-Shirts \$20.00 (XX & XXX \$21.00) **T-shirt colors** are teal, light gray, Tan or sand, natural or off white

**SIZE(S):** \_\_\_\_\_ **X's \$20.00 or \$21.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Color(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Golf Shirts: color (s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Size(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name on front:** \_\_\_\_\_ **X's \$27.00**

**Reunion VI T-Shirts (BLACK ONLY) \$20.00. Size (s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion V T-Shirts (Blue or Ash Gray) \$20.00 Size(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Color(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Long or Short Sleeve:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LAOTION HIGHWAY PATROL: X-LARGE ONLY— NUM.** \_\_\_\_\_ **X's \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**HATS: SHADOW:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STINGER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **X's \$15.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion IV Videos** \_\_\_\_\_ **X's \$20.00**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coming to the reunion Circle yes or no Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

"MAKE CHECK or MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

GUS SININGER

206 TOOKE ST.

FT WALTON BEACH FL 32547

Or contact Gus at phone (850) 863-9649 or E-MAIL at [g.sininger@seii.net](mailto:g.sininger@seii.net)





Vietnam War Combat Veteran, Dr. Larry Elton Fletcher publishes second historical novel:

***The Shadow Spirit – Flying Stingers and BUFFs in S.E.A.***

Sequel to ***Shadows of Saigon – Air Commandos in Southeast Asia***

Hardback - ISBN 0-1-4134-4426-1  
Paperback - ISBN 0-1-4134-4425-3

Library of Congress Number: 2003099747

Based on a collection of true stories, *The Shadow Spirit* blends fact and fiction to tell the adventures of Air Force pilot Paul Knight, who flies Special Operations AC-119 Stinger gunships and Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers against Communist aggression in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Knight confronts death in combat situations and struggles with personal decisions that will impact his future. You will find out what happens to 1/Lt. Paul Knight, 1/Lt "Killer" Dameron, Marie-Laure, and Major Dick "The Prick" Mueller. You will meet many new AC-119 Stinger crewmen like FE Freddie Farkle, Gunners, Sgt. Mackey, Sgt. Sproul, A1C Scott, and IO, Sgt. H.T."give'm hell Harry Truman" Savage. Majors Carpenter, Franklin, Willingham are the navigator/sensor operators. Assigned to Delta Flight at NKP, they night hunt the enemy in the Barrel Roll, Steel Tiger, and the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Knight, Dameron, and a Stinger navigator receive orders for SAC. Flying G model BUFFs, the three former AC-119 gunship air commandos are really lucky. With the fighting spirit of Shadow and Stinger, they get to bomb Hanoi during Linebacker II.

For a review copy of *The Shadow Spirit* or an author interview, contact Elton Fletcher at 573-365-8916 or [umbra27@earthlink.net](mailto:umbra27@earthlink.net).



Available at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Borders.com, Xlibris.com (888-795-4274) or your local book store.

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**Contact: Bill Petrie**  
**7532 NW 129th St**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73142-2568**  
**Phone (405) 721-4490**  
**RetCMSgt@aol.com**

**THE FIRING CIRCLE**

**STINGER PATCH**



**SHADOW PATCHES**



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**FOUR FLAGS PATCH**



**Cambodia 100 Mission Patch (Shadow) & Stinger 100 Mission Patch (Laos)**  
**Note:** These are in limited quantity. More will be made if the demand calls for them.

Patches are all approximately 4x4

**Contact: Art Perry**  
 2 Dillingham Court  
 Greenville S.C. 29605  
 Phone 864-277-3577  
[APerry9567@aol.com](mailto:APerry9567@aol.com)

1 patch \$5 + Add 50 cents for 1 or 2 patches' and 75 cents for 3 or 4 patches, and \$1 for 5-6 patches.

**MISSION CD-ROMS**

**CD's** - \$20 per set  
 Dan McDuffie has done an outstanding job telescoping rare mission tapes from Stinger and Shadow sorties and burning them to a CD. (remember? those tapes had lots of pregnant pauses).



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**Shadow & Stinger Video**

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The tape contains video and still images from both the 17th & 18th Special Operations Squad-



**Contact:**

**Norm Evans**  
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 Ft Walton Beach FL 32547  
 Phone (850) 864-0923  
[normevans873@cox.net](mailto:normeans873@cox.net)  
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[ac119k@msn.com](mailto:ac119k@msn.com)

# The AC-119 Gunship Association

Hi AC-119 Gunship Brothers, Families & Friends, we would like to invite you to join or renew in our AC-119 Gunship Association, as a member, family member or an associate member. This Association was created for you, whether you were a Aircrew member or worked on the AC-119's on the ground. **We want you in our Association.**

Please note: there is no charge for surviving spouse's of members. Surviving spouse's of life members, become life members automatically. *Also, associate members are eligible only for annual membership.*

Annual dues are only \$20.00 or a lifetime membership for only \$119.00 (*available only to regular members*). Please make your check or money order to: THE **AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION** mail to:

**Jim Alvis, Secretary  
3110 Maqua Court  
Carmel IN 46033-4136**

**AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL**

Note: If you are renewing, it is not necessary to fill out all information, unless there are changes.

Please Print All Information

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Hereby renew or apply for membership in the AC-119 Gunship Association and agree to abide with the By-Laws of the Association.

My Date of birth is (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

I, or my Spouse (*no charge to surviving spouse's*) or Parent served in combat with (circle one) 71st SOS 17th SOS 18th SOS From \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

In (SEA) Southeast Asia as: (enter air or ground crew position) \_\_\_\_\_

Or I feel I am qualified to be an Associate Member (*eligible only for annual membership*) due to the following: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 for my annual membership or \$119.00 for a Lifetime membership. (*available only to regular members*).

"Make check or money order payable to the: **AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION** as a donation for annual or lifetime membership dues and mail to:

**Jim Alvis, Secretary  
3110 Maqua Court  
Carmel IN 46033-4136  
317-846-4130  
[shadow1969@indy.rr.com](mailto:shadow1969@indy.rr.com)**

# THE FIRING CIRCLE

## MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the existence and names of three U. S. Air Force units that served in Southeast Asia (SEA) as effective combat forces during the Vietnam War, known as the: 71st and 17th (Shadow) and 18th (Stinger) Special Operations Squadrons.

To revere the memories of our fellow military ground and aircrew members whose lives were sacrificed in service to the United States of America and to comfort their survivors.

To renew and promote camaraderie among individuals who served in SEA with Shadow and Stinger, and with other personnel who contributed to the establishment and support of gunship development and operations.

To promote reunions and to engage in other activities approved by the members that are consistent with the aim of promoting the general welfare and enjoyment of Association members and their families.  
To record, maintain, and preserve the history and details of Shadow and Stinger contributions in support of our Nation during the Vietnam War.

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION WEBSITE  
<http://www.ac-119gunships.com>

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION  
P O BOX 752  
FENTON MO 63026-0752

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