

**Firing
Circle**



**The AC-119 Gunship
Association**

President's Message (3-X-2017)

Greetings from NJ: This Firing Circle is all about our new website and Dayton Reunion. Yes, our 2017 reunion in Dayton is ready for you to sign up! And our new website will make it easy.

Hoping to see you and your families in Dayton, or at another Reunion down the line.
Stay well,
Mike Drzyzga, President

Here's a sample of what you'll find on the web under the "Reunion" header. It's called "Upcoming Reunion" & includes all the info you'll need about the Reunion.

Reunion XVIII – Dayton OH, Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2017

**The AC-119 Gunship
Association**



2017 Dayton AC-119 Gunship Reunion XVIII September 28 – October 1, 2017 in Fairborn Ohio

Telling Our AC-119 Gunship Story



Join us at the birthplace of aviation & the Air Force's gunship program. We'll have dinner "Under the Wings" at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. If you haven't been to the museum recently, you haven't seen the 4th hanger which opened in June 2016. Lots of new exhibits & themes under the main roof, including renovated Southeast Asia displays with expanded information on the gunships.

Hotel & Room Reservations - Holiday Inn Fairborn/Dayton

2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn OH 45324
1-937-426-7800

This full service hotel is a short drive from the NMUSAF with quick easy access to shopping (Fairfield Commons & the Greene), dining, & major travel routes (Exit 17 on I-675). They finished a major renovation in the summer of 2016. Hotel features include:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Free High-Speed Internet | Smoke free facility | Free, accessible self-parking |
| Indoor pool & fitness facility | Business Center | Technology Help Desk |
| Wireless Internet access in public areas | | Complimentary Breakfasts |

Room Rates: \$107 plus tax ~12.75% per night. **Please remember Hotel Reservations are not part of the Reunion Registration. Hotel room reservations are your responsibility. You must contact the hotel separately.** To make your hotel reservation, call the Holiday Inn direct 1-937-426-7800 & **be sure to tell them you are attending the AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion. You must make your room reservations by September 7, 2017 to guarantee the Reunion rate.** Room features include:

- Coffee/Tea makers (Keurig) - LCD flat screen TVs - Wired high speed Internet access internet access
- Microwave & fridge in every room - Complimentary weekday newspapers

Additionally, reduced shuttle rates from/to the Dayton Airport for reunion attendees (\$30) are available. These reduced rates must be coordinated with the hotel when you reserve your room.

RVs & Campers: For those bringing your "home" with you, some options include:

- The WPAFB Famcamp <http://www.militarycampgrounds.us/ohio/wright-patterson-afb-bass-lake-famcamp> is about 15 minutes from the hotel & the same time from the NMUSAF.
- Dayton KOA <http://koa.com/campgrounds/dayton> ~ 30 minutes
- Frontier Campground <http://www.frontiercamping.com> ~ 30 minutes
- Greene County Fairgrounds – ~ 25 minutes. Contact: Esther Pierson estherpierson@gmail.com

Reunion Registration

After making your **hotel** reservation, complete your **online Reunion** registration by clicking on "Register For Reunion" at: <https://www.ac119gunships.com/reunion/upcoming-reunion/>

NOTE: print your registration after you complete it. You can pay online with PayPal or Credit Card.

If you do not register online, print the Reunion Registration from the Newsletter, fill-in & mail it with a check payable to AC-119 Gunship Association to Doug Wohlgamuth, 504 Shea Place, Sun City Center, FL 33573

Completing either of the above actions registers you for the **Reunion**.

Reunion Registration Cut off is 26 August 2017. Cancellations made on or before 26 August 2017 can receive a refund or you can make a donation as requested.

Reunion Registration cancellations after 26 August 2017, we have to pay hotel "guarantees", so no refunds (but talk to us if there are special circumstances like family emergencies or losses).

If you plan to participate in the **Tours**, you must complete & mail a **separate** tour registration form with check payment for each tour as noted below.

Note on Shirts: We phased out Reunion "T-Shirts". We suggest Golf Style "Association" shirts with or without pocket. Order yours today on our Quartermaster web page or contact Gus Sininger at <https://www.ac119gunships.com/presidents-page/association-board-poc-committee-info/>

Reunion Agenda

Thursday, 28 September

0900 Reunion Registration opens

1200: Hootch Bar Holiday Inn – Challenger/Discovery Room

- Sodas, beer, snacks **FREE** to reunion attendees (*closed during Meet & Greet, Banquet, & BBQ*)

1700: Holiday Inn Welcome Reception Hosted by Holiday Inn – Challenger/Discovery Room

Friday, 29 September Restoration Tours at NMUSAF NOTE: registration for the Restoration Tour is separate from Reunion registration. You must print, fill-in, & mail a separate completed form with payment check to Ron Julian (NMUSAF Tour), 4919 Appaloosa Trail, Fairborn, OH 45324. Print the form from the Newsletter or click on this link to access the form: <https://www.ac119gunships.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2017-Friday-Restoration-Tour-Registration.pdf>

The National Museum of the Air Force arranged special tours for 100 of our folks. We have two identical tours of 50 folks each to get a "behind the scenes"

How do I get the web & pdf links to work? Where do those pdfs need to "reside" to be accessible?

look at the aircraft refurbishment process. For those who sign up for the NMUSAF tours when they register for the reunion, you will receive a confirmation letter from Ron Julian. While the tour is free, there is a \$7.50 per person charge for the bus transportation from the hotel to the Restoration Hangar & return. Folks who register early for the tour will have first shot at the restoration tour slots (you will be assigned to a tour based on the order of your sign ups). You visit an on-base hanger where the museum refurbishes & restores airplanes, missiles, & other items.

You must have a Driver's license to go on this tour (secure access to the base) Military ID is not accepted.

0900 - 1000 Restoration Tour #1 at NMUSAF – Bus departs at 0830 from Holiday Inn

1015 - 1115 Restoration Tour #2 at NMUSAF – Bus departs at 0945 from Holiday Inn

1330 - Memorial Service at the NMUSAF for the new AC-119 Gunship Association Memorial Bench.

We have arranged for a 56-passenger bus from the Holiday Inn to the Memorial site for those who may need a little extra assistance. Bus loads at 1245 at the Holiday Inn and departs promptly at 1300

1730 - Meet & Greet – Holiday Inn (Wright/Patterson Room)

1800 - Dinner– Holiday Inn (Wright/Patterson Room)

- Slow roasted Prime Rib, garlic roasted red skin potatoes, & Garden Salad w/ assorted dressings
- Seared Salmon fillet w/ lemon dill sauce, Wild rice pilaf, & Mixed green salad
- Roasted Chicken Breast, garlic roasted red skin potatoes or rice pilaf, & Garden Salad w/ assorted dressings
- All entrees include Fresh vegetable medley, Rolls or bread w/ butter, Dessert, & Coffee, Decaf, or Tea
- Kids option: Chicken Tenders with French Fries, Applesauce, & Milk **NOTE:** age 5 or under, same but Free

Saturday, 30 September

0900 - 1100– Business Meeting - (Amphitheatre)

0900 - 1100 – Ladies Business Meeting (Kittyhawk Room)

1730 - Museum opens for the banquet

1830 - Banquet Dinner – Under the Wings at the NMUSAF

- Center-Cut Ribeye
- Slash & Burn Grouper
- Chicken Saltimbocca Roulade
- Kid's (under 12) Chicken Saltimbocca Roulade

Sunday, 1 October

Time TBD – Golf Outing at Twin Base Golf Course

0830 - Tour of Wright Memorial Hill & Carillon Historical Park. NOTE: registration for this Historical Tour is separate from Reunion registration. Click on this link to access the form: <https://www.ac119gunships.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2017-Sunday-Tour-Registration.pdf>

You will travel to The Wright Hill Memorial site south of Wright Patt AFB. From the overlook vista, you see Huffman Prairie where Orville & Wilbur developed the first practical airplane. We will meet with a Park Ranger and tour the visitor's center. We then travel to Carillon Historical Park for an afternoon's exposure to the innovative contributions to our country's industrialization might from 1796 to present. You see the world's most complete collection of cash registers, learn about the "Barn Gang" & their impact on the fledgling auto industry in the early 1900s & to our budding military aviation. For those who sign up for the Historical tour when they register for the reunion, you will receive a confirmation letter from Ron Julian. There is a \$20 per person charge. Folks who register early for the tour will have first shot at the historical tour slots

1730 - Farewell Gathering – Holiday Inn Ballroom (Menu: Buffet)

- BBQ ribs & Grilled Chicken w/ mushroom sauce
- Red skin potatoes, Garlic mashed potatoes, & Rice pilaf
- Fresh Vegetable medley
- Rolls & butter
- Assorted Cake & Pies
- Coffee, decaf, & tea

NOTE: For special dietary needs, contact Ron Julian ASAP, 937-546-3219 AC.119.2017@gmail.com

We will update the web site with more details. The important thing right now is to get the following done:

1. Hotel & Reunion Registration
2. Friday NMUSAF Restoration Tour and / or Sunday Wright Memorial/Carillon Tour Registration

How do I get the web & pdf links to work? Where do those pdfs need to "reside" to be accessible?

Things to see & Do in Dayton& Fairborn!

- [National Museum of the United States Air Force](#) 1100 Spaatz St, Dayton, OH 45431
- [Map from Hotel to NMUSAF](#)
- [Map from Hotel to Fairfield Commons \(shopping\)](#)
- [Map from Hotel to The Greene \(shopping\)](#)
- [Map to selected restaurants](#)
- [Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

Reunion Planning Team: Ron Julian 937-546-3219 AC.119.2017@gmail.com or via this contact link:

<https://www.ac119gunships.com/presidents-page/association-board-poc-committee-info/>

Jim Alvis Vern Hanson Al Heuss Rogers Stevens

MORE about the Association's New Web Site

The new web site is ready for you! Thanks go to everyone involved & we welcome Cindy Etherton (daughter of our own Bruce Muller, Life Member & AC-119 Crew Chief) as our new Webmaster. Wayne Laessig will assist her, with Ron Julian handling our database (what we used to call our Master Contact List), and with Gus Sininger as our Quartermaster, assisted by Lee Wolf. Quite a Team!

We cannot thank Bill Petrie enough for ALL the dedicated years he gave us as our original Web developer & Webmaster; but here goes – THANK YOU, CHIEF!!!!

There's lots to see & use on the web. To start, it's linked to a database that makes updating Association information much easier, and less prone to input errors. It has online access to Board & Committee members, online Reunion Registration, online Merchandise, & TONS of historical info, personal stories, & Association history (yep, you can see info from EVERY Reunion we've held). Wayne Laessig will happily (now that the web is up) show anyone at the Dayton Reunion how to best use everything in our new web's site functions and content, and answer question.



So....., how do you use the dang thing?!?

Well, to start with, go to <https://www.ac119gunships.com> & start clicking away! To help you, the next pages are something you can print (please, read that as "PRINT IT, butthead!" respectfully, your web development team). We'll start with "How to get Reunion Info & do all the registering needed to have a Hotel Room, complete the Reunion Registration, & sign up for either (or both) of the Reunion Tours.

Yep, you read that correctly; there ARE three things you'll need to do to accomplish that.

Credit Cards are "processed" thru PayPal. The payment options are:

1. Pay thru your PayPal account directly as a PayPal Member, or join PayPal to do that
2. Pay thru PayPal directly, as a Guest
3. Pay using your Credit Card "via" PayPal
4. Pay via a Check sent by snail mail.

Once you select "Pay Now" you're directed to the **PayPal site's script**, so we'll put an explanation in our "Intro" so folks understand. I'll add something like this:

For payments, when you select "Pay Now" you'll be directed to a PayPal page, where you can:

1. Pay thru your PayPal account directly as a PayPal Member, or join PayPal to do that;
2. Pay thru PayPal directly, as a Guest. NOTE: PayPal likes to "market" themselves but you do NOT need to have or use a PayPal account;
3. Pay using your Credit Card. NOTE: PayPal "processes" those payments for the Association but your actual payment is through your Credit Card. Ignore everything except the Credit Card option PayPal likes to "market" themselves but you do NOT need to have or use a PayPal account;

4. Pay by Check that you will need to send by snail mail. NOTE: we respectfully discourage this option because it bypasses all the automated registration reports that the Reunion Coordinator uses to manage the Reunion numbers.

**So....., you showed me how to Register for the Reunion & get a Hotel Reservation.
So, what else can I do / find in the website?!**

Starting at the beginning (finally) THIS is the Home Page you'll see first when you click on our website link at <https://www.ac119gunships.com>
(Once you open the site, you can save it as an internet "Favorite" on your computer.

NOTICE the 6 main topic "Headers" after the Home Page.

The screenshot shows the website's header area with the title "Home of the 71st, 17th, and 18th AC-119 Special Operations Squadrons". Below the title are three circular logos for the 71st SOS, 17th SOS, and 18th SOS, each with a corresponding aircraft image. The 71st SOS logo includes the text "71st SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON" and "1968 GLORIA ADSEQUEMUR OPEN". The 17th SOS logo includes "17th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQ." and "SHADOW DENY HIM THE DARK". The 18th SOS logo includes "STINGER" and "VENGEANCE BY NIGHT". At the bottom is a dark navigation bar with the following links: Home, President's Page, Membership & Contact Info, Reunion, Quartermaster's Corner, Mail Call/FaceBook, and History/References. Two red arrows originate from the word "Headers" in the text above and point to the "Home" and "History/References" links in the navigation bar.

Welcome to the AC-119 Gunship Association's Website!

Dedicated to all who maintained, flew, & supported AC-119G "Shadow" & AC-119K "Stinger" gunships during the Vietnam War.

Home of the 71st, 17th, & 18th Special Operations Squadrons & personnel who served in AC-119s.



Quick Links

- [What's New](#)
- [Mail Call/FaceBook](#)
- [Membership Criteria & Application](#)
- [Store](#)

Reunion Registration

Sep
28

[2017 Dayton AC-119 Gunship Reunion XVIII ...](#)

Why We Exist:

- To preserve our fixed-wing gunship heritage & history;
- To remember our fallen & to keep lit the flames of our camaraderie;
- To educate historians & the public about the mission, aircrew, groundcrew, & others associated with the AC-119 gunships.

If you were assigned to, attached to, or supported the 71st, 17th, or 18th Special Operations Squadrons or their AC-119 gunship missions in any way, you are eligible to join the AC-119 Gunship Association.

YOU.....yes, YOU!

If you change your Email, Phone Number, or Address - NOTIFY your POC!! How do I do that you ask? Go to the Presidents Web Page in the Headers above & select the Association Board, POC, & Committee Info from the pulldowns. From there you can select your POC & send your new info to them :>)

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This is the Official Web Site of the AC-119 Gunship Association. It is not an official website of the United States Air Force. The Association's Historical Depository of Preference is The Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University.

AC-119 FaceBook Link

Error: Not a valid Facebook Page url.

**The 6 Headers above have ADDITIONAL info under each Header!
So, what's in each topic's header?**