

## AC-119 Association Notes from the President

We dodged another one! Hurricane Dennis was powerful but fortunately, it moved through rapidly and didn't do the same level of damage as Ivan. Gus was without power for a while and he has plenty on his plate at work trying to get things back to normal. Still, he and Norm have stayed on top of things and they promise AC-119 Gunship Reunion VI to be great! Just to recap the planned events. Friday evening at the welcome get together we will have a professional photographer taking squadron pictures and if we have enough, we will include some crew pictures too. **Please try and be there by 5pm so we can get you and your guest in the photos.** We also encourage folks to wear flight suits and or party suits if you can still get them on.

On Saturday, while we are in the annual membership meeting, the hotel will set an area up so the women can have a breakfast/brunch while we are conducting business. Following the meeting, we will have a memorial service and dedication of the AC-119K Stinger Memorial in the Hurlburt Air Park. We will be honored to have some special guests with us who are family members of those we lost while in SEA. **SPECIAL REQUEST - DUE TO SECURITY AT THE GATE \_ PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE REUNION EARLY. WE NEED TO TURN IN THE LIST TO HURLBURT SECURITY NLT 16 SEPTEMBER.** Back at the hotel, we will continue gathering member inputs for our history project. Saturday evening's banquet will be special with Brigadier General Heine Alderholt (ret), Father of the Air Commandos, as our guest speaker at the Elk's Club.

Sunday afternoon we'll have our Farewell Party at the poolside, but the earlier Sunday will be an open day for you to spend as you desire with golfing, fishing or whatever else you wish to do while in sunny Florida. There will be a VA briefing in the afternoon that will focus on Vietnam era vets. We hope to scan as many pictures into our computer so please try and bring some of the pictures from your days in SEA that you wouldn't mind sharing with others. As I said, lots of work is being accomplished by a few to make Reunion VI special. I hope you can join us as I know you will have a terrific time.

Early in the preparation for this year's reunion, we asked each of you to complete a survey. That survey was extremely important as it was your voice to assist the board in carrying out our business. Unfortunately, we had very little response. Based on what we had and the issues we face, we needed to make an early decision on where reunion 2006 will be held. We are going west to Albuquerque! Steve MacIsaac has agreed to take the lead and make it special. This news may get some of your backs up but the simple fact remains, we needed to get something rolling now for a successful 2006 reunion and we acted based on the inputs we had. There are numerous factors that affected our board considerations in making this decision and it wasn't treated lightly. The bottom line is that you elected us to steer this organization and act on your behalf. We are doing just that.

This year's membership meeting will be full of issues that need your input. For a start, we will be voting on where we plan on going in 2007. Over the years we've learned that we need to plan our reunions two years in advance; we need to address that and make it happen. There are other large issues that we need to discuss and get your input on during the meeting aside from electing the officers for 2006 season. I will do my best to provide read ahead of those issues with your membership packet so that we can try and cover all the issues in the one meeting.

This will be the last newsletter going out to you before the reunion. Bill will continue to add new reunion relevant information as it come available and I plan on adding another letter to the members which Bill will put on the web site. Take care and I'll see you at the Hootch.

Craig Corbett,