

From 2005 Newsletter Volume IV Issue 2

Notes from the President

On May 20, 2005, the 71st 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 17th, 18th and 71st SOS squadrons all serving with the USAF. As with missions and airframes, the patches have all made changes as well.

Here is the new 71st 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 Sininger 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.

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

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