



Firing Circle

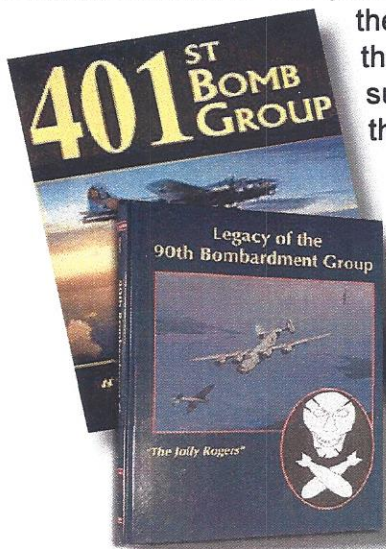
First Quarter 2007

A Newsletter of the AC-119 Gunship Association

History Book Project Honors AC-119 Squadrons & Personnel

Telling your Story—Maintaining our History

The AC-119 Gunship Association has undertaken a major project to publish a history book about the AC-119 gunship squadrons and the men who served these squadrons and support units during the Vietnam War.



Photographs Histories of the 71st, 17th, and 18th Special Operations Squadrons and personal biographies along with Vietnam-era and recent photographs of personnel will be

the heart of the publication. War stories will be included along with selected snapshots.

Shadows, Stingers! and Support Units we Need Your Input. We want and need your

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Reunion VIII 2007 To Be A Blockbuster!

Sandestin, Florida, just down the road from Ft. Walton Beach, will be quite a site October 5-7, 2007 as personnel from all U.S. Air Force fixed-wing gunship units, past and present, band together for a first ever Combined Fixed-Wing Gunship Reunion.

This year's reunion theme is: **1st Fixed Wing Gunship Reunion** with all AC-47, AC-119, and AC-130 Aircrew, maintenance and support staff, and their families being invited to get together for a mass reunion.


Shadows & Stingers will once again have the opportunity to reunite with some of the Air Force's finest gunship crews and maintenance staff and their families. It will also be a time to meet old friends from the AC-47 and AC-130 gunship units and make new friends as well.

Reunion Coordinators for the AC-119 portion of the reunion are: **Gus Slinger** and **Norm Evans**. For AC-130 information visit their website at www.spectre-association.org/

Keep an eye on your AC-119 website www.ac-119gunships.com for updated information on the Reunion information page.

The agenda and More about Reunion VIII can be found on page 8.

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18th SOS Coordinator

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Association President-Elect Suffers Heart Attack

Our President-elect Ray Barradale suffered a heart attack while at the Albuquerque Reunion. He was stabilized and sent home for bypass surgery which went well. However, Ray developed complications that eventually resulted in surgery again to put in a defibrillator and pacemaker.

Bottom line...Ray is ok but will be in a recovery mode for a while. As a result, Ray decided that both his health and the Association's needs are best served by stepping down as President.

Per our by-laws Vern Hansen moves from Vice-President to President, with Ray and everyone's support. The Board also offered Ray an Honorary Vice-Presidency until next year's Reunion elections, and Ray accepted.

Please keep Ray in your thoughts and prayers – he told us his goal is to regain his health, and to attend and enjoy our Combined Gunship Reunion in Florida!

Ray asks that we all give Vern and your Association Board and Committees the support to keep the Association healthy and continuing to improve.

President's Corner

First, I want to wish Ray and his wife Susan the very best with a full and speedy recovery from his heart surgery. I look forward to seeing him at Reunion VIII.

As your new President, I think a bit of my Gunship background would be in order.

I began as the most senior co-pilot in the 18th SOS in 1969, and within a very short period before deployment of the aircraft to the theater, I was upgraded to AC. My crew was now commanded by the most junior AC in the unit. Our crew would be in the first group of AC-119Ks to depart for Vietnam.

We deployed from Lockbourne AFB, OH, on the 18th of October 1969 with five other AC-119Ks early in the morning, for what would be more than a year away from my family. I left behind a young family—a wife and son not year a year old (currently a Major in the USAF). This certainly is not an isolated story. Our route of flight was Lockbourne AFB, OH, to Malmstrom AFB, MT; McChord AFB, WA; Elmendorf AFB, AK; Adak NAS, AK; Midway Island; Wake Island; Andersen AFB, Guam; Clark AB, PI; and Phan Rang AB, RVN.

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We could not fly the standard Hamilton AFB, CA, to Hickam AFB, HI, route due to a ferry range problem caused by weight, drag and fuel capacity. My ferry crew consisted of part of our regularly assigned crew—Copilot Capt. Rick Rime, Navigator Capt. Al Meyer, Flight Engineer TSgt Bill Bacon, and Illuminator Operator SSgt Dick Havens.

We met Capt. Meyer at McChord—and we somehow made it all the way from Lockbourne via airways without a Navigator. (It took a waiver from TAC Headquarters to fly without a Navigator, even stateside.) After an air abort at McChord for a faulty gear indication, piggy backing with another AC-119K to Midway Island because of a failed Loran A, nine days at Midway for a blown Power Recovery Turbine, and a severe main landing gear shimmy at Clark, we arrived second among four Ks at Phan Rang AB, RVN, 22 days after leaving Lockbourne. Major Sternenbergh had beaten this group by several days, and Capt. Goodwin, the 6th and final member of the original deployment, arrived almost two months later (after the third and final group to deploy had already arrived.) His airplane looked like it had sustained major battle damage enroute as so much maintenance had been required to finally get there.


Goal: Promote the AC-119 legacy we have established by our presence in SEA—still unknown by most. Specifically that we were the second most deadly truck killer and the best fixed wing TIC weapon system in theater at the time we were there. (Considering time on station, we were a near equal truck killer to the much more capable AC-130A.)

Member Data Base: Our data base is continually growing through the hard work of our POC's for the 71st, 17th and 18th SOS. We still need your support to locate lost members, potential members, and family members who wish to join. I cannot stress enough the importance of your help to find these folks.

It is hard to believe that we are already coming up on our 8th reunion this year. The 7th was held in Albuquerque and was a great success. We now return to the Panhandle of Florida and a new experience. The **first combined fixed wing gunship reunion:** AC-47, AC-119, and AC-130 all in one place—at the same time. What a chance to show our spirit—our war stories are better than theirs. We flew across the fence. The AC-47 could not chase trucks effectively with only 7.62 guns and the AC-130s did not generally engage in TICs in Vietnam. We did both missions very effectively. Keep in mind that we will not give up our unit identity and will have our own hooch and business meeting. Nothing lost and much to gain. See you there.


Sincerely,
Vernon C. Hansen
President, AC-119 Gunship Association

New Squadron Coins Available

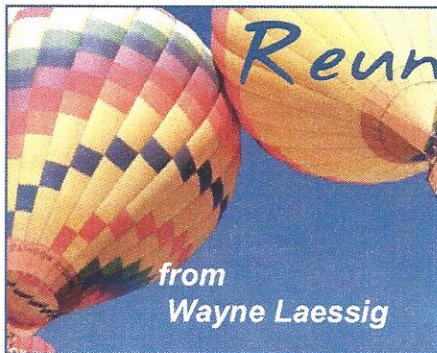


**71st and 17th
SOS Coins**

The new squadron coins are now available for a \$10 donation from Association Quartermaster Gus Slinger. To order your coin visit the Association's merchandise page on our web site at www.ac-119gunships.com/association/merchandise/merchandise.htm
Or, write to Gus at 206 Tooke Street,
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32547



18th SOS Coin



Reunion VII Wrap-up

Albuquerque was a fantastic reunion, with a huge thanks to our coordinator, **Mac Maclsaac**, for pulling it all together!

Col Tom Trask, Kirtland's 58th SOW Commander, and Lt Col Jim Cardoso and his troops from the re-activated 71st SOS, were a highlight, with static displays of all their Special Ops aircraft, lunch with the units' young warriors, and a fun and interesting "then and now" Banquet presentation by Lt Col Cardoso and our own **Col (Ret) Herman "Al" Heuss**, casino visits (some gave, some took), Sandia Peak tramway rides, a Santa Fe tour, one of the best "Hootches" we've ever had (big with lots of room to sit and visit), Squadron coins, and most important of all – getting together with old friends and making new ones.

This reunion definitely helped expand the awareness of "who we are and what we did" – **Pete St Jean, Mac Maclsaac**, and **Al Heuss** were guests at the 58th SOW's annual Special Operations Forces (SOF) gathering where hundreds of today's Special Ops troops heard from our generation of Special Operators along with a full day of briefings, presentations, and tours. Pete, Mac, and Al did a superb job

representing us! Today's Special Operators now know more about their heritage as well as about us and our AC-119 mission and experiences! If you weren't there, you missed out on a helluva Reunion and we missed you!

We were again honored to have several family members of brothers we lost in SEA as our special guests for the weekend. They met the men who flew with their father or husband; men who had never forgotten their loved one, men who never stopped honoring them. **Jim Terry**, thank you for all your efforts in continuing to reach out to our extended family!

We had another good year! Dedicated volunteers kept us going and deserve your "thank you" when you get a chance: **Vern Hansen, Jim Alvis, Doug Wohlgamuth, Rogers Stevens, Craig Corbett, Mac Maclsaac, Gus Sininger, Bill Petrie, Larry "Fletch" Fletcher, Ralph Lefarth, Ev Sprous, Chuck James, Norm Evans, Jim Terry, Bud Buchanon, and Ron Julian** – *none of it happened without them. Thank you!*

So what could be left for 2007? Well, there are a few things. It culminates with a Joint Fixed-Wing Gunship Reunion in Sandestin, Florida from October 5th through the 7th. We'll still have our AC-119 get-togethers and all, but for the first time ever, all three fixed-wing gunships will have

a Reunion at the same place, same time – AC-47s, AC-119s, and AC-130s. Spookys, Shadows, Stingers, and Spectres all at one time will be fun. And yes, we definitely will maintain our AC-119 focus, activities, and history at that reunion. It's a chance to find our common ground and how we might work together in the future. We will have one "joint" meeting but the rest will still be focused on us. **Gus Sininger** and **Norm Evans** are working with the other Gunship groups to bring it all together and the sign-up will be available on the web shortly. So save the reunion dates October 5-7, 2007.

In 2008 our Reunion will be in Branson, Missouri! The vote was close (the guys from the Travis AFB area's "Breakfast Gang" still want another revote) but Branson is the location for our 2008 Reunion with tons of fun things to do! **Jerry McDonald is our Branson Reunion Coordinator.** For those who might want to volunteer to coordinate a reunion in their area, we'll clarify the process for identifying and deciding reunion locations, post guidelines on the web, as well as send everyone some info through your Association Coordinators. The Travis area "Breakfast Gang" Will bring a proposal to the next reunion for another shot at a California Reunion in 2009 so hang in there if you voted for that!

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Reunion Wrap-up
(Continued from previous page)

Our History Book project, led by Larry Fletcher, keeps moving forward. Be sure to read all about it in this issue of the newsletter. You can also expect a contact from him or one of his troops, or from your Association Coordinator (there's one for each Squadron and our Maintenance/Support folks) to help us communicate with you as well as contact and find lost and prospective new members.

We still have hundreds of brothers we haven't made contact with, including the huge number of maintainers and others who kept us flying. Our goal in both our History Book project and Coordinator contacts is to get as many as we can to join us to do the three things we exist for:

1. Renew old friendships
2. Make new friendships
3. Let the world know – we existed. We flew and maintained AC-119 gunships and we were damn good.

So, from your 2006 Prez, it was an honor to serve, and I hope to see you in Florida come October!

History Book Project
(Continued from page 1)

biography in the History Book especially your Special Operations Squadron or Support Unit experience along with your Vietnam-era photograph and a recent (within 10 or 15 years) photograph.

Show pride in your military service by telling about places and dates of all your assignments along with awards and decorations.

**Do Not Be Humble
Writing Your Biography,
Be Proud!**

Write about some of your favorite Vietnam war stories during your tour flying, maintaining or supporting AC-119 gunships.

There is no limit to the length of biographies and/

or war stories. Don't worry about grammar and spelling. Corrections will be made free of charge.

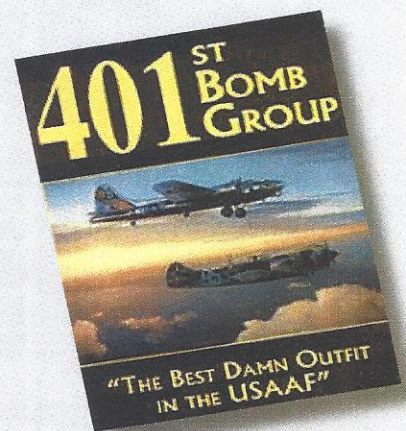
Submit your biography and war stories (*Microsoft Word documents if possible*) to **Larry Fletcher** at fletch12@charter.net or type-written via snail-mail at 606 Racquet Club Drive; Lake Ozark, MO 65049.

You can send your scanned pictures (jpg @ 300dpi) and slides to **Ralph Lefarth** at ralph-l@sbcglobal.net (*that's a lower case L, not number 1 in Ralph's address*) or via snail-mail at 5754 Birch Hollow Drive; St. Louis, MO 63129-4236.

If you snail-mail photographs or slides to Ralph and want them returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Write your name on the back of each photograph and each slide border (*Please, Do Not Use a ball point pen*).

If you have other photographs or slides from Vietnam that you think are history book-worthy, follow the same procedures.

Note: Shadow, Stinger and Support personnel who are not members of the Association are encouraged to submit a biography and picture for the AC-119 Gunship Squadrons History Book.



AC-119 Gunship Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday September 30, 2006
MCM Elegante Hotel, Albuquerque, NM

1. AC-119 Gunship Association President Wayne Laessig opened the annual meeting at 0910 hours with the Association membership's Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Association Chaplain Larry Hunter.

2. The minutes from last year's annual meeting were accepted and approved by the membership.

3. Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth gave the annual Treasurer's report. We had \$13,500 to operate on following last year's Reunion. Costs included mailings, web, Awards, T-Shirts, Coins, patches, pins, hats, etc. Reunion costs are expected to be close to break even this year—Hootch costs are a large factor. Expected dues, T-shirt, coins, and other merchandise sales, along with auction donations (71st, 17th, and 18th Squadron-numbered coins plus additional contributions are auctioned at the Banquet), should result in an expected operating account of \$12,000 for 2007. Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

4. Secretary Jim Alvis gave the membership report and statistics through September 23, 2006. There were 62 new members last year and 8 deceased. From 2002 through 2006 memberships increased as follows:

- **Life** – 50 in 2002 215 in 2006
- **Annual** – 152 in 2002 164 in 2006
- **Honorary** – 1 in 2002 18 in 2006

Secretary's report was accepted and approved.

5. Wayne went over the Association's By-laws for membership: *anyone directly involved with any aspect of AC-119s (including trainers, maintainers, other support folks, etc) can become a Regular Life or Annual member.* Anyone else who has any affiliation with AC-119 Gunships

(extended family members included) can become an Associate Life or Annual member.

6. Wayne discussed Newsletter and Point of Contact (POC) efforts this past year: close to 90% of members have emails; snail-mails cost \$600 (copies and postage) for 2 Newsletters and POC contact messages.

- Almost all 71st and 17th SOS in attendance were contacted at least once by their POC. Most of the 18th in attendance were contacted (the 18th list is double the size of the other two combined). Great work POCs **Jim Alvis (71st)**, **Chuck James (17th)**, and **Ev Sprous (18th)**.

- No Maintenance POC contacts were made. **Jim Terry** volunteered to be the Maintenance POC for next year (including all support personnel).

- *Jim Alvis emphasized the need to provide e-mail address updates.* E-mails are cost-effective and when we have to snail-mail to determine a "changed" e-mail address it costs the Association - not much cost for updating one-person's changed e-mail address, but cumulatively costly for us. Please, send e-mail or other address/phone changes to Jim Alvis, Secretary at 3110 Maqua Court, Carmel, IN 46033-4136 or shadow1969@indy.rr.com.

7. Mac discussed the Awards and Decorations area. Considerable information is available on the website – check it out first. Send in a polished product and you will likely have good results.

8. Wayne asked for a vote of confidence from the membership for the board to make common sense decisions about projects and expenditures for the good of the association. The vote was overwhelmingly positive.

9. History Project: Wayne emphasized the importance for AC-119 members to write and tell their story for inclusion into a history book and introduced **Larry Fletcher** – Larry volunteered one year ago to be the History Book Project

(Continued on next page)

(Meeting minutes continued)

coordinator, with **Ralph Lefarth** assisting on photographs.

- Larry only received 48 biographies (the Air Commando Association's history book had 165 biographies and that was not enough). Larry reiterated the need for bios. He will take care of editing the written biographies where necessary - there is no minimum length for the bio, which can include career info after your tour in Vietnam. It is best to provide too much info rather than too little. Bio input sheets were distributed and bio formats are on the AC-119 Gunship website.

- Send any photos to Ralph for processing - he can scan prints and slides for digitizing. Ralph needs to know who sends the photos and identification of the photo's individuals, dates, location, and situation.

Wayne then requested a vote of confidence from the membership to allow Larry Fletcher and the History Book Project team to proceed with the AC-119 History Book Project. The vote carried unanimously.

10. Historical items and memorabilia

"repository": On a related topic, Larry has accumulated a considerable amount of items donated from Association family members. Right now there is no permanent home for memorabilia and historical items such as photos, letters, and tapes. Such items need to be preserved for future generations. Larry suggested we need determine a suitable repository for such items, and identified the Vietnam Center in Lubbock, TX for consideration. Voice vote resulted in a positive response. We will determine details on Vietnam Center procedures, including a possible Association funded visit.

11. Reunion 2007: this Reunion is a joint reunion with the AC-47s and AC-130s. **Norm Evans (Co-Reunion Coordinator with Gus Sininger)** stated that *'joint' applies only to the banquet*. Each group will conduct their own special functions and activities. The biggest remaining decision is where to hold the banquet—that is

still being worked. Wayne asked for a vote of confidence from the membership to allow Gus and Norm to determine the best location for Reunion 2007 in the Ft. Walton Beach/Destin area. A vote of confidence was approved unanimously. (*Editors Note: The reunion is set for October 5-7 in Sandestin. See article on page 1*) Gus and Norm will represent the AC-119 Gunship Association for negotiations with the other two associations. AC-47 POC Donald Luke was introduced. He will work with us to expand the AC-47 contacts for the Joint Gunship Reunion.

12. Reunion 2008: Wayne opened the floor to reunion 2008 location proposals. The single most important criteria was for someone to step forward as the "Reunion Coordinator".

- **Wayne Laessig, Jim Terry, and Bill Zito** proposed a Reunion near Sacramento/Travis AFB at Fairfield, CA. Their proposal included Wayne as Reunion Coordinator with a team of three plus, a Hilton hotel proposal with all 3 Reunion events, Hootch, plus tour options in the Napa and San Francisco areas.

- **Jake Jaeckle** proposed a Reunion in Dallas, TX and offered to be the Reunion Coordinator. He provided location photos for Reunion Ranch and a presentation to the membership (no hotel or specific details).

- Several members then offered comments about the 'veteran friendly' environment at Branson, MO (no hotel or specific details). Wayne said the criteria included identification of a specific Reunion Coordinator and asked if there was anyone offering to be the **Branson Reunion Coordinator**. **Jerry McDonald** stated he would be the Reunion Coordinator if Branson was selected.

- No other proposals were offered so the three proposals were voted on: *Fairfield, CA—49; Branson, MO—60; Dallas, TX—7.*

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(Meeting minutes continued)

• **Reunion 2008 will be in Branson, MO.**

Note: due to the close vote, we later asked all participants at the Banquet for an input followed by a vote from only those with Regular memberships. The vote for Branson was clear and Branson was re-confirmed as the reunion 2008 location.

13. Association Board Nominations for 2007: Doug Wohlgamuth agreed to continue as Treasurer, Vern Hansen as Vice President, and Jim Alvis as Secretary.

Nominations were opened for President; several were nominated but declined and Ray Barradale volunteered. Ray was unanimously voted in as President. (See *President-Elect story on Page 2*). Wayne Laessig will fill the remaining Board position of Prior Board Member.

The Board and members reaffirmed Bill Petrie as Webmaster and Rogers Stevens as the Association Newsletter Editor.

Meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.

(Reunion continued from page 1)

1st Fixed Wing Gunship Reunion

October 5th–7th, 2007

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf & Resort Spa.

• **Reunion Room Rates** are \$139.00 + 11% Tax a night. Should you want to upgrade it is available.

• **Parking fee** \$6.00 a day (normally \$8.00). This is a secure area with Security Guards.

Hotel Registration/Reservation

Reservations must be made by no later than September 24th, 2007 by Calling the Hilton Sandestin at (1-800-367-1271). When you call be sure to use the three (3) digit code: FWG. You can also book on line at www.sandestinbeachhilton.com

You can also book to arrive as early as Oct 2nd, 2007 and stay as late as Oct 8th, 2007 at the group rate.

The above is your hotel reservation only. *Remember*, reunion registration and hotel reservations are separate...You must make your hotel reservation directly with the hotel. *Reunion registration forms will be posted shortly.*

Guest Speaker

This year's Guest Speaker is former POW and Medal of Honor recipient, *Colonel George E. "Bud" Day*, USAF ret.

AGENDA

Reunion Registration Fee \$15 per person (Non-refundable!)

A Hootch will be available Thursday through Sunday. No Charge for registered attendees.

Thursday – Oct 4th, 2007

5 p.m.– Beer/Soda

6:30 p.m. – Warm-up Party / Food, NC

Location to be announced. It will be at either the Eglin AFB Beach Club or the Hurlburt Picnic Grounds, off Hwy-98.

(Final site and map will be published prior to the reunion. No Charge to reunion attendees.)

Friday -- Oct 5th, 2007

5 p.m. – Mixer Registration/Check-in
– Hilton Sandestin

6 p.m. – Buffet & Music. \$20 each

Dress: Casual or Party Suit.

Music by Stormin Norman

Saturday – Oct 6th, 2007

8 a.m. – Membership Meeting for AC-119.

9 a.m. – Membership Meeting for AC-130
(Locations at the Hilton to be identified later.)

Saturday Afternoon

1 p.m. Memorial Services at the Hurlburt Field Air Park for all Gunshipers – AC-47, AC-130, AC-119.

Note: A static display is planned for a AC-130U/H after the service.

Saturday Evening

5 p.m. – Registration/Check-in – Hilton

5:30 p.m. – Happy Hour.

Dress: Semi-Formal or Party Suits (Party Suits are encouraged if you can still get into them.)

6:30 p.m. – Call to Seats

7 p.m. – Dinner \$45 per person

8:30 p.m. – Guest Speaker –
Former POW & Medal of Honor recipient
Colonel George E. (Bud) Day

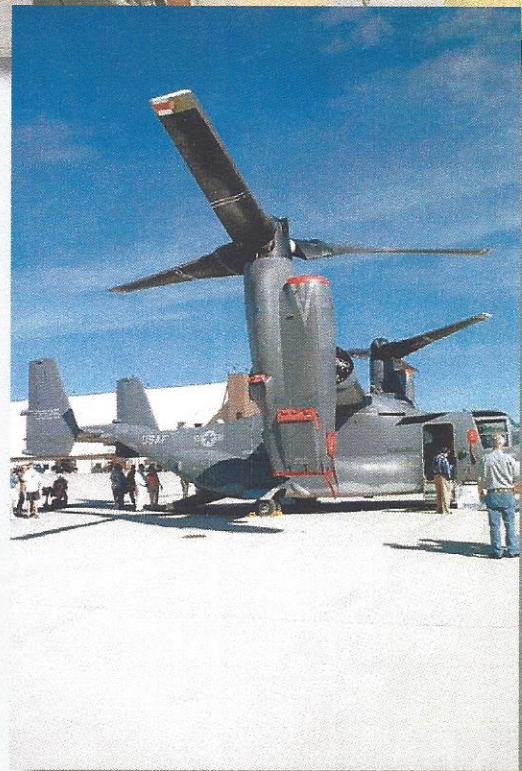
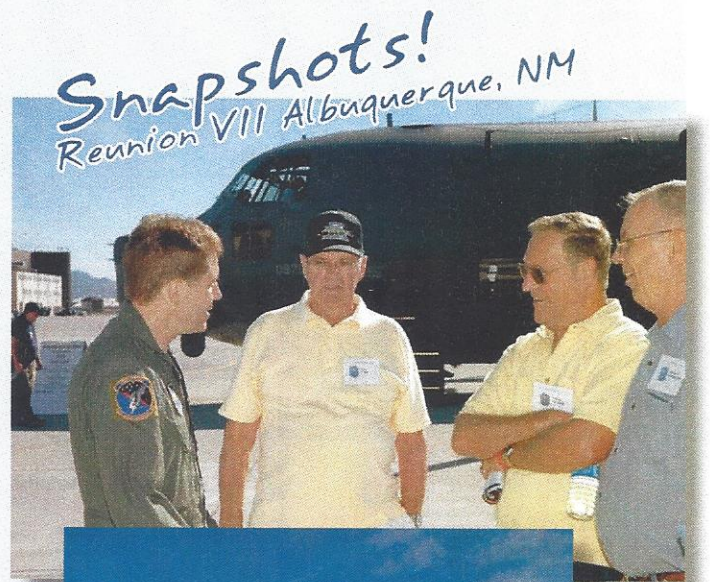
9:30 p.m. – Announcements and Music by
Stormin Norman

Sunday – Oct 7, 2007

9 a.m. – Golf (\$10 per person), Fishing Trip, or shopping

5 p.m. – BBQ, \$40 per person – Poolside,
Sandestin Hilton

Continue to watch the website for updates as we receive them. For those of you not connected to the Internet you may call reunion coordinators Gus Sininger at (850) 863-9649 or Norm Evans at (850) 864-0923.



A Fallen Hero

By George S. Carter

Recently I received an e-mail from a fellow member of the AC -119 Gunship Association informing me of the death, on September 9th 2006, of a fellow Viet Nam veteran. Bob Helmig and I were gunners on the AC-119K "Stinger" gunship. The cause of Bob's death, Multiple Myeloma...bone marrow cancer. The cause of his cancer...Agent Orange.

Members of the 18th Special Operations Squadron lived, worked, and played together.



Bob Helmig during his time with the 18th Special Operations Squadron

Because the 18th SOS was split among three operating locations, NKP Thailand, and Bien Hoa and Da Nang, Viet Nam Bob and I did not socialize much but we flew several combat missions together. We depended on each other, and fellow crew members, in

literal life and death situations. When

it came time to put the rubber-to-the-road, we all had the same common interest, get the mission accomplished—protect allied troops on the ground—kill trucks, sampans, and anything that carried munitions or supplies to enemy combatants... and make it back alive. We had a job to do and we did it extremely well.

After the cease fire took affect in January 1973, Bob was so good at his job that he was selected to train Vietnamese airmen to become AC 119K 'Stinger'gunners. A fitting tribute to his skill, dedication, and knowledge of gunship operations.

Bob was a hero in every sense of the word.

He was not drafted to become a gunner and fly on those rickety old aircraft. He was a volunteer and Bob took his job very seriously. History often repeats the anti-war sentiment in this country during the time of our service, but Bob cared less about the anti-war crowd and their beliefs. He had a higher calling, to fight for the right of the anti-war demagogues to express their personal opinions about him and his governments' participation in that war.

We were all very young and idealistic in those days and I have seen that same vigor, idealism, and patriotism in our young people as they continue to volunteer to serve their country, even though they may be placed in harms way. Bob would be proud of those young people as they carry on the heritage of service as he did over 33 years ago. They, like he, thumb their noses at the nay sayers and volunteer to give all if necessary for the preservation of our way of life.

Just the word "Cancer" is enough to strike fear in the strongest of people. I have not been in contact with Bob since we left Vietnam but I can imagine he tackled his disease with the same courage and tenacity he did as a gunner. He fought a heroic battle and lost. But his legacy will live on in future warriors.

If Bob could be here I am sure he would encourage all Vietnam veterans to make sure they get their names added to the Agent Orange Registry. It is very easy and does not take much time. If you spent one day on the ground in Vietnam you need to be tested. Make an appointment with your nearest VA medical center or clinic and tell them you want to be tested for Agent Orange exposure and placed on the Agent Orange Registry. Following is a link to the **VA's Agent Orange Frequently Asked Questions site**: www1.va.gov/agentorange/docs/B1AOBRIEF72003A.doc

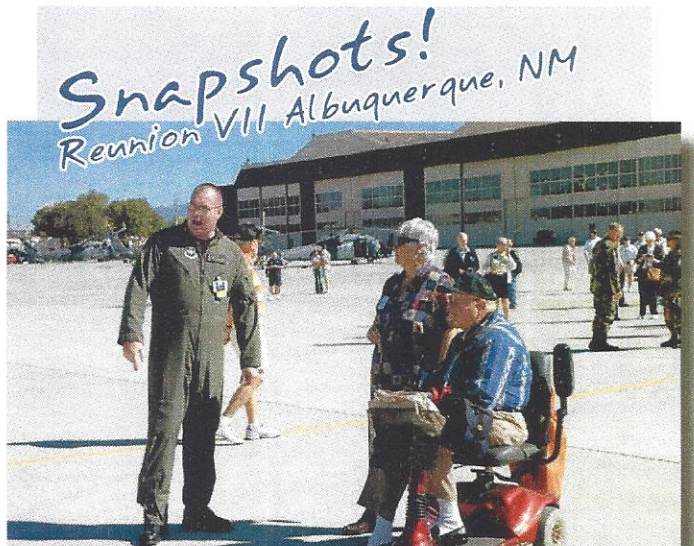
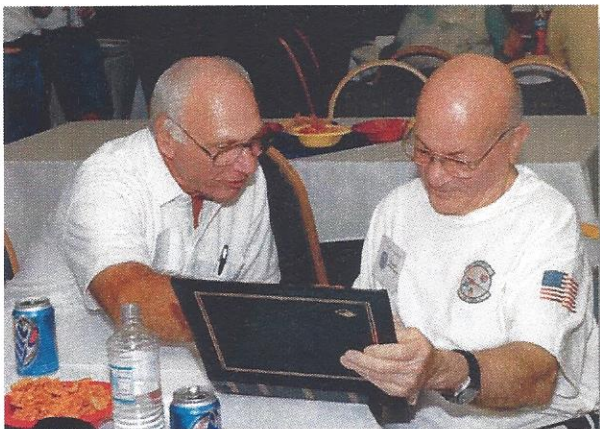
I suggest anyone interested use a search engine of choice and type in 'Agent Orange Registry' to become more educated about this killer. The following is extracted from the VA site regarding testing:

Veterans participating in this voluntary program, offered at all VA medical centers,

are given the following baseline laboratory studies: chest x-ray (if one has not been done within the past 6 months); complete blood count; blood chemistries and enzyme studies; and urinalysis. Particular attention is paid to the detection of chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, type 2 diabetes, soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, respiratory cancers, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukemia and peripheral neuropathy. Evidence is also sought concerning the following potentially relevant symptoms or conditions: altered sex drive; congenital deformities (birth defects, including spina bifida) among children; repeated infections; nervous system disorders; sterility; and difficulties in carrying pregnancies to term. Important note: A registry examination does not automatically lead to a disability claim, which must be filed separately if the veteran is seeking disability compensation. Veterans seeking compensation are not required to take a registry examination, and Vietnam veterans who have a registry examination are not required to seek compensation.

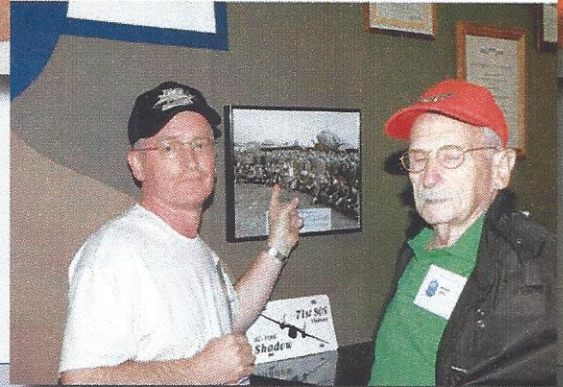
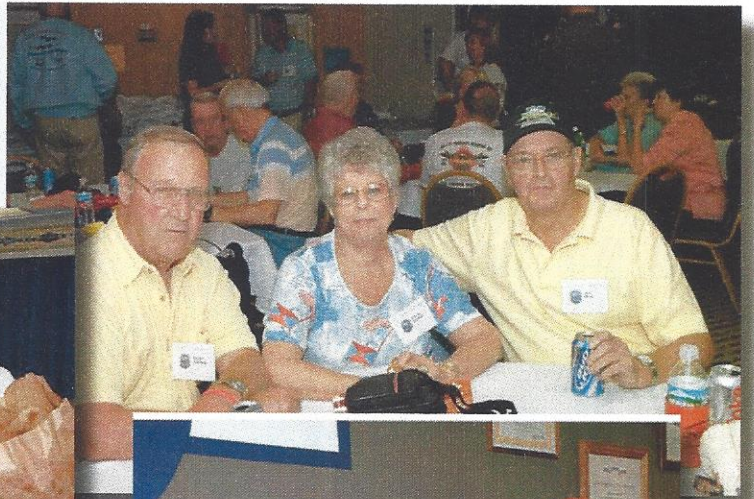
I am sure Bob, like all of us who served in the 18th SOS, are very proud of our service and if we had to do it over we would do it again in-a-heartbeat. Bob was a hero and a patriot and will be missed by his family and friends.

Retired Chief Master Sergeant George Carter was an AC-119K 'Stinger' Gunner from 1972-1973



Snapshots!

Reunion VII Albuquerque, NM



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