



THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

A message from our President

Fellow Gunshippers,

We are now within 60 days of the BEST EVER AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion V in Dayton, Ohio. This will be the last newsletter before Reunion V. I hope you have made your Hotel Room Reservations and sent in your Reunion Registration Form.

Reunion V T-shirts are being made at this time and the Order Form is posted on the Web Page and in this newsletter. There will be some unsold T-shirts at the reunion, but it will help if we can pre-sell them in advance and then deliver them at the reunion. You will be able to pick up your T-shirt order with your Registration Package when you check in for the reunion.

The Awards and Decorations Recovery Board has been formed, and I appreciate those Association Members who volunteered to assist in this program. If you believe you should have received an award, and for some reason the paperwork did not go through; this Board of Review will assist you in the preparation and filing of the required forms. Steve Mac Isaac will make a presentation about this program during the Annual Association Business Meeting. Then, for those Association members who wish to participate in the program, the Awards and Decorations Recovery Board will hold an informal workshop in the afternoon to guide you through the process you will need to do to receive consideration for the award. The Awards and Decorations Recovery Board will REVIEW your paperwork prior to filing the request with the Air Force; suggest any changes, if needed; and thereby try to improve your chance of receiving the Award you seek.

The History Project "Stories" are due!! Please have your story ready for the Reunion. Bob LaRosa and Wayne Laessig have organized the program to videotape as many of us as possible telling "our story" of the most rewarding, scary, exciting, etc. mission or event that occurred to us while we were assigned to the AC-119. This included EVERYONE, pilots, navigators, FE's, Gunners, IO's, and maintainers. We ALL have a remembrance; and at our age, we need to get them on videotape and in writing before they are "lost" forever.

ASSOCIATION NOMINATIONS – We must begin to prepare the nominations for the 2004-2005 Association Officers. If you have any aspirations about filling any of the slots in the Association Leadership, please make it known to one of the existing Association Officers. It will help if you have on-line capability to receive the e-mail messages concerning Association business. The net result of participation at this level is a continuing relationship with the fellow gunship members you were involved with 30 or more years ago.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your participation in the Association. Your direct efforts have made my job easier; but without your guidance, suggestions, and critiques of what was going on, I would have been bouncing around in the dark. As we all know from our experience in SEA, it took ALL of us to make the AC-119 Gunship work. The Association is the same way, it takes all of us working together to make the Association improve and to grow.

Again THANK YOU for your efforts, and I will see you in DAYTON!!

Rogers Stevens
President
AC-119 Gunship Association

See copies of the painting we are planning to donate to the Museum and read the story of the artist on page 8.



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 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 Membership 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.

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
3441 Astoria Ct
Fairfield CA 94533-2909
707-422-6774

Shadow70@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor/Membership

Everett Dale Sprous
3521 Salena
St Louis Mo 63118-4024
314-865-0920

everettsprous@sbcglobal.net

In order to save time & expenses, we will attempt to send the Newsletter to all members that we have email addresses for, to their email address. If for some reason a member can not download the Newsletter, or if we do not have an email address, we will send it by regular mail. If you wish back issues of the Newsletter, or have address changes, please contact:

Newsletter Editor/Membership

Everett Dale Sprous

3521 Salena

St Louis MO 63118-4024

314-865-0920

everettsprous@sbcglobal.net

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

REUNION V COORDINATOR

(Dayton) Oct 1, 2, 3, 2004

Ron Julian (AC-119)

1509 Justin Ct

Bellbrook OH 45305-1168

937-848-4064

takitus@email.com

REUNION VI COORDINATORS

(Ft Walton Beach)

Sept 30, Oct 1, 2, 2005

GUS SININGER

Gus Sininger

206 Tooke Street

Ft Walton Beach FL 32547

Phone (850) 863-9649

g.sininger@seii.net

&

Norm Evans

611 Center St #12

Ft Walton Beach FL 32547

Phone (850) 864-0923

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

Chaplain

Larry Hunter

115 Bayshore Ct

Ft Walton Bch FL 32548

850-244-0530

Lhunter@bsc.net

Chaplain

Leigh Norstrum

P O Box 6882

Abilene TX 79608-6882

915-795-1132

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rogac119@aol.com

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Alamogordo NM 88310

505-437-4040

la448@zianet.com

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RetCMSgt@aol.com

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Vacaville, CA 95687-4130

707-447-3548

qadvocate@sbcglobal.net

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Greetings to all you reunion-bound Gunshippers!!

We completed a cross check of the hotel reservation list with our reunion registration list and found **names with "hotel reservations" that do not have reunion registrations**. I wanted to remind everyone that you need to make reunion registrations with me **AND** make hotel reservations directly with the *Hope Hotel* if you plan to stay there. *These are two separate actions*. If you have a hotel reservation AND HAVE NOT registered for the reunion, please jump over to the Reunion Registration page, complete the registration form, and drop it (along with your check) in the mail to me. If you have a question or a special situation, drop me a line.

Also, please consider volunteering to help at the reunion. If you can do so, drop me a line.

Ron Julian
takitus@email.com

Note: Room rates may increase on September 2

PLEASE NOTE: The AC-119 Gunship Association is officially exempt from federal income tax under IRS Code 501 c (19), as stated and approved in Internal Revenue Service Letter dated 02 Jan 2002. Association Officers have copies of the letter. What this means to you is that your dues and any other donations to the Association, are tax deductible.

From Jim Terry on finding families of our KIA

I have been in contact with the families that attended our past reunion and Bob Knapic and Dewight Fage said they are planning on attending in Dayton. I have also contacted Lt Thomas Lubbers Family and his two sisters and sister-in-law said they plan on attending in Dayton. I have talked to Jeffery Alloway and he wants to attend but with his job he can't make plans at this time. I have also been in email contact with Kirstin Giroux the daughter of Capt. Thomas Hamman. She lives in Hawaii and wants to be involved with the Association but she said it may be a little difficult to get there from Hawaii. I am still working on contacting more of the families but it does take time.

US Air Force Museum Seeks Donations of AC-119 Material

The US Air Force Museum is in the process of recreating the exhibits in the Southeast Asia War Gallery following the major facility expansion and the massive reshuffling of the aircraft collection last year. Concurrently, the USAF Museum also desires to enhance the artifact and archival collection related to this time period—not only to fill the exhibit cases, but also to help build the study collection. You can help the USAF Museum preserve your legacy by donating photographs, documents, and artifacts, which include (but are not limited to) flight gear, souvenirs, and patches, to name a few.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff Duford, a research historian who is working on the Southeast Asia Gallery and who will be speaking to us at the reunion, at (937) 255-4644 x739 or Jeff.Duford@wpafb.af.mil.

AC-119 Awards & Decorations Recovery Program

The current AC-119 Association Leadership has blessed the forming of an association board whose sole purpose will be to help AC-119 Association Members in their quest to set their Military Records correct with respect to 'lost'/'missing'/'expected' Awards & Decorations for their service in combat during their tour in SouthEast Asia.

The Association will appoint a Review Board of experienced AC-119 personnel, including Maintenance, who will review/assist an Association Member who requests help/support.

In the future (post next REUNION) there will be a section on the AC-119 Association Website where a member can/should go to get help/advice....and to ask other Members for supporting documents.

At AC-119 Association REUNION V, there will be a very short 'pitch' on the program by 'Mac' Mac Isaac, an 'off-line' work-shop for those with immediate questions, and a "GUNSHIP CHECKLIST" for those who want to 'start' the process. - Much more in OCT - Cheers - Mac

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Colonel Ronald W. Terry to be Guest Speaker at Reunion V

Colonel Ronald W. Terry, USAF, Ret., the father of the Air Force Fixed-wing gunship, began his Air Force career as an Aviation Cadet with the Air Training Command in 1952.

From 1954 –1963, Colonel Terry served in various capacities that included fighter pilot, personnel officer, Air Force Institute of Technology student, member of a Joint Task Force nuclear test, and Aide-de-Camp to the Commander of the Aeronautical System Division.

As a Project pilot in 1964, he personally led the conceptualization, design, development, and combat evaluation of the AC-47 gunship. From 1966 - 1973, Colonel Terry was the Director of the AC-130A/E/H and AC-119G/K gunship development programs. After finishing the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1974, he completed numerous senior director assignments with the Air Force Systems Command. In 1978, he assumed the command of the Air Force Human Resources Laboratory and remained its commander until his retirement in 1983. He has been the President and CEO of CDRI, Inc since 1983.

Colonel Terry holds a Bachelor of Science (Cum Laude) from Indiana University and is a Distinguished Graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He is a recipient of the *Harvey C. Knowles Award* from the American Ordinance Association and was the first recipient of the Air Force *Harold Brown Award*, which is presented annually to the one individual who is judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to Air Force Research and Development during that year.

While in the Air Force, Col. Terry was awarded the:
Distinguished Service Medal
Legion of Merit with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Distinguished Flying Cross with One Oak Leaf Cluster,
Bronze Star
Air Medal with 9 Oak Leaf Clusters
Vietnam Service Medal with 9 Battle Stars, and numerous other awards and decorations.



Reunion Weekend Agenda

FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 2004

6 P.M.-8:30 P.M.

Welcome Social, Hope Hotel Ballroom,
Casual dress/party suit. \$23, Heavy Hors D'oeuvres with carving station & Salad station. Cash bar.

SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 2004

8 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Membership Meeting Hope Hotel

11:30 A.M.

AF Museum and other attractions.

Saturday Evening, OCT. 2, 2004

5:30 P.M. - 6 P.M. estimated.

Memorial Service At the Air Force Museum

6 P.M.- 10 P.M.

Under the Wings Dinner

Air Force Museum Modern Flight Hanger

Coat & Tie/Party Suit

(\$35) Buffet (steak AuPoivre & Chicken supreme w/ salad, veggies, tea/water)

A unique opportunity to dine among the airplanes.

• **Guest Speaker: Colonel Ron Terry, USAF, Ret.**

• **Special Presentation to Museum: AC-119 Gunship paintings**

SUNDAY, OCT 3, 2004

Golf@ Twin Base (WPAFB), \$10 entry fee (opt), plus green fees (req) \$24 to walk, \$35 to ride

6 P.M. - 11 P.M.

Farewell Buffet, Hope Hotel Ballroom

Casual Dress/Party Suit

\$27, cash bar

Buffet (Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, Beef Brisket & trimmings)



Hotel Registration & Room Rates

The Hope Hotel Will be the host for the 2004 Reunion. For Hotel Reservations you'll need to go to the Hope Hotel website at www.hopehotel.com and click on the registration link in the left hand navigation bar **OR...Write, Call, or FAX:**
Hope Hotel & Conference Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio 45433-5000
(937) 879-2696
FAX:(937) 878-8731
DSN: 787-1285

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Reunion Registration Form AC-119 Gunship Reunion V October 1, 2, & 3, 2004 Dayton OHIO

Where it all began.

Mail your Reunion registration to Ron Julian **TODAY!!!**

Reunion Registration Deadline: September 11, 2004

(Cost increases by \$5.00 per person per event on 12 September)

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 page along with your payment to:

Ron Julian (AC-119)

1509 Justin Ct

Bellbrook OH 45305-1168

Note: for those wanting to do a map quest:
The address is:
1100 Spaatz St 489 #B
Wright Ptrsn AFB, OH
45433-7102

If you haven't received a confirmation card within two weeks, call Ron @ 937-848-4064

Reunion Registration

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME: _____

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: (#____) Name(s) _____

We'll attend:

Welcoming Social, Friday, 1 October, 1800-2030 hrs, Hope Hotel Ballroom.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres with a carving station & salad station.

(\$23) Cash Bar. # attending _____ @ \$23 = \$ _____

Association Dinner, Saturday, 2 October,

1800-2200 hrs, **Air Force Museum Modern Flight Hanger**

Buffet (Steak AuPoivre & Chicken Supreme w/ salad, veggies, tea/water.)

(\$35) Cash Bar. # attending _____ @ \$35 = \$ _____

Golf Match Entry Fee (\$10) (trophies, prizes, etc) # golfers _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

Green Fees are based on rank and will be collected at the reunion.

Farewell Buffet, Sunday, 3 October, 1800-2300 hrs, Hope Hotel Ballroom

Buffet (Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, Beef Brisket, & the trimmings)

(\$27) Cash Bar. # attending _____ @ \$27 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL Reunion V, 2004 T- Shirt



Three styles:

- Short Sleeve t-shirt (SST) Long sleeve t-shirt (LST) Long sleeve Sweatshirt (LSW)
-

Colors: Light blue or ash Gray Light blue or ash Gray Light blue or ash Gray

Five Sizes: Small Medium Large X large XX large

PLEASE CIRCLE THE SIZE, COLOR & STYLE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER

To reserve your shirt before the reunion, *that's before September 15*, complete this order Form and send it along with your check (**Payable to "The AC-119 Gunship Association"**) @ \$20 per shirt, **to:**

Gus Sininger (T-Shirt), 206 Tooke Street, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32547-2651.

After September 15, send the order and check to:

Ron Julian (T-Shirts), 1509 Justin Ct, Bellbrook OH 45305-1168.

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

As long as quantities last, We will have your shirts ready when you arrive. If we run out of a particular size/style/color, you will have two Options:

(1) pick a different size/style/color **(2)** Place your order on a "post" reunion shipping List.

Use additional forms as necessary

Notes:

THE FIRING CIRCLE

MERCHADISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCOCIATION

T-Shirts

Association Reunion T-Shirts

The Reunion IV T's have the SEA map on the right sleeve and the US flag on the left sleeve.

T-Shirt colors are black only.

Order form below for AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion T-shirts

Or Contact:

Gus Sininger

206 Tooke Street

Ft Walton Beach FL 32547

Phone (850) 863-9649

g.sininger@seii.net

FRONT Reunion IV

BACK



New Association Golf Shirt \$27.00—these will be by special order through Gus.



Newly designed! Shadow and Stinger Hats -



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

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

Reunion IV T-Shirts (BLACK ONLY) \$20.00.

SIZE(S): _____ X's \$20.00 _____

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

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: _____

"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

THE FIRING CIRCLE

*Combat Aircraft Magazine, May 1998, (Vol. 1, No. 7)
(reproduced here with the permission of Combat Aircraft and Natalie Raccor)*

ART In Aviation by Natalie Raccor

Commemorating Military Aviation: The Work of Darby Perrin

Joining the US Air Force changed Darby Perrin's life. There he encountered for the first time the two elements that would come to dominate his work as an artist: *the magnificence of military aircraft and the courage of the pilots who risk their lives to fly them.* His ability to masterfully convey these two characteristics, and preserve the nobility of his subjects, has rightly earned him the respect of many aviation aficionados.

Growing up in the mountains of Colorado, Perrin was surrounded by nature's beauty and it quickly became the first source of inspiration for his paintings. In trying to capture his subjects, he soon discovered its drama was easy to find but not easy to produce. In time, he was to discover another strong new influence on his work, flying with the Air Force. He states: *"Flying translates directly into inspiration and stimulates imagination, both of which are critical for me to paint well."*

With a loan from a friend he produced his first lithograph while stationed at Eielson AFB, Alaska and quickly found success. He sold 150 copies out of his dorm during the first month and the response to his first painting quickly prompted another. His growing popularity attracted the notice of his superiors, who approached him to do the nose art on the reconnaissance aircraft in his unit. Gaining experience and honing his skill, Perrin continued to produce lithographs and, after his transfer to Andrews AFB, was asked to paint a special mural for his squadron.

Starting his Air Force career as a mechanic, Perrin applied for a retraining slot and ultimately found himself as an Airborne Communications Technician aboard the Boeing E-3 Sentry (better known as AWACS) stationed at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.



The AWACS community was shattered in September 1995, however, by the loss of call sign "Yukla 27" on take-off from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. All the men on-board were killed and the effect on unit morale was staggering. Nearly everyone at Tinker knew one or more of the victims and Perrin was asked to design a memorial for display at the base. He says, *"I had hoped to honor their memory with a simple artistic gesture. In a way, I feel that they ended up honoring me... Under the circumstances, however, I hope I never have the opportunity to be honored in this way again."* Funds raised from the sale of 500 limited-edition prints of the painting "Twenty-Four" paid for the memorial. The painting's title represented the number of crewmembers lost.

The speed with which the first set of prints sold out prompted a second painting "Yukla 27", from which print sales helped pay for the memorial at Elmendorf AFB. As Perrin recognizes, nowhere does the awesome power of nature and aviation reveal itself more forcibly than in such a disaster.

After 10 years of service, Perrin left the Air Force to pursue his art career full-time and has opened a small studio and shop at Tinker AFB. In addition to continuing to produce lithographs and paintings, he has been commissioned by several different organizations throughout the world that have furthered his artistic endeavors professionally. Readers wishing to contact Darby Perrin may do so by writing to him at Darby Perrin Aviation Art P.O. Box 300233, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73140-0233.

Note: Darby painted for three years before returning to the military and he is currently a KC-135 Boom Operator in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. His gallery is located on Tinker AFB, in Oklahoma City. He's there whenever his flying schedule will permit it. He encourages anybody who has access to get on base to stop by and chat for a while.

Below are photos of the paintings we will donate to the Air Force Museum at our Reunion in October, 2004.



THE FIRING CIRCLE

MERCHADISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCIATION

STINGER PATCH



SHADOW PATCHES



YANKEE AIR PIRATE PATCH



FOUR FLAGS PATCH



(Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos)



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

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.

Contact: Art Perry
220 Sagebrush Trail
Ormond, FL 32174
386-615-9756
APerry9567@aol.com

Thanks! Art for your great work on getting these patches replicated.

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).



GREAT WORK DAN ON GETTING THESE TAPES REPLICATED, THANKS

VIDEO

Shadow & Stinger Video

VHS Tape - donation of \$21.50 per tape



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

Contact:

Norm Evans

611 Center St #12
Ft Walton Beach FL 32547
Phone (850) 864-0923

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

ALSO CONTACT NORM FOR REUNION IV VIDEOS \$20.00 EACH

Reunion IV Photo CD—\$5.00—over 200 photos from our 4th reunion—contact Everett at 314-865-0920 or everettsprou@sbcglobal.net or Everett Sprou 3521 Salena St Louis MO 63118-4024

\$10.00

NEW LICENSE FRAMES

\$13.00



Contact:

Gus Sininger
206 Tooke Street
Ft Walton Beach FL 32547
Phone (850) 863-9649 g.sininger@seii.net



Contact:

Lee Kyser
3430 Via Dona
Lompoc CA 93436
Phone (805) 733-2443 ac119k@msn.com

THE FIRING CIRCLE

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.



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

Still available Dr Larry Fletcher's First Novel *Shadows of Saigon*

Former United States Air Force Captain, Dr. Larry Elton Fletcher flew 177 combat missions as a pilot in AC-119 Shadow gunships during his tour of duty at Tan Son Nhut Air Base; Saigon, Republic of Vietnam in 1970-71. After five years military service, Fletcher returned to the teaching profession and public school administration while earning a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Missouri. He retired in 1997 to pursue a writing career. His first novel, *Shadows of Saigon* was published in 2001. Larry and his wife Sue reside at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

AC-119 Gunship prints

8 X 10 Fine quality, black line, composite drawings that are suitable for framing. They look great matted and framed.

For a donation of only **\$12** for the *Brothers* drawing and **\$10** for the *Stinger* or *Shadow* drawing, Postage is included, you can get your frame able drawing from Bill Petrie.

***All donations for the drawings are split with the association and used to support this web site.**

\$12 - Special Edition...Only 200 will be printed. The 8 X 10 drawing "Brothers" depicts the bond between the Shadow and Stinger AC-119 Gunships. The print is numbered and signed.



\$10 - The 8 X 10 drawing "Shadow" portrays the AC-119G Gunship on the prowl. A Great single drawing for all you Shadow guys.



\$10 - The 8 X 10 drawing "Stinger" below depicts the AC-119K in the hunt over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. A Great drawing for you Stingers.



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

**Everett Dale Sprous, Newsletter/Membership
AC-119 Gunship Association
3521 Salena
St Louis MO 63118-4024**

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: _____

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:

**Everett Dale Sprous
Newsletter/Membership
AC-119 Gunship Association
3521 Salena
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Or contact Everett by phone (314) 865-0920 or E-MAIL at everettsprous@sbcglobal.net

THE FIRING CIRCLE

OUR 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/welcome.htm>

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