



THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

A message from our President, Craig Corbett

Fellow Gunshippers,

Each AC-119 Association reunion has hit a new high and with 215 gunshippers, Reunion V at Wright Patterson Air Force Base was no exception. The work put into the event by Ron Julian, Rogers Stevens, Al Heuss, Jim Alvis and an assortment of others showed throughout the weekend. What a marvelous dinner at the AF Museum among exhibits marking over 100 years of flight. Hanging from the ceiling was a Wright Flyer and just below sat the new F/A-22, Rapture. Ron Terry, our Guest Speaker, spoke to the 364 attendees of the birth of gunships and we were entertained by some of the finest AF entertainers I have ever heard. Special recognition to our award recipients; Jim Terry who received the Terrance F. Courtney, Above and Beyond Award for the work he has performed in locating new members and families of our KIA and to a new record that will probably not be beaten, the Magellan Award to Kjell Hoelstad, a 17th SOS IO who came all the way from Norway! Unveiled at this reunion were the original and attractive paintings of the AC-119G Shadow and AC-119K Stinger Gunships. The Association commissioned Artist Darby Perrin to do the paintings. These original paintings were presented to the National Museum of the United States Air Force by the Association. Signed and numbered Lithographic copies are available for purchase. Bill Petrie served as Project Officer in this endeavor and worked closely with Darby to have a perfect rendition of each aircraft in their respective operations. Of note is the number of 71st members present over the weekend. All indications show they had a great time and we hope to see many of them with new additions at Reunion VI in Ft Walton Beach.

The Association Meeting voted in a new board with some past members stepping up and volunteering to continue their duties. These members are; Doug Wohlgamuth - Treasurer, Bill Petrie - Web Master, EV Sprou - Newsletter, Jim Terry - New Member/Family Research Officer, Larry Hunter and Leigh Norstrum - Chaplains, and assuming the role of Past Board Member - Rogers Stevens, last year's President. New members are Bud (aka Buck) Buchanan - Vice President, Jim Alvis - Secretary, and yours truly. This Newsletter has brief bios on our board members. We also have some real heroes stepping up as Project Officers;

Steve Mac Isaac is heading up the Awards & Decoration Recovery Committee; Ray Barradale will assist with the Veterans Administration; Wayne Laessig is handling the history project; and once again, Gus Sininger is organizing the next reunion.

Special events during this year's reunion included a History project. This included video-taping year groups and their stories as well as some "one-on-one" video sessions. Shortly, these and film from the reunion will be put onto a DVD with a menu that will allow the user to access what they want to see. This is a work in progress and Wayne Laessig is looking for someone to assist him. Any takers? We also had Jeff Duford, Research Historian at the United States Air Force Museum, discuss the Museum Donation Program for items, pictures, documents, etc. Jeff detailed the donation process, the availability of the donated items should anyone wish to see the items (approximately 3-day lead-time request), and said about 80% of the donated items are in preservation storage. Any items you have that you want to provide to the Museum, please let us know since we're trying to collect digital versions of anything that's on paper as part of our video history (we're embedding some pictures, orders, mission frags, etc into the video history). Another special event was the presentation made by Bill Dudley concerning the process Fairchild Hiller went through in converting C-119s to AC-119G and AC-119Ks.

Reunion VI's special event will be the dedication of the monument to the AC-119K in Hurlburt AFB Memorial Park. It will consist of black granite with a color picture of the old gal etched into the stone. It will be positioned near the G model so that both our birds will be on display. Gus Sininger and Bill Petrie are working with Hurlburt's Park Committee and the stone mason to make this all happen. One of the suggestions to offset the cost was to offer Association members the opportunity to buy a brick with their name, position and dates on it. If approved by the park committee, these would be laid in the ground around the monument. Obviously, this is not a guarantee yet and there will be more to follow. Gus is also working his tail off to ensure all the reunion details are completed. Even though we have had several reunions in Ft Walton, lots of leg work is still necessary to make it right on the night.

(Continued on page 2, Column 1)

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(President-Continued from page 1)

Awards & Decorations – Steve MacIssac has done the legwork and Bill Petrie has the step by step how to information on the web site. If you have decorations issues, please visit the site. **ALL OTHERS** – Please send examples of decorations submittals to Steve. It will assist your gunship brothers to finally get what they earned.

One last thing - we need to solve the reunion location issue. By that, I mean where, how often, when and by whom. We understand this is emotional, with most of us identifying Hurlburt as our home. We try to have it in line with the Air Commando Reunion. However, here's some facts:

- Historically, we have had two great reunions for membership turn-out, Reunion I and V. While many factors may help explain these higher numbers, our first reunion held away from Ft Walton showed significant rise in attendance.
- Although the number of Reunion feedback surveys was limited, almost half indicated said "move the reunion location around".
- Reunion one was high because it was our first, and we currently have four reunions at Ft Walton and move it every fifth year. The second set of Ft Walton Beach reunions starts with Reunion VI. It won't be anywhere else until 2009.

Almost 50 percent of what admittedly was limited feedback from this reunion tells us we need a reunion in the western states. We have inputs to have one in DC where the Vietnam Memorial is located, and another at the USAF Academy. If the majority of members agree that these are worth while goals, under current rules, it would take decades to make those events happen. The reality is not all of us have ten years. Time of year has always been end of September and first of October to coincide with the Air Commando Reunion. If we always have the reunion at the same time, some gunshippers have said they will NEVER be able to attend. We have farmers that have harvests then, folks with other annual commitments at that time. Please keep in mind what one of our charter goals is, try and contact every gunshipper and give them the opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of meeting old friends and making new ones at our reunions.

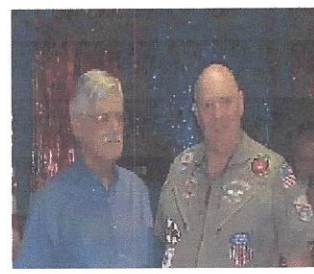
Bottom line: to address this and other issues, we are including a survey and we want to hear from you and your significant other. Remember, whatever feedback you provide, the reality is that we need folks that will stand up and assist in organizing a reunion. It can not happen without your support. Please, tell us how you feel and do it now! In plain English, fill out the survey and send it back – now! Please.



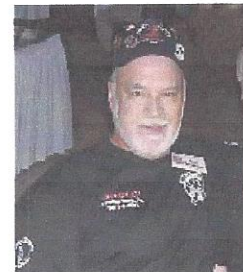
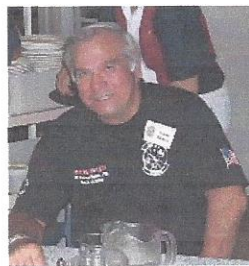
Association Officers for 2004-2005. L-R: Vice President-Henry "Bud" Buchanan-Stinger FE, '172-12/72, Secretary-Jim Alvis-Shadow Maintenance, '68-69, Newsletter Editor-Ev Sprouth-Stinger Gunner, '71-'72, Treasurer-Doug Wohlgamuth-Stinger IO, '71-'72, President-Craig Corbett-Stinger Gunner, '72-'73, Member-At-Large-Rogers Stevens-Stinger Pilot '72, and Webmaster-Bill Petrie-Stinger IO, '71-'72.



Steve Mac Isaac-Awards & Decorations & Jim Terry-Family Research



Ray Barradale-VA Information Officer, & Leigh Norstrum & Larry Hunter-Chaplains



Norm Evans & Gus Siniger-Reunion VI Coordinators

REUNION FOLLOUP SURVEY

I. **Reunion Location:** Currently, the plan is to have the next four consecutive reunions at Fort Walton Beach followed by one at a new location - we know that most of us feel that Hurlburt is our home and we belong there. However, Dayton was an enjoyable change with new faces and increased attendance (that alone is a message). Our limited survey feedback indicates many want to see a reunion in the west to get even more new faces; some would like to have one in Washington DC at the Vietnam Memorial or at the Air Force Academy, etc. Under our current schedule, it will take decades to have reunions at even a few of these. Then there's time of year - I've talked to folks that will never be able to make one if we always have it at the same time. Lastly there's the issue when moving the reunion more frequently of needing more onsite volunteers to organize and host the event.

- 1. How often should we have a different reunion location?
- Every year - Every other year - Every third year - Other
2. Other than Fort Walton Beach, where would you like to see a reunion held?
- Out west at What year? - Washington DC What year?
- Other What year?
3. If the inputs determine we should move locations more often, how often should we have a reunion at Fort Walton Beach?
- Every other year - Every third year - Other
4. Should we change time of year (current schedule is so we don't conflict with Air Commando Reunion)?
- Yes If so, what month? - No

II. **Events for the women (ladies input only please):** We've been remiss in taking care of the women, and by that I mean we've done a pretty good job organizing events for the guys while sometimes leaving the women out. For example, the ladies might like to have an organized event for them while we're having our Association Meeting. Guys, we need your spouse or significant others' input, so please hand questions 5 and 6 to your significant other now for their input to us (no, we're not interested in what the guys think the women should do!) so we can find out what they would like to do at the reunion.

- 5. Ladies, what events or activities would you like to see organized for women? Some ideas that have already been sent to us for a Saturday morning event are:
- Ladies brunch - Cards, such as bridge or bunco
- Scrap book session - Stamping session
- Shopping excursion - Local sights such as
- Other - you tell us
6. Ladies, what else should we do? Again, you tell us.

III. **General (these questions are for BOTH the guys and gals):**

- 7. What events would you like to see organized for both men and women (and keep it clean)? Guys, (hint) this would be a good time to discuss this "with" your significant other)
8. Would you or your significant other be willing to host or plan the reunion or some activities?
a. Reunion planning and preparation:
- Yes - Can't host but I'll help with the planning and preparation activities.
- Name and contact info:
b. Activity planning and preparation: - Yes - Which?
- Name and contact info:

Please return surveys to:
Jim Alvis, Secretary
AC-119 Gunship Association
3110 Maqua Court
Carmel IN 46033-4136
Or email to:
shadow1969@indy.rr.com

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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 the US & 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 Secretary 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 Court
Fairfield CA 94533-2909
707-422-6774
Shadow70@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

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 Everett Sprous:

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

REUNION VI COORDINATORS

(Ft Walton Beach)
Sept 30, Oct 1, 2, 2005
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206 Tooke Street
Ft Walton Beach FL 32547
Phone (850) 863-9649
g.sininger@seii.net
& Norm Evans
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Phone (850) 864-0923
[normevans873@cox.net](mailto:normeans873@cox.net)

Chaplain

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850-244-0530
Lhunter@bsc.net

Chaplain

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915-795-1132

VA Information Officer

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Awards & Dec's Officer

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6449 Coventry Hills Dr NE
Rio Rancho NM 87144
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NMacisaac@aol.com

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Richard.corbett@dtra.mil

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Budb35@msn.com

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busch791@aol.com

Secretary

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Carmel IN 46033-4136
317-846-4130
shadow1969@indy.rr.com

Webmaster

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Ok City OK 73142-2568
405-721-4490
RetCMSgt@aol.com

Past Board Member

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Clarksburg WV 26302-0369
304-584-4506
rogac119@aol.com

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REUNION V—EPILOGUE by Reunion Coordinators Ron Julian and Rogers Stevens

We want to thank all attendees for participating in Reunion V. It was literally a "History Making" event. Here is what we accomplished in just three days: (1) we met and enjoyed the fellowship of the 71st SOS members and learned of their initial trials and tribulations with the "Shadow". (2) We began capturing the history of the AC-119 Gunship. The first three steps were: (a) We video taped the keynote speaker, Col. Ron Terry, USAF (Ret), the "father" of the Air Force fixed-wing gunship program. (b) We received a very informative presentation by Mr. Bill Dudley describing the Fairchild-Hiller activities to convert the C-119 cargo version to an AC-119 Gunship. (c) We recorded interactive sessions of the 1968 – 1973 year groups of the teams involved with the gunship mission. (d) We captured the individual stories of the scariest, most rewarding, etc missions in the gunship. This history-capturing program will continue at future reunions as long as there is a story to tell. (3) We dedicated the paintings of the "Shadow" and the "Stinger" to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. We had signed and numbered lithographs of the original artwork available to our membership. (4) We met over 70 new "first-time" reunion attendees. What a series of accomplishments!!

Just before the Memorial Service, we had a "Pan-A-View" picture taken of all attendees with their spouses and friends, and then a second picture was taken of just the squadron members. During the past 15 months, Major General Douglas Metcalf, our reunion speaker in 2003, has often said that he had an "evil twin". We thought he was referring to Major General Charles Metcalf, USAF (Ret), the Director of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. However, if you look at both ends of the picture of the attendees and spouses, etc.; you will not only see photographic proof General Metcalf's "evil twin", but also Howie Reed's "twin".

During the POW/MIA ceremony, you knew that Dr. Larry Fletcher was describing the elements at the POW/MIA table. However, did you know that Captain Rob Doremus, USN (Ret), a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton for 7½ years, was at the table with our crew reciting the "Remember" part of the ceremony. His participation lent a special meaning to the activity.

The "Systems Go" ensemble of the Band of Flight had returned from Iraq just a few days before our Reunion. What dedication these professional service men and women lend to keeping our country strong!!

Our involvement with the Museum Staff during Reunion V made it possible to insure the true operation of the AC-119 Gunships will forever be presented in the annals of the Air Force history. The AC-119 may not have been the most "popular" gunship, but it proved to be one of the most vital aircraft involved in revolutionizing aerial counterinsurgency tactics. The AC-119 gunship, her brave crews, and maintainers will not be forgotten.

Again, Thank You for your attendance, your support, and your enthusiastic contributions to the success of Reunion V in Dayton, Ohio!!

Awards and Decorations

Hi Crew,

I have the Awards & Decs pages posted on the site.

You can access the pages from the DFC icon in the right hand navigation column on both the Main Welcome page <http://www.ac-119gunships.com/welcome.htm> and the Association Welcome page http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/assoc_welcome.htm.

All the A & D pages hot link to each other.

Ops check them when you have an opportunity and let me know if you encounter any problems. Everything worked fine on this end including being able to download the PDF worksheet.

Cheers!

Bill

Note: Those that do not have access to computers may contact Col Mac or any of the Dec Board Members by phone or mail:

Steve Mac Isaac

Awards & Decorations Board

Maj. Gen Doug Metcalf

(18th SOS) - Board President & Maintenance/Support Advisor

Col. Steve 'Mac' Mac Isaac

(18th SOS) - Aircraft Commander

Chuck James

(17th SOS) - Aircraft Commander

Col. Fred Blum

(18th SOS) - NAV/FLIR/NOS

Col. Bernie Smith

(17th SOS) - NAV/NOS

SMSgt. Lee Kyser

(18th SOS) - FE

CMSgt. Craig Corbett

(18th SOS) - Gunner

Frank Bartlett

(18th SOS) - Gunner

Allen Chandler

(17th SOS) - IO

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Annual Association Business Meeting Minutes
2 October 2004 Hope Hotel Dayton, Ohio

Association President Rogers Stevens called the Annual AC-119 Gunship Association Business Meeting to order at 0830. Chaplain Larry Hunter presented the Invocation and President Rogers Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Members unanimously approved the Minutes of the October, 2003 Annual Association Business Meeting held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth presented a preliminary report showing \$6,165.00 in our Operating Account and \$30,087.76 in the Reserve Account. Due to the large number of financial transactions that take place at the Reunion, he presented a Preliminary Report. Doug said he would have a final Treasurer's Report to the Association Board by 15 October 2004. Signature Cards for the Association Checking Accounts will be changed to show Doug Wohlgamuth and Gus Sininger as the individuals authorized to sign Association checks. Members approved the Treasurer's Report.

Ev Sprous filled in when Ray Barradale needed Membership/Secretary help due to health problems. Ev reported 321 members, with 175 as Life Members and more signing up each day at the Reunion.

Ron Julian offered to assist the new Association Secretary with creation of a "Master" Excel spreadsheet formatted to show contact and other info for Members and others associated with the AC-119 program.

Wayne Laessig asked members to confirm or correct the Association Roster in the hooch. Newsletter Editor EV Sprous reported he sends the majority of newsletters electronically. This drastically reduces newsletter printing and postage costs. Ev asked members to prepare articles for the newsletter.

Webmaster Bill Petrie reported the website will continue to improve this year as his health is also improving. Cost to maintain the web page is still \$219 for the year. Bill said the web site requires daily maintenance to remove "junk stuff" from the Guest Book entries.

Jeff Duford, Research Historian at the United States Air Force Museum, discussed the Museum Donation Program for items, pictures, documents, etc. Jeff detailed the donation process, the availability of the donated items should anyone wish to see the items (approximately 3-day lead-time request), and said about 80% of the donated items are in preservation storage.

Dr. Larry Fletcher donated his two books "Shadows of Saigon" and "The Shadow Spirit" to the Air Force Museum, and Jeff accepted them on behalf of the Museum.

Stinger Monument Co-Project Officer Bill Petrie presented an update on the proposal to place a permanent Stinger Monument at the Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park. Last year, the Association authorized \$3,000 to place a bronze Stinger aircraft model on the existing Memorial Plaque dedicated by the Association in October, 2003. Co-Project Officers Gus Sininger and Bill Petrie researched this and costs were over \$25,000.00. Both felt the better way to proceed was to place a black granite monument with a colorized laser-etching of the Stinger aircraft and the 18th SOS patch, along with a written description of the Stinger Mission. Details: Monument placed to the right of the Shadow aircraft and Memorial Plaque in the Memorial Air Park. Overall cost estimate is \$9,325 (with \$3,000 already approved).

Members approved remaining funding and authority to proceed with the Stinger Monument, with a goal to dedicate the Monument during the next Reunion's Memorial Service on October 1, 2005. Steve Mac Isaac presented our program for "lost/missing" Awards and Decorations (A&D). He described the process and the role the Board will have in reviewing applications for an award. Applicants MUST prepare the paperwork request for the award. The A&D Board reviews applications, suggests additions, corrections, etc. to improve chances for award approval. Applicants then submit final applications to the Air Force for consideration. Award Application Forms will be published on the Web Site, or may be obtained from A&D Board Members.

By-Law changes: members voted that Association Regular Membership eligibility includes anyone associated with the AC-119 Gunship program. Membership summary: Regular Memberships (Annual or Life) include any air or ground personnel associated with the AC-119 program, either SEA or stateside. As an example, this includes our Lockbourne C-119 instructors and maintainers from our phase I training. Honorary Memberships (Life) include next-of-kin for those we lost in SEA and others deserving this recognition – both as designated by the Association Board. Associate Membership (Annual) is available to all others.

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Wayne Laessig described our History and Reunion CD projects:

Reunion Highlights CD/Videotape and a History CD/Videotape with both year-group and individual inputs. CDs will be like a DVD where you can go to a menu and specific subject.

Members signed-up for individual interviews and to attend their year group's scheduled interview. Videographer will edit raw footage, embed pictures or other documents, send draft CDs for Board changes or corrections, and finalize a master CD and videotape. CDs and videotapes will be available to members, with copies donated to the Air Force Museum, National Archives, and Maxwell AFB.

Association Officers for 2004-2005. Several individuals volunteered to remain on the Association Board and other roles. Members voted unanimously for all the following:

Doug Wohlgamuth - Treasurer

Rogers Stevens - Board Member at Large

Ev Sprous - Newsletter Editor

Bill Petrie - Webmaster

Jim Terry - Next-of-Kin Locator and Contact

Gus Sininger - Reunion VI Coordinator

Newly elected Board Members filled open positions as an executive committee, with roles as follow:

Craig Corbett - President

Buck Buchanan - Vice-President

Jim Alvis - Secretary

Wayne Laessig asked Members about the degree of decision and funding authority the Board should have and the members provided a loud vote of confidence for the Association Board to continue using decision and funding authority as they have been doing, with major decisions such as the By-Laws and Monument voted on in this meeting.

Gus Sininger had to stay in Florida on hurricane repairs but sent his Reunion VI Coordinator report:

Reunion VI will be held on September 30th, October 1st and 2nd, 2005 in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

Since the Four Points suffered hurricane damage and may be sold, we're investigating additional options.

We will post Reunion VI info on the website and in the newsletter as soon as we know.

We owe a lot to all the volunteers and board-members who work on our Association and Reunions. The Association Board wanted to recognize several who deserve special appreciation for their efforts in making our Association, our Reunions, and our heritage a reality.

With a standing ovation, the Association presented Shadow and Stinger lithographs to:

Our Founding Fathers: Fred Graves (accepted by Karen Graves), Bill Petrie, Jim Bennes, and Norm Evans Past Presidents: Chuck James, Larry Fletcher, Gus Sininger, and Rogers Stevens,

Reunion Coordinators: Gus Sininger and Ron Julian. Sierra Hotel and heartfelt thanks to these great men!

We asked attending Members to complete Reunion Critiques to identify how to improve future reunions.

Bill Dudley, former employee of Fairchild Hiller Aircraft, followed the meeting with a presentation of the process the company went through to convert the C-119 into an AC-119 Shadow or Stinger and the delivery process. His presentation commenced immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting.

There being no further business to bring before the Association, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the Annual Association Business Meeting at 1040.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogers Craig Stevens, Jr.

AC-119 Gunship Association, President

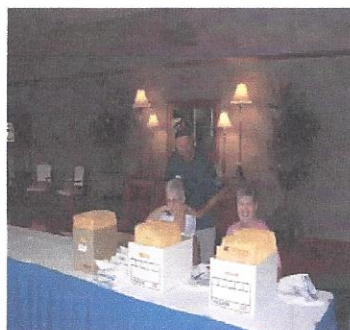


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WHO CAME TO REUNION V



Alfaro, Mario
Alvis, Jim
Andrews, Andy
Arnold, Duane
Bach, Harold
Baker, Jeff
Barbee, Larry
Barradale, Ray
Bastin, Jack
Benedict, Carl
Bennes, Jim
Biggs, Dan
Blair, Doug
Blum, Fred
Bradshaw, Brad
Brewer, Marcus (Canx)
Bright, Andy
Brown, Robert
Buchanan, Henry
Burger, Norman
Burress, Bill
Byrd, Bruce
Callahan, Chuck
Cambell, Paul
Chaleff, B.C.



Chandler, Allen
Clancy, Roger
Cole, Ernest
Collars, Jay
Connolly, Bob
Cooling, Don
Cooper, Jim
Corbett, Craig
Cougill, Tom
Count, Kevin
Craig, Don
Crawford, Harold
Cullop, Walker
Cunningham, Bill
Curran, Jim
Daenzer, Charles
Dague, Joe
Davis, Jim
DeLoache, Kelly
Diehl, Phil
Doersam, Bill
Donaldson, Bud
Doremus, Rob -
Former POW,
7 1/2 yrs, North Vietnam
Drzyzga, Mike
Dudley, William
Dunn, Jim
Dunn, Wade
Eberhardt, Anthony
Eckstein, Bob
Eggert, Fred
Farmer, Robert
Feezor, Bill
Fletcher, Larry
Frederick, Robert
Funk, John
Gallo, Sam
Garcia, Habacuc
Garcia, Sam
Gilbert, Ron
Gorsuch, Doug
Grant, Jimi
Grauer, Tim
Graves, Karen
Gravitte, Ray
Gregory, Bill
Griffin, John
Grimes, Ernie
Hansen, Vern
Hester, Jerry
Heuss, Al
Higgins, Johnny
Hiller, Ed
Hinton, Ron
Hitzeman, Gary
Hoelstad, Kjell -
All the way from Norway
Hogue, James
Howorth, Leon
Howze, Dick
Hunter, Larry
Imber, Dean

Jackson, Leroy
James, Chuck
Jones, Pat
Jones, Ron
Jowers, Bill
Julian, Ron
Jump, Thomas
King, Walter
Korte, Bill
Krauss, Mike
Krueger, Bob
Kuhn, Jr., Dave
Kyser, Lee
Laackman, Hank
(Canx)
Laessig, Wayne
Laird, Tommy
La Rosa, Bob
Lau, Jesse
Lefarth, Ralph
Lewis, Christopher
Lewis, Dave
Lewis, John
Lodge, Bill
Lucky, Shelby
Main, Don
Macey, Guy
MacIsaac, Steve
Masterson, Robert
Mattison, Jim
McCall, Cash
McCraith, Bob
McDaniel, Clarence
McDonald, Jerry
McGinnis, Jack
Meckstroth, Ray
Metcalf, Doug Maj, Gen.
Michaud, Jerry (Canx)
Middleton, Larry
Milacek, Alan -
Pilot of Stinger 883,
MacKay Trophy, 1970
Milam, John
Moore, Jim
Morgan, Harold
Morgan, Richard
Morrow, John
Mullins, Marshall
Mundle, Bob
Muth, Harlan
Nash, Al
Nelson, Larry
Nicol, John
Nobach, Michael
Noonan, Marty
O'Brien, Brent
O'Connell, Russell
O'Mara, David
Pavisich, Helen
Penny, Dan
Petrie, Bill
Posey, Bill (WX cancel)
Pyle, James

Radke, Donald
Rall, Fred
Ray, Jim
Reagan, Jim
Rebitzke, Ron
Reid, Howard
Robet, Tucker
Rubingh, Gary
Rudkin, Richard
Ryan, Mike
Safreno, Robert
Savelle, David
Schaltenbrand, Gene
Schroeder, Tom
Seth, Richard
Shedd, Kenneth
Shoemaker, James
Simon, Tony
Sininger, Gus (WX cancel)
Slack, Gary
Smith, Bernie
Smith, Don
Snyder, Bill
Snyder, Jerry
Spencer, Bob
Spietzer, Margaret
Sprou, Everett
Stanton, Danny
Stanton, Douglas
Stearn, Kenneth
Steffensmeier, Russel
Stevens, Rogers
Stickles, Owen
Swanson, Robert
Taylor, Neil
Taylor, Wayne
Temoney, John
Terry, Ron - Guest Speaker
Thomas, Mailen
Thompson, Dan
Tippy, Gene
Tobias, Bill
Totten, Gary
Traux, Edwin
Traynor, Michael
Turlington, Andrew
Tyler, Bill
Van Able, Bob
Vellines, Charles (Canx)
Villarreal, Xavier
Voisey, Dave
Wall, Earl
Warner, Ron
Warner, Ron
Weisel, Robert
Westendorf, Bernard
Wheatley, Phil
Wohlgamuth, Doug
Yanacsek, Jim
Yowell, Milo
Zins, Virgil
Zito, Bill

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Jim Terry Receives 2004 Above and Beyond Award From the AC-119 Gunship Association

Jim Terry, membership and family locator, of the AC-119 Gunship Association, is the 2004 recipient of the Terence F. Courtney Above and Beyond Award, which recognizes distinguished service to the Association.

The Award, established in 2000, was presented at the Annual AC-119 Gunship Association banquet October 2.

The award recognizes Jim Terry, a former member of the 17th Special Operations Squadron, "for his distinguished and caring service contacting the families of association members lost during the Vietnam War"

No project was more memorable, or more heartfelt, than that of putting in place a monument dedicated to our brothers who fell in Southeast Asia. The memorial plaque, now residing in Hurlburt Field's Air Commando Memorial Park, is testimony to the ultimate sacrifice paid by those whose names are inscribed upon it. They went above and beyond...they gave their all.

There were many behind the scenes activities that went into finalizing the memorial plaque and its dedication... but none more important than the job of making contact with the families and loved ones of the brothers we lost. On behalf of the AC-119 Gunship Association, Terry had the delicate responsibility of tracking down, and approaching, the family members of those we sought to honor. Some knew who we were, and others wondered what we were and why we wanted to do it.

So, from his heart, and from ours, Jim Terry conveyed to those families that we wanted them to share with us in our remembrance of their loved ones. He also conveyed our message that we never forgot their loved ones and that we have always been, and always will be, proud to have served in combat with them, and proud to call them brothers.

Jim Terry did a wonderful job conveying that message. And what a wonderful job he did in bringing those families and fellow gunshippers together for an experience, for those who were there, will never forget.

It is association members such as Jim Terry, who make our projects memorable, our camaraderie strong, and our association meaningful.

Past Above and Beyond Award recipients are Jim Bennes, Norm Evans, Fred Graves, Everett Sprou, Ray Barradale, and Chuck James.



Reunion VI Agenda

Where: Ft Walton Beach at the Sheraton Four Points

When: Sept 30 – Oct 2, 2005

Events:

Friday:

Cocktail Party, Sheraton Pool Side 6 p. m. – till ?
Dress casual or party suits. \$ 15.00 each

Saturday:

8 am: General Meeting

11:30: Memorial Service, Hurlburt Air Park, Dedication of a new monument for the AC-119K—Stringer
A static display of an AC-130U after the services.

Evening: Banquet

5 pm, Cocktails Happy Hour. –

6 pm Dinner at Elks Lodge, Dress is semi-formal or party suits

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$20, Fried Shrimp– \$20.00,

Prime Rib– \$25.00

Dancing to Stormin Norman

Sunday:

9 am Golf at Hurlburt Golf Course, \$10.00 plus green fees. The \$10.00 is for prize money.

4 pm Farewell Pool Party at the Four Points – \$20.00 each

Make your Hotel reservations Today by calling the Sheraton Four Points at 800-874-8104)

Reservation must be made no later than two weeks prior to arriving and please don't forget to tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship reunion.

Room Rates – with free full breakfast buffet each morning for registered guest.

Courtyard – \$78.00 + 10%

Beachfront – \$92.00 + 10%

More information and details will be available as Gus gets everything finalized. It will be fun!



THE FIRING CIRCLE

Reunion VI Registration Sept 31, Oct 1, 2, 2004 Fort Walton Beach, Florida

This is not your Hotel Reservation: This is for Doug Wohlgamuth to coordinate on how many are coming and what event you will attend. ** MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION.

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

E-MAIL : _____

TELEPHONE : Home _____
Work _____
Cell _____

GUEST or SPOUSES NAME : _____

OTHER GUEST : _____

YES! I WILL ATTEND : (Check all that apply)

TOTALS

COCKTAIL NIGHT \$15.00 ea. Xs Number Attending _____ = _____

MEMORIAL SERVICE (n/c) Xs Number Attending _____

AC-130U TOUR (n/c) Xs Number Attending _____

BANQUET ELKS LODGE Chicken Cordon Bleu \$20.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

Fried Shrimp \$20.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

Prime Rib \$25.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

GOLF MATCH \$10.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

Handicap/s _____

(Pay Green Fees at Golf Course, varies by Rank)

SUNDAY POOL PARTY \$20.00 ea Xs Number Attending _____ = _____

TOTALS : \$ _____

Please don't forget to include your payment CHECK # _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
DOUG WOHLGAMUTH
2902 Chaney Drive
Ruskin FL 33570
Phone : 813-645-5127
e-mail : busch791@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 Editor

AC-119 Gunship Association

3521 Salena Street

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 Editor
AC-119 Gunship Association
3521 Salena Street
St Louis MO 63118-4024

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>

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION
3521 SALENA STREET
ST LOUIS MO 63118-4024

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