

# The AC-119 Gunship Association

## AUGUST News Flash

### **Association President's Message**

This "Flash" will be our last issue before our "Operation Legacy" Reunion in Albuquerque. Association Secretary Michael Drzyzga has been responsible for compiling and disseminating news "Flashes" for several months during 2014. He has done an excellent job and I commend him for it. Our Association newsletter, the "Firing Circle" was put-on-hold this summer due to family commitments of our newsletter editor, Chief Bill Petrie. We are planning for a post-reunion Fall edition of the "Firing Circle."

I hope you have already registered for this year's Reunion. If not, it's time you do so. This reunion is truly unique because we get to meet active duty Special Operations Squadrons personnel and tour the aircraft that carry our legacy. Colonel Arthur Davis, Commander of the 58<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 58<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, and Air Education and Training Command at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico will be our guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

Come and enjoy seeing old friends while making new friends. We want you there.

Larry Fletcher, Association President

### **Association Secretary's Message**

Every month we have to update email addresses, postal mailing addresses, plus ADD/DELETE folks on the distribution list. The last thing I need to hear from an associate is that "I did not hear about this", or "when was this information released!" Therefore, here is another NEWS FLASH (for some of you it may be a NEWS BLAST) before the reunion. THIS FLASH contains corrections, updates, and also repeats valuable information.

**IF YOU RECEIVE THIS BY U. S. POSAL MAIL DELIVERY, AND YOU DO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, let me know if you want Newsletters and FLASHES sent via email. It will SAVE us a lot in "office expenses"!  
Contact Association Secretary: [drzyzga513@hotmail.com](mailto:drzyzga513@hotmail.com)**

It is now LESS THAN a month away to our reunion in Albuquerque, NM. A BIG THANK YOU to Steve Mac Isaac (Col Mac) and his wife Nancy who planned so well for a LOW COST and fun-filled time.

#### **Reminders:**

1. Reservations for Reunion Headquarters at Elegante Hotel must be made by August 26 to insure reunion room rates. To make Room Reservations for Reunion Headquarters at the Elegante Hotel, you need to call this REVISED toll free number: **1-866-650-4900, (contact is Kara St. John)**
2. If you already have AC-119 Reunion name tag holders and/or lanyards, please bring them with you to the reunion. All first time reunion attendees will receive name tag holders and lanyards.
3. If you are planning to travel via the Rail Runner to Santa Fe, the best days to travel as a group are Thursday and Sunday. Sign-up sheets for trips will be at the hotel registration desk. Plan to leave the hotel no later than 9:30 a.m. and return from Santa Fe by 4:00 p.m. for a full fun day in New Mexico's capital city.
4. If you are going to SANDIA on "Thursday Night Special" – **casino night** on Sept. 18th, please call or email Col. Steve "Mac" Mac Issac ([colmacmac@mac.com](mailto:colmacmac@mac.com) /302-249-1499), ASAP so he can plan for free transportation from the hotel to SANDIA.
5. **Please pre-order** your Legacy Reunion Shirt(s) so we will have your shirt(s) ready for you in your registration bag. Pre-ordering insures your choice of shirt/size/color. Your choice may not be available in the Party Hootch because we are not ordering many extras (see form below).
6. See the corrected "License Plate Brackets" information below.

If you are planning to attend our reunion, please mail your registration form (enclosed) ASAP to Doug Wohlgamuth and call or email your intentions concerning the Santa Fe "Rail Runner" and the Thursday Night Special.

Mike Drzyzga, Association Secretary

## **Thursday Night Special -- DETAILS**

A "Good Deal" Night for Reunion XV on Thursday, 18 September. For those of you arriving on Thursday, look no further for a great place to dine that evening. Our reunion coordinator, Col Mac has coordinated with SANDIA Resort and Casino for free transportation and three dinner options.

SANDIA Busses will be at the MCM Elegante Hotel to provide free transportation to and from the Resort/Casino. Busses will depart MCM Elegante Hotel at 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. After dining, you may return to the hotel or stay to catch a bus later and have some fun with one-arm bandits. The last bus to MCM from SANDIA is 12 MIDNIGHT! The going rate for a Taxi is \$20 one-way.

Following are three choices of dinner venues available to you at SANDIA:

1. Bien Shur – Absolutely the second Best place to eat in All of ABQ - \$50-\$60 per person
2. Council Room – Great American & Southwest Menu - \$20-\$30 per person
3. CASINO Thursday Shan Buffet – Great Selections – All You Can Eat - \$14 per adults / \$8 per child

AC-119 / SANDIA SECRET: Once your bus arrives at SANDIA, immediately proceed to the Players Club Window to get a FREE Casino Card. The Card will be your ticket for approximately 10% off your dining cost, no matter where you choose to eat. PLUS, you may instantly win some "Free Play" \$\$\$.

Col Mac needs to know how many of you will participate in this Thursday Night Special for the purpose of coordinating bus transportation ASAP. Please email or call him at to confirm your number of participants.

Reunion Thursday Night Special is FREE, except for your cost of dinner. You can check-out SANDIA Resort & Casino at [www.sandiacasino.com](http://www.sandiacasino.com) or call 877-272-9199. Their motto is Close to Home; Far from Ordinary.

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**Special Event at the Reunion:** We will gather in the Party Hooch on Friday, about an hour before the Friday Meet & Greet Festivity, to honor those AC-119 Gunship Brothers who "Gave All" in the Vietnam War. Our Association will hold a ceremony, showing our respect for our lost brothers and their families with four different custom- brewed and bottled ales with Commemorative labels named with the radio "Call Sign" for four aircraft lost in which our brothers were KIA. The "Call Sign" for the four gunships are Shadow 76, Shadow 78, Stinger 41, and Lemon 10 (Stinger). Those of you who participate on the AC-119 Gunship Facebook page already know about this added event. Those attending this event will experience a special treat.

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### **FINAL FLIGHT addendum – May they rest in peace.**

1. Joseph Hershey, Yucaipa, CA, 17<sup>th</sup> Ops Manager, Phan Rang, 69 – 70.
  2. William B. Rooney, Jr., Campton, NH, Life Member 133, 17<sup>th</sup> IO.
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### **Are you interested in some AC-119 historical facts, current events, and interesting dialogue about AC-119s?**

If you have Internet (web) access on your computer, then you need to browse:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>

Join our AC119 Gunship Facebook group, which now has over 200 interesting members!!

## License Plate Brackets *and* PC Mouse Pads

The Association Quartermaster, Gus Slinger is offering these four items. Instead of the Association investing in a large inventory and slowly taking donations to cover the cost for them, Gus will have a few with him at the Albuquerque reunion, but really prefers that you contact him for ordering any of the items. **Donation: \$25.00 ea.**

CONTACT GUS at: [stinger7172@cox.net](mailto:stinger7172@cox.net) (850) 863-9649



### AC-119 Ceremony of Appreciation For SEA Gunship Exhibit National Museum of the United States Air Force Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

AC-119 Shadow and Stinger Gunship Brothers and family members gathered at the National Museum of the United States Air Force on Friday, 25 July 2014 to honor Museum Director General Jack Hudson and Museum Curator Jeff Duford for their leadership in the planning and development of the SEA Gunship Exhibit.

Colonel Al Heuss and Dr. Larry Fletcher presented AC-119 Gunship Association commemorative coins and challenge coins along with letters to General Hudson and Curator Duford in appreciation of their leadership and dedication to the creation of an exhibit that recognizes the fixed-wing gunships of the Vietnam War. Though not yet finished, the exhibit is nearing completion and will be opened to the public in the near future.

The event was organized by Colonel Heuss in conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron. Thirty-eight people attended the ceremony. Representatives from the 71<sup>st</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadrons were among the group. A big salute goes to Stinger Pilot Lt. Col. George Hardy for flying in from Florida for the event.

The 71<sup>st</sup> SOS Reunion was held in Columbus, Indiana on Friday and Saturday. Activities included touring the new addition to the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum in which 71<sup>st</sup> SOS Shadow history and memorabilia is displayed. Over forty people attended the Banquet Dinner at Columbus Municipal Airport Hanger 5 Restaurant. Dale Burgan, assisted by Jack Bastin, was reunion coordinator.



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## Welcome new Members to the AC-119 Gunship Association

**James G. Horner, Life #383**, Base Tower, weather, PhanRang, 70-71

**James E. Keller, Life #385**, 17th Pilot, TSN, May 70 - Dec 71

**James Michaud**, Annual Member, Phan Rang, 69-70, Base Maintainer (Plumber)

\*NOTE\* Where is **Life #384** (you wonder)? Former annual member **Bruce Milne** converted to Life Membership.

**Thank you** to all the Annual Members, who respond promptly to the Secretary's request to renew membership every year, especially to those who are now using email!!! 😊

**Continuing Reminder from the Secretary: if you change contact information PLEASE remember to notify the Secretary or your group POC, – it is important that we do not lose contact with you.**

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**Latest Attendee List (8-12-14):**



**THE NUMBERS ARE INCREASING EVERY DAY!**

<p>Baldwin, Richard &amp; Debra  Barbee, Larry &amp; Debbie  Barnett, Leonard &amp; Coleen &amp; Guest Lisa Phillips  Bartlett, Frank &amp; Shirley  Bastin, Jack &amp; Carolyn  Benedict, Carl &amp; Guest Rosemarie Acheson  Blum, Claude  Bossi, Karl (1st Reunion)  Bradford, Marsha &amp; Travis (John O Rucker's sister)  Brow, Albert with guest James Brow, Carole Brow,  Mary Brow, Jim Knight &amp; Liz Knight  Bright Andy &amp; Linda  Brown, Kenneth Family - Anna Gregory,  Mike Brown, Pam Moose, Randy Holbrook,  Byrd, Bruce &amp; Jo Anna  Cole, Ernest  Connolly, Robert &amp; Guest Cathy Henry  Cooling, Don &amp; Daughters Deborah Davis, Donna  Jaacks  Corbett, Craig  Craig, Don &amp; Peggy  Croissant, Lee  Diehl, Phillip &amp; Mary Lois  Drzyzga, Mike &amp; Andrea  Dunn, Jim &amp; Janet  Dunn, Wade &amp; Son, Brian Dunn  Dydo, John &amp; Janet</p>	<p>Evans, Allen &amp; Judy (1st Reunion)  Fletcher, Larry &amp; Sue  Foster, Bruce &amp; Robyn  Friese, Rodney &amp; Linda &amp; Grandson Nick  Gallo, Sam &amp; Debby  Gilbert, Ronald &amp; Patricia  Graves, Karen  Grimes, Ernest &amp; Connie  Hansen, Vern &amp; Becky  Hester, Jerry &amp; Ellen  Heuss, Herman &amp; Helen  Hill, Frankie SR. Family, Debra Betterton,  Frankie Hill JR. &amp; Robert Futch  Hinken, David  Hinton, Ron  Hitzemann, Gary &amp; Diane  Hoelstad, Kjell &amp; Orpha Jo  Hunter, "Baby Huey" Larry &amp; Soncy  Keller, Jim (1st Reunion)  Krauss, Mike  Krueger, Bob  Kyser, Lee  Laessig, Wayne &amp; Lynette  La Rosa, Bob  Lau, Jesse &amp; Stepson, Melvin Jackson</p>
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<p>LEFARTH, RALPH &amp; JOYCE  MAC ISAAC, COL MAC &amp; NANCY  MARTIN, DALE &amp; JEANETTE (1ST REUNION)  MCCALL, CASH &amp; MARY  MEALS, ROBERT &amp; MARTHA (1ST REUNION)  MATTISON JIM &amp; LYNN  MERSEK, LARRY  MILLAR, J.D.  MONTGOMERY, JAMES &amp; ELAINE &amp; GUEST CHERYL ARTIS  MORGAN, HAROLD &amp; JEANETTE  MORROW, JOHN &amp; LYNN  MRAS, JOE (1ST REUNION)  MULLEN, MIKE &amp; THERESA  MULLINS, MARSHALL &amp; THERESA  NELSON, LARRY &amp; LORRIE  NICOL, JACK &amp; BARBARA, SON &amp; WIFE JOHN &amp; LIANNE  OLSEN, DAVID (1ST REUNION)  POSEY, BILL &amp; CINDY  RADKE, DONALD &amp; PATRICIA  RAVELING, VERNON &amp; BETTY  REID, HOWIE  RIDER, FRED &amp; JEAN  RUCKER, JOHN FAMILY – MAE RUCKER  RYAN, MICHAEL &amp; CHERYL</p>	<p>SARUL, TERRY &amp; THERESA (1ST REUNION)  SCHULTZ, MARCUS &amp; BARBARA (1ST REUNION)  SCOTT, WAYNE &amp; MARGARET  SHOPE, JAMES &amp; CHRISTINE  SININGER, GUS  SMITH, MICHAEL &amp; BECKY (1ST REUNION)  SNYDER, JERRY &amp; DIANE  SPOUS, EVERETT &amp; GUESTS, RICK &amp; ATT BETHKE, &amp;  SUPANEE (THUI) MADDUX,  STEARNS, KEN &amp; VERONIKA  STEVENS, ROGERS &amp; CATHI  SVOBODA, JOSEPH &amp; DEBBIE (1ST REUNION)  SWAIN, ROBERT (1ST REUNION)  TAYLOR, NEIL &amp; MUREL  TYLER, WILLIAM &amp; WILMA WITH GUEST CORA LEE  STEPHENS  VOISEY, DAVID &amp; MARY  WILLIAMS, JOHN C.  WOHLGAMUTH, DOUG  WOLF, LEE  ZEBLEY, JOHN &amp; GWENDOLYN  ZITO, BILL &amp; PAULA</p>
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## 2014 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XV REGISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 17 - 21, 2014 ALBUQUERQUE, NM

“Operation Legacy”

This is NOT your Hotel Registration (this is your Reunion Registration Only!)

Name (First, Middle Initial, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ Years Served with Gunships: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Squadron: 71<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_ 17<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ 18<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ other (\_\_\_\_\_) Crew Position/Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (include Zip+4) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests (#) \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you staying at the Reunion Hotel? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ If staying somewhere else, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion: Yes\_\_ No\_\_

REUNION FEE.....# attending \_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_

YES! I / We will attend:

• Friday Military Day w/58<sup>th</sup> SOW at Kirtland with BBQ)..... # attending \_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_

• Friday Night Meet & Greet (see web or Newsletter for menu)..... # attending \_\_\_\_ X \$28 = \$ \_\_\_\_

• Saturday Night Banquet

Chicken Cordon Bleu w/Green Chili Alfredo Sauce.....# of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Sliced Roast Beef w/au jus.....# of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Baked Tilapia w/Vera Cruz sauce.....# of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \$ \_\_\_\_

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS:

Pasta Prima Vera.....# of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Lasagna.....# of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Baked Tilapia w/Vera Cruz sauce.....# of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \$ \_\_\_\_

• Sunday Morning Golf Tournament (Covers Green Fees & prizes).....# playing \_\_\_\_ X \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Golf Tournament is limited to 28 players ONLY.

• Sunday evening Western Buffett Dinner.....# attending \_\_\_\_ X \$28 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment \$ \_\_\_\_

NOTE: For special meal needs, contact Mac & Nancy Mac Isaac at 505-867-3367 or colmacmac@mac.com. After filling-in this page mail it (if you use the web version, print it first since it will not save your info) with your payment (make check payable to AC-119 Gunship Association) to:

Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119)
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5726

Mailing this page with your payment completes your Reunion registration; you still need to contact the hotel direct for your Hotel registration! The hotel toll-free number is: 1-866-650-4900. Tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship Reunion. Visit the Newsletter or web for details. Your Reunion rate is good up to 3 days before or after the Reunion!

Questions? For more details visit http://www.ac-119gunships.com/ or contact Doug at 813-938-7176 or 813-781-5728 or email: Busch791@tampabay.rr.com or Mac & Nancy Mac Isaac at 505-867-3367 or email: colmacmac@mac.com

See You in Albuquerque, New Mexico

# ABQ REUNION SHIRT ORDER



BLACK(S-toXL) # of Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22 = \_\_\_\_\_

BLACK( XX & above)# of Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X \$24 = \_\_\_\_\_

GREY(S-XL) # of Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

GREY(XX & above) # of Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22 = \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU USE THIS ORDER FORM, YOUR Pre-Paid Shirts  
WILL BE IN YOUR WELCOME BAG at the  
Reunion Registration DESK,....

IF YOU DO NOT USE THIS FORM, You will be at the  
mercy of 'left-over' shirts' in the HOOCH - USE THE FORM!!!

**MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

Mail Your FORM + CHECK to Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119)  
540 Shea Place  
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5726

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION AT ALL ABOUT YOUR SHIRT ORDER FROM,  
DO NOT CALL Doug,

CALL or E-mail ME: COL Steve Mac Isaac - 302-249-1499, colmacmac@mac.com

Luck & Cheers - Col Mac

***MAKE sure you indicate the SIZE(s) that you are ordering.***

end