

The AC-119 Gunship Association, comprised of the 71st, 17th, and 18th Special Operations Squadrons and all supporting units, respectfully requests approval for a monument depicting the AC-119K *Stinger* gunship near the present AC-119G *Shadow* in the Air Memorial Park.

- The Air Park's AC-119G *Shadow* serves as a key focal point and visible link to our AC-119 gunship heritage. It provides a poignant setting for our Association's annual Reunion memorial services honoring those we lost in SEA, and clearly provides a visible connection for our Association's members and families from the 71st (Reserves) and 17th (active-duty) SOS who flew and supported the *Shadow* mission.
- Our Association also includes the 18th SOS, whose mission aircraft was the AC-119K *Stinger*, supported or flown by more than one half of our members. Since no *Stinger* airframes remain, it is not represented in the Air Park, and we propose adding a *Stinger* monument to the existing *Shadow* site to complete the integration and history of the Air Park's AC-119 gunship memorial.

Our proposed monument is approximately 78 inches height on a 50 inch base in black granite, signifying the night missions of the *Stinger*, and engraved with a color rendition of the AC-119K. Below the gunship is a color engraved 18th SOS logo followed by text describing its mission. The proposal includes a paver path leading from the sidewalk to the monument.

- Emerald Coast Monuments, a company with Air Park experience, will create the monument and pavers.
- Our association will bear costs and responsibility for initial memorial, pavers, and ongoing maintenance.

Request approval of this monument, with pavers, as soon as practical to allow for continued planning, construction and dedication at our memorial service on October 1, 2005. This dedication will include family members of *Stinger* aircrew lost in SEA honored on the existing memorial plaque.

I am the AC-119 Gunship Association Project Officer and SMSgt (ret) Gus Sininger is my project manager. I have full authority from the Association and Gus represents me and the AC-119 Gunship Association in any and all memorial matters with Hurlburt Field representatives and Emerald Coast Monuments.

Very Respectfully,

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