



Association President's Message:

Feb, 2016

Dear AC-119 Gunship Association Family,

Did you notice that we are using "Firing Circle" for the title of our "Flash" newsletter? And we have a new letterhead. The Firing Circle newsletter was started in 2002 when I was Association President. Ev Sprous was the first editor of "The Firing Circle." Bill Petrie produced the "Firing Circle" newsletter for years following Ev's retirement from being editor. Then overtime, Association email "Flashes" have been more frequently used to keep members informed with the latest news. The time has returned when brief "Flashes" will only be used for important notifications and/or brief updates that need the immediate attention of our membership. Our Association Secretary, Mike Drzyzga is now the editor for the "Firing Circle."

Our new website is very close to going online. You will be notified when the new website is actually online and operational. Wayne Laessig and our IT Team of Ron Julian, Mike Drzyzga, Jim Mattison, and Bob Dydo have spent countless hours working on this project that began at the Albuquerque Reunion in 2014.

Our reunion this year in Fort Walton Beach, FL will be held October 26-30. It will be another great reunion with Gus Sininger and Larry Hunter as the reunion coordinators. Carol Hinton is coordinating potential activities for the ladies. Again this year, a "blind" auction and an "open" auction will be held to help raise funds for our Association. Cindy Posey and Andrea Drzyzga will coordinate the "blind" auction and our own auctioneer Gus will again conduct the "open" auction after the Saturday night banquet. Auction results at our St. Louis Reunion last year were: Blind (63 items) = \$1,256.00; Open (29 items) = \$2,712.00; 50/50 Drawing = \$370.00; Grand total of \$4,338.00.

Thanks to Ron Soderquist, Cherokee Firearms, a custom-made pistol for our Association is being raffled with proceeds going to our Association. Detailed information about the pistol and the raffle is contained in this newsletter. You can order your raffle tickets today if you like. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the auction.

Now is the time for you to plan on attending the AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XVII. First, register for the reunion and secondly, make your reunion hotel reservation. All reunion information is contained in this newsletter. Come, reunite with old friends, meet new friends, walk barefoot on the soft sandy beach, watch dolphins, dance and be merry. I'm hoping Stromin' Norman will provide nostalgic music for the farewell bar-b-que.

v/r

Larry Fletcher

News & Reminders

1. We do very much want to keep in contact with you. Therefore, PLEASE remember to contact your group POC or the Association Secretary when you change contact information, especially your email address.
 2. IF YOU RECEIVE THIS Newsletter by U. S.POSTAL MAIL DELIVERY AND YOU DO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, let me know if you want future Newsletters and FLASHES sent via email. You can SAVE us a lot in “office expenses!”
Contact Association Secretary: Mike Drzyzga at: drzyzga513@hotmail.com, or 973-409-4861
 3. Report from IT Team’s Wayne Laessig: Web Update: Our long awaited new website is getting close! We’ve loaded most of our web info, have our e-commerce working, getting ready to transition to online Reunion Registration for Ft Walton, & cleaning up our Master Contact List for our ALPHA Roster. **We’ll send a message with the formal opening of it all before the next Newsletter.**
 4. **THANK YOU: Awards & Decoration’s** coordinator Steve “Col” Mac was able to help a former Stinger fix his DD214, after many of you responded to a call-out for help in the previous Newsletter. LET’S DO THIS AGAIN...
 - a. Former SSgt. Jackie D. Hodson, IO 71st SOS - on Maj. Rupp’s Crew #18 at Phan Rang, is missing ORDERS for his DFC and Air Medal/2OLC - anyone able to help? - contact MSgt (Ret) Jackie Hodson, directly at jackiehodson1935@gmail.com
 - b. Former TSgt. Paul Evans, Gunner, 71st SOS, 22Jan-19May 1969. Paul has AF letter citing the Award of the Air Medal. Unfortunately, No Orders or Award elements were forwarded to the 443 ABG, Altus AFB, OK. If you can help Paul, please contact him directly; P.O. Box 1826, Oxford, NC 27565-1826
 - c. **YOUR NEW ORDERS:** If you are coming to the reunion, **AND** you have a collection of ORDERS (stashed in a memorabilia box), **AND** those orders have names of fellow Shadows and Stingers, **then** PLEASE make copies and BRING THOSE with you the Ft. Walton Beach.
 - d. Questions and comments: Contact Col Mac at email colmacmac@mac.com, or (MST) Cell phone: (302) 249-1499.
 5. Are you interested in some AC-119 historical facts, current events, and interesting dialogue and stories about AC-119s? If you have Internet (web-www) access on your computer, then you have to browse to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>
Join the **Facebook group**, which now has **over 300** interesting FB members!!
 6. Also, there are FB pages dedicated to “Air Force Gunners”, “Air Force 462 Weapons”, and “U.S. Military Veterans - News you can use” – very interesting pictures and history, and valuable information.
-
7. The Spectre Association is putting forth a history book project: “50-ys. of Gunship History”. Anyone who served with fixed-wing, side-firing gunships may contribute a biography, pictures, and other information. For more information, and to obtain a “biography form”, contact former Spooky, Shadow, Stinger, Stallion and Spectre gunner, Norman Evans: [normevans873@cox.net](mailto:normeans873@cox.net),
-

FINAL FLIGHT addendum – May they rest in peace

1. Bobby Dixon, February 14, 2016 17th SOS and AC-47 Gunner
2. Bobby James, November 5, 2015 17th SOS Pilot
3. Dale Stickles, January 4, 2016 71st SOS Flight Engineer
4. Jim Stuckwisch, November 13, 2015 71st SOS Maintenance

You may find more details in obituaries posted in the **Mail Call** section of the Association's existing web site: <http://ac-119gunships.com/association/assocwelcome.htm>

Welcome to New Association Members:

1. Richard S. Balwin LIFE No. 420, 18th SOS Pilot, NKP, DaNang, BienHoa, 8/71 - 8/72
2. William F. Hoover LIFE No. 421, Pilot, 17/18 SOS, 14thSOW StanEval, PhanRang, 9/69-10/70
3. Walter Eugene Gunster III, LIFE No. 422, 18th SOS, NAV/NOS, DaNang/NKP, 8/71 -- 7/72
4. Don R. Johnson LIFE No. 423, 18th Pilot
5. Charles Tony Robertson LIFE No. 424, 18th SOS Pilot, DaNang, 4/70 - 4/71
6. Randy Woods LIFE No. 425, 18th Nav, NKP, BienHoa, DaNang, 5/72 - 3/73
7. Gary D. Hitzemann LIFE No. 426, 18th Flir/Nav, DaNang, NKP, 10/70 -- 9/71
8. Peter W. Chamberlain, *converted* to LIFE No. 427, 18 SOS, Nav/FLIR, 70-71, DaNang
9. Mathew B. Welton Jr., January Annual, AG, 18th SOS, 3/72 - 2/73, BienHoa, DaNang
10. Edsel E. Heath, February Annual, current US Army Civilian with General Dynamics
11. Monroe G. Smith, October Associate Annual, Han Wurfel's Brother-in-law (F4E "462")
12. Hans-Georg F Wurfel, October Annual, 18th SOS, Gunner, DaNang 01/69 - 12/70
13. Robert L. Aspinwall, November Annual, 18th SOS NAV/NOS, DaNang, NKP, 4/71 - 4/72
14. Ted Curtis, November Annual, 18th SOS, Pilot, PhanRang, Udorn, NKP, 4/70 - 4/71
15. James A. Russel, December Annual, 18th, FLIR, PhanRang, PhuCat, Udorn, 4/69 - 10/70
16. James D. Shope, December Annual, 18SOS, Pilot, PhanRang, NKP, 1/72 - 3/72
17. Keith T. Underwood, December Annual, 18th FLIR, DaNang, NKP, 6/71 - 6/72

Special note that the out-reach effort of Association POC Ev Sprouss has been rewarding: the Association is up to 475 members!!!!

Quartermaster's Updates

Gus Sininger is replenishing the Associations Merchandise, as items are selling well. When launched, the Association's new Web Site will allow for easy ordering and payment. Gus reports that he has recently restocked with new **Ascots**, pictured below. Please contact Gus via email at stinger7172@live.com or phone (850) 863-9649.



SPECIAL AC-119 ASSOCIATION HAND-GUN RAFFLE

REMINGTON .45 ACP, MODEL 1911 R1, AUTOLOADING PISTOL FOR THE
GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION

DONATED BY **CHEROKEE FIREARMS**
OWNER
RON SODERQUIST, GUNSMITH

TICKETS COST: 13 FOR \$100.00, 6 FOR \$50.00, or 1 FOR \$10.00

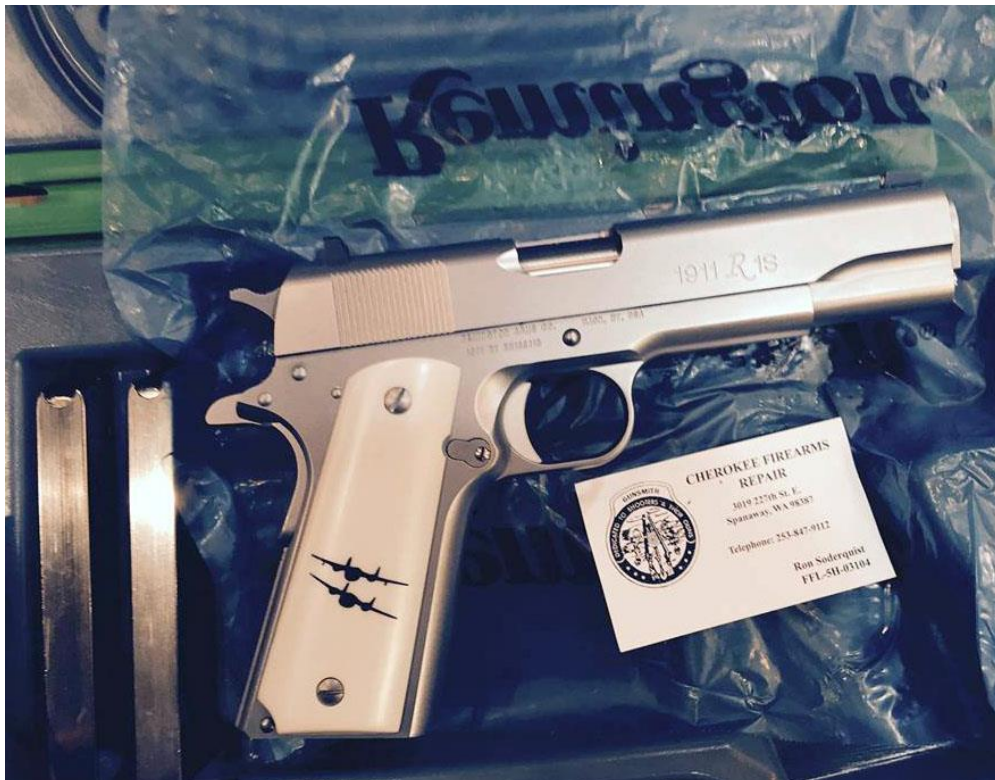
SEND YOUR DONATION TO:

DOUG WOHLGAMUTH
504 SHEA PL. SUN CITY CENTER, FL. 33573-5726

THE PISTOL IS STAINLESS STEEL PLATED WITH THE GRIP HAVING THE AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION BROTHERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GRIP, COMES WITH TWO (2) 7 ROUND CLIPS IN A PLASTIC GREEN CARRYING CASE ALSO HAS GUN LOCK.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AND THROUGH THE NEXT YEAR FOR RAFFLING OFF AT THE 2016 REUNION IN FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA. TICKETS WILL BE HELD BY DOUG WOHLGAMUTH. BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR END OF THE TICKET.

AND, TO MAKE SURE YOUR TICKETS ARE INCLUDED IN THE DRAWING SEND A CONFIRMATION EMAIL OF YOUR TICKET PURCHASE TO DOUG AT busch791@tampabay.rr.com



Reunion XVII, Ft. Walton Beach, FL....."Welcome Home"

DATE: October 26– 30, 2016

Ramada Plaza Beach Resort

1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy Se, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Tele: (850) 344-7941

Near the intersection of Miracle Strip Pkwy SE and Gulf National Sea Shore Dr.

Coordinators: Gus Siningerstinger7172@live.com

and Larry Hunter.....lhunter40@cox.net

Details for registration are attached, and will be provided in future Newsletters AND on our current Web site.

Preliminary activities includes a Halloween Party (on Sunday), and a wide range of boats for large or small fishing trips. Children's meals are ½ price. Spouses are volunteering for arranging any formal tours. Gus is hopeful that the 18th FSTS at Hurlburt will arrange a visit for attendees.

Yet, it can be awesome to visit the recently renovated Air Park at Hurlburt's Main Gate, the Weapons Museum at Eglin, and/or the NAS Museum in Pensacola (Home of the Blue Angles).



2016 Reunion MENU

Meet & Greet Friday, October 28th -- Home Style (Dinner) Buffet Options

Fried Fish	Beef Tips w/ Butter Noodles
Scalloped Potatoes	Banana Pudding Coffee & Tea

Saturday Night Banquet, October 29th

Mixed Greens Salad w/ Croutons & Italian Dressing
Chicken Cordon Blue or 7oz NY Strip
Twice Baked Potato Vegetable Medley
Peach Cobbler Pre-Set Tea Coffee

* Only available for Saturday Banquet (no half price)

October 30th

Sunday Night Halloween Buffet (Modified) Western BBQ Dinner Buffet Option

BBQ Baby Back Ribs	Corn on the Cob
Baked Beans	Fresh Cucumber & Tomato Salad
Mixed Green Salad w/ 2 Dressings	Red Bliss Potato Salad
Texas Toast	Pecan Brownies Coffee & Tea

* **NOTE:** Children Ages 4 - 12 half priced or *Chicken Tender Plate for \$12 all inclusive
Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Peaches, Sprite

2016 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XVII REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 26TH - 30TH, FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA
"WELCOME HOME"

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: 71st____ 17th____ 18th____ 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 1st Reunion: Yes___ No___

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

YES! I / We will attend:

• **Friday Meet & Greet Buffet** (see web or Newsletter for menus)..... # attending ____ X \$32 = \$ ____

NOTE: Kids Ages 4-12 half price . # attending ____ X \$16 = \$ ____
or Chicken Tender Plate for # attending ____ X \$12 = \$ ____

• **Saturday Night Banquet**

▶ NY Strip# of meals ____ X \$40 = \$ ____

▶ Cordon Blue Chicken# of meals ____ X \$40 = \$ ____

Note: Kids Ages 4-12 Chicken Tender Plate..... # attending ____ X \$12 = \$ ____
(Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Peaches, Sprit)

• **Sunday Morning Golf Tournament** (Covers Green Fees & prizes)..... # playing ____ X \$10 = \$ ____

▶ **Golf Tournament is limited to 28 players ONLY.**

• **Sunday evening Halloween Buffet Dinner** (Please dress for Halloween)...# attending ____ X \$35 = \$ ____

Note: Kids Ages 4-12 half price # attending ____ X \$ 17.50= \$ ____
or Chicken Tender Plate for # attending ____ X \$ 12.00 = \$ ____.

Check # _____ Total Payment \$ ____

NOTE: For special meal needs, contact Gus Sininger @ 850-865-2634 or stinger7172@cox.net
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: 800-874-8962. 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 Gus Sininger @ 850-865-2634 or stinger7172@cox.net

See You in Ft. Walton Bch and "WELCOME HOME"

Reunion Registration cancellations on or before September 27th = refund or donation as requested.
Reunion Registration cancellations after September 27th = we have to pay hotel "guarantees", so no refunds. (But talk to us if there are special circumstances like family emergencies or losses).

Hotel Registration: If you cancel after the minimum **72 hour** notification, you will be charged for one day.