

AC-119 Gunship Association Newsletter



Firing Circle



Dedicated to all AC-119 & AC-47 Gunship Aircrew, Maintenance, & Support Personnel

2009 Officers

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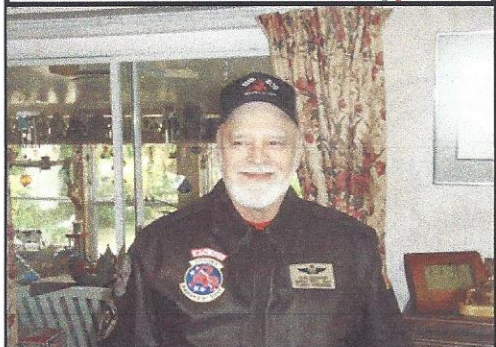
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Newsletter Editor: Tony Pakutinski

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AC-47 Coordinators: Al Sproul & Sam Tollett
"The Maintainers": Bob Farmer

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President's Message



Well, we have a lot of things on our plate, as you will see: the Reunion X registration is included in the Newsletter and there's a lot of information, so read carefully. **Note that Hotel and Reunion registration are separate!** You can fill out Reunion Registration on the Web site, or send in the attached copy from our newsletter. You **must** call the Holiday Inn directly at **800-569-8008 to register with them and reserve a hotel room.** Tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship Association. You must do it this way to get the discounted room price. Bill Dudley has done an outstanding job putting this package together, what a great way to celebrate 40 years of Gunship heritage.

After a LOT of hard work and perseverance, our history book is going to happen; make sure you put your order in with Doug, that form is included also. You can get your raffle tickets for the Commemorative Rifle/Pistol set in this Newsletter, donations are **one raffle ticket for \$10, six for \$50, and 13 for \$100.**

A Pre-Reunion Cruise is a great way to extend your Reunion trip. Bob Krueger coordinated a Pre-Reunion Cruise on the Carnival Cruise ship 'Fascination' departing Jacksonville (40 miles from St. Augustine) at 1600 on September 19, 2009. It's a 5 night cruise to Nassau and Half Moon Cay, returning to Jacksonville at 0800 on September 24, 2009. Total cost is \$400 /person for outside cabin, with \$100 ship credit per cabin. Rates will be less if we book more than 8 cabins. If you have any questions, contact Bob at bobkrueger1@verizon.net or (717) 274-2991. To book this fun cruise, contact Bob or Lorie Haulk @ (800) 819-3902 ext 85768 – tell her you're with Bob's group (refer to booking number 21C4N6 Albert R. Krueger). Rates as low as \$591 is available for a non-refundable Ocean-View room on the Rivera deck.

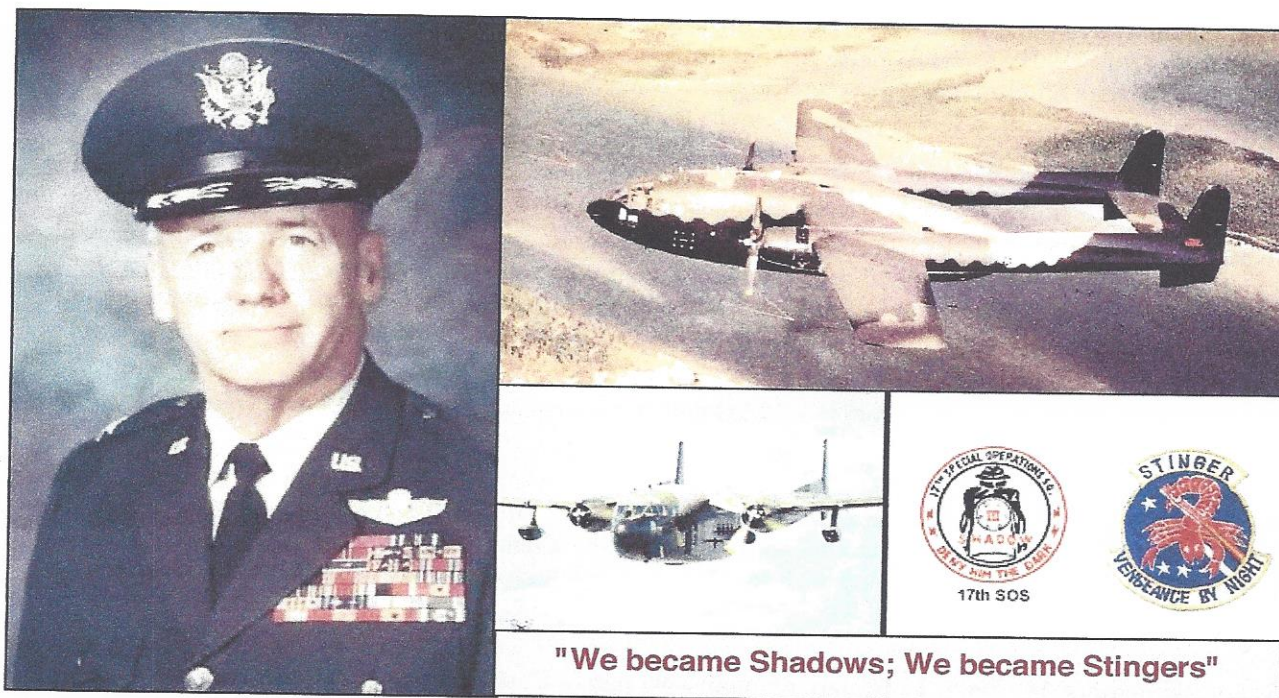
The following e-mail is from a model vendor; he can set up a display in the hootch, during our reunion:

"It was a pleasure talking with you last night. By way of introduction, I am a retired US Army Major who flew helicopters for 15 years. I have been in the display model business for the last 18 years. I have produced all types of models from World War II up to current generation types. My focus of business is custom orders to the individual requirements. The only models I have on hand are samples of my work for shows. As discussed, the display models are hand carved and hand painted from Philippine mahogany wood. I would like to display samples of the AC-119G, AC-119K and the AC-47D gunships. The models will be on display for the duration of the reunion. They generate a lot of discussion and the opportunity to reminiscence of time working on the aircraft. I have done several reunions in the past. It provides the reunion members an opportunity to order a model of the A/C they flew or worked on. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks again, Randy"

Ok folks, let's get busy. With our Gunship Anniversary, History Book, Commemorative Rifle and Pistol set, and Col Tom Teal as the guest speaker this will be a memorable reunion – again! Watch the deadlines for registration, history book ordering (if you want your copy at the reunion). I look forward to seeing you all in St. Augustine on September 24, 2009. Take care all, and see you in September. Please note POCs updated e-mail and phone numbers in The "Fly-By".

Gus Sininger, President
AC-119 Gunship Association

Reunion X – St. Augustine, Florida - September 24-27, 2009



St. Augustine Reunion Keynote Speaker - Colonel Tom Teal

Colonel Teal is a one-of-a-kind Commander and leader of both our 17th SOS *Shadows* and 18th SOS *Stingers*. He was the 17th SOS *Fighting "C" Flight* Commander at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam in 1970-1971, as well as the 18th SOS Commander at DaNang Air Base, Vietnam in 1972-1973, flying over 150 *Shadow* and *Stinger* missions. In March 1973, he was the last USAF Commander at DaNang and turned the base over to the South Vietnamese Air Force Commander. After assignments in B-17s, C-47s, C-124s, B-36s, and B-52s followed by staff and Command positions in multiple Squadrons and Wings, Colonel Teal retired with 33 years of service spanning World War II through Vietnam. Since St Augustine was where our aircraft began the transition from C-119 "Cargo and Troop Carrier" to AC-119 "Gunship", Colonel Teal will remind us of another transition each of us went through, aptly and simply described as:

"We became Shadows; We became Stingers"



Reunion and Hotel registration is separate. Call Hotel Registration at 800-569-8008 directly.

Join us & reunite with old friends & meet new ones in historic Saint Augustine – where all of our AC-119s were converted from cargo C-119s to the AC-119G & AC-119K Gunship models we flew & worked on. Our Reunion theme is "**We Became Shadows; We became Stingers**". Reunion Coordinator is Bill Dudley. **Your POC will send you Reunion registration forms or use the website.**

Hotel Registration: Historic Holiday Inn at 1302 Ponce de Leon Blvd in St. Augustine, Florida.

Reunion Room Rates: \$109.00 per night, which includes all taxes plus two full breakfasts per day. There are also Mini-Suites & Jacuzzi Suites for \$119.00 per night. **You must make your Reservations no later than Sept 1st, 2009 to guarantee rates & room space by calling 1-800-569-8008. Ask for the Gunship Association Reunion block.** You can book to arrive as early as Sept 21st & stay as late as Sept 28th at the group rate.

Reunion Registration: Reunion registration is ALSO now open, Registration Fee is \$15 per person.

Wednesday, September 23rd 2009: 6:00 p.m. - Hootch opens & will stay open through Sunday with snacks, wine, beer, sodas & water - **No Charge** to reunion attendees. There is plenty of space for your memorabilia & pictures, or to visit with friends. You can also pick up your pre-ordered **History Book** (there will be a limited number of extras for sale there). Reunion registration includes a **Free Trolley Pass** during the Reunion to take you to downtown St Augustine & back.

Thursday, September 24th 2009: 11:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. – Casino Cruise off the Florida coast. \$13 per person for this mid-day sail includes transport to & from the boat, free meal, & complementary beverages when gambling. Buses will leave the hotel approximately 10:15 a.m. & arrive back at the hotel approximately 4:45 p.m.

Friday, September 25th, 2009: 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Northrup-Grumman tour - 6:00 p.m. Meet & Greet - \$25 per person at the hotel: Menu: Roast Beef Carving Station, cold Poached Salmon, Meatballs, Chicken-Pineapple Brochettes, Spring Rolls, Spicy Wings, BBQ Wings, Finger Sandwiches, Fresh Fruit, Cheese Tray, Garden Vegetable Trays, Pretzels, Chips, & Dips. Dress: Party Suit or Casual. Cash Bar.

Saturday, September 26th 2009: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Membership Meeting –

6:00 p.m. – Banquet Happy Hour at the Riverview Club: Dress: we encourage Party Suits if you can still get into it. If not, coat & tie. Cash Bar. **7 p.m. – Banquet Dinner \$30 per person:** Menu: Your choice of either Prime Rib au Jus, Chicken Marsala, or Grilled Salmon with Tossed Salad, Rolls & Butter, Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert, Wine (2 bottles per table of ten), & Coffee. Dress: Party Suit or Coat & Tie. Cash Bar. **8:15 p.m. – Guest Speaker** – retired Colonel Tom Teal, Commander of both 17th SOS Shadow & 18th SOS Stinger units. **8:45 p.m. – Association Awards & Raffles, including our Commemorative Rifle & Pistol Set** (see website).

Sunday, September 27th 2009: 9 a.m. – Golf Tournament at World Golf Village (\$10 per person) with Golf Hall of Fame. 5 p.m. – Farewell BBQ, \$20 per person at the historic Lighthouse Museum: BBQ Chicken & BBQ Sliced Roast Beef with Roasted Potatoes, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, House Garden Salad, Pickle Tray, Fresh Bread, Seat Ice Tea, & Old Fashioned Lemon Bars. Dress: Casual. Cash Bar.

See you in Saint Augustine! Questions? Check the web at <http://www.ac-119gunships.com>, or contact your POC or Bill Dudley at ANUDAY00@AOL.COM or 904-806-4712.

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: 19__ to 19__; 19__ to 19__

Squadron: 71st__ 17th__ 18th__ other____ Crew Position / Role: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse/Guest: (First, Middle Initial, Last): _____

Additional Guests: (#) ____ Name(s) _____

Reunion Fee # attending ____ X \$15 = \$ _____

Yes! I / We will attend:

Thursday Casino Boat Trip with Sun Cruz # attending ____ X \$13 = \$ _____

Northrup-Grumman Tour # attending ____ X NC = \$ no cost

If taking tour, Employer or Retired from: _____ US Citizen (Y/N) ____

• Friday Night Meet & Greet # attending ____ X \$25 = \$ _____

• Saturday Night Banquet

○ Prime Rib au Jus # of meals ____ X \$30 = \$ _____

○ Chicken Marsala # of meals ____ X \$30 = \$ _____

○ Grilled Salmon # of meals ____ X \$30 = \$ _____

• Sunday Morning Golf Tournament (To Be Announced) # playing ____ X \$10 = \$ _____

• Sunday Afternoon BBQ # attending ____ X \$20 = \$ _____

NOTE: For special meal needs, contact Bill Dudley at ANUDAY00@AOL.COM or 904-806-4712

Check #: _____ Total Payment: \$ _____

After filling-in this page, PRINT IT OUT & mail it. If you're filling it out on the website, it will not save your information (you need to print your completed page then mail it to):

Make check payable to "AC-119 Gunship Association"

**Doug Wohlgamuth, Treasurer
AC-119 Gunship Association
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573**

Questions? Check the web at <http://www.ac-119gunships.com> or call Doug at 813-938-7176 or 813-781-5728 or e-mail him at Busch791@msn.com mailing this page with your payment completes your Reunion registration, you still need to contact the hotel direct for your Hotel registration! See the Reunion X Info sheet for details.

Cancellation Policies

- Reunion Registration cancellations on or before September 1st = refund or donation as requested.
 - Reunion Registration cancellations after September 1st = 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 cancellations: if you cancel after their minimum 48-hour notification, you may still be charged.



Bakalar AFB, Columbus, IN - June 6, 1969
Columbus Municipal Airport - June 6, 2009
40th Homecoming Anniversary

The Vietnam era 71st SOS will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the unit's return home on Saturday June 6, 2009. Three C-141s delivered 375 reservists to their home base on Friday June 6, 1969. The location was Bakalar Air Force Base, now the Columbus (IN) Municipal Airport. The reservists were greeted by loved ones and friends, and brief speeches by Indiana Governor Edgar D. Whitcomb and other local dignitaries.

The 40th anniversary homecoming reunion will be on Friday June 5 and Saturday June 6, 2009 at the Hampton Inn, Columbus/Taylorsville/Edinburgh, IN. Reunion activities on Saturday June 6 include a memorial service, attendance at the Columbus Municipal Airport Open House sponsored by the Atterbury/Bakalar Air Museum and a banquet Saturday evening. The banquet will be highlighted by a 15-minute video of footage photographed during the unit's arrival at Bakalar AFB, and a presentation by Lt. Col. Todd Lovell, USAF (Ret.). Todd, is a former commander of the current 71st Special Operations Squadron, at Kirtland AFB, NM.

The Vietnam era 71st SOS was awarded The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, and The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm for service during the period 19 Dec 68 - 30 Apr 69. It is worthy to note the 71st never lost an outpost it was defending, and helped save many patrols needing help. The greatest achievement was NOT A SINGLE FATALITY, and NOT AN AIRCRAFT LOST during the tour. Five reservists extended their tour in Vietnam: MSgt. Dale Stickles, MSgt. Herb Weaver, SSgt. George Dragoo, SSgt. Len Swallow and SSgt. Hector Trevino.

"The 71st Special Operations Squadron performed its mission in an outstanding, professional manner. All members of the 71st SOS can and should be proud of their performance. I am proud to have been the Commander of such a great group of men. I wish to say THANKS to all members of the 71st SOS for their outstanding performance." Lt. Col. James E. Pyle, USAF (Ret).

Raffle Contributions



Hello from California! We hope you are looking forward to the next reunion in St Augustine, Florida as much as we are! It will be a great place to get together with old friends, & make new ones as well!

We also can't wait for this year's raffle. The Association uses the raffle donations to help defray reunion & other costs that we don't charge you for, such as helping the families of those we lost in SEA to attend, our great 'Hootch' refreshments, the Newsletter, the AC-119 Gunship models that are given to our guest speakers, videoing your "stories" at reunions, postage, etc.

Raffle contributors have a hard act to follow last year's beautiful, unique, & generous donations. The patriotic flag quilt shown above, so beautifully crafted by Judy Alvis fetched a handsome bid, & now hangs proudly in the home of Karen Graves. One of my personal favorites was a small picture of Benjamin Franklin (on a hundred dollar bill)! Other raffle items included gift baskets, throws, boxes of hand-stamped greeting & holiday cards, copper scorpions, lithos signed by everyone attending the reunion, "Stinger" wine & T-shirt, & teddy bears – singing & non-singing!

This year we have another very special raffle item - a Commemorative rifle & pistol set made by Ron Soderquist that includes the names of the brothers lost in SEA engraved on the barrel. (See description on next page). We will also be raffling a 30" flat panel TV, since we always rented one for the reunion, buying & raffling one instead seemed like a good idea.

So, I encourage you to consider bringing a raffle item - click those knitting needles, or even buy gift cards. Your donations for the raffle are very much appreciated. Please remember that the lucky winner of your prize may need to take it home on a plane, & those airlines are so darn picky now about what we can take on board. If you bring an item, please give it to our reunion registration folks when you pick up your packet at the reunion so we can 'display' them in the Hootch.

Questions? Call or e-mail me at 707-447-3548 or llaessig@yahoo.com

Thank You!
Lynette Laessig

**Raffle Ticket****Donations:****One for \$10****Six for \$50****Thirteen for \$100**

The Rifle is a 22 (long rifle) caliber built on a Ruger Model 10/22 action, with a custom laminated Boyd's Stock, SS Bull Barrel, Action Tuned Trigger, bipod, and 4 reticle Halo Sight that will group three shots in ½ inch at 50 yards. The stock is black to signify our night missions, the receiver is silver signifying our wings and medals, the barrel is red to signify the blood we lost in SEA, the names of our brothers lost in SEA are engraved in the barrel, and the Association coin is embedded in the rifle's stock. Pistol is a 22 caliber 10 shot Ruger "Tactical Solutions" Model with a similar color scheme.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: () _____

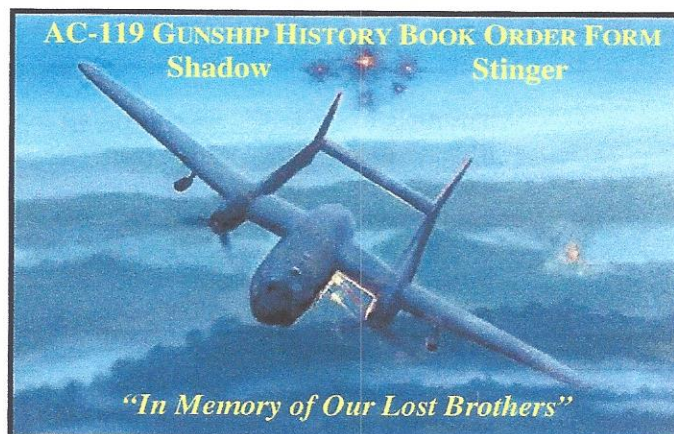
Total Tickets: _____ Total Donation: _____

*Make Checks payable to:***"AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE RAFFLE"***SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:*

Doug Wohlgamuth, Treasurer
AC-119 Gunship Association
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573
(813)-938-7176

bush791@msn.com

The Raffle for this one-of-a-kind Commemorative Set will be on September 26, 2009



Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: Land Line _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

AC-119 Gunship History Book - Number of Copies x Price per Copy = Total

_____ X \$50 = \$_____

Make Checks payable to:

"AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION HISTORY BOOK FUND"

SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:

Doug Wohlgamuth, Treasurer
AC-119 Gunship Association
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573
(813)-938-7176

bush791@msn.com

The deadline for ordering books for the St. Augustine Reunion, is Saturday, August 1, 2009

Fly-By! Special thanks to all our Coordinators:

71 st Coordinator:	Jim Alvis	jralvis@indy.rr.com	317-846-4130
17 th Coordinator:	Phil Wheatley	philwheatley@comcast.net	302-629-9065
18 th Eastern Region Coordinator:	Ev Sprou	c119gunner@yahoo.com	314-221-7385
18 th Western Region Coordinator:	Bill Reffner	cbscruffy@comcast.net	916-801-8779
AC-47 Coordinator:	Al Sproul	fjrdriver@earthlink.net	512-388-2994
AC-47 Coordinator:	Sam Tollett	runsbeats@yahoo.com	757-766-3065
Maintenance Coordinator:	Bob Farmer	hemibd@yahoo.com	765-427-6691

Tony Pakutinski

PS: Next Newsletter will have a sample of our Reunion X Name Tags. Please ensure you give name, duty position, squadron, spouse/guest name, and tour years. Each tag will be based on your information.

*"Moments, Memories, & Missed"**Ban Cullop**Jerry Holland**Gene E. Roode**Mary "Booty" Teal**Mailen Thomas**Wife of Dale Cullop 18th FE**4th ACS & SOS Loadmaster**18th Maintenance**Wife of Tom Teal 17th & 18th Commander**71st FE*

"May the road rise up to meet you - May the wind be always at your back - May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand". Traditional Gaelic Blessing