The AC-119-Gunship











71st SOS

DENY HIM THE DARK

17th SOS

VENGEANCE BY NIGHT

18th SOS

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2002

This is our first-ever newsletter. We realize not all of our members have computers or even if most do, not everyone goes on the internet. So in an effort to inform all members of what's happening, we will publish this newsletter at least yearly to keep you informed of our reunions and meetings. We will advertise merchandise the Association has for sale. There will be registrations for reunions, membership applications, and renewals. We will list our officers and other important contacts here. If enough members feel the need, we may publish this newsletter more often. Feel free to contact us, if you have something you would like to add to our publication.

PLEASE NOTE: THE AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION IS NOW OFFICIALLY EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX AS STATED AND APPROVED IN INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE LETTER DATED 02 JAN 2002. ASSOCIATION OFFICERS HAVE COPIES OF THE LETTER.

Message from the Prez

Shadow and Stinger Brothers,

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve you as President of the AC-119 Gunship Association. Thanks to past president, Chuck James and his crew, the Association is airborne with gear up! The engines are roaring with power and there's a full load of fuel, ammo, and flares onboard.

Just like Southeast Asia where it took every man in the 71st, 17th, and 18th Special Operations Squadrons 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, your interest and participation in the Association is critical for the life and survival 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 me or any of the Association officers. The current crew of Association officers are working together to maintain present standards while preparing for Gunship Reunion III. Reservations have been made for Reunion III at the Eglin NCO Club for the weekend of September 27, 28 & 29, 2002.

Headquarters for our Reunion will again be the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. The hotel is located at 1325 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach FL, telephone 800-874-8104. When you make room reservations, be sure to tell them you are attending the AC-119 Gunship Reunion.

I certainly want to recognize, commend, and thank our Website Master, Chief Bill Petrie. Through his expertise, we are able to communicate-at-will on the Internet. For those Stinger and Shadow personnel not on the Internet, we will communicate via USPS.

This December, we lost a Stinger Brother, Fred Graves. He was instrumental in rallying our gunship troops for our first-ever reunion in the year 2000 and consequently the formation of our Association. May his soul rest in peace knowing that his work on earth bore fruit.

Mark your "short-timer" calendar now for the last weekend in September, 2002. Plan to reunite with fellow-warriors both ground and flight crews and buddies who share the common bonds of the gunship brotherhood.

Any Time, Any Place **Dutch Payne**

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION WEB SITE http://www.ac-119gunships.com/index.htm

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 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 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 Secretary, 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.

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 concerns or questions, please contact any of the Association officers at:

President
Dutch Payne
134 Opp Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-244-7494
t56tac@aol.com

Vice President Larry Fletcher 301 Carol Road, Box 6 Lake Ozark, MO 65049 573-365-8916 Ifletcher@socket.net Newsletter Editor Everett Dale Sprous 3521 Salena St Louis Mo 63118-4024 314-865-0920 edspro@juno.com Secretary Jimmy Grant 5048 Florence Street Oakwood, GA 30566 770-536-0860 jamnjimi@bellsouth.net

Treasurer Art Perry 220 Sagebrush Trail Ormond, FL 32174 386-615-9756 APerry@aol.com



Congratulations! to AC-119 Gunship Association Officers for 2001-2002 (left to right) Art Perry, Jimmy Grant, Larry Fletcher and Dutch Payne.



In Memory of Our Fallen Airmen

"But we shall be remembered; we few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that shed his blood with me shall be my brother." Shakespeare



17th Special Operations Squadron

Major Bernard Knapic

Captain John H. Hathaway

Major Moses L. Alves

Major Jerome J. Rice

Staff Sergeant Abraham L. Moore

Major Merideth G. Andersen

First Lieutenent Thomas L. Lubbers

First Lieutenent Charles M. Knowles

Master Sergeant Joseph C. Jeszeck

Staff Sergeant Robert F. Fage, Jr.

Sergeant Michael J. Vangelisti

18th Special Operations Squadron

Staff Sergeant Clyde D. Alloway

Captain Terence F. Courtney

Captain David Slagle

Staff Sergeant Kenneth R. Brown

Captain Thomas R. Hamman

Vietnam

If you are able
Save for them a place
inside of you
and save one backward glance
when you are leaving
for the places they can no longer go.
Be not ashamed to say you loved them.
Take what they have taught you
with their dying
and keep it with your own.
And in that time when men decide and feel safe
to call the war insane,
take one gentle moment to embrace
those gentle heroes
you left behind.

Major Michael Davis O'Donnell 1 January 1970 Dak To, Vietnam

TO OUR BROTHERS WHO HAVE FLOWN THEIR LAST MISSION HERE ON EARTH



FREDRICK GRAVES 18th SOS FE CHARLES RAY SMOLINSKE 17th SOS FE EMILE L. JOHNSON 18th SOS FE VON LEAVITT 18th SOS 1stSGT JAMES E. CLEVENGER JAMES N. CHAPMAN 18th SOS DICK RIBINSKI RICK L. WARD 18th SOS WILLARD (BILL) COLLINS 18th SOS GEORGE W. POLLOCK RICHARD (DICK) REILLY 18th SOS FE JIM MAY 18th SOS GUNNER (NEIL) MICHAEL FRIEL 18th SOS IO



NOTE: I FOUND THESE NAMES ON THE WEBSITE GUESTBOOK. IF YOU KNOW OF OTHERS, OR CORRECTIONS, DROP ME A LINE AT: edspro@juno.com 314-865-0920 Everett Sprous 3521 Salena St Louis Mo 63118-4024

ED McCORMICK 17th SOS DON SOMERVILL 17th SOS

WILLIAM TALLAFERRO 17th SOS

JAMES JAMES 17th SOS PILOT

JERRY BRIGHTMAN 18th SOS FE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

#1.	FRED GRAVES *	#13.	LARRY E. FLETCHER		#25.	EUGENE A. LEE
#2.	BILL PETRIE	#14.	ART PERRY		#26.	ROBERT C. FRETZ, SR.
#3.	JIM BENNES	#15.	JIMMY E. GRANT		#27.	ROBERT P. FREDERICK
#4.	NORM EVANS	#16.	MILO G. YOWELL		#28.	ROBERT L. MCNEW
#5.	JEROME E. MICHAUD	#17.	DAN MCDUFFIE		#29.	JOHN R. DYDO
#6.	DOUGLAS E. GORSUCH	#18.	ALBERT R. KRUEGER		#30.	MAX C. KENNEDY
#7 .	LARRY J. HUNTER	#19.	EVERETT DALE SPROUS		#31.	MICHAEL M. NOBACH
#8.	CK (KEN) WILSON	#20.	TERRY W. BOTT		#32.	WAYNE F. LAESSIG
#9.	DON HAMPTON	#21.	STEVE MAC ISAAC		#33.	PHILIP G. GOODWIN
#10.	ROBERT MCCREIGHT	#22.	VERN C. HANSEN		#34.	JOHN W. MORROW
#11.	WALKER CULLOP	#23.	MARCUS A. BREWER		#35.	GORDON L. BOEZER
#12.	WILLIAM MCINTYRE	#24.	RON JULIAN			
			-			

AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION III

AGENDA

September 27-29, 2002

PLEASE REMEMBER, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR MOTEL RESERVATIONS SEPARATE FROM THE REUNION REGISTRATION. BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE ATTENDING THE AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION.

Friday. September 27, 2002 1800 hours—BEACH PARTY Four points poolside patio—\$15 ea. Hors d' oeuvres/Free Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks & Snacks at the Gunship Party Hootch. Casual Dress, Swim & Party Suits	Saturday, September 28, 2002 0900 Hours—Membership Meeting in Four Points Sheraton Hudson Hall 1100 Hours—Charter bus departs main lobby entrance for memorial service and Naval Aviation Museum. Bus Fee \$10.00 ea.—includes driver tip, min # riders = 45 Return 1600 Hours. Carpoolers meet in Hotel Lobby. 1200 Hours—Memorial Service at Veterans Memorial Park, Pensacola 1200 Hours—Departure—Ladies Shopping at Destin Outlet Mall Carpooling—Meet in Hotel Lobby				
Saturday Evening 1800 Hours—Cocktails—Eglin NCO Club Semi-formal Dress or Party Suit 1900 Hours—Dinner \$25 ea. 2030 Hours—Guest Speaker USAF Ret. Col. Rusty Napier 2100 Hours—Announcements/Hand in the 'Ice Bucket' followed by dancing to the sounds of Stormin' Norman Evans	Sunday, September 29, 2002 1000 Hours—Golf Tournament @ Eglin Course Jim Bennes—Tourney Coordinator \$10 Entry Fee for Prizes \$25 Green Fee depending on rank, pay fee at Golf Course				
drinks and snacks. Veterans Memorial Park, located at the corner of Bayfront Washington D.C It contains the names of Americans lost in Sixteen of the names on the Wall belong to the 17th & 18th National Museum of Naval Aviation, one of the largest Avsacola. Free Admission. Open Daily 9-5. Allow 1 hour 30 m zens, military with ID and ages 4-12, \$5.25. Group rates ava	riation Museums in the country, located at the south end of Navy Blvd on the Naval Air Station, Penninutes minimum. Food is available. An IMAX theater has films every hour \$5.50. For senior citi-				
MADE WITH THE MOTEL YES, I WILL ATTEND: (Check all that apply	y). Totals				
Beach Party \$15 ea X's # atte Bus Fee \$10 ea X's # atte Banquet Dinner \$25 ea X's # atte Golf Tourney \$10 ea X's # atte Farewell Bar-B-Q \$17 ea X's # atte Total enci	nding = \$				
DEADLINE TO PAY IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2002	Creat or Sparce's Name:				
	Guest or Spouse's Name: STATE: ZIP:				
	MAIL: FAX: ()				
Make check or money order out to <i>AC-119 G</i> . AC-119 Gunship Association Secretary Jimmy Grant 5048 Florence Street Oakwood GA 30566					

or call Jimmy at (770) 536-0860 or email at jamnjimi@bellsouth.net

THESE ARE SOME OF THE ENTRIES FROM THE GUEST BOOK ON OUR WEBSITE. AS TIME GOES BY & SPACE PERMITTING, WE WILL TRY TO PUBLISH MORE ENTRIES.

To all the old 17th Navs or anyone having access to the old mission tapes of the 17th combat missions. I just received two CD's converted from old mission tapes of the 17th from Dan McDuffe who spent a lot of time and effort formating the old tapes to CDs. They were great and brought back a lot of memories. The big problem is that there seems to be few known or accessable mission tapes (Thanks to Larry Fletcher for the few we have to make more new CDs to save for HISTORY and the few of us from the 17th that would like to have for our own memory for what ever that is worth. If possible, would anyone out there have some hid away in an old shoe box. I would sure appreciate it for my own legacy and maybe some of my other comrades. Thanks in advance. Garry Gourley 17th SOS FE Tan San Nhut 70-71

Garry F Gourley <gfgourley33@hotmail.com> Corpus Christi, TX USA - Monday, February 04, 2002 at 18:19:08 (EST)

I am looking for anyone who was on board aircraft tail number 53-8069, on May 7th, 1969 and remembers the slow primer explosion we had on gun one. I need e-mail or letters stating that I was hit with pieces of the casing, hot gases and gun powder, that we made a emergency return to Tan Son Nhut and I was taken to the base hospital. I need these for my one of my VA claims. My e-mail address is iwso@adelphia.net and my snail mail address is 1655 North 4th East, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647. My thanks in advance Bill

Bill Hamilton, Major, USAF, Ret <i wso@adelphia.net> USA - Monday, January 28, 2002 at 16:33:12 (EST)

Sometimes I have no words for the loss of friends and fellow warriors. It is times like Fred Graves' passing that I leave the words to others. Fred was so much a part of our brotherhood. Fred may be gone from our midst but he certainly will never be forgotten. The passing of our friend Fred reminds of the following words I'd like to share with all in the AC-119 Gunship Brotherhood.... Eulogy for a Veteran Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the Gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the mornings hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight, I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die. author unknown May God hold you in the palm of his hand Fred Chief Master Sergeant **Bill Petrie**

Bill Petrie, CMSgt, USAF, Ret <RetCMSgt@aol.com> Oklahoma City, OK USA - Friday, December 14, 2001 at 12:09:49 (EST)

For those of you who want to buy a copy of my novel, "Shadows of Saigon", I recommend Barnes and Noble Online Bookstore at www.bn.com. They have the best prices for soft cover and hard cover books. I bought a hard cover for \$25. plus shipping and received the book one week later. Your local bookstore can also order copies of the book. Author name on the book is Elton Fletcher. For those of you who have read the book, do me a favor and be a literary critic. Write an online review of the book at Barnes and Noble. Thanks to all for your support! After a great AC-119 Gunship Reunion this year, I'm already looking forward to next year's reunion III. Fletch

Larry Elton Fletcher lfletcher@socket.net>

Lake Ozark, MO USA - Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 11:24:42 (EDT)

To visit our website & sign the guest book, go to: http://www.ac-119gunships.com/welcome.htm

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCIATION

Stinger Patch



Shadow Patches





Patches are approximately 4x4 inches

Four Flags Patch (Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos)



Yankee Air Pirate Patch



\$5 + Add 50 cents for 1 or 2 patches and 75 cents for 3 or 4 patches. Thanks! Art for your great work on getting these patches replicated.

Contact: Art Perry

220 Sagebrush Trail Ormond Beach FL 32174 Phone (386) 615-9756 APerry9567@aol.com

CD's - \$20 per set

Dan McDuffie has done an outstanding job telescoping rare mission tapes from Stinger and Shadow sorties and burning them to a CD. (remember? those tapes had lots of pregnant pauses).

To order your mission CDs visit http://home.insightbb.com/~danmcduffie/ clicking on this URL will take you off site.



Contact: Dan McDuffie 3930 S 135E Oakford, IN 46965 Phone (765) 453-7383 danmcduffie@insightbb.com

MERCHADISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCCIATION

REFURBISHED SHADOW & STINGER CALLING CARDS & BUSINESS CARDS

FRONT

WHEN UNIVITED GUESTS DROP IN . . . CALL FOR THE SHADOW

We Provide Lighting for All Occasions Beaucoup 7.62 Mortar Suppression



We Defend: Special Forces Camps Air Bases Outposts Troops In Contact

WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS BELOW the JUNGLE CANOPY? "THE SHADOW KNOWS"





LARRY ELTON FLETCHER SHADOW PILOT 1969-1970 TAN SON NHUT VIETNAM

BACK



WHEN UNIVITED GUESTS DROP IN . . . CALL FOR THE 18th S.O.S.

We Provide Lighting for All Occasions Beaucoup 7.62 & 20MM Truck & Mortar Suppression



We Defend: Special Forces Camps Air Bases Outposts Troops In Contact We Also Stop Truck, Sampan and Other Traffic

A FLY BY NIGHT ORGANIZATION





EVERETT DALE SPROUS STINGER GUNNER 1971-1972 NKP THAILAND BIEN HOA VIETNAM

BUSINESS CALLING CARDS



AC-119 GUNSHIP AIR CREW or GROUND CREW MEMBER











SUPER CREW CHIEF J-85 JET ENGINE MECHANIC 1971-1972 NKP THAILAND—BIEN HOA VIETNAM







MAC-119-Gunship











EVERETT DALE SPROUS 3521 SALENA ST LOUIS MO 63118-4024 (314) 865-0920 E-MAIL edspro@juno.com







COST: \$4.00 + .50 FOR A MINIMUM OF 10 or \$20.00 + .75 FOR A MAXIMUM OF 50 SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: EVERETT SPROUS 3521 SALENA ST LOUIS MO 63118-4024 E-MAIL edspro@juno.com PHONE (314)865-0920

FRONT OF SHADOW REUNION II T-SHIRT

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCIATION

MERCHANDISE IS AVAILABLE FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION

Reunion 2001 T-Shirts Still available! Only \$18 17th & 18th SOS hats \$14 to order:

Contact:

Gus Sininger

206 Tooke St

Ft Walton Bch. Fl 32547

Phone (850) 863-9649 or e-mail g.sininger@seii.net

REUNION III T-SHIRTS CAN NOW

ORDERED. THE DESIGN WILL

CHANGE TO THE

ASSOCIATION T-SHIRT. IT

WILL HAVE THE

ASSOCIATION LOGO ON THE

BACK AND THE STINGER OR SHADOW LOGO ON THE FRONT.

AVAILABLE COLORS ARE WHITE,

ASH (GRAY) & LIGHT BLUE. THE COST WILL BE \$20.

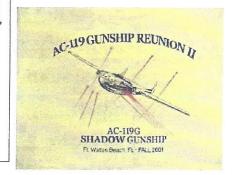
FRONT OF STINGER REUNION II T-SHIRT

Newly designed! Shadow and Stinger Hats - \$14



BACK OF SHADOW REUNION II T-SHIRT

Order Form on Next Page



BACK OF STINGER REUNION II T-SHIRT



LOATION HIGHWAY PATROL T-SHIRT \$15.00

REUNION 2000 T-SHIRTS (STILL SOME LEFT) CHECK WITH GUS \$15.00







AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION III

ORDER YOUR OFFICIAL REUNION 2002 T-SHIRTS TODAY

Order T-Shirt NOW, Available in ALL SIZES and comes in White, Ash (gray) (with or with out pocket) & Light Blue (no pocket)

T-Shirt made in two color print

Sizes: Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large (Tent)

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Or contact	Gus at phone (850) 863-	.9649 or E-MAIL at g	s.sininger@seii.net

BOOK AVAILABLE

DR. LARRY FLETCHER'S Shadows of Saigon



AVAILABLE FROM BARNES & NOBLE BOOK STORES

GO TO www.bn.com

Author and Former United States Air Force Captain, Dr. Larry E. Fletcher flew 177 combat missions as a pilot in AC-119 Shadow gunships during his tour of duty in Southeast Asia. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal with eight Clusters. Nominated for Pacific Air Forces Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year, Fletcher was assigned to Fighting C Flight of the 17th Special Operations Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base; Saigon, Republic of Vietnam.



AC-119-Gunship









71st SOS



18th SOS

HI AC-119 GUNSHIP BROTHER. WE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO HAVE YOU JOIN OR RENEW IN OUR AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION. THIS ASSOCIATION WAS CREATED FOR YOU. WHETHER YOU WERE AN AIRCREW MEMBER OR WORKED ON THE AC-119'S ON THE GROUND, WE WANT YOU IN OUR ORGANIZATION.

ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$20.00 OR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP FOR ONLY \$119.00
PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
THE AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION & MAIL TO:

JIMMY GRANT, SECRETARY AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION

5048 FLORENCE ST

OAKWOOD GA 30566 or Call Jimmy at (770) 536-0860 OR email at jamnjimi@bellsouth.net

i	AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL						
	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 served in combat with the (circle one) 71st SOS 17th SOS or 18th SOS From, 19 to, 19 in (SEA) Southeast Asia as: (enter air or ground crew position)						
	ADDRESS: STREET: CITY:						
	STATE: ZIP: E-MAIL:						
i	PHONE: FAX:						
I	SIGNATURE:						
	Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 for an annual membership or \$119.00 for a lifetime membership, made out to the <i>AC-119 Gunship Association</i> as a donation for my annual or lifetime membership dues. MAIL TO: JIMMY GRANT, SECRETARY AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION 5048 FLORENCE ST						
	GAKWOOD GA 30566 or Call Jimmy at (770) 536-0860 OR email at jamnjimi@bellsouth.net						















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 ST LOUIS MO 63118-4024

DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE RUSH

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