

Greetings all!

We had a GREAT Fort Walton Reunion with some long-lost friends showing up – a friend once told me old friendships are always and he was right. You can say the same for the new friendships made at our reunions.

LOTS of folks deserve a loud Thank You:

- Gus Sininger – fantastic Reunion Coordinator AND President for about the last eleventy-seven years!
- Lee Kyser – the idea man behind the “reflight of the Hupe” – with an all-star cast including John Hupe, the Eglin Radio-Controlled Modellers Club, and the 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS. Stay tuned for a future DVD from JP Maclsaac on “Then and Now – A Stinger Model’s Story”.
- 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS – so many to thank for graciously hosting us to meet and swap stories with today’s Air Force Warriors. Hubie, a huge Sierra Hotel to all and thank you for joining us at our Banquet with your Commander Lt Col Duke Pope and your (as Gus put it) oh-so-easy-on-the-eyes spouses :>)
- Everyone who brought something for our raffle – we appreciate it!! Ron, your rifles and pistols will become treasures for the lucky raffle winners!
- Debbie Barbee and Gus – many thanks for the Shadow and Stinger ascots! We learned most of our necks are a ‘lot’ bigger now and we hope to have more for next reunion!

We lost too many friends and loved ones in 2012 and I know they’ll always be part of our hearts – living on in us. Let us all remember:

- 71<sup>st</sup>: Don Jerrels
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Bob McNew, Ed McCallion
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Frank Zemanick, Fred Blum, Bill Feezor
- Friends: Chuck Lunsford

There were also lots of good things that happened in 2012 like making contact with the 73<sup>rd</sup> SOS at Cannon AFB flying new AC-130W **Stinger II** Gunships, previously known as the MC-130W Dragon Spear. Mac Maclsaac and Bob LaRosa visited the 73<sup>rd</sup> and they’re now our 4<sup>th</sup> Heritage Squadron along with the 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS at Hurlburt, 17<sup>th</sup> SOS flying MC-130P Combat Shadows out of Kadena, and 71<sup>st</sup> SOS flying CV-22 Ospreys out of Kirtland.

Larry “Doc” Fletcher worked with the Air Commando Association’s leaders to increase recognition of the AC-119’s significant role in the Vietnam War. We’ll see an AC-119 article in the Air Commando Journal soon.

Tony “Pakman” Pakutinski started an AC-119 Facebook page – check it out at [Shadownandstinger Spousegroup](#)

Reunion 14 will be in San Antonio – where almost all of us started in the Air Force. LOTS to see and do thanks to Jerry and Ellen Hester, our SAT Reunion Coordinators.

Reunion 15 will be back to Albuquerque at the MCM Elegante on September 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 with a fantastic rate of \$87 (tax inclusive). Plans include an El Paso day as well as activities with our 71<sup>st</sup> SOS Heritage Squadron at Kirtland AFB. Thanks to Mac Maclsaac for replicating his Reunion Coordinator role on one of our most successful reunions in ABQ in 2006.

My Goals for 2013:

Double the names we have contact with on our Master Contact list;

Another great Reunion in San Antonio with more of us there;

More videos;

Stay healthy and happy!

Best for 2013 to you and yours from me and mine,  
Wayne & Lynette Laessig