



THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2002 VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

Hello Gunshippers

Our 4th Reunion is coming together and I want to give you some highlights plus some idea on what we've been working and spending our time and your money on.

First, some things that have been done or being worked on:

> Wayne Laessig and Jim Terry through their efforts have consolidated various listings of names into one database. This Master List has over 800 names of Members of the 71st, 17th, and 18th SOS members. Flying personnel, Support personnel, Technical personnel and so on. We will try to reach each and every one on this list to see if they want to stay on the list or not. More on this at the membership meeting by Wayne and Jim.

- > A Brass Memorial Plaque, S. E. A. Video's and a one-of-a-kind AC-119 Gunship Painting and Lithographs.
- > Norm Evans and I are on call for the next meeting for the Hurlburt Air Park committee to request that a concrete stand be built for the placement of our Memorial Plaque.
- > Norm now has SEA Video's for the 17th and 18th SOS. They each start out at Lockbourne and then in country of day and night firings and each crew position. Nice tapes please order one for yourself.
- > Our newest Board Member EV Sprous has done a super job on our newsletters, including E-mailing to many of you. To get the newsletter by E-mail you will need to have Acrobat reader. Acrobat reader is free so download it and get your newsletter.
- > The Web site is just amazing. PLEASE take a some time and read the Guest book entries-there are messages from all kinds of people from Spouses, Sons and Daughters and lots of fellow Gunshippers. Take a short walk through the Web's Links and pages for I'm sure you'll add it to your "Favorites" list. For those of you without a computer, ask someone you know that has a computer or ask one of us to walk you through it at the reunion. We'll even print you some of the pages you might want.

The Reunion itself has a full slate as well as plenty of time to visit with old friends and hopefully make some new ones while you "hootch it" or just enjoy Ft. Walton Beach again after all those years! Four Points Hotel Sheraton in Ft. Walton Bch. will once again be our host and we could not have better hosts for the last past three years! Super breakfast every morning and the Pool party along with the BBQ dinner and oh yea waking up every morning on the beach. It doesn't get any better than that. We want to see more Gunshippers at the 2003 Reunion, which will once again be held in Ft. Walton Bch., FL. On October 3-4-5. We'll send the details on the Reunion activities and schedules soon in another message. But, right now, please take the time to fill out your Reunion Registration Form and then call the Four Points, telephone number 1-800-874-8104, to make your reservation (be sure to tell them you are attending the AC-119 Gunship Reunion). Now do this before it's too late or this gets put aside and you forget OK!

Here are just a few highlights:

Guest Speaker will be Maj. Gen. Douglas Metcalf, which continues our tradition of speakers who were with us and who traveled a career path built on foundations we forged there. He'll help us understand a little more about our "ground pounder" brothers who gave us the tools and support to fly and fight with, and to return alive. His topic is "From the Ground Up". Maybe we'll hear about what it took to replace an engine that blew over Steel Tiger or one of those nice places we took their aircraft (funny how we kept bringing them back broken and with new holes in them).

- > Memorial Services back at Hurlburt Field at our Gunship.
- > Dedication of a Plaque for the lost comrades in SEA from the 17th and 18th SOS
- > Special Visitor "Sundog FAC" Tom Milligan who flew with Terry Courtney at An Loc that tragic and heroic day in 1972. Tom's also involved in the state-of-the-art FLIR technology to give us some insights to today's world of Gunships and other applications. He also has a funny story or two, like Spectre BDA that will make you grin.
- > Our Association computer + our scanner + our printer + our digital camera + your old crew or mission pictures + whoever you can get to come to the reunion that was in that picture = a composite picture to take home (kind of a then and now). Bottom Line: bring your pictures and stuff-you never know who will show up!
- > T-shirts-T-shirts-T-shirts! Plus, Hats, Patches, Pins, Mission CD's and actual Shadow and Stringer Video's. Soon to come Lithographs of the AC-119, Coins, and Golf Shirts.

Look at the last meetings minutes and our by-laws changes. We'll be voting on some biggies at this Reunion. For example, the Reunion survey responses are running 9-1 in favor of Dayton Ohio for the 2004 Reunion. Why Dayton? To begin with, Wright Patterson is where the AC-119 mission was born; we had our initial training at Lockbourne, the Air Force Museum is expanding their Gunship display and we can give them knowledge based on real gunship people and stories (that's you and me guy's). The German Village is an hour away (Plank's here we come). Rogers Stevens and Ron Julian live near Wright Patterson and are our POC's for checking things out for us. They will brief us and we will vote on this at the 0800 Saturday Membership Meeting in the Hudson Hall at the Four Points Hotel.

On a more somber note, we've lost some brothers this year, but I know they are with my very best friends Fred Graves and Mike Friel and the others who have left us, just raising hell and grinning at us running around down here. (Hey Fred-Dreams do come true-Thanks Buddy-Love You!). Please join me in remembering those who have gone in the past years and those we have lost this year: Jim Acquaviva, Jose Cachuela, and Rene Pommerelle. Our prayers are with them; their families and other loved ones.

Some last thoughts: Serving on the Association Board is an honor and a huge responsibility. I've loved it and even "not liked it so much" sometimes, but over all it's one of the greatest things you can do for all of us. Please think about filling one of our All-Volunteer roles next year-not just as a board member but those who contribute their time in contacting people, keeping records straight, coordinating for plaques, awards, pictures, patches, shirts, speakers the web and meals (need I go on). Bottom Line is we can always use volunteers. Call Bill Petrie if you are interested in helping with the web site (you need to know a little more than: a mouse is a little furry animal" though). Call Wayne with contacts for the master list, EV for the newsletter support or articles for the newsletter, or me for lots of other opportunities to support "your" association. We're also looking for an Association Chaplain, to fill our new board member position, so if anyone is interested please let me know (and no you don't need to be an ordained minister to fill this position).

Be sure to register for the Reunion at the Four Points Hotel on October 3-4-5, 2003, and I can't wait to be reunited once again (Hopefully Bigger and Better).

God Bless One and All

Gus Sininger

President AC-119 Gunship Association

THE FIRING CIRCLE

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 (only annual memberships) (there is no charge for surviving spouse's of deceased life members) memberships available. Contact the Association Secretary for full information on all types of memberships available.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Obtain an application for membership on the Association Website, or by contacting the Association Secretary, 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 (available only to regular members). Surviving spouse's of life members, become life members automatically

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.

**JOIN YOUR GUNSHIP BROTHERS IN
FT WALTON BEACH FLORIDA
OCTOBER 3, 4, 5, 2003
FILL OUT AND RETURN THE REUNION
APPLICATION ON PAGE 5**

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

President
Gus Sininger
206 Tooke St
Fort Walton Bch, FL 32547-2651
850-863-9649
g.sininger@seii.net

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Webmaster
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7532 W. 129th St
OK City, OK 73142
(405) 721-4490
Retcmsgt@aol.com



AC-119 Gunship Association Officers for 2002-2003 (left to right) Wayne Laessig, Ray Barradale, Everett Sprous, Gus Sininger and Art Perry.

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Minutes of the AC-119 Gunship Association Third Reunion Membership Meeting September 29, 2002

Following are the minutes of the General Meeting of the AC-119 Gunship Association at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida on the 28th Day of September, 2002 at 0900 hours. 87 members attended the third AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion. The 87 members constituted a quorum of the membership and the voting body as defined in the By-Laws.

Vice-President, Larry Fletcher called the meeting to order, at 0905 hours, followed by the membership rendering the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Larry greeted all that were present and congratulated them for being here and taking part in this very important meeting. He stated that some of the members did not come because of the weather.

Recording Secretary Jimmy Grant read the minutes from the last meeting. Jimmy passed out copies of the minutes to the membership and asked them to read it over and if there were any changes he would make them. There were no changes and the membership accepted the minutes as written.

Treasurer Art Perry provided the Financial Report. Art reported that our financial status is in good shape. He reported that we put out \$338.00 for the patches and we have taken in \$3698.00. Art gave the IRS report on our 503-C3 status. We will be tax-free if we don't gross over \$25,000.00. Art informed the membership that IO Ray Barradale had donated \$2,500.00 to the association. Norm Evans made the motion to accept the Financial Report. The membership passed the motion.

Larry Fletcher made a motion for the Association to purchase a flag for 18th S.O.S so we will not have a problem like we had at the last reunion where the 18th Flag that we borrowed from the Air Commando Association was lost. Jimmy Grant made the motion and the membership passed the motion to purchase the flag.

Larry reported on the web site for the association. He stated that our Webmaster, Brother Bill Petrie had been putting photos from the last reunion on the web site but his illness had slowed him down some and that his prayer is that Bill beats the Cancer. Larry asked the membership to donate \$450.00 for the web site. The membership passed the motion.

Larry reported that we should put an ad in the Retired Enlisted Magazine about the reunion.

The Editor, Brother Everett Sprous, reported that the costs for doing the first newsletter were approximately \$300.00. Brother Everett checked into having the newsletter printed by a professional printer. That would cost approximately \$1,100.00. Brother Everett asked the Vice-President about the non-profit mailing. Brother Art Perry stated that the non-profit rate was higher than the first class. The membership voted for having two (2) newsletters a year. Brother Everett stated he needed another printer. The motion was made by Brother Norm Evans to purchase a printer, and the membership voted to give Brother Everett \$400.00 to be used for the purchase of a printer. The membership stated that they should be the Missouri Boys.

Old Business:

The by-laws committee recommended a change in the by-laws of Article IV, Membership, and Section 2. Associate Member. The membership passed the changes to the by-laws. You can see those changes (and all other approved changes to the By-Laws to date) on the Website & in this Newsletter.

New Business:

Vice-President Larry Fletcher made a motion for a Brass Memorial Plaque to honor those who have died, at a cost of \$800.00 to \$1000.00. The motion was tabled until the next reunion in 2003.

Larry also talked about the Banquet and the Fred Graves Golden Ammo Can Award. He made a motion to add two (2) more positions on the Board of Directors.

- 1) Chaplain
- 2) Newsletter Editor

Brother Norm Evans 2nd the motion and the motion was passed.

Brother Gary Gourley explained to the membership about the video of our action in SEA. He stated that it cost \$75.00 for the set up fee and that was a one-time cost. The Association could sell the videos. Brother Wayne Lassig made the motion for the association to pay the set up fee for the video. The membership passed the motion.

Vice-President Larry Fletcher made a motion for the association, upon notification of member's death, to send flowers or to make a donation to a member's family with a max set at \$100.00. The motion was passed by the membership.

Vice-President Fletcher explained to the membership about the request from the 4th SOS to form a joint association. The membership tabled this request until the next reunion so the board of directors could look in to it further.

The Vice-President asked if there was any more new business. Being none, he opened the floor for nominations for the Board of Directors.

Brother Gus Sininger was nominated and elected President.

Brother Wayne Lassig was nominated and elected Vice-President

Brother Ray Barradale was nominated and elected Secretary

Brother Art Perry was nominated and elected Treasurer

Brother Everett Dale Sprous was nominated and elected Newsletter Editor

Vice-President Larry Fletcher congratulated the newly elected officers who were given a huge round of applause by the membership. Fletcher also congratulated all present for taking part in this reunion. He then entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was accepted and seconded and the meeting was closed at 10:30, AM 28 September 03.

Secretary
Jimmy E. Grant

THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Larry J. Abernathy
 Robert D. Andrews**
 Thomas P. Armour
 Harold N. Bach**
 Raymond Barradale**
 Al Barreras**
 John I. Barrientos**
 Frank L. Bartlett**
 Anton F. Bautz**
 Arthur J. Baxter
 Jim Bennes**
 Arthur Bennett
 Frank A. Bianco
 Douglas S. Blair
 Lance A. Blanchard
 Bert H. Blanton
 Claude M. Blum
 Fred Blum**
 Gordon L. Boezer**
 Robert F. Bokern**
 Terry W. Bott**
 William H. Bottoms, Jr.
 Thomas M. Brander, Jr.
 Alfred A. Breaud
 Marcus A. Brewer**
 Albert W. Brow
 Luther P. Burns, Jr.**
 William R. Burress
 Bruce L. Byrd, Jr.**
 Donald L. Calvert
 Paul Campbell**
 Peter W. Chamberlain
 Jay L. Chase
 Neal R. Choiniere
 Ernest L. Cole
 Robert F. Connolly**
 Donald F. Cooling**
 Richard C. Corbett
 Wendell E. Cosner
 Donald A. Craig
 Walker D. Cullop**
 Charles E. Daenzer**
 Keith Dalrymple, Jr.
 Kelly L. DeLoache
 Phillip A. Diehl
 Bobby J. Dixon, Sr.
 Charles A. Donaldson
 Michael Drzyzga
 William E. Dudley
 James L. Dunn**
 John R. Dydo**
 Anthony L. Eberhardt
 Fredrick W. Eggert**
 Edward A. Elbert, Jr.
 Norman Evans**
 Howard S. Fackrell
 Ronald S. Faison
 William L. Feezor
 Oscar L. Ferrell
 Ralph M. Flak
 Larry E. Fletcher**

Donald Foster**
 Robert P. Frederick**
 Robert C. Fretz, Jr.**
 Rollin W. Gentes
 William A. Gericke**
 Charles L. Gilbert
 Louis P. Gonzalez**
 Philip G. Goodwin**
 Douglas E. Gorsuch**
 Joseph F. Goryl, III
 Garrettson F. Gourley**
 Jimmy E. Grant**
 Fredrick Graves*
 Raymond E. Gravitte**
 James H. Green
 Irving E. Greenberg**
 Rodney L. Guidry**
 Don L. Hampton*
 Vernon C. Hansen**
 William L. Hanson
 Edmond (Tim) L. Harman
 John R. Henderson
 Harris D. Hiers
 Johnny M. Higgins**
 Frankie D. Hill
 David F. Hinken
 Lowell D. Hinkle
 Ronald R. Hinton**
 Bruce W. Hodgkins
 Kjell Hoestad
 Bobby L. Holmes**
 John L. Hope
 Leon Howorth
 Richard S. Howze
 Larry J. Hunter**
 John F. Hupe
 Charles M. James
 Gale Jones**
 William L. Jowers
 Ronald G. Julian**
 Max C. Kennedy**
 William I. Korte
 Mike R. Krauss**
 Albert R. Krueger**
 Lee Kyser**
 Wayne F. Laessig**
 Jesse R. Laing
 Robert LaRosa
 Eugene A. Lee**
 William GS Lodge**
 Donald C. Lyles**
 Guy I. Macey**
 Steve MacIssac**
 Don R. Main
 Richard C. Marr
 Nelson E. Marsh
 Dale E. Martin
 Robert L. Masterson
 Robert G. Mathews
 Richard A. Matzen
 Robert W. McCreight**

Dan McDuffie**
 Robert F. McGarry**
 William McIntyre**
 Robert L. McNew**
 Stephen R. Meleen
 Larry Mersek**
 Jerome E. Michaud**
 John E. Milam, Jr.**
 James D. Millar
 Richard E. Miller**
 James L. Montgomery
 James E. Moore**
 Terry Moore
 John F. Morgan**
 Thomas L. Morrissey
 John W. Morrow**
 Rusty Napier**
 Francis A. Nealon
 Ronald E. Newberg**
 Michael Newmyer
 John B. Nicol**
 Dale G. Nielson
 Michael M. Nobach**
 Russell A. O'Connell
 David O'Mara**
 John H. Oswald
 Virgil "Dutch" Payne
 Art R. Perry**
 Bill Petrie**
 William J. Posey, Sr.**
 Roy Price
 Donald S. Radke
 James L. Rankin
 James A. Rash
 James C. Ray**
 Ronald L. Rebitzke
 Howard S. Reid**
 Bruce R. Ross**
 Mike Ryan
 Robert R. Safreno**
 P. David Savelle**
 Wayne J. Scott**
 Kenneth W. Shedd**
 Lyndon L. Sheldon
 James A. Shoemaker
 Richard Siela
 Augustis "Gus" D. Slinger**
 Bernie Smith**
 Donald H. Smith**
 Jay C. Smith**
 Michael Smith
 William W. Snyder**
 Ronnie W. Soderquist**
 Michael Solano
 Everett Dale Sprou**
 Danny R. Stanton**
 Kenneth P. Stearn
 Fred W. Sternberg
 Rogers C. Stevens, Jr.**
 Peter St. Jean

James F. Stewart, Jr.**
 Richard W. Stidsen
 William J. Storing
 Kenneth M. Taylor, Jr.
 Jimmy L. Terry**
 Clifford O. Thomas
 Grant Thompson
 Gary A. Totten
 Edwin L. Truax
 Andrew Turlington**
 Gary A. Totten
 David L. Voisey
 Charles G. Waple, Jr.
 Richard G. Wargowsky**
 Ronald L. Warner**
 Gary R. Weaver**
 Richard P. Wellenberger
 Phillips H. Wheatley**
 Burke L. Wilson
 KC (Ken) Wilson**
 John F. Windsor
 Douglas A. Wohlgamuth**
 Teddy G. Wood**
 James L. Yanacsek**
 Milo G. Yowell**
 Virgil M. Zins

*Deceased Life Members
 **Life Members

*Our Brothers who have flown their
 Last Flight this past year.*

Jim Acquaviva
 Jose Cachuela
 Rene Pommerelle

THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION IV

AGENDA

October 3-4-5, 2003

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, October 3, 2003

1800 hours—BEACH PARTY \$16 ea.

Four points poolside patio—Hors d' oeuvres/Free Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks & Snacks at the Gunship Party Hootch. Casual Dress, Swim & Party Suits

Saturday, October 4, 2003

0800 Hours—Membership Meeting in Four Points Sheraton Hudson Hall

1300 Hours—Memorial Service at Commando Air Park, Hurlburt Field

Saturday Evening

1800 Hours — Dinner \$25 ea. Mary Esther VFW Post. Menu is Steamship Round and Baked Chicken. Meals come with baked potato, mixed steam veggies, salad, roll, and tea or water. The Junior ROTC will be the escorts and servers.

Guest Speaker — Major General Douglas S. Metcalf

Sunday, October 5, 2003

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

Do Not send with Reunion Registration.

FISHING TRIP information on local charters will be available at the Hotel Registration Desk for those who want to fish.

1800 Hours—Farewell BarBQ/Poolside Patio **\$18 ea.**

MAJOR GENERAL DOUGLAS S. METCALF
to speak at AC-119 Gunship Reunion IV.



Major General Douglas S. Metcalf is the mobilization assistant to the commander, Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The center is responsible for development and acquisition of advanced aerospace systems.

The general advises the ASC commander concerning acquisition and investment strategy for the \$11 billion annually expended exploiting advancing technologies to enhance Air Force combat capability and effectiveness. He also

serves as a principal member of the Joint Aeronautical Commanders Group Working Board, and represents the commander throughout government, industry, and academia.

The general enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1963. He was commissioned through the ROTC program at the University of Oklahoma in 1969. He served on active duty as an aircraft maintenance officer of the 18th SOS at Phan Rang Air Base and Danang Air Base, Vietnam. He was also Aircraft Maintenance Officer at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and has served continuously in the unit reserve and individual mobilization augmentee, IMA, program since departing active service in 1973.

In his civilian career, General Metcalf is president of Communications Consultants, a telecommunications consulting firm with a national reputation for regulatory expertise in telephone services used by corporations and governments. He is also an elected City Commissioner for Winter Park, Fla.

Reunion Registration

YES, I WILL ATTEND: (Check all that apply).

Totals

Beach Party \$16 ea X's # attending _____ = \$ _____

Banquet Dinner \$25 ea X's # attending _____ = \$ _____

Steamship Round X's _____ Baked Chicken X's _____

Golf Tourney \$10 ea X's # attending _____ = \$ _____

Farewell Bar-B-Q \$18 ea X's # attending _____ = \$ _____

Total enclosed: = \$ _____

DEADLINE TO PAY IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

NAME: _____ Guest or Spouse's Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____ FAX: (____) _____

OTHER GUESTS: _____

Make check or money order out to **AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion Fund** & send to:

Ray Barradale

Secretary AC-119 Gunship Association

P. O. Box 26

Albrightsville PA 18210

PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT SEND MOTEL RESERVATIONS WITH THIS REGISTRATION. ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE WITH THE MOTEL.

THE FIRING CIRCLE

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

Article I - Name

The name of the organization shall be the: **AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION**

Article II - Purposes

Section II-1. To perpetuate the existence and names of our three U. S. Air Force units that served in Southeast Asia (SEA) as effective combat forces during the Southeast Asia Conflict, known as the:

71st and 17th (Shadow) and 18th (Stinger) Special Operations Squadrons

Section II-2. 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.

Section II-3. 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 operations.

Section II-4. 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.

Section II-5. To promote such charitable projects as the Association may deem worthy including, but not limited to, scholarships for the children and grandchildren of living or deceased Association members.

Section II-6. To record, maintain and preserve the history and details of Shadow and Stinger contributions in support of our Nation during the Southeast Asia Conflict.

Article III – Association Area

The Association is organized within the 50-states of the United States of America.

Article IV - Membership

Section IV-1. Regular: Regular membership will be limited to persons who served duty in Southeast Asia with the 71st, 17th or 18th Special Operations Squadrons. Regular Members shall have full voting rights in all Association matters including election of officers and the amending of these bylaws.

Section IV-2. Associate: Applications or recommendations for Associate Membership in the AC-119 Gunship Association shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors by applicants or Regular Members of the Association. Associate Membership may be conferred upon persons, not qualified for Regular Membership, but deserving of recognition through rendering service, whether military or civilian, in the establishment, development, training, or support of Shadow and Stinger combat operational squadrons. A two-thirds affirmative vote of members attending the Association's annual membership meeting is required for acceptance of Associate Members. Associate Members pay annual dues or can become Life Associate Members at fees commensurate with those of Regular Members. Associate Members cannot hold Association Officer positions and do not have Association voting privileges, but do enjoy all other rights and privileges as do Regular Members. (Revised Amendment Approved 9-29-02 Reunion Membership Meeting)

Section IV-3. Family: The spouse and children of Shadow and Stinger personnel killed in action in Southeast Asia, or deceased through other causes prior to establishment of our Association, may become Family Members upon application. Immediate family members, as described above, of deceased Regular or Life Members

of our Association may also become Family Members upon application. Persons accepted for Family Membership will enjoy the same rights and privileges as Regular Members but will not enjoy voting privileges. Family Members will not be assessed annual dues.

Section IV-4. Life: Life Members will be Regular Members who have elected to make a single payment of dues in the amount then set by the Board of Directors and as approved by the membership. A Life Member shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of a Regular Member.

Section IV-5. Charter: Individuals accepted as Regular, Associate, Family or Life Members, and who also attended the Year 2000 AC-119 Gunship Reunion, will have the added distinction of being designated as a Charter Member of our Association.

Article V – Governing Body

Section V-1. Board of Directors: Officers elected to serve as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will comprise the Association Board of Directors. The President will serve as Chairman of the Board, and in his absence the Vice-President will assume the Chairmanship.

Section V-2. Board Authority: The Board will have the authority and responsibility to act for and manage the affairs of the Association. Decisions of the Board may be modified or reversed by a two-thirds vote of members in attendance at reunion membership meetings.

Section V-3. Special Board Positions: The positions of Editor, Webmaster, and Chaplain are established as non-voting Board members, who will continue to serve unless they request to be relieved, or are removed by the voting Board or a majority vote of current dues-paid Regular Members in attendance at reunion membership meetings. Editor Everett Sprous and Webmaster Bill Petrie are confirmed, effective September 29, 2002. Chaplain position remains open. (Addition Approved 9-29-02 Reunion Membership Meeting)

Article VI – Elections and Appointments

Section VI-1. Nominations: Nomination of candidates for officer positions will be made from the floor at reunion membership meetings, or if such meeting is not held, through procedures established by the outgoing Board.

Section VI-2. Election: Officers comprising the Board will be elected by majority vote of current dues-paid Regular Members in attendance at reunion membership meetings, or if such meeting is not held, through procedures established by the outgoing Board.

Section VI-3. Appointments: The Association President may, as deemed proper, appoint officers to serve during his term of office as needed to conduct Association affairs. Such appointee's will not serve on the Board of Directors.

Article VII – Terms of Office

Section VII-1. Elected Officers: Officers will be elected annually for a one-year term to serve from the first day following a reunion through the conclusion of the next Reunion Membership Meeting. (Change Approved 9-29-01 Reunion Membership Meeting)

Section VII-2. Appointed Officers: Appointed officers will serve at the will and pleasure of the appointing President only during that President's term of office. It is specifically noted that an appointed officer will not continue in the capacity to which appointed from one administration to the next unless appointed by the incoming President.

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AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

Article VIII – Meetings

Reunion Membership Meetings: Regular meetings of the membership will be in conjunction with Association reunions. The frequency and location of reunions will be determined by majority vote of members at the meeting then attended.

Article IX – Dues

Section IX-1. Dues Period: Dues will be assessed annually based upon the Association fiscal year of October 1 through September 30 of the following year. No dues, regardless of membership, will be pro-rated. (Change Approved 9-29-01 Reunion Membership Meeting)

Section IX-2. Regular and Associate Members: Annual dues will be reviewed at reunion membership meetings and the amount set will be established by majority vote of the members as recorded in the Secretaries record.

Section IX-3. Life Members: Life Membership Dues are \$119.00. (Change Approved 9-29-01 Reunion Membership Meeting)

Section IX-4. Non-Payment of Dues: Dues of Regular and Associate members will be delinquent for the following year if not paid by October 1. A grace period of 30-days is established after which such members will be subject to loss of membership as determined by the Board of Directors. Members lost through dues delinquency may be reinstated to membership by payment of arrears in dues subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

Article X – Officer Duties

Section X-1. President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and membership, have general supervisory authority over the affairs of the Association and perform all duties incident to that office. He will appoint, with Board approval, officers to serve during his term of office needed for the better functioning of the Association. By direction of the Board or majority vote of the membership, he will appoint Special Committees. He will sign legal documents with the Secretary. He shall be an ex-officio member of every committee and serve as the Chairman of the Reunion Committee.

Section X-2. Vice President: In the absence of the President, the Vice President will assume the duties of the President. He will assume the office of the President should a vacancy occur. He may serve as signatory of checks with the Secretary and Treasurer. He shall serve as ex-officio member of committees and perform other duties at the request of the President. He will serve as a member of the Board.

Section X-3. Secretary: The Secretary will record minutes of Board meetings and membership meetings. He will furnish Board members with records of such meetings. He will maintain membership records and mailing lists of potential members, notify members of dues when payable, receive dues for deposit into an Operating Checking Account and mail membership cards to members. He will receive other donations for deposit into a Reserve Checking Account. A record of receipts will be maintained and report of receipts will be provided to the Treasurer to include date, payer, amount and purpose, needed by the Treasurer to maintain his record of receipts. He will prepare checks for payment of debts, maintain a record to include date, check number, payee, amount and purpose, and report such information to the Treasurer for posting to debit records. He will co-sign checks with the Treasurer and/or Vice President and perform such other duties as delegated by the President. He will serve as a member of the Board.

Section X-4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Association. He will receive periodic financial reports of receipts and debits from the Secretary and post them to Association financial records.

He will on a continuing basis compare his financial record with that of the Secretary to assure that all financial transactions have been properly recorded. He will co-sign checks with the Secretary and/or Vice President and is responsible for submission of tax returns. He will submit a verbal financial report to members at reunion membership meetings. He will serve as a member of the Board.

Article XI – Financial

Management

Section XI-1. Operating Checking Account: Donations received as annual dues will be deposited in an Operating Checking Account for use in day-to-day operations. Co-signatures will be used on all checks drawn on the account. The Board must approve and the President authorize all expenditures.

Section XI-2. Reserve Account: Life Member dues, donations for memorabilia, and donations from other sources will be deposited in the Reserve Account. Funds may be transferred from the Reserve Account into the Operating Checking Account as needed for current and anticipated expenditures. The Board must approve and the President authorize all transfers of funds.

Article XII – Reunions

Section XII-1. Frequency: Reunions are the glue that binds our Association together. With members living in far-flung places and with the advancing age of members, it is essential to come together at our reunions to reestablish ties with comrades with whom we served side-by-side and to establish new ties. For those reasons, it is proposed that our Association should hold annual reunions so long as the membership desires and is able to attend. The next reunion will be decided by majority vote at the reunion then attended.

Section XII-2. Location: The location of the next Association reunion will be based upon the desires of the membership by majority vote at the reunion then attended.

Section XII-3. Reunion Committee: The incoming President will, as one of his first actions after assuming the position, appoint a Reunion Committee. The Committee may include, but is not limited to: housing, banquet facilities, program, transportation, hospitality, protocol, and memorabilia.

Article XIII – Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Association, net assets will be donated to an appropriate charity as selected by majority vote of remaining Regular and Life Members.

Article XIV – Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by majority vote of members present at a Reunion Membership Meeting. (Change Approved 9-29-01 Reunion Membership Meeting).

Attest
/s/ Ray Barradale
Ray Barradale
Secretary

Approved:
/s/ Gus Sininger
Gus Sininger
President

Dated: September 29, 2002

THE FIRING CIRCLE

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCIATION

T-Shirts

Association Reunion T-Shirts

The Reunion IV T's have the new Association logo on the back and on the front will be your Squadron patch. The left sleeve will the SEA map and the right sleeve will have the US flag.

T-Shirt colors are white, ash (gray), and light blue only.

Only white and gray come with pockets.

Order form below for AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion T-shirts

Or Contact:

Gus Sininger

Tooke Street

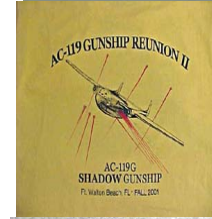
Ft Walton Beach FL 32547

Phone (850) 863-9649

g.sininger@seii.net

FRONT

BACK



Newly designed! Shadow and Stinger Hats - \$15



MULTIPLY YOUR QUANTITY BY THE UNIT PRICE TO GET YOUR TOTAL PRICE

Reunion III & IV T-Shirts (White, Ash (Gray), & Light Blue) \$20.00.

SHADOW: COLOR(S): _____ SIZE(S): _____ POCKET: Yes No:

STINGER: COLOR(S): _____ SIZE(S): _____ POCKET: Yes No:

RUNION II: (Most colors available except red or maroon). \$20.00

SHADOW: COLOR(S): _____ SIZE (S): _____ POCKET: YES: NO:

STINGER: COLOR(S): _____ SIZE (S): _____ POCKET: YES: NO:

LAOTION HIGHWAY PATROL: X-LARGE ONLY— NUM. X's \$20.00 _____

HATS: SHADOW: STINGER: X's \$15.00 _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

“MAKE CHECK or MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

GUS SININGER

206 TOOKE ST.

FT WALTON BEACH FL 32547

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

THE FIRING CIRCLE

LOOKING FOR INFO

Help us document the 18th SOS history! We're looking for information on the 18th SOS from 1968 until deactivation. Our objective is to gather the information, sort it into a chronology of the period and send it to Donna Crews at Hurlburt Field for possible inclusion in her history of the 18th. If you were a member of the 18th any time during its activation as a Special Operations Squadron, we'd very much like to hear from you. For the first go-around, just drop Ron Julian (takitus@email.com) a note with your email address. He is working on a questionnaire to help us gather the right information. Once we get the questionnaire built, we'll send it to those who have indicated that they want to help. Call/email your buddies and friends -- Let them know. To prevent any privacy issues, Ron plans to work only with those who respond to this notice and will not be using any existing databases. If you know someone who doesn't have email but wants to help, send his or her snail mail address to Ron. You can snail mail Ron at 1509 Justin Ct, Bellbrook OH 45305 or call at (937) 848-4064

From your Newsletter Editor; By now, many of you have received or attempted to receive the Firing Circle by e-mail, through the assistance of Bill Petrie, guiding this computer illiterate through making the Newsletter readable on e-mail. This will save a tremendous amount of time and costs, while allowing the members to view and print out the Newsletter from their PC. In order to open the Newsletter, you must have Acrobat Reader installed on your PC. You can download Acrobat Reader for free from the internet by going to:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> If you are like me, find a teenager to help you. It is very important to keep us informed of any changes in your e-mail. We are in no way trying to force everyone to receive the Newsletter this way. If you would rather receive it in the mail, just let us know.

SURVEY

Please fill out & return to Wayne Laessig, 131 Saybrook Ave, Vacaville, CA 95687-4130 Phone 707-447-3548 or e-mail qadvocate@msn.com

Do you think the reunion should be held in Ft Walton Beach every year or should it move every so many years? Please comment:

Do you think we should become a combined USAF Gunships Association (AC-47, AC-119, AC-130 Gunships). Please comment:

Other comments or suggestions:

THE FIRING CIRCLE



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>

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION
3521 SALENA
ST LOUIS MO 63118-4024

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