

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

#### **Our Association President, Rogers Stevens**

#### Hello Fellow Gunshippers

It is hard to believe REUNION V is six months away. We are going to have a "joint" reunion with our "sister squadron" the 71<sup>st</sup> SOS. While they have had many different aircraft assigned to their squadron at different times, it was during the mid 60's when the C-119s were assigned to them. It was also during this assignment when the aircraft were converted to the AC-119G. The 71<sup>st</sup> SOS was trained to operate the 119 in the gunship role. They then ferried the aircraft to South East Asia where they began operating in country until the aircraft were re-assigned to the 17<sup>th</sup> SOS. Their squadron reunion will coincide with ours at the Hope Hotel, and they will participate with us in the "AC-119 History Project", as well as the other Association gatherings they have registered to attend.

The "AC-119 History Project" is moving right along. I have asked the Association's Vice President Bob LaRosa and Board Member at Large Wayne Laessig to take the lead in the "History Gathering" project. You will note the recent change to the Reunion Registration Form to now include your unit of assignment (71<sup>st</sup> SOS, 17<sup>th</sup> SOS, or 18<sup>th</sup> SOS) and the year/s you were in SEA. They will be scheduling the videotape recording of your person experience story with the AC-119 based upon the time you were in SEA.

You will recall I have challenged EACH Association member to write about his most memorable, exciting, scary, etc. experience. This will be your special story that will give a personal reflection of what it was like during your time with the AC-119 in SEA. My personal stories will tell about the missions to the Barrel Roll where we were chased by a MIG, and when I almost shot myself out of the air with a bad lot of 20 MM ammo. (If you were on the MIG chasing Mission with me, please contact me.) Ron Julian and I have met with the AF Museum Staff concerning this project. They are excited about having information about the "little known" gunships being made available to them. Everyone knows about "Puff the Magic Dragon (AC-47)" and "Spectre (AC-130)", but the "Shadow" and "Stinger" are not well known. We want to CORRECT that problem, and YOUR personal experience story will bring the AC-119 into the records.

In addition, a progress report on the paintings the Association has commissioned of the "Shadow" and "Stinger". The "Shadow" is complete and is UN-REAL in its presentation of the "Shadow" mission. We have shown a draft litho of the painting to the AF Museum Director, General Metcalf, and the Museum staff; and they are extremely pleased with it and that we are going to be donating the original painting to the Museum at the Saturday evening Banquet. The "Stinger" painting is a work in progress at this time, but should also be completed in time for the banquet. There will be 200 numbered and signed lithographic copies of each painting offered for sale to association members first, to help offset the cost of the commissioned artwork (I plan on purchasing a copy of each, they are that good). The artist, Darby Perrin, will attend the Reunion, and he will be involved with the dedication of the paintings to the Air Force Museum. He will also have other litho's of his aircraft artwork available for sale in the "hootch room" at the hotel, if you are so interested. He is a gifted artist, and you will be amazed at how well he has captured our mission in each of these paintings.

The United States Air Force Museum is a work in progress as well. The "Modern Flight Hanger (#2)" is where the Viet Nam War aircraft are displayed. The newest hanger (#3) is where the Cold War and Desert Storm aircraft (B-1, B-2, F-117, SR-71, AC-130, etc.) are displayed. The only gunship on display at the Museum is a Desert Storm AC-130. As I said, the museum is a work in progress; and while the aircraft are on display, the informational panels and dioramas about the events of the time where the displayed aircraft were used are still being completed. If you have not been to the Museum within the past three years, you will be amazed at the changes that have been made; and the increased number of aircraft now on display.

It is not too early to be making plans to attend Reunion V by sending in your Reunion Registration Form and making your hotel reservations. See you in October!!

**Rogers Stevens** 

AC-119 Gunship President

#### 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 Membership 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 Membership, 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.

If you have questions or contacts with new members or our fallen heroes (families), or changes in address information, please contact the following officers at:

New Member/Family Research Officer Jim Terry 3441 Astoria Ct Fairfield CA 94533-2909 707-422-6774 Shadow70@sbcglobal.net

#### **Newsletter Editor/Membership**

Everett Dale Sprous 3521 Salena St Louis Mo 63118-4024 314-865-0920 everettsprous@sbcglobal.net In order to save time & expenses, we will attempt to send the Newsletter to all members that we have email addresses for, to their email address. If for some reason a member can not down load the Newsletter, or if we do not have an email address, we will send it by regular mail. If you wish back issues of the Newsletter, or have address changes, please contact:

Newsletter Editor/Membership Everett Dale Sprous 3521 Salena St Louis MO 63118-4024 314-865-0920 everettsprous@sbcglobal.net

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

REUNION V COORDINATOR (Dayton) Oct 1, 2, 3, 2004 Ron Julian (AC-119) 1509 Justin Ct Bellbrook OH 45305-1168 937-848-4064

#### REUNION VI COORDINATORS (Ft Walton Beach)

Sept 31, Oct 1, 2, 2005 GUS SININGER Gus Sininger 206 Tooke Street Ft Walton Beach FL 32547 Phone (850) 863-9649 g.sininger@seii.net

Norm Evans 611 Center St #12 Ft Walton Beach FL 32547 Phone (850) 864-0923 normevans873@cox.net

Chaplain

Larry Hunter 115 Bayshore Ct Ft Walton Bch FL 32548 850-244-0530 Lhunter@bsc.net

#### Chaplain

Leigh Norstrum P O Box 6882 Abilene TX 79608-6882 915-795-1132

#### President Rogers Stevens P O Box 369 Clarksburg WV 26302-0369 304-584-4506 rogac119@aol.com

#### Vice President

Bob La Rosa 1900 Hubbard Dr Alamogordo NM 88310 505-437-4040 Ia448@zianet.com

#### Secretary/VA Information

Ray Barradale P O Box 26 Albrightsville, PA 18210 570-722-2067 raynsue@ptd.net

#### Treasurer

Doug Wohlgamuth 2902 Chaney Dr Ruskin FL 33570 813-645-5127 busch791@aol.com

#### Webmaster

Bill Petrie 7532 NW 129th St Ok City OK 73142-2568 405-721-4490 RetCMSgt@aol.com

#### **Past Board Member**

Wayne Laessig 131 Saybrooke Ave Vacaville, CA 95687-4130 707-447-3548 qadvocate@sbcglobal.net

### Reunion Registration Form AC-119 Gunship Reunion V October 1, 2, & 3, 2004 Dayton OHIO

Where it all began. Mail your Reunion registration to Ron Julian TODAY!!! Reunion Registration Deadline: September 11, 2004 (Cost increases by \$5.00 per person per event on 12 September) THIS IS NOT YOUR HOTEL REGISTRATION

Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ To join, please fill out application on page 9

Make checks payable to "The AC-119 Gunship Association" Mail this page along with your payment to: Ron Julian (AC-119) 1509 Justin Ct Bellbrook OH 45305-1168 Note: for those wanting to do a map quest: The address is: 1100 Spaatz St 489 #B Wright Ptrsn AFB, OH 45433-7102

If you haven't received a confirmation card within two weeks, call Ron @ 937-848-4064

♣	<pre>ion Registration</pre>
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
TELEPHONE:	EMAIL:
(Unit) 71st, 17th or 18th, etc:	Years in Country (e.g. 1969):
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:	
ADDITIONAL GUESTS: (#) Name(s)	
We'll attend:	
Welcoming Social, Friday, 1 October, 18 Heavy hors d'oeuvres with a carving station (\$23) Cash Bar. # attending	h & salad station.
Association Dinner, Saturday, 2 October 1800-2200 hrs, <i>Air Force Museum Moder</i> Buffet (Steak AuPoivre & Chicken Supreme (\$35) Cash Bar. # attending@	r <b>n Flight Hanger</b> e w/ salad, veggies, tea/water.)
<b>Golf Match Entry Fee (\$10)</b> (trophies, priz Green Fees are based on rank and will be	es, etc) # golfers @ \$10 = \$ collected at the reunion.
<b>Farewell Buffet, Sunday, 3 October</b> , 180 Buffet (Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, Beef Bri (\$27) Cash Bar. # attending	sket, & the trimmings)
Total \$	

#### General Information AC-119 Gunship Reunion V Oct. 1 - Oct. 3, 2004

#### **Guest Speaker**

Ron Terry, Colonel, USAF, Ret.

At the present time Colonel Ron Terry, considered "The father of the gunships" is our scheduled guest speaker. What an exciting opportunity for us to hear from the man who started it all. We'll post Colonel Terry's Bio and photo as soon as they become available.

# Reunion Weekend Agenda

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 2004

6 P.M.-8:30 P.M.

Welcome Social, Hope Hotel Ballroom, Casual dress/party suit. \$23, Heavy Hors D'oeuvres with carving station & Salad station. Cash bar.

#### SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 2004 8 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Membership Meeting Hope Hotel 11:30 A.M. AF Museum and other attractions.

Saturday *Evening*, OCT. 2, 2004 5:30 P.M. - 6 P.M. estimated. Memorial Service At the Air Force Museum

#### 6 P.M.- 10 P.M. Under the Wings Dinner

**Air Force Museum Modern Flight Hanger** (\$35) Buffet (steak AuPoivre & Chicken supreme w/ salad, veggies, tea/water) *A unique opportunity to dine among the airplanes.* 

• Guest Speaker: Colonel Ron Terry, USAF, Ret.

• Special Presentation to Museum: AC-119 Gunship paintings

#### SUNDAY, OCT 3, 2004

**Golf@ Twin Base (WPAFB),** \$10 entry fee (opt), plus green fees (req) \$24 to walk, \$35 to ride 6 P.M. - 11 P.M.

**Farewell Buffet, Hope Hotel Ballroom** \$27, cash bar Buffet (Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, Beef Brisket & trimmings



#### Hotel Registration & Room Rates The Hope Hotel Will be the host for the 2004 Reunion.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has the distinction of being the only military base with a privately owned and operated commercial hotel. Approval for this project was obtained through an act of congress. While being an experimental endeavor for the government, the Hope Hotel & Conference Center has experienced tremendous success and continues to exceed all expectations. The hotel opened its doors in June 1990 and was named in honor of veteran troop entertainer Mr. Bob Hope.

The Hope Hotel is honored to be part of history and a "place for peace" in hosting the 1995 Proximity Peace Talks. On November 1, 1995, negotiations between presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia commenced here. The peace agreement was initiated November 21, 1995 after three weeks of intense mediation in ending the 4 year war in the Balkans.

# More hotel & Registration information will be coming soon.

For Hotel Reservations you'll need to go to the Hope Hotel website and click on the registration link in the left hand navigation bar **OR**...

#### Write, Call, or FAX:

Hope Hotel & Conference Center Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Dayton, Ohio 45433-5000 (937) 879-2696 FAX:(937) 878-8731 DSN: 787-1285

Editor's note: I paid \$75.00 per day + \$7.50 tax

#### From Jim Terry on finding families of our KIA

I have been in contact with the families that attended our past reunion and Bob Knapic and Dewight Fage said they are planning on attending in Dayton. I have also contacted Lt Thomas Lubbers Family and his two sisters and sister-in-law said they plan on attending in Dayton. I have talked to Jeffery Alloway and he wants to attend but with his job he can't make plans at this time. I have also been in email contact with Kirstin Giroux the daughter of Capt. Thomas Hamman. She lives in Hawaii and wants to be involved with the Association but she said it may be a little difficult to get there from Hawaii. I am still working on contacting more of the families but it does take time.

#### AIR FORCE MUSEUM "WISH LIST"

At a meeting with the Museum Staff, they have again made requests for personal items from members of the AC-119 Association. They would like to have: > Original Photos (candid shots are best) showing the life

style experiences in SEA. > (flying, flight line, working/repairing, "kicking back", day-

- to-day life etc.)
- > Uniforms
- > Hats
- > "Stuff" we used during the flights/ or on the ground
- > Items from the "Hootches"
- > Letters from home and/or letters you sent home
- > Viewpoints on what worked and what didn't

They do not need things like PCS and TDY orders. Due to public perceptions, they may have to hold some things in reserve like our nose art pictures. Personal letters and other sensitive items can be marked "limited access". While these items may not be displayed publicly, they are extremely valuable for the researchers and archivists. On the subject of Photographs: On the back of each photo, if you can – list the date of the photo, where the photo was taken and what it shows, who is in the photo, if more than one person - list names left to right and front row then the next row, etc., and the photographer's name. The more that is known the better; but if you do not remember, list it as unknown.

They also suggested that if you wish to enjoy these items during your lifetime; you might consider listing the items in your Will or other document expressing your wishes, as donations to the Museum. It has been their experience, that when a person passes on, family members do not recognize the historical significance/importance of the item/s and will often discard them. This is especially true of photographs because they were not there to meet or know the unit's personnel or see the equipment in use. In EVERY case, a letter of donation acceptance will be sent to you or your survivors on Museum letterhead; and the letter will also have a list of the donated item/s for your records.

PLEASE consider this program, and I know from experience the Museum will appreciate your generosity.

#### Do you want to share a room?

If you are attending the Reunion alone & would like to cut your cost for motel rooms, fill out the form below and mail it to:

Everett Sprous 3521 Salena St Louis MO 63118-4024 Or contact Ev at: 314-865-0920 everettsprous@sbcglobal.net

I would like to shar	e the costs of my hotel room
Name:	
Address:	
City:	State: Zip:
Phone:	email:
	: Non-smoking: Smoking: no preference:
I plan to arrive Date:	I
I plan to depart Date	:

PLEASE NOTE: The AC-119 Gunship Association is officially exempt from federal income tax under IRS Code 501 c (19), as stated and approved in Internal Revenue Service Letter dated 02 Jan 2002. Association Officers have copies of the letter. What this means to you is that your dues and any other donations to the Association, are tax deductible.

BACK

# **MERCHADISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCCIATION**

**T-Shirts** 

**Association Reunion T-Shirts** 

The Reunion IV T's have the SEA map on the right sleeve and

the US flag on the left sleeve.

FRONT

T-S	Shirt colors are black only.		
	r AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion T- shirts Or Contact: Gus Sininger 206 Tooke Street Ft Walton Beach FL 32547 Phone (850) 863-9649 g.sininger@seii.net		New Association Golf Shirt \$27.00—these will be by special order through Gus.
Basic Contract	Newly designed! Shadow and Stinger Hats -	Check with Gus Reunion I, II, & I	on availability of III T-Shirts
MULTIPL	Y YOUR QUANTITY BY THE UNIT PRICE	TO GET YOUR TO	
Reunion IV T-Shi	rts (BLACK ONLY) \$20.00.		
_	X's \$20.00		
Golf Shirts: color X's \$27.00	r (s) Size(s): Nar	me on front:	
HATS: SHADOW:	AY PATROL: X-LARGE ONLY— NUM 2 STINGER: X's \$15.00 2 s X's \$20.00		-

Re NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_ 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

# **MERCHADISE FOR SALE BY THE ASSOCCIATION**

#### **STINGER PATCH**







**Cambodia 100 Mission** 

Patch (Shadow) & Stinger

**100 Mission Patch** (Laos)

Note: These are in limited quan-

tity. More will be made if the de-

mand calls for them.

SHADOW PATCHES



YANKEE AIR PIRATE PATCH



FOUR FLAGS PATCH

(Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand,

#### Patches are all approximately 4x4

Contact: Art Perry 220 Sagebrush Trail Ormond, FL 32174 386-615-9756 APerry9567@aol.com

1 patch \$5 + Add 50 cents for 1 or 2 patches' and 75 cents for 3 or 4 patches, and \$1 for 5-6 patches.

#### Thanks! Art for your great work on getting these patches replicated.

#### **MISSION CD-ROMS**

CAMBODIA

100

MISSIONS

AC119

**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).

<u>GREAT WORK DAN ON GETTING THESE</u> <u>TAPES REPLICATED, THANKS</u>



tape

rons.

VIDEO
Shadow & Stinger
Video
VHS Tape - dona-
tion of \$21.50 per



Contact: Norm Evans 611 Center St #12 Ft Walton Beach FL 32547 Phone (850) 864-0923 normevans873@cox.net

normevans873@cox.net ALSO CONTACT NORM FOR REUNION IV VIDEOS \$20.00 EACH

Reunion IV Photo CD—\$5.00—over 200 photos from our 4th reunion—contact Everett at 314-865-0920 or everettsprous@sbcglobal.net or Everett Sprous 3521 Salena St Louis MO 63118-4024

The tape contains video and still

18th Special Operations Squad-

images from both the 17th &

\$10.00

#### NEW LICENSE FRAMES

\$13.00



Contact:

Gus Sininger 206 Tooke Street Ft Walton Beach FL 32547 Phone (850) 863-9649 g.sininger@seii.net



Contact: Lee Kyser 3430 Via Dona Lompoc CA 93436 Phone (805) 733-2443

linvel@earthlink.net

# Here's who you missed at Reunion IV, 2003

We had another wonderful time in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. For those of you who didn't make it here is a list of those who attended *Reunion IV* in FWB. We reunite in Dayton, OH for 2004 and look forward to seeing all of you again along with a few faces we haven't seen in the past.

NOTE: The list does not include spouses or guests

1. Ray Barradale 2. Milo Yowell 3. Larry Fletcher 4. Art Perry 5. Ron Warner 6. Steve MacIsaac 7. Jimmy Terry 8. Luther Burns 9. Doug Wohlgamuth 10. Pete St. Jean **11. Robert Connolly** 12. Wayne Laessig 13. Jim Moore 14. Karen Graves 15. Jerry Greene 16. Jim Yanacsek 17. Ron Hinton 18. Walker Cullop 19. Gus Sininger 20. Phil Diehl 21. Ernest Cole 22. Dave O'Mara 23. Bill Posey 24. Johnny Higgins 25. Leroy Jackson 26. Doug Blair 27. John Funk 28. John Rowe/canx 29. Everett Sprous 30. Gary Gourley 31. Howie Reid 32. Michael Krauss 33. John Milam 34. Michael Travnor 35. Harris Hiers 36. Bill Petrie 37. Bernard Smith 38. Richard Miller 39. Craig Corbett 40. Lance Blanchard 41. Lee Kyser 42. Irving Greenberg 43. Robert Krueger

44. Gerard Snyder 45. John Nicol 46. Danny Stanton 47. Tim Thompson 48. Ray Gravitte 49. Robert VanAble 50. Tim Harman 51. Cash McCall 52. Tony Simon 53. Larry Hunter 54. Gene Roode 55. Fred Eggert 56. Bob Holmes 57. Jim Dunn 58. Robert Call 59. Paul Campbell 60. Bob McCreight 61. William Feezor 62. Ken Wilson 63. Bill McIntyre 64. Jimi Grant 65. Bruce Byrd 66. Charles Daenzer 67. Mrs. Teddi Alves, Kevin Alves & Family (honored guest) 68. Bob Knapic & Family (honored quest) 69. Elizabeth Jeszeck (honored guest)/Canx 70. James Vangelisti & Son (honored guest)/Canx 71. J. B. Bradley 72. N. M. Gorton 73. Rogers Stevens 74. Ron Julian 75. Donald Cooling 76. Frank Bianco 77. Rod Guidry/ Canx 78. Vernon Hanson 79. Frank Zemanick 80. Frank Bartlett 81. John Morrow

82. Bob La Rosa 83. Henry Hoang 84. Dan McDuffie 85. William Lodge 86. Jerry Hester 87. Dewight Fage & Family (honored guest) 88. Kelly DeLoache 89. Doug Gorsuch 90. Bill Korte 91. Dick Ring 92. Harold Bach 93. J.C. Smith 94. Mike Rvan 95. Daniel Biggs 96. Bill Dudley 97. Allen Arthur 98. Elliott Williamson, Jr. 99. Tom Milligan 100. Jim Bennes 101. Larry Barbee 102. James Shope 103. Jim Curran 104. Don Lyles 105. Mike Newmyer 106. Tom Schroeder 107. Norm Evans 108. Donna Crews **109. Leigh Norstrom** 110. Gary Hitzemann 111. Marty Noonan 112. Bob Allen 113. Tim Thompson 114. Don Helm 115. Bill Burress **116. Carl Benedick** 117. Joe Arthur 118. Mark Howard 119. Jerry Stalnaker 120. Bill Jowers 121. Vern Hansen



Hi AC-119 Gunship Brothers, Families & Friends, we would like to invite you to join or renew in our AC-119 Gunship Association, as a member, family member or associate member. This Association was created for you, whether you were a Aircrew member or worked on the AC-119's on the ground. We want you in our Association. Please note: there is no charge for surviving spouse's of members. Surviving spouse's of life members, become life members automatically. *Also, associate members are eligible only for annual membership.* 

Annual dues are only \$20.00 or a lifetime membership for only \$119.00 *(available only to regular members).* Please make your check or money order to:

THE AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION & mail to: Everett Dale Sprous, Newsletter/Membership AC-119 Gunship Association 3521 Salena St Louis MO 63118-4024

<b>F</b>				
	ATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICAT it is not necessary to fill out all in	ON or RENEWAL nformation, unless there are changes.		
Please Print All Informatio	n			
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/do	l/yy)			
I, or my Spouse <i>(no charge to surviving spouse's)</i> or Parent served in combat with (circle one) 71st SOS 17th SOS_18th SOS From, 19 to19 In (SEA) Southeast Asia as: (enter air or ground crew position)				
Or I feel I am qualified to b	e an Associate Member <i>(eligible</i>	only for annual membership) due to the fol-		
ADDRESS:	CITY:	STATE:ZIP:		
ADDRESS: PHONE:	CITY: E-MAIL:	STATE: ZIP: FAX:		
1	CITY: E-MAIL:			
SIGNATURE:		or my annual membership or		
SIGNATURE: Enclosed is my check or mo \$119.00 for a Lifetime memil "Make check or money orde	ney order in the amount of \$20.00 f pership, <i>(available only to regular m</i> r payable to the: <b>AC-119 GUNSHIF</b>	or my annual membership or		
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#### **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

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