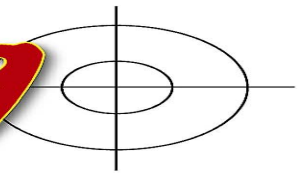




Firing Circle



Summer 2005

A Newsletter of the AC-119 Gunship Association

Notes from the President

We dodged another one! Hurricane Dennis was powerful but fortunately, it moved through rapidly and didn't do the same level of damage as Ivan. Gus was without power for a while and he has plenty on his plate at work trying to get things back to normal. Still, he and Norm have stayed on top of things and they promise AC-119 Gunship Reunion VI to be great!

Just to recap the planned events. Friday evening at the welcome mixer we will have a professional photographer taking squadron pictures, and if we have enough folks, we will include some crew pictures as well. **Please be there by 5pm so we can get you and your guest in the photos.** We also encourage you to wear flight suits and/or party suits if you can still get them on.

On **Saturday**, while we are in the annual membership meeting, the hotel will set an area up so the women can have a breakfast/brunch while we conduct business. Following the meeting, we will have a memorial service and dedication of the AC-119K Stinger Memorial in the Hurlburt Air Park. We will be honored by having special guests with us who are family members of those we lost while in SEA.

Due to heightened security at the gate, you are asked to sign up for the reunion early. We need to turn in the list in to Hurlburt Security NLT September 16.

Back at the hotel, we will continue gathering member inputs for our history project. **Saturday** evening's banquet will be special with Brigadier General Heine Alderholt (ret), Father of the Air Commandos, as our guest speaker at the Elk's Club.

Sunday will be an open day for you to spend as you desire with golfing, fishing, or whatever else you wish to do while in sunny Florida. we will have our Farewell Party at the poolside. There will be a *VA briefing* in the afternoon that will focus on items of interest Vietnam era vets. Later in the afternoon we will have our poolside *Farewell Party*. We also hope to scan lots of pictures into our computer so please pictures from your days in SEA that you wouldn't mind sharing with others.

As I said, lots of work is being accomplished by a few to make *Reunion VI* special. I hope you can join us as I know you will have a terrific time.

Early in the preparation for this year's reunion, we asked each of you to complete a survey.

That survey was extremely important as it was *your voice* to assist the board in carrying out Association business. Unfortunately, we had very little response. Based on what we, had and the issues we face, we needed to make an early decision on where reunion 2006 will be held. *We are going west to Albuquerque!* Steve Mac Isaac has agreed to take the lead and make it special. This news may get the hair some of your backs up but the simple fact remains, we needed to get something rolling now for a successful 2006 reunion and we acted on input we had. There are numerous factors that affected the board's considerations in making this decision—it wasn't treated lightly. Bottom line...you elected us to steer this organization and act on your behalf. We are doing just that.

This year's membership meeting will be full of issues that need your input. For a starters, we will be voting on where we plan on going in 2007. Over the years, we've learned that we need to plan our reunions two years in advance; we need to address that and make it happen. There are other important issues that we need to discuss and get your input on during the meeting, aside from electing the officers for 2006 season. I will do my best to provide read-ahead of those issues with your membership packet so that we can try and cover all the issues in the one meeting.

This will be the last newsletter going out to you before the reunion. Bill Petrie will continue to add new, reunion relevant, information as it becomes available. I plan on adding another "letter to the members" which Bill will put on the web site.

Take care and I'll see you at the Hooch.

Craig Corbett, President
AC-119 Gunship Association



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....and much more

THE FIRING CIRCLE

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 the US & Southeast Asia during The Vietnam War.

Who is Eligible to Join?

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 to 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.

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), please contact the following officers at:



New Member/Family Research Officer

Jim Terry
707-422-6774
Shadow70@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

Everett Dale Sproul
cell 314-614-6131 (Cingular)
esprous@sbcglobal.net

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

Reunion VI

Coordinators
(Ft Walton Beach)
Sept 30, Oct 1, 2, 2005
Phone (850) 863-9649
g.sininger@seii.net

& Norm Evans
Phone (850) 864-0923
[normevans873@cox.net](mailto:normeans873@cox.net)

Chaplain
Larry Hunter
850-244-0530
Lhunter@bsc.net

Chaplain
Leigh Norstrum
915-795-1132

VA Information Officer
Ray Barradale
570-722-2067
raynsue@ptd.net

Awards & Dec's Officer
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ccandjc@cox.net
Richard.corbett@dtra.mil

Vice President
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busch791@msn.com

Secretary
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317-846-4130
shadow1969@indy.rr.com

Webmaster
Bill Petrie
405-721-4490
RetCMSgt@aol.com

Past Board Member
Rogers Stevens
304-584-4506
rogac119@aol.com

In order to save time & expense, we will attempt to send the Newsletter to all members we have email addresses for. If a member can not download the Newsletter, or if we do not have an email address, it will be sent by regular mail. If you want back issues of the Newsletter, please contact Everett Sproul.

Acrobat Reader free download:
www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

Have you moved or changed your email address? When you move to a different residence or change your email address, please let us know right away. By doing so, you will avoid delays and missed issues of the Firing Circle and other important communications. This is especially true for LIFE members who do not renew annually. Help us keep the AC-119 Gunship Association membership roster up-to-date by keeping us informed.

Write to: Jim Alvis, AC-119 Gunship Association, 3110 Maqua Court, Carmel, IN 46033-4136

Email me at: Shadow1969@indy.rr.com

Thanks to the great detective work of Jim Terry and Wayne Laessig, we are really excited to have these special guests joining us at this year's reunion. These are family members of our fallen comrades.

The Family of:

Robert Fage--KIA
Dewight Fage--Son
Sheila Ware

SSgt Kenneth Brown--KIA
Thomas Reitz--Son
Dolores Reitz--Daughter-in-Law
Robert Reitz--Grandson
Kristen Reitz--Granddaughter
Sandra Reitz--Wife

MSgt Robert Ridgeway--Deceased
Barbara Ridgeway--Wife
Ron Ridgeway--Son

Capt. Tommy Hammon-KIA
Kristin Giroux-Daughter

Maj. Merideth Anderson--KIA
Dale Anderson--Son
Lee Jordan--Daughter
Tim Jordan--Son-in-Law
Jacob Jordan--Grandson
Scarlett Jordan--Granddaughter
Joe Jordan--Father to Tim

From our Treasurer

Hope all is well with everyone. So far we have 69 members signed up hopefully we will get more signed up before the reunion. We have \$2,649.34 available. The only thing we need to buy is Beer, sodas, and snacks. Also the donation to the Guest speakers favorite charity. I will be arriving on Wednesday so anyone needing picked up at the airport let me know I will be glad to pick you up. See you all soon Take Care and May god Bless
Doug

Have you visited our Web Site. Our Webmaster, Bill Petrie continues doing a great job of getting info out via the Web. You can always read the latest newsletter and can get updated info on reunions. You can see who attended the last reunion and who's coming to the next one. There is the merchandise page where we have items for sale. You can catch our President's latest message. Please visit our Web Site. www.ac-119gunships.com

From our Secretary

We now have 342 members, with 200 of those being Life Members. Twelve of the Life Members are family of KIA. Two members are spouse's of deceased brothers that have passed since SEA. One Life Member is the spouse of a deceased Life member. One member is a son member of a deceased brother. We have two Associate Members.
See you at the reunion Jim

ICE

This is a good idea. Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE.

ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone no. of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do. Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE your cell phone NOW!
Please pass this one along!



AC-119 Gunship prints 8 X 10 Fine quality, black line, composite drawings that are suitable for framing. They look great matted and framed.

For a donation of only \$12 for the *Brothers* drawing and \$10 for the *Stinger* or *Shadow* drawing, Postage is included, you can get your frame able drawing from Bill Petrie.

***All donations for the drawings are split with the association and used to support this web site.**

\$12 - Special Edition...Only 200 will be printed. The 8 X 10 drawing "Brothers" depicts the bond between the Shadow and Stinger AC-119 Gunships. The print is numbered and signed.



\$10 - The 8 X 10 drawing "Shadow" portrays the AC-119G Gunship on the prowl. A Great single drawing for all you Shadow guys.



\$10 - The 8 X 10 drawing "Stinger" below depicts the AC-119K in the hunt over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. A Great drawing for you Stingers.

Contact: Bill Petrie
7532 NW 129th St
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-2568
Phone (405) 721-4490
RetCMSgt@aol.com

THE FIRING CIRCLE

History of the 17th SOS

Lineage

17th Reconnaissance Squadron (Bombardment) (constituted 17th Observation Squadron [Light] on 5 Feb 1942; activated on 2 Mar 1942; redesignated: 17th Observation Squadron on 4 Jul 1942, 17th Reconnaissance Squadron [Bombardment] on 2 Apr 1943; inactivated on 27 Apr 1946) consolidated (19 Sep 1985) with the 17th Liaison Squadron (constituted on 19 Sep 1952; activated on 20 Oct 1952; inactivated on 25 Sep 1953) and the 17th Special Operations Squadron (constituted on 11 Apr 1969; activated on 1 Jun 1969; inactivated on 30 Sep 1971). Activated on 1 Aug 1989.

Assignments

71st Observation (later, 71st Reconnaissance; 71st Tactical Reconnaissance; 71st Reconnaissance) Group, 2 Mar 1942 (attached to 91st Reconnaissance Wing, c. 21 Oct–9 Nov 1945, and to V Bomber Command, 10 Nov 1945–31 Jan 1946); V Bomber Command, 1 Feb–27 Apr 1946. Western Air Defense Force, 20 Oct 1952–25 Sep 1953. 14th Special Operations Wing, 1 Jun 1969–30 Sep 1971. 353d Special Operations Wing (later, 353d Special Operations Group) 1 Aug 1989–.

Stations

Providence, RI, 2 Mar 1942; Salinas AAB, CA, 2 Mar 1942; Esler Field, LA, 24 Jan 1943; Laurel AAFld, MS, 31 Mar–24 Sep 1943; Milne Bay, New Guinea, 6 Nov 1943; Dobodura, New Guinea, 22 Nov 1943; Finschhafen, New Guinea, Mar–30 Jun 1944 (air echelon at Wakde, 25 May–10 Jun 1944, and at Biak after 27 Jun 1944); Biak, 29 Jul 1944; Tacloban, Leyte, 2 Nov 1944 (air echelon primarily at Biak to c. 23 Dec 1944 and at San Jose, Mindoro, after 23 Dec 1944); San Jose, Mindoro, 7 Jan 1945; Lingayen, Luzon, 4 Apr 1945; Ie Shima, 29 Jul 1945 (detachment at Lingayen, Luzon, to Sep 1945); Yokota AB, Japan, 26 Oct 1945–27 Apr 1946. McChord AFB, WA, 20 Oct 1952–25 Sep 1953. Nha Trang AB, South Vietnam, 1 Jun 1969; Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, 15 Aug 1969–30 Sep 1971. Kadena AB, Japan, 1 Aug 1989–.

On May 20, 2005, the 71st Special Operations Squadron will be reactivated at Kirtland AFB, NM. They will be the first USAF CV-22 Osprey unit. This will make the circle complete with the 17th, 18th and 71st SOS squadrons all serving with the USAF. As with missions and airframes, the patches have all made changes as well. Here is the new 71st SOS patch.



Aircraft

L-1, O-46, O-47, and O-52, 1942; A-20, P-39, and P-40, 1942–1943; B-25, 1943–1946. None, 1952–1953. AC-119, 1969–1971. HC-130, 1989–.



Operations

Antisubmarine patrols off west coast of US, c. May–c. Sep 1942; Combat in Southwest and Western Pacific, 28 Jan 1944–25 Jul 1945. Not manned, 1952–1953. Combat in Southeast Asia, 1 Jun 1969–30 Sep 1971. Disaster relief missions in the Philippines, 16–31 Jul 1990.

Honors

Service Streamers. None.

Campaign Streamers. World War II: Antisubmarine, American Theater; Air Offensive, Japan; China Defensive; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines; Ryukyus; China Offensive. Vietnam: TET 69/Counteroffensive; Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969; Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Southwest Monsoon; Commando Hunt V; Commando Hunt VI.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations: Dutch New Guinea, 8 Jun 1944; Philippine Islands, 26 Dec 1944. Presidential Unit Citation: Southeast Asia, 1–30 Jun 1969. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device: 1 Jul 1970–30 Jun 1971. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: (91 Aug) 1989–5 Apr 1991. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII). Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 1 Jun 1969–30 Sep 1971.

Emblem

Azure, a jackal head cooped and traversed Sable, garnished of the first, languid Gules, armed Argent and eyed Yellow between three mullets of four points White, all within a diminished border. Approved on 19 Jul 1993; replaced emblems approved on 28 Jun 1990 (DFSC 91-02995) and 4 May 1943 (K 2854). *MOTTO:* NO MISSION TOO DEMANDING. Approved on 31 Jul 1990.

In Fighter Pilot Heaven

Everyone's a Captain except God....He's a Major.

You only come to work when you're going to fly....

You fly three times a day except Friday.

You never run out of gas.

The missions are only one hour long and no briefings are required.

You are always on TDY and there are no check rides.

It is always VFR and there are never any ATC delays.

You can fly out of the area and flight down to 50' AGL is approved.

There are no "over G's".

You always fly overhead landing patterns with initial approach at 20', then break left.

You can go cross-country anytime you desire. The farther the better!

There are no ORI's (Operational Readiness Inspections).

There is no SOF (Supervisor of Flying) or mobile tower duty.

There are no Friday Safety meetings, but Friday evening "Stag Bar" is mandatory.

There are no Flight Surgeons.

There are no Wing staff jobs.

You don't need a kitchen pass, and the kitchen and bar are always open.

"Happy Hour" begins at 1400 hours and lasts til 0200 hours.

Super SOF is the bartender. The other five are big-bosomed blondes.

Beer is free, but whiskey costs five cents.

The bar serves only Chivas Regal, Jack Daniels, and Beef eaters.

The girls are all friendly and each fighter pilot is allowed three.

All the women look like Sophia Loren.

Country and Western music is free on the juke box.

The craps tables are always HOT and you never lose at blackjack!

You never lose your room key and your buddies never leave you stranded at the club.

The sun always shines and you can put your hat in your leg pocket.

Flight suits are allowed in the Officers Club at all times.

The motor pool always provides a staff car for visiting fighter pilots.

The Base Exchange always has every item you ask for. Most are free.

All air traffic controllers are friendly, and always provide priority handling.

The airplanes never break "Ace" status is conferred upon all fighter pilots entering Heaven.

There are never any cross-wind landings and the runways are always dry.

ER's (Efficiency Reports) always contain the statement "Outstanding Officer".

There is no Hell.

Awards and Decs on the Web

The Awards & Decorations pages are posted on the site. You can access the pages from the DFC icon in the right hand navigation column on both the Main Welcome page <http://www.ac-119gunships.com/welcome.htm> and the Association Welcome page http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/assoc_welcome.htm.

All the A & D pages hot link to each other. Ops check them when you have an opportunity and let me know if you encounter any problems. Everything worked fine on this end including being able to download the PDF worksheet.

Note: If you do not have access to computers may contact Col Mac or any of the Dec Board Members by phone or mail:

Col Steve Mac Isaac, USAF Ret.
6449 Coventry Hills Dr., NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144
(h) 505-867-3367
(cell) 302-249-1499
(email) colmacmac@mac.com

Awards & Decorations Board

Maj. Gen Doug Metcalf

(18th SOS) - Board President & Maintenance/Support Advisor (407) 628-8889

Steve 'Mac' Mac Isaac

(18th SOS) - Aircraft Commander

Charles 'Chuck' James

(17th SOS) - Aircraft Commander
(208) 543-8116 chasjas2u@rmci.net

Fred Blum

(18th SOS) - NAV/FLIR/NOS
210-492-4264 dodie@stic.net

Bernie Smith

(17th SOS) - NAV/NOS
(817) 624-3018 bernardsmith@charter.net

Lee Kyser

(18th SOS) - FE
805-733-2443 ac119k@msn.com

Craig Corbett

(18th SOS) - Gunner
(703) 923-0476 Richard.Corbett@DTRA.Mil

Frank Bartlett

(18th SOS) - Gunner
661-723-5356 snfarts@verizon.net

Allen Chandler

(17th SOS) - IO
480-502-3285 allenbchandler@aol.com

No changes in A & Ds There are 4-5 cases pending...I will take a few minutes at the General Meeting, and bring everyone up to speed – Cheers - Mac

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Brigadier General Harry C. Heinie Aderholt is Announced as 2005 Guest Speaker

General Aderholt was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1920. He entered active military duty through the aviation cadet program in April 1942 and graduated from pilot training with a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps in May 1943.

During World War II General Aderholt served in North Africa and Italy as a B-17 and C-47 pilot.

In September 1945 General Aderholt went to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as a staff pilot with the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command. After completion of Air Tactical School at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in December 1948, General Aderholt returned to Maxwell and served as a flight instructor and flying safety officer with the 3800th Air Base Wing.

During the Korean War General Aderholt commanded a Special Air Warfare Detachment of the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron. He was next assigned as an operations staff officer with the 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group in Washington, D.C. In June 1953 he was transferred to Donaldson Air Force Base, S.C., where he served with Headquarters Eighteenth Air Force as tactical and operations staff officer in the Directorate of Operations and Training.

In October 1954, General Aderholt was assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Forces Europe, Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany, and served in the Directorate of Plans as an unconventional warfare planning staff officer.

In September 1957 General Aderholt was assigned to the 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group as a special warfare staff officer, and in September 1959 joined the 1040th U.S. Air Force Field Activity Squadron in the same capacity.

General Aderholt left for Okinawa in January 1960 where he became commander of the 1095th Operational Evaluation Training Group. During this assignment, he contributed to the pioneering of special air warfare techniques, and was instrumental in developing the Laos airfield complex known as Lima sites. These fields were as support sites for special warfare operations and as "Jolly Green" helicopter forward staging bases for rescue and recovery operations in Laos and North Vietnam.

From August 1962 to February 1964, General Aderholt served as special advisor to the commander of the U.S. Air Force Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. During this period, he contributed to and participated in RAND Corp. studies which resulted in the publication of the Single Integrated Attack Team Study. He then was transferred to Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he served as vice commander and commander of the famed 1st Air Commando Wing.



General Aderholt was assigned deputy commander for plans and operations with the 6200th Materiel Wing at Clark Air Base, PI in August 1965. While in this assignment, he joined the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, where he conceived and activated the Joint Personnel Recovery Center in Saigon, and served as chief from July to December 1966. He then was selected by Headquarters Pacific Air Forces to activate the 56th Air Commando Wing at Nakhon Phanom Air Force Base, Thailand. This wing, which he commanded from December 1966 to December 1967, conducted low-level night interdiction missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and North Vietnam, using prop-driven aircraft. The efforts of this wing were so successful in slowing infiltration that the enemy reacted by greatly increasing anti-aircraft defenses and committing a large amount of his total assets to keep the trail open.

In January 1968 General Aderholt was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Force, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to serve as deputy chief of staff for operations.

General Aderholt returned to Thailand in June 1970 for a two-year tour of duty as chief of the Air Force Advisory Group, Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, in Bangkok. He retired from active military duty in December 1972 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

He was recalled to active duty in October 1973 and assigned as deputy commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand, and deputy chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand, with headquarters at Bangkok.

General Aderholt became commander, USMACTHAI, and chief, JUSMAG, Thailand, in May 1975.

His military decorations and awards include:

- the Distinguished Service Medal,
- Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters,
- Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster,
- Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster,
- Meritorious Service Medal,
- Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters,
- Joint Service Commendation Medal,
- Air Force Commendation Medal,
- Presidential Unit Citation Emblem,
- and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster.

He is a command pilot and wears the Parachutist Badge.

He was promoted to the grade of brigadier general effective May 31, 1974, with date of rank May 25, 1974.

On Jan 18th 2001, the enlisted personnel of the Air Force Special Operations Command awarded General Aderholt the Order of the Sword. It was his dynamic leadership, his sincere personal concern for the well being of all enlisted men and women.

Read the autobiography about *Air Commando One: Heinie Aderholt and America's Secret Air Wars*. by Warren A. Trest.



Vietnam War Combat Veteran, Dr. Larry Elton Fletcher publishes second historical novel:

The Shadow Spirit – Flying Stingers and BUFFs in S.E.A.

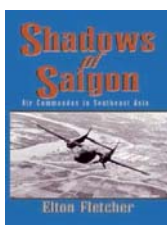
Sequel to ***Shadows of Saigon – Air Commandos in Southeast Asia***

Hardback - ISBN 0-1-4134-4426-1
 Paperback - ISBN 0-1-4134-4425-3
 Library of Congress Number: 2003099747

Based on a collection of true stories, *The Shadow Spirit* blends fact and fiction to tell the adventures of Air Force pilot Paul Knight, who flies Special Operations AC-119 Stinger gunships and Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers against Communist aggression in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Knight confronts death in combat situations and struggles with personal decisions that will impact his future. You will find out what happens to 1/Lt. Paul Knight, 1/Lt "Killer" Dameron, Marie-Laure, and Major Dick "The Prick" Mueller. You will meet many new AC-119 Stinger crewmen like FE Freddie Farkle, Gunners, Sgt. Mackey, Sgt. Sproul, A1C Scott, and IO, Sgt. H. T. "give'm hell Harry Truman" Savage. Majors Carpenter, Franklin, Willingham are the navigator/sensor operators. Assigned to Delta Flight at NKP, they night hunt the enemy in the Barrel Roll, Steel Tiger, and the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Knight, Dameron, and a Stinger navigator receive orders for SAC. Flying G model BUFFs, the three former AC-119 gunship air commandos are really lucky. With the fighting spirit of Shadow and Stinger, they get to bomb Hanoi during Linebacker II. For a review copy of *The Shadow Spirit* or an author interview, contact Elton Fletcher at 573-365-8916 or umbra27@earthlink.net.

Available at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Borders.com, Xlibris.com (888-795-4274) or your local book store.



Still available Dr Larry Fletcher's First Novel *Shadows of Saigon*

Former United States Air Force Captain, Dr. Larry Elton Fletcher flew 177 combat missions as a pilot in AC-119 Shadow gunships during his tour of duty at Tan Son Nhut Air Base; Saigon, Republic of Vietnam in 1970-71. After five

years military service, Fletcher returned to the teaching profession and public school administration while earning a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Missouri. He retired in 1997 to pursue a writing career. His first novel, *Shadows of Saigon* was published in 2001. Larry and his wife Sue reside at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

Reunion VI Agenda

Where: Ft Walton Beach at the Sheraton Four Points
When: Sept 30 – Oct 2, 2005

Events:

Friday: Photo Shoot: photos will be taken at 5 p.m. in Hudson Hall before the Cocktail Party at the pool. We will start with Squadrons first and others as needed. Please make every effort to attend this shoot.

Cocktail Party, Sheraton Pool Side 6 pm – till ?
 Dress casual, party or flight suits. \$ 15.00 each

Saturday:

8 am: General Meeting

11:30 am: Memorial Service, Hurlburt Air Park, Dedication of a new monument for the AC-119K—Stinger Evening: Banquet

5 pm Cocktails Happy Hour. –

6 pm Dinner at Elks Lodge, Dress is semi-formal or party suits

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$20, Fried Shrimp-- \$20.00,
 Prime Rib-- \$25.00

Dancing to Stormin Norman

Sunday:

9 am Golf at Hurlburt Golf Course, \$10.00 plus green fees. The \$10.00 is for prize money.

2 pm VA briefing aimed at Vietnam Vets

4 pm Farewell Pool Party at the Four Points – \$20.00 each

Make your Hotel reservations Today by calling the Sheraton Four Points at 800-874-8104.

Reservation must be made no later then two weeks prior to arriving and tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship reunion.

Room Rates – with free full breakfast buffet each morning for registered guest.

Courtyard -- \$78.00 + 10%

Beachfront -- \$92.00 + 10% CALL, THEY MAY ALL BE BOOKED

More information and details will be available as Gus gets everything finalized. It will be fun!



THE FIRING CIRCLE

Reunion Registration Form
AC-119 Gunship Reunion V
Sept 30, October 1, 2, 2005
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Mail your Reunion registration to Doug Wohlgamuth **TODAY!!!**

THIS IS NOT YOUR HOTEL REGISTRATION

Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? Yes ___ No ___
To join, please fill out application on page 11

Make checks payable to "The AC-119 Gunship Association"

Mail this form along with your payment to:

Doug Wohlgamuth
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL. 33573 cell 813-781-5728 busch791@msn.com

Note: for those wanting to do a map quest:
The address is:
1325 Miracle Strip Parkway East (Highway 98)
Fort Walton Beach
Florida 32548

Reunion Registration Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

(Unit) 71st, 17th or 18th, etc: _____ Years in Country (e.g. 1969): _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME: _____

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: (# ___) Name(s) _____

YES ! I WILL ATTEND : (Check all that apply)

COCKTAIL NIGHT \$15.00 ea. Xs Number Attending _____ = _____

Photo Shoot, photos will be taken at 5 p.m. Friday in Hudson Hall before the Cocktail Party at the pool. We will start with Squadrons first and others as needed. Please make every effort to attend this shoot.

MEMORIAL SERVICE (n/c) Xs Number Attending _____

BANQUET: ELKS LODGE Chicken Cordon Bleu \$20.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

Fried Shrimp \$20.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

Prime Rib \$25.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

GOLF MATCH \$10.00 ea Xs No. Attending _____ = _____

Handicap/s _____

(Pay Green Fees at Golf Course, varies by Rank)

SUNDAY POOL PARTY \$20.00 ea Xs Number Attending _____ = _____

TOTALS : \$ _____

Please don't forget to include your payment

CHECK # _____

REUNION V – DVDS now AVAILABLE

The **First DVD set** is a two DVD set of the Reunion Events and Speakers. **Disc 1** is of the Welcome Social, Memorial Service, Banquet “Under the Wings” inside the National Museum of the United States Air Force, and the Farewell Social. **Disc 2** is of the Reunion Speakers: Mr. Bill Dudley – Fairchild Hiller conversion of the C-119 to an AC-119, Captain Rob Doremus, USN (ret) – words of encouragement, and Keynote Speaker Colonel Ron Terry, USAF (ret.) – the presentation of how the “gunship concept” was sold to the Air Staff along with his presentation about the STOL C-130 Program. This two-disc DVD set is 3 hours and 30 minutes long.

The **Second DVD set** is a two DVD set of the Year Groups. **Disc 1** is of year groups 1968/69 and 1970; **Disc 2** is of year groups 1971 and 1972/3. These two discs identify by year group, where we were operating, what our were, missions, what crew living conditions were like and exceptional experiences we encountered. This two-disc DVD set is 3 hours and 13 minutes.

The **Third DVD set** is a two DVD set of History Vignettes or “Stories”. There are 18 stories about activities that occurred while flying or working on the AC-119 Gunships. These stories are funny, scary, or nerve racking accounts of actual events. Each Vignette is presented by the individual/s directly involved in the experience. This two-disc DVD set is 2 hours and 32 minutes long.

Cost to purchase the DVDs: (Includes postage within the Continental US)

- All 3 Sets** (6 DVDs) \$35.00
- Any 2 DVD Sets** (4 DVDs) \$25.00
- Any Set** (2 DVDs) \$15.00
- Any Single** (1 DVD) \$9.00



I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER THE FOLLOWING REUNION V DVD Discs:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any Two DVD sets | Sets No. ____ and ____ | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any Single DVD set | Set No. ____ | 15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any Single DVD | Set # ____ Disc ____ | 9.00 |

Total enclosed _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please make your check payable to: **Rogers Stevens and mail to:**
c/o Rogers Stevens
AC-119 Gunship Association
P. O. Box 369
Clarksburg, WV 26302-0369

THE FIRING CIRCLE

Association Reunion T-Shirts

The Reunion VI T's have the SEA map on the right sleeve and the US flag on the left sleeve. **T-shirts are no longer squadron specific. They will reflect that we are an association that includes the 71st, 17th and 18th Special Operations Squadrons. If you have any questions contact Gus Sininger**
T-shirt colors are teal, light gray, Tan or sand, natural or off white.

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge \$20

XX-Large and XXX-Large \$21 NOTE: Please order EARLY! Factory needs a minimum order of 144 shirts



Check with Gus on availability of Reunion I, II, & III T-Shirts

AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION VI T-Shirts



- Power Restored
- Sand Out of Pool
- Rooms Dried Out
- Food Service On
- Roads & Runway Open
- Bar Open

CLEARED IN HOT!!!!

Ft. Walton Beach, FL, 2005



Reunion V T-Shirts



Golf Shirts



Reunion IV T-Shirts



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

Reunion VI T-Shirts \$20.00 (XX & XXX \$21.00) T-shirt colors are teal, light gray, Tan or sand, natural or off white

SIZE(S): _____ X's \$20.00 or \$21.00 _____ Color (s): _____

Golf Shirts: color (s) _____ Size (s): _____ Name on front: _____ X's \$27.00

Reunion IV T-Shirts (BLACK ONLY) \$20.00. Size (s) _____

Reunion V T-Shirts (Blue or Ash Gray) \$20.00 Size (s) _____ Color (s) _____

Long or Short Sleeve: _____

LAOTION HIGHWAY PATROL: X-LARGE ONLY— NUM. _____ X's \$10.00 _____

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

Reunion IV Videos _____ X's \$20.00

NAME: _____

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

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Coming to the reunion *Circle yes or no* Unit: _____

"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 AC-119 Gunship Association

AC-119 Gunship Brothers, Families & Friends, we would like to invite you to join or renew in the AC-119 Gunship Association, as a member, family member or an associate member. The Association was created for you, whether you were aircrew 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:
Jim Alvis, Secretary
3110 Maqua Court
Carmel IN 46033-4136

shadow1969@indy.rr.com

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Note: If you are renewing, it is not necessary to fill out all information, unless there are changes.

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, or my Spouse (*no charge to surviving spouse's*) or Parent served in combat with (circle one) 71st SOS 17th SOS 18th SOS From _____, 19__ to _____ 19__

In (SEA) Southeast Asia as: (enter air or ground crew position) _____

Or I feel I am qualified to be an Associate Member (*eligible only for annual membership*) due to the following: _____

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

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____ FAX: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 for my annual membership or \$119.00 for a Lifetime membership. (*available only to regular members*).

"Make check or money order payable to the: **AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION** as a donation for annual or lifetime membership dues and mail to:

Jim Alvis, Secretary
3110 Maqua Court
Carmel IN 46033-4136
317-846-4130
shadow1969@indy.rr.com

THE FIRING CIRCLE

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
www.ac-119gunships.com

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION
P O BOX 752
FENTON MO 63026-0752

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