

TO: 16th SOW/CC

SUBJECT: Air Memorial Park Proposal

FROM: Craig Corbett, AC-119 Gunship Association President

Your Air Commando Memorial Air Park is a professional tribute of history remembering the brave contributions of USAF Air Commandos. It provides the setting for our AC-119 Gunship Association's annual Reunion memorial services honoring those we lost in SEA, with the Air Park's AC-119G *Shadow* as a focal point and visible link to our gunship heritage. The site reunites our Association's veterans, allows us to include and honor family members of those lost in SEA at our Memorial Services, and assures we pass our heritage to future generations.

Yet, there is something missing. Our Association's 18th SOS mission aircraft was the AC-119K *Stinger*, supported or flown by more than one half of our members. Since no *Stinger* airframes remain, it is not represented in the Air Park, and we wish to remedy this by creating an addition to the existing site.

Our AC-119 Gunship Association, comprised of the 71st, 17th, and 18th Special Operations Squadrons and all supporting units, respectfully requests approval for a monument depicting the AC-119K *Stinger* gunship near the present AC-119G *Shadow*. The proposed monument is approximately 78 inches height on a 50 inch base in black granite, signifying the night missions of the *Stinger*, and engraved with a color rendition of the AC-119K. Below the gunship is a color engraved 18th SOS logo followed by text describing its mission. In addition, we propose a paver path 6 feet wide and 20 feet long leading from the sidewalk to the monument. Emerald Coast Monuments, a company with experience within the park, will create the monument and pavers. Our association will bear maintenance responsibility for the memorial and pavers over the years.

Your approval will allow solid identification of the AC-119K's lineage within the gunship family, end the confusion between the Shadow and Stinger Gunships and add a key element of Air Commando history. Request approval of this monument, with pavers, as soon as practical to allow for continued planning, construction and dedication at our memorial service on October 1, 2005. MG Douglas Metcalf is our Association Project Officer and SMSgt (ret) Gus Sininger is his project manager. They both have full authority to represent the AC-119 Gunship Association in any and all memorial matters with Hurlburt Field representatives and Emerald Coast Monuments. MG Metcalf has initiated a full Staff Summary package with enclosures as instructed by the Air Memorial Park Committee.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Craig Corbett
President, AC-119 Gunship Association

Cc:
MG Douglas Metcalf, AC-119K Project Officer
Gus Sininger, AC-119K Monument Project Manager