

AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Article I - Name

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

Article II - Purposes

Section 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 2. Associate: Associate membership may be conferred upon persons not qualified for regular membership but who deserve to be recognized for rendering a service in their role in the establishment, training, and support of Shadow and Stinger operational squadrons or be otherwise worthy of recognition. Such membership will be conferred based upon determination by the Board of Directors, as later defined, with a majority opinion voiced for acceptance of the applicant. Associate Members will enjoy the same rights and privileges as Regular Members but are restricted from voting on Association matters. A two-thirds vote of the members in attendance at a reunion membership meeting will be required to reverse the decision of the Board of Directors with respect to acceptance of applicants.

NOTE: The provisions of Section 2 will not become operative until acceptance by majority vote of members at the next reunion membership meeting.

Section 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 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 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 1. 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 2. 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.

Article VI – Elections and Appointments

Section 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 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 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 appointees will not serve on the Board of Directors.

Article VII – Terms of Office

Section 1. Elected Officers: Officers will be elected annually for a one-year term to serve from the first day following a reunion through conclusion of the next reunion. In any year without a reunion, term of office will be from October 1 of one year through September 30 of the following year.

Section 2. Appointed Officers: Appointed officers will serve at the will and pleasure of the appointing President only during that Presidents 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.

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 1. Dues Period: Dues will be assessed annually based upon the Association fiscal year of October 1 through September 30 of the following year.

Section 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 3. Life Members: Dues for Life Members will be as recommended by the Board and approved by majority vote of members at the reunion membership meeting, and as recorded in the Secretaries minutes. It is noted that the amount of such dues should be based upon actuarial data that will provide a sound financial foundation for the Association as membership declines through attrition.

Section 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 Bylaws may be amended by majority vote by members present at reunion membership meetings or through other means established by the Board of Directors.

Attest:

/s/ Walt R. Riebau
Walter R. Riebau
Secretary

Approved:

/s/ Charles M. James
Charles M. James
President

Dated: May 18, 2001

PLEASE NOTE

These bylaws are provided since you are a member of our AC-119 Gunship Association. They have been rewritten, as some of you will note, to add details that should help us attain tax exempt status from the IRS. As you are aware, bylaws are the internal rules and regulations for an organization. We will discuss the bylaws at our reunion membership meeting on 29 September 2001. Hopefully, you will attend the reunion and our meeting in order to help us decide certain provisions in the bylaws. Your particular attention is invited to Article IV, Section 2, dealing with “Associate” membership. Also, should the bylaws be amended to add, delete or change certain provisions? We look forward to your input.

Bob La Rosa, former Stinger gunner, has accepted the chairmanship to evaluate the bylaws and lead discussion at our reunion. Please send any comments regarding the bylaws to Bob at his mailing address: 1900 Hubbard Drive, Alamogordo NM 88310, phone 505-437-4040 or email address: LA448@zianet.com

Bob could use the assistance of some of you with his evaluation. Please let him know if you have a little time to devote to the cause. Pay is horrible but benefits to our Association are great!

Thanks!

Chuck James, President
AC-119 Gunship Association