

AC-119 Gunship Guestbook
Visitors During 1998

Bill, thanks for the hard work setting this page up. paul robertson sent me a postcard with the web site address & i was stunned. Flew with mike ryan, paul anderson & crew. we also took a 37mm in the belly one night with the infamous commander leroy bleuflat. since then i spent 15 years with the MN air national guard, got to be squadron commander & retired in 89. Reunion time i'm there. i was a navigator at danang from october 70 to april 71 then to

gary d. hitzemann <hitze@pottsville.infi.net>

pottsville, pa USA - Wednesday, December 30, 1998 at 10:05:06 (PST)

Enjoyed your site. Was with Invert gang at NKP in '70 & '71. Used to ride along with a friend on flightline roach coach. The gunship hanger was one of our stops. Any Invert people out there, drop me a line. Les "Worm" Thompson
Les Thompson <Les21@ix.netcom.com>

Costa Mesa, CA USA - Tuesday, December 29, 1998 at 21:19:30 (PST)

Great site. Would like to see something about the support units in the states. I was with the 39th & 40th later combined to the 415 s.o.s. We were stationed at Lockbourne & later sent as a unit with planes to Hurlburt Field. Thanks again it brings back memories of 1970-1972

Ken Massie <kenmassie@netexp.net>

marysville, oh USA - Sunday, December 27, 1998 at 13:11:05 (PST)

Chief; It is a great site. Its good to see the forgotten Gunships on the web. I flew with the AC-130 (Spectre) gunship 71-72.

William L. Davies <wldavies@shorenetworks.com>

West Creek, NJ USA - Sunday, December 27, 1998 at 08:22:49 (PST)

Chief, Numba One Job G.I.! Please, keep up the excellent work. Man was I excited when I just stumbled across the AC-119 web site. I served at the tail end of the party (1972) as a gunner in NKP, DaNang, & Bien Hoa on AC-119Ks with the 18th SOS. Would love to hear from any other member of the "Left Bank Gang". Anybody heard what happened to any of the members of the crew "Father John's Congregation" or Gordy Roberts? SMSgt Paul Beagley (BEAG) (Retired)

Paul Beagley (Beag) <MGMIDGETMN@AOL>

Tacoma, Wa USA - Thursday, December 24, 1998 at 15:59:36 (PST)

YO BURGER BUTT!! Great sight Bill & I love reading through the guest book guys so keep the stories flowing. I was NKP 74-75, after most of you I suspect, working with Armed Forces Radio & TV (AFTN). I guess I missed the real party for the most part, but I've had a chance to call guys like you friend, & that's a real honor. Best to you Bill, Karen, your family & all the crew mates we'll meet here. God bless & thank all of you, my heros!

MSgt (ret) Mike Hartman <mikehartman@sprintmail.com>

San Antonio, TX USA - Wednesday, December 23, 1998 at 15:11:39 (PST)

I would like to thank Chief Petrie for alerting me to this site. I was in the Stingers at DaNang from Oct69 to Oct70 on Phil Goodwin's crew. If anyone out there was at Danang the same time, get in touch with me. I attend the Spectre reunion most years & always look for AC119 types, but see very few. It would be great to have a AC119 reunion. Great site ,keep up the good work.

Jim Bennes <jbennes@bsc.net>

Valparaiso, FI USA - Wednesday, December 23, 1998 at 06:59:14 (PST)

Great web site. I was very impressed with the firepower on several occasions while I was in Nam during 69 & 70. We ran convoys in III & IV Corps. Our unit was called the "Orient Express" (7th Trans Bn). In May of 69', I had to take an eighty vehicle convoy to Quan Loi. We had to RON (Remain Over Night) because QL-13 was declared too dangerous at the time because of NVA activity in the area. Well, since we were just truck drivers, I didn't think much could happen that would affect us. I had my drivers form up inside the perimeter near the south gate. Although there were several bunkers near us, most drivers choose to sleep in their trucks. That night the perimeter was attacked about 0200hours by sappers after several 122mm rockets had impacted inside the compound. It didn't take long for us to find a friendly bunker. The place was lighted up like a blinking Christmas

tree everywhere I looked. Well, we were all firing, just like our infantry buddies, at this stage of the incident, probably all of us wishing we were back in Long binh, safe & sound. Several of the sappers did get through the wire, &, as it was pouring down heavy rain in the darkness, except for flares--this only added to the serious confusion of the situation. About an half-hour or so after the initial attack, I was crouched behind a soldier firing a M-60 & saw the NVA fire some RPG's at our bunker line. One of them hit the bunker on our side. Then, the sky seemed to rain red to our front near the rubber trees near the south gate. The noise sounded like a chain-saw, & after that there was silence except the hissing sound of the steam created by one of your gunships. Charlie must have been impressed, & the attack ceased. Thanks, Don Rast. PS, I have a much more detailed account of this incident in my book about my tour of duty in the Nam. More info, please e-mail.

Don Rast <rastfd@bellsouth.net>

Baton Rouge, La USA - Tuesday, December 22, 1998 at 17:58:55 (PST)

After 30 years it was nice to see the recognition for the gun ships. Just found out about this website recently from Phil Wheatly & a possible reunion. I was one of the original gun plumbers with Phil Wheatly at first arrival of AC 119's at Phan Rang. Spent lots of time loading & downloading ammo & flares, & it was nice to hear from some of the ground troops & how we helped. Nice to hear from you all. Also the website is very informative & keeps us in touch.

Larry Middleton <larbon@nmlink.com>

Renton, WA USA - Thursday, December 17, 1998 at 19:39:33 (PST)

Fantastic!! Incredible!! Super site! You've done a superb job. Boy, was I suprised when my son emailed me the site address. We'd just been talking about putting K-model together that evening. I, like many others, thought we had faded into the night. I was in the last wave of the deployment of the K's to Phan Rang in Dec 69. Spent '70 at Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Udorn, & Danang. I'll be digging around in my memories for stuff to send you. Somewhere I have "nose paintings" of the last wave of K's at Phan Rang. Keep up the incredible work.

Ron Julian <takitus@ibm.net>

, USA - Tuesday, December 15, 1998 at 19:23:51 (PST)

Bill great site the 119 was a great plane & it has earned its place in history. the Warbirds of america squadron # 14 is in the process of buying a c-47 which we are going to restore as the AC-47 in which john levitow won the medal of Honor in. we are looking for any drawings of the late model miniguns so that we can display them in the plane & a mark 20 mod 4 gunsight for the cockpit. this airplane will be a flying tribute to all the gunships & we plan to make a historical outline showing from the AC-47 to the AC-119 & to the present day AC-130. we really need help in raising the money to pay it off we still owe about 50,000. we are selling SPOOKY memberships that include a patch & a certificate with member # for 47.00 in spring we will have a dedication with john levitow as are special guest. everone can sleep well for SPOOKY flies again!!!!!!

robert rice <airplane@networksplus.net>

topeka, ks USA - Tuesday, December 15, 1998 at 18:13:27 (PST)

Bill you have a very nice site, as you know I have been here before & will be back. Looks like it has really taken off well. Glad to award you the "Gold Crest Award". It was well deserved. Keep in touch. your friend, J.C.

[James C. \(J.C.\) Wheeler](mailto:jc@ec47.com) <jc@ec47.com>

Clarksville, AR USA - Wednesday, December 09, 1998 at 17:02:33 (PST)

NICE JOB ON THE WEB SITE. LOOKING FOR OTHER STINGERS FROM MID 70 TO MID 71 NKP PHAN RANG DANANG UDORN. HOW ABOUT DUTCH PAYNE (ENG) (IO) TOMMEY THOMPSON . (AC) CHUCK PALUSO (CP) CAPT BLOOD. LETS HEAR IT. IM ACTIVE IN THE CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE RESTORING WW2 AIRCRAFT AND FLYING IN AIR SHOWS. NEED 18SOS PATCHES IF ANYONE HAS SOME ILL GET THEM MADE UP FOR THE REUNION

ART PERRY <aperry9567@aol.com>

Daytona beach, FI USA - Sunday, November 29, 1998 at 11:40:14 (PST)

I was part of original Shadow contingent (Dec 68). Good job on the site. Still looking for old Shadow guys, only found a couple so far. Looking for Glen Slinker. He was a Stinger gunner that flew Shadows with me before the Stingers had come up to strength at Phan Rang. We used to write while I was in Japan, but lost track when I got out of AF. I have a small site dedicated to the Shadows. Perhaps mutual aid is in order. Also there is a 71stSOS page at: www.shelbynet.net/~usaf71stsos/BakalarAFB/BAFB_index.htm

Jim Mattison <JMATTI9778@AOL.COM>

Rohnert Park, Ca USA - Saturday, November 28, 1998 at 10:38:53 (PST)

Great website for recognizing those who worked on & flew the AC-119 gunships. Thanks to Phil Wheatley for referring your site to me. I was a reservist(crew chief) with the 434th Tactical Airlift Wing, 930th TAG, 71st TAS at Bakalar AFB, Columbus, IN when the unit was called to active duty. I ended up with B-flight at Phan Rang until our return to the states in June, 1969. I would like to hear from other reservists of the 71st SOS. I extend my personal thanks to the webmasters for putting forth the time & effort to collect & save the AC-119 gunship history, especially the "Shadows"

Jim Alvis <jalvis@iquest.net>

Carmel, IN USA - Friday, November 27, 1998 at 17:32:02 (PST)

...Great job, Chief !!!... was a gun plumber with original Phan Rang group, Flt. B early in '69 & will send this site to those I have contact with...just saw the other 46250 two weeks ago for the first time in 30 years & he will also enjoy your work...will be back... THANKS !!

Phil Wheatley <pwheatle@outland.dtcc.edu>

Seaford, DE USA - Friday, November 27, 1998 at 10:00:13 (PST)

Chief Petrie. Damn that has a nice ring to it. Congrats. the site looks super. I'll probably add some stories to it over the holidays. We we're at DaNang & NKP together in 70-71. And I ran into you at the Andrews hospital in 84. Hi to Tony Bautz. We flew a couple together out of TSN in 70. Also Hi to "Butch" Iversen & "Sundance" Schumann from NKP. A special hello to Bud Donaldson who we left behind at Rocket City when Ryans Crew xfered to NKP in April 71.

Howard Reid <h-stantonreid@msn.com>

Gresham, OR USA - Monday, November 23, 1998 at 22:36:35 (PST)

Thanks for all your hard work, I made many friendships during my tour in 1971 & would love to see some of the old faces & give them a hug or two. I was a navigator, & nos operator. Learned how to play the guitar while I was there. Many great memories & the year really helped me in getting my life started in a different direction. Thanks again for giving us a chance to see & hear from our buddies

[Charles \(Bud\) Donaldson](mailto:bdonaldson1@home.com) <bdonaldson1@home.com>

Livermore, CA USA - Monday, November 23, 1998 at 21:44:13 (PST)

I am so pleased to learn that efforts are being made to keep the great legacy of "Gunships" alive. I was a pilot with the 18th SOS at NKP & DaNang in 1970 & 71. Seems like yesterday & I still hold strongly the memory of the great friends who served with us. Thanks for your efforts Bill, John & others. Lets keep it up & plan a reunion soon. Cheers, Dick Iversen

Dick Iversen <richard.d.iversen@boeing.com>

Seattle , WA USA - Friday, November 20, 1998 at 10:23:32 (PST)

I feel like I need to add my 5 cents worth. Im really getting excited about all of the replies we are getting to our add. And all the hits on the web page. I just hope everyone is going to follow through with the reunion. I keep hoping to see more of the folks I flew with sign on. I will never give up on youguy's cause your the best of the best.

Fred Graves <farkle@micron.net>

Mountain Home, Id USA - Tuesday, November 17, 1998 at 21:20:43 (PST)

Great site! I was an IO '71-'72 at Da Nang & NKP. It's good to hear that there are Shadows & Stingers still kicking out there!

Bob Behrens <behrens@compuserve.com>

Long Beach, CA USA - Tuesday, November 17, 1998 at 07:46:24 (PST)

Bill... Well done on the web page. I'd love to see more & contribute where I can. My dad was among the Stinger ranks when I was 2 ('71-'72 I'm guessing). That's a source of great honor, respect & pride for me. I'm hoping to stay current with the "K" community with this web page.

Steven R. Blair <blairse@micron.net>

Mt. Home, ID USA - Friday, November 13, 1998 at 18:36:52 (PST)

I really enjoyed your site. I graduated Tech School 13 Dec 67 as a 30134 Acft Radar & Inertial Nav Sys Repmn. Between 7/70-1/72 while at Udorn, an AC-119 gunship was parked. I went to inspect it & ran into a classmate whose name escapes me. If you see this guy, contact me. Ed Heyliger
Edward B. Heyliger <AmazingDrH@webtv.net>
Fair Haven, NJ USA - Friday, November 13, 1998 at 10:54:27 (PST)

Great site Bill, am still going through all the stuff. Kind of slow going, was a grunt, if you know what I mean. Was glad to have you guys in the sky, it kept some of the stains out of my fatigues & put them in Sir Charles's. Was with the Americal in I Corp Aug69-Aug70 with B 3/21st 196th LIB in the nice quite hills of Hiep Duc & Que Son. I will always say you guys light up my life & NIGHT. THANKS for doing a GREAT JOB.
Rich Scales <namgrunt@novanet1.com>
Oakley, IL USA - Friday, November 13, 1998 at 08:20:51 (PST)

Bill, Fred: The Web Page looks great. I will be happy to send you a few photos (my son Andy will scan them & e-mail them to you). I also have the serial numbers of all AC 119K Aircraft I flew at Lockbourne, Danang, & NKP. If you want them, let me know, please. I was with the 18th SOS from SEP 1970 to JAN 1971 at Danang, & thereafter, until SEP 1971, at NKP. At NKP I had crew number 7. While in SEA I was AC & IP, with a total of 142 combat missions. Best regards, & congratulations on an excellent effort, Tony Bautz. P.S. How can I get a hold of a current list of former members of the 18th SOS?
Anton F. Bautz <stinger7@airmail.net>
Weatherford, TX USA - Thursday, November 12, 1998 at 14:19:00 (PST)

As the son of a Stinger pilot, it is really nice to see a place where I can learn even more about what it was like in Vietnam. The page looks great & I look forward to seeing more of it. Andy Bautz
Andy Bautz <andy@benchmarkenviro.com>
Dallas, Tx USA - Thursday, November 12, 1998 at 12:48:04 (PST)

Super site. I was always impressed with the work you guys did. Great site!
Darrel Whitcomb <nail_25@aol.com>
USA - Thursday, November 12, 1998 at 12:30:08 (PST)

Great Work!!! I went over with the first group of G models & stayed for a second tour. It was the 71st & when the Reserves went home it became the 17th, then we welcomed the 18th when they brought the K models. Now I'll have to dig out my stuff I've been saving all these years! Again, Great Job!
LeRoy Frahm <LeRoy.frahm@Lawrence.edu>
Appleton, WI USA - Thursday, November 12, 1998 at 11:34:53 (PST)

Bill, you have done a great job on this web site. Lets all keep in touch. I have been trying to locate 18th SOS members for a long time with no success. I believe with this web page we can locate many of our former members. I have been trying to locate a gunner we called Villa, several other members. I was a IO from Nov 71-Nov72. I flew at Danang with the Bat Shit Blue Crew. Would like to hear from former member. Again thanks Bill for this Web Site I don't know how you had time to put this all together.
Bill Anderson (ANDY) <WAnder1249@aol.com>
Wake Village, Tx USA - Sunday, November 08, 1998 at 18:48:07 (PST)

Very nice site. I look forward to future additions & will visit often. I was at Danang from Nov 68-69 on Spooky, Recip. Acft. Mech. It was a memorable year.
Donald J. Luke <oerm@aol.com>
Tucson, Az USA - Sunday, November 08, 1998 at 17:41:01 (PST)

To those on the ground at the pdj 1972
[Larry Hickey](#) <[none](#)>
Ft Walton Beach, Fla USA - Saturday, November 07, 1998 at 12:42:35 (PST)

Bill, You have created an outstanding WebSite... You have a right to be very proud of it. I entered the USAF in Sept 1952 & retired in Dec 1972. I served eleven years as an Air Policeman & as a member of the SAC Combat Defense Force... I served four years Dec 1963 till November 1968 as a Military Training Instructor (TI) at

Lackland AFB, Texas, & completed my final five years as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office Of Special Investigations (OSI). Take care my brother, I will stay in touch.

[George P. Crofton, MSgt USAF Retired](mailto:laser1@sat.net) <laser1@sat.net>

Lake Jackson, TX USA - Friday, November 06, 1998 at 16:47:13 (PST)

Chief you have a great site & I will bookmark it for future reference. I was a young trooper with the class of 66-67, University of Nha Trang, Vietnam. I remember watching in awe & wonder as the gunships kicked flares & brought their guns to life. Many of us are thankful for their presence when they tipped the scales in fire fights in our favor. Thanks. Bud Stolpa, Sky Cop, CMSgt USAF Retired

[Walter "Bud" Stolpa](mailto:wstolpa@pressenter.com) <wstolpa@pressenter.com>

Red Wing , MN USA - Friday, November 06, 1998 at 16:18:38 (PST)

Was a gunner on the Stinger in 71 & 72. Was beginning to believe that the Ac-119 gunships were going to be lost in history. I believe this sight is the beginning of great things. Will be of any assistance I can, Great Job!!!

Neil A. Taylor, Msgt Ret. <neilat@earthlink.net>

Ft Worth, TX USA - Thursday, November 05, 1998 at 21:29:28 (PST)

I saw that picture of you before but who is that ugle guy beside you karen? looks good bill keep going you doing great richard

richard mcknight <mmmusic@swbell.net>

moore, ok USA - Thursday, November 05, 1998 at 16:14:26 (PST)

I really needed a life, thanks guys for putting this together.

[Jerry Greene](mailto:AC119@AOL.COM) <AC119@AOL.COM>

Walden, NY USA - Thursday, November 05, 1998 at 13:36:20 (PST)

Finally, a Gunship Website. I for one will work on additional information & pictures of SHADOW. There is not much written on these proud birds or our mission. Keep up the good work. I enjoyed the message from Victor Charlie & I am positive he is happier that we are now on this WEB site.

Marty Noonan <B777jock@cwixmail.com>

Long Beach, CA USA - Wednesday, October 28, 1998 at 07:18:17 (PST)

This a great web site & i would like to thank Bill & Fred for all their hard work lets not let it go by the wayside lets all give a hand with stories & pics or what ever memories we have of our tours as Shadows or Stingers would be great to have a reunion lets do it in the near future

Douglas Wohlgamuth <busch791@aol.com>

Ruskin, FL USA - Tuesday, October 27, 1998 at 11:41:08 (PST)

look good bill i looking foward to more i talked to an old vc he said you not numba 10 you numba 9 i was munba 10 . i sold him half eaten rice bugs. good luck richard

richard mcknight <mmmusic@swbell.net >

moore, ok USA - Saturday, October 24, 1998 at 19:12:38 (PDT)

A good friend of mine served on an AC-119 Stinger & suggested that I look into this sight. Looks like a good start to some great work.

Bob Brown <bobuaw10@aol.com>

Norcross, Ga USA - Saturday, October 24, 1998 at 14:42:59 (PDT)

I was in the Nam 68 69 remember the c-119 gunships & the c-47 spookey gunships, they could really light up a dark mekong delta night & kick some Victor Charlie ass.Thanks for saving our asses on several occations. NAM vet 68 69

[phillip tyson](mailto:tytel@aol.com) <tytel@aol.com>

acworth, ga USA - Saturday, October 24, 1998 at 06:19:21 (PDT)

I flew C-119s with the 4650th Combat Support Squadron, Aerospace Defense Command, at Richards Gebaur AFB, K.C. MO, from December 1970 until it was deactivated in early 1972. Our squadron was a pipeline to gunships in SEA, so I was assigned to AC-119s at that time, but I was diverted to EC-47s (362nd & 361st TEWS)

at Da Nang, NKP, & Ubon enroute because the 119 gunships were being replaced by AC-130s. I found your site from the link to J.C. Wheeler's EC-47 site.

Bruce Obermeyer <obie@gte.net>

Derby, KS USA - Friday, October 23, 1998 at 07:05:20 (PDT)

Great site! I was a Shadow gunner in 70-71 at ton Son Nhut. Some of the best times of my life were with the Shadow/Stinger people. I hope everyone responds & we can get together someday. I will contact those I am still in contact with. Thanks for taking the time to get us back together. Ed Metz

Ed Metz <egmetz@dp.net>

Belle Vernon, PA USA - Thursday, October 22, 1998 at 20:27:08 (PDT)

Bill, I was just telling some war stories last night, & your always in them. The site is great, I will be back to go through in detail. Hope this finds you well. Best regards to the best scanner in the business. John

John Schumann <jeschumann@aol.com>

USA - Thursday, October 22, 1998 at 20:23:28 (PDT)

GREAT JOB ON THE SITE WILD BILL!!!! Talk to you soon. HOVER!!!! Ken

Ken Wilson <boxcar@schoolink.net>

Roanoke Rapids, NC USA - Thursday, October 22, 1998 at 20:20:55 (PDT)

Your URL does work. The site is presently lacking a lot of material (That is not a shot, as i build web pages too & appreciate the work they're doing!) buy looks like it'll be great when done. I look forward to having an answer to "What did you do in the war, Daddy?"

Norm Dotti <mailroom@knorr.com>

USA - Thursday, October 22, 1998 at 20:18:07 (PDT)

Great! We need an AC-119 gunship Website & we need to have a reunion.

L Fletcher <lfletcher@camdenton.k12.mo.us>

USA - Thursday, October 22, 1998 at 20:13:52 (PDT)

Bill, Received your email & notification of the AC-119 website. It is very impressive &, again, rekindles many fond memories (Vietnam? Fond memories?) of those whom I served with over my 21 years in the Air Force. I like what I see & I see a lot of work on your part in getting this piece of history on the web. I'll have this bookmarked & will drop in from time to time to see how it's going. It seems of late that I am having more & more reminders of 'our time in the saddle'. The ISP that I use to get on the net has a 'message base' that has various subjects being discussed. Lately, they have had one on the American Flag, & that allowing the low-lives (LLs) burn it is protecting their 1st Amendment Rights. It has caused me to think of those that I served with in SEA & what we gave up in life to allow these LLs disrespect our heritage.... Guess I am just letting them get to me... Keep up the good work (you don't seem to be lacking in HTML).

[John P. Kirkpatrick](mailto:jpkirk@ims-1.com) <jpkirk@ims-1.com>

Ellsinore, MO USA - Thursday, October 22, 1998 at 13:56:27 (PDT)

Chief, I like what I see. Sounds like you have a lot of info about aircraft in this area. It will be very interesting to see all of the info when it finished. I had the priveledge of meeting John Levitow at the Kirtland AFB NCO Academy in October of 1996. His story of how he won the Medal of Honor was very riveting. He was very quick to add, however, of how A1C William Pitsenbarger could have won the same medal, with his acts of heroism. Lots of neat stories about the gunship missions. I toured a static display of an AC-130 Gunship at Nellis in the summer of 1995, a very impressive piece of work. Anyway, I did get your e-mail about your site, & I do like it. Will visit again & see any new updates. Take care, ad will talk to you soon.

Brian Kidd <kiddf4phantom@webtv.net>

Phoenix, Az USA - Tuesday, October 20, 1998 at 19:48:14 (PDT)

I member you numba 10 GI. You shoot beaucoup VC. Me glad you no here now. Glad you just now on web not in Vietnam

[Victor Charlie](mailto:No Have) <No Have>

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - Tuesday, October 13, 1998 at 15:14:33 (PDT)