

AC-119 Gunship Guestbook Visitors During 1999

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14 ACW/SOW digitized patch. Anyone out there have a digitized copy of the 14 Air Commandow Wing or 14 Special Operations Wing patch? I was assigned to both in 66 (Nha Trang) & 70/71 (Phan Rang) & would like a replica of the patch to add to my web site. Thanks & happy Y2k

[Dave Kiersznowski Sr <dkiersznov@aol.com>](mailto:dkiersznov@aol.com)

Middletown, DE USA - Friday, December 31, 1999 at 05:22:26 (CST)

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Was really surprised to find this address. Served in 17SOS, Phan Rang May69 to May70, on G models. Am looking forward to renewing old acquaintances on your web site. Just reading all the messages brings back old memories. Hope some of you out there remember me. Art Bennett Long Island, NY 1950,30 Dec 99

Arthur Bennett <[ArtBen2@cs.com](mailto:ArtBen2@cs.com)>

Lake Grove, NY USA - Thursday, December 30, 1999 at 18:54:05 (CST)

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My wishes for a great New Year to Shadow & Stinger aircrews from a 70-71 vintage Spectre. It's interesting that Spectre is having its reunion a week later than yours. What a bash it would be to combine them! You have a great site here & Spectre could really take some lessons from you on it, especially the guest sign in book. I tried to send a message earlier this evening but I do not think it made it through the internet. If you see Howie Ried or Pete Chamberlain at the reunion, say hi for me. Cliff Frey

Cliff Frey, Col USAF (ret) <[spectre42@aol.com](mailto:spectre42@aol.com)>

Dayton, Oh USA - Wednesday, December 29, 1999 at 20:35:17 (CST)

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Hi to all my gunship comrades. Spent all my time in Spectre in 70-71 @ Ubon. Did my training in 119G/Ks at Lockbourne in April-June 70. Have a lot of buds in 119s. Anybody know the "hog brothers" who came to Ubon from 119s in about December 70? You all have a great New Year.

Cliff Frey, Col. USAF (Ret) <[Spectre42@aol.com](mailto:Spectre42@aol.com)>

Dayton, Oh USA - Wednesday, December 29, 1999 at 19:25:14 (CST)

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Merry Christmas to all Shadow people. "Deny Him the Dark"

Gene Schaltenbrand <[e.schaltenbrand@worldnet.att.net](mailto:e.schaltenbrand@worldnet.att.net)>

Coral Springs, FL USA - Friday, December 24, 1999 at 17:34:15 (CST)

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Was a gunner on SPOOKY & SHADOW. I wish to pay my respects to the 8 SPOOKY (PUFF) crewmembers whos remains have just been returned back to the US. They were lost in Laos, May 15, 1966. Col. George Jensen, Col. Marshall Tapp, Col. Lavern Reilly, Maj. George Thompson, CMSGT James Preston, CMSGT James Williams, CMSGT William Madison, SMSGT Kenneth McKenney. Welcome home

Bob McGarry <[spooky1969@aol.com](mailto:spooky1969@aol.com)>

Canton, Ma USA - Thursday, December 23, 1999 at 22:14:56 (CST)

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How about those cinnamon rolls Col.Knie & F/E Jim Short use to bring back to us at Nha Trang after a mission? I am here at last & am glad to be able to find so many of the original bunch, I was one of the original seven at Nha Trang. I was wondering does anyone know where Mike Hannah,Larry Hilton, Thom Roland,James Knuckles, or Don Dillo are? feel free to call anytime 405-969-3203

Ed Thayer <[eft3203@flash.net](mailto:eft3203@flash.net)>

Crescent, Ok USA - Thursday, December 23, 1999 at 19:18:27 (CST)

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Merry Christmas to all those who flew, maintained & supported our gunship operation. Especially to all those who served in Shadow during the period of June 1969 thru May 1970 at Nha Trang, Tuy Hua & Phu Cat. When in Idaho, drop by for a cool one.

Charles M. James Lt Col Ret <[idmirage@rmci.net](mailto:idmirage@rmci.net)>

Buhl, ID USA - Wednesday, December 22, 1999 at 22:19:29 (CST)

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Great to visit your site. While stationed at Udorn during 69-70, flow with PADRO as a medic (432nd USAF Hosp.) & took a few trips with STINGER in 70. Good memories of great bunch of guys. Thanks for the rides & the memories, will be checking in periodically to see how the site grows! I have a few pictures of 119's from Udorn (one missing its port wing tip - about 8 feet of it). The night it was hit, I was asked to fly with her crew & I'm still

wondering what would have happened if there would have been 225 more pounds on board. The flight I took was much less eventful. Thanks again.

Jeff Snicale <[jasnicale@uswest.net](mailto:jasnicale@uswest.net)>

White Bear Lake, MN USA - Tuesday, December 21, 1999 at 22:27:47 (CST)

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Just found the sight from Jim Bennes Christmas card. Nice to see familiar names. Formed squadron at Lockbourne & ferried one of the beast over to VN in Oct 69. Dave Kuhn has already told our story. Will be relocating from here at Saipan in early jan. 2000 to Providence, RI. Looking forward to reunion in Sept. 2000. Phil Goodwin <[p.goodwin@saipan.com](mailto:p.goodwin@saipan.com)>

saipan, mp USA - Friday, December 17, 1999 at 20:04:22 (CST)

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I am trying to contact a former gunner named John D Gray. I think the last time I heard from him he was in South Weymouth Mass. I believe his Dad owned a Car dealership there. If anyone knows of his status please ask him to contact me home number 850-678-2024, E-mail Chislrs@eglin.af.mil. Thanks see you at the reunion. Chiz steven d.chisler <[chislrs@eglin.af.mil](mailto:chislrs@eglin.af.mil)>

Ft walton beach, fl USA - Thursday, December 09, 1999 at 05:00:15 (CST)

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Thanks for the fantastic web site, Bill & Fred. Can't tell you how many times over the past few years I have thought about the folks I flew with at NKP, DangDang & Bien Hoa. Assigned as a pilot to the 18th SOS from Aug 71 to Aug 72. See quite a number of names I remember well. Rick Gustafson, John Schumann, Dick Iverson, Wiley Gilmore, Fred Graves...Been a few years guys...brings back one heck of a lot of memories. Any of you gunners/IO's remember trying to drink a certain 1Lt under the table at the NCO club one night after a mission??? And who the heck was it that stole the TFA Bell from the TFA hooch? By the way, someone tell Ted Tyson it was Terry Courtney & David Slagle along with the IO, Ken Brown (& for those who don't remember, Ken said he'd never bail out of the airplane & he didn't). Lookin' forward to the ReUnion...that oughta be a hoot! Keep on truckin', Eddie Stinker is alive & doing well.

Scott K. Williams <[scottw50@home.com](mailto:scottw50@home.com)>

Papillion, NE USA - Wednesday, December 08, 1999 at 21:15:30 (CST)

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MINGO GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU,WILL TRY TO CONTACT PHIL DEROBERTS AND GIVE HIM YOUR HELLO.I WILL E-MAIL YOU SOON AND YOU KEEP YOU WINGS LEVEL ALSO.HAMLETPC@AOL.COM  
PAUL E CHURCH <[HAMLETPC@AOL.COM](mailto:HAMLETPC@AOL.COM)>

NY USA - Wednesday, December 08, 1999 at 05:47:02 (CST)

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MINGO IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR FROM YOU,THIS IS MY CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS.I WILL TRY TO CONTACT PHIL DEROBERTS AND PASS ON YOUR HELLO,HE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THIS WEB SITE.I WILL E-MAIL YOU SHORTLY.

PAUL E CHURCH <[HAMLETPC@AOL.COM](mailto:HAMLETPC@AOL.COM)>

NY USA - Wednesday, December 08, 1999 at 05:28:35 (CST)

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It was great to find this site. I was at Lockbourne feb 69-oct 69 & went to viet nam in october 69. I spent one month in phan rang & went up to da nang where i ended my 1st tour in oct 70. I was a crew chief. Maj. Sternenberg most often flew my ship. I remember Doug Metcalf as our maintenance officer & some of the other crew chiefs on the noon to midnight shift. I have pictures of one bird that went down into the danang lagoon & pictures of super sow & fly united.

Nick Dagonos <[ndagonos@zianet.com](mailto:ndagonos@zianet.com)>

las Cruces, NM USA - Tuesday, December 07, 1999 at 20:54:05 (CST)

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THANKS FOR THE WEB SITE. AT LEAST SOMEONE WILL REMEBER US. WITH SPOOKY AND SPECTRE I ALWAYS FELT THA WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TE BRIDESMAID AND NEVER THE BRIDE.ATTN PAUL E. CHURCH WRITE ME YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS DIDNT WORK. ITS BEEN YO LONG. SAY HI TO 'DEE' FOR ME KEEP YOUR WINGS LEVEL.....CHIEF THIS IS GREAT.I MEAN REALLY GREAT I STAND TO MY GLASS AT THE READY. MINGO

GERALD 'MINGO' MARSLAND <[WWW.JOBUNCK@WEBTV.NET](mailto:WWW.JOBUNCK@WEBTV.NET)>

PRESQUE ISLE, ME USA - Tuesday, December 07, 1999 at 20:16:29 (CST)

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Hello, My name is Allen Chandler. I was an IO in "C" flight of the 17th SOS from January 1970 through April 28th 1970. Most of my time was spent at Tan Son Nhut. It was my 2nd time in RVN. The first was in '67 as a crew chief on 123's. I was on about 20 missions. On April 28, 1970, I was in Shadow 78 AC-119G. We went down at 0022H & I was in the hospital some 10 minutes later. (Thank you to the crew on that HU-1E). My crew was lead by Lt. Thomas Lubbers, Air Craft Commander. The others were Lt. Charles Knowles, Co-Pilot; Maj. Meredith Anderson, Navigator; Maj. Robert Bokern, Navigator; Msgt Joseph Jeszeck, Ft. Engr.; SSgt Robert Fage, Gunner; SSgt Michael Van Gelisti, Gunner; & myself as an SSgt. In the day or so, I was in the Tan Son Nhut hospital a lot of guys from the unit came to see me & it helped a lot. I was Air E-VAC to Japan & was in a burn ward for just over a month. They let me pick the base I was to go back to in the U.S. & I picked Offutt as my fiancé was there. We got married July 12, 1970 & I was discharged from the hospital two weeks later. We have been married 29 years & that is why my e-mail address is [barbarachandler@mciworld.com](mailto:barbarachandler@mciworld.com) I did 13 more years & retired after 21 years as a MSgt. on Dec. 1, 1983. I am now living in Tucson, Arizona. The crew of Shadow 78 was the best in the unit. (As we, all know it was not the norm in the Air Force for a 1st Lieutenant to be an AC with higher-ranking pilots in the unit.) He & the others did all they could but with only 125 ft maximum altitude & one engine, a AC-119G was going down. We did 2.2 miles out. They & the Med are the reason I am able to write this. After all of this time I was ready to start looking for some history on people & the first thing I found was this site. I have read the other notes posted & there is a lot of "glad" & "sad" in them. As a computer Network Administrator I know the work in a site like this. I am writing for three reasons. The first is I would like to get in touch with any of the guys for the 17th that were at Tan Son Nhut in the first months of 1970 & in particular Maj. Robert Bokern. The second is to find Joseph Jeszeck's brother. I think he was Army warrant officer & helicopter pilot back in 1970. He wrote me a letter & at the time, I could not answer it. The other reason is on or about April 16, 1970, we flew a mission for which I was given the RVN Gallantry Cross. I received it late in 1974 (the Air force lost me) but do not remember much of what happened. To all of you hello from one more Shadow. Allen Chandler [barbarachandler@mciworld.com](mailto:barbarachandler@mciworld.com) (h) [allen.chandler@asarco.com](mailto:allen.chandler@asarco.com) (w) Allen Chandler MSgt USAF Ret. <[barbarachandler@mciworld.com](mailto:barbarachandler@mciworld.com)> Tucson, az USA - Tuesday, December 07, 1999 at 16:42:52 (CST)

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What a great surprise to see this site on the AC-119 gunships! I was a nav in the 18th SOS at DaNang & NKP from Apr71 to Apr72. Brought back lots of memories, some great & some not-so-great. I will have to get into the old scrapbooks & see if I have any photos I can send you. Nice job! Robert Christensen, Col Ret. USAF <[rgchristensen@earthlink.net](mailto:rgchristensen@earthlink.net)> USA - Tuesday, December 07, 1999 at 07:26:16 (CST)

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I saw a reference to your site in the Air Force Magazine last night & have been sitting here for hours in awe of the history & memories you have brought together. I was in the first K cadre trained at Lockbourne in 1969. My crew deployed with & won the "great Pacific air race" with number#154, which had been the prototype bird & was a bit heavier than others. Arrived Phan Rang Nov 1969 & flew the first trail mission from Danang. Served as co of Fol A at Danang Dec 69-Aug 70 during the time we accounted for over 1000 trucks destroyed. I never had the opportunity to express my personal thanks & admiration for all the hard work & dedication from all that served with me then--& you have given me that opportunity now. Thanks everyone!! Fred Sternberg <[Fsternberg@compuserve.com](mailto:Fsternberg@compuserve.com)> Austin, TX USA - Tuesday, December 07, 1999 at 10:06:04 (PST)

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Deployed first K #154 from Lockbourne to Phan Rang Oct 1969  
Fred Sternberg <[Fsternberg@compuserve.com](mailto:Fsternberg@compuserve.com)>  
Austin, TX USA - Tuesday, December 07, 1999 at 08:46:28 (PST)

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Great site. Thanks for creating & maintaining it. I wasn't in C-119 gunships (C-123s at Phan Rang), but I need a little help from those who were. I'm looking for a friend who was a C-119 Navigator in Vietnam in 1970. I think he was at Tuy Hoa. First name TERRY. Last name I can't remember & never could spell, but it begins with M. We were in the EB-66 school at Shaw AFB, Sep-Nov 1969, until the powers-that-be decided to stop the class & send half the navs to C-119 gunships & the other half to C-123s. If this rings any bells, please let me know. Ben H Swett <[bswett@pop.dn.net](mailto:bswett@pop.dn.net)> Temple Hills, MD USA - Friday, December 03, 1999 at 22:56:04 (PST)

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Found the site this evening. Will be back. I was one of the first "K" crews at Danang. Sept69-Oct 70 (135 missions ) My job .....Night sight . Major(Ret) Hello to all!!

Marc Brewer <[brewone@lowcountry.com](mailto:brewone@lowcountry.com)>

USA - Thursday, December 02, 1999 at 18:23:46 (PST)

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sorry forgot e-mail add Jim Yanacsek <[jyanacsek@cmpd.ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:jyanacsek@cmpd.ci.charlotte.nc.us)>

USA - Wednesday, December 01, 1999 at 21:20:04 (PST)

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Yea just thought i would post another message about my dad he was a stinger FE, if anyone remmembers him drop me a line so i can give him the info. He wants to come to the reunion in 2000. thanks Jim

Jim Yanacsek

USA - Wednesday, December 01, 1999 at 21:17:19 (PST)

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No long comment.Congradulations on a great site.On behalf of the many lives saved on the ground due to you Bill,& your fellow angel warriors, thanks a million.

[Woody Howerton](mailto:uptown@canoemail.com) <[uptown@canoemail.com](mailto:uptown@canoemail.com)>

Cannington, On Canada - Saturday, November 27, 1999 at 11:33:39 (PST)

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I, like many of you out there, was selected to be among the initial cadre of flight crews for the AC119K. In 1968, I reported to Clinton County AB to be taught how to fly the basic one one niner(& it was certainly basic). After some months at Clinton (no relation to our current Commander-in-chief) County, we transferred up to Lockbourne AFB to learn Tactics & Gunnery & how to fly with Jets. We were on standby to leave for SEA at any time, but the problem was trying to get the FLIRs finished & installed. When we finally did get underway, I was co-pilot on Fearless Phil Goodwin's crew as we took off on the Great Trans-Pacific Air Race. We were in the lead when we got to Elmendorf & experienced main gear shimmy ans fuel cell rupture on landing. Then began a comedy of errors (primarily loss of ac electrical right after take-off) & we not only lost the race, we got passed by all of the second wave an d most of the last wave. We came very close to never finishing when we lost all de-icing between Adak & Midway & again when we down to dead reaoning & a highly unreliable ADF between Midway & Wake. Fortunately, we had our own Magellan, the great Wayne Brechtel from Seguin, Texas, who mostly remarked "There sure is a lot of water out here!" We're still looking for Seguin (who is probably still looking for Wake). If you find him, let me or Jim Bennes know. MORE TO FOLLOW LATER. Dave Kuhn

David B. Kuhn, Jr. <[kuhn@net-star.net](mailto:kuhn@net-star.net)>

Laguna Beach, Ca USA - Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at 23:06:09 (PST)

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It's a great site. Two Stingers up!

Jonathan Bryan <[jbryan@dwc.edu](mailto:jbryan@dwc.edu)>

Ewing, NJ USA - Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at 19:23:06 (PST)

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A friend told me about this web site it is great to see the names of people I knew wile in Vietnam, I was a crew chief at Da Nang from 1970 to 1971. When I came back I was assigned to B52's until I retuired.

[PAUL R STUMBAUGH](mailto:Stumbaugh Paul R Civ 54 HF/LGM) <[Stumbaugh Paul R Civ 54 HF/LGM](mailto:Stumbaugh Paul R Civ 54 HF/LGM)>

Minot , ND USA - Friday, November 12, 1999 at 12:50:13 (PST)

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Just found this site. Didn't think that there were that many folks around from the Stinger days. I receive orders for the 18th SOS & attended FTD on engines in Ohio Jan-Mar72 After arriving NKP I was told I would work 56th FMS, which included all engines, Recip that is at NKP. We had QU22, A1, AC119K, CH53, OV10 assigned. Also had F4 for base protection. After some several months & many failures of the QU 22 enginges we pick up a squadron of EC47 to take the place of the QU22s. While I was there I saw the all 119s & all the A1 turned over to to Viet Nam AF. That was a sad day for all. I will never forget my tour at NKP. Later in my career & many assignments later I was assigned to the 602 CAMS as a Chief & was involved with the retirement of the same OV10 that was assigned at NKP 23TASS. Please keep up the great site & thank you Bruce Maxwell CMSGT RET

Bruce Maxwell CMSGT RET <[ChiefQA@AOL.com](mailto:ChiefQA@AOL.com)>

Tucson, Az USA - Thursday, November 11, 1999 at 18:34:36 (PST)

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Great memories are flashing by. I was a 462 in the Stinger Gun Shop at NKP 70-71. Came up from Phan Rang. Went to training in Lockbourne aug 70. What a year. I worked hard keeping your guns loaded & working right.

Had a great time & never felt looked down on. Was really surprised one night when i met my counsin Tom Weisenfluh (Gunner) getting off the acft after a flt. I have a copy of the "over the fence" cartoons if you need one. They are great. Monkeys & bananas never stood a chance. Met my wife at NKP. She worked for TFA. Married an officer. Chief, this is a great site & look forward to frequent visits. I have many pictures from nkp fltline & hooch areas. I will try to pick out some good ones & send them to you. If not mistaken Tail # 826 was one of the better planes? Thanks for the memories.

Alan Westin MSgt RET USAF <[alan.westin@labind.state.vt.us](mailto:alan.westin@labind.state.vt.us) [sgrhollow@aol.com](mailto:sgrhollow@aol.com)>  
Pittsford, VT USA - Wednesday, November 10, 1999 at 10:45:08 (PST)

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Anyone know were Cmsgt Ret. Rich Watters is AT E Mail me or leave something in the guest book.

John W. Morrow <[morrowjl@MDC.com](mailto:morrowjl@MDC.com)>

Alamogordo, nnm USA - Tuesday, November 09, 1999 at 10:35:57 (PST)

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Fred Checking on the net..looking for two lost Nav.s circa 1972 NKP/ding dong/benhua..Known as The Bull (Andy Danielson & Lasar Head Scott Hinkle..Need e- mail Address or current mailing address to bring up on the net.See you at the reunion.. Cheers Fred

Blum, Fred Col; <[dodie@stic.net](mailto:dodie@stic.net)>

San Antonio , Tx USA - Monday, November 08, 1999 at 18:27:24 (PST)

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I am not in the military, but I have allways had a great intrest in the military. I was not alowed in because of asthma but my Father is a Vietnam Vet & I am proud of him. My hat off to all who keep this country safe. Thank you

[Brent Tech](mailto:BrentTech) <[BrentFromOneill@webtv.net](mailto:BrentFromOneill@webtv.net)>

Oneill, NE USA - Sunday, November 07, 1999 at 10:41:53 (PST)

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At Phan Rang 69-70 with 35th CES. Enjoyed watching the "Shadow" working out!!!!

Pete Marcuzzi <[mechmar8@aol.com](mailto:mechmar8@aol.com)>

middlesex, nj USA - Tuesday, November 02, 1999 at 17:22:14 (PST)

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What a shock to see the scorpion with the 20MM on his tail. It was better than the first one I painted on the building at the flight line. Lt. Metcalf, do you remember when we use to fly model planes in the hanger at night & keep the flight crews up. No wonder they had the ole red eye in the morning. Bet you thought it was from doing a whenchester over the trail. I'll be sending the picture I took of you when you were hard at work at your desk. And then there were those gun plumbers that always beat me in horse shoes!!!! Lloyd Shiganaga, fellow electrician, drop me a line if you see this.

Tom Graham <[threecrackers@juno.com](mailto:threecrackers@juno.com)>

Tehachapi, ca USA - Wednesday, October 27, 1999 at 23:37:27 (PDT)

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I was a gunner on Stingers in 72. Flew from NKP & Bein Hoa with lots of different folks & was on Stinger 41 when it was shot down over An Loc. Now, I'm retired from the Air Force & living in VA & working in DC as a Log Analyst. Would love to hear from any of the folks I crewed with & hope to make it to the reunion.

Richard (Craig) Corbett <[ccnjc@earthlink.net](mailto:ccnjc@earthlink.net)>

Burke, VA USA - Monday, October 25, 1999 at 15:33:54 (PDT)

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Stinger Pilot at DaNang from Apr 70 - Apr 71. First replacement group for those who ferried birds from Lockbotne. I flew co-pilot for Maj Sternenberg, Jim Caughey & then upgraded to AC. Earlier this week I virtually ran into my roomy Tony Robertson, at the Council Logistics Management conference in Toronto. It was during this chance meeting that Tony informed me of this site. We told war stories for & hour & identified nearly forty crew member names. I will put all of those names on this site later. Pete Chamberlain send me an update. "Fuzzy" Thurston, where are you? I look forward to learning more about the reunion & sharing "now this is the way it really was" stories.

Ted Waltz (Capt) <[TedJeanie@aol.com](mailto:TedJeanie@aol.com)>

Westerville, OH USA - Saturday, October 23, 1999 at 05:39:31 (PDT)

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I was on the ground crew in rocket city from 71-72. would like to talk with other ground crew who were there.

chuck johndrow <[cjohndrow@ttlc.net](mailto:cjohndrow@ttlc.net)>

nh USA - Thursday, October 21, 1999 at 12:14:02 (PDT)

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Was a member of the Indiana 434th unit activated in 1968 & sent to Nha Trang by way of Lockborne.  
Floyd Deaton <[detect0ne@aol.com](mailto:detect0ne@aol.com)>  
Floyds Knobs, IN USA - Sunday, October 17, 1999 at 19:27:47 (PDT)

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It wasn't Jack Slagle, it was David R. (Rod) Slagle who I knew. Now instead of AC-119Ks, I volunteer with Angel Flight SouthEast to ensure that persons of any age who need transportation for medical or human compassionate needs & can't afford it will be flown FREE anywhere in the USA. So all you Stinger types, if you know anyone who needs this free service E-Mail me & I'll get you & them in touch with the right people. It is a little bit different than STINGER duty but darn, it sure does help people.

Ted Tyson <[tysonted@aol.com](mailto:tysonted@aol.com)>  
Sanibel, FL USA - Friday, October 15, 1999 at 19:51:25 (PDT)

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Tom Courtney & Jack Slagle & James N. Chapman were friends of mine in the 18th SOS at Da Nang & NKP. Tom & Jack are on the Wall & Jim Chapman died in 1998. They were great guys, heroes in their own right & friends. Courtney, Slagle & I, in Denver, selected the yellow neck scarfs with the skull & crossbones which identified members of the 13th class who were sent to Nam. We had many good time together. The alleged dart champion Chapman, never was beaten, at least to my knowledge. I found this site by looking up Jim Chapman's phone number in the Aol white pages, Louisianans never move from home, got the phone number & talked to his wife 20 years after I last saw him. If there is anyone out there who knows & remembers Tom, Jack &/or Jim, think of them from time to time & remember fondly three 18 SOS guys who gave their lives so we may all be free. Having a Bud while you are thinking of them would suit them just fine.

Ted Tyson <[tysonted@aol.com](mailto:tysonted@aol.com)>  
Sanibel, FL USA - Friday, October 15, 1999 at 19:07:43 (PDT)

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i was the flt eng on the charlotte representative at nha trang,phrang after nha trang was closed. flew also at first with 71st then 17 sos. my pilot was Lt col knie. anyone from the crew i would like to hear from you. this is the best thing that could happen to us. this site. thanks i do have pictures & slides of that time. if interested contact me at my e-mail. again this is great

jim short msgt. ret usaf <[short@lecnet.net](mailto:short@lecnet.net)>  
deport, tx USA - Thursday, October 14, 1999 at 20:53:21 (PDT)

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Didn't know such a terrific site existed. I was surfing for C-119 photos when I came upon this. C-119s were stationed at Youngtown Air Reserve Station, Vienna OH, assigned to the (then) 910th Airlift Group (now 910 Airlift Wing). My dad was a crew chief on them & I grew up with them. 910AW now flies C-130H's. Great job !

Gary Yonchak <[gsyonchak@yng.afres.af.mil](mailto:gsyonchak@yng.afres.af.mil)>  
Vienna, OH USA - Sunday, October 10, 1999 at 18:04:51 (PDT)

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I JUST FOUND THIS SITE, AND ITS GREAT !! I WAS LUCKY TO GET 5 JUMPS FROM THESE BABIES AT FORT BENNING,GA, 1968, ALSO LUCKY TO GET BACK-UP IN THE BOONIES !! I HAVE AN OLD PICTURE IN MY OFFICE FROM A SIDE VIEW OF TROOPERS GOING OUT THE DOOR, THE PLANES NUMBERS ARE CO-756 ??? MEAN ANYTHING ?

J. R. ELLEDGE <[JREDSE@AOL.COM](mailto:JREDSE@AOL.COM)>  
LEXINGTON, SC USA - Thursday, October 07, 1999 at 13:27:58 (PDT)

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HOT DAMN this is good!!! I was in the original group of people sent to Lockbourne in June 68 to link up with the reserves & train on the "Shadow". I ended up training with LTC John Lewis's crew...a great bunch...but things went a little sideways at Nha-trang & I got sent to TSN with Maj Tom Cougill & crew(a great turn of events to be sure!!) TSN was a super place to fight the war. I'd like to say HEY to Bill Hamilton!! did we have fun or what?!. It's real good to see Pat Jones on here. We had a great SHADOW reunion in June. The Shadow Knows!! (Tom Newbold CMS RET) in the original group of people

Tom Newbold <[Tomnursery@aol.com](mailto:Tomnursery@aol.com)>  
Puyallup, WA USA - Sunday, October 03, 1999 at 17:37:13 (PDT)

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My father is Von Leavitt. I would love to hear from people who have served with my dad. As i remember it right i believe He was the 1SGT for 18th SOS. For those of you who do know him...I am sorry to say he passed away in

97 from leukemia.....I would love to hear from anyone that remembers him.

Adrein Leavitt <[leavita@soc.mil](mailto:leavita@soc.mil)>

Fort Bragg, NC USA - Friday, October 01, 1999 at 09:03:56 (PDT)

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GREAT WEBSITE!! Served as a gunner with the 18th SOS from April 72 to Jan.73-NKP,Bien-Hoa,&"Rocket City". Many thanks to Fred Graves,Bill Petrie.&all the others who have done a great job with this website! Looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion!

Bob (Andy) Andrews <[GMANBOB@AOL.COM](mailto:GMANBOB@AOL.COM)>

Grover Beach, Ca USA - Thursday, September 30, 1999 at 21:47:35 (PDT)

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Great website -- I'm looking forward to the reunion. I invite mail from any who were with me at lockbourne (1968-71) & NKP/Danang (71-72). Would especially like to hear from flight mech Bobby Parker & IO Andy Anderson from my instructor crew at Lockbourne & from nav/sensor Jim Chapman & old hootchmates John Schumann & Cash McCall at NKP.

wiley gilmore <[wgilmore@thegateway.net](mailto:wgilmore@thegateway.net)>

USA - Thursday, September 30, 1999 at 12:09:43 (PDT)

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I served as the 18th SOS Squadron Maintenance Officer & later as the Squadron Material Officer at Lockbourne during the build up & deployment of the squadron. I was an Enroute Support Team (EST) OIC for the deployment of the last 6 K's. We also took along a G as a replacement for the bird that went in at Ton Son Nhut. I have some photos at Lockbourne & from the 32 day trek across the pond that we are trying to scan so I can send them for everyone to enjoy. (Includes the first photos of the nose art on the "Super Sow" 52-5982; "Montezuma's Revenge" 53-7864; "The Pea-Nut Special" 53-3154 & "Fly United" 53-7830. It was a shame that PACAF didn't keep the maintenance officer's with the squadron after we deployed. We went back to Lockbourne for about two months before being transferred to another unit- guess where - Nam, on A-37's. What a waste of experience. Sure would like to here from folks that were there during the build up, especially those on my EST

Bill Wait <[bwait@bellhelicopter.textron.com](mailto:bwait@bellhelicopter.textron.com)>

Bedford, Tx USA - Thursday, September 30, 1999 at 11:14:06 (PDT)

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I was really suprized when I heard of a reunion,,,,,, I thinks its a great idea & am looking forward ot going. This website is one of the best I have seen,,,,,, GREAT WORK I was a gunner in 1971-72 in Da Nang, was there for the "cease fire" Thanks Again

Gary J. Vanlerberghe <[gjvan@bellsouth.net](mailto:gjvan@bellsouth.net)>

Charlotte, NC USA - Saturday, September 25, 1999 at 18:21:12 (PDT)

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My father, M/Sgt Allen W. Arthur, was with the AC-119 from Lockbourne to Vietnam. Little did I know I would end up as a mechanic, gunner & pilot on AC-130A's until their retirement. My father doesnt tell many stories about the three wars he served in, but his experiences in Vietnam certainly made him look at things differently when he returned. If any one knew my father, I would love to forward any messages to him. Thanks for an incredibly detailed & needed website. Gunships do indeed rule

Joseph Arthur <[jart493@aol.com](mailto:jart493@aol.com)>

Ft.Walton Bch, FL USA - Monday, September 20, 1999 at 19:50:20 (PDT)

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Well, i was wondering if anybody had sons in the 31rst MEU

Kit Martens <[kitmartens@hotmail.com](mailto:kitmartens@hotmail.com)>

hornick, ia USA - Saturday, September 18, 1999 at 08:33:43 (PDT)

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I was crew chief on stingers at Da Nang 69-70. I would like to hear from those there at that time. The crash at end run way & the China crash were during my time at Da Nang

John McWhite <[macj@carol.net](mailto:macj@carol.net)>

Anderson, sc USA - Thursday, September 16, 1999 at 19:37:20 (PDT)

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Yo 'Eddie Stinker' - if you are anywhere near MacDill AFB/Tampa next week - 24-25 Sept'99 come by & see/visit with the 555thFS (aka Triple Nickel) the active duty squadron, lead strike unit from KOSOVO is here training at MacDill while they repair the runway at AVIANO,IT. The "old" Nickels - the ones that used to fly flack top cover for us (ah yes, the good old days of east of BabBan...)are going to be here too for a big reunion - special POW/MIA

ceremony/fly-by at 1730Local/Fri/24th - big party at the Club after - lots of briefings & neat things Sat. at the base theater - BrigGen Steve Ritchie will be in flying his restored F-4D - lots to see & do - first beer on me! Cheers - Mac (813-828-9205)

Col Steve Mac Isaac <[Richard.macisaac@macdill.af.mil](mailto:Richard.macisaac@macdill.af.mil)>

MacDill AFB, FL USA - Thursday, September 16, 1999 at 14:37:13 (PDT)

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Great website you have!

J.C. Bahr <[JBahr1@Compuserve.com](mailto:JBahr1@Compuserve.com)>

Topeka, Ks. USA - Sunday, September 12, 1999 at 23:56:37 (PDT)

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Many is the night I sat on the balcony at the Blue Moon Looking across the river listening to our Stingers leaving the area after working on them all day, With a toast to the sky they were flying with a Singhi & a prayer to God for their safety. Chief everytime I come here I remember another time & clean my soul for every thing I could not do to help bring them all back home.

J.E.H. <[starian\\_ace@yahoo.com](mailto:starian_ace@yahoo.com)>

IL USA - Sunday, September 12, 1999 at 23:02:00 (PDT)

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Chief, I am the son of a Stinger AC-119 veteran. As a matter of fact, my father Guy I. Macey, CMsgt Ret, has also posted a statement on this page. I want to thank you very much for taking on the task of establishing this web page & attempting to put a reunion together for all of those that took part in the Shadow & Stinger programs. Being a Military Brat, it always delighted me when my dad would tell me stories of his times flying on the "boxcar". He is very proud of his Stinger heritage & when he found your web page & heard of the reunion I couldn't believe how excited he was. The picture on the front of your web page brings back a memory for me. When I was growing up, I had a painting, similar to that one, hanging in my room. When it was time for me to leave the nest & enter the USAF myself, I wanted to take it with me. Needless to say, my dad didn't want to let it go & it never made it to the door. I am proud to say, he has it hanging still today in his family room & he keeps a close vigil on it when I come to visit. I love my father very much & I am very proud of his military service. I consider myself extremely lucky that he was able to return from Vietnam & be there for me. That is why I felt compelled to write to you & express my sincere gratitude for giving my dad the opportunity to reunite with long lost buddies & for giving him a place to relive those times that meant so much to him. Best of luck on your reunion & keep up the good work! Sincerely, Randall S. Macey, USAF Security Police (L.E.) 83-90

Randall S. Macey <[RANMACK@MSN.COM](mailto:RANMACK@MSN.COM)>

Lynnwood, WA USA - Sunday, September 12, 1999 at 22:18:01 (PDT)

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Great PLACE to come home to, I feel as if I was back busting knuckles trying to fix the bird before launch time. I see names of many that I have heard & never met. I come here to the new Stinger Land & take time to heal my soul. Every member of SOS did more than their share & more.

J.E. Harris <[starian\\_ace@yahoo.com](mailto:starian_ace@yahoo.com)>

Princeton, In USA - Friday, September 10, 1999 at 18:58:57 (PDT)

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Superb site. Absolutly fantastic. I have been visiting for some time & decided to sign the book. Worked out of the 14 FMS propeller shop at Phan Rang & Da Nang Nov 70 - Oct 71. Recovered AC-119s from Phnom Penh & Kadena AB, Okinawa. Flew through a very, very bad storm coming back from Oki in Jan 71 on the 119 I replaced the Regulator. Very happy that the props & engines did not hiccup & everything else held together. I probably was not the only person on that bird to require clean undershorts. With all the sites I have visited nothing about propeller mechanics. Are you guys out there. When I came to Delaware in 83 I met a propman from Lajes Rescue (69-70) Popavich was working at the vehicle inspection lanes in Dover. Check out my History work in progress at my home page. I'm just finishing documenting my second Viet Nam tour.

[David Kiersznowski Sr](mailto:dkiersznov@aol.com) <[dkiersznov@aol.com](mailto:dkiersznov@aol.com)>

Middletown, DE USA - Thursday, September 09, 1999 at 19:38:14 (PDT)

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I was a gunner from 1969-1979 on 119G,K/130A,E,H models. Served from 69-70 at Lockbourne, Phan rang, Udom,Phu Cat, back to Phan rang as 14th SOW SEFE Gunner. Finished at Hurlburt till 1979. Really enjoy seeing so many familiar names on the web page. Need info, just ask.

Jerry Michaud <[cljm563](mailto:cljm563)>

Mary Esther, FL USA - Wednesday, September 08, 1999 at 20:54:37 (PDT)



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Looking for Shadow crew: P-Johnson; N-Pacer; N-Brauer; I.O-Bond; A.G.-Storm; A.G.-Hayes; These men flew with my father SSGT Paul L. Olmstead, he was a flight engineer on a shadow gunship. Any info will surely be appreciated. Thanks, Glen Olmstead  
glen olmstead <[glen\\_olmstead@hotmail.com](mailto:glen_olmstead@hotmail.com)>  
marietta, ga USA - Tuesday, September 07, 1999 at 14:23:52 (PDT)

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Looking for Shadow crew: P-Johnson; N-Pacer; N-Brauer; I.O-Bond; A.G.-Storm; A.G.-Hayes; These men flew with my father SSGT Paul L. Olmstead, he was a flight engineer on a shadow gunship. Any info will surely be appreciated. Thanks, Glen Olmstead  
glen olmstead <[glen\\_olmstead](mailto:glen_olmstead)>  
marietta, ga USA - Tuesday, September 07, 1999 at 14:23:28 (PDT)

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Great site! Brings back a lot of memories . I was involved with the AC-119 gunship program from start to finish, 1st, as illuminator operator, then F.E. In Nam I was assigned to BILL BURRIS & DAVE KOCH'S crew .  
Guy Macey cmsgt Ret <[guynan@fwbnet.com](mailto:guynan@fwbnet.com)>  
Ft.Walton Bch. , FI USA - Monday, September 06, 1999 at 09:23:01 (PDT)

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Im writing for my dad who was a flight eng. on stingers,Jim yanacsek, if anyone remembers him please write.  
Jim Yanacsek <[jyanacsek@cmpd.ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:jyanacsek@cmpd.ci.charlotte.nc.us)>  
USA - Saturday, September 04, 1999 at 20:53:34 (PDT)

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Chief, Thanks for the great site. I was a K model gunner at NKP in 70-71'. I was involved in a crew bailout in March of 71'. Low fuel forced all crew except for A/C , co-pilot & engineer to bail out . Before doing so we jettisoned the mini guns & anything else that wasn't bolted down . I think some heads rolled after that event! Col. Botbyl was A/C on that mission. I would love to hear from my old friend Joe Rizzo. Are you out there Joe? I met a 17th SOS gunner this past weekend (Mike Dryzga) & he told me about this site. He is the first gunship crewmember I have met since leaving the service. Thanks !  
Bruce Abbott <[abbottracing@worldnet.att.net](mailto:abbottracing@worldnet.att.net)>  
Parker, Co USA - Thursday, September 02, 1999 at 12:04:34 (PDT)

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I found your guestbook on the squadron 14 website. Its great that there are this many websites for gunships.Its good to hear from the gunship guys out there , after all these years. I came back from Vietnam in Feb. 69 & was assigned as a instructor gunner on the AC 119 G/K.There were quite a few of us that came back as instructors to the 4413 C.C.T.S. at Lockbourne Afb,in Columbus,Ohio,Some of the gunners were Jon Van Skiver , Jerry Kopinski,one of the load masters was Steve Montani. We were gunners at Bien Hoa on AC47 ( Spooky )I've talked to Jon Van Skiver over the past month , it was great to rehash old times. The first time I saw the AC119g was at Nha Trang when we were leaving Vietnam in Feb 69. I was an instructor on both the G & K at Lockbourne.I was also an instructor gunner on the AC 130,although I didn't get too many flights in on the 130. There were two stationed at Lockbourne when I got there, but both of them left to replace aircraft that were lost,sometime during the summer 1969. So I never got alot of time on the AC 130's. The aircraft at Lockbourne had the Miniguns & 2 20mm cannons,so I never got to see the models with the 40mm & 105mm. I read one of the comments on your website about training for Vietnam in a cold weather location ,man was that ever true. I remeber many nights during late 69,when we would wait to get deiced,then wait for the plane to take off. I remember quite a few flights that were aborted due to mechanical difficulties.Even when we did fly the heaters barely ever worked in the back,& when we had the K model with the 20MM,you couldn't wear your regular winter gear,because of the static. Of course that's wasn't a problem in vietnam.I can't recall aborting a Spooky mission in Vietnam ( 205 missions ) Thats all for now,hope to hear from some of the Gunship guys out there. Keep up the great work on all of these gunship websites. Gunships rule the night.  
[david e. nelson](mailto:david_e_nelson@mail.bankone.com) <[david\\_e\\_nelson@mail.bankone.com](mailto:david_e_nelson@mail.bankone.com)>  
pickerington, oh USA - Wednesday, September 01, 1999 at 07:24:29 (PDT)

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I have really been delighted to find your web site. Had no idea anything existed on the old 119. I was stationed at Lockbourne AFB Ohio from Aug 1968 to Sep 1970 in the 4413 CCRS. I was in aircraft maintenance & worked on the C119G & C119K. Never could figure out why we were training crews to operate in the heat of southeast Asia in the cold of Ohio. I was not with the gunships in Vietnam but was in Vietnam on earlier tours with the C123. My

love affair with the old C119 goes back to 1949 & early 1950 When I attended an aircraft maint school in Martinsburg Wv & worked for awhile at the Fairchild plant at Hagerstown Md. Some of the early models C119B & C119C had the Pratt & Whitney 4360 engine. But there was not enough production on that engine since it was used on the B-36, C124, C97, & B50 & the C119 was converted to the R3350. Once the bugs were worked out of the engine & the PRT (power recovery turbines) It turned out to be a engine. I next became involved with the C119F in Nov 1954 as a member of the 6520 TESTRON at Langley AFB, Va. Stayed with the C119F until June 1956, through its deployment to Charleston AFB, SC & overseas to Misawa AFB, Japan as part of the project Drag Net. These were the birds modified with the beaver tail that could be opened in flight & with an extra 1000 gallons of fuel in the fuselage & the pick up gear for recovering high altitude cameras in flight & later in 1962 the Discover 14 nose cone over the Pacific. Would like to hear from any members of the old 4413 or 6520 TESTRON. Glad to see the old C119 being honored for all its accomplishments. You are doing a good job & keep the info coming.

Thomas L Strickland <[td.strick.tx@juno.com](mailto:td.strick.tx@juno.com)>

San Angelo , Tx USA - Tuesday, August 31, 1999 at 13:05:58 (PDT)

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I was at Tuy Hoa Vietnam from July 1969 to July 1970. Part of this time I was assigned to the Field Maintenance Squadron. During that time we provided specialist support to the AC-119 gunship Detachment for a part of that time. At times they made an awesome sight with the guns going.

Claude L Ragland <[crag1@pacbell.net](mailto:crag1@pacbell.net)>

Fair Oaks, Ca USA - Friday, August 27, 1999 at 23:23:00 (PDT)

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Serviced 2 tours in NAM 21st TASS NHA TRANG from 68-69 as chief crew chief on 0-1 & 0-2's FAC's. Then the last 4 months as a Flight Mach on AC-47's. 2nd Tour was from 71-72 out of NKP with time at BIN HOA & DANANG (rocket city) as flight engineer AC-119 gunships. Good to see many names i know. Can't wait till reunion time in 2000. Will be glad to help in any way i can. Again Fred & Bill a great job on this. Keep it up.

Gus Sininger <[gsininger@seii.net](mailto:gsininger@seii.net)>

Destin , Fl USA - Thursday, August 26, 1999 at 12:08:19 (PDT)

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SERVED FROM JAN.69 AT LOCKBOURNE GUN PLUMBER PUT TOGETHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS ON STINGERS,ARRIVED PHANRANG JAN 1ST,70 UDORN MID. JAN. MID.FEB.PHU CAT APRIL TO AUGUST WITH 17 SOS TSN AUG.-DEC,KEN FIRESTONE,I WAS YOUR ROOMMATE AT LOCKBOURNE,ALSO PHIL DEROBERTS,WHO LIVES DOWN THE ROAD FROM ME.HI TO WURF,JOHN GRAY,GERALD MINGO MARSLAND,SOME OF THE ORIGINAL18 SOS.BILL KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK,HI WEAVER,I STILL REMEMBER FAGE & EVANGALISTA

PAUL E CHURCH <[HAMLETPC](mailto:HAMLETPC)>

USA - Wednesday, August 25, 1999 at 08:59:59 (PDT)

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I was a gunner with the AC-130, Fabulous Four Engine Fighters, from 70-75. We flew numerous missions in the PDJ using AC-119s as bait for guns. They flew with their lights on, & we flew overhead waiting for the AAA. It took balls to do that. One mission we flew with an aircraft that had not had the guns boresighted. Luckily no AAA that night. We later fired the guns & we lucky to see where the shells hit. Also, in late 71/early 72 there was a 119 that went down in Viet Nam. We flew SAR. This downed 119 mission had friends of Larry Lehrke, Rich Nyhof. Later, June 18, 72, Larry & Rich went down. Only 3 of this 130 were rescued: the IO & 2 Sensor Operators. Like all of who flew in Southeast Asia, I am proud to be a member of this Brotherhood of War.

Rod Gibbs <[RodGibbs@flash.net](mailto:RodGibbs@flash.net)>

Austin, Tx USA - Saturday, August 21, 1999 at 00:58:02 (PDT)

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Just found this web site 8/16/99. Great site! I flew Stinger as gunner 71-72 at NKP & Danang. I was a sensor on AC-130H/U from 75-95. Retired in 10/95 & currently working as a contractor sensor instructor at the 19th SOS, Hurlburt Fld, FL. Own a bar in Mary Esther, so if a place is needed to help with the reunion, let me know.

Jerry Andersen <[jerrya1@home.com](mailto:jerrya1@home.com)>

Mary Esther, FL USA - Monday, August 16, 1999 at 14:21:08 (PDT)

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I left a message 8-15-99 but put the wrong date for bringing one of the first G models to Nha Trang I said 15 dec 1969 & should have said 15 Dec 1968-- Mike Kiely

Mike Kiely <[kielpud@juno.com](mailto:kielpud@juno.com)>

USA - Monday, August 16, 1999 at 09:07:12 (PDT)

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I was an FE on Spooky 3rd ACS at Bien Hoa '67-'68 which was my most enjoyable duty assignment while in the A.F.. Would like to hear from other Spookies for possible reunion. Hey Fletch, Oct is just around the corner can't wait. You guys do have a great site.

Van Carter <[vcarter@gte.net](mailto:vcarter@gte.net)>

Venice, FI USA - Sunday, August 15, 1999 at 17:18:25 (PDT)

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Excellent site. By the time I got to SEA, the 119s were gone. I served in Vietnam, the Gulf, & the Balkans. I wrote a book about Iraq & Desert Storm: "Ally to Adversary - An Eyewitness Account of Iraq's Fall from Grace," by Rick Francona, Naval Institute Press, May 1999 (ISBN 1557502811), is a new book on U.S.- Iraqi relations written by a Gulf war veteran & retired intelligence officer. The author traveled extensively throughout Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war as a liaison officer to the Iraqi armed forces, later served as Gen Schwarzkopf's Arabic interpreter during Desert Shield/Storm, & then became a principal author for DoD's after-action report to Congress on the conduct of the Gulf war.

[Rick Francona](mailto:rick@francona.com) <[rick@francona.com](mailto:rick@francona.com)>

Port Orford, OR USA - Saturday, August 14, 1999 at 01:33:03 (PDT)

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Great job "CHIEF", this is one great idea. I was with the original group from BAK to be activated in May 68. Some of the names in the guestbook really sound familiar. There is a small museum at BAK now, & a portion of it is dedicated to the AC119G, & it's activities. Thought you might be interested in the fact that I was the originator of the "SHADOW" nose art on the NHA TRANG birds. The first design was too big of a target, & Col Pyle asked for it to be smaller, so I made up a stencil up out of gasket material & with the help of the flight eng, & others, all of our birds wore the same emblem. If I am not mistaken, I think the stencil was sent to PHAN RANG, & TSN so all of the birds would be the same. The book on "GUNSHIPS" has a pretty good picture of the emblem if interested. By the way, I was an IO on Col Lewis, Maj Tucker, Capt. Scanlon, SSgt Bernie Westendorf, Capt Williwm Withuhn, (who is now a curator at the National Transportation museum at the Smithsonian), & one of the gunners name was French, Cannot for the life of me think of the other one, but I will. Thanks for the memories, & keep up the good work. SSgt Philip E. Bender 71st Air Commando Sqdn (SOS)

[Philip Bender](mailto:bender1956@aol.com) <[bender1956@aol.com](mailto:bender1956@aol.com)>

N. Vernon, IN USA - Tuesday, August 10, 1999 at 19:43:34 (PDT)

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Just reacquired this site after a short absence. There have been four Shadow Reunions ( '93, '95, '97, & '99). Our mailing list lacks the names of many, many personnel that were members of the 71st at Nha Trang. I Would like to hear from anyone who is interested in adding their name to the 71st mailing list. A 71st/17th personnel roster would be most welcome. If such a document is available it could be faxed to me at FAX # 765 964-6044.

HERMAN A. (AL) HEUSS <[DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM](mailto:DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM)>

UNION CITY, IN USA - Monday, August 09, 1999 at 20:02:19 (PDT)

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Have reacquired the site after a short absence & noted the announcement about a Shadow Reunion. There have been four Shadow Reunions ( '93, '95, '97, '99) sponsored by the RAM. We have not been able to acquire a list of all the members of the 71st SOS who joined the Unit either at Lockbourne or NHA TRANG. There are tentative plans for a reunion of the 71st in 2001. I would like to hear from any of the personnel that served in the 71st &/or the 17th that would be interested in adding their name to a mailing list. If there is an accurate 71st/17th personnel roster available I would certainly be interested in receiving same. It could be faxed to me at Fax # 765 964-6044. Note to Pat Jones: Good to see you on the guestbook. Also to Gene Schaltenbrand, 71st Reunion Coordinator, I'll be in touch.

HERMAN A. (AL) HEUSS <[DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM](mailto:DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM)>

UNION CITY , IN USA - Monday, August 09, 1999 at 19:37:08 (PDT)

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Thank you for a job well done. I had friends there that spoke/wrote of you folks & how you were worth your weight in gold.

Guy Milano <[grmilano@worldnet.att.net](mailto:grmilano@worldnet.att.net)>

San Francisco, ca USA - Monday, August 09, 1999 at 14:06:12 (PDT)

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Great site! Served with 434th TCW, 71st APS (later 71st SOS) from 12/67 to 6/69.

Ken Wilhite, Jr. <[kurier44@aol.com](mailto:kurier44@aol.com)>

Indianapolis, IN USA - Saturday, August 07, 1999 at 15:13:18 (PDT)

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Great site!! I'll be visiting often. Stinger gunner, 70-73, Spectre, 73-94. Great seeing so many familiar names. It'll be fun to re-establish comm.

FRANK ZEMANICK <[FZEMANICK@AOL.COM](mailto:FZEMANICK@AOL.COM)>

FT wALTON BEACH, FL USA - Saturday, August 07, 1999 at 08:43:21 (PDT)

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great job on the 119's. i was a aircrew member Of the 434tcw out of bakalar afb,columbus indiana 1961-1969. you have brought back some fond memories. hats off to the people of the 71st & 72nd tcs/sos, people like arlo gossler,forklift miller,al wiemer,mike conley,sunshine cookie brown & mark hamblen.

dave ross <[jeun99@aol](mailto:jeun99@aol)>

indianapolis, in USA - Saturday, August 07, 1999 at 07:51:46 (PDT)

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Super site; thanks for a great job. I was on Col.Beyl's crew, later on with Major White, & lastly Maj. Bernard Knapicks crew. I am one of the three survivors of the Oct. 11, 1969 crash. Glad to see some recognition for all those who helped save American lives. Best regards, Pat Jones

Pat Jones <[ryjones@psci.net](mailto:ryjones@psci.net)>

Tell City, In USA - Friday, August 06, 1999 at 15:39:55 (PDT)

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Great site. I was one of those Militia guys from Bakalar - had a great time flying all those vacation trips out of TSN. Question for Wimpy Hamilton - what ever happened to Baker?

Gene Schaltenbrand <[e.schaltenbrand@worldnet.att.net](mailto:e.schaltenbrand@worldnet.att.net)>

Coral Springs, FL USA - Friday, August 06, 1999 at 05:53:13 (PDT)

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Chief, Thanks for the heads up on the site. I have looked information on 119's &/or a reunion off & on for a couple of years. I was a gunner PCS to NKP in '72 & '73. We spent a lot of time TDY to Bien Hoa & a little time in DaNang. I was DaNang at the time of the Cease Fire. I have some slides & some memorabilia that I will look for (we just moved). I hope to go to the reunion, & I'm looking forward to re-visiting this site for familiar names.

Thanks again

Roger Points <[crown@oregonvos.net](mailto:crown@oregonvos.net)>

Bend, OR USA - Thursday, August 05, 1999 at 22:19:54 (PDT)

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Well presented site, & well-deserved recognition for the men who we never saw from the ground but helped us out on more than one occasion. Keep up the good work, Bill Petrie! Don Rast, author "Don's Nam"

[Don Rast](mailto:Don Rast) <[rastfd@bellsouth.net](mailto:rastfd@bellsouth.net)>

Baton Rouge, LA USA - Thursday, August 05, 1999 at 18:32:42 (PDT)

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Thank you Airmen for the service you provided in SEA. I lived near Hurlburt Field & remember very vividly the 47s, 119s, & 130s flying over my house (AT ALL HOURS!!). Me, an Air Force brat, my old man made sure that I knew the types & their missions & so warped my mind that I still keep up with them to this day. I saw two night demonstrations of gunship support missions (night Ranger drops)& was truly awed by their firepower. You guys were my heroes & I thank you again. I served in the Tonkin Gulf in 72-73 on the USS Ranger during LinebackerII (I know, boooo!..)but still like the Air Force since my roots are there. Do any of you guys remember the A26s? They were out of Hurlburt too.

Lee Barrows <[GusGutts@aol.com](mailto:GusGutts@aol.com)>

Suffolk, VA USA - Sunday, August 01, 1999 at 05:17:37 (PDT)

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AUG. 2, 1968, myself & 7 reg. airmen were sent to Nha Trang to meet up with 7 other reg.'s to await the arrival of the AC-119G's coming in from the states by a reserve outfit from Indiana to form the 71st SOS. We were all aircraft maint. mach.'s. End of Nov.,1968, the ships arrived & we were trained by the reserves to work on the AC-119's (note) we were then known as the 71SOS until June 1969, then 17th SOS. I am looking to contact the other 14 airmen who I served with to form the 71st/17th SOS.

Walter Kowalsky <[WKJR1234@aol.com](mailto:WKJR1234@aol.com)>

Croydon, Pa. USA - Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 21:48:50 (PDT)

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...one more time on the e-mail corrections...what ever happened to the good old days of greese-pencil writing on the windshield...oh well, shit happens... Cheers - Mac

Col Steve "Mac" Mac Isaac <[Richard.macisaac@macdill.af.mil](mailto:Richard.macisaac@macdill.af.mil)>  
MacDill AFB, FL USA - Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 08:55:01 (PDT)

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Great Site, just talked to Andy (NKP Thailand, 70/71, 18th SOS. STINGER LAND! Andy thanks for the info on the Gunship Site. Great Stuff! Been a long time since I have thought about the 119's, I was a crew chief, Hell of a bird! Keep up the good stuff!

Terry Treat <[treatbt@freewwwweb.com](mailto:treatbt@freewwwweb.com)>  
Schenectady, ny USA - Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 18:47:05 (PDT)

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MAYBE I HAD BETTER START PROOF READING MY MESSAGE BEFORE SENDING OH WELL SHIT HAPPENS VERN ALLS <[VERNALLS@JUNO.COM](mailto:VERNALLS@JUNO.COM)>  
USA - Monday, July 19, 1999 at 11:54:26 (PDT)

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GLAD TO SEE A WEB SITE WITH SO MANY GUNSHIP FIENDS . IT SI GOOD TO READ ABOUT SOME OF THE OLD TIMES. I WAS AT NKP IN 1970AND71. I WAS CREW CHIEF ON 879 IT WAS HARD TIMES BUT GOOD TIMES. LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM MORE MAINTENANCE PEOPLE. KEEP UP GOOD WORK LOOKING FORWARD TO A REUNION.

vernon alls <[VERNALLS@JUNO.COM](mailto:VERNALLS@JUNO.COM)>  
MARYSVILLE, OH USA - Monday, July 19, 1999 at 11:44:14 (PDT)

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Stationed at Hurlburt Fld....Just checking some history Thanx for everything you all did in Vietnam

J.E. Olafsen <[olafsenj@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:olafsenj@hurlburt.af.mil)>  
NAVARRE, FL USA - Thursday, July 15, 1999 at 03:38:14 (PDT)

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OOPS! an "EDDIE STINKER" informed me I did not even know my correcr e-mail, oh well...shit happens...now corrected! Cheers – Mac Col Steve "Mac" Mac Isaac <[Richard.Maclsaac@macdill.af.mil](mailto:Richard.Maclsaac@macdill.af.mil)>  
MacDill AFB, FL USA - Tuesday, July 13, 1999 at 04:37:55 (PDT)

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Just coming up on the net - look forward to seeing tou all at the REUNION - Cheers - Mac

Col Steve "Mac" Mac Isaac <[Richard.Maclsaac@macdill.af.mil](mailto:Richard.Maclsaac@macdill.af.mil)>  
MacDill AFB, FL USA - Tuesday, July 06, 1999 at 06:11:24 (PDT)

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Change of E-mail address. Andy Bright <[abright@vnet.net](mailto:abright@vnet.net)>  
USA - Friday, July 02, 1999 at 08:01:17 (PDT)

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oops. address correction, guess I was hanging John Morrow too long. Jeff Henderson <[jeffhen@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeffhen@bellsouth.net)>  
Orlando, FI USA - Friday, July 02, 1999 at 05:52:47 (PDT)

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Shadow Gunner & (HAC LONG) from 70-71, Spectre Gunner72-79,84-86. I see someone has taught a few of my old buds to write. I'll be emailing them shortly. Glad you all made it back. Chief Petrie has done an outstanding job getting the old war-dogs together again. Thanx

Jeff Henderson <[jeffhen@bellsouth](mailto:jeffhen@bellsouth)>  
Orlando, FI USA - Friday, July 02, 1999 at 05:49:14 (PDT)

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While stationed at Randolph AFB in Texas following my return from SEA, I met an enlisted guy who said he was a survivor of an AC-119G crash when it lost an engine on takeoff. I had to have met him sometime after Nov. 69. Out of curiosity, does anyone know the names of the crash survivors?

Donald J. Luke <[oerm2133@aol.com](mailto:oerm2133@aol.com)>  
Tucson, AZ USA - Saturday, June 26, 1999 at 20:28:42 (PDT)

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Great job on the website. Tony Bautz clued me into it yesterday. I was assigned to the 18SOS as a 2Lt maintenance officer backing up Capt Wayne Coles at Phan Rang from Mar-Jul 70. Then went to Danang as the maintenance officer for the rest of my tour. Chief Al Texeira was the 18th's Mx Superintendent at Danang, an

outstanding guy. He taught me most of what I learned about maintenance & leadership, & started me on a pretty good career. I'd like to see him at reunion some time & tell him that. Keep up the good work.

Douglas S. Metcalf <[MetcalfDS@aol.com](mailto:MetcalfDS@aol.com)>

Winter Park, FL USA - Wednesday, June 23, 1999 at 10:21:00 (PDT)

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Does anyone know the whereabouts of SGT. Henry Akers. I saw him in Vietnam in the AC-119 unit in 1966. He & I served together in Hawaii, in the 1862 AACCS Flight check unit in 1960. Thanks,

Dan Norton <[danal@globalnetlink.net](mailto:danal@globalnetlink.net)>

Hohenwald, TN USA - Saturday, June 19, 1999 at 21:30:17 (PDT)

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Quite a surprise to see the old Gunships on the web. I was assigned to the 18 SOS in 69 & 70 & flew out of DANANG. Nice site. Keep up the good work "Wurf"

Hans-Georg F. Wurfel <[hans.wurfel@edwards.af.mil](mailto:hans.wurfel@edwards.af.mil)>

Palmdale, Ca USA - Saturday, June 19, 1999 at 15:17:38 (PDT)

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I am in the Air Force & doing a report on the Rescue of BAT 21, mostly based off of Darrel D. Whitcomb's book. I am looking for any more information on enlisted members contributions to the rescue to include officers involved who were prior enlisted. Any & all information is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SSGT Joseph Debets <[smokeyjoeak@yahoo.com](mailto:smokeyjoeak@yahoo.com)>

Anchorage, AK USA - Monday, June 14, 1999 at 22:38:34 (PDT)

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Sorry guys, in my previous info on the journalist who did a story on the "Stingers" & who had gotten bum info from others, I posted an e-mail address for him at the newspaper. For some reason, is no longer good. Think they shut it down due to all this "virus" hype. I have called the fellow & he gave me his personal home e-mail address to use as a forward - but asked that I not make it public. Therefore, if you had sent mail to the bum address only to have it returned, if you will please post it to me, I will forward it directly to him. Sorry for the inconvenience. For all of you guys who answered the call "to stand up & be counted," thanks for taking the time to send me your comments. They were all interesting & very informative. I just this morning forwarded the fellow a large packet of all mail I received & a ton of other info on the AC-119 both the Gs & the Ks. For those who have not yet responded, I'd like to hear from you - but don't wait too long. We need to get everything in his hands so he will have all the facts for his story. Bill Logan

[Bill Logan](mailto:billlog@brevard.net) <[billlog@brevard.net](mailto:billlog@brevard.net)>

Cocoa, FL USA - Monday, June 14, 1999 at 13:02:45 (PDT)

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was one of the first maintenance men to arrive @ nha trang in 1969-1970 when it was still the 71 SOS the book Gunships has a picture of the 119 just back from the Philippines it's me standing under the left engine drinking a beer I am looking for anyone from the 17th SOS I am excited to hear from you ..

Rick Stone <[angiewayne@sisna.com](mailto:angiewayne@sisna.com)>

kimberly, ID USA - Saturday, June 12, 1999 at 15:17:37 (PDT)

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Great web site. I flew as a Table Navigator in AC--119 Gunships August -November 1971. A dozen or so crewmembers in the 16th SOS flying AC-130 Gunships were transferred to the 18th SOS for three months to relieve the crew shortage. Spectre Association has held reunions for over 25 years. Most reunions are held at Fort Walton Beach in October. Stingers should definitely hold a reunion. Keep up the good work.

Claude "Brad" Bradshaw <[bradcjb@aol.com](mailto:bradcjb@aol.com)>

Catharpin, VA USA - Thursday, June 10, 1999 at 22:06:14 (PDT)

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Bill & Fred, You guys have done a fantastic job on the website. It's come a long way since I first logged on last year. I'm glad to see "clev" finally found us. I'm sad to see that Emile Johnson passed away. He was on my crew at Locbourne & along with Pappy Connors took me "under their wings". He was good friend & will be sorely missed.

It's amazing the "experts" didn't know we existed. To not know about the BEST SQUADRON in SEA is a crying shame. There's a "short little former 21st" out there somewhere who could never reach the IFF that I would like to hear from. Has anyone heard from Pappy Connors, Pappy Cullen, or Von Leavitt? Keep up the good work guys

Ken Wilson <[boxcar@schoolink.net](mailto:boxcar@schoolink.net)>

Roanoke Rapids, NC USA - Thursday, June 10, 1999 at 09:12:56 (PDT)

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Bill..We need to try to get in touch with some of the maintenance people that work on the airplanes like I did. Most of the people that have been responding to the guestbook are flight crews. Nothing against flight crews, I just didn't know many of the people in the flight crews.

Andy Bright <[rbright@dcmde.dla.mil](mailto:rbright@dcmde.dla.mil)>

Stanfield, NC USA - Thursday, June 10, 1999 at 07:19:04 (PDT)

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Am sorry that I said Johnny davis in Above Paragraph.. I think it is really hard to hear of any one of our fellow crewmembers passing away. I am sorry about the mistake of saying Davis.. Johnny Johnson & Johnny Davis were both In there at the same time.. It is a shame that we have to find out about our fellow crewmembers & friends in this way.. Again Our Deepest Sympathy for the Members for Johnny Johnsons Family.. A True Friend & Brother of the..... 18 SOS STINGER GROUP.....Our Deepest Sympathy.....

jim clevenger <[jeclevenger@juno.com](mailto:jeclevenger@juno.com)>

murphy , tx USA - Tuesday, June 08, 1999 at 23:23:01 (PDT)

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I am really happy that we are finally getting some deserved credit that was due to our great crews.. Not only are Farkle & Chief putting thier all in to this web site but thier are others bringing back some great & sad memories of the past. I remember Johnny Davis & I am really sorry to hear that he Passed away.. He was a dear friend to me In Da-Nang. I would have loved to seen him at a reunion or any gathering of us old STINGER's. Mrs. E. Johson I remember Johnny & would like you to know that in my mind he will never be forgotten..He was A true friend & I will always remember his kind & generous ways.. You have My Deepest sympathy..... A fellow brother.Stingers forever. Our Payers are with you... Jim "clev" Clevenger

jim "clev" Clevenger <[Jeclevenger@juno.com](mailto:Jeclevenger@juno.com)>

murphy , tx. USA - Tuesday, June 08, 1999 at 22:38:06 (PDT)

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To all of you guys that flew with the "Shadows" & the "Stingers" in Nam. I have recently been working with a newspaper columnist in my area to get you guys a little more of the credit you so well deserve. Unfortunately, he checked with a fellow who was supposed to be an authority on "Warbirds", & was told by this (expletive) "What? C-119s flying "Puff" night missions? NAH! There were only C-47s doing that in Vietnam. Never C-119s." I won't give this guys name & embarrass him. But he is supposed to be an authority on Warbirds & carries a high up position in that capacity in our Titusville, FL. (TICO) Warbird museum. So, I am gathering all the info I can to set this thing straight. If you were one of those who flew those Nam "Puff" night missions - let me hear from you. I will sure be glad to forward your mail on to this columnist. And it will do my heart good to "educate" this (expletive) from the museum. ALSO - If you were one of the Marines or Army on the ground that "Puff" saved your butts on many occasions ... I would like to hear from you also. I'm sure you have some great stories to tell, & that's what newspaper columnists like to hear. I'd like to hear them also. You can e-mail me at [billlog@brevard.net](mailto:billlog@brevard.net) (note - three "Ls") or snail mail me at 1512 Cambridge Dr., Cocoa, FL. 32922 I'll sure see that your mail gets into this fellows hands. Good luck, Let's hear from you. Bill Logan

[Bill Logan](mailto:billlog@brevard.net) <[billlog@brevard.net](mailto:billlog@brevard.net)>

Cocoa,, FL USA - Tuesday, June 08, 1999 at 19:54:09 (PDT)

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I was Nav/Instructor Nav with the 17th SOS from Nov '70 to Nov '71. Have lost touch with most of the "ole gang" - but saw Eugene Lee's message, & decided to add mine. I do keep in touch with Larry Cope from the 18th SOS, but don't have his e-mail at hand. I'd sure be interested in a Y2K reunion, if the Shadows are included. Now that I've found the site, I keep in touch.

Joe Hill <[jlhill@yourlink.net](mailto:jlhill@yourlink.net)>

Melbourne, FL USA - Tuesday, June 08, 1999 at 18:40:13 (PDT)

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My husband would be pleased to know the Crews of the C119 K "Stinger" were finally being honored for their service in Vietnam. He became well acquainted with the 119 as a G model in 1954 at Yuma, Arizona where he was Flight Engineer for many years. When they entered the Vietnam War he became reacquainted & ended up at NKP, Thailand in Dec 1970. I have heard many stories from the year he was "night flying" along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Operation Steel Tiger, Operation Barrel Roll & others. Perhaps some of you may remember then Tsgt Emile L. Johnson called John or Johnny, he was a Flight Engineer. Later he was in SAC as Flight Line Controller of B52's & was in Guam with the operations that eventually ended the war. We retired from the USAF in November of 1977 & he built a home for us on part of the home place. In Jun 1993 he had surgery for an abdominal aneurysm & died of complications on Jul 22, he is buried at the National Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri. His "party suit" was donated

to the Air Force Museum at Dayton, OH, other items to the Confederate Museum & Hurlburt AFB archives. Thank you Chief Petrie for this web site to honor the men of the C119K in Vietnam.

Elba Johnson <[egj@tri-lakes.net](mailto:egj@tri-lakes.net)>

Galena, Mo USA - Monday, June 07, 1999 at 19:09:40 (PDT)

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Great web site! It's nice to finally see a site dedicated to the least known of all gunships. Keep up the great work!

[Mike Neely](mailto:webmaster@theaviationzone.com) <[webmaster@theaviationzone.com](mailto:webmaster@theaviationzone.com)>

Fort Worth, TX USA - Friday, June 04, 1999 at 15:22:53 (PDT)

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Bill...This site is absolutely fantastic! I can't tell you what a pleasure it's been "soaring" through your pages. Each page loads lightning fast & even though I haven't read all the "Stories & Sorties" yet I am looking forward to it as I'm also looking forward to your cartoon section. I really am impressed with this site; it's not hard to see just how much of yourself you have put into this...Obviously I found myself engrossed with your History Link. When we (Amtracs) were on one particular Operation (wish I could remember the name of it) myself & our Lt called in Puff. WOW. What a Magic Dragon & if I can get my memory intact enough to remember the details, I'd like to send you a short story of my memories of how PUFF not only brought cheers to our platoon but accomplished only what an awesome ship could. Keep up the excellent work! This page is bookmarked for future readings. Thank you

[Roy Stanford](mailto:stan@stealth.net) <[stan@stealth.net](mailto:stan@stealth.net)>

NYC, NY USA - Friday, June 04, 1999 at 10:17:15 (PDT)

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I was upset by the comments made by Michael Craig, I had no idea that the Flir Maintenance confirmed all kills. I only remember debriefing Intel, as to what targets wer hit & what we killed. I was on several flights when we to had killed a tank, & knew of several other crews who had more than one kill. Michael Craig didn't even leave a email address ,so that we could ask him what proof he had that What Happened on the Flight with Bill & his creww did destroy on the night in question. I have no reason to doubt Bills, story. I hope this will bring Mr.Craig out so we might email him & ask for his proof that he was in SEA.

Fred Graves <[farkle@micron.net](mailto:farkle@micron.net)>

Mountain Home, Id USA - Thursday, June 03, 1999 at 12:37:29 (PDT)

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I was FLIR maintenance on Stingers in 70-71 at Phan Rang, Da Nang, & NKP, in that order. The story "Stinger Gunship Blasts Eight Tanks" struck a chord with me. While at Da Nang (Mar-Jul 71) I debriefed a Stinger crew & noted "1 tank" in the KILLS column of the log book. As I recall, the bird was on its way back to base, running south along the South China Sea, when FLIR noted a hot target on or near the beach. They took it out & noted massive secondarys. Fuel drums exploded & shot into the air. Apparently there had been a fuel dump there as well. That's the only time in my experience that a Stinger nailed a tank.

Michael Craig

USA - Wednesday, June 02, 1999 at 11:44:38 (PDT)

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I was a crewchief on the 119K at NKP from Nov 70 to Nov 71. If there ever is a reunion please contact me at this address, I sure would like to see some the old guys.

[Robert A. Bright \(Andy\)](mailto:rbright@dcmde.dla.mil) <[rbright@dcmde.dla.mil](mailto:rbright@dcmde.dla.mil)>

Stanfield, NC USA - Wednesday, May 26, 1999 at 12:12:30 (PDT)

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Glad to see there are still some Stingers around. Boy that was a long time back & some real fond memories. Was with 18 SOS in 71-72 at Da-Nang & NKP. I was an I.O. there & also Instructor at Lockbooure in 70-71. Flew with Paco's Taco's at NKP. Real happy to see some something to keep the 119's name alive. THANK YOU...

jim clevenger <[jeclevenger@juno.com](mailto:jeclevenger@juno.com)>

tx USA - Saturday, May 22, 1999 at 01:18:31 (PDT)

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From the above e-mail address, one could guess that I was very proud of my days as a Shadow gunner. I served in that capacity from early 1971 until late 1971. At that time I left military service. I remember with great pride the people & I wish them well. Col. James James was the commander of the 17 SOS at that time & he lead us well. Now, I see a gentleman by the name of John Morrow, also a gunner, signed this guest book. He is another case! Jeff Henderson was also my friend. Perhaps John, we'll be able locate him through this web site! I'll E-Mail.

Eugene A. Lee <[Gunner4995@aol.com](mailto:Gunner4995@aol.com)>

St. Paul, Mn USA - Thursday, May 20, 1999 at 20:57:16 (PDT)



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Looks great so far. I'll do my best to attend a reunion, & to contribute some photos, & maybe some Howie Reid stories.

Bob "De Debil" Frederick <[FREDUNLTD@AOL.COM](mailto:FREDUNLTD@AOL.COM)>

Louisville, KY USA - Saturday, May 08, 1999 at 15:55:03 (PDT)

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Bill, this is a remarkable labor of tribute, honor & passion. I salute you!

Kim Luoma, Maj, USAFR <[kluoma@aol.com](mailto:kluoma@aol.com)>

Biloxi, Ms USA - Friday, May 07, 1999 at 05:36:53 (PDT)

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Really glad you're doing this, & look forward to finding more familiar names as the site matures. I was a Nav in the 119Ks from mid 71 to mid 72, & got to experience the An Loc battle.

Rick Gustafson <[bayview@acadia.net](mailto:bayview@acadia.net)>

Gouldsboro, ME USA - Thursday, May 06, 1999 at 06:55:07 (PDT)

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I was with 17th SOS as a gunner in 1970, stationed at TSN. Looking for any other members of 17th SOS. Mailing address is 4401 Chataignier Rd., Ville Platte, La. 70586

MICHAEL LEE <[cen71374@centuryinter.net](mailto:cen71374@centuryinter.net)>

VILLE PLATTE, LA USA - Thursday, April 29, 1999 at 18:12:27 (PDT)

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Bill: A great page. You've done a lot for us AC-119G/K flyers who seem to have been the silent shadowy type. Hey, maybe that's why we were called Shadow. I served in Nam as a Flight Engineer with the 17th SOS, Phu Cat in '70-'71. We flew many missions over Cambodia & the Bolevens Plateau (Laos) as well in-country missions even while the politicians were dis-claiming our flights out of country. It is exciting to see AC-119G/K info again after all these years. Please, keep up the good work.

Jay A. Collars (CMSGT ret.) <[jayco@childrensmuseum.org](mailto:jayco@childrensmuseum.org)>

Indianapolis, IN USA - Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at 13:37:25 (PDT)

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Chief Bill: A great site. THANKS. It is really nice to see info about the AC-119G/K Gunships after all these years of anonymity about Shadow. I served as a Flight Engineer, 17th SOS, Phu Cat in '70-'71. Would really like to hear from some of my fellow Shadow's. Keep up the great work

Jay A. Collars (CMSGT ret.) <[jayco@childrensmuseum.org](mailto:jayco@childrensmuseum.org)>

Indianapolis, IN USA - Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at 13:35:06 (PDT)

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Bill: A great page. You've done a lot for us AC-119G/K flyers who seem to have been the silent shadowy type. Hey, maybe that's why we were called Shadow. I served in Nam as a Flight Engineer with the 17th SOS, Phu Cat in '70-'71. We flew many missions over Cambodia & the Bolevens Plateau (Laos) as well in-country missions even while the politicians were dis-claiming our flights out of country. It is exciting to see AC-119G/K info again after all these years. Please, Bill, keep up the good work. Jay A. Collars (CMSGT ret.)

Jay A. Collars <[jayco@childrensmuseum.org](mailto:jayco@childrensmuseum.org)>

Indianapolis, IN USA - Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at 13:29:38 (PDT)

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Uncle Bill, I think you have done a great job making this webpage.

[Nicholas Bellavance](mailto:Maestro484@aol.com) <[Maestro484@aol.com](mailto:Maestro484@aol.com)>

North Attleboro, MA USA - Thursday, April 15, 1999 at 20:22:31 (PDT)

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I was in the Central Highlands in 68-69. I had a chance to view your work more than once! I was with B Co 2/8 Mech. Inf. 4th Div. We made a sweep through an area you guys worked over & you cannot believe the pattern the bullets left on the ground! Also found a few skeletons too. One night you guys were on a mission & one of guys on the radio swore he heard a tiger in our midst. We all closed on his location to find he only heard you guys working out very close to us! That was the growl he heard. Wonderful site! I have only heard you guys. It was great to see what you look like. Thanks Gene

Gene A. Holt <[GHolt61287@aol.com](mailto:GHolt61287@aol.com)>

Pasadena, Tx. USA - Saturday, April 10, 1999 at 13:00:41 (PDT)

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It is very likely that my husband, Mo Alves, Maj, USAF, was killed in the AC-119 crash on takeoff at Ton Son Nhut, October 11, 1969, 17th Special Operations Squadron, referenced in articles "Who Knows What Evil Lurks? The Shadow Knows"; & "Shadow-AC-119G: A History", by Bill Hamilton, Maj, USAF, Ret. Mo had been a navigator/bombardier in The Strategic Air Command, & after earning his graduate degree at The Air Force Institute of Technology was an Air Force Development Engineer & Program Director in Minuteman [Norton AFB] prior to his tour of duty in Vietnam. He never spoke of his missions, reassuring me in our ongoing conversational tapes that "it was boring over there, they just fly around", & he would tease about "jumping into his flight suit & putting on his 'gun & holster set' for another of our 'little missions'". He was so proud of "keeping those guys on the ground alive"; "Deny Them The Dark". Now I know from what I have read he would have recognized the peril of weight added to the aircraft beyond design capacity & the drag on takeoff that would create that peril when one of only two engines failed & he was killed instantly. In other articles, "The Shadow" has been referred to as the AC-119C? It would mean a lot to Mo to know of the respect & tributes now to the airmen of "The Gunships", those very brave & courageous crews. And often I think of the others who were killed in the same crash, he thought so much of them...&...others that were in Vietnam with him..some he had known throughout his career..one of his AFIT instructors, a Ph.D..& I hope they came safely home their families. I wish them well.  
Teddi Alves <[TeddiAlves@aol.com](mailto:TeddiAlves@aol.com)>  
Huntington Beach, CA USA - Saturday, April 03, 1999 at 17:46:33 (PST)

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Great site!!! Was with the 35th A&E in 1968-69. Shadow & Spookie really put on a show at night.  
Harvey Ellinger <[hfe@cfw.com](mailto:hfe@cfw.com)>  
Verona, Va USA - Friday, March 19, 1999 at 09:08:01 (PST)

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I can be contacted at P.O. Box 513, Washington, West Virginia Phone (304)273-3807. I was in 18505 Stinger in '69-'70-'71.  
Gary W. Weaver <[\(friend's\)WR64@hotmail.com](mailto:(friend's)WR64@hotmail.com)>  
Washington,, Wwv USA - Sunday, March 07, 1999 at 18:04:29 (PST)

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I'm looking for the crew of" SHADOW 136 " P-Johnson, N-pacer N-brauer, I.O. bond, A.G. storm, A.G. hayes. This men flew with my father F.E> SSGT Paul I Olmstead. PLease email if anyone knows of this crew. My father was in 71st & was station at Grissom AFB  
[Glen\\_olmstead](mailto:Glen_olmstead@hotmail.com) <[Glen\\_olmstead@hotmail.com](mailto:Glen_olmstead@hotmail.com)>  
marietta, ga USA - Sunday, March 07, 1999 at 16:05:52 (PST)

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I worked in the Ammo Dump at Nha Trang & Phan Rang in '69-'70. I worked mainly on "Spookies" & "Shadows". This site brought some good memories.  
Brian W. Cluver <[btosh@globaldialog.com](mailto:btosh@globaldialog.com)>  
Ft. Atkinson, Wi USA - Sunday, March 07, 1999 at 13:30:57 (PST)

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I found this site last night & sent some feedback, but forgot to sign into the guest book. I arrived at Phan Rang in Dec '70 assigned to the 14th FMS radar shop. We worked on the G & K model 119s plus the C-47 & O-2B (BS Bombers). I was re-assigned to NKP with the 56th AMS in June or July of '71 with the remaining AC-119Ks when we gave the Gs to the VNAF. I asked for patches if anyone out there has any, & have received a couple of replies about Stinger patches but none on Shadow patches. Are there any left anywhere? I look forward to hearing from anyone who was stationed at either base working the -119s.  
TONY HAYNES <[thaynes@aeneas.net](mailto:thaynes@aeneas.net)>  
Huntingdon, Tn USA - Saturday, March 06, 1999 at 19:39:00 (PST)

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Hello,my name is Glen Olmstead & if found this site very informing. I'm looking for info about my father Paul L Olmstead (ssgt ) 71st Air Comando. Looking for anybody you may have flown with him. From what I know is he was a reservist who was call up from Columbus, INd then he went to ohio If anyone can help please email me [Glen\\_Olmstead @ hotmail.com](mailto:Glen_Olmstead@hotmail.com)  
[Glen\\_Olmstead](mailto:Glen_Olmstead@hotmail.com) <[Glen\\_Olmstead@hotmail.com](mailto:Glen_Olmstead@hotmail.com)>  
marietta, ga USA - Saturday, March 06, 1999 at 14:09:29 (PST)

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What a fantastic find!!! This site really brings back some fond hidden memories. Have a strong desire to dig thru the storage area & get out those old photos/booklets/pins/etc of those glory days at the 14th Air Commando Wing

(later redesignated the 14th SOW), Nha Trang AB & town, & the AC-119 SHADOWs - "Deny Him The Dark"!! I was the first active duty maintenance officer assigned to the 71st SOS when Maj Richardson, the AFRES ART maintenance officer, went back home - late Mar 69 or early Apr 69 .... a little secret - I was so disappointed when the 14th SOW Chief of Maintenance - Lt Col Riley - selected me to be the Sq Maint Officer for the 71th SOS & the AC-119's - I had been "informally" promised by the outgoing Sq Maint Officer of the 4th SOS - Capt Tom Hoover - that he'd "fixed it" so I'd get the 4th SOS (an AC-47 Spooky unit). I thought the Spooky was more involved in the war & an easier airplane to maintain than the AC-119 - I was half right - the AC-47 was easier to maintain than the AC-119 but the mission was of the SHADOW was HOT & challenging! The SHADOW mission was great - & so were the crews & maintainers. I flew 9 combat SHADOW missions & for a maintainer that was 9 to many - but it sure gave me the aircrew's perspective. I hope to contact some old crew members & maintenance buddies.....

Ed Humphreys <[ehumphre@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ehumphre@ix.netcom.com)>

Ft Valley, GA USA - Saturday, March 06, 1999 at 12:44:09 (PST)

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Oops. address correction. I hung around with IO's too much.

John Morrow <[morrowjl@netmdc.com](mailto:morrowjl@netmdc.com)>

USA - Friday, March 05, 1999 at 07:59:21 (PST)

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Shadow gunner out of TSN 1970-71. Flew with Herr Heiner's [Flying Circus] better known as Shadow 14. Does anyone have Jeff Henderson's address, somewhere in Florida, I think? I'm Winchester so I'll RTB.

John Morrow <[morrowjl@MDCnet.com](mailto:morrowjl@MDCnet.com)>

Alamogordo, NM USA - Friday, March 05, 1999 at 07:52:23 (PST)

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Great site. I was a Stinger f1t engr at Danang 69-70. Looking forward to the site growing .

R.E.Stough <[RESTOU@AOL.COM](mailto:RESTOU@AOL.COM)>

Vacaville, CAG USA - Friday, March 05, 1999 at 01:51:40 (PST)

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Glad to see some recognition for gunships. I was a Loadmaster on AC-47s at Bien Hoa, 1968-1969. Would like to hear from any Spooky crewmembers or maint people.

Chuck Blair, CMSgt (ret) <[yogidblair@aol.com](mailto:yogidblair@aol.com)>

Texas City, TX USA - Tuesday, March 02, 1999 at 08:30:15 (PST)

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I was an F-4 mechanic stationed at DaNang in 1970 & worked out of the same hanger as the AC119's flown by the Army. Took a ride in their U-6 mail plane to Hue once & always admired the 119 gunships. They would sometimes run the engines up at night & the backwash would blow the screen doors off our barracks! Used to sit up on top of the hanger roof at night & watch the ships work out! Great page, enjoyed the comments, JM.

John Marshall <[john.marshall3@worldnet.com](mailto:john.marshall3@worldnet.com)>

Grass Valley, Ca USA - Monday, March 01, 1999 at 01:17:34 (PST)

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Great site Chief. Having served with & in Special Ops plus a few other "unique" positions, I gained nothing but respect for the bravery & professionalism of the Gunship Airmen. One of my fondest memories, although somewhat fuzzy now, is standing in the middle of a field in Nam (having consumed a few adult beverages) & watching a Gunship work the surrounding area. What a beautiful sight & thanks to the crew for saving my life that evening.

John Stewart <[usafcms@citrus.infi.net](mailto:usafcms@citrus.infi.net)>

Inverness, FL USA - Sunday, February 28, 1999 at 13:16:31 (PST)

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I would have never thought that an AC119 site existed. I stumbled across it late one night. I was a crew chief in the 18th SOS that left Lockbourne in the fall of '69 & was also with the group that came back TDY to NKP in the spring of 1970. The whole experience was something I would never want to repeat, but now that it just a memory I am glad it happened. A shot of Jim Beam & a Singhi beer for everybody bartender!

Bob Fowler <[Jelanef@aol.com](mailto:Jelanef@aol.com)>

Columbia, SC USA - Friday, February 26, 1999 at 20:49:37 (PST)

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THANKS TO BILL PETRIE this site is like a breath of fresh air, I have been looking for any thing about the 17th or 18th SOS. I was a Flight Engineer on C-97 AT Westover AFB when the call came in April 1969 wen` t to all the

good training in OHIO & ferried one each ac-119k to V.N. I keep in touch with 3 other FLT. ENG. 1 from the 17th SHADOW & 2 in the 18th SOS STINGER. If any one knows where I could get the BLACK SCARVES we had please let me know. Looking forward to a reunion.

William G. Bacon <[hogheaven@communityonline.net](mailto:hogheaven@communityonline.net)>

Fairfield, ca. USA - Friday, February 26, 1999 at 19:56:43 (PST)

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Can't believe I said here when I meant hear in my other Guestbook entry, I'll blame it on shell shock. Mike Mullen

Mike Mullen <[michther@aol.com](mailto:michther@aol.com)>

USA - Friday, February 26, 1999 at 09:08:29 (PST)

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Great website!! I was a gunner, 17th SOS '69 - '70. Flew with Rusty Napier. It brought back good memories reading the History article & the Guestbook entries. Recognised a lot names from the 'good old days'. Would like to here from any of my old crew members, drop me an e-mail. Mike Mullen AKA "Moon Mullins"

michther@aol.com

Mike Mullen "Moon Mullins" <[michther@aol.com](mailto:michther@aol.com)>

Bozeman, MT USA - Friday, February 26, 1999 at 09:04:18 (PST)

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Really nice site im only 16 but my old man is 49 & was in the 18th he was a gunner his name is Perry Martens he joined the 18th in 71 it was good for him to remember & it is a good site he has some good pictures that i will send u bill when i get them scanned thx

Kit Martens <[Kitmartens@hotmail.com](mailto:Kitmartens@hotmail.com)>

Hornick, IA USA - Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 19:00:59 (PST)

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Updates on your page are great stuff. I can still hear you guys covering my a..... . Thanks, Mike Dong Ha Cua Viet

Mike Bowlin <[w7mic@ix.netcom.com](mailto:w7mic@ix.netcom.com)>

arcadia, ca USA - Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 20:44:20 (PST)

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Was in 'nam 71-73, with the navy "brown water" boys, always wondered about the 119's we kept around Tahn snut & CatLo. Now I know! Great sight, keep it this way.

[R.L.Sprowel](mailto:R.L.Sprowel) <[Grifn15124@aol.com](mailto:Grifn15124@aol.com)>

St. Ann, MO USA - Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 03:41:15 (PST)

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Very good Site. When I was in Nam I thanked GOD for the gun ships & Puff. I was with 1st Bn. 4th Marines (Mud Marines) in '68' & '69'. Also did a few months with Gulf Bat. 3rd Bn. 12th Marines (105 Battery) Good to see somebody didn't forget the gun ships & the guys who flew them. They saved a lot of lives. Check out my site, it's along the same line.

[LaBelle, M.F. Sr.](mailto:LaBelle, M.F. Sr.) <[leatherneck65@xtalwind.net](mailto:leatherneck65@xtalwind.net)>

Homosassa Springs, FL USA - Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 01:28:26 (PST)

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a'm having problems loading pictures of nam , have some good ones, but will keep working on it. till i get it right. another short story,,, we were flying over cambodia & we flew over the cliffs over the sea when we had an up draft that shot us up 500 ft & george (auto pilot) shout us back down, anyway as i was looking for ground fire out the launcher door i ended up holding on to the flare launcher & the bar to the left . my head hanging out the door & my feet stright up in the air .ammo all over the cargo comp & we were asking the pilot very politely

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$##### what he was doing up there he said something like sorry bout that) end of story

bob {ski} mikolowski <[shadow45@cwnet.com](mailto:shadow45@cwnet.com)>

vacaville, ca USA - Monday, February 22, 1999 at 22:31:48 (PST)

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U.S.ARMY COMBAT VETERAN 25TH.INFANTRY DIVISION "TROPIC LIGHTNING" THE WORLDS GREATEST COMBAT DIVISION VIETNAM 1966 TO 1970 25TH.FOREVER THE PACIFIC FIRE BRIGADE CO.B 25TH.AVN.BN. Door Gunner UH-1C "Huey " Gunship Base Camp Cu Chi You have an nice site just started mine God Bless

[Edward T. Lyons](mailto:Edward T. Lyons) <[bigfoot@megabits.net](mailto:bigfoot@megabits.net)>

Titusville, Fl. USA - Monday, February 22, 1999 at 17:39:58 (PST)

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Bill.....Excellent site.....can't believe how fast it loads & all the informational links here. I was a radio operator with 3rd Amtrac Bat.; 1st Marine Div.; "B" Co. from 67-69. Again, very good website & I will return to follow the links I haven't had a chance to get to yet.

[Roy Stanford <stan@stealth.net>](mailto:stan@stealth.net)

NYC, NY USA - Monday, February 22, 1999 at 14:52:46 (PST)

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Great site. Informed fellow vietnam modellers on your site. Will be back in due time. Harald

Harald Verweij <[migkill5@cisstron.nl](mailto:migkill5@cisstron.nl)>

Alphen aan den Rijn, Netherlands - Monday, February 22, 1999 at 12:48:59 (PST)

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As a AC130 IO this site told me alot of the people who came before me,it`s been 25 years since I had that much fun,but the memories are worth it.

JOE PERCIVALLE <[mrmmodels@webtv.net](mailto:mrmmodels@webtv.net)>

BEEBE, AR USA - Monday, February 22, 1999 at 12:45:29 (PST)

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Chief Petrie: This is my first visit to the site; its great.Please note that the 71st SOS "Shadows" have a reunion scheduled for 4-7 June 1999 at WPAFB, OH. Would like to hear from any 71st/17th personnel that would be interested in the Reunion info. I was a member of the # 1 AC-119G crew in Dec 68 & served as an IP/FE & Chief AC-119G Pilot in the 14th SOW, Nha Trang AB thru Jun 69. Hope to see many familiar faces in June at WPAFB. More later.

[HERMAN A. HEUSS, COL USAFR\(Ret\) <DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM>](mailto:DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM)

UNION CITY, IN USA - Friday, February 19, 1999 at 21:21:28 (PST)

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i was an i o on ac-119g from 70-71 at phu cat ,tan son nhut got a story to tell & some pictures but i need to get into my mil records for dates times & names i flew with col james [a c] over doc pek, kon tum province nite of 14 april 1970 when a hung flare blew up on me when i was trying to cut the wire & blew up my finger we stayed on target till we were relived by two other shadows ,fac , & a basket ball. will print the whole story at later date. also col david fleming acft com ac-130 is in town [now mayor of vacaville ca] shadow45@cwnet.com

bob mikolowski [ski] msgt ret <[shadow45@cwnet.com](mailto:shadow45@cwnet.com)>

vacaville, ca USA - Friday, February 19, 1999 at 07:51:11 (PST)

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CMSgt Petrie: Great Site! Shadows & Stingers didn't disappear in history after all! As a former 119G pilot out of Phan Rang, DaNang, Phu Cat, & Saigon in '70-71 it's great to see a Shadow & Stinger site. Spent a lot of time over Cambodia & Bolovens Plateau Laos...will see what I can dig up to send for your site. Have lost track of most of the guys in 17th SOS but hope this site can put us back in touch again. Best Regards, Lannie W. Letterman Lannie W. Letterman <[letterma@mozcom.com](mailto:letterma@mozcom.com)>

Angeles City, PHILIPPINES - Wednesday, February 17, 1999 at 23:03:15 (PST)

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Great job on the website Bill. Didn't get to serve with you on the gunships, however I certainly enjoyed knowing you as a friend & serving with you in 1967 & 1968 at Ton Son Nhut Air Base with the 360th TEW on the EC47 gooniebirds. Kept up the good work my friend & God Bless.

Gary D. Wiseman <[ggolf7830@aol.com](mailto:ggolf7830@aol.com)>

San Antonio, Tx USA - Wednesday, February 17, 1999 at 21:47:01 (PST)

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Chief ran across your web page & wanted to say thank's.I was a I.O. on the AC-130 Gunship out of Ubon Thailand. Good stuff!!!

George Harris <[Noiy0611@webtv.net](mailto:Noiy0611@webtv.net)>

Anchorage, Ak USA - Monday, February 15, 1999 at 00:56:13 (PST)

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Was a gunner on Spooky 3rd & 4th sos 3/69-12/69. Binh Thuy, Nha Trang, Da Nang & Udon Thailand. Went to 17th sos 12/69-3/70 at Thuy Hoa (the arm pit of VN)Went on R&R(Aust.) out of Ton Son Nhut. Ended up spending an extra 10 days at the Merlin visting. Couldn't stand to go back to Thuy Hoa. Yuk! Hey Fletch, see you in Oct. Saw a message in the book from Donald Luke. Spooky mech @ Da Nang. Tried to drop a line but your e-mail is wrong. If you see this drop me a line. Ghost Riders Forever!!!!

Bob McGarry <[spooky1969@aol.com](mailto:spooky1969@aol.com)>

Canton, ma USA - Thursday, February 11, 1999 at 19:01:51 (PST)

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Turned wrenches on 119's 1970-71 at NKP. In fact we worked on 02's,A1E's,QU22's,OV10's ,EC47's. That place was something else. Glad to see a web site devoted to the best crews to fly in SE Asia

Dave Schurke <[MDeVry@aol.com](mailto:MDeVry@aol.com)>

Palatine , Il. USA - Sunday, February 07, 1999 at 19:09:49 (PST)

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Great Job Chief. I was the flight engineer with Al Malaccek on Acft 52-7883 the night we lost 15ft of our right wing do to AAA. Good to read some the comments about the old girl (AC-119K). Keep up the good work.

Al NASH <[slowflit@aol.com](mailto:slowflit@aol.com)>

Wiingboro, NJ USA - Sunday, February 07, 1999 at 16:11:16 (PST)

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Great job setting up this site. I was in the first K-model class in 69 & went to Nha Trang in Mar to fly the G-model with the reserve crews in the 71st. We were then transferred to Phan Rang where I completed this tour in Mar 70. I was an IO instructor & gave a lot of incountry check to the stinger crews when they came over in the fall of 69. Would enjoy hearing from anyone that was there during this time. As I recall, we lost two shadows during my year & they were both lost due to engine failure on takeoff. Keep up the good work.

Ray Meckstroth Smsgt Ret. <[wmimpact@alaska.com](mailto:wmimpact@alaska.com)>

Soldotna, AK USA - Friday, February 05, 1999 at 22:34:24 (PST)

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Great site!! I flew in a plane once & it made me appreciate those metal birds & the men who flew them. The only thing I see this site needing is more pictures of your kids. I understand that you have quite an attractive older son. Maybe you should show him to the world. other than that great site. Oh & I have a question you may be able to answer. Why do so many vietnamese families name their children Charlie?

Colonel Sanders <[Brudderb@aol.com](mailto:Brudderb@aol.com)>

OKC, OK USA - Thursday, February 04, 1999 at 13:59:41 (PST)

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I was given, & still have, the "Shadow" calling card. It starts with "what evil lurks beneath the jungle canopy - the Shadoe knows." They lit up my nights & saved my bacon. You guys deserve ALL the credit your given & then some. THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MAJ Dave Coy (USAR) <[DRCOY@notes.up.com](mailto:DRCOY@notes.up.com)>

Omaha, NE USA - Monday, February 01, 1999 at 12:08:47 (PST)

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Great job on the website. I was a gunner with the 18th SOS at NKP, DaNang & Bien Hoa in '72 & '73 when it ended. Prior to that I was at NKP with the 456th MMS loading A1 Skyraiders. Great to see some familiar names & I'm looking forward to seeing more....

Tom Novak <[tnova@ibm.net](mailto:tnova@ibm.net)>

georgetown, tx USA - Monday, February 01, 1999 at 09:57:06 (PST)

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Willing to hear from any members from 119 gunships 18th sos class w/LtCol McGuire PO Box 263 Mart, TX 76664 Donald L. Hampton

Mart, TX USA - Sunday, January 31, 1999 at 21:32:03 (PST)

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Didl say I'd like to "here" from Stingers? I blame anything to do with my hearing, including spelling the word, on the right recip. IO from Nov 71 to Nov 72. Thanks Fredfor telling me. Thanks Bill for your work. Bill Anderson - Andy - good to see your name. It all goes back to you - thanks. Another book to add to the list - "Gunship: Spectre of Death" by Henry Zeybel. Paperback only. Published by Pocket Books in 1987 & in England by Pan Books. Out of print,but found in most Used Paperback Exchange shops. Last book on the shelf. Listed as fiction but is actually autobiographical. Zeybel wasa warrior - Silver Star, 8DFCs, 19AMs, & he writes like one. Hilarious at times & terrifying. The language & terminology are familiar to all of us. Great read. Ballard's book is our bible. Sorry - no computer yet. Address: 5937 W State Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301. Phone 602-927-8134. Craig: Your Sundog FAC wrote a great letter in the January AFA Magazine about the mission.

Michael Friel

Glendale, AZ USA - Wednesday, January 27, 1999 at 15:22:07 (PST)

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Phone number 602-937-8134. Like to here from Stingers. Great finding the website.

Michael Friel

Glendale, AZ USA - Tuesday, January 26, 1999 at 16:14:44 (PST)

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I served in Viet Nam but my only contact with ac-119 crew member was after returning stateside at Dover AFB DEL. His name was Bill Miranda from Ky. I met him in 1970 & we became good friends. I lost all contact with him later after being discharged. I was on FAC O-2B.

[Gary Ganskow <ganskowgl@ih.navy.mil>](mailto:ganskowgl@ih.navy.mil)

Indian Head, MD USA - Monday, January 25, 1999 at 04:38:39 (PST)

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Bill, & all you other Brave Warriors!! I was an Army Nurse in Qui Nhon 69-70 & 70-71. Thank you all for what you did to keep your Brothers alive!! Your efforts saved Many!! God Bless each of you!! HUGS!! Diana

Diana <[RN.Nam.Vet@aol.com](mailto:RN.Nam.Vet@aol.com)>

Harrisburg, NC USA - Friday, January 22, 1999 at 03:33:52 (PST)

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Bill: I hope the pictures are useful. For so many years, I have kept my tour as a Stinger F.E. out of my mind. The thought of a reunion now sounds exciting. Although you have not mentioned it, it would be nice if people sending photos would send return postage. I know it adds up. Keep up the good work on the sight Bill. Thanks for all the hard work & effort. Ed (Pinky) Pinkham

Ed Pinkham <[epinkham@mail.doorcounty-wi.com](mailto:epinkham@mail.doorcounty-wi.com)>

Baileys Harbor, WI USA - Monday, January 18, 1999 at 18:59:13 (PST)

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Very nice site, Chief I Was in Viet Nam 1966, Didn't see a Box Car until I was at NKP in '69. A lot of what I read here I could apply to the Spooky Bird. Good job, Press on "Rosie"

[B L Grady, Msgt USAF Ret.](#)

Oak Leaf, TX USA - Sunday, January 17, 1999 at 19:18:36 (PST)

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Ron Ssmith <[rg\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:rg_smith@hotmail.com)>

Khon Kaen, Thailand - Friday, January 15, 1999 at 06:57:09 (PST)

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Fellow Stingers @ Shadows, Found a source & am presently in production with 18 SOS Stinger patches. Now I am looking for anyone that has a Shadow 17 SOS patch. Gonna try to have our units patches ready for the reunion that I'm sure we will have in the near future. Contact me by email & we will find a way to get it done.

Art Perry <[APerry9567@aol.com](mailto:APerry9567@aol.com)>

Daytona Beach, FL USA - Thursday, January 14, 1999 at 18:37:26 (PST)

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I am an x-gunner who just found your web page. I flew on shadow while in NAM. As a matter of fact in the book gunships there is a picture of a guy looking through the starlight scope, well that's me. I ran the gun shop for the guns themselves & flew at the same time. I also flew on AC-47 with the tail logo of EL. I hope to find more info as time goes on. Keep up the good work. Christopher Remek, x-gunner

Christopher Remek <[remekc@moody.af.mil](mailto:remekc@moody.af.mil)>

Lakeland, GA USA - Wednesday, January 13, 1999 at 09:43:28 (PST)

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I stumbled across this great site one night while looking for information about the DFC. My father was an AC-119G Flight Engineer who was awarded the DFC for a battle near Thanh Phu City in Kien Hoa Province on March 26, 1970. His name was Tsgt. Charles Ray Smolinske, the nick name on his Shadow cap was "Ske". I would love to hear from anyone who knew him or flew with him. He was killed as a pedestrian crossing the street shortly after returning from Vietnam. As a result I was never able to talk with him in any detail about his career. Bill & Frank thank you for all of your help, let me know if I can be of any help to you. As I told Bill thank you to all of you for your service to our country. I only wish I could have met more of you when you returned home as I did my father, dressed in my Cub Scout uniform & with a salute. Thank you.

Steve Smolinske <[ssmolinske@rainierrubber.com](mailto:ssmolinske@rainierrubber.com)>

Redmond, WA USA - Tuesday, January 12, 1999 at 21:36:23 (PST)

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Reference my earlier entry of Dec 24, 1998 at 15:59:36. This entry lists the CORRECT E-MAIL address for me. Sorry about that! Please don't let that stop you if you're trying to reach me. Hope to hear from others of past 18th

SOS fame. SMSgt Paul Beagley (Retired)  
Paul Beagley <[MGMIDGETMN@AOL.COM](mailto:MGMIDGETMN@AOL.COM)>  
Tacoma, Wa USA - Saturday, January 09, 1999 at 11:58:01 (PST)

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Great job guys. Steve Meleen gave me the URL. Finally found him again after a 20 lapse. I'm sure NKP will never be the same without the daring exploits of the Stingers there. Hope everyone is well & look forward to seeing you all again.

Bob Dydo <[bobdydo@compuserve.com](mailto:bobdydo@compuserve.com)>  
Potomac Falls, VA USA - Friday, January 08, 1999 at 19:05:06 (PST)

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Dear Chief, I just found out about your web page & it is just great. I have not had a chance to go over the entire thing, & I notice you are still building it. You should be congratulated beyond belief. I was in the original "K" squadron at Lockbourne. We went PCS to Vietnam as a squadron move in Nov., 1969. My particular element ended up at Phu Cat. I have plenty of stories if you are interested. When I returned to the world in Nov., 1970, I was reassigned to Lockbourne to the training squadron. I (we were) was only there about 9 months & we PCS'd to Hurlburt. We had quite a time! I am anxious to see the cartoons. I believe you probably have the originals that Jim Curran did back in '69. They were great. If you don't have them all, I could rummage through my junk & try to find them if you want. The element up at Danang also had nose art on their birds. As I recall, we did not do that at Phu Cat. My group later moved up to Udorn. Chief, keep up the good work, we really appreciate your efforts. If they start up E10, you should be the first. I was a Nav/Fire Control Officer. My Pilot was Bill Burris, Co pilot was Dave Koch. I think the Flir was Ron Oberender. I was flying the night Al Malacek's plane got about 15 feet of a wing shot off. His co was Gordie Boozer. Of course, they got the McKay trophy. I visit it everytime I go to DC to the aerospace museum. Most sincerely, Jim Shoemaker, Lt Col USAF (Ret) [jimgoofy@erols.com](mailto:jimgoofy@erols.com)  
[Jim Shoemaker, Lt Col Ret USAF <jimgoofy@erols.com>](mailto:jimgoofy@erols.com)  
Burlington, NJ USA - Thursday, January 07, 1999 at 14:49:23 (PST)

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Chief It was really great to see the site after all these years. I was on Lt/Col Chester E Rogers crew out of Udorn/NKP/Phu Cat, & Phang Rang, 69 & 70. I will be able to share this with my 2 sons who have often asked what I did in Viet Nam. Again thanks for stirring the memories. Cheap Charlie Chisler.  
Steven D. Chisler ( Cheap Charlie) <[chislars@eglin.af.mil](mailto:chislars@eglin.af.mil)>  
niceville, fl USA - Thursday, January 07, 1999 at 11:29:16 (PST)

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