

Happy New Year to all you Shadows & Stinger wherever dispersed! We are having another "party" at Fort Walton Beach in September 2001 to help make the year happy. Press your party suit & join us as members of the AC-119 Gunship Association.

Chuck James <cmirage@rmci.net>

Buhl, Id USA - Saturday, December 30, 2000 at 22:39:22 (CST)

Went to Clinton county,MTD school,then on to Lockbourne AFB.While there spent some time at St.Augustine,Fla.with Fairchild Hiller.Ferried the first Sqdn of Stingers to Phan Rang with Chief (Tex)Texiera.Went on to DaNang & had the Recovery shift,12mid-12noon.Finished the tour & went back to Lockbourne for a short period & then moved the Sqdn to Hurlburt fld.Stayed there until I retired in Sept 1972.Prior to the Stingers,I was with the 1st Air Commando's.Did a tour at Bien Hoa in 1963.Was flying on Gooney's as a Flt.Mech.With all that Special Operation experience,I enjoyed all of it,a great bunch of guys.Looking forward to the next reunion,missed the first one.Sound's like it was a blast.

Mariano Amper <m.amper@lycos.com>

Los Angeles, Ca USA - Thursday, December 28, 2000 at 14:22:41 (CST)

Just came across your site. I was a tech rep with Texas Instruments. Assisted with conversion at Fairchild-Hiller; went to Lockbourne for a brief stint; then deployed with first group to Phan Rang. Spent part of my tour at Phu Cat. Good to see some remember.

[Duane Sceper](mailto:dhs@thelegalway.com) <dhs@thelegalway.com>

San Diego, CA USA - Wednesday, December 27, 2000 at 23:16:18 (CST)

I just found this great site & also found some lost buddies. Does anyone know where Don Vallee or Larry Bock from DaNang maintenance 71-72 are? I am going to try to attend the next reunion. Joe I remember when the VNAF shot up the ramp. I was across the ramp in another revetment & didn't know what happened. Geoff Newman SMSgt Ret

Geoff Newman <new5fam@yahoo.com>

sacramento, ca USA - Tuesday, December 26, 2000 at 14:05:32 (CST)

Where do I start ?? I was a gunner on the K models out of NKP & DaNang - - also was the Instructor Gunner for the transfer crew (all 10 of us)who trained & turned over all of the K models to the VNAF - - anyone remember the 100 round burst in the revetment at DaNang by the VNAF traning crew?? Or watching the North Viet officials counting the last few american folks to leave - & we were still there??As I scrolled thru the message board I saw some names that were fimilar (I remember the face's - bad with names) Brent Hider @ Remo (Removich) roomies & fellow gunners where are yea?? I plan to be at the reunion in 2001 - Joe Goryl SMSGT (ret)

Joe Goryl <joefg@mindspring.com>

Charlotte, NC USA - Tuesday, December 26, 2000 at 10:31:47 (CST)

Where do I start ?? I was a gunner on the K models out of NKP & DaNang - - also was the Instructor Gunner for the transfer crew (all 10 of us)who trained & turned over all of the K models to the VNAF - - anyone remember the 100 round burst in the revetment at DaNang by the VNAF traning crew?? Or watching the North Viet officials counting the last few american folks to leave - & we were still there??As I scrolled thru the message board I saw some names that were fimilar (I remember the face's - bad with names) Brent Hider @ Remo (Removich) roomies & fellow gunners where are yea?? I plan to be at the reunion in 2001 - Joe Goryl SMSGT (ret)

Joe Goryl <joefg@mindspring.com>

Charlotte, NC USA - Tuesday, December 26, 2000 at 10:31:26 (CST)

Where do I start ?? I was a gunner on the K models out of NKP & DaNang - - also was the Instructor Gunner for the transfer crew (all 10 of us)who trained & turned over all of the K models to the VNAF - - anyone remember the 100 round burst in the revetment at DaNang by the VNAF traning crew?? Or watching the North Viet officials counting the last few american folks to leave - & we were still there??As I scrolled thru the message board I saw some names that were fimilar (I remember the face's - bad with names) Brent Hider @ Remo (Removich) roomies & fellow gunners where are yea?? I plan to be at the reunion in 2001 - Joe Goryl SMSGT (ret)

Joe Goryl <joefg@mindspring.com>

Charlotte, NC USA - Tuesday, December 26, 2000 at 10:30:03 (CST)

I flew as a gunner with Mike "von" Ryan's Express at the 18th SOS at Danang & NKP during 1970-71. I'm glad to find this web site & browsing through the site have found several buddies from that time. Am definitely going to make the reunion in 2001.

jerry snyder <cheerful02@hotmail.com>

mt sinai, ny USA - Saturday, December 23, 2000 at 12:53:11 (CST)

Excellent site, a real tribute to the Shadows & Stingers. I am researching them in preparation for a book devoted to their history. Would like to hear from anyone willing to provide information & photo material. Also seeking photo material depicting aircraft in SEA. All is copied, credited & returned. Books I've completed can be found at Schifferbooks.com & Amazon.com sites. Wayne Mutza

Wayne Mutza <waynewrite@miliserv.net>

Milwaukee, WI USA - Sunday, December 17, 2000 at 09:13:40 (CST)

Hey, I'm here after long years of searching for the 119 Gunship at Phan Rang & Lockbourne. We moved the ships...we sent 20 or so to Vietnam. I personally trained the Vietnamese AF men to use & maintain the beast. 1969-1970 Tell me more about the 14th or 18th SOS. I'll share with you some heart-warming stories of Vietnam. JFUGITT101@AOL.COM GO AIR FORCE

JOHN R FUGITT <JFUGITT101@AOL.COM>

UNIONTOWN, OH USA - Thursday, December 14, 2000 at 22:11:18 (CST)

I am looking for information anyone might be able to share about an AC-47 tail#45-1120-SPOOKY21- lost during a TIGER HOUND mission over Laos, Christmas Eve 1965. Her crew:

JEFFORDS/EILERS/THORTON/HASSENGER/CHRISTIANO/COLWELL Maydays were heard by several USAF Venus pilots C. BROWN & J. SPILLMAN. If you were stationed in DaNang in that timeframe, knew any of these men, or the Spooky crew, perhaps you were involved in the SAR efforts?....ANY information you might have or remember would be deeply appreciated! Please contact me @ 412-466-2142 E-mail: VIKKI5459@aol.com.

Thankyou! Respectfully, Victoria

Victoria Campbell <VIKKI5459@aol.com>

Dravosburg, Pa USA - Thursday, December 07, 2000 at 14:19:26 (CST)

Hi Gunship Crews; I had the good fortune to see you guy all over SEA. I've had a few toddies with some of you & I am sure at times a couple words. I worked in MMS in the small arms shop & I know from the 4 or 5 yrs that I was there that you hardly ever used any of our ammo. If you would have kept busy, maybe we could have worked 11 days a week instead of only 7. I still have pictures of the 119 at Bien Hoa that was torn all apart. I would like to get a picture of "Super Sow" & "Fly United". I am glad you guys had that job & not me. You did one hell of a job!!! Good luck on all your endeavors.

Robert Wilson <sallywas49878@yahoo.com>

Rapid River, mi USA - Wednesday, December 06, 2000 at 10:51:41 (CST)

Hello & thanks for this wonderful website. I didn't even know that such a website existed. The 119 was the very first aircraft that I worked on after tech school in the air force. There were about sixteen of us that were sent directly to Viet Nam from tech school to support the 119 Shadow Gunship program. Because the aircraft were delayed in arrival we were farmed out to other originations for a short time. We all came back to the program when the 119's arrived & were intergrated with the reserve unit from Ohio who served as our trainers for several months. I would like to hear from any of the active or reserve personnel who served with the original 71st or 17th SOS. in Nha Trang from Aug.1968 to May 1970. We did the conversions from cargo 119's to gunship 119's. We also did some hellasious parting out on the beach. I also remember the warm breakfast rolls brought back by the flight crews. Respectfully: Harold R. Buck Msgt. Ret USAF Tucson Az. 85730

Harold Buck <HRBuck2868@aol.com>

Tucson, Az USA - Sunday, December 03, 2000 at 02:23:55 (CST)

i worked in phase-dock maint.1970-71 phan-rang. we have a vietnam family reunion the third weekend in july. this will be the 12th annual. location for this is el dorado lake el dorado kansas

david w. evans <David.Evans@Wichita.BOEING.com>
wichita, ks USA - Monday, November 27, 2000 at 17:17:06 (CST)

Rod, I flew with you & Maj Golden at Phan Rang. Was a copilot at the time. I roomed with Craig French & was caretaker of the squadron mascot dog, Buckwheat. Just retired from active duty & am working in the Tidewater area for General Dynamics. Will be guest speaker at next year's reunion at Fort Walton Beach. Love to hear from you. Buck (Marty) Marr

Buck Marr (alias Marty Marr) <buck.marr@gd-es.com>
Chesapeake, VA USA - Monday, November 27, 2000 at 15:43:46 (CST)

This is a great site! I was an IO at Phan Rang Mar 70-71. Can't remember all the names unfortunately, but Maj Golden was AC I flew with, McGeehan was FE. Anyone else remember? Let me know, I'd love to hear from you. Zito, Voisey, Rodriguez, Kitt?

Rod Friese <rfriese49@hotmail.com>
Marietta, GA USA - Saturday, November 25, 2000 at 17:40:31 (CST)

i served phan-rang 1970-1971. worked in phase dock maint.

[david w. evans](mailto:david.w.evans) <[david w. evans](mailto:david.w.evans)>
wichita, ks USA - Wednesday, November 22, 2000 at 12:55:11 (CST)

I was glad to read that your reunion was a success. My dad, George Pollock, would have enjoyed it, I'm sure. I know he was there in spirit. Two things: First... Veterans Day has passed & I would like to take a second to tell all of you THANK YOU FOR MY FREEDOM! Second: Does anyone have any information on where I can find a print of the AC-119. I'd like to give it to my son for Christmas. I don't know if one even exists. Happy Holidays to all. Best Regards: Mary Pat Kline

Mary Pat Kline <mpk8652@aol.com>
Lexington, OH USA - Monday, November 20, 2000 at 11:14:36 (CST)

Just checking in. What a great site. Lots of memories here. Hi to all my gunship buddies. I served in the Fire Control Shop at Phan Rang. Never forget setting up the boresight boards out amongst the cobras. Of My 26 years in the USAF my time with the gunships was the most gratifying. I was there Dec 1969 thru Dec 1970.

Bob Kennedy <boise@rmci.net>
Boise, ID USA - Saturday, November 18, 2000 at 13:21:24 (CST)

IT WAS A WONDERFUL REUNION AND NOT ENOUGH THANKS IN THIS WORLD TO THE FOUR HORSEMEN THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE. SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!!

JERRY MICHAUD <JCLJM563@AOL.COM>
MARY ESTHER, FL USA - Thursday, November 16, 2000 at 23:45:22 (CST)

I was stationed at DaNang in '72, & enjoyed keeping the Stingers in the air to protect us each night. It was very rewarding to see & hear the machine guns blowing charlies ass away. I was in the 366 combat support group & stayed in Gunfighter village. I worked in the sheet metal shop, patching up the battle damaged birds. I am proud to have been there & would not trade it for anything. I would be interested in talking to any one about DaNang. Later.

John T. Cabe <kildump@peoplepc.com>
Camano Island, Wa USA - Wednesday, November 15, 2000 at 12:20:00 (CST)

I HAVE A CARBURETOR FOR A P51 MUSTANG WWII FIGHTER PLANE. THE ENGINE IS AN ALLISON V12. THIS CARB IS FOR SALE.

MIKE <DGTOURING@AOL.COM>
USA - Wednesday, November 08, 2000 at 16:56:03 (CST)

Had a great time at the reunion, & I'm looking to meet up with some old friends..Please reply . Hi my name is Diane Tracy & I'm trying to find out some information for my Dad, Master Sargent Don Foster, he is looking to hook up with some old friends please reply...Thanks for any help.

Don Foster <Diroadrunner@aol.com>
Woodworth, la USA - Tuesday, October 31, 2000 at 01:27:58 (CST)

Great job brothers on the reunion, looking forward to next year. After 29 years Brother Bill, Brother Art & oh yes Brother Dutch, you have not changed that much. It was so great to see you all. Brothers Forever. jimi

Jimmy Grant <jamnjjimi@bellsouth.net>

Oakwood, GA. USA - Monday, October 30, 2000 at 01:41:48 (CST)

I'd like to add my thanks to Fred,Bill,Jim & everyone involved in getting the reunion together. It was amazing. It was great to finally get together with old friends from both the 17SOS & our sister squadron. I was At Phan Rang, Phu Cat, & Than Son Nhut between Apr70-apr71. My crew also spent a week or so pulling alert at Danang over New Years eve. I'll try to do my part & spread the word to several other squadron members that I can contact.

Take care. Don Craig

Don Craig <Nitel10plt@aol.com>

Mt Holly, NJ USA - Tuesday, October 24, 2000 at 13:52:54 (CDT)

I am a retired Canadian Air Force pilot. My hobby is Stained Glass & my Three Dimensional Stained Glass Aircraft may be of interest to your guests. If anyone wishes to view my work, please visit me at <http://members.home.net/stellarimages>

[Rudy Preus](mailto:Rudy.Preus@home.com) <stellarimages@home.com>

Comox, BC Canada - Thursday, October 19, 2000 at 10:57:13 (CDT)

I AM 36 MALE FROM PAKISTAN KARACHI LOOKING FOR A SERIOUS GIRLFRIEND! PLEASE TEEL ME ABOUT YOU AND YOUR INTERESTS IN CONFIDENCE ON MY EMAIL: jehanzeb.piac.com.pk .I AM WORKING WITH PIA AS A HARDWARE ENGR.

JEHANZEB <jehanzeb@piac.com.pk>

karachi, sindh pakistan - Thursday, October 19, 2000 at 02:42:44 (CDT)

Gunner Spooky Shadow UH-1 AU-23 AU-24 Phan Rhan & Saigon Down Town & on Base. Great web site just now found it. Thanks to everybody that set this thing up. All you gunners that i work with give me a hollar. Bobby Dixon

Bobby J. Dixon Sr. <roster_bob@hotmail.com>

Chatsworth, GA USA - Sunday, October 15, 2000 at 14:10:28 (CDT)

Just got the address from Jim Bond today & had a great visit with him & Bonnie. Will try & keep in touch a little better. I was a member of the 71st SOS Reserve Sqd on the AC119G & stationed at Phan Rang AB, Viet Nam. Jackie D. Hodson, Msg Retired <Hodsonfam@aol.com>

Noblesville, In USA - Thursday, October 12, 2000 at 20:31:04 (CDT)

Just surfed in...GREAT site!!!! Was a Radio Operator on ec-47's at Tan Son Nhut in 70-71. Love those Goons. EC-47 Association just had their 2ndreunion in San Antonio last month. 2002 in Dayton Ohio at the AF museum.

[CHARLIE MILLSAP](mailto:CHARLIE.MILLSAP@NONE) <[NONE](mailto:CHARLIE.MILLSAP@NONE)>

Temple , tx USA - Thursday, October 12, 2000 at 10:28:35 (CDT)

Just surfed in...GREAT site!!!! Was a Radio Operator on ec-47's at Tan Son Nhut in 70-71. Love those Goons. EC-47 Association just had their 2ndreunion in San Antonio last month. 2002 in Dayton Ohio at the AF museum.

[CHARLIE MILLSAP](mailto:CHARLIE.MILLSAP@NONE) <[NONE](mailto:CHARLIE.MILLSAP@NONE)>

Temple , tx USA - Thursday, October 12, 2000 at 10:27:25 (CDT)

Great reunion! Thanks to Fred & Bill for all the super planning. It was an emotional weekend...lots of laughs & lots of tears. I just relocated from Hawaii, & really glad that I could make it to FL. I'm still in the hunt for a couple good buds, Bob Bokern & Earl Farney. Anybody got a clue? Look forward to the next one in 2001.

Jose Cachuela <jcachuela@hotmail.com>

San Diego, CA USA - Wednesday, October 11, 2000 at 01:45:17 (CDT)

It sure would be nice to have the cartoon books published & bound. I have one from '71, but it's incomplete, & it's only Caruso's cartoons. I noticed at the reunion a lot of newer ones. Just a thought

Bob Frederick <fredunltd@aol.com,frederickunltd@yahoo.com>

USA - Friday, October 06, 2000 at 14:15:02 (CDT)

Guess it was even worse than I thought. Either that or I'm just totally inept at computerization. To continue the thought I was scribbling before, I mistakenly wrote "Don" when giving credit to the 4 horsemen who were so instrumental in putting on our shindig. I should have said "Norm". My apologies, Norm

Bob Frederick

USA - Friday, October 06, 2000 at 13:49:59 (CDT)

AND THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!!! I want to thank Bill And Fred for originating the idea of having the AC-119 reunion. Bill did a fantastic job on the web site & Fred & his friends did an outstanding job tracking down people not on the internet. When Bill & Fred asked for volunteers in the Ft Walton Beach area to help with the reunion, I figured maybe 100 people might show up. Little did I know the tremendous response we would get thanks to Bill & Fred's efforts. Bill flew to Ft Walton many months ago at his own expense to meet with me & go over plans for the reunion. After meeting with him, I knew we were in good hands for getting the reunion off the ground. As time for the reunion drew nearer, things locally got fairly hectic. That's is when Norm Evans volunteered to help-& what a great help he was. We couldn't have done it without him. Thanks a bunch Norm!!!! Seeing the great turnout for this first ever AC-119 reunion made all the hard work worthwhile. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!!

Jim Bennes <jbennes@bsc.net>

Valparaiso, FI USA - Friday, October 06, 2000 at 10:26:05 (CDT)

Bill, what can I say you did good, & your write about the first ever on the web page is great. I am proud to call you friend & also a fellow Brother in the AC-119 Gunship Brotherhood, You get a great big Sierra Hotel India Tango - Hotel Oscar Tango. Your Numba one Buddy. For those of you who filled out the page with your email address, on it & you Haven't recieved a message from list bot, PLEASE send me your email, some of them I could'nt make out for sure. And to General Robertson ,Your Number ONE in my book, thanks for your sharing with us. I still wish I had a camera so I could prove to everyone I had a General Salute me. I salute you with Pride to have served with such a fine & honorable member of the Gunships. Thank you "Tony" I still feel funny calling a General Tony. God Bless you & your Family. And to Jim Bennes , Norm Evans , what can I say you guy's are numba One also. We made it work & it was fantastic. We could'nt have done it without your fantastic work. You'll never be forgotten, & I hope to see you help on our next big shindig. To all my friends in the Gunships, boy was it ever nice to see you again, I still choke up thinking ao you all. I only hope & pray I can be around for the next one. God Bless you all. Lets get out & find those that didn't make the first. And you Maintenace troops are the best the Air Force ever had, I Give you all a standing ovation. help us to find the rest of the best Maintenace people who ever served in the AF. See you all next year same time same place. Farkle

Fred Graves (farkle) <farkle@micron.net>

Mnt.Home , Id. USA - Thursday, October 05, 2000 at 16:47:29 (CDT)

OK, maybe it WAS more than a Catll front. I apparently destroyed some more gray cells or short-circuited a few synapses. I wrote

Bob Frederick <fredunltd@aol.com>

USA - Wednesday, October 04, 2000 at 19:05:47 (CDT)

Hats off to the people who put it all together!!! Great to see all the old faces, it brings back a lot memories. still remember watching the gunships taking AAA over the trail from the hootch at NKP. What a blast!! will be at next one if not six feet under. Al Reynolds you missed a good one!! Hope to see everyone again next year,

Milo G. Yowell <stinger21golf@webtv.net>

USA - Wednesday, October 04, 2000 at 09:49:20 (CDT)

What a great job by Jim, Fred, Bill & the many others that made this possable. I was really impressed with the professional crew members on the static display aircraft. The memorial service was well thought out, but very emotional, especially when I saw my AC's name on the FAC wall that was dedicated the week before. I am looking foward to the next reunion. This reunion allowed me to talk about thinks that have been tied up inside me for all these years. I feel relieved. Thanks to all. Ed Pinkham

Ed Pinkham <epinkham@mail.doorcounty-wi.com>

Sturgeon Bay, WI USA - Wednesday, October 04, 2000 at 08:31:25 (CDT)

A great Reunion! Kudos to Bill, Jim, Farkle, et al, & the wives who put up with all of us recounting our War Stories! A Grand Time was had by Shadows & Stingers alike! Look forward to many more like it. Great seeing everyone. Glad to see the Maintenance team represented too! I need to go to Hong Kong for a new Party Suit! (been a long time since I was a Lt. in the 17 SOS in TSN! Until next time.

Marty Noonan <B777pilot@flashcom.net>

Long Beach, CA USA - Wednesday, October 04, 2000 at 01:24:10 (CDT)

What a great reunion! Although I could not find any of my crewmates in attendance, I thoroughly enjoyed myself in Ft. Walton Beach. The Four Points was very nice & all the functions were very well planned & executed. Thanks to Bill, Fred, Jim & Norm & everyone who made this event a great success. I am proud to be a member of this group. Bruce Abbott

Bruce Abbott <abbottracing@worldnet.att.net>

Parker, Co USA - Tuesday, October 03, 2000 at 23:20:57 (CDT)

A once in a life time event has come & past. Meeting old friends & making new was a great pleasure. Many thanks to all who made this a geart event. See you all next year. Thanks!

Neil Taylor <neilat@earthlink.net>

Ft Worth, TX USA - Tuesday, October 03, 2000 at 22:19:46 (CDT)

WELL THATS ONE IN THE BAG HAD A GREAT TIME AM LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR ALREADY
DID ANY SEE IF THE FLAG POLE WAS STILL UP ON EGLIN MAIN? CMSGT RET> SHADOW GUNNER
1970-71

JOHN W.MORROW

USA - Tuesday, October 03, 2000 at 21:06:33 (CDT)

To all that worked so hard at making this, the first ever AC-119 gunship reunion such a great success. I really enjoyed myself. It was great meeting old friends again as well as making new ones. I will do my best to be at reunion number two. I hope that by next years reunion we will have grown more & we will see some new faces. To all that made this event possible, I salute you. Thanks again. If anyone has the opportunity to thank the men & women from Hurlburt that took time away between deployments to set support the Memorial Service & tours up for us I would surely appreciate it. I know how busy todays Air Force stays & I appreciate them giving up more time away from their families to make us welcome. All in all a great event. My thanks again. Craig

Craig Corbett <rccorbett@drc.com>

Burke, VA USA - Tuesday, October 03, 2000 at 11:25:01 (CDT)

Job well done to all those who helped set up the reunion. It was fantastic. It was great to see all the guys after so many years. Pat McGillis, what happened to you Sunday? Hope to see everyone next year.

Ken Wilson <boxcar@schoolink.net>

Roanoke Rapids, NC USA - Monday, October 02, 2000 at 21:08:06 (CDT)

TWO!!!

Howard Reid <hsreid@earthlink.net>

Gresham, OR USA - Monday, October 02, 2000 at 18:51:39 (CDT)

WHAT A PARTY!!!! And no casualties, despite a slow moving beer front that passed through Ft. Walton Beach over the weekend. It was only a category 2 front, although in certain localities (like around OLLIE & STANLEY) it developed into a category 5 storm. Never before have so few told so much so erroneously! GOOD SHOW, & heartfelt thanks to Chief Bill, "Farkle", Jim, & Don for all the months of hard work. Looking forward to next year, "de Debil"

Bob Frederick <fredunltd@aol.com,frederickunltd@yahoo.com>

USA - Sunday, October 01, 2000 at 19:11:18 (CDT)

Hi all, sorry I couldn't make this reunion. Had already made plans for ACA & Spectre reunions & visit relatives in Tampa this year. Like to let everyone know about a new AMPUTEE HOCKEY ASSOC. AAHA, AMERICAN AMPUTEE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION. (www.amputeehockey.org). If you or you know of anyone who would be interested in joining a national Amputee team please visit the web site & learn about a recent trip to St Petersburg Russia last winter & an October training camp at Lake Placid Olympic Training Center. Bob McGarry, AC47Spooky & AC119 Shadow Gunner
[Bob McGarry <spooky1969@aol.com>](mailto:spooky1969@aol.com)

Canton, Ma USA - Friday, September 29, 2000 at 22:02:00 (CDT)

Yes, it is me again! I am sorry that I missed the reunion. I wanted to see my old gunner friends again. To those old gunners that Emailed me over the past month-yes I am still in the service. I am currently in the IRR (put out to pasture). I served in Operation Joint Endeavour in Bosnia in 1995 & 1996 serving in the UN HQ in Zagreb Croatia as a Civil-Military Communications Officer.

Thomas Honzik <thomman2000@yahoo.com>

Il USA - Friday, September 29, 2000 at 09:23:20 (CDT)

I am happy to be in contact with a large group of people with a common interest. I am retired 1969 from Lockborne AFB. I was in quality control AC maintenance under Major John D. Ritnour. I helped to test the AC 119 at Eglin AFB. I helped to write the technical books (Flight hand book & maintenance hand books) at St. Augustine FL. 1968. Enjoyed reading your comments. Found out about this web-site from Rick Cassel. Sep. 28, 2000. He was on the way to a reunion at Eglin AFB. I served in Vietnam Oct. 64-65 Tom-Son-Hut in the C-123 program AC maintenance. Web-site is great!

SMS DEYERLE R.LONGLEY USAF RET <mclon@carol.net>

Greenville, sc USA - Thursday, September 28, 2000 at 19:23:59 (CDT)

To all gunship personnel, just a quick note to say " Job WEll Done!" SSGT Paul L. Olmstead F.E. (1938- 1985)
Glen Olmstead <glen_olmstead@hotmail.com>

marietta, ga USA - Thursday, September 28, 2000 at 12:05:42 (CDT)

Looking for any & all sites about the 456th Troop Carrier Wing, 744th, 745th & 746th Troop carrier Squadron from 1952 until 1956. Also the Drag-Net Operation of the mid 50's. I have found very little about this mission. Thanks In Advance. The Flyin Blue Nose of the 746th Troop Carrier. Squadron

Curtis M. Chambers <ccham52086@aol.com>

Atlanta, ga USA - Wednesday, September 27, 2000 at 21:10:52 (CDT)

Sorry I can't make the reunion but I would like to wish you all a good time. Tried to get off but just couldn't! Enjoy! Will be at the next reunion if I have to quit!

Ed Metz <egmetz@dp.net>

Belle Vernon, Pa USA - Wednesday, September 27, 2000 at 20:42:04 (CDT)

I was one of Col Brosnans Air Force Tech Advisors (Personnel) & the Manager of the Officers Club at Clinton Co. AFB in Wilmington Oh before you moved to Lockbourne. I was looking for the e-mail address of the now Rickenbacker ANGB Lodge to make reservations for my Daughter in Law to stay while she is in Columbus on business. My son Don is now retired AF & went to school in wilmingon before we moved to Texas.

Stanley E. Tomerlin <tomerlin@on2k.net>

East Tawakoni, Tx USA - Monday, September 25, 2000 at 21:14:50 (CDT)

Nav - 2/71 to 2/72. One of the last of the Shadows. Sat with Bernie at the terminal after he missed his freedom bird. Inherited things in Schofield room when he left-

Al Breaud <albreaud@airmail.net>

Highland Village, tx USA - Monday, September 25, 2000 at 12:28:40 (CDT)

Have a great time at the reunion. I know Dad (George Pollock) will be there in spirit. I'm proud to be the daughter of the Shadows! God Bless.

Mary Pat Kline <mpk8652@aol.com>

Lexington, OH USA - Sunday, September 24, 2000 at 12:18:25 (CDT)

I was looking at the Spangdahelm AB web page & I believe that the 22 Fighter Sq. now uses the name STINGERS. Thought you folks would be interested. I so enjoyed NKP 70 to 71. Sorry I am going to miss the reunion but the rest of you historical hero's party on. A gun plumber.

Alan Westin, MSGT Ret <alan.westin@labind.state.vt.us sgrhollow@aol.com>

Pittsford, VT USA - Friday, September 22, 2000 at 10:30:02 (CDT)

Thanks Chief & Lead Crew for making this possible, a special thanks also to my crew for calling me up & letting me know about this wonderful place. They always took care of me. I was also a member of the original Stinger group in training although I was delayed in shipping out due to family illness. Always playing catch up. Just read Fred's message about the first 1000 trucks - Fred was out of town that night so, being so proud of that milestone, I included the Air Force CS in the address line of that BDA report. I retired in 1974; Charles Nelsen (also a Stinger - first group) & I went into business together. We expected to find other "Stingers" in the real world; we did not - talking about two chickens waiting to be plucked or two sheeps waiting to be sheared - we were it! You are what we always measured others by - will never forget you & the bond of trust that we share.

John Hodgson <JND4609@aol.com>

Abinene, Tx USA - Wednesday, September 20, 2000 at 15:51:37 (CDT)

Good site. I was an engine Mech at Nha Trang. Went to Viet in 1968 (dec) because I had 119 experience in the Marines. I was a ssgt usaf. left for home dec 69. Had some good times working on the shadow & spooky's.

Glenn Albert <yellowracer31@aol.com>

Spokane, Wa USA - Wednesday, September 20, 2000 at 12:51:25 (CDT)

You have done a great job ,Chief Petrie, on this site for the gunship program that for years seems to have been forgotten & what it had accomplished. On my part you have my thanks for the many memories of "The Shadow" & the friendships that will never be forgotten. I was with the original 71st that was called to active duty for the AC-119G Gunship program. The only sorrow I have is that there no mention of the 71st SOG or the Reservist in any of the reunion messages, the patches, or the sites that I have viewed & I think we deserve some recognition for the time we served And the combat duty we performed. I live in Spencer, IN. with my wife Iris & we would love to hear from you Shadowy people. Robert L "Bat" Masterson (LtCol) USAFR Ret Spencer IN USA 19 September 2000

[Robert L Masterson](mailto:ibmasterson@hotmail.com) <ibmasterson@hotmail.com>

Spencer, IN USA - Wednesday, September 20, 2000 at 11:08:55 (CDT)

This is an update of my old e-mail, naheartbeat@juno.com, which I no longer use. Thanks

Ken Locke <spooky41@juno.com>

Augusta, KS USA - Tuesday, September 19, 2000 at 04:35:46 (CDT)

you guys have a great site keep up the awesome work, gunships saved alot of lives in vietnam. sat-cong:)

"killroy" <local100@ona.org>

belmont, ont canada - Saturday, September 16, 2000 at 20:29:00 (CDT)

Just received a call from my Brother-in-Law who has a friend working on an aircraft for the Reno Air Races & they need some expertise on their WASP 4360 engine. Any old recip guys out there that know how to get one purring please contact me. Thanks, Craig

Craig Corbett <rccorbett@drc.com>

Arlington, VA USA - Tuesday, September 12, 2000 at 07:55:43 (CDT)

i served in the MAC transit squadrons at both danang & tan son nhut in 1972. during that time a friend of mine (not known to me yet) was assigned as a 119 driver in danang. we lived across the street from each other in gunfighter but never met till we both ended up at travis in mid 70's. i love this site & will be passing this site info on to him. his name is john (chip)glass...if you knew him, please let me know...thanks & keep up the great site...

jim gilmore <californiakahuna@yahoo.com>

vallejo, ca USA - Tuesday, September 12, 2000 at 03:07:35 (CDT)

Hi fellow Gunship Troops! What a find! I served with the 18th SOS at NKP & DaNang during 1971 (Jan-Jan) I recognize only two names is the guest book . . . Pat McGillis (room mate) & Richard Iverson. I flew 104 mission &

was grounded & served at DaNang for the last two months as the scheduling officer under a fine commander, Col. McGuire. My friend from several bases, Bob Bloomfield, lives in Yuba City, & I retired from Beale at Lake Wildwood, CA. This site is well done! Congratulations! I'd like to hear from old friends. By Maynard
(NOS,NAV,FLIR)

Byron D. Maynard (LT COL, Ret) <maynardb@cwo.com>

Penn Valley, California USA - Saturday, September 09, 2000 at 12:48:23 (CDT)

Hi fellow Gunship Troops! What a find! I served with the 18th SOS at NKP & DaNang during 1971 (Jan-Jan) I recognize only two names is the guest book . . . Pat McGillis (room mate) & Richard Iverson. I flew 104 mission & was grounded & served at DaNang for the last two months as the scheduling officer under a fine commander, Col. McGuire. My friend from several bases, Bob Bloomfield, lives in Yuba City, & I retired from Beale at Lake Wildwood, CA. This site is well done! Congratulations! I'd like to hear from old friends. By Maynard
(NOS,NAV,FLIR)

Byron D. Maynard (LT COL, Ret) <maynardb@cwo.com>

Penn Valley, California USA - Saturday, September 09, 2000 at 12:46:49 (CDT)

Bill, thanks for this beautiful site & all your hard work. Thanks for keeping this alive & remembering. Until they ALL come home...Marie

[Marie Johnson](mailto:M8J27@aol.com) <M8J27@aol.com>

Montgomery, Al. USA - Saturday, September 09, 2000 at 09:32:33 (CDT)

I wasn't with Shadow long, I went to the 20th SOS after six months. I reside in the UK now because of the peace & tranquility. I'd love to hear from the Shadow guys & Huey guys from 1970.

David Galvan <davidgalvan@callnetuk.com>

Wickham Market, Suffolk UK - Thursday, September 07, 2000 at 06:44:30 (CDT)

Greetings to all former "SHADOWS". This is a request for information. Sometime after the Shadows started operating in Vietnam, someone designed & printed the Shadow Calling Card. The identify of that member of the 71st & probably later the 17th does not appear in any of the information that I have. If anyone can provide any clues about the identity please send me a message via E-Mail: Any help will be appreciated.

HERMAN A. (AL) HEUSS <DOUBLEHAH@JUNO.COM>

UNION CITY, IN USA - Wednesday, September 06, 2000 at 23:35:44 (CDT)

I was one of two original gun plumbers sent to Saigon from NhaTrang mini gun shop. I worked for the Guard from Indiana & later the regulars who took their place. Got to fly a few missions, because the feed system on the pods jammed alot. Maybe someone will remember me. July 1968 to July 1969

Ron Wood <ronxwood@yahoo.com>

Atlanta, Ga USA - Wednesday, September 06, 2000 at 04:00:16 (CDT)

I was one of two original gun plumbers sent to Saigon from NhaTrang mini gun shop. I worked for the Guard from Indiana & later the regulars who took their place. Got to fly a few missions, because the feed system on the pods jammed alot. Maybe someone will remember me.

Ron Wood <ronxwood@yahoo.com>

Atlanta, Ga USA - Wednesday, September 06, 2000 at 03:58:28 (CDT)

Hey gang! Just finished watching TV the History Channal, with Mike Wallace doing a thing on Viet Name. Doing the show they showed a AC119-Gunship. I could not get a good view of the gunner that was loading the 20. Just wanted to tell you about it.

Ronald Faison <ronaldf2@prodigy.net>

Vacavill, Ca USA - Friday, September 01, 2000 at 17:13:01 (CDT)

Just found this web site, glad to see it, I was the Stinger controller on nights at Da Nang, 71 to 72.

Harry R. Shank <4memaw@gte.net>

Kyle , TX USA - Friday, September 01, 2000 at 11:58:22 (CDT)

Hey! Hey! Hey!, I finely got here. Hi to all.

Ronald Faison <ronaldf2@prodgigy.net>

Vacaville, Ca USA - Wednesday, August 30, 2000 at 16:57:16 (CDT)

Most appreciative to you Chief for this web site. Once a person gets a 119 under the skin it is a fever that stays with you forever. It sure has with me. At every chance I would look for anything on the 119. Always it ended up with only a few pictures here & there, & once in awhile a short paragraph or two. In any case, I joined the 71st SOS at Nha Trang, Apr. 69. I originally arrived in country to go to an FOL to work on O-1 & O-2 acft. While in-processing this Big CMSgt. came in & pulled me out, sat down with me & offered me the job of OJT training instructor for the 119 SQ. (71st. SOS). My guess is that he had CBPO on the look-out for someone with my experience (training experience as an instructor at Sheppard for 3 years). So I immediately had all OJT related tasks, worked in the phase dock, worked with the reserves to get them ready to send them back home, & prep for the move to Phan Rang. Once in Phan Rang we became the 17th. SOS. At PR I took on the additional job of Phase Dock Coordinator as well as my own area of the acft to pull a phase on. We had a great bunch of people to work with. At Nha Trang I worked with a SSgt. Guy from the reserves in (Ohio?). In Phan Rang the work day was equally hard. Then in the evening we would have a steak at the NCO Club followed by a dozen or so gathering in the bar around a table along with one or more of the tech reps & many beers later -----! On another subject, since I have the 119 under my skin, I am looking for a tech order that has the 119 specs/dimensions so I can build an RC model of the unforgettable bird. I once had that data but seem to have mislaid it. If anyone has plans already drawn up, I sure would like to see about obtaining a set for myself. So far it seems I will be able to attend. Hoping to see some long ago friends.

Harlan P. Muth, USAF E-8 (Ret) <happyrockharlan@home.com>

Marion, IA USA - Monday, August 28, 2000 at 20:50:18 (CDT)

Thank God! Shadow lives. For years I have looked in bookstores & air shows trying to find something, anything on Shadow. It's almost as if we never existed. Now we are alive & well. Spent my tour as a co-pilot, AC than IP from Jan 70 to Nov 70. Finished up at Phu Cat. Hope to see everyone at the reunion in a few weeks.

Carmine Strolla <cstrolla@att.com>

Lake Worth, FL USA - Monday, August 28, 2000 at 13:55:23 (CDT)

Hello everyone! Just found this website. I thought the world had forgotten about us. Well , maybe most of them did but it appears that we havn't forgotten about each other. This is Ernie Grimes & I was in the 71st/17th from Feb 69 thru Feb 70. I was at Nha Trang until May then transferred to " C-Flt" TSN for the duration. I was the life support guy that took care of the parachutes & flight equipment for the aircrews there. I have carried throughout my life fond memories of our times there & consider myself blessed to have served with men of such good character. (& some of them were characters too ha ha) I would be overjoyed to hear from any of you who remember me. Will make every effort to get to the reunion . BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU, Sgt. Ernie Grimes egrimes@greenepa.net--- 724-627-8332 ---Ernest R. Grimes 123 Craynes Run Road Waynesburg, Pa. 15370 Ernest R. Grimes <egrimes@greenepa.net>

Waynesburg, Pa. USA - Monday, August 28, 2000 at 09:48:45 (CDT)

I was part of the original cadre that trained a Clinton Co. then Lockbourne. Original AC was LTCOL. Brown. Went to Viet Nam with LTCOL. Richard Knie. Would love to hear from any of the old gang that "roughed it" at Howard Johnson's in Columbus & made the Coachmen Lounge their unofficial Officer's club. My E-mail address is FEMMA1028@AOL.COM & my phone number is (702) 293-0403. Chief you're performing a great service for us aged warriors. Thanks a million!! Frank Emma Col. USAF(RET.)

Frank Emma <FEMMA1028@AOL.COM>

Boulder City, NV USA - Tuesday, August 22, 2000 at 21:05:10 (CDT)

Stationed at Nakhom Phanom AB, Thailand, 72-73. It was great in the evening knowing you guys were using the mess hall to set up your sights on the Stingers weapons system. You guys did a great job over there & we ground pounders & admin types respected & appreciated everything you did for us in the air. I am honored every time I see the red stinger (tracers)coming down from the sky. Only a few of us will really know what it was like after all these years but God Bless to all. Great web sight.

Bill Faulkner <WFaulk2@aol.com>

Highland, CA USA - Tuesday, August 22, 2000 at 17:31:23 (CDT)

Great web site. Spent 70-71 at Danang with 18th SoS maintenance. Worked with a great bunch of guys, sure wish I could remember more of their names. Would enjoy hearing from a bullshit Texan named Jim Benton & CMSGT Sargent. There was a pair of brothers from Indiana (I think) really were hard workers. In fact, Everyone of the guys worked there butts off for me.

MSGT[ret] Don Swanson <DonLee457@aol.com>

sacramento, ca USA - Saturday, August 19, 2000 at 15:52:18 (CDT)

If anyone has Glen Olmstead's new email address, would appreciate it if you would forward it to me. Sure is great to see this website flourish! Regards, Al

Al Reynolds <shadow47ag@aol.com>

USA - Friday, August 18, 2000 at 16:56:18 (CDT)

TO ALL THE 18TH SOS GANG, JUST SENT OFF ANOTHER ORDER FOR 100 MORE STINGER PATCHES. THEY WILL BE IN IN ABOUT 3 WEEKS. IN TIME FOR THE REUNION. I WILL BRING SOME TO THE REUNION FOR THOSE THAT MIGHT LIKE ANOTHER PATCH OR TWO. WE HAVE GONE THRU ALMOST 175 SO FAR. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND SEE EVERYONE AT THE REUNION.

art perry <aperry9567@aol.com>

ormond beach, fl USA - Wednesday, August 16, 2000 at 14:01:35 (CDT)

I was proud to be a Stinger from old Dang-Dang! I served in the 18th SOS from April 1972 through February 1973. I was an Airborne Weapons Mech. At least we did not lose the PDJ!

Tom Honzik <thomman2000@yahoo.com>

il USA - Tuesday, August 15, 2000 at 16:41:27 (CDT)

I WAS A IO WITH 18TH SOS AT DANANG AND NKP IN 71 & 72. IT GOOD HEARING FROM THE GUYS IN THE OLD OUTFIT. I WILL SEE YOU AT THE REUNION THIS YEAR. I FLEW WITH BUZZY MATHEWS, HAS ANYONE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIM. I'M HAPPY TO SEE THIS PAGE IT BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES. TILL THE NEXT TIME EVERYONE STAY SAFE.

JERRY HESTER <hester@access1.net>

SAN ANTONIO, TX USA - Sunday, August 13, 2000 at 22:32:28 (CDT)

What a great site. Back in 55-57 I was a 43171W Flight Engineer/Mechanic on C119G's stationed with the 483rd TCW/815th TCS "Flying Jennies", Ashiya, Japan. Flying Troops & Cargo with an occasional "Feather" on Take-off wasn't fun but what you guys done with the C-119 Gunships, I salute all of you. I learned that the two C-119G's that I flew on, Tail numbers 52-5927 & 53-3161 ended up at Tan Son Nhut. I had approx 400 Hrs on 927 & 800 Hrs on 161. My memories are still with these two great 119's. Help! If anyone flew on one of these birds, has photos in Shadow dress or what happened to them or any information, I would really be grateful if you would contact me. Thankyou. Ed Rachanski, E-Mail PUMA1625@Aol.com

Ed Rachanski <Puma1625@Aol.Com>

Hickory Hills, Ill USA - Sunday, August 13, 2000 at 01:44:34 (CDT)

Good to see the gunship legacy kept alive. Spent a tour in AC 130s as an IR

Bob Liberty <irghost@tampabay.rr.com>

USA - Saturday, August 12, 2000 at 17:44:44 (CDT)

I JUST WANTED TO LET THE GUYS FROM THE 18TH SOS(69-70)"STINGER" KNOW THAT IT WAS NICE TO SEE THE GUNSHIP'S WEB PAGE AND I WOULD ENJOY HEARING FROM ANY OF YOU. I AM TRYING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE THE REUNION, IT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT TIME. I THINK YOU HAVE ALL DONE A WONDERFUL JOB ON THIS WEB SITE, IT IS GREAT!

Mike Nobach <nobachm@voyager.net>

St. Johns, MI USA - Thursday, August 10, 2000 at 07:38:16 (CDT)

Just thought I would let everyone know that there is an EXCELLENT Vietnam memorial/museum at Angel Fire, New Mexico. Its free & well worth the time & trouble to go. Bert

Bert Blanton <blantonb@poncacity.net>

Ponca City, OK USA - Tuesday, August 08, 2000 at 21:46:38 (CDT)

I was a gunner 1971-1972. It was nice to find this site & see some names that I flew with No time off this year to make to the reunion but I will save one week for 2001.

Donald E. Conner <donec@earthlink.net>

Las Vegas, NV USA - Monday, August 07, 2000 at 19:06:29 (CDT)

For Paul Olmstead: You changed your email address! And, I lost the new one. Give me a ring back with the new address.

Al Reynolds <shadow47ag@aol.com>

Las Vegas, NV USA - Monday, August 07, 2000 at 17:31:51 (CDT)

Great site, it brings back many memories. Flew G's at TSN, channel 102, 12/69-11/70. Would love to make the reunion if I can get my "sierra" together!

Dennis Davis <lddglf4@aol.com>

San Antonio, TX USA - Monday, August 07, 2000 at 16:57:29 (CDT)

Glad to see good use from the old birds. I was in St. Augustine, FL working for Fairchild when they flew them in from the boneyard. I & my team wrote the manuals & TCTO's for the project, watched the restoration, modifications & flight tests. It was a great project!! Then off they went. Wonder how many survived & if some returned home.

Jim Warren <warpogo@aol.com>

Denver, CO USA - Monday, August 07, 2000 at 16:36:58 (CDT)

Nice to see the names of old friends! Just found this site this evening. Anyone have any poop on Col. McGuire? Hope he is well. I plan to contact Tom "sumdunce" Weisenfluh & Ron Dorazio this week to let them know of the reunion. I believe I have entire collection of cartoons by Caruso, if any one would like copies. I may even have Currans collection.

EUGENE "BOTCH" CARUSO <karencaruso@earthlink.net>

PITTSBURGH, PA USA - Sunday, August 06, 2000 at 17:13:19 (CDT)

NKP-70&71 56th FMS 'CAN DO WILL DO' Eng. Mac's know 3350's

Keith A. Gracey <kgracey@louisiana.net>

Mineral, VA USA - Friday, August 04, 2000 at 20:46:32 (CDT)

A correction! I have been notified of an error in my email address. One too many "m"s on the end! It is shadow47ag@aol.com Thanks for the heads up! Good hearing from you. Al

Al Reynolds <shadow47ag@aol.com>

Las Vegas, NV USA - Sunday, July 30, 2000 at 12:21:53 (CDT)

Chief Bill et al, Still planning on attending the reunion, schedule permitting. Just curious as to how many old farts....I mean Stinger veterans are coming so far.

Bob (de Debil) Frederick <frederickunltd@yahoo.com or fredunltd@aol.com>

Louisville, KY USA - Sunday, July 30, 2000 at 11:47:58 (CDT)

Some how or anothe Sgt. Sledzinski's (Ski)name got left off part of my previous comment. That's what happens when you drink beer & write stories at the same time

John M. Callaghan <jmcal@swbell.net>

Austin, Tx USA - Sunday, July 30, 2000 at 02:44:45 (CDT)

I had orders to the 18th SOS in early 1970. I was delayed a few months for medical reasons. At the time of my original orders the were at Phan Rang. When I was finally ready to go all they did was change the date & send me. No one bothered to find out if the squadron was still there. When I got there the outfit had been at NKP for several months. I ended up in transit alert at Phan Rang. When the base closed they sent a bunch of us to NKP, where I ended up being a crew chief. When they sent a detachment to Bien Hoa I went with it. I was working the

day that Stinger 41 (acft.826) was lost. Till the day I die I'll always remember that Huey landing on the taxiway & letting him off. He stood there & told us about this Huey crew throwing him a rope & leaving with him hanging underneath it. The scary part was when he said that he looked up at the bottom of the Huey & saw bullet holes being punched thru the metal. I don't know if "Ski" had the same reaction as we did. We were ready to wet our pants when we heard the story. Bill I just found this site today & I think it's great. Thanks for the effort.

John M. Callaghan <jmcal@swbell.net>

Austin, Tx USA - Sunday, July 30, 2000 at 02:38:28 (CDT)

By the way, Al Reynolds, your e-mail is coming back as undeliverable. Check it out.

pat jones <pjones@psci.net>

santa claus, ind USA - Sunday, July 30, 2000 at 00:05:37 (CDT)

During the past year I have moved & gotten a new e-mail. Hope to keep reading lots of guest book entries from old acquaintances. This is a great site.

pat jones <pjones@psci.net>

santa claus, ind USA - Sunday, July 30, 2000 at 00:02:09 (CDT)

I was a flight engineer on McGillis Gorrilla Vomit Green Crew. Feel free to contact me through my daughter's address above.

Cleo Downs <tonivw@aol.com>

Elk Grove, Ca USA - Wednesday, July 26, 2000 at 22:14:03 (CDT)

I was an engine mechanic in the 14th FMS at Nha Trang. Worked on the G's a lot while the Guard was still there. Learned a lot from those guys. Got to Da Nang, Ban Me Thuot, Tan Son Nhut, & Tuy Hoa to help troubleshoot or fix some broken airplanes. Lots of good memories of the Shadow folks. Served with SSgt Jim Short as a Flight Engineer at Norton. He was the Squadron Commanders FE at Nha Trang & Phan Rang. Would like to hear from an of the guys.

Dave Scoggins <dscoggin1@mindspring.com>

Gilbert, AZ USA - Sunday, July 23, 2000 at 17:40:32 (CDT)

Now I have an email address! Would appreciate hearing from any of you old "gunshippers". Deny him the dark! The Shadow knows! Al...

Al Reynolds <shadow47ag@aol.comm>

Las Vegas, NV USA - Saturday, July 22, 2000 at 12:37:48 (CDT)

I just found this web site & hope to attend the reunion in Fla in Sept. I saw comments from Chris Chandler, Joe Hill & Eugene Lee & remember our times on Shadow 11 with fond memories. Hope to see you all there.

Bill Cunningham <wscunninghsm@compuserve.com>

Park City, Ut USA - Saturday, July 22, 2000 at 00:44:54 (CDT)

Hello all -- Have a great reunion! A special message to all the C Flt, 71st SOS troops from TSN. I was the base IO shop SSgt who used to cadge flights with you on the early bird in order to keep drawing my non crew member flight pay! You gave me some great stories, & I helped pass a few flares & helped crank a few rounds. Will never forget the flights made. Cheers & all the best. Have a good reunion! -- Rick Fulton Pittsburg, Kansas

Rick Fulton <rpfulton@fament.com>

Pittsburg, KS USA - Friday, July 21, 2000 at 22:35:00 (CDT)

Great Web Site!!! Looking forward to the Reunion & seeing talking about the old times. I was at NKP 6/71 thru 11/71, DaNang 12/71 & then to 7th AF for Gunship Flight Scheduling for AC-119K, AC-130, F-4 escorts, EB-66, & KC-135 (refueling for the escorts). See You in September!!!

Rogers Stevens <www.auntcacka@aol.com>

Lumberport, WV USA - Friday, July 21, 2000 at 21:25:51 (CDT)

I always wanted to learn more about the Stingers & their crews & this site sure provides a ton of info. I also always wanted the opportunity to thank the crews that patrolled the 'rocket belt' around Da Nang AB, you were fun to watch & it was good to know you were up there. I was in PMEL with the 6498th FMS at Rocket City in '72-'73.

Doug Scherer <dscherer@mho.net>

Lakewood, CO USA - Friday, July 21, 2000 at 15:10:00 (CDT)

I became a Shadow in March 69 at Nah Trang. I moved with the original contingent to Tuy Hoa & flew out of there until after Christmas & then moved to Phan Rang. My son, who was in the Special Forces in Vietnam, was killed in February 70 & I escorted his body with 30 others back to the States. A very, very sad day. I did not have to return because my tour was up. I've had frequent contact over the years with other Shadows: Bill Withuhn, Don Stone, Bob Boshin, Bobby Evatt & Jim Mac Coullagh. The later two are deceased. I'm looking forward to the reunion at Fort Walton Beach.

Russell A. O'Connell <Roconl@aol.com>

Annandale, VA USA - Tuesday, July 18, 2000 at 18:59:51 (CDT)

I was a Shadow pilot with the 17th SOS at Tuy Hoa, Phu Cat, & Tan Son Nhut during 1970. I want to thank Bill Posey for making me aware of this site. I don't know if I will be able to make the reunion, but will surely try. I would love to see the rest of "Hope's Dopes" & share memories & catch up on what is new. John Hope, (703) 455-8090, JLHope@aol.com.

John L. Hope <JLHope@aol.com>

Springfield, VA USA - Sunday, July 16, 2000 at 15:27:16 (CDT)

Hey to all of you again. Made a slight error in my first response. I was in Phu Cat with the 17th SOS in 69-70.

Sorry... Bill Posey (one of the notorious Hopes Dopes #5

MSGT. (Ret.) Bill Posey <cposey1032@aol.com>

Destin, FL USA - Friday, July 14, 2000 at 14:53:27 (CDT)

Chief, I was a Flight Engineer with the 17th SOS Nah Trang 69-70. I was one of Hopes Dopes & would love to hear from anyone who knew me. Was very happy to see that after all these years I am finally going to a reunion. I live in Destin/Ft. Walton Beach area & really look forward to rekindling friendships with some of the men I flew with. Thanks for a great site & the opportunity to contact others who were there. Bill Posey 1-850-830-7277 or cposey1032@aol.com

MSGT. (Ret.) Bill Posey <cposey1032@aol.com>

Destin, FL USA - Friday, July 14, 2000 at 12:29:05 (CDT)

What a super website, Chief! I was one of the regular AF "gun plumbers" in the original group to be trained for "Shadow". I joined the likes of Jackie Whitney, Jack McGinnis, Norman B. "Marty" Martin, Bill Welch (my Bravo gunner), John Temoney, & the others whose names escape my memory. Those were fun & interesting times at Lockbourne with the 4413 CCTS! Our initial crew was Lt Col (later Col) Clarence Wilson, AC; Maj Maurie Ray, Copilot; Capt Tom Wood, Nav; Capt "Shaky" Jim Brauer, Nav; MSgt Buddy Byler, FE; Sgt Bill Welch, Gunner; A1C Bob Wojcik, IO; & yours truly, gunner. When we all finally got to Nha Trang, Maj Jack Morgan became our new AC. Col Wilson received another assignment along with his new "eagles". Buddy Byler ended up going to C Flt at Tan Son Nhut, & our new FE was TSgt Don Ragland. As time went by, Maj Morgan moved on, Maj Ray became our AC, & Capt Jim Edwards came to the crew as Copilot. What a bunch!! Bill Welch made SSgt along the way & only served about 6 months of his Vietnam tour. He left in July 69 for separation at port, then headed home to Wichita, KS. SSgt Ray Gravitte then joined the crew as Bravo Gunner. We pretty much stayed intact as a crew from then on. We flew out of Nha Trang until A Flt was relocated to Tuy Hoa AB where we hung out until our tours were done. I have been in contact with Maurie Ray, Bob Wojcik, Bill Welch, Tom Wood, & Ray Gravitte during the past couple of years. I learned from Ray that Don Ragland had succumbed to cancer back in '94. Would love to learn the whereabouts of Jim Edwards & "Shaky" Brauer. When I retired in 1988, I went to work for a local air charter company flying tours over the Grand Canyon. I had occasion to become acquainted with the owner of another such company that somehow seemed awfully familiar to me. Turns out it was Lt Col (Ret) Sid Petty! As far as I know, Sid is still alive & kicking in Las Vegas - & as ornery as ever! I don't have an email address at this time; however, I plan to in the relatively near future. I don't even own a computer! I found out about this website from the Reunion notice I received in the mail, & I'm doing this page on the computer at work! What a way to spend a shift, huh? In the meantime, I can be reached at my residential address, 1861 Ann Greta, Las Vegas, NV 89108, or by phone at 702-648-9908. By hook or by crook, I hope to be able to attend the reunion. Looking forward to seeing old friends & associates, as well as meeting up with new ones!

[CMSgt \(Ret\) ALVIN E. REYNOLDS](#)

LAS VEGAS, NV USA - Sunday, July 09, 2000 at 01:23:50 (CDT)

What a super website, Chief! I was one of the regular AF "gun plumbers" in the original group to be trained for "Shadow". I joined the likes of Jackie Whitney, Jack McGinnis, Norman B. "Marty" Martin, Bill Welch (my Bravo gunner), John Temoney, & the others whose names escape my memory. Those were fun & interesting times at Lockbourne with the 4413 CCTS! Our initial crew was LtCol (later Col) Clarence Wilson, AC; Maj Maurie Ray, Copilot; Capt Tom Wood, Nav; Capt "Shaky" Jim Brauer, Nav; MSgt Buddy Byler, FE; Sgt Bill Welch, Gunner; A1C Bob Wojcik, IO; & yours truly, gunner. When we all finally got to Nha Trang, Maj Jack Morgan became our new AC. Col Wilson received another assignment along with his new "eagles". Buddy Byler ended up going to C Flt at Tan Son Nhut, & our new FE was TSgt Don Ragland. As time went by, Maj Morgan moved on, Maj Ray became our AC, & Capt Jim Edwards came to the crew as Copilot. What a bunch!! Bill Welch made SSgt along the way & only served about 6 months of his Vietnam tour. He left in July 69 for separation at port, then headed home to Wichita, KS. SSgt Ray Gravitte then joined the crew as Bravo Gunner. We pretty much stayed intact as a crew from then on. We flew out of Nha Trang until A Flt was relocated to Tuy Hoa AB where we hung out until our tours were done. I have been in contact with Maurie Ray, Bob Wojcik, Bill Welch, Tom Wood, & Ray Gravitte during the past couple of years. I learned from Ray that Don Ragland had succumbed to cancer back in '94. Would love to learn the whereabouts of Jim Edwards & "Shaky" Brauer. When I retired in 1988, I went to work for a local air charter company flying tours over the Grand Canyon. I had occasion to become acquainted with the owner of another such company that somehow seemed awfully familiar to me. Turns out it was LtCol (Ret) Sid Petty! As far as I know, Sid is still alive & kicking in Las Vegas - & as ornery as ever! I don't have an email address at this time; however, I plan to in the relatively near future. I don't even own a computer! I found out about this website from the Reunion notice I receive in the mail, & I'm doing this page on the computer at work! What a way to spend a shift, huh? In the meantime, I can be reached at my residential address or by phone at 702-648-9908. By hook or by crook, I hope to be able to attend the reunion. Looking forward to seeing old friends & associates, as well as meeting up with new ones!

[CMSgt \(Ret\) ALVIN E. REYNOLDS](#)

LAS VEGAS, NV USA - Sunday, July 09, 2000 at 01:11:18 (CDT)

My father, George W. Pollock, was an Air Force Pilot in Nha Trang & later in Ton Sahn Nhut Feb. 1969 through Dec. 1969. He was based out of Dyess AFB in Texas. He passed away 30 Sept 84. I found all of the tapes that he sent home from Viet Nam, & I am copying & transcribing them. If anyone remembers him, I would love to hear from you. WELCOME HOME TO ALL OF YOU! Mary Pat Kline mpk8652@aol.com

Mary Pat Kline <mpk8652@aol.com>

Lexington, OH USA - Saturday, July 08, 2000 at 09:20:24 (CDT)

Medic at 12 USAF Hospital, CRB, RVN '66-'67. Remember gunships nailing the mountains west of Cam Ranh Bay, but never knew what aircraft they were. Do you have any knowledge of that? Very good website.

Albert Eschler <zekere@mcn.net>

Billings, MT USA - Friday, July 07, 2000 at 15:52:52 (CDT)

for Paul Brown. after my year at NKP 70-71 in the gunshop, (I was 462), I was at Eglin in the 33rd & got to watch Credible Chase play around. Taxi @60-take off@60-fly @60-land@60. right? Remembered Walt (?) he was there also. Chief I enjoy reading the info very much thanks

Alan Westin, MSgt, USAF (RET) <sgrhollow@aol.com alan.westin@labind.state.vt.us>

Pittsford, vt USA - Friday, July 07, 2000 at 12:11:06 (CDT)

I was surprised & very grateful to receive a phone call from my good friend & former co-pilot, Patrick McGillis, informing me of the upcoming gunship reunion. Upon receiving the information, I noticed that a website was listed on the forms Pat forwarded. What a wonderful website it was! Thanks to Bill & everyone who contributed to this excellent site. I have spent many hours reminiscing about the memories & having the privilege to serve with the greatest group of people in the world. I was particularly fond of seeing photo 005 in the Stinger scrapbook as I have the same picture in my office. My memories of the latter part of 1970 & most of 1971 are filled with good thoughts from my time at NKP. We were effective & impressive & it was a privilege to be part of such a great organization. Keep up the great work & I look forward to renewing acquaintances at the reunion. Captain John Morgan NKP 1970-71

John Morgan <jemorg@earthlink.net>
St. Clair , Mi USA - Monday, July 03, 2000 at 11:43:27 (CDT)

What a great site. Thanks, Bill Petrie & all who did this. Was part of the original Reg AF contingent that first transitioned with the 71st ACS (later SOS). Ferried "Egg Sucking Dog" (AC-119G) to Nha Trang in Jan-Feb 69. Flew 207 missions as Nav. Organized our Civic Action effort at Tuy Hoa. With the 17th SOS at Nha Trang & Tuy Hoa, 69-70 - our last CO was the great Russ O'Connell (leader of men thru 3 wars - talk about the Greatest Generation.) Today, I'm Sr. Curator of Transportation History at the Smithsonian - been here since 83. Would love to hear from old crewmates in the 71st & 17th SOSqs. This is "Camel": Where's Willie Pete, Nguyen, The Bod, Weasel, The Tailer, & Spencoris Rex? Bill & Gail Withuhn, 6311 Barr's Lane, Lanham, MD 20706; wwithuhn@aol.com. God Bless.
Bill Withuhn <wwithuhn@aol.com>
Lanham, MD USA - Sunday, July 02, 2000 at 20:12:56 (CDT)

What an excellent site. For all you who provided support at An Loc 1972, a great big THANK YOU. I commanded the last CH-47 Company (Chinook) in RVN. We flew resupply into An Loc during early stages until a VNAF CH-47 was destroyed. We continued missions at Bu Dop, Song Be, Lai Khe & many others. I'm writing a book to be published in the near future. Titled "Viet Nam's Last Hookers," I dearly want to include everything I can about support we received from our Air Force saviors. Feel free to e-mail any info you may have. And, thanks again.
[LTC Carle E. Dunn, USA-Ret. <cdunn7738@hotmail.com>](mailto:cdunn7738@hotmail.com)
Spartanburg, SC USA - Wednesday, June 28, 2000 at 11:12:27 (CDT)

was with the original group at nha trang with the reserve in 71st SOS & the 17th SOS
John J Stewart <JSte274674@aol.com>
Moncks Corner, SC USA - Tuesday, June 27, 2000 at 15:11:26 (CDT)

I was absolutely flabbergasted to receive a reunion registration form in the mail from Jim Bennes of Valparaiso Florida Didn't know the website existed let alone gunship reunions for the past 7 years. I served in Nha Trang, Phan Rang & Tuy Hoa from June 1969 to June 1970 as a pilot in the G models. About halfway through the tour some of us were picked to go to the newly arrived K's & went to Danang. I stayed in G's along with my compatriots in the Shadow's 17th SOS. We used to fire tennis ball cannons & flares at the 20th SOS during our rowdier times & have volley ball games every afternoon when we woke up from our good morning's sleep. Hope to see some of you at the reunion that I will be able to remember. Write to me at jakeco@ij.net I currently live in Dunedin, FL with my wife Dorothy..... Great Site,, brings back only good memories, none of the bad. John F. Covert (Maj. USAF Ret.)
John Covert <jakeco@ij.net>
Dunedin, FL USA - Monday, June 26, 2000 at 15:25:55 (CDT)

Impressive websight. Keep up the contacts with old friends & colleagues. You guys help keep AF Special Operations Command History ALIVE!! In fact, you are AFSOC History. God Bless, Bill Thornton, GS-9 Writer/Editor AFSOC History Office (MSgt USAF Retired)
Bill Thornton, AFSOC History Office <thorntow@hurlburt.af.mil>
Hurlburt Field, Fla. USA - Monday, June 26, 2000 at 14:27:28 (CDT)

Thoroughly enjoy browsing through the past with some great guys & stories. Excellent effort on the website. Hope to get to reunion & will be looking forward to seeing how many friends locate this web site. Served in AC-119K from May '71 to May '72 both at DaNang & NKP.
Bill Kleinhenz <KleinhenzB@aol.com>
Greenland, NH USA - Monday, June 26, 2000 at 13:50:30 (CDT)

My son Chad found this web site. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. I know of a FE.that works. at the General Motors plant in Atlanta he flew on Stingers.Does Anyone remember the AU/23 andAU/24s that flew with me over at Eglin main back in 1971 & 1972 It was called Project Credible Chase?
Paul K. Brown <Paul@BrownChadW.AOL>
Jefferson, GA. USAZip30549 - Saturday, June 24, 2000 at 11:29:46 (CDT)

17SOS,Aug70-71,Phu Cat-Saigon Navigator,scheduler(took over for Bernie when left. Hello to Bernie & John Oswald. see you at reunion..Also a special hi to Buck who did so great..

Don Schofield <nod708@aol.com>

Boynton Beach , FL USA - Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at 15:24:20 (CDT)

WHAT A SUPER WEB SITE. GOOD TO HEAR FROM BERNIE AND HE REMEMBERS TERRIBLE TOM TEAL IF ANYONE OUT THERE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT HOWARD NOLAN, I SURE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW JOHN OSWALD <crpickles@lightnetinternet.com>

WATERWOOD, TX USA - Monday, June 19, 2000 at 15:23:56 (CDT)

Found out where all you guys are hiding now. Was with the 18th 72-73, NKP, Dang-Dang, Ben Hoy. Freddy Farkle, where are you? I promise I won't fire anymore Tennis Ball cannons in your room.

Neal Choiniere <neal.r.choiniere@boeing.com>

tacoma , wa USA - Monday, June 19, 2000 at 13:46:32 (CDT)

To 'Eddie Stinker' - 01 July 2000 i get thrown out with the bath water - 31 years, 1 month & 22 days - was a grat ride - made that way by a great year eith the STINGERS in 1972. I think(?) that when I go out the door, only Gen Tony Robertson, CINCTRANS/COAMC, is the only remaining STINGER Pilot on active duty - glad to see he is our guest speaker at the REUNION - he is a great American! See you all in September - Cheers - Mac

Col Steve Mac Isaac <Richard.macisaac@macdill.af.mil>

MacDill AFB, FL USA - Sunday, June 18, 2000 at 10:35:31 (CDT)

I have been looking for a web site like this for a long time. GOOD JOB! Keep it up.

Robert L. Collins <janacollins@mail.com>

NewOrleans, L.A. USA - Saturday, June 17, 2000 at 00:11:49 (CDT)

17SOS,TSN,6/70 to 6/71,Under Terrible Tom Teal & Jovial James James,Was a Major,Nav.& superior night scheduler,everybody flys all the time.But I need an R/R!Our motto'deny him his sleep'. See you at the reunion or E-mail me.Love to hear from my favorite guys. that,s all of you!

Bernie Smith <judylyn@flash.net>

Fort Worth, TX USA - Friday, June 16, 2000 at 13:42:55 (CDT)

17th SOS,TSN,6/70 to6/71 under Terrible Tom Teal & Jovial James James.Navigator & terrific scheduler of night flights.Hope to see you at the reunion or E-mail me.

Bernie Smith <judylyn@flash.net>

Fort Worth, TX USA - Thursday, June 15, 2000 at 23:06:10 (CDT)

17th SOS,TSN,6/70 to6/71 under Terrible Tom Teal & Jovial James James.Navigator & terrific scheduler of night flights.Hope to see you at the reunion or E-mail me.

Bernie Smith <judylyn@flash.net>

Fort Worth, TX USA - Thursday, June 15, 2000 at 23:03:55 (CDT)

For Bill Isham, Glad to see you found us. Please give us a better email address. We can't connect to this one. Don't forget to review the web sites reunion information. Regards. Bill Petrie

[Bill Petrie](mailto:Ret CMSgt@aol.com) <Ret CMSgt@aol.com>

Piedmont, OK USA - Monday, June 12, 2000 at 11:59:59 (CDT)

AC 119G Flight Eng/C/c

[Warren \(TOM \) Myers](mailto:Warren (TOM) Myers) <warenty@altavista.com>

Spokane, wa USA - Monday, June 12, 2000 at 00:53:55 (CDT)

Just found your site. Must leave now for an appointment. Will write later. Great site.

CMSgt Ret Mike J. Pulchny <mpulchny@icok.net>

Krebs, OK USA - Sunday, June 11, 2000 at 13:46:29 (CDT)

just found the web thanks to a phone call from bob andrews. will plan on being at the reunion...was on Lt. col simons crew when we had to bail out over the south china sea off the coast of danang on march of 1973. anybody else signed on that was on that crew?

william r. isham <s18sos>

olmsted falls, oh USA - Friday, June 09, 2000 at 20:01:38 (CDT)

What a great site, thanks Chief. I was just so excited to see it. I found out about the site from a flyer that was sent to me concerning the reunion. So thank you again Chief Graves.... & don't we know each other from somewhere ? I flew with the 18th SOS, Stingers in 71 & 72. I came up from the 20th SOS, when they closed down. So as a retread chopper gunner, I got all my training OJT. Had many great flts & met many great guys. 2 DFCs & 7 Air medals later, I felt like a real Stinger gunner. A special thanks to Msgt Howel, & several other gunners who took the time to train me. I could never get used to those rice bugs though. A Very special hello to my good friend Craig Corbett, who even followed me back to the UK. Craig, answer your e-mails. Has anyone seen Sam Perry, if so tell him , Jerry said that Sam is still waiting on him. Again a wonderful site & I look forward to attending the reunion, also look forward to hearing from the guys I flew with. I am in Scottsdale AZ, trying to be a psychologist, but the heat is winning. Give me a call 480-991-7471.

Jerry E. Rhem CMSGT Ret. <AZRhem@aol.com>

Scottsdale, AZ USA - Tuesday, June 06, 2000 at 23:30:05 (CDT)

Hot dang! Buckwheat got stars!

[Chris Chandler](mailto:jack@jack-chandler.com) <jack@jack-chandler.com>

Richland, WA USA - Sunday, June 04, 2000 at 09:12:28 (CDT)

Hi there! I served in Ubon Thailand, 1969/70. While there both Spooky & Stinger came in to R.O.N. The Wing Commander issued an edict that no one was to use any stencils on the aircrafts; however, the next morning told a different order of business. Someone from the 'Night Owl' squadron, Jolly Green, & Blind Bat had put their stencils on the aircrafts. Although I was with Spectre AC-130s the dollar-nineteens were very impressive.

David Jay Roll <david.j.roll@boeing.com>

Wichita, KS USA - Wednesday, May 31, 2000 at 15:26:43 (CDT)

I only have (1) story that someone may recall. while stationed at udorn rtab 1969-70, a crippled c-117 made a emergency landing during the night & not realizing that half his wing had been shot off. he managed to land safely but the crew had to continue to discard equipment from the plane to stay aloft. stars & stripes wrote an article on it called "half a wing & a prayer" a take off of an old movie called "a wing & a prayer". i was out on the flightline the next morning & couldn't believe they made it in with the damage on the aircraft.

Eugene Rossi <Mistye8185@aol.com>

lake hiawatha, nj USA - Tuesday, May 30, 2000 at 19:36:34 (CDT)

Lots of familiar names & lots of good memories. As regards "Roddy" Slagle, we grew up in the same small town of Ste. Genevieve, MO. When we graduated from OTS in the same class in December of 1967, he was headed to be a Civil Engineer while I was headed to Nav school. Imagine my surprise when I ran across him at the NKP Officer's Club in September of 1971 while I was a "short-timer" & he was just arriving. He explained to me that he got bored with Civil Engineering & decided to get into the flying game. And imagine my even greater surprise when I later asked a returning Stinger about him & was dismayed to find that he was the only Navigator ever killed in the line of duty in Vietnam in the AC-119K. On this Memorial Day weekend, let us remember him & all of the others who died in that & the other wars.

Paul C. Robertson <pcr01@earthlink.net>

Springfield, MO USA - Sunday, May 28, 2000 at 11:38:34 (CDT)

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE REUNION AND SEEING EVERY ONE.

RON HINTON <CAHIN@AOL.COM>

BONAIRE, GA USA - Saturday, May 27, 2000 at 15:56:57 (CDT)

Just found the site yesterday. Its great. My father served with the 18 SOS in 72-73. He was a Flt, Eng. I don't know which crew he was with. Thats what I would like to find out. His name was Willard (Bill) Collins. He retired in 1975 as 1stSgt of the 92nd Bomb Wing. He died in 1980 of a heart attack. I know he would have liked to have

known about this website & talked to some old friends, but since he can't my brother & I would. We would like to find out as much as we can about his crew. (I have a picture of the crew). What he did, & some of the missions they flew. He didn't talk much about his time in Vietnam, but when he did my brother & I would listen to every word. Please if anyone remembers my father Willard (Bill) Collins I would like to hear from you

Bill Collins <wcollins@etbu.edu>

Marshall, Tx USA - Thursday, May 25, 2000 at 23:06:24 (CDT)

Just found the site yesterday. Its great. My father served with the 18 SOS in 72-73. He was a Flt. Eng. I don't know which crew he was with. That's what I would like to find out. His name was Willard (Bill) Collins. He retired in 1975 as 1st of the 92nd Bomb Wing. He died in 1980 of a heart attack. I know he would have liked to have known about this website & talked to some old friends, but since he can't my brother & I would. We would like to find out as much as we can about his crew. (I have a picture of the crew). What he did, & some of the missions they flew. He didn't talk much about his time in Vietnam, but when he did my brother & I would listen to every word. Please if anyone remembers my father Willard (Bill) Collins I would like to hear from you

Bill Collins <wcollins@etbu.edu>

Marshall, Tx USA - Thursday, May 25, 2000 at 23:04:16 (CDT)

Rick L. Ward, my father served in Vietnam with the 18 S.O.S sometime in the early 70's. I have a lot of pictures & I keep on me the card he carried during that time that is labeled, "When uninvited guest drop in call for 18 S.O.S", "A Fly by night organization." My father has since passed, but had an outstanding USAF career. His example & love of country is why I now serve. If anyone remembers him or has even some minute information, please contact me. My father passed in 1985 when I was 10, his C-130 went down in TX during a training exercise. I would appreciate anything. One thing I recall & keep with me at all times is his DFC for setting a flare off when a SAM targeted his aircraft. He left shortly after my birth in NKP in 1974 where we were transferred to Little Rock. My email is Moonpi3@yahoo.com

Theresa Ward-Dulin <theresa.dulin@Osan.af.mil>

Osan, Korea - Thursday, May 25, 2000 at 00:26:27 (CDT)

Terrific to see this website & recognize some of the old "hooch mate" names. Hats off to the folks who originated it & maintain it. The older I get, the more I relish the memories from the Shadow/Stinger exploits. My era was 1970-1971. Co-pilot at Phan Rang flying the Bolovens Plateau & later upgraded to Pilot flying from DaNang into Cambodia. Great memories & great friends to this day. Two fellow pilots actually participated in my wedding 18 days after DEROSing. Looking forward to trying to get to the reunion. Best regards to all.

R.C. "Buck" Marr, MajGen. USAF <marrmail@aol.com>

Norfolk, VA USA - Wednesday, May 24, 2000 at 12:52:33 (CDT)

Sure glad to see some of the (old) crew still lives. I've missed the action. Both in the air & on the ground. GUNSHIPS FOREVER.

Ed Molnar <jpop45@aol.com>

Berlin, Md. USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 15:20:21 (CDT)

Chief et al., thanks for all your work putting together this excellent web site. I was a Stinger copilot from Sep 70 until Apr 71 at Danang. I finished my tour after four & a half months at NKP. For the next 20 years, many of my mission debriefings to B-52 or B-1B crews started with, "Let me tell you something I learned from an old AC119K ____ (fill in the blank with pilot/navigator/flight engineer/gunner/IO/crew chief)...". Finally my rugged but handsome boyish face gave out & the Air Force discovered I was indeed an old AC119K pilot. The punishment for having had so much fun was five years as a desk jockey. I finally surrendered in 1996. For all those years I've been scanning the reunion notices in the Air Force magazine hoping to find some mention of an AC-119K get together. Fuzzy Thurston let me know about the web site as soon as he found it. I logged on right away & went VFR direct to the reunion news. When I got home that evening & told sweet Sue, she knew better than to ask, "Are we going?". Her response was, "When is it, where are we going, & do you think you can get your stories straight by then?". I'm really looking forward to it. Only the worst of ju ju can keep us away. Thanks again...Terry

Terry Bott <bottt@erols.com>

Newport News, VA USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 09:03:05 (CDT)

First, let me say thanks to all those who have put in a lot of time & effort to get this site together & running. This is absolutely terrific. I often wondered if the fantastic role the AC-119s played in the Vietnam saga would ever get any form of recognition. Once again, thanks for what you guys have done that I & others have not. I was with 18SOS Stinger at DaNang as a FLIR OP from about April '70 thru Feb '71. Prompted by a Charlie Rose show last night with Jim Lehrer as his guest, & mention of Tom Brokaw's book of WWII heroes, I finally searched for something to do with AC-199K, found this site & stayed up 'til 4AM, enthralled. Seeing so many familiar names & stories of those days is absolutely exciting. Bob Hamorsky, thanks for trying to locate some of us, & here I am. Now what we've got to do is try to find the rest of the crew, & I'm willing to help. Dave Kuhn, Jr., you were my first A/C over in DaNang. I remember you as a totally cool headed professional; enjoyed flying with you & being in your presence. Also remember you telling the harrowing story of your flying one of the first Ks over the pond that you retold here. Ted Waltz, I flew some missions with you as C/P, while upgrading & a couple as A/C. You were another great person to have around. Ben Collins, another total & great professional, who I roomed with. Tad Berkebile, you just found another guy who was on that TIC mission with you. As we approached the whole oblong ridge was on fire. We were surprised to find any of our guys alive down there, but they were & they were putting up a hell of a fight. And if ever we got anywhere just in time, that was it. We established radio contact with the Sargeant on the ground & he kept on yelling "bring it in closer, bring it in closer, they're right on top of us". We all looked at one another & told him if we come in any closer we'll be shooting into his positions. He yelled back "I don't give a damn. Bring it in closer. Shoot Shoot Shoot." We ran out of ammo on that TIC, & while we were flying away he just kept saying "Thanks Stinger, you guys did great. You stopped 'em. Thanks Stinger". We stopped them, but he asked us to "send another" as soon as possible. What a night. So much more to reminisce at the reunion. My wife & I will be at the reunion & looking forward to seeing as many of our cohorts as possible. Walt Riebau at walt1@quixnet.net

Walt Riebau <walt1@quixnet.net>

Spring Hill, FL USA - Friday, May 12, 2000 at 13:22:08 (CDT)

Fast downloading time, easy navigation, & quality content. sounds like an award winning site, I believe it is.

[Charles E. Geck](mailto:geckce@pacbell.net) <geckce@pacbell.net>

San Diego, CA USA - Saturday, May 06, 2000 at 10:54:16 (CDT)

I was just watching the movie "Getaway" released in 72, with Steve McQueen & Alley McGraw. McQueen gets on the train, sits down next to the guy who took the money bag at the train station then picks up the news paper. I don't know why but I started to read the headlines on the news paper which read "AF Gunship downed over Laos killing 14." With memorial Day coming this month it was like a message from our friends who did not return to remember them. For me, it is something I always do.

Bob McGarry <spooky1969@aol.com>

Ma USA - Friday, May 05, 2000 at 20:57:21 (CDT)

Good to see this site. Been a long time, but not forgotten. Flew widow maker (AC-Ks) from Jan 69 (Lockbourn) to end of 119s from Hurlbert fld.

Ron Gilbert <afjmo041@aol.com>

Neosho, MO USA - Wednesday, May 03, 2000 at 10:41:25 (CDT)

I learned a lot from your site while doing a research paper on the Ho Chi Minh Trail..if there are any guys that have stories they would like to share about the trail please feel free to e-mail me

Glen Howell <Gb_howell@hotmail.com>

PA USA - Monday, May 01, 2000 at 18:37:54 (CDT)

Excellent site. My father, Maj. Barry S. Harmer (Ret.) flew AC-119's (his was "Charlie Chaser's) in nam - always loved his stories & pictures that he has. He is living in Colorado Springs. If anyone would like to contact him, please let me know.

Shawn Harmer <sharmer@startek.com>

Greeley, CO USA - Monday, May 01, 2000 at 18:13:37 (CDT)

This is a great site. I flew out of Nha Trang as an FE 1967-1968 on Spooky. I have 210 combat missions to my credit with out a single abort. I would like to hear from any of you fly-by-nighters.

Ken Locke <naheartbeat@juno.com>
Augusta, KS USA - Sunday, April 30, 2000 at 19:50:51 (CDT)

Came across this site while doing research on Vietnam war. This is a good site. I wasn't old enough to serve in this conflict, but served at GEORGE AFB, CA from 1978-1983. Later this unit, 35TFW launched many, many HARM's at Saddam. This unit flew the F4G Phantom II. Reading this guestbook, I felt in a way like I "knew" these units. Guess, must be the military relationship. By the way, We were called "WILD WEASELS". To ALL the VETERAN'S, surviving & deceased; GOD BLESS YOU.....w.s
WAYNE SMITH <f4gspook@yahoo.com>
OH USA - Saturday, April 29, 2000 at 08:56:57 (CDT)

Larry, You weren't all that "quiet". Bruce Abbott (your roommate at NKP) I've been trying to find out what happened to Joe Rizzo. Take care
Bruce Abbott <abbottracing@worldnet.att.net>
Parker, Co USA - Friday, April 28, 2000 at 20:55:35 (CDT)

I was tall but quiet. NKP & DaNang 70 - 71.
Larry Alderson <hillcntry@sockets.net>
Jefferson City, MO USA - Thursday, April 27, 2000 at 23:19:06 (CDT)

Just found your site while surfing. What a great site for one heck of a bunch of guys. Ordered a patch from Mr. Perry for my collection. I was assigned to the 366 Combat Security Police SQDN. AT Danang from Mar. 69-70. Remember watching one of your birds work out on the south end on more than one occasion! What a sight. Those poor gooks had to be going through hell!. Talked with several marines that on several situations were mighty glad to see ya'll show up. Upon being assigned to a stateside base little did I know how much SOS activity went on around me. Good ole Eglin/Hurlburt field! Thanx for a great site & welcome home. Richard g...
Richard Gidcumb <rgidcumb@apex.net>
KY USA - Thursday, April 27, 2000 at 10:04:23 (CDT)

Served as a radio operator with the "BORON" FACs of the 21st TASS just south of Phan Thiet (LZ Betty) in II Corps. We had many opportunities to work with the gunships off the coast at Phan Thiet. Is anyone familiar with former Capt Perry Rose, Paul Stitt, Doug Miller or Maj Gil Parker?
Leigh Hensel <lahens@netnet.net>
Green Bay, WI USA - Sunday, April 23, 2000 at 21:34:37 (CDT)

What a great site. About four years ago I did a search for AC-119 gunships on the web & virtually nothing came up. Now this marvelous site was number one on the list. I wish to say hello to all the fine people that I worked with in maintenance at Lockbourne AFB & Phan Rang AB, mostly on the AC-119K. As a AFSC 431X1A, I was stationed with the 4413 CCTS at Lockbourne right out of tech school from June '69 to July '70. I remember Sgt. Strickland, a fine gentlemen that I worked for on the flight line at Lockbourne. He was an inspiration for the new people & kept us motivated - especially during the time when all those landing gears needed to be overhauled in the dead of winter. He's right, I could never figure out either why USAF trained SEA combat crews in cold Ohio. Apparently it was a political decision to keep the 4413 CCTS in Ohio versus relocating us to Louisiana. For me, I left the cold in Ohio when I was reassigned to Phan Rang AB in Aug '70. Upon arriving in Viet Nam, my orders said I was a propeller mechanic & I was assigned to a special unit that repaired C-47 & O2B aircraft. Eventually, I had my AFSC straightened out with the admin section & was then assigned to periodic 100 hr. inspection with the 18th SOS from about Nov. '70 to Aug. '71. I recall that our efficient phase dock crew helped the 17th SOS with some of their workload in the covered revetment that was built for us. I left USAF in Dec '72 with a proficiency 7 level & E-5 rank. If any one wishes to contact me, please send an e-mail.
Jim Gajos <jgajos@concentric.net>
Bensenville, IL USA - Saturday, April 22, 2000 at 00:03:41 (CDT)

Thanks to you, CMSgt Craig Corbett, for the well told story on Stinger 41 & for your & your crewmates' courage & strength in the face of the enemy. Courtney & Slagle were friends of mine; it was good to hear a little more about them. Is there anyone who remembers an in-country TIC Stinger mission that was flown between June & November '71 out of Da Nang that went something like this? We were called by US Army troops who may have

been out of ammunition & were about to be overrun by VC. They cleared us to fire on their position with the result that the VC hightailed it & the friendlies took no casualties. The next day we celebrated the save at a Bar-B-Que with the grunts. This could have been a mission commanded by Capt Dick Pollman. Appreciate any help on this. My wife & I Plan to be at the Reunion. See you there!

Tad Berkebile <berkebilet@pwa.co.sacramento.ca.us>

Auburn, CA USA - Friday, April 21, 2000 at 19:15:38 (CDT)

Remember the first time I saw the "Stinger", thought to myself "you are a dead man", this thing is so old. Can't remember aborting a mission due to maintenance---fantastic crew chiefs & mechanics.

john drislan <johnd5@home.com>

mt. pleasant, sc USA - Thursday, April 20, 2000 at 16:05:26 (CDT)

Still trying to contact both rich Watters & JACK McCARTY both were in my gunnery class at lockbourne[71 2 G] Cmsgt retired John w. Morrow

JOHN MORROW <morrowjl@net.com>

Alamogordo , nm Stil USA - Thursday, April 20, 2000 at 01:06:49 (CDT)

I have been doing a little Internet searching for old crewmembers/roommates. Just thought I would share what I have learned so far. I start with www.militaryusa.com & search Vietnam vets database for last name, branch, rank in VN, & AFSC. This gives me correct First name & MI. Then I go to www.switchboard.com AND people.yahoo.com AND whitepages.com AND bigfoot.com any other free people searches that I can find. I use the first name I knew then AND their more formal name (ie "John M" & "Jack"). Last I go to kf.knowx.com/infoam.exe?form=pf/search.htm. This will give me a abbreviated list not found anywhere else.

Then for \$8 they will give you the details. Biggest problem I've had is getting 15-20 Frank C Watsons. I send a postcard to each of them if I really want to find the person. E-mail me if you want to know more. Bert

Bert Blanton <blantonb@poncacity.net>

Ponca City, OK USA - Sunday, April 16, 2000 at 16:13:42 (CDT)

A GREAT SITE CHIEF, THANK I WAS GUNNER IN THE 17TH AT TSN FROM JUNE 70 TIL DEC. TRANSFER TO PHAN RANG IN DEC AS SEFE GUNNER AND HELP TRAIN THE VNAF. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE REUNION AND MEETING OLD FRIENDS

NORMAN J EVANS <N-C-EVANS@webtv.net>

ft. walton bch, fl USA - Monday, April 10, 2000 at 13:09:43 (CDT)

What a surprise to find this site....I trained in Lockbourne & left for Phan Rang shortly after Christmas 1969. I remember boarding the C-141 @ Lockbourne(waiting for Sgt. Greene to get there) & landing in the Phillipines for Jungle Survival.... Spent about 5 months in Phan Rang than transferred to the 20th around May/June '70. Would appreciate any information on Tech/Sgt. John Milan, who served the yr of 1970 on Stinger out of Phan Rang.

Thanks for any help that can be provided... Peace & regards, Bob Clifford

Bob Clifford <sossog@aol.com>

Charlotte, NC USA - Sunday, April 09, 2000 at 10:02:24 (CDT)

Thoroughly enjoyed your website. Thank you so much for the information. I have been researching my father's (Oda Howard Miller) involvment with the Puff group. His FC-47 was one of four fitted with 30 cal guns, instead of the 7.62mm. Best wishes, Dave

David Miller <DavesTvox@hotmail.com>

Shreveport, LA USA - Saturday, April 08, 2000 at 00:26:35 (CDT)

Great site Chief, I singed into the 18th SOS in mid april 1968 at Lockbourne AFB. I thank I was the 10th or 12th crew chief to report in. At the time we had 2 AC-119K's, one was on lone for the 4413th & the 2nd aircraft that was 53-3154 (I think) I deployed to Phan Rang in Oct 69', then to Phu Cat at the last part of Dec. '69, then over to Udom around Apr 70. I was one of the crew chiefs on aircraft 7830 when Al Malaeck & Al Nash & Co. got shot up & lost 16 feet of right wing. Hope to see the other crew chiefs at the reunion, Bob Fowler, his side kick Jim Pickleshimer & Gary Weaver. Claude Blum Msgt. Ret. USAF San Antonio, TX (210)681-7295.

Claude Blum <paul.baquet@hsv.boeing.com>

san antonio, tx USA - Friday, April 07, 2000 at 15:14:09 (CDT)

I like your site,& we are looking forward to know if you need any tungsten products?

[Jiang Hanns](mailto:hanns@chinatungsten.com) <hanns@chinatungsten.com>

Xiamen, FJ P.R.C - Wednesday, April 05, 2000 at 03:07:20 (CDT)

Still cannot get over all the guys that get on this net. Sure is nice to hear from so many. I was a FE on the Shadows. Was one the first to train the first class of Vietnamese what & experience. Keep up the good work.

Leon Mott Ret.M/SGT. <HERMOTT50@aol.com>

Tucson, AZ. A USA - Sunday, April 02, 2000 at 14:48:58 (CDT)

FYI: I just learned that Maj Dick Ribinski who was Ops Officer & IP for 17th at Phu Cat passed away several years ago. Bert

Bert Blanton <blantonb@poncacity.net>

Ponca City, OK USA - Saturday, April 01, 2000 at 19:17:25 (CST)

I took my family to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. We saw nice photos of AC-119 gunships. The real thing would have been better. Gary Rubingh AC-119K gunner

Gary E. Rubingh <farmboy@torchlake.com>

Ellsworth, MI USA - Wednesday, March 29, 2000 at 19:50:04 (CST)

I took my family to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. We saw nice photos of AC-119 gunships. The real thing would have been better. Gary Rubingh AC-119K gunner

Gary E. Rubingh <farmboy@torchlake.com>

Ellsworth, MI USA - Wednesday, March 29, 2000 at 19:49:19 (CST)

I took my family to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. We saw nice photos of AC-119 gunships. The real thing would have been better. Gary Rubingh AC-119K gunner

Gary E. Rubingh <farmboy@torchlake.com>

Ellsworth, MI USA - Wednesday, March 29, 2000 at 19:37:00 (CST)

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the creation of this site. The C-119 is an often forgotten contributor to America's war efforts, & you've done an excellent job portraying her. My father, Kenneth G. Keisel, was the chief production test pilot for the C-119 assembly line at the Kaiser-Fraiser factory near Detroit, Michigan. He was also the chief pilot for Kaiser-Fraiser Automobiles. He was the first to test fly nearly all of the C-119's produced by Kaiser. He was a former C-46 "Commando" pilot who had flown 101 round trip missions over the "Hump" during WWII. He continued on in corporate aviation, finally retiring in 1987 with approximately 21,000 air hours. His last plane was a Gulfstream V. He now lives near Pittsburgh, PA. He does not have a computer or access to the internet, but I will print out your pages & give them to him. I know he's always felt that the C-119 was an unloved aircraft. He has many beautiful kodachrome slides of the assembly & testing of the Kaiser-built C-119's, but noone has ever expressed any interest in them, confirming his belief about the planes. Kenneth M. Keisel

Kenneth M. Keisel <kkeisel@columbus.rr.com>

Columbus, OH USA - Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at 15:35:43 (CST)

Great Site. It brings back many memories of my first active duty tour as an LT - in combat in Vietnam. I flew as a Nav/Nos in Shadow's, primarily with the notorious "Hope's Dopes" crew. I was working NOS & picking targets for Lt Col "Dit-Dit" James on the first gunship mission at Daek Saeng, when they were initially being overrun. We coined the phrase "the sun was coming up as they departed the target." I was with the 17th SOS at Tuy Hoa, by the beach, from Oct '69 until we moved to Phu Cat in May '70. I returned to the States in late Oct '70. I moved on to C-141's at McGuire AFB with the 6th MAS "Bully Beef Express. Then four years later I ended up in TAC flying as a WSO in the F-111 Ardvark at assignments in Upper Heyford, England: 79th TFS Tiger Squadron, the 523 TFS at Cannon AFB, NM, then several fighter/plans staff positions: at 12 AF, Berstrom AFB, TX, the Joint Staff, Seoul, Korea, & Headquarters TAC/XPJ. My last active duty tour was as Deputy & Base Commander at Mtn Home AFB, ID from Jan '89 to Jun '93, & action officer for the expanded electronic range complex at Saylor Creek & organizing the move in for the 366th Gunfighters, the rapid reaction Composite Wing. I have been enjoying retirement in Osprey, FL just south of Sarasota for the past 6 1/2 years. I am working as the Director of

a Bridge Authority & I command an old historic "swing bridge" on the way to Boca Grande. I intend to be at the 1st ever Shadow & Stinger reunion at Ft Walton Beach. I would greatly enjoy hearing from any of the guys who were at Tuy Hoa or Phu Cat. I haven't seen Ken Shed or Rusty Napier in many many years. Would like to hear from John Hope/AC & Rick Stidsen/Co-Pilot & the many dedicated gunners & maintenance troops from the "Hope's Dopes" combat days.

Jim Cooper <jcooper@home.com>

Osprey, FL USA - Monday, March 27, 2000 at 21:27:16 (CST)

i want to know new femal friend if you can help me

karoom <kareem_123@yahoo.com>

USA - Monday, March 27, 2000 at 10:16:16 (CST)

I always had the feeling that I missed something during the Vetname War. I was in the Air Force in 1970. But I was sent to Korea. I did my tour. And I thank all those served & gave their life for us.

Tony Deacetis <AJDDDDDDD>

Garden City Pk., NY USA - Friday, March 24, 2000 at 22:43:14 (CST)

Greetings from Holland, nice site! Check out our special USAF directory for more USAF related sites.

<http://www.usaf2000.com>

Fonteine <ugamedia@wirehub.nl>

zeist, Netherlands - Friday, March 24, 2000 at 14:56:00 (CST)

I was a gunner with the 17th SOS May 70-Aug 70 at Phan Rang. Transferred to the 20th for the rest of the year. Did a tour with the 16th SOS at Korat 74-75.

James Green <gunner@ndak.net>

Minot, ND USA - Thursday, March 23, 2000 at 19:56:48 (CST)

Great web site & resource. Thanks for allowing me to visit.

Charles Taliaferro <charles@taliaferro.net>

Hanford, CA USA - Thursday, March 23, 2000 at 17:22:56 (CST)

Nice website Chief, I was on the C-119s (#115) At Hickam AFB with the 6593rd Test Sqdn. We were recovering the Discoverer satellites that were returned to earth. The C-119s were the ones converted with a Beaver Tail. We had out times!

Jack E. Morgan (TSgt, USAF RET) <JACKLIN01@aol.com>

Lawton, Ok USA - Thursday, March 23, 2000 at 11:34:39 (CST)

I'm am very impressed with you site. The history was very interesting & informative. Many of my older cousins & friends were in Vietnam & I have an interest in reading about it. Thanks for doing such a great job!

Donna Lee Muntz <catari99@hotmail.com>

Fredonia, NY USA - Sunday, March 19, 2000 at 14:54:55 (CST)

just made the previous post & I mistyped my e-mail address. This one is correct.

jim mattison <jmatti@sonic.net>

USA - Sunday, March 19, 2000 at 13:08:19 (CST)

It is a small world! the other day I encountered a young man whose father flew 119's & 130's. His name is Bill Reffner. He is not online, but his son is & has asked me to help him contact others in the brotherhood. His e-mail this morning states that he was a Stinger out of Da Nang Jan 70-71, also flew Spectre Jan 73-74. His nickname was "uncle Bill" & is a ret. MSgt. I am guessing that he was an IO, as his son said his dad spent a lot of time spotting for ground fire; but made no reference to being a gunner. Anyone out there know him. The coincidence is that he lives 5 miles from me. his son's e-mail is as follows: bcscurfy@peoplepc.com, drop him an e-jingle if you guys know him. I sent him a link to this website.

jim mattison <jmatti@osonic.net>

Rohnert Park, Ca USA - Sunday, March 19, 2000 at 13:05:27 (CST)

Coming from a grunt GUNSHIPS WERE OUR SAVIORS
Frank McConnell <pointman12100@.com>
Indiatlantic, FI USA - Sunday, March 19, 2000 at 09:24:12 (CST)

Ken Shedd....I live Mt. Pleasant,SC now.... looking forward to seeing you at the reunion. I believe we were the only crew to survive Col. Brown's wrath. Now that scares me & I am fearless! Don't beleave it. Hope all of our fellow crew members could be there! Damn! Dave O'Mara A/C, Instructor Pilot Phan Rang Oct. 1969 - Oct. 1970
David E. O'Mara <Swampridr@AOL.COM>
Mt. Pleasant, SC USA - Saturday, March 18, 2000 at 20:51:57 (CST)

Have been reading guest book there are a lot of new entrys since i read it last august. Was at nha-trang when it was the 71st sos. I remember some names from the guest book & j temony was one. If memory serves me we were at tuy hoa together in 69 & 70. But would like to hear from people who were at nha trang & tuy hoa. I was a crew chief on acft 069 & some of the other ones there. this is & excellent websight chief keep up the good work.
Rick Stone <clancey@magiclink.com>
Kimberly , Idaho USA - Saturday, March 18, 2000 at 11:13:07 (CST)

To the former members of the 18th SOS: My father was LtCol James N. Chapman, & he served aboard AC-119K 'Stinger' gunships during the Vietnam War. On a sunny June morning in 1998 he flew his final mission against an enemy he could neither see nor hope to defeat (cancer). Knowing he would not return, he faced this new foe with the same courage & professionalism he displayed when engaging the NVA & VC from the night skies over Southeast Asia. He is now in the hands of a heavenly Bright Light team. Although my father spent the majority of his career in SAC aboard B-52's, I believe he was proudest of his time spent amongst the 18th SOS - of all those missions flown in harm's way. To those of you who knew him, & served alongside of him, this message is meant as a heartfelt thank you from his wife & children. To my father, you were truly 'brothers in arms'. God bless you all, & thank you for your service to our country... Thomas Chapman (formerly Cpl Chapman, VMA-224 USMC)
Thomas Chapman <MooseC1912@aol.com>
Houma, LA USA - Sunday, March 12, 2000 at 14:37:36 (CST)

I just signed the guestbook with a couple of comments but it occurred to me that people looking for special info might like to know a little more about when & where I was involved. I was Shadow 10 at Phu Cat & Ton Son Nhut during late 1970 & early 1971. I was there when we started flying during the daytime in an airplane painted black on the bottom. I was there when Dak Seang was under siege. I was there when we somehow started launching an airplane every 3 hours for Cambodia (I didn't say that!) I trained several great pilots who were supposed to train the VNAF. How did that turn out? I was there when our maintenance guys didn't have parts & we ganged up & took steaks or beer down the ramp to the VNAF C-119 group to trade for parts. I was there when we downloaded fuel & oil & ammo so that we could have 100 fpm rate of climb on one engine (we lost an airplane just before I arrived in-country due to engine fire on takeoff. We tried very hard to have no more of those tragedies.) E-Mail me if you recognize my name or want more info on people or events (I can tell a lot of stories). I also have quite a few pictures which I will share will CMSGT Petrie. Bert Bert
Bert Blanton <blantonb@poncacity.net>
Ponca City, OK USA - Sunday, March 05, 2000 at 11:53:18 (CST)

Wow! Was I surprised to find this wonderful web site. I had lost track of all AC119 people & was feeling kind of alone out here on the prairie. Bert Blanton blantonb@poncacity.net. 1521 W Chestnut. Ponca City,OK. 74601. 580-762-3794.
Bert Blanton <blantonb@poncacity.net>
Ponca City, OK USA - Sunday, March 05, 2000 at 11:29:24 (CST)

Great site. I remember those hats very well. My father brought home three of them for us boys. Speaking of which, my father Morris W. Blick was an FE with the 18th SOS from 70-71. He was (if memory serves me right) stationed out of Da Nang. I believe his pilot was Capt. Dick Iverson. I am very proud of the service he & all of you did for his country. He is doing well. Over the years the hats have long been lost, but I do plan on ordering some. Thank you for your time.
Jim Blick <scooter91@earthlink.net>
Mojave, CA USA - Saturday, March 04, 2000 at 10:23:40 (CST)

I was on the initial group from Lockbourne to Phan Rang, I also ferried a C-119 basic model to Morocco during our Ohio stay. My memories of Vietnam are not quite as vivid as they once were but I do remember some fun parts. I believe that every outfit is well served with their own version of Sgt Bilko. Someone who can bring scrounge anything to make life interesting. Our hooch was a single story, 60 or so man barracks. In the center was a dayroom with a small bar & even smaller refrigerator. Opposite this room was a sunken latrine, about 6-8 inches below the regular floor level. One night, as usual, the late arrivals to the bar had no ice cubes. Capt Trout (I can't think of his first name) came up with the brilliant idea that we toss in a few bucks & enough liquor ration coupons for him to buy a few cases of cheer & "talk" to the Army supply people about our severe morale problem of not enough ice. (It should be noted that the enlisted folks did not get coupons to buy whiskey at the Class 6.) Away went Capt Trout. About two days later we heard the chimes of a flat bed truck backing into our dayroom area. Sure enough, here's this commercial size ice maker but it would not fit in the dayroom. The Army guys wiggled it through that room & it just fit in the latrine. The story didn't end here. Next morning, I get up to do my thing, opened the latrine door, & Holy Moly, we had eight inches of ice cubes over the entire floor. We got it cleaned up & did some adjustment on the icemaker which served us with enthusiasm thanks to our Sgt Bilko (Capt Trout). The story did not end here, if you ever noticed at night, flying over our section of the base when the icemaker turned on, there was a "grey out". Does anyone else have the problem of their party suit having shrunk over the years???

Dick Matzen <retiredrich@MSN.COM>

Tacoma , WA USA - Thursday, March 02, 2000 at 17:43:36 (CST)

I was based at phan rang SVN with n# 2 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force. I was in country in 1969. We were attached to the 35th Tactical Fighter Group & I used to drink with blokes from the 14th S.O.W., so G'day to you all.

jim drever <vietvets@cqnet.com.au>

rockhampton, qld australia - Wednesday, March 01, 2000 at 21:16:13 (CST)

Just wondering--does anybody else remember that rainy night on Shadow 45 when LtCol Whitesell complained about the "long pass play?" I sure did hate to shut Phu Cat down.

[Chris Chandler](mailto:chris@jack-chandler.com) <chris@jack-chandler.com>

Richland, WA USA - Wednesday, March 01, 2000 at 20:52:01 (CST)

I am writing for my father LTcol David Q. Cummings who has parksons & is unable type. I believe he was in 18th SOS at NKP from 70 to 71. You can email him at cummings95@mindspring.com I'm sure he likes to hear from the great people he had the honor to serve with. Thanks & God bless.

John Cummings <cummings95@mindspring.com>

carthage, n.c USA - Wednesday, March 01, 2000 at 20:39:32 (CST)

I was a gunner on capt. John Morris crew 70-71 on AC119K danag & nkp. The AC10H 74-75 I would like to hear from any old crew members

Henry Ducoeur smsgt ret <hducoeur@aol.com>

Caldwell, Id USA - Sunday, February 27, 2000 at 13:25:44 (CST)

It is great to visit this site & see so many familiar names that I haven't seen in many years. Superb job chief!!!

pat jones <pjones@psci.net>

santa claus, ind USA - Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at 22:33:23 (CST)

Can't thank you enough for this great site! I was an AC in the 119K in late 72 & early 73 &, like all crews during those days, wandered from NKP to DaNang, to Bien Hoa, & finally to Tan Son Nhut, where I spent the last 2 months ferrying G models from there to Clark. What a thrill it is to see that someone actually remembers that there was such a thing as STINGER! Thanks again!

Irv Greenberg <irvgberg@ipa.net>

Hot Springs, AR USA - Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at 22:10:55 (CST)

hello...i am looking for crew of c-47 gunships. can anyone assist me ? thanks !

dick borisch <rborisch@aol.com>

rockford, mi USA - Sunday, February 20, 2000 at 10:54:55 (CST)

Hi Art Baxter here, was an IO out of NKP, 1972. Glad to see this nice site. Hope to make the Reunion, just after I retire from Travis AFB Ca as an Airfield Manager. On my way to Phoenix Ariz to retire. Again sure would like to see some of the guys I flew. Again a swell site Art

Art Baxter <artc141@pacbell.net>

Fairfield, ca USA - Saturday, February 19, 2000 at 23:43:03 (CST)

I WAS WITH THE 117TH AVN CO STATION AT QUI NHON IN 1964/1965 WITH THE 25TH AS A DOOR GUNNER TDY FROM MY UNIT C 1ST BT. 14TH INFT, 25DIV.

jim davis <jdavis@aol.com>

nipomo, ca USA - Saturday, February 19, 2000 at 16:19:19 (CST)

TOM NEWBOLD, CMS, RET!!!! - I tried the email address you put in the guest book & it came back undeliverable. Email me at billham@micron.net ASAP Bill Hamilton, Maj., Ret.

Bill Hamilton <billham@micron.net>

Mountain Home, ID USA - Monday, February 14, 2000 at 12:05:57 (CST)

Great site! Browsing it has brought back many memories. I was a recip engine mechanic with Indiana 434th unit activated in 1968 & sent to Nha Trang, then Saigon, by way of Lockborne. Don't know if anyone remembers the 300 on time take-offs we logged at Saigon. Who said the AC-119G couldn't hack it?? Roger M. Rose CMS Retired Roger M. Rose <rmrose@hsonline.net>

Paris Crossing, IN USA - Sunday, February 13, 2000 at 20:22:50 (CST)

Flew a lot of hours on "Shadow 45" as a gunner...would like to hear from any old "45" crew members. Mike "Moon Mullens"

Mike Mullen <michther@aol.com>

Bozeman, MT USA - Friday, February 11, 2000 at 06:40:38 (CST)

Hi - I was stationed NKP, Thailand, Danang & Bien Hoa during 1971 - 1972. I was a crew chief on AC119K gunships. I notice on the site that most of the people are from the flight crews. I really don't remember too many flight crew members. I would like to know who served during the same time frame & the same places that I did. I have an awful memory & can't remember names like others. I was on the second of three 119's that flew into Bien Hoa from Danang when An Loc got overrun, I believe in late 1971. By the way, one of my instructors at Shephard AFB turned up one day on the flight line as a flight engineer on the aircraft I was crewing. Are you out there? It was at NKP, probably during 1971. Great site. Commendations to you Chief!!!!!! Joe Young mighty@mediaone.net

Joseph P. Young <mighty@mediaone.net>

Agawam, MA USA - Tuesday, February 08, 2000 at 21:07:11 (CST)

I am still here. It is great to see so many other gunship vets keeping in touch. Please advise on any upcoming reunions.

Stinger 41B <coyhoseb@earthlink.net>

St. Charles, MO USA - Tuesday, February 08, 2000 at 13:00:29 (CST)

Hello to all veterans. My name is Katherine Clevenger-Spurgin. I regret to inform you that at approx. 10:30 this morning my father James E Clevenger who served in Vietnam with you passed away at home due to heart complications. One of the things my dad always instilled in us was a love of our country & one of the things he was most proud of was his service. My dad has really enjoyed talking again to some of the people he served with & was looking forward to the reunion in Oct. Please remember him with fondness if you knew him. We appreciate your time, & your service. Sincerely, The Clevenger Family

Katherine Clevenger-Spurgin <bldalone@aol.com>

Allent, Tx USA - Monday, February 07, 2000 at 23:15:09 (CST)

Need help. Am presenting briefings to retired military on the AC-119 gunship in RVN. Need 35mm slides to back up my presentation, as mine were destroyed in a fire. Need pictures on Phan Rang AB & AC-119G or any good mission pictures. Will keep good care & return post haste. Also need data from anyone who knows about a mission I flew in Aug 69 near An Loc. Flew as nav. on Maj O'Briens crew (AC). We were supporting an Army

base camp & got shot up by 50 cal. Left engine on fire, had to feather it, dump cargo & landed at Saigon. If anyone can help on either of the above contact me at ArtBen2@cs.com. Thanks ArtBennett.

Art Bennett <ArtBen2@cs.com>

Lake Grove, NY USA - Sunday, February 06, 2000 at 16:49:32 (CST)

Hi guys, i was a stinger fe & spent most of my time in country, bien-hoa & danang. flew a few out of nkp, it was like being on r&r. i was in the group that stayed behind to train the vnaf. i often wonder what became of my counter part (tsgrt vee) after we turned out the lights & went home.

jim yanacsek msgt. ret.

marshville, nc USA - Friday, February 04, 2000 at 20:46:24 (CST)

Excellent site & long overdue. I'd like to do something about the frequent comments regarding the fact that AC-119s & their crews are "little-known." As an aviation writer, I am researching the AC-119s in preparation for an in-depth history devoted to them. I'm seeking personal experiences, along with information & photo material on training, units, emblems, the aircraft & operations. Material is carefully handled, copied, credited & promptly returned. This is one way of preserving your history. Contact: Wayne Mutza, 8523 W. Holly Rd., Mequon, WI 53097

Wayne Mutza <waynewrite@miliserv.net>

Mequon, WI USA - Thursday, February 03, 2000 at 15:57:22 (CST)

MY BROTHER WAS A DOOR GUNNER IN THE 7TH CAV. IN NAM. HE DOESN'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT IT TO MUCH. BUT I KNOW JUST FROM SOME OF THE STORYS HE'S TOLD ME, HE AN OTHERS LIKE HIM WENT THROUGH PURE HELL. THINK GOD FOR THEM ALL. I AM VERY PROUD OF HIM.

ARTHUR <EAGLETONG@AOL.COM>

TX USA - Wednesday, February 02, 2000 at 20:27:26 (CST)

MY BROTHER WAS A DOOR GUNNER IN THE 7TH CAV. IN NAM. HE DOESN'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT IT TO MUCH. BUT I KNOW JUST FROM SOME OF THE STORYS HE'S TOLD ME, HE AN OTHERS LIKE HIM WENT THROUGH PURE HELL. THINK GOD FOR THEM ALL.

ARTHUR <EAGLETONG@AOL.COM>

USA - Wednesday, February 02, 2000 at 20:22:03 (CST)

I would like to thank all gunship personal that helped me in the search for the men that flew with my father- Paul L Omstead with your help i was able to find some of his crew, a would like to say thanks to Jim Bond , Mailen Thomas , Aron Hill, John Temoney & all the others for a job well done may God follow you through out your lives for giving us them peace & protection that everybody deserves.. glen

glen olmstead <glen_olmstead@hotmail.com>

marietta, ga USA - Tuesday, February 01, 2000 at 11:52:35 (CST)

Just checking back to see how your site has progressed. I wasn't in the service, or in Vietnam. You had told me about your site when requesting permission to use some of my poems from the Vietnam Veteran's Home Page. You have added alot & I find it very informative. I added a new poem since Veteran's Day & my first trip to the Wall...I hope you like it! Keep up the good work, & guys...thank you. Welcome Home!

CeCe Corvera <ccorvera@yahoo.com>

San Diego, CA USA - Sunday, January 30, 2000 at 22:17:32 (CST)

It was sure good to find this web site. I was beginning to think that we were forgotten. Was in the 17th at Tan Son Nhut as an FE from Aug 70-71 under the direction of LtCol Tom Teal. Spent the last 6 weeks at Phan Rang with the Vietnamization Program. Flew with the Herr Heiner "flying circus". Sure had some great times & great people to work with. Had John Morrow as one of my gunners--still stay in touch. Anybody heard from Andy Anderson (Another FE). Be seeing you all at the reunion.

Garry Gourley <leegourley40@hotmail.com>

copperas cove , TX USA - Saturday, January 29, 2000 at 14:39:15 (CST)

This web site really brought back some memories & I thought that the shadow history was all but lost. I see now that it is not. And am greatful for it. Would like all Shadow flight crews to try & contact me at my E-mail address. Again thanks for remembering. Jimmie R. Bond (I.O.) Shadow Group, Bakalar A.F.B. In.

Jimmie R. Bond I.O. (smsgt. ret.) <JBOND@CQC.COM>
PERU , IN USA - Saturday, January 29, 2000 at 13:06:53 (CST)

A friend John, informed me of this site. Did not know that it existed. I was a former member of the 434th TCW, stationed at Bakalar AFB, IN. On May 13th, 1968, I was called to active duty with the 930th TCG & traveled with our unit to Lockbourne AFB, Ohio. There our mission was changed from Troop Carrier to the Gunship Program. When our unit deployed to Vietnam in late 1968, I was assigned to a Regular AF C-130 unit at Lockbourne AFB, since only 13 of our aircraft were selected to go to Vietnam. Thirteen of our Loadmaster were retrained as IO's & the remainder of our unit transferred to C-130 units at Lockbourne. I was not selected to retrain in favor of the younger airmen. All gunners were regular Air Force enlisted men recently completing Armament training. After being relieved from Active Duty, I returned to duty with the 434th TFW at Bakalar AFB & eventually moving to Grissom AFB, IN when Bakalar was closed. The 434th TFW was converted to a A-37 unit & eventually to the A-10, Wharhog. I retired from the 434th in June 1989, after 40.5 years of active & reserve duty as a SMS, Munitions Maintenance Superintendent. To all of my former buddies I say thanks for the many memories.

Aaron Hill <Aaronh1929@aol.com>

Anderson, IN USA - Friday, January 28, 2000 at 20:36:40 (CST)

Bill I just found this web page & i could not believe my eyes when I saw it was you, although you had more hair back then. I am proud to say that I got to fly with you & to call you a friend. Gary D. Lane, Gunner 18th SOS NKP 71-72. I am looking forward to hearing from you & others that I served with. And Bill's story about the tanks is true & to the point!!!

Gary D. Lane <xmaslane@zebra.net>

Selma, AL USA - Thursday, January 27, 2000 at 23:29:46 (CST)

It's great to read all the replies from you guys. I was one of those (at the time anyway) unfortunate ones that was active duty but was assigned to a Reserve unit. I as others did aircrew training on the AC-119G at Lockbourne, OH. Some may remember (I know my crew did) I was the gunner on Major Reed's crew that "threw-up" on every mission. Yes, it's true but after two weeks my system "give in" or "give up" & I was cured or should I say "combat ready". I left the states in Dec. '68 & after jungle survival training in at Clark, AFB arrived Nha Trang late Dec. '68. My duty period was then until June '70 (18 months, including 2 R&Rs). I was originally part of the 71st which was converted to the 17th SOS. Like many others I was young & unaware of what effect a war like environment could do on them. Even today I do not voluntarily talk about my experiences in Vietnam, knowing we had it better than so many others that served in the Army, Navy, Marines. Has any body seen John Sturm (I think) that's John last name - my gunner companion. It's great to make contact. Peace

John Temoney <jtemoney@netusa1.net>

Kokomo, IN USA - Thursday, January 27, 2000 at 19:16:28 (CST)

Love this site. Glad i found it, i was on 119G Shadows in 1970-71, stationed at Phan Rang & Saigon, as a FE. Nice to read all the comments & see all you fellow comrades. Look forward to all the new info.

[Ret Msgt Leon D Mott](#) <hermott50>

Tucson, AZ USA - Tuesday, January 25, 2000 at 22:20:40 (CST)

New E-mail address. Clif Frey Spec42 good to get your address will write soon. De Debil, Ollie is expecting you at the reunion. Stanley says he will be there, too.

Howard Reid <hsreid@earthlink.net>

Gresham, OR USA - Tuesday, January 25, 2000 at 17:52:12 (CST)

What a trip this guestbook has given me! The lost AC-130 during the Gulf war reminded me so clearly of my experiences at Phu Cat, Phan Rang, & Tan Son Nhut in 1970-71. At least nobody but Don Craig got a Purple Heart while I was in country. Yeah, I still have the plaque from 17 SOS "C" Flight hanging on my wall, right next to the crew photo of Shadow 11. Thanks for the site.

[Chris Chandler](#) <jack@jack-chandler.com>

Richland, WA USA - Sunday, January 23, 2000 at 13:52:32 (CST)

Nite after Nite I watched & heard gunships work, first as a tower guard then from a mortar pit or m-113 track. I was with the Heavy Weapons Section/ 35th Security Police Squadron/Phan Rang 70-71. Thanks for keeping us safe!

Ken Campbell <rkycamp@aol>

lakeland, fl USA - Saturday, January 22, 2000 at 00:34:37 (CST)

Just an ol' gun plumber, out surfin'. Have looked before for info on "Puff". Sure was good to find your site. Must have read over half of the guest inputs tonite. I worked on "Puff" in '66 & early '67 out of Bien Hoa & Nha Trang. Helped arm one of the first hueys in support of the Green Berets out of Nha Trang in Jan 67 before I came "home" for good. Lots of good memories though. I can't think the Air Force enough for helping to pull my life together. (Even with 2 TDYs to 'nam, PCS to Korea & then PCS back to 'nam in less than 3 years). Don't regret a minute of it "now". Great site, Great stuff, Hope to hear from some of the troops from this entry. Keep up the good work. Les.

L.R. (LES) KING, JR <kinglrjr@arkansas.net>

Camden, AR. USA - Wednesday, January 19, 2000 at 20:32:20 (CST)

Thanks to all of you for your service in Vietnam aboard AC-119 gun ships...Your service was not in vain & it gave the grunts on the ground lots of support. God Bless you..... Vince Wuwert USAF/Security Service Thailand 68-69 Det-4, 6922nd SW Ramasun Station Udorn

Vince Wuwert <VAwuwert@aol.com>

Toledo, OH USA - Saturday, January 15, 2000 at 16:10:23 (CST)

I was a gunner at DaNang from jul 70 to may 70 then off to NKP until jul 71. My crew members were A/C Capt. Ben Collins, Copilot Lt. Terry Bott, Nav. Maj Jack Harrison, Flir Maj. Walter Riebau, Nos Maj. Ron Bennidict, FE Fast Eddy Furano, Gunner Gordon Williams, Gunner Dan Jensen, IO Ron Morrison & yours truly. It was a great ride. Hope to make the reunion. Hope to hear from some of you.

Bob Hamorsky <hamrtime@salsgiver.com>

Springdale, PA USA - Thursday, January 13, 2000 at 18:50:49 (CST)

Never Mind! If I had read the other pages first, instead of just jumping in here to the guestbook section, I would have seen that there is a reunion scheduled. GREAT!! I'll do my damndest to be there!! (Be forewarned, Ollie, De Debil is watching!!)

Bob Frederick

USA - Monday, January 10, 2000 at 18:58:18 (CST)

Hey, guys, It's 2000. Is there gonna be a reunion this year? If so, Where & When? Some of us have to make arrangements well in advance (No no-notice reunions authorized)

Bob Frederick <frederickunltd@yahoo.com>

Louisville, KY USA - Monday, January 10, 2000 at 18:48:06 (CST)

hi bill I'am still hanging in there. looks good it came a long way richard

R MCKNIGHT <rmcknightm@aol.com>

gordonville , tx USA - Friday, January 07, 2000 at 09:26:41 (CST)

As an English teacher, I'm searching for material on Vietnam to use in the class room. This site have just provided an authentic voice to the period. Thank you for your voices.

c pyles

USA - Wednesday, January 05, 2000 at 16:53:35 (CST)

I was assigned to Gunships twice. 68-69 14th FMS as NCOIC EOD (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL) Again in 71-72 as SEFE GUNNER with the 18th SOS at NKP. I found out about your Web Site thru the ACA newsletter. It was a real pleasure to see what a great web site you have put together. I have read all the stories. It brought a lump in my throat when I read THE SHOOTDOWN OF STINGER 41. I was one of the ushers at the memorial services at NKP for Capt Coutney, Capt Slagle & SSgt Brown. My personal thanks going to Cmsgt Corbett for putting his personal experiences in writing for all of us to read. I am looking forward to the next STINGER Reunion. Will be there if I am not six feet under. Chief Petrie you have put together a fantastic web site. Am looking forward to the cartoons. I had a copy of them but thru the years I've misplaced them [Milo G. Yowell](#) <stinger21golf@webtv.net>

Halfway , OR USA - Tuesday, January 04, 2000 at 17:13:14 (CST)