

AC-119 Gunships Guestbook Visitors During 2001

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Just getting back to work & read an email sent by Karen Graves. Though I only met Fred at this years reunion, I feel as if I've known him a long time through the few emails we sent each other. My one regret is that I didn't finish writing the history of the 18th FLTS which includes the 18 SOS as part of it's lineage. I salute Fred & am glad I had the honor of meeting with him. I'm inspired to finish the project I've started here at work. What he did (& all of your did) during his time with the 18 SOS will not be forgotten. God Bless you all!

Donna Crews <[donna.m.crews@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:donna.m.crews@hurlburt.af.mil)>

Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Wednesday, December 26, 2001 at 09:56:51 (EST)

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I want to wish all my AC119 Gunship Brothers & their families the happiest of Holidays. May the the new year bring you blessings of good health & prosperity.

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Friday, December 21, 2001 at 20:12:33 (EST)

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I got in-country in 67, relenlisted in DaNang in 68 & stayed until 69. It was then that I got the honor of visiting Lockbourne AFB for training on some sort of special project. Little did I realize at the time that it would be the AC-119's. 70-71 PhanRang, Late 71 at TSN, & early 72 at NKP. During some of these flights, I recorded (on our intercom) about 1 1/2 hours of one of our Stinger missions where we got a record number of kills in the Spring of 71. (27 trucks). This tape has all the discussions, intercom chatter, VHF & UHF calls to the fast movers & even several "rather dramatic" discussions. If anyone would like a copy, please e-mail me with requests. I've had this tape floating around my collections now for over 30 years.

Rick Watts <[rcwatts113@attbi.com](mailto:rcwatts113@attbi.com)>

Highland Village, TX USA - Friday, December 21, 2001 at 00:30:06 (EST)

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Just found this web page. Thanks to all that did such a great job. I lost a good buddy that was a gunner on one of these. His name was Fred Fenter. They were shot down over Loas in late 72 or early 73. Two of the crew was picked up but the rest never got out. The plane was one fire, hit in the inboard engine & the wing failed from the fire. They found the remains some 13 years later. I talked to Freds mother about 5 years after the crash & hew was still listed as MIA. I went to boot camp, munitions school & then to Luke AFB with Fred. Anyone with any info can e-mail me. Thanks again & God bless. A fellow MMS loader. Jeff Baggett

Jeff Baggett <[adogleg2@aol.com](mailto:adogleg2@aol.com)>

Ozark, Mo USA - Monday, December 17, 2001 at 00:11:58 (EST)

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Was very saddened to learn of Freds passing. I counted him as a friend while in 'Nam, & at the reunions as did we all. But he was special. Untill we meet again, Fred.....

Jim Ray <[yarji@aol](mailto:yarji@aol)>

Palestine, Tx USA - Sunday, December 16, 2001 at 21:15:24 (EST)

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From Antoine de Saint-Exipery's The Little Prince. "In one of the stars I shall be living. In one of them I shall be laughing. And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing when you look at the sky at night." I will remember Fred when I look at the stars at night.

Howard Reid <[hsreid@earthlink.net](mailto:hsreid@earthlink.net)>

Gresham, OR USA - Saturday, December 15, 2001 at 17:38:27 (EST)

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Sometimes I have no words for the loss of friends & fellow warriors. It is times like Fred Graves' passing that I leave the words to others. Fred was so much a part of our brotherhood. Fred may be gone from our midst but he certainly will never be forgotten. The passing of our friend Fred reminds me of the following words I'd like to share with all in the AC-119 Gunship Brotherhood....

Eulogy for a Veteran

"Do not stand at my grave & weep. I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the Gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight,

I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave & cry, I am not there, I did not die.

Author unknown. May God hold you in the palm of his hand Fred.

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

Oklahoma City, OK USA - Friday, December 14, 2001 at 12:09:49 (EST)

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The following is a quote from Karen Graves; "Fred's arrangements are simple: cornea donation, direct cremation, & no services because he wanted folks to remember him as he was when they knew him. I wrote his obituary last night. I suggested that donations be made to the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, or to an organization of choice...Art Perry called yesterday & I gave him the same information. Fred wanted to keep everything as simple as he could. If friends want to communicate with me; I would appreciate hearing from them. You were right, Dan, even though I knew, I wasn't ready..." Dan

Dan McDuffie <[danmcduffie@home.com](mailto:danmcduffie@home.com)>

Oakford, IN USA - Thursday, December 13, 2001 at 09:51:27 (EST)

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So sorry to hear about Fred, I just called him the other day, He has been a key player in getting us all together. He will be remembered by all. I have a new email address: [bdonaldson1@attbi.com](mailto:bdonaldson1@attbi.com) I was a Nav at Da Nang from Jan 71- Jul 71 & at NKP Aug 71 to Dec71. I hope to see you all at the next reunion. Charles (Bud)

Donaldson

Bud Donaldson <[bdonaldson1@attbi.com](mailto:bdonaldson1@attbi.com)>

LIVERMORE, CA USA - Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at 23:28:20 (EST)

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Another warrior gone to Valhalla. Rest in Peace, Fred

Howard Reid <[hsreid@earthlink.net](mailto:hsreid@earthlink.net)>

Gresham , Or USA - Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at 12:40:05 (EST)

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I'm so sorry to hear about Fred. It is a great loss to our Association. Fred did so much to bring us back together. I had the previledge of having his brass life membership card made. Fred will be missed by us all. Fly on Fred.

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

st louis, mo USA - Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at 12:21:17 (EST)

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Fred Graves lost his battle with cancer Tuesday, December 11, 2001. He died in his sleep in early evening. Dan

McDuffie <[danmcduffie@home.com](mailto:danmcduffie@home.com)>

Oakford, IN USA - Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at 10:02:07 (EST)

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I was just surfing, looking for pictures of military aircraft, & came across your site. I was an Air Traffic Controller (RAPCON) assigned to the 1987 Comm Sq. at NKP during 1972. I was an E4, & worked many a AC-119. Good aircraft, good crews, always reliable. Thanks for the pictures; I'll be back!

Bob Reichert <[reichert@ameritech.net](mailto:reichert@ameritech.net)>

Woodridge, IL USA - Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 20:32:44 (EST)

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Hey, just received my calling cards & business cards from Evertt Sprous. They are worth the price. Evert, great job & thanks. Craig

Craig Corbett <[rccorbett@drc.com](mailto:rccorbett@drc.com)>

Burke, VA USA - Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 07:55:46 (EST)

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Was really surprised to come across this site. So many memories are buried & so many names forgotten. I was a SSgt. gunner with the 18th at Phan Rang in '69 (I think)...we moved to NKP after about 6 months in country. And I distinctly recall a TDY to Tan Son Nhut & some Cambodian missions. But I sure can't remember names of the crewmembers or aircraft (883 sure bubbles to the surface). If anyone remembers me, please help bring back some of the memories.

Edward (Larry) Cobb <[ecobb@enter.net](mailto:ecobb@enter.net)>

Phillipsburg, NJ USA - Friday, December 07, 2001 at 22:37:28 (EST)

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I built the 119 Stinger Super Sow a few months ago. Sorry I can't remember where I purchased it. I've had it for about four years sitting in a closet. I also have a picture of that plane from PhanRang. Sure would be nice to hear from some more of you maintenance people. I'm still trying to find some one to scan the Original Painting I did of the Stinger LOGO on Gunfighter row in Da Nang. Hope to be sending the pictures soon.

Tom Graham <[twocrackers@earthlink.net](mailto:twocrackers@earthlink.net)>  
Tehachapi, CA USA - Thursday, December 06, 2001 at 22:02:30 (EST)

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I just finished reading the book SHADOWS OF SAIGON it sure was a good book brought back lots of memories. I think ELTON FLETCHER did a good job. Ret.M/SGT.& Shadow F/E from 70/71 Keep up the good work.  
Leon Mott <[Hermott@50](mailto:Hermott@50)>  
Tucson, AZ USA - Wednesday, December 05, 2001 at 20:10:54 (EST)

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James Forney,,contact gary buchanan at [gbuchanan@uswest.net](mailto:gbuchanan@uswest.net) on all aircraft models including the C-119k. He has quite a long list.  
Garry Gourley <[gfgourley@hotmail.com](mailto:gfgourley@hotmail.com)>  
USA - Tuesday, December 04, 2001 at 09:04:12 (EST)

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I saw the request from Lee Kyser about the Stinger bailout at Danang. When I went to the 20th SOS, from the 17th, in Sep '70, one of the other new guys was Pete Syzmanski of the 18th. He told us about bailing out feet wet. My e-mail to Lee wouldn't go through, so I hope he see's this. If Pete hasn't been identified in the photo, I'd be glad to have a look. Dave Galvan  
David Galvan <[davidgalvan@btconnect.com](mailto:davidgalvan@btconnect.com)>  
Wickham Market, UK - Tuesday, December 04, 2001 at 06:34:40 (EST)

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Mr. Garth Williams I understand that you are building a AC 119k Gunship. could you tell me where you purchased this kit? Thanks for your time. Jim  
James Forney <[james\\_forney@hotmail.com](mailto:james_forney@hotmail.com)>  
Las Vegas, NV USA - Friday, November 30, 2001 at 22:24:48 (EST)

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Bill Petrie, I was so glad to find your website. I Flew with the "Batshit Blue" crew in Danang & then Crew 13 at NKP. Had been wondering if Courtney, Slagle & Brown had been forgotten so I was looking up hometowns at the Viet Nam War Memorial site to try to search for their families. Somehow I thought to try searching with "AC119K" & what a great site. Probably seems pretty simple to you computer literate types. In any case, I had been flying with Crew 13 as a NOS/FLIR/Sensor Instructor. I was on R&R in Hawaii & had just returned to NKP when Lt Terry Stokka, my roommate told me my crew had just gone TDY to Bien Hoa. I still remember all the confusing reports of their being shot down over highway 13 at Anloc. In any case this is a great Site & I am glad to see lots of familiar names. I hope to make a reunion soon.  
Capt Hupe <[jhupe@kansas.net](mailto:jhupe@kansas.net)>  
Wamego, ks USA - Friday, November 30, 2001 at 21:46:16 (EST)

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Attention all folks of the 17th SOS. We now have a Sq. flag. A custom flag maker here in Corpus just finished it & delivered to me today. It will be hung in the party room for all to see at the next reunion. Happy Holidays..  
Garry Gourley <[gfgourley33@hotmail.com](mailto:gfgourley33@hotmail.com)>  
Corpus Christi, Tx USA - Friday, November 30, 2001 at 16:00:59 (EST)

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If you are interested, the Vietman Air War Magazine, dated Winter 2002 has an article on the Shadow & a story about a mission involving the Sandy.  
Jacqueline Reilly <[cooljacque@juno.com](mailto:cooljacque@juno.com)>  
St. Louis, MO USA - Thursday, November 29, 2001 at 09:57:15 (EST)

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Ok, I ended up making the Shadow calling card not exactly original. I couldn't get it the way I wanted it by using the copy. It still looks great & now I can personalize it any way you want it. Happy Turkey day to all.  
Everett Sprou <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>  
St Louis, Mo USA - Thursday, November 22, 2001 at 15:45:08 (EST)

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forgot to change the country  
Ken <[K.hulsebosch@vumc.nl](mailto:K.hulsebosch@vumc.nl)>  
Netherlands - Wednesday, November 21, 2001 at 22:53:39 (EST)

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Great site. I needed some more info & found this webpage. I'm building (scale 1/72) a ac 119-stinger. I just want to know of any of you flew on the Super Sow or the peanut special.

Ken <[K.hulsebosch@vumc.nl](mailto:K.hulsebosch@vumc.nl)>

USA - Wednesday, November 21, 2001 at 22:52:06 (EST)

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I'm sorry all. I said \$20.00 for 10 cards. It will be \$2.00 for 10 cards. A scary senior moment there.

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Tuesday, November 20, 2001 at 17:04:03 (EST)

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Ok folks, the refurbished calling cards are ready. The Shadow cards are taken directly from the 71st web site, Al Reynolds original. It has a picture of the AC119G on the back with the 71st & 17th logos. I can add a little something to the back if you desire something personal. The Stinger cards sports the official Stinger logo on the front, with the AC119K with logo on the back. I can add bases to the front & whatever on the back. I have also created some business type cards. It has all the logos on the front. It will say AC119 GUNSHIP AIR CREW MEMBER or GROUND CREW MEMBER, your name, position, years & bases. It has both the 119G & 119K & logos on the back. The minimum order will be 10 cards at a cost of \$20.00 for the 10. I could probably handle up to 50 cards per order. My Snail Mail address is: 3521 Salena St Louis Mo 63118-4024. My land line is (314) 865-0920. Hope to see those orders come in. Be patient, I will work as fast as I can to get your orders to you. Your Warrior Brother Everett (Dale)

Everett (Dale) Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Tuesday, November 20, 2001 at 01:10:41 (EST)

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Flew with the 18th SOS as lead gunner in 71&72 with McGilliscrew & Capt. Shumann. Changed my e-mail address so I'd love to hear from some of you. Looking for Tom Weisenfluh & Gino Caruso, Dan Jensen, Kilgore, just to name a few. Any "CAVE" alumni out there? You probably wouldn't remember anyway!!!!!! Hooked up with Larry Mersek recently, couldn't believe it to find out he only lived 5miles away. Thanks for the great site.Keep up the good work

David G. Vaux <[superdavesroadking@yahoo.com](mailto:superdavesroadking@yahoo.com)>

Silverdale, Wa USA - Tuesday, November 20, 2001 at 00:42:23 (EST)

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Can you print a copy of Buchwheat's speech at the reunion? I was a Shadow pilot Jun.70-Dec.72. Also interested in the Shadow calling cards & patches if you have any. Can't remember all the names, but I do remember all the good times. You all do a great job with this sight. I come often for the memories. Thanks.

Craig French <[ecf1968@yahoo.com](mailto:ecf1968@yahoo.com)>

Duluth, Ga USA - Monday, November 19, 2001 at 18:41:00 (EST)

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You guys & gals are the greatest. I asked for some copies of the calling cards & the response was great. I have, I guess you could say, refurbished both the Shawdow & Stinger Calling cards. There will be some slight differences from the original in that there will be a picture of the Shadow or Stinger on the back side along with the official 71st, 17th or 18th Logos. While I would like to give them away, I feel that the Association should make a little profit & there are some material costs. So if I get some response asking for the cards, I can determine how many & how much to charge. I am not looking to make a profit for myself. So I will be looking for some e-mails if anyone is interested. Also, I can make some personal cards with names & crew positions for those that are interested. Let me hear from you. Everett (Dale)

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Friday, November 16, 2001 at 22:18:18 (EST)

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My Dad was Bernie Knapic--Shadow Pilot. Are any of you familiar with him & willing to correspond with me regarding Bernie?

Bob Knapic <[sorenzio@aol.com](mailto:sorenzio@aol.com)>

Overland Park , KS USA - Friday, November 16, 2001 at 08:37:18 (EST)

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Hi Guys & Gals, Thursday November 15, 2001 4:00 pm MST. I just spoke with Karen & Fred Graves. As most of you know Fred is in ill health. Fred, along with others, was VERY instrumental in bring the 119ers together. I coined the title "The Father of the 119ers" & gave it to Fred. There are many others that made "Shadow & Stinger" dreams become reality, but Fred has dedicated himself to this cause to no end. I know there are those of

you that would like to give Fred a word of thanks. I spoke to Fred about posting his home phone number in the guest book & asking that you give Fred a brief call. His response was that he would like that very much, but he wanted all to understand, at times he is very weak & simply does not have the energy to talk. So please understand if he cannot speak with you. Go ahead & drop a dime or use some of those free cell phone minutes & give him a call. If you are in touch with any 119ers that are not on-line please relay this message to them. Fred Graves home phone: 1-208-587-9255 Thanks Dan McDuffie

Dan McDuffie <[danmcduffie@home.com](mailto:danmcduffie@home.com)>

Oakford, IN USA - Thursday, November 15, 2001 at 18:51:59 (EST)

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Does anyone out there have one of the calling cards from the Stingers? I am trying to duplicate them. Also, did the Shadows have a calling card? If anyone has these & can e-mail or snail mail me one, I will try to duplicate them for anyone that wants them.

everett sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

st louis, mo USA - Thursday, November 15, 2001 at 08:55:13 (EST)

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I'm here Guys! Sorry, I had to have my address changed due to some funky emails I was getting at work. Anyway, note the new address includes my middle initial now. Happy Belated Veterans Day to you all - may hats off to you!

Donna Crews <[donna.m.crews@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:donna.m.crews@hurlburt.af.mil)>

Ft Walton Beach, FL USA - Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at 11:59:11 (EST)

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Please note my correct e-mail address.

Garry F Gourley <[gfgourley33@hotmail.com](mailto:gfgourley33@hotmail.com)>

USA - Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at 09:43:00 (EST)

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Happy veterans day to all members of the 17th & 18th SOS. Just take a moment of silence for two passing crewmembers of the 17th, Tsgt Ed McCormick (FE) Tan San Nhut & Don Somerville (IO) Tan San Nhut. I just got notice from the Air Force a month ago of their demise. The past 2001 Reunion was great & hope to see you all at the 2002. God Bless you all. Garry Gourley FE 17th SOS Tan San Nhut 70-71

Garry F Gourley <[gfgourley33@hoymail.com](mailto:gfgourley33@hoymail.com)>

USA - Monday, November 12, 2001 at 19:02:52 (EST)

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Rode K-models; Capt. Weida, Capt. Caughey, L/Col. Brown@Phan Rang; Phu Cat/DaNang---'69/'70. Where are ya Doug Frost (yeah Maj.... I know), Ray Galindo ((-.-)), ...Bob

[robert.greene](mailto:robert.greene@grrob@onebox.com) <[grrob@onebox.com](mailto:grrob@onebox.com)>

dallas, tx. USA - Monday, November 12, 2001 at 15:49:23 (EST)

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Where are you Donna? The email address for donna crews is being blocked by the Hurlburt email post office. I need to reestablish contact. Help by anyone please. Lee Kyser

Lee Kyser <[linvel@earthlink.net](mailto:linvel@earthlink.net)>

USA - Friday, November 09, 2001 at 22:43:51 (EST)

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Bill, When are you going to update the Association website to show the new officers? We need this to get everyone on the same page as far as membership. Thanks Art Perry Treasurer, Stinger FE 70-71 NKP Tan Son Nhut

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

Ormond Beach, FL USA - Thursday, November 08, 2001 at 22:01:01 (EST)

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THIS IS LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT FRED GRAVES IS NOT DOING WELL. FRED'S DREAM CAME TRUE TO BRING US ALL TOGETHER. LET'S ALL REMEMBER FRED AND HIS BRIDE MISS KAREN IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS EVERYDAY AND GIVE THEM ALL THE SUPPORT THAT WE CAN. THE BEST TO ALL OF YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS

Doug W. <[Busch791](mailto:Busch791)>

Ruskin, FL USA - Thursday, November 08, 2001 at 19:07:51 (EST)

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Good work, Be proud! And always "REMEMBER" THOSE THAT SERVED AND DIED IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE. God Bless;

Crichton J.D <[jimpat22@hotmail.com](mailto:jimpat22@hotmail.com)>

Sarnia, Ont. CDN - Saturday, November 03, 2001 at 07:05:10 (EST)

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Addition Bill Burress <[WBurress@KSCable.com](mailto:WBurress@KSCable.com)>

Derby, Ks USA - Sunday, October 28, 2001 at 01:20:44 (EST)

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Stinger Gunner: Phan Rang, DaNang--69/70--Col. Woodson--Sqd. Co. Nedd to know where Maj. Frost got to, also Capt. Ray Galindo---I'm the guy who shot the clearance barrel!! Thought the d---d thing rotated COUNTER-clockwise--(-.-)....Happy Trails Bob

Robert Greene, Jr. <[grrob@onebox.com](mailto:grrob@onebox.com)>

Dallas, tx. USA - Saturday, October 27, 2001 at 15:29:23 (EDT)

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I am writing regarding my late father, Lt. Col. WILLIAM TALIAFERRO. He was stationed at Phan Rang & Da Nang in 1969, was a navigator on a Shadow gunship, I believe number 61 or 63. His gunship's pilot was Major Horak. I have photos & an interesting mission tape of Australian TIC (ground controller was Constant Rivets). I am looking for photos & other mission tapes of his crew. If you have any photos or knew my dad, please contact me at [danwtaliaferro@msn.com](mailto:danwtaliaferro@msn.com)

Dan W. Taliaferro <[danwtaliaferro@msn.com](mailto:danwtaliaferro@msn.com)>

Montgomery, AL USA - Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 12:24:12 (EDT)

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For those of you who want to buy a copy of my novel, "Shadows of Saigon", I recommend Barnes & Noble Online Bookstore at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com). They have the best prices for soft cover & hard cover books. I bought a hard cover for \$25. plus shipping & received the book one week later. Your local bookstore can also order copies of the book. Author name on the book is Elton Fletcher. For those of you who have read the book, do me a favor & be a literary critic. Write an online review of the book at Barnes & Noble. Thanks to all for your support! After a great AC-119 Gunship Reunion this year, I'm already looking forward to next year's reunion III. Fletch

Larry Elton Fletcher <[lfletcher@socket.net](mailto:lfletcher@socket.net)>

Lake Ozark, MO USA - Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 11:24:42 (EDT)

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Excellent reunion last month.

William R. Burress <[Wburress@kscable.com](mailto:Wburress@kscable.com)>

Derby, Ks USA - Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 01:17:35 (EDT)

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I read Larry Fletcher's book, "Shadows of Saigon". It was the greatest. Even though I was a Stinger Gunner, it brought back many memories. If you haven't read the book yet, buy it & read it. I wish they would make a movie from the book.

Everett (Dale) Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at 18:40:10 (EDT)

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First message after the reunion & I'm still pumped. A fine time & so nice to see all the Stingers & shadows in attendance. I will get our money steightened out shortly. But now i have a favor to ask. I was given the 4 country patch (Laos, vietnam, thailand, cambodia) as well as the yankee air pirate patch to have reproduced. Need to know how many are interested in these patches so i know how many to have made & how many we can sell for the association. Please respond to my email address please & not to the gunship site or the association. both of theses patches are to be worn on the party suit or wherever you like. They will be made off of originals & will be better than new, just like the Stinger & Shadow patches.

Art Perry <[aperry9567@aol.com](mailto:aperry9567@aol.com)>

ormond beach, fl USA - Sunday, October 21, 2001 at 18:25:18 (EDT)

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Trying to locate other fire control techs at Phan Rang, Udorn, & DaNang from Oct 69 to Oct 70. Just joined the association & trying to get in touch with other gunship wire wizards. Looking forward to hearing from some of the crew. (Also another e-mail address-- [jhiggins@flycfs.com](mailto:jhiggins@flycfs.com))

Johnny M Higgins <[jmhiggins@alltel.net](mailto:jmhiggins@alltel.net)>

Little Rock, AR USA - Friday, October 19, 2001 at 10:04:35 (EDT)

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Great SITE!!!!!! I was in Phan Rang 1970 71; a maintenance guy with sensors, one of the guys that boresited the NOS scopes, repaired installed, & boresited the ADD 4 & ADD5 FLIR systems & doing a lot of cussing when we had to remove & replace those systems LOL. I went on in my military career to many aircraft & spent several years with the 1st SOS where I flew as a flight mech in the MC 130s. Looking back, you can all be proud. What is happening now to fight terrorism can be traced back to some of the work all of us did back then. Being somewhat of a renegade which I think was fostered during my time in Phan Rang I picked up the name JEEP which carried through out my career. The Flir system we used then has become a major part of our weapons systems in many different aircraft so stay proud, our work & accomplishments are still being used today Jeep

[Dana \(JEEP\) Hensley <wizard@digdat.com>](mailto:wizard@digdat.com)

Martinsville , Va USA - Thursday, October 18, 2001 at 11:15:06 (EDT)

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Thanks for the info, great resource.

Terry Smith <[terry@connorwarin.co.uk](mailto:terry@connorwarin.co.uk)>

London, England - Thursday, October 18, 2001 at 08:17:03 (EDT)

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Yesterday the London Times ran an article about the AC130 flying in Afghanistan. I have heard tales of courage, honor, & immense fire-power from both Marine & Army friends. I know The Dragon kept many of our men alive. May you have success & God's blessings! I know that in many years to come we will hear the stories of glory & honor, when The Dragon came on station & saved so many lives in Afghanistan.

Brian

USA - Thursday, October 18, 2001 at 01:54:26 (EDT)

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Ref. the "Shadow" fotos ( #035). I have an original print received from Fairchild Aviation in Fla. I was a loadmaster (Tsgt.) with the 356th. TAS @ CCAFB, OH 1964-71. Great C-119 site. tried to reply by your comment site, but the URL didn't work.

Hurley L. (Mike) Faul <[mfaul@fuse.net](mailto:mfaul@fuse.net)>

Cincinnati, OH USA - Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at 20:05:50 (EDT)

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My Pa, (Neil)Michael Friel served w/ the 18th SOS & he used to say he was "one bad hombre." We ALL agreed on that! My brother, Sean & I are proud of him ~ especially how stoic he was as two types of cancer consumed him. He felt the cancer was related to agent Orange, no way to go. He died on the 10th hour on the 10th minute on the night of the 10th day of the tenth month '01 ~ peacefully though in his home & in his sleep w/ our arms around him. He spoke highly of all you guys. You are all welcome to the "garden party" in his honor in Phoenix this coming Sunday, the 21st of October, 2001. Dad hailed from Ireland & his wish was to have ashes spread on our family's plot in the town of his childhood. On November 3rd, 2001 many a glass will be raised in Gorey, Ireland to toast the night warrior, the hero that our Dad was & always will be. He was also called "The Gorey Cowboy" by our family there! A service will also be at the Phoenix VA cemetery in the 3rd week of November, date not set. Contact me at the email address listed if you want to attend one of these services, or if you have a story you can share with me. Thank you men for your service & bravery! With respect, "Sonny's son" Michael Sean Friel <[tiger\\_mike@hotmail.com](mailto:tiger_mike@hotmail.com)>

Tucson, AZ USA - Tuesday, October 16, 2001 at 19:39:21 (EDT)

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My father, SMSGT Arthur L. Schulz served as a crewmember on AC-119k's in 1970 at Phan Rang, He had a buddy by the name of Shackelford, aka "shack". I'm hoping to find others that served with him to possibly tell me some stories about their exploits in country. Until I read the website, I had no idea that the OV-1 I flew in the 80's & 90's worked with the stingers! If anyone remembers either of these two I would appreciate an Email.

Kevin Schulz <[kschulz24@hotmail.com](mailto:kschulz24@hotmail.com)>

Melbourne, FL USA - Monday, October 15, 2001 at 23:59:12 (EDT)

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Just found out about the 119 site at the Special Ops Reunion at FWB. Why was the reunion one week before Jungle Jim ,etc.?Was a 119K pilot from 68 to 73 & will join as soon as I can figure what the problem is with my printer.

Mike Newmyer <[two4tex@aol.com](mailto:two4tex@aol.com)>

San Antonio, tx USA - Sunday, October 14, 2001 at 16:58:53 (EDT)

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This is to let every one know that we lost a very dear friend this week who was a member of the 18th SOS. He had cancer & could not whip it. His name was Mike Friel. Please send your prayers for his family. Thanks  
Gus Sininger <[g.sininger@seii.net](mailto:g.sininger@seii.net)>  
Ft. Walton Bch, FL USA - Saturday, October 13, 2001 at 13:41:56 (EDT)

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Great Reunion - Many friends & fun. I have already made my reservations for next year. Will there be an association membership renewal form sent out, or will there be one published on the web site (including the Life Membership Option)?  
Rogers Stevens <[www.Rogac119@aol.com](mailto:www.Rogac119@aol.com)>  
Lumberport, WV USA - Friday, October 12, 2001 at 23:55:23 (EDT)

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Thanks for the site. I was a flt engineer on C-118s with 15th Ops SAMS out of Hickam & made several trips to Phu Cat in 71. The photos brought back some good memories.  
Bill Bostwick <[wbostwick@ppg.com](mailto:wbostwick@ppg.com)>  
Delaware, OH USA - Thursday, October 11, 2001 at 16:13:25 (EDT)

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I'm a Venezuelan Navy Officer, & since 1978 I'm a collector of the Vietnam War Stories, Plastic Model, Patches, Books, & others. Congratulations for your terrific site;  
[Maximiliano González](mailto:Maximiliano_González@cantv.net) <[maximgonzalez@cantv.net](mailto:maximgonzalez@cantv.net)>  
Caracas, DF venezuela - Wednesday, October 10, 2001 at 14:31:49 (EDT)

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Glad the Guestbook is back up & working. I've been wanting to Thank-You one & all for the warm hospitality shown me at the reunion. It was truly a wonderful experience & an eye opener. What started out as a small project has grown & I hope to respectfully capture the history of what the 18th SOS did. I think it is important to the 18th Flight Test Squadron to show our lineage properly & have who we were documented. Anyone wanting to share their story of the time they spent with the 18th SOS is welcome to send me an email. I'm working on the history & will let you all know when it's done. Again, thanks it was truly a wonderful & over whelming experience.  
Your friend at the 18 FLTS - donna  
Donna Crews <[donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil)>  
Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Tuesday, October 09, 2001 at 11:56:10 (EDT)

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Glad to see the positive comments on reunion!!! Sorry I couldn't be there to participate in the festivities. As soon as I know about the dates for next year's reunion, I'll be making my reservations. Hope to see you all there next year. Craig  
Craig Corbett <[rccorbett@drc.com](mailto:rccorbett@drc.com)>  
Burke, VA USA - Tuesday, October 09, 2001 at 08:33:33 (EDT)

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Sorry I missed this year's reunion. My heart felt thanks to Doug, Andy, Mike, & Lee who took the time & expense to call me from the "Hootch" during the reunion. You guys made me feel like I was part of the reunion. Lee, I think it was you that asked for my email address. It follows: [MGMIDGETMN@aol.com](mailto:MGMIDGETMN@aol.com) Here's to next year guys!! Paul Beagley (AKA Beag)  
Paul Beagley <[MGMIDGETMN@aol.com](mailto:MGMIDGETMN@aol.com)>  
Tacoma, WA USA - Monday, October 08, 2001 at 17:57:24 (EDT)

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Super reunion. My quest for the names of the USAF crewmembers who had to bail out on the "final" Stinger mission is near completion, thanks to the reunion & the following fellow crewmembers: Bob Krueger (P), Bill Isham (IO), & Leroy Jackson (G). Those who bailed out were Lt Col Tony Simon (AC), Lt Col Ray Wolf (N), Maj --- Burger (Flir/NOS), MSgt Leroy Jackson, (G), & SSgt Bill Isham (IO). The return of the crew was filmed as they returned to Danang by helicopter & a video of the return was made available by Bill Isham. He couldn't make it to the reunion but the video did & it was shown many times at the "hootch bar". Thanks Bill & Leroy for the info that was needed to relive that story with you. Looking forward to the next reunion. Lee Kyser (FE)  
Lee Kyser  
USA - Sunday, October 07, 2001 at 15:56:29 (EDT)

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Glad to see the guest book back. The reunion was great. I felt like somewhat of an outsider as I didn't recognize many people. Also, it looks like the Officers still place themselves above the enlisted guys for the most part. I am



glad we decided to keep the reunion in Florida & have it every year. It looks as though our new association board will do a good job & carry us through the next year. I hope we grow & get the majority of flight & ground crew to join us. I will be back next year if the good Lord wills it. Thanks to all that worked so hard putting this reunion together.  
Everett (Dale) Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>  
St Louis, Mo USA - Friday, October 05, 2001 at 18:16:59 (EDT)

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Transportation AFU. Can't make the reunion. Put my dinner money into the association treasury. See you all in 2002 or when ever we have the next one. Death to terrorists.  
Howard Reid  
Gresham, OR USA - Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 15:19:50 (EDT)

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I was a jet mech. with the 366th Gunfighters. I was proud to fix the J-85 jet on the 119s wings. I was in DaNang from June 23, 1970 to June 27, 1971. Thanks for the grate site.  
Mike Drews <[Maddog676@aol.com](mailto:Maddog676@aol.com)>  
Eagan, mn USA - Wednesday, September 19, 2001 at 22:16:49 (EDT)

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I was in charge of the Aircraft Records Section at Nha Trang, maintained them from 1968 to 1969. Have been with C-119 aircraft since we received them new in early 1951.  
Donald F. Duffy <[ddonduffy@aol.com](mailto:ddonduffy@aol.com)>  
Canton, TX USA - Monday, September 17, 2001 at 17:11:56 (EDT)

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Hi nice reconizing some friends from the past. I flew as flight eng with Howie reid & mike during 69 / 70 in danang & nkp Thanks for all the effort put into this websight for you assisting bob holmes ret stinger  
bob holmes <[bobcatblh@aol.com](mailto:bobcatblh@aol.com)>  
tampa , fl USA - Sunday, September 16, 2001 at 11:46:56 (EDT)

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Hi , Jackson again I believe that Shadow that I'm talking about is a nickname. I remember that officer told me it can fly too fast to see ,only you can see a shadow. that is why we call it Shadow. I think what I saw was F-117A Nighthawk Does it has a nick name Shadow?  
Jackson  
USA - Saturday, September 15, 2001 at 02:02:56 (EDT)

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Was very excited to find this web site because as an additional duty here at the 18th Flight Test Squadron I'm their Historian. Apparently, according the AF Historical Records, the 18th SOS is a part of our Lineage & I've interested in finding our anything & everything about what the 18th SOS did in Vietnam.  
Donna <[donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil)>  
Hurlburt Field , FL USA - Monday, September 10, 2001 at 16:56:25 (EDT)

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A couple days ago I entered a comment in the guestbook that was unfair,& I apologize,specifically to Bill.Just having an active website is terrific,&,I am sure,a thankless task,made even more thankless when guys like me speak without thinking!Bill deserves my appreciation,not my criticism.  
ted curtis <[stingerted@home.com](mailto:stingerted@home.com)>  
irving, tx USA - Monday, September 10, 2001 at 09:47:24 (EDT)

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Guys, Lets be cool & fair. You have no idea what is going on behind the scenes. Recently I lost a computer & now have to try & recover many files. In addition many emails went into the ozone. I believe all were notified by Association President Chuck James that I was experiencing some computer problems. If anyone emailed me & didn't get a reply from me that may be the reason as I try (time permitting) to reply to everyone. I'm a pretty busy guy & I don't sit around all day working on the web site. I still have to make a living & I'm pretty busy with family activities. This is my hobby folks! If you feel there is a problem, or you have suggestions, or better yet can help with the site, email me...don't air it on our guestbook. Thanks for bearing with me. A least we have a site guys & it continues to grow.  
Bill <[RetCMSgt@aol.com](mailto:RetCMSgt@aol.com)>  
USA - Monday, September 10, 2001 at 09:15:48 (EDT)

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I was a Stinger pilot from 69-71. Phan Rang, Udorn, NKP. Wrote emails, & sent my crew photo to Bill Petrie several months ago. No response. Seems as though the Stinger website is for a certain time, or group, of guys.....too bad. I am proud of my crew & service w/18th SOS.

Ted Curtis <[stingerted@home.com](mailto:stingerted@home.com)>

Irving, TX USA - Sunday, September 09, 2001 at 22:13:31 (EDT)

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I'm really looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming reunion. I need some help though from any of you that can't make the reunion in identifying USAF & VNAF crewmembers. The photos are of the flight crew that was on the "final" Stinger mission. They had to bail out into the sea due to the fog closing the runway at Danang. I will send copies to any of you that think you might be able to assist. Get your mailing address to me by email & I'll get the photo to you ASAP. Paul Beagley, sorry to hear you can't make. Same to you, Ray Wolf. Tom Novak, I think you might be in the photo. Looking forward to seeing the rest of you. Lee Kyser email is [linvel@earthlink.net](mailto:linvel@earthlink.net) Phone 805 733 2443

Lee Kyser <[linvel@earthlink.net](mailto:linvel@earthlink.net)>

Lompoc, CA USA - Wednesday, September 05, 2001 at 14:26:23 (EDT)

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If I failed to get my email address posted in the previous guestbook entry, it is [linvel@earthlink.net](mailto:linvel@earthlink.net)

Lee Kyser <[linvel@earthlink.net](mailto:linvel@earthlink.net)>

Lompoc, CA USA - Wednesday, September 05, 2001 at 13:59:13 (EDT)

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Thanks a million to Chuck James for getting the list of Association Members out. I found more names I remember from the past. I am still having a hard time recalling a majority of the guys. I look at my photos & try to match names with faces. Anyone else out there having that problem? I can't believe this is the month we will be getting together. I am looking very forward to the reunion.

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, MO USA - Sunday, September 02, 2001 at 01:15:36 (EDT)

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Hello again. I added to this guest book in 1998, but it seems that some of the early posts are "off the bottom". Missed last year's 1st but hope to see you all in a month for #2. I was 17SOS AG, PhanRang Jul 70 - Jul 71, with two TDYs to DaNang & Phu Cat. Hello to Gunners Dan Thompson, Jerry Greene, Geo Renfro, Norm Evans, I/O Rod Friese, (& so many others I'll never forget). I still fit the Party Suit (Barely), & still have the AC-119G cargo Revell Model that a few of us did into Shadows while at Lockbourne. Any one remember #1 mini blast diffuser falling off mid burst, & we shot ourselves, about eight holes in the gear door area? All my ASA 160 slides pushed to 400 at the Hobby Shop are still very good. I'm scanning many into JPEPs. My famous one is the "red tornado", Shadow 61 returning to PhanRang fully armed due to weather over primary target, & the VC decide to attack us. OP's called the hooch & told us to watch the perimeter, & I propped the camera on the roof of our crew pick-up for a widely re-printed photo. Hope to hear from some of you. Warm regards from NJ

Mike Drzyzga <[Drzyzga513@hotmail.com](mailto:Drzyzga513@hotmail.com)>

Oak Ridge, NJ USA - Thursday, August 30, 2001 at 22:36:42 (EDT)

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Worked on G/K models at nha trang & phu cat 69&70 Does anyone know what happened to gunner Ed Metz, was my room mate at loadmaster school at shepard afb in 74?

Mike Velasco <[jaycob@pacbell.net](mailto:jaycob@pacbell.net)>

North Highlands, CA USA - Saturday, August 25, 2001 at 05:23:57 (EDT)

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Hello to EVERYONE! I was perusing this tremendous site & saw Alicia Lauf's post. Being a "daughter of a veteran" myself, I was not certain that a post from me would be appropriate. I'll follow Alicia's lead though! hehe My father Frank Emma was a navigator/bombardier (sp??) on Shadow gunships in 1968-1969...I've actually been blessed to hear stories of some veterans who remember his squadron & have THANKED them as many of you have in some of your posts. You all sacrificed so dearly, & I for one, am grateful for your service. I got turned onto a book "Dereliction of Duty" & have not been able to put it down. Growing up in the 60's & 70's my school curriculum wasn't at all forthcoming about that time in our history. Being much like my father, & not being content with half truths...hehe I am a very diligent student of war in general, but Vietnam especially. It is truly ignorance that allows people to treat our Vietnam vets with anything less than the utmost respect & honor. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!!!!!!!!!!! From ONE PROUD DADDY'S GIRL!!! Patty Tweedle Branson, Missouri

Patty (Emma) Tweedle <[PTweedle@peoplepc.com](mailto:PTweedle@peoplepc.com)>  
Branson, MO USA - Friday, August 24, 2001 at 17:16:15 (EDT)

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OK I'll submit to the pressure. Cancel my last entry to the guestbook. I'll be at the reunion & bringing photos of Danang circa 1970.

Howard Reid <[hsreid@earthlink.net](mailto:hsreid@earthlink.net)>  
Gresham, OR USA - Wednesday, August 22, 2001 at 22:31:40 (EDT)

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Hi, guys. I just discovered this website, ashamed it took me so long to get here, but I sure am glad to see it. I was a copilot in the 18th SOS, 1971-72, flying out of NKP & both in-country bases as well as doing some TDY at 7th AF HQ (Tan Son Nhut) as the Gunship Control Officer in "Blue Chip." It was nice to see a first-hand account of the loss of Stinger 41 at An Loc; I was a good friend of the table nav, Rod Slagle, who earlier that year taught me how to play bridge in the Stinger Hooch at NKP. I will therefore withhold my views on Terry Courtney's decision to engage a 37mm AAA site that evening. It was a contentious issue at the time, not put to rest by Terry receiving a posthumous AFC. One of the more meaningful things I've done lately is exchange correspondence with the daughter of Capt. Thomas R. Hamman, a Stinger pilot who was fatally wounded during a rocket attack at DaNang AB in June 1972. Kristin Hamman was maybe a year old at the time, & thus grew up never having known her father; furthermore, her mother apparently never spoke of him. I was put in touch with her by a fellow veteran on the Vietnam War Discussion List (VWAR-L), who had consulted Kristin (now a lawyer), became friends, & put out an APB about Tommy to the VWAR community. Kristin now knows what her father did during the war, as well as the high regard in which we all held him.

Ralph Hitchens <[rjee@earthlink.net](mailto:rjee@earthlink.net)>  
Poolesville, MD USA - Monday, August 20, 2001 at 11:33:26 (EDT)

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I think this is a great site. I'm a cadet in the Air Force J.R.O.T.C. & I can't believe there's a disrespectful message from a VC on this site. Also I'd like to say thank you to every one who serves or served this country.

Brad Andrews <[bradandrews@teleplex.net](mailto:bradandrews@teleplex.net)>  
Gaffney, SC USA - Thursday, August 16, 2001 at 20:38:33 (EDT)

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Nice site...

<[assqmb@mynetaddress.com](mailto:assqmb@mynetaddress.com)>  
USA - Wednesday, August 15, 2001 at 20:42:10 (EDT)

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Will be unable to make the reunion this year. Hopefully, next time.

Howard Reid <[hsreid@earthlink.net](mailto:hsreid@earthlink.net)>  
Gresham, OR USA - Tuesday, August 14, 2001 at 13:41:24 (EDT)

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AC119 gunships K 18 SOS ,oct 69 to oct 70  
[jimmy I ward](mailto:jward@myexcel.com) <[jward@myexcel.com](mailto:jward@myexcel.com)>  
goose creek, s c USA - Tuesday, August 14, 2001 at 11:30:04 (EDT)

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Please pass on my thanks to all within your fine organization. I was 1 of 2 Special Forces advisors on FSB Kate from Oct 31 (Happy F'n Halloween) to the evacuation on the night of November 2. We were surrounded by the 66th NVA Regiment & we took alot of mortars, rockets & (on the last day) artillery from a tea plantation over the border in Cambodia. We had alot of sorties of fast movers, B-52s, Huey & LOH gunships, Spads & at night, Spooky & Shadow to tuck us in. During the intense 3days, we kicked alot of NVA ass thanks to you guys & the rest. A few weeks after Kate was evacuated & Bu Prang was under seige, a captured NVA said they took alot of casualties during Kate. The bottom line was that we gave alot better than we got. We lost some US Artillery & some Montagnards we had there for Fire Base Security. Things got bad & I didn't think we would ever get out. Ironically, I had volunteered to go to Kate with a company of 'Yards' from my SF Camp Ban Don. For about a month or two before I arrived other SF went there & it was good nites of cards & beer. I got there on October 28th all set to enjoy & we started taking rounds on the morning of the 29th. I still have dreams about it but we win each time. Fortunately, I had taken a strobe light with me that had an infrared lense on it. Shadow had the capability to refernce it & I was able to direct his fire using it. There were some fine people there on the ground & up in the air. What a great joint effort Thanks again & God Bless you all. Regards Sgt. Dan Pierelli - 5th Special Forces PS: The highlight was when Shadow said "watch this" as he was getting ready to go off station & all of a sudden, a

huge spotlight came on & cast a beautiful cone of light over the jungle. My mind is easily occupied.

Dan Pierelli <[dpierelli@aol.com](mailto:dpierelli@aol.com)>

Southbury, CT USA - Monday, August 13, 2001 at 18:14:39 (EDT)

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anyone remember Phanrang AB. Vietnam 1969?

D w. Lewis <[dw148@military.com](mailto:dw148@military.com)>

canton, oh USA - Tuesday, August 07, 2001 at 12:41:40 (EDT)

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went on ac130 web. seen where Jim May, Gunner, was KIA 31 Jan 91 in AC130 hit by a SAM 50 miles south of Kuwait City. Jim was a Stinger Gunner in 71-72. Flew some missions with Jim. I believe he was on every gunship project, from Spooky on. Fly on Jim. See you all at the Reunion.

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Friday, July 27, 2001 at 00:26:01 (EDT)

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I've been battling computers & internet services for months & finally got a keeper. I have a new & permanent e-mail address. I was a gunner with the 18th @NKP, DaNang & Bien Hoa in 72-73 & stayed to train the vietnamese after the ceasefire. Prior to the 18th SOS I was loading A-1s at NKP with the 456th MMS.

tom novak <[novakt@msn.com](mailto:novakt@msn.com)>

georgetown, tx USA - Tuesday, July 24, 2001 at 22:22:31 (EDT)

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Hello everybody , I'm a new gunship's pilot in my country . I'm 31 years old , I would like to talk somebody who had flown the AC'47 .this is a good site , congratulations. predator

gabriel <[chikis70@hotmail.com](mailto:chikis70@hotmail.com)>

bogota , colombia - Tuesday, July 17, 2001 at 09:39:04 (EDT)

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I don't know where the AC-119's came from, but I'm glad they came. Stationed at Cao Lanh, IV Corps Tactical Zone. New place called 44th Special Tactical Zone. Included 3 IV Corps provinces bordering Cambodia. Saved out fannies more than once. Always glad to hear you folks come on station. Many thanks from me & my fellow advisors in 1968-69.

Jim Pyle, LTC, USA, Ret. <[jimnjune@earthlink.net](mailto:jimnjune@earthlink.net)>

Alexandria, AL USA - Monday, July 16, 2001 at 23:48:35 (EDT)

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Aerial Port Det. Commander Aug 1971 - Aug 1972 at NKP. Just stumbled onto this site. Have a few pictures will try to find & send.

Jim Ziegler

USA - Thursday, July 12, 2001 at 20:17:24 (EDT)

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With 18th SOS from Apr69 through Dec70, Then Apr71 till July71. Crew Chief & flew over on SUPER SOW. Didn't think any one was still out there, till I got this new toy. I'll read more and see if I can remember some names & good times. Was at Phan Rang 69-70-71. TDY to Sigon for 30 days during 70, we had 3 planes & 3 maintenance people. No aborts for 30 days! Who were the other two people?

Joe Gunter <[gunjw@msn.com](mailto:gunjw@msn.com)>

Bozeman, Mt. USA - Wednesday, July 04, 2001 at 22:24:39 (EDT)

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I was surfing the web & look what I found. Was in the 18th SOS from '69-'70. Maj, McCreight was my pilot & Capt. Herrick flew the right side until he had his own crew. Would like to hear from anyone there during that time Dennis "Ski" Ochterski <[R0addoctor@adelphia.net](mailto:R0addoctor@adelphia.net)>

N. Tonawanda, N.Y. USA - Sunday, July 01, 2001 at 21:38:44 (EDT)

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I have got very interested in building Vietnam era aircraft I am building a Ac 119k Gunship Model kit at the moment . Can anybody give me the Colour Of the Vulcan cannon (20 mm) Mountings & the interior, as the instructions are unclear. Very good website , Keep up the good work !!!!

Garth williams

Plymouth, Britain - Sunday, July 01, 2001 at 15:30:49 (EDT)

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This is in response to Adrein Leavitt's posting of October 1, 1999. I remember MSgt Von Leavitt as a gunner & 1st Shirt of the 18th SOS in early 1971. As an former Marine, he sure knew how to keep up unit morale by trading with the Marines at Danang for those hard-to-get item like steaks & other squadron party supplies. He was always on the go - a great 1st Sgt. Sorry to hear that he passed away.

Tim Grauer, CMSgt, Ret. <[tim@grauer.net](mailto:tim@grauer.net)>

Aurora, CO USA - Sunday, June 24, 2001 at 23:57:37 (EDT)

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Great web site. Loads of info that I had no previous knowledge about! I used to fly in C-119s as a radio operator, but not in circumstances like this! You have my utmost respect & appreciation. We had mobile radio teams operating out of Guam into Viet Nam in the middle & late 60's. I look forward to Dr. Fletcher's book! :) AR

[George M. Arnold](mailto:George M. Arnold) <[seafox9@home.com](mailto:seafox9@home.com)>

Jefferson City, MO USA - Monday, June 18, 2001 at 18:54:16 (EDT)

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I was at Danang 1970 to 1971 in the Airforce with the 20 tass working on o2s fac & can still see the stairway to heaven that the gun ships would put down to earth & the black ships sitting on the ramp waiting to fly at night.

Thanks to you all it was the best of times it was the worst. burt

burt rosenthal <[burbar69@yahoo.com](mailto:burbar69@yahoo.com)>

menasha, wi USA - Friday, June 15, 2001 at 11:10:34 (EDT)

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Hi To All: GREAT site! Definetly something to be proud of, (both the site AND the subject). I'm looking forward to many more visits. With Thanks, P.A.W.

Peter A. Werbowsky <[talon4@rocketmail.com](mailto:talon4@rocketmail.com)>

Hamilton, Ont Canada - Saturday, June 09, 2001 at 23:46:38 (EDT)

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I was a "Grunt" with "A" Co. 1/46th, want to extend an infantryman's eternal Thanks to all airmen, esp the Magic Dragons who were such a welcomed sight & saved many of our lives. What a wonderful feeling whenever you came on station & the awesome display of power ( & we were so very happy you were on our side). Would like to find the AC-47's that were at Ngok Tavak & Kham Duc 10-12 (Mothers Day)May 1968, The last SF border Camp in I Corps to fall. Without air support there, several hundred of us would not have made it to see another Mothers Day. Reunion this 5-7 Oct 2001, anyone at Kham Duc invited, or any info icw Magic Dragons there is greatly appreciated. Thanks Bill Schneider "A" Co. 1/46th 636-942-4042

Bill Schneider <[wschnei591@aol.com](mailto:wschnei591@aol.com)>

Antonia, Mo USA - Friday, June 08, 2001 at 12:10:30 (EDT)

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This site is a great tribute to the gunships. I flew out of Da Nang with Maj. Sternenberg Oct 69-Oct70. Would like to hear from any of my crew or any other crews that were there at that time. Since this is the week to remember our lost comrades I want to pay tribute to the first Stinger crewmember we lost, Illuminator Operator, Sgt. Clyde Alloway. His crew bailed out in Da Nang Bay & he was the only one that didn't get rescued. He was well liked by all. This website is a great way to keep the memories alive & the people in touch with each other. Keep up the good work. Bob Reffitt, Flt Eng. 18th SOS. & room

Bob Reffitt <[buckeye@castles.com](mailto:buckeye@castles.com)>

USA - Friday, June 01, 2001 at 02:55:41 (EDT)

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only a moment to remember Maj Bernard Knapick, Capt John Hathaway, Maj G. Rice, Maj Moses Alves, SSgt A L Moore, SSgt Bradford. Rest in peace: all died Oct 11, 1969 in the crash of Shadow 77. Let us never forget them pat jones <[pjones@psci.net](mailto:pjones@psci.net)>

santa claus, in USA - Wednesday, May 30, 2001 at 19:48:10 (EDT)

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Hi all, today is Memorial Day 2001. I truly feel what we were doing some thirty years should be honored this day. Let's remember our friends who died in action. I want to remember Terry Courtney, Ken Brown & David Slagle & our comrades that have passed since. Happy Memorial Day to all. Thank You

Everett Sprous (Dale) <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St. Louis, Mo USA - Monday, May 28, 2001 at 16:49:59 (EDT)

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I turned 21 in Happy Valley. I was stationed at Phan Rang from Nov 69 to Nov 70. I was assigned to the 14th FMS, & was an Aircraft Radio Repairman. I was the guy that had to key the crypto codes in all the airplanes. You



may remember me driving around the flight line in the 14th FMS Commanders jeep with a with a canvas bag, climbing in & out of our airplanes. Nice web sight, glad I found it. Good luck & God Bless Mike Morgan  
Mike Morgan <[morganm@cableone.net](mailto:morganm@cableone.net)>  
Ingleside, TX USA - Monday, May 28, 2001 at 16:08:50 (EDT)

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If your looking for the AC-119 Gunship hat pins,they can be seen at they are \$4.95 each. or you can send a email to him at < [DLG555@aol.com](mailto:DLG555@aol.com) > Fred  
Fred Graves <[AC119KFE@msn.com](mailto:AC119KFE@msn.com)>  
Mountain Home, ID USA - Friday, May 25, 2001 at 11:57:19 (EDT)

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I would like to correct an error that I made in my comments last night. I stated that I went to Wright Patterson AFB & picked up the the first ADD5 FLIR system from T.I.This is incorrect.What it should have been,was that I picked up the first AN/AAD4 FLIR system from Texas Instrument Co.& that It was the first system to be installed on the 18th. SOS AC119K gunship by I & the rest of the Sensor shop.  
Kenneth McLemore <[sonnie1@earthlink.net](mailto:sonnie1@earthlink.net)>  
Alexandria, La USA - Thursday, May 24, 2001 at 12:39:38 (EDT)

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I was searching the web the other day & I found this site.I was stationed with the 18th.SOS when it was at Lockbourne AFB Columbus Ohio.This would have been from May1969-Dec.1969.I was a 30195.I was the person that went to WrightPat & accepted the first ADD5FLIR system from TI.My Sensor shop installed the first FLIR system in a 119K.My shop was supposed to go with the gunships when they left for Veitnam.But we did not go.I also have a 2ftx2ft painting of a AC119K flying at night that was given to me in Nov.69 from Fairchild Hiller.Even though I was with the 18th for a short time ,I still feel like I'm part of it.  
Kenneth McLemore,Ret. MSgt.USAF <[sonnie1@earthlink.net](mailto:sonnie1@earthlink.net)>  
Alexandria, La USA - Wednesday, May 23, 2001 at 22:11:32 (EDT)

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Hello Shadows! There are 17 of you who are members of our AC-119 Gunship Association who, according to our records, do not have email addresses. If you are reading this, are a Shadow with the following name, & have an email address, would you please send the address to [idmirage@rmci.net](mailto:idmirage@rmci.net)? Thanks! Bernardino Hall Shedd Besaw King, Wm. N. Stidsen Davenport Napier Ware Ferrell Nealon Windsor Gorsuch Rankin Zins Gravitte Rash  
Chuck James <[idmirage@rmci.net](mailto:idmirage@rmci.net)>  
Buhl, ID USA - Sunday, May 20, 2001 at 17:26:54 (EDT)

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Hi all, I am Nguyen Cao Khai, I am living Phan Rang - Viet Nam now I want to contract with Capt.Hayes, leader of the aircrew Mr. LONG & all members had been served for Unit :17th SOS "Shadows" Squadron USAF at the Air Base of Phan Rang (Thap Cham) APO.96321 Viet Nam. OR any one who was there or knew members unit 17th SOS "Shadows" Squadron USAF at the Air Base of Phan Rang (Thap Cham) APO.96321 please E-Mail me. Capt Hayes, who trained me & was my close friend & Mr.Long (leader of the aircrew ) All members unit memmories : The filight missions : 61,62,63 often operated in the targets such as KHE SANH, DAKTO, MO VET three border zone, bordering Campuchia, & other targets flight missions in the South VIET NAM territory. Before the flight mission taking off there wer bricfings on target flight roate, weather, taking rool call, control to remind the flight team's safety, all of these had been recorded : - Flight team leader (U.S.A) - Pilot " - Observation Officer (2) " - Air Gunner (2) " - IO " - And I "Symbol JINGO" . Rank NCO (First class) All members had usually call me "JINGO" name After finishing the flight mission to return to the base. Please contact with me :  
[nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com](mailto:nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com)  
Khai Nguyencao (Jingo) <[nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com](mailto:nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com)>  
Phan Rang, Viet Nam - Friday, May 11, 2001 at 05:37:02 (EDT)

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sat here & read the whole guestbook. worked ground crew with the 4th at Pleiku in '68 & was a gunner with the 18th april '71 to april '72 at Da Nang would like to hear from some of the other guys from Da Namg.  
John "JD" Downs <[jrdowns@yahoo.com](mailto:jrdowns@yahoo.com)>  
Chillicothe, Oh USA - Tuesday, May 08, 2001 at 18:39:19 (EDT)

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I was surfing the net for gunship pics when I came upon the Stinger site. I served with the 18th SOS at DaNang in 72 & 73 & was there when we turned off the water & lights & handed the keys to the Vietnamese. I was one of the groud crew who did every thing we could to keep'em flying. It wasn't easy as parts were hard to get. I'm

looking forward to my first reunion & seeing some of the old gang. I'll pass the word to all my buddies.

Jay Smith <[jaycsmith@aol.com](mailto:jaycsmith@aol.com)>

clinton, md USA - Saturday, May 05, 2001 at 21:14:49 (EDT)

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i just found this site,surfing,thinking i am the only 4th acs member left. what a surprise !was a gunner on puff at bien hoa 66-67.if any of you remember maj. poncar (the best puff pilot in nam) drop me a email.welcome home

[john means](mailto:jmeans@sugardog.com) <[jmeans@sugardog.com](mailto:jmeans@sugardog.com)>

monticello, in USA - Wednesday, May 02, 2001 at 20:43:28 (EDT)

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I just found this web site. I was stationed at PhuCat in '69-70. I have several nose art pictures of the gunships stationed there at that time. I remember one to be the 'Polish Cannon'.

Henry Sickels <[indflyr@aol.com](mailto:indflyr@aol.com)>

indianapolis, in USA - Monday, April 30, 2001 at 13:04:17 (EDT)

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THE MISSION CD PAGE HAS REOPENED. See them at: <http://members.home.com/danmcduffie>. Talked to Fred Graves tonight. He & I would like to see, at the next reunion, a (s\_\_t no spell checker) comedy skit of a 119 mission. NEED ACTUAL CREW POSITION VOLENTEERS. Please notify Fred Graves or Dan McDuffie if you would like to participate. This is the first mention of this, so we have no details. Fred & I will play our positions.

Scanner/FE. Thanks Dan

[Dan McDuffie](mailto:danmcduffie@home.com) <[danmcduffie@home.com](mailto:danmcduffie@home.com)>

Oakford, IN USA - Friday, April 27, 2001 at 22:25:40 (EDT)

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I was just looking over the guest book & came across Ray Barradle's comments & realized he was my I.O. on Capt. Max's crew. I was the FE, now maybe we can contact the rest of the crew now that we broke the ice.

Dominick Romandetta <[lromand@yahoo.com](mailto:lromand@yahoo.com)>

Moreno Valley, Ca USA - Friday, April 27, 2001 at 21:28:00 (EDT)

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Chief, The assoc merchandise page shows the 71st patch with the Eagle, but does not seem to be available. Could you please let me know how to get a couple of patches for my jacket. Thanks in advance for your help, Ssgt Philip E. Bender

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

North Vernon, IN USA - Friday, April 27, 2001 at 20:21:53 (EDT)

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SHADOWS OF S.E.A. - Thanks to everyone's help, I think I've got the Shadow Party Flight Suit lined-out for the Air Force Muesuem. All I need is a South Vietnam Flag Patch.

1/Lt Elton Fletcher <[lfletcher@socket.net](mailto:lfletcher@socket.net)>

Osage Beach, MO USA - Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at 14:17:21 (EDT)

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SHADOWS OF S.E.A. - Our AC-119 Gunship Association President, Colonel Saint James has been forthright & informative during his tenure in office. One thing that he has brought to our attention is the effort by the USAF Museum to recognize the significance of PARTY FLIGHT SUITS IN S.E.A. Conversing with Terry Aitken, Senior Curator at the Wright-Patterson AFB Museum; I have discovered that a number of Stinger personnel have responded to the request for a Stinger Party Flight Suit, Hat, Ascot, & Footwear. At this time, there has been no such response from THE SHADOW. Here's the deal!! I partied so much at Tan Son Nhut that I had to have two (2) party suits; therefore, I have a black flight suit made in Bangkok that has been stripped of patches. The only patch that remains on the flight suit is the U.S.Flag on the left "short" sleeve. I would gladly donate the Thai-made flight suit to the Air Force Musuem if I can get You Shadows to send me patches, i.e. 17th SOS; Flag Patches for Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos; Air Commando; Mission Numbers Patch; Yankee Air Pirate; etc. You've got the idea. I will foot-the-bill for any embroidery work & sewing of patches. There is a Thai-woman seamstress two miles from my home who would do the job justice. To make the suit universal to Shadows, would we want to put the name of the FOL's on the back, i. e. Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Thuy Hoa, Tan Son Nhut? The suit would be RANKLESS or a One Star. This would be our chance to be a General! Through contributions from many Shadows, the Party Flight Suit of the 17th Special Operations Squadron displayed at the Air Force Museum would reflect the brotherhood formed in S.E.A. I still have my jungle boots. I think I wore them with the party suit. Does anybody remember?? Nooner, Napalm, Bernie, Jose, Earl Farney, Bob Bokern, Carlson, Mundle - What did we wear? I guess I could part with the toe-scared (from the rudder pedals)things for the sake of History. I'm

keeping my white ascot with the Shadow embroidery on it unless nobody comes forward to donate their white scarf. If this proposal is agreeable to SHADOWS, send me your stuff & I will put it together & present the SHADOW PARTY SUIT at the AC-119 Reunion this year before sending the jewel to Terry Aitken for mannequin display at the USAF Museum. If by chance, you think this is a rotten idea, say so! I will back off & form another firing circle. I think my snail-mail address will post with this message. If not, e-mail me & I will give you the address. Watch for the novel, Shadows of Saigon, coming soon on www.Xlibris.com. Stingers TDY to TSN are in there too. Time Period - 1970-71. Shadow 27

[1/LT Elton Fletcher <lfletcher@socket.net>](mailto:lfletcher@socket.net)

Osage Beach, MO USA - Sunday, April 22, 2001 at 18:01:26 (EDT)

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FINALLY FIGURED OUT MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS. RESERVATIONS ALREADY MADE FOR REUNION CAN'T WAIT TO SEE GUYS FROM THE UNIT (IT'S BEEN 30 YEARS ALREADY, AND ABOUT 60 POUNDS) ARRIVING ON THURSDAY AND LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS AND PLAYING PARTNERS FOR GOLF.

JERRY SNYDER <[DET1114@VERIZONMAIL.COM](mailto:DET1114@VERIZONMAIL.COM)>

MT SINAI, NY USA - Saturday, April 21, 2001 at 22:00:16 (EDT)

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Hey, my name is John Zebley & i was at phan rang ab from 04/71 to 08/71 was asigned to 17thSOS during that period was 43151 & worked under CMSGT Bell, we that manned the squadron then got to say good by to the AC119G as we transfered them to the VNAF some great times & memories were had there. I just found this website, i was going through my old AF records & came across my Shadow Society Certificate signed by LTC Loveall Would like to hear from anyone that was at phan rang when i was. Great job keep up the good work!!!

John M. Zebley <[mr\\_gtx@msn.com](mailto:mr_gtx@msn.com)>

Flemington, WV USA - Saturday, April 21, 2001 at 20:29:00 (EDT)

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I would like to thank all those who were involved in getting this web site up & running its just GREAT. I never knew this site was on the web until today,I was out walking my golden retriever when one of my neighbors stopped & handed me the web page & said you were one of these guys wern't you? I said yes I was,he said read it.I would like to hear from anybody who served with me in the 18th SOS Nov 69--Nov--70 Phan Rang,Phu Cat,Udorn,Danang,Siagon.WELCOME HOME!!!GUNSHIPS FOREVER.

Ray Barradale aka Ray-Ray <[raynsue.ptd.net](mailto:raynsue.ptd.net)>

Albrightsville, Pa USA 18210 - Friday, April 20, 2001 at 01:31:50 (EDT)

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I would like to take this time to thank all those who were involved in getting this web site up & running its great, I have been searching for any info on the 18th SOS for years,I thought we had faded away & nobody cared.I guess I was wrong!! I would be happy to hear from anybody who served with me from Nov 69 to Nov 70 Phan Rang,Phu Cat,Udorn RTAB,Danang,Siagon (Cambo Invaision). I just can't believe how great this web site makes me feel,I'am going to try to make it to the reunion in 2001,looking foward to hearing from anyone.WELCOME HOME TO ALL!!!GUNSHIPS FOREVER

Ray Barradale aka Ray-Ray <[raynsue@ptd.net](mailto:raynsue@ptd.net)>

Albrightsville, Pa USA - Friday, April 20, 2001 at 01:11:55 (EDT)

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looking for anyone in nah trang in 69-70 who might of served with my dad johnny garland huie he was iin the airforce & served in vietnam at nah trang hed love to hear from anyone from there

johnny garland huie <[garland\\_huie@yahoo.com](mailto:garland_huie@yahoo.com)>

porterville, ca USA - Thursday, April 19, 2001 at 14:08:01 (EDT)

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It has been well over a year since CMS Petrie responded to a letter I had in the Air Commando newsletter concernin info about the Stingers. Congrats, Chief on a tremendous website. I was commander of the 56th Special Ops Wing at NKP from June 72 through Dec 72. Although my primary mission aircraft was the OV-10 I managed to fly one gunship sortie with the 18 SOS over the Plain des Jarres in Laos & one sortie with the troops out of Bien Hoa. I was very impressed with the professionalism of these gunships crews. One of my favorite forms of recreation in the evening wasti visit with the maintenance crews of the sqyadron. I cannot recall the name of the 18 SOS commander at that time but I knew him as a great leader. Also he was always able to wipe me out in tennis although I dont iagine he regarded that as real accomplishment. Again Chief Petrie you are owed a debt of gratitude by all associated with the Stingers. It will take me many hours to read all the messages in the scrapbook. Sincerely, Norbert L. Simon

Norbert L. Simon Col USAF (Ret) <[gazebol17@hotmail.com](mailto:gazebol17@hotmail.com)>  
Bastrop , TX USA - Wednesday, April 18, 2001 at 14:27:54 (EDT)

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Dear Sirs, My name is John Liner. I was a member of SF Detachment A-245, Dak Seang, in the Central Highlands. I was at the camp when we were taken under siege on 01 April 1970. We were supported by either Stinger or Shadow (I'm sorry-I can't remember which one) during the night for most of the month of April. There was also a C-130 that circled above you; he was a flareship & used the callsign "Basketball". Without your support, we would have probably gone under. I am writing a book about the siege. I'd very much like to talk to any crewmembers that supported us during the battle. Many thanks for what you did. Welcome home. John Liner.

John Liner <[jliner@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jliner@rochester.rr.com)>  
Rochester, NY USA - Monday, April 16, 2001 at 16:18:24 (EDT)

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OK guys, I've heard enough. Here's the source of General Robertson's AC-119K model from last years reunion. I oughta know, I bought it for him. Got a second from a different source but same model (higher price). This guy had the best prices. Go to the following site - the guy is straight up & honest also pretty darn quick on the delivery: <http://page.auctions.yahoo.com/ca/auction/48906515> Peace to all!

Scott Williams <[scottw50@home.com](mailto:scottw50@home.com)>  
Papillion, NE USA - Thursday, April 12, 2001 at 22:28:46 (EDT)

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Max, You might also want to check out this site,<http://www.modelairplanes.com/> It has a little cheaper model of the Stinger.

Ken Schwandt <[Stinger10@bigfoot.com](mailto:Stinger10@bigfoot.com)>  
USA - Thursday, April 12, 2001 at 05:31:09 (EDT)

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Max Kennedy, Reference previous entry try this,<http://www.replicasbytyson.com/> They even have a web site! Haven't browsed it yet but initial check looks interesting.

Ken Schwandt <[Stinger10@bigfoot.com](mailto:Stinger10@bigfoot.com)>  
St Cloud, MN USA - Thursday, April 12, 2001 at 04:51:00 (EDT)

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Max Kennedy, I have a address & phone # for you for models: Replicas by Tyson, P O Box 159, Dept FT-VNM-09, Covington, Oh 45318-0159 or call 513-473-5726 for a catalog. See you all at the reunion in Sept.

Everett Sprous <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>  
St Louis, Mo USA - Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at 09:06:40 (EDT)

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Does anyone know were you can buy a good AC-119K model ? I do not mean one you assemble, but one already made on a stand etc. Also I don't want just a C-199, but an AC-119K with the two jet engines, six guns & other Stuff in the doors. My email is [kenad@concentric.net](mailto:kenad@concentric.net) Do not refer me to Anderson's in Derby, Kansas. They took my \$200+ dollars & kept it for over a year before they returned the money & I guess admitted they could not perform. Max Kennedy (1969-70 FLIR on AC-119K)

Max C. Kennedy <[kenad@concentric.net](mailto:kenad@concentric.net)>  
Omaha, NE USA - Monday, April 09, 2001 at 23:24:03 (EDT)

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I started out in the 14th FMS at Phan Rang in Jan, 1970 & in May 1970 I was sent to Udorn RTAFB with FOL-D of the 18th SOS & I finished my tour at NKP in Nov 1970

Donald C. Savel <[dcsavel@hotmail.com](mailto:dcsavel@hotmail.com)>  
Monrovia, MD USA - Sunday, April 08, 2001 at 19:29:44 (EDT)

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I was a AC-119K FLIR on the first group of crews to go from Ohio to Phan Rang. I also was on the Stinger that crashed at DA Nang Feb 19, 1970. I would like to hear from other crew members in that crash. Anyone know what happened to Tom Hill, another of the early FLIR's? I'm retired in Omaha.

Max C. Kennedy <[kenad@concentric.net](mailto:kenad@concentric.net)>  
Omaha, NE USA - Tuesday, April 03, 2001 at 22:08:48 (EDT)

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Was stationed at NKP during the early 70s as an explosive ordnance disposal troop. Supported Stinger Gunships & was proud to do so. Great aircraft; great aircrews!



Marshall "Doc" Dutton <[brewpop@fwbnet.com](mailto:brewpop@fwbnet.com)>  
Valparaiso, FL USA - Tuesday, April 03, 2001 at 08:04:40 (EDT)

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Was stationed at Phan Rang AB, RVN from Jan '70 to Jan '71 with Det 1 38th ARRS (air resuce) & watched the 119's work on many occassions with awe. You guys & "Spooky" delivered a big support to the ground troops & delivered a crushing blow to "Charlie". You guys could put on one hell of a light show. Thanks for all you did. WELCOME HOME to all you guys.

[Ralph Reed](mailto:RReed10910@aol.com) <[RReed10910@aol.com](mailto:RReed10910@aol.com)>  
Houston, Tx USA - Saturday, March 31, 2001 at 09:34:54 (EST)

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I WAS AT PHAN RANG /NKP 70/71 18 SOS. I.O FLEW WITH FE PERRY AN GUNNERS WILLIAMS,COBB AND GLEASON.HOPE TO MAKE REUNION IN SEPTEMBER

[Grant Thompson](mailto:grant.thompson@att.net) <[grant.thompson@att.net](mailto:grant.thompson@att.net)>  
Anchorage, Ak USA - Thursday, March 29, 2001 at 01:16:44 (EST)

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"Shadow" & "Stinger" Mission CDs are now available for purchase. Proceeds are donated to the Association. Please visit: [www.underscrubber.com/119cd.htm](http://www.underscrubber.com/119cd.htm) Thanks Dan

[Dan McDuffie](mailto:dskduff@netusa1.net) <[dskduff@netusa1.net](mailto:dskduff@netusa1.net)>  
Oakford, IN USA - Wednesday, March 28, 2001 at 07:05:53 (EST)

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AMEN to the taunting!!! Jimmy Dunn has it exactly right. What fun.

[David Savelle](mailto:dsavelle@eorls.com) <[dsavelle@eorls.com](mailto:dsavelle@eorls.com)>  
Towson, MD USA - Monday, March 26, 2001 at 13:31:58 (EST)

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Does anyone know the where abouts of the 72-5K SHORT flag. Major Hank Titus brought it back to the states [supposeably] Remember sitting in our lawn chairs by the flag pole next to the CANDLE HOOCH [across from the O Club & INVERT] sipping our toddies & taunting passer bys in September/October 1972.

[Jim Dunn](mailto:DunnlnnV97@AOL.com) <[DunnlnnV97@AOL.com](mailto:DunnlnnV97@AOL.com)>  
DeWitt, MI USA - Sunday, March 25, 2001 at 12:10:25 (EST)

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This sites just GREAT! Has allowed us to renew old acquaintances. At the fall reunion I was asked to write down the words to "PROUD TO BE A STINGER FROM OLD DANG-DANG" but I can't remember all of the words. Remember singing it during the Dec 71 to Apr 72 tour at Danang. CAN ANY OF YOU REMEMBER who came up with the paraody? Was sung to "Proud to be a Okie from Muskogee"

[Jim Dunn](mailto:DunnlnnV97@AOL.com) <[DunnlnnV97@AOL.com](mailto:DunnlnnV97@AOL.com)>  
DeWitt, MI USA - Sunday, March 25, 2001 at 12:01:10 (EST)

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Re;Bruce McGray Phan Rang Mar 70-71. I was there that exact same time as an IO, can't recall your name but nothing new there! Tell me something about yourself & if you remember me. Ken Shed sound familiar but can't remember for sure. I cal this condition CRS, help me out if you can!

[Rod Friese](mailto:rfriese49@msn.com) <[rfriese49@msn.com](mailto:rfriese49@msn.com)>  
Marietta, GA USA - Friday, March 23, 2001 at 19:37:50 (EST)

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Can't believe this site is up. Til this, the only thing I've ever seen on the AC-119G is the one picture on a wall hidden away at Wright Patt museum. Does any one know where Ken Shed is? I was Phan Rhang G's from March 70 to 71.

[Bruce McGray](mailto:mpmcgray@aol.com) <[mpmcgray@aol.com](mailto:mpmcgray@aol.com)>  
Port Republic , Md USA - Tuesday, March 20, 2001 at 08:08:29 (EST)

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I would like to say thank for posting a picture of my father on this web site he would have enjoyed this to see this sight but i lost him almost 2 years ago. he was with the 18th stinger group if any one knew him his name was Richard Reilly please fell free to contact. me & my step mother have some old picture to share with this sight & any other that are out there this is trully a tribute to the stinger gunship crew

[rick reilly](mailto:sreilly741@aol.com) <[sreilly741@aol.com](mailto:sreilly741@aol.com)>  
st louis , mo USA - Sunday, March 18, 2001 at 20:57:32 (EST)

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Just to let everyone know. The Shadow patches are in & up for your attention. Look on the merchandise page of the association & you have my address. Lets get it going guys & snap up these patches when you can. Stingers, I have plenty of those left too.

Art Perry <[aperry9567@aol.com](mailto:aperry9567@aol.com)>

Ormond Beach, FL USA - Sunday, March 18, 2001 at 18:48:37 (EST)

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Who was on the mission with me, the night the nav punched off a flare & got a truck? What about the one where the nva gunner fired a few rounds at us, & then his gun blew up without us firing at him? Or the one time we fired 250 rounds at them & they fired about 800 at us? Who all was on the mission on April 28, 1972, when we knew we were going to be awarded the DFC for saving the ARVN, & getting a personel thanks from a General?

everett sprou <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

st louis, mo USA - Saturday, March 17, 2001 at 02:08:27 (EST)

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As the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran, I have heard & learned a lot about the War. Reading all of the stories & seeing all of the different pictures really gives me a first hand understanding of what all happened. I have a lot of admiration for all of the Veterans & wish that people everywhere would give you more respect. You all deserve much more than you are getting.

Alicia Lauf <[lauf@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:lauf@sendit.nodak.edu)>

LaMoure, ND USA - Tuesday, March 13, 2001 at 14:45:26 (EST)

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We are trying to get the word out about our project & thought perhaps you might be able to help us. Military veterans . . . WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! Have you ever done time in a veteran's hospital? This not-for-profit group works to lessen the bleakness that permeates all Veterans Administration hospitals. Check out the Kitchen Table Gang Trust at <http://taliaferro.net/veterans> A lot of military veterans have deemed our efforts worthy of support & we hope you will too. Thanks!

[Charles Taliaferro](mailto:charles@taliaferro.net) <[charles@taliaferro.net](mailto:charles@taliaferro.net)>

NAS Lemoore, CA USA - Monday, March 12, 2001 at 17:05:00 (EST)

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Finally got a computer. Was an IO on the "K"s from Sept. '71 to '72. Flew with Capt. White's crew for three or four months then became a "floater" IO for the rest of my tour. The best year of my 25 in the AF. Does anyone remember the night at DaNang when the rockets fell just as we were pre-flighting for our nights mission & several of us got under an 18 wheeler flatbed for cover? After the attack was over we discovered the flatbed had 3 5000lb "Daisy Cutter" bombs on it. Great cover!! It's great to be on the net & am looking foward to the next reunion. My wife will be comming this year. See y'all there.

James (Jim) Ray <[YARJJ@AOL](mailto:YARJJ@AOL)>

Palestine, TX USA - Saturday, March 10, 2001 at 23:49:01 (EST)

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As a Reservist with the 71st Troop Carrier Squadron at Bakalar AFB, In, I was recalled to active duty on May 13, 1968. I was later transferred to Lockbourne AFB, OH to begin upgrade training as Flight Engineer. Following this training, I departed CONUS in January 1969 & was stationed at Phan Rang AB, RVN. My squadron was released from active duty in June 1969, & returned to Bakalar AFB, IN. In January 1970, the unit was relocated to Grissom AFB, IN. Interested in hearing from any crewmembers that flew the AC-119G Shadow during that timeframe. Anyone still have the old calling cards "Have Gun, Will Travel?"

Paul A. Werner <[pwerner@us.dhl.com](mailto:pwerner@us.dhl.com)>

Batesville, IN USA - Thursday, March 08, 2001 at 16:58:24 (EST)

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I first signed on to this guestbook in Feb. of '99. I now have a new e-mail address: [tnova@attglobal.net](mailto:tnova@attglobal.net). I was a gunner with the 18th in 72 & 73 when it ended.

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

georgetown, tx USA - Wednesday, March 07, 2001 at 17:14:26 (EST)

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Thanks for doing a mighty fine job in vietnam, stop by & visit our site at [www.khesanh.com](http://www.khesanh.com) & if you flew in the are we would like to invite you to become a KheSanh Veterans Association member, we need to hear what happened above as well as below. Semper Fi Brothers jim Wodecki

[jim\\_wodecki](mailto:jim_wodecki@jimmypj.texas@mindspring.com) <[jim\\_wodecki@jimmypj.texas@mindspring.com](mailto:jim_wodecki@jimmypj.texas@mindspring.com)>

Allen, TX USA - Sunday, March 04, 2001 at 10:31:57 (EST)

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This is great. After 30 years I finally found someone who remembers Shadows & Stingers. I was stationed at Phan Rang & Tan Son Nhut in 70-71 as a gunship fixer. (electrician) Keep up the good work.

Dan McNeill <[dmcneill@primary.net](mailto:dmcneill@primary.net)>

Edwardsville, IL USA - Friday, March 02, 2001 at 23:41:25 (EST)

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Looking forward to our next reunion

Bill Posey <[cposey1032@aol.com](mailto:cposey1032@aol.com)>

Destin,, FL USA - Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 15:52:35 (EST)

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its silver hairs upon there chest more time in grade than all the rest athousand bombs we;ll load today to save ass of the green beret

john w morrow

USA - Sunday, February 25, 2001 at 12:12:19 (EST)

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I started a song. Actually, I used to sing it to myself, since I can't carry a tune in a bucket. I'll do the first verse & let's see who can add to it; SILVER WINGS UPON OUR CHEST WE ARE OF AMERICA'S BEST 10,000 ROUNDS WE'LL FIRE TODAY TO SAVE THE ASS OF THE GREEN BERET Come on, let's do it.

[Everett Sprou](mailto:edspro@juno.com) <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Saturday, February 24, 2001 at 03:08:10 (EST)

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Just wanted to write a little more about my experiences with the Stingers. I was looking through my photo albums & one of the pictures that always brings it back, is the one with a 50 Cal round through the ammo can. I was lead gunner on this flight. I remember hearing a loud explosion that night, but we didn't pay a lot of attention at the time. We all six guns firing, so we figured it may have been a short round. After we pulled off target, we began our clean-up. I pulled an empty can out of the rack, & there to my surprise was a big gash through the bottom. I called our A/C to inform him we took a hit. His response was, "why am I the last one to find out about these things". We did a lot of drinking that night, with everyone buying us rounds, We found out later, we had taken two hits, one very close to the battery compartment.

[Everett Sprou](mailto:edspro@juno.com) <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Thursday, February 22, 2001 at 23:15:36 (EST)

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My father was TSgt. Quincie Charles Wash who served on an AC-47 at Bien Hoa Airbase. This was in 1968 & 1969. I would like to get in touch with any of his crew members. My father passed away from Agent Orange in 1985, yet he always spoke highly of his squadron. If you have any info, please E-mail me. Thank you.

Dwight Derrell Wash <[waldforest@juno.com](mailto:waldforest@juno.com)>

Fontana, CA USA - Wednesday, February 21, 2001 at 21:09:00 (EST)

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Am I glad I decided to check this site out. I felt lost as for as My connections to the Stinger. I was a Stinger Gunner at NKP & Ben Hoa late 1971-72. Some might remember by what someone wrote in fresh cement at the enlisted hooth. "Lover Boy Sprou". I couldn't help it, I only had a year & there were so many women. I was Craig Corbet's Hooth Mate. I sure wish I could remember all the names. I really want to attend the reunion this fall. Depends on the job. I will gladly take the days without pay, if possible. I dropped out of the Force after 13 years of active duty. Things just weren't the same without the camaradery of the Stinger Crews. The short time I spent flying with the crews, was the most memorable of my life. Never have I found a closer knit group. I would love to hear from all. Everett Sprou [edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)

[Everett D Sprou](mailto:edspro@juno.com) <[edspro@juno.com](mailto:edspro@juno.com)>

St Louis, Mo USA - Wednesday, February 21, 2001 at 17:16:39 (EST)

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I just discovered this site after recieving a letter from Fred graves. What a blast from the past!! The memories that were evoked. I was a FLIR/NOS/Table NAV from 10/71 to 10/72. Started at NKP, spent 5 months at Danang, then back to NKP. Also spent time at Bien Hoa, flying missions over An Loc. I was there when Stinger 41 was shot down. The pilot in command was a friend.

P. David Savelle <[dsavelle@erols.com](mailto:dsavelle@erols.com)>

Towson, MD USA - Tuesday, February 20, 2001 at 21:07:08 (EST)

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This website was a great find. Found several names from the past, none of whom have been forgotten. 18th SOS, Phan Rang, Pho Cat, Udorn, & Naked Fanny; 1969-70. Dave  
[Dave Koch <Dave@YourOregonHome.com>](mailto:Dave@YourOregonHome.com)  
Canby, OR USA - Monday, February 19, 2001 at 22:47:38 (EST)

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Home page of sq 14 is: [www.squadron14.com](http://www.squadron14.com). Sorry guys Bob  
Bob McGarry <[spooky1969Aol.com](mailto:spooky1969Aol.com)>  
USA - Saturday, February 17, 2001 at 13:45:42 (EST)

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[www.sq14.com](http://www.sq14.com) is building a AC-47 replica of John Levitow's plane. The pictures of it look good so far EXCEPT for the SPOOKY GHOST under the pilots window. It's ass backwards. Spooky should be holding the lightning bolts in the "RIGHT" hand. They even have a group of photos of Levitow's plane & if you enlarge the front view photo you will see that I'm right. AS a SPOOKY & SHADOW gunner, this problem irks me mostly because they claim it to be the replica of John Levitow's Plane that he earned the MEDAL OF HONOR in. Any of you guys think this should be corrected please visit their web site & tell them to correct it or don't claim it to be a replica of Levitow's plane. Thanks for your time. Bob McGarry  
[Bob McGarry <spooky1969@aol.com>](mailto:spooky1969@aol.com)  
canton, USA - Friday, February 16, 2001 at 22:12:47 (EST)

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Looking to located a 119 gunner that was sent to Phan Rang by mistake in Oct. 72. He stayed in the transit barracks for a couple of week until his orders were cleared up. Then he was shipped of to NKP. I think he told me he was from North Carolina. I was at Phan Rang with Det.8 14th Aerial Port Squadron. I do not remember his name. If this sound familiar e-mail me.  
[Mike Hood <mhood@hartness.com>](mailto:mhood@hartness.com)  
Easley, SC USA - Friday, February 16, 2001 at 14:04:05 (EST)

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Finally found a site on the 199K's. I started at Lockbourne in Ohio on the 119K's around 1969 & was mechanic there & ferried the planes over seas to Phan Rang. Then came back to Lockbourne & then to Ft. Walton beach to finish my enlistment. Hope I can find some old friends that I served with.  
[Gary L. Smeal <gsmeal@kiski.net>](mailto:gsmeal@kiski.net)  
Vandergrift, Pa. USA - Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at 12:57:06 (EST)

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Hey, we preceeded you guys by a few years. We were the Navy squadron; VO-67 that deployed to NKP in the fall of 67 to lay electronic sensors on the Ho Chi Minh trail. After all these years it's great to be a part of the brotherhood of men (& women) who risked everything, not just for America, but for oneanother. God bless you all  
[Rich DeCuir <charsal@halcyon.com>](mailto:charsal@halcyon.com)  
Edmonds, wa USA - Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at 01:36:56 (EST)

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I was stationed at Phan Rang 67, 68 as a combat motion picture cameraman with Det. 5 600th Photo Squadron. Great site.  
[Tom "Robbie" Robbins <robbins1@macronet.com>](mailto:robbins1@macronet.com)  
Niagara Falls, NY USA - Monday, February 12, 2001 at 17:11:50 (EST)

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Found this wonderful site while surfing the web after reminiscing with a friend about Vietnam & my AC-119K gunner days. I was a gunner(left side scanner, primarily)in the 18th SOS from April 71 to April 72. I flew on the "bat-shit blue" crew with Capt. Iverson (AC), Lt. Hupe (CP), Maj. "Fitz" Fitzgibbon & Sgt. Anderson (IO). I flew my first (checkout mission) on my 21st birthday with SMSgt. "Mac" McGinnis. I wonder if the crew remembers the fight "Mac" got in with a huge Simoan at the "Swiss Chalet" restaurant in NKP (the entire crew was there on CTO from DaNang). Mac would up with a huge bite mark on the center of his "bald" head. It was there until he left. I also remember the hootch bar in NKP, our mascott, Tripod (a three legged dog), & the great "tap the pot" black-jack games. As a scanner, I got a whole new appreciation for the term "fieldgoal". I'd like to come to the reunion if I can. Great job by Bill Petrie on the award winning web site.  
[John Biedka <biedkajp@nswccd.navy.mil>](mailto:biedkajp@nswccd.navy.mil)  
Phila, Pa USA - Friday, February 09, 2001 at 08:41:20 (EST)

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Received an Email this past weekend telling me about this site. Had been surfing off & on for anything on stingers ever since I got a computer. Fantastic job Bill. Got so wound up reading the guest book I forgot to sign in. Was a stinger gunner at Da Nang & NKP April 70 to April 71. Flew with different crews but main crew had Maj Bob Meals AC, Lt Louis Richard CP, TSgt Herb Simmons FE, Maj Bryant FLIR, Capt Howie Reid Nav, & Gordon Williams Gunner. I don't recall the name of the NOS although I can picture him in my mind. Seems the IO was Kitt but not sure. Sure going to try & make the reunion & talk over times.

Ken Schwandt <[Stinger10@Bigfoot.com](mailto:Stinger10@Bigfoot.com)>

Waite Park, MN USA - Thursday, February 08, 2001 at 13:19:05 (EST)

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Thanks guys for being there. I was assigned with the Korean White Horse unit. We called & you were there  
bn837920 Thanks for the show. 10/69 DJF

Dennis Farrell <[imdjf@prodigy.net](mailto:imdjf@prodigy.net)>

USA - Tuesday, January 23, 2001 at 23:53:33 (CST)

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I really enjoyed your documentary about Fairchild AC-119's. I was just surfing around on the internet today & I remembered an interesting aircraft I'd seen in a book one day. I didn't quite remember the name & so started looking for it. As it turns out it was a AC-119. Thanks for making my search so much easier. Cool sight.

Jon Paul <[jon\\_paul1128@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_paul1128@hotmail.com)>

Beulah, ND USA - Saturday, January 20, 2001 at 16:12:11 (CST)

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Just recently found this site. I was elated to see so many names of my fellow Stinger crew members & that they are still around. I was also very sad To see messages from the families of those crew members whom I flew with saying some of them had passed away. They will not be forgotten. I was a Stinger gunner at both Danang & NKP from Dec.1970-Jan.1972. Bill you did a fantastic job on this web page. I kept hoping that someone would get something started about Stingers. What a great surprise to find out it was my old friend Bill Petrie. It was great to make contact with you after all of these years. I read everyone of the messages. Saw lots of familiar names of guys I flew with. Brought back lots of memories, some that we will never forget. I missed the reunion. But, I most definitely will make the next one for sure. It's too bad that none of our Stingers aircraft survived. Although I did get to see the Shadow at Hurlburt when I visited there last year. I'd like to hear from any of the guys that remember hanging it over the trail with me.

Bob La Rosa <[la448@zianet.com](mailto:la448@zianet.com)>

Alamogordo, NM USA - Friday, January 19, 2001 at 00:38:09 (CST)

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Your website is the best thing that I have found on the web. I was in the USAF from 1967 to 1971. In May, 1969 I received orders for Phan Rang Vietnam with a port of call date in June, 1969. As I prepared to depart, I found that my assigned unit was with the AC-119K's. The squadron that I was assigned to stateside, began sending me to all the necessary training needed to be attached to that squadron. I trained at Clinton County, AFB in Ohio as an illuminator operator. The sad thing was that because someone dropped the ball, I missed my port of call date & never made to my squadron in Vietnam. Until this site, I really never knew the missions that were flown by the AC-119K. I can only say, the pride that I feel in reading about those heroic missions. Again, many thanks for a fine web site. Now I can imagine what it would have been like to fly with these guys.

Bob Nunez <[bobnunez@bellsouth.net](mailto:bobnunez@bellsouth.net)>

Chalmette, LA USA - Thursday, January 18, 2001 at 17:31:20 (CST)

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I was a Security Police Sergeant in Viet Nam in 1969-1970 at Phan Rang AB. You guys saved us several times when Charlie began the incoming & perimeter probs/penetrations. The sights & sounds coming from Shadow were breath taking & reassuring. God Bless you all & thanks!

Michael Diaz <[StMikel@earthlink.net](mailto:StMikel@earthlink.net)>

Alta Loma, CA USA - Monday, January 15, 2001 at 22:16:01 (CST)

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Just found this Web site today. I was with the 17 SOS at TSN the year of 1970. I was a gunner & flew with Roger Bonneau. Would sure like to here from anyone that knows his where abouts. Also our Pilot was Capt. Parkinson anyone knowing how I might contact him please feel free to E-Mail me. I have lost contact with another gunner Rich Layton sure would like to here from him. Take Care to ALL/ Bruce Bratt

Bruce Bratt <[fourbratts@msn.com](mailto:fourbratts@msn.com)>

Colorado springs, CO USA - Sunday, January 14, 2001 at 12:46:48 (CST)



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Just a note of thanks to all the pilots & air crew who supported us when we needed it. I was L Company 75th Ranger 101st Airborne at Camp Eagle in 1970. We put your talents to work on a number of occasions, & it was always a great feeling to hear those big radial engines on the way. What a show from ground level! I only wish I could have had movies of the fire power you guys put out. In Aug. you covered our contact near Nui Bach Khi Mt. & on Sept. 10, 1970 you supported team BUFFALO on the west rim of the Ashau. Without your help that team probably wouldn't have gotten out. Great job fellas!

Randy White <[ranwhite@jamadots.com](mailto:ranwhite@jamadots.com)>

Wetmore, MI USA - Saturday, January 13, 2001 at 21:11:10 (CST)

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Started my career as a Flight Mech on C119Gs/C123s at Armore Oklahoma. Went to France for 4 years flying on C119Gs at Dreux AB. Flew C119Gs again with 908th TCG at Mobile, Ala, Went to Phanrang in 71 but flew C-47 PhsyOps with 9SOS. I remember seeing old friend 53-7826 several times in Vietnam. I understand that 7826 lost most of the right outboard wing but still landed safely. Another old friend of mine was a guy named Bob Xanders from the Indiana Reserves. Anybody out there know what happened to Bob? I enjoy your web page.

Seth R (Bob) Moss Cmsgt USAF Ret. <[mossracer1@cs.com](mailto:mossracer1@cs.com)>

Yorktown, VA USA - Friday, January 12, 2001 at 21:50:09 (CST)

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It sure sounds like I sure missed a good reunion. Maybe this year. Really do like this web site I usually check it out every chance I get. I sure don't remember too many guys but I guess that's what happens when you get my age. Well until next time take care.

Leon Mott <[Hermott50@aol.com](mailto:Hermott50@aol.com)>

Tucson, AZ USA - Friday, January 12, 2001 at 16:45:11 (CST)

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Just surfed in & found this site. I was an engine mech. on both G's & K's with the 4413th CCTS out of Lockbourne AFB, Columbus Ohio right after I came back from Nam in late 68. Stayed with the 4413th until discharged in Jan. of 70. It's great to see a 119 site. I might even find some of the guys from my old outfit.

Robert Andersen <[RBAUSAF@AOL.com](mailto:RBAUSAF@AOL.com)>

Wallingford, CT USA - Friday, January 12, 2001 at 15:20:25 (CST)

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Attention Ronald L. Warner, SHADOW pilot extraordinaire, believed to now be living in the Atlanta area. We need your new addresses (snail mail & e-mail) & other vitals to update our records. We can't invite you to this year's AC-119 Gunship Reunion II unless you tell us. Cheers!

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

Buhl, ID USA - Tuesday, January 09, 2001 at 15:41:45 (CST)

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Thanks to Fred Graves & the letter I received from him, I now know about this fabulous web site. I flew as a Nav, NOS, & FLIR in AC-119K Stingers in 71,72. While on a combat/training mission with the South Vietnam Air Force, we faced a situation where we were forced to bail out over South China Sea because we were fogged out of Da Nang & running out of fuel. We all made it okay except the student Navigator who forgot to jettison his canopy after he was in the water. When the PT boat attempted the pick up, his chute got caught in the prop & he drowned. I can't remember all the names of the crew, but I believe the Pilot was Capt. Simmon. Ray E. Wolf Lt Col Retired [rwolf@itlnet.net](mailto:rwolf@itlnet.net)

[Raymond E. Wolf](mailto:Raymond.E.Wolf@itlnet.net) <[rwolf@itlnet.net](mailto:rwolf@itlnet.net)>

Weatherford, OK USA - Tuesday, January 09, 2001 at 00:47:22 (CST)

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I just heard about the Web site a few days ago. Great Site. I went to Lockbourne AFB in March 1969 to train for AC-119Ks. Went to Wright Patterson for Altitude Chamber Training & was assigned Flying Status with the 18th SOS for maintenance purposes for the Forward Looking TA radar & Doppler. Was sent home to New Mexico awaiting orders in October 1969. Received sealed orders to SEA, destination unknown, to set up the maintenance shop for the Avionics systems. Upon arrival at Cam Ranh Bay, went to the Aerial Port Commander, who opened the sealed orders, told me which aircraft to get on & to get off at the first stop it made. Alas Phan Rang. Upon arrival of the rest of the Maintenance personnel who arrived on a Commercial Air Liner, the only one to ever land at Phan Rang, we started setting up the equipment for aircraft maintenance. On the 20th of November 1969, all maintenance personnel were assigned to the 14 FMS. I went to Udorn Thailand for the first TDY of the AC119Ks. Although still on flying status with the 18th SOS, I was told that I would not be able to fly on their Aircraft. No



Jungle survival Training. I ended up flying on the Base C-47 Roadrunner Airlines flyings NORS equipment all over Vietnam. Rotated back to the World on 7 November 1970. Keith Dalrymple, Jr., TSGT RET. E-mail [dalrymple@espanola-nm.com](mailto:dalrymple@espanola-nm.com)

Keith Dalrymple, Jr. <[dalrymple@espanola-nm.com](mailto:dalrymple@espanola-nm.com)>

Espanola, NM USA - Monday, January 08, 2001 at 16:46:01 (CST)

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I flew with the 18th SOS out of NKP & DaNang as a gunner on Capt. Shumanns 119K. I cant remember hardly anyones names that I flew with so I'd sure appreciate anyones help.I lived in the "cave" at DaNang so that may explain some of my memory loss. We were the last crew to safely get in & out of Quang Tri in April of 72 to supposedly rescue women & children as they were being overrun, but unfortunately only ARVN men were the only survivors that we picked up. They used those refugees on the end of the mat that night as steps to climb onboard. I just thank God for getting us out of that situation alive. Thankyou Capt. Shuman & the rest of the crew. I owe you guys more than you could ever know. Please write or call. 360-698-9888

David G. Vaux <[VAUXFOLKS@email.msn.com](mailto:VAUXFOLKS@email.msn.com)>

Silverdale, Wa USA - Saturday, January 06, 2001 at 16:12:42 (CST)

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Ya know, I've been wondering for years if anyone was ever going to start up an association for former AC-119G & K gunship aircrew members & crew personnel & to my surprise, I recieved a letter from your organization through my employers official mail distribution system. I arrived in Nam during August of '69 & was supposed to be assigned to the 17th Special Operation Squadron on AC-47 gunship as a gunner at Nha Trang. Unfortunately, several of us found out that the Air Force was phasing out the use of the AC-47's & turning them over to the V.N.A.F. (Vietnamese Air Force), who didn't use them for what they were intended for. Approx. 10 of us gunners were assigned to the "Mini-Gun" shop at Nha Trang in support of the gunship for 2 months until Oct. of 69', when we were again re-assigned to the "Mini-Gun" shop at Phan Rang. Once there, the 10 of us heard about the Air Force's plan to replace the aging AC-47's with the supposedly more updated "AC-119G's" & we all wanted to be back flying again as crew members. It didn't happen overnight because they wanted to keep us working in the "Mini-Gun" shop. It took a letter writing campaign to our Senators & Congressmen explaining what happened. After about 2 months, we all had our wish. I was assigned to "C Flight" at Ton Son Nhut A.B. in Jan. of 1970 on the AC-119G & remained there on flying status as a gunner until I rotated out in Aug. 1970. I remember several of the aircrew members who I usually flew with, while assigned to "C flight" at Saigon & they were Captain Richard Grisnik, our pilot & A/C Commander (who by the way I felt confident flying with because he had the most single engine time on an AC-119G & knew what to do in an emergency). Also fellow friend & gunner Richard Grimsley, whom we both looked out for each other while there. Also I remember Lieut. Col. Harry A. White Jr. who was the Flight Commander at "C Flight" when I arrived there in Jan. 1970 & was later replaced by Lieut.Col. Tom A. Teal when he rotated out. I'm looking to find out about the other crew members that I flew with & knew & also the ground crew & maintenance personnel whom I associated with during this time frame. Presently I am still in the military at Selfridge A.N.G.B in Michigan & in the Michigan Air Natl'. Guard. Counting my 4 years active duty, I'm coming up on 33 years in the military. during the week I'm a civil service military technician (Title 32) & still in the Weapons Career Field ( 462's). I've been in supervision for the last 10 years & have about 2 1/2 years to go before I retire. My military rank is MSGT. (E-7) & hoping to make E-8 before I retire. Thanks to all the people who made this association happen & to the various websites that bring it to light.

Donald H. Smith (Smitty) <[smittyselfridge@hotmail.com](mailto:smittyselfridge@hotmail.com)>

Richmond, MI USA - Saturday, January 06, 2001 at 09:29:41 (CST)

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My husband Richard Reilly was Flight Engineer on Stinger in '71. His crew was known as the "Polish Bandits". I wish I had found this site before he passed away, April 1999. I called my step-son as soon as I found it & we both are happy to see a picture of Dick on the web site. Dick had quite a few pictures & articles that I'll be glad to share. We would love to hear from any "Polish Bandits" out there.

Jacqueline Reilly <[cooljacque@msn.com](mailto:cooljacque@msn.com)>

St. Louis, MO USA - Thursday, January 04, 2001 at 08:43:06 (CST)

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'Boozer'says hello to any AC-119 crews that may remember him. Looking for a 'Hanson' to comm with from the old days.....'Big Brother' did take it to 'em!!!!

Lefty <[jowilson@mid-prairie.k12.ia.us](mailto:jowilson@mid-prairie.k12.ia.us)>

Wellman, Ia USA - Wednesday, January 03, 2001 at 15:02:49 (CST)

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Excellent site. Lots of information which is handy for a modeller like myself.

Simon Henry <[megasam@clear.net.nz](mailto:megasam@clear.net.nz)>

Christchurch, New Zealand - Wednesday, January 03, 2001 at 00:07:09 (CST)

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Happy New Year to all the crews of the AC-119's who were our guardian angels! I served at Phu Cat AFB 69/70 15th APS. We had a gunship TDY there for a while. Tail # 830 with nose art "Fly United" (two geese flying united ) Can anyone tell me if this was a Shadow or a Stinger gunship?? Drop me an e-mail. Good luck to you all!!

Ron Clark <[ronc2807@earthlink.net](mailto:ronc2807@earthlink.net)>

Papillion, NE USA - Tuesday, January 02, 2001 at 20:04:30 (CST)

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Great to find this site! Served as Stinger co-pilot 7/69 -7/70: Phan Rang, DaNang & Pilot NKP '71. Interested in hearing from fellow crewmembers!

Larry Blood <[stinger70@aol.com](mailto:stinger70@aol.com)>

Jacksonville, FL USA - Monday, January 01, 2001 at 21:13:16 (CST)

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JUST SURFING AND RAN ACROSS THIS SITE. ALL I CAN SAY IS FANTASTIC! THANKS FOR THE SITE. I WAS ASSIGNED TO EGLIN AFB IN JUNE OF 68. I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE COMBAT GUARD EVALUATION TEAM IN SUPPORT OF THE EVALUATION OF THE AC-119 SHADOW. WORKED WITH A SMSGT LONGLEY, MSGT FRANK, BOSTON AND OTHERS...MAJOR WOODS AND RITENOUR WERE MY COMMANDERS. LIKE TO HEAR FROM ANY OF THEM. MISSED THIS REUNION, BUT WON'T THE NEXT. AHH! NIGHTS AT HOJO'S SWIMMING POOL IN FT WALTON,

RICHARDSON, GARY L. <[GRICHA5212@AOL.COM](mailto:GRICHA5212@AOL.COM)>

LEXINGTON , KY USA - Monday, January 01, 2001 at 16:49:13 (CST)