

USAF AC-119 GUNSHIPS

Guestbook Visitors During 2002

Thank you for visiting the AC-119 Gunship site.
We would love it if you would [Add](#) to this guestbook we are keeping!

As 2002 draws to a close, I hope you all remember "the old men", those who have gone before us & are still on that last flight. Such Good Men. Best wishes to all for the new year,
"Ollie"
Gresham, OR USA - Tuesday, December 31, 2002 at 11:09:31 (EST)

I was a crew chief on the stingers at NKP Thailand 1971-1972, 18th SOS. I was tdy to Danang for a little while. I cant say I remember anyone I worked with, but enjoyed Keeping my aircraft in shape & ready to fly.
Gene Roode <groode@bellsouth.net>
Palm Beach Gardens, FL. USA - Sunday, December 29, 2002 at 20:17:30 (EST)

First of all, Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all the 119'ers out there. I was happy to get some personal E-mails reference the NFL/VFW Phone cards for our current GI's. In reply to Monroe Smith's letter recently, who stated (or dared to own up to) that he was Hans-George Wurfel's brother -in-law. Where the heck is Hans-George. I remember his crash at the end of the runway at DaNang (he received the Airman's Medal) Put your feet down!!!
Jerry Snyder <DET1114@VERIZONMAIL.COM>
MT. SINAI, NY USA - Friday, December 27, 2002 at 18:38:53 (EST)

I want to wish my Gunship Brothers & their families a very Merry Christmas & the happiest & healthiest New Year. It looks like a White Christmas for us here in the St Louis Area.
Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, MO USA - Tuesday, December 24, 2002 at 12:44:09 (EST)

I'am glad I found your site. I was a crew chief with the 17th sos from 1970 thru 1971. I was at Phang Rang & TSN both for about 6 mos. each. Worked night shift throughout my whole tour. Only found one friend from nam (Andy Sendrick). Tried to find Dan Sanchez but no luck. Hope to find more. Happy Holidays to all. God Bless
Bob Farmer <hemi2@tctc.com>
west point, In USA - Tuesday, December 24, 2002 at 12:16:21 (EST)

Merry Christmas & a Very Happy New Year to all former AC-119 air & ground crew members. Chuck James, Past President, AC-119 Gunship Association.
Chuck James <idmirage@rmci.net>
Buhl, ID USA - Tuesday, December 24, 2002 at 11:55:31 (EST)

I wish all my fellow stingers & shadow mates HAppy Holidays!
Craig Corbett
Burke, VA USA - Tuesday, December 24, 2002 at 11:05:35 (EST)

I just wanted to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & much Joy for the coming New Year. Also, thanks so much for the Certificate of Appreciation. I have learned so much from those of your I have meet personally or talked with through phone & email. Though these past few months I have put the Squadrons History project on the back burner, I plan to pick up where I left off with the first of the new year. I'm honored that you all felt the need to award me with the certificate, though I feel I haven't done much or enough. The Vietnam Veterans have yet to receive the "Weclome Home" they so deserved. I salute you all for the job you did in representing this fine country we live in. Thank you again for educating me & teaching me more than I could have ever learned in school. I'm proud do be a member of this historical lineage & know that the 18th still lives on.
Donna Crews <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>
Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Monday, December 23, 2002 at 10:54:12 (EST)

Really enjoyed the visit to your site. Keep up the great work. I was a J46250 weapons troop 1962/1967. Am assigned to 162TFW as a 46270/2W171, 1980/2002. Brother in law is Hans-Georg Wurfel, (18th SOS) gunner, Our crew chief while assigned to the 4453rd CCTW was SSGT Grady L. Broxton (retired LTC. 919th SOS Duke Field) MSGT MONROE C. SMITH <mcsf16@aol.com>
Tucson, AZ USA - Monday, December 23, 2002 at 08:10:07 (EST)

Wasnt in aviation but had a lot of respect for you guys.I was in the engineers 1968-1969.Thanks for your support we couldnt have did our job without you guys.Thanks for helping me come home to my family.
Ron Manis <RDMANIS@SBCGLOBAL.NET>
St,Louis, Mo USA - Sunday, December 22, 2002 at 02:04:41 (EST)

Happy Holidays! I love your site. I'm spending the holidays on one of those las vegas vacations & guess what, I'm putting on my bridal shoes & having one of those classic las vegas weddings tomorrow. These las vegas vacation packages are great & the vegas hotels are incredible. Nevada_James@hotmail.com.
[las vegas hotels](#)
Las Vegas, Nevada US - Saturday, December 21, 2002 at 18:28:46 (EST)

Walter Hamm: seen your e-mail Dec 7. I believe your the same Hamm I flew with @ Thuy Hoa Jan 70 to Mar 70. I was that " PAIN IN THE ASS" Spooky Gunner from Da Nang after the 4th was deactivated. You & I did battle as to weather or not I would wear my gear while flying. We compromised. I didn't wear it while over the targets. I used to fly with the Flight Commander when I was down in Binh Thuy on the Spookys. He was an old 119 driver who hated to fly Spooky. Unfortunately he remembered me as never being sober in the mornings after flying all night. I looked at some of my old pics & have one of you. Whats your e-mail & I'll send some flicks. Your the 1st one who I knew at (Thuy Hoa the arm pit of VN)Bob McGarry S/sgt gunner
Bob McGarry <spooky1969@aol.com>
Canton, Ma USA - Saturday, December 21, 2002 at 12:33:08 (EST)

Happy holidays to all air commandos both active & retired.
Jay Smjith <JayCSmith@aol.com>
Clinton, MD USA - Thursday, December 19, 2002 at 19:57:15 (EST)

Just a quick note to wish all of my brothers in Stinger & Shadow a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Hope to see everyone at the reunion next year.
Ken Wilson <boxcar@schoolink.net>
Roanoke Rapids, NC USA - Thursday, December 19, 2002 at 15:27:47 (EST)

A wish for a wonderful holiday season & a terrific new year for all of my Shadow brothers. I look back on all of you with fondness & great appreciation for the special time that we served together. Please join me in a prayer for our departed members, including my good friend, Jose Cocheula. John Hope, USAF-Ret
John Hope <JLHope@aol.com>
Springfield, VA USA - Thursday, December 19, 2002 at 13:28:44 (EST)

does any one know what caused the death of sgt.Webb? when? where? He was a former StanEval FE. Cleo O.DOWNS, MSgt.Ret.
Cleo Downs <mlcodowns@msn.com>
USA - Wednesday, December 18, 2002 at 16:40:30 (EST)

- Born with the aspiration of bringing hidden Vietnam to the world,Green Trail Tours brings you possibilities of exciting adventures, enchanting discoveries & romance . Join us, your satisfaction is guaranteed with a variety of tours; Adventures, Kayaking, Trekking, Bird watching tours, Customized & Incentive with Comfortable, Relaxing conditions & incentive programs.
[Green Trail Tours Vietnam,Lao,Combodia <greentrailtours@fpt.vn>](#)
Hanoi, VN VN - Tuesday, December 17, 2002 at 04:02:20 (EST)

Hello, I am the youngest son of Cleo O. Downs. I would appreciate if you could help me in anyway find out of more of what my father did on the ac-119. He gave me this site to look things up, I know he received some medals & I am very very proud of him. If could assist me in any way I would very grateful. Thanks Chester Downs
Chester Downs <Dow450@aol.com>
USA - Saturday, December 14, 2002 at 15:50:56 (EST)

I was a Parachute Rigger for the 31 FMS at Tuy Hoa summer of 69 to 70. I have some pictures of two AC-119(?)'s, that called Tuy Hoa home. They gave us a show when Charile tried to cross the Tuy Hoa River at night, what a light show the Two of the put on. Would love to here that story from that crew. As for the Parachute Shop. Well, are services were not needed. God Bless you all. And Welcome Home. PS. The Saber crews were not so lucky.
Thomas McBriarty <tmcbriarty3@comcast.net>
Spotwood, NJ USA - Friday, December 13, 2002 at 20:59:35 (EST)

wow! what luck!! I was just poking around with a search engine & I happened to think about my old outfit (4413th ccts). I was an avionics technician at Lockbourne AFB between may 68 & april 70. My boss was Msgt Jim Walther. The Squadran Commander when I first go there was LCOL Elwood Johnson, also a C-119 Gunship Pilot who went to Nam in early "69". LCOL Steve Barbier replaced him. Anyone remember me? ... Leave a message!
John scruggs
USA - Thursday, December 12, 2002 at 15:39:08 (EST)

This is to let everyone know that Norm Evans now has 17th & 18th videos ready for mail out of a donation of \$21.50 thats with shipping. It's a must of all. Contact Norm at Normevans873@cs.com for your order.
Gus Sininger <g.sininger@seii.net>
Ft. Walton Bch, FI USA - Wednesday, December 11, 2002 at 16:54:20 (EST)

I keeping checking this site everyday & am amazed at how many people also check it out. I flew with the 71st from Aug 70 to Aug 71. When I first found this site & joined the AC-119 Gunship Association it made me think of the movies I had taken. I didn't have an 8mm projestor anymore so I had them put on VHS. They really turned out good. There are some flight crew members that I can remember as clear as day but, can't remember their names. I think if I dig out some old orders I can put names to faces. Anyone know Doug Gorsuch email address?? Thanks & keep up the good work
Ken Stearn <kstearn@crosslink.net>
Gloucester, VA USA - Tuesday, December 10, 2002 at 19:58:21 (EST)

Just dropped by the site to catch up on the news & views. Great site, continues to impress, keep up the good work. Again, want to add what a fantastic event Reunion III was & will eagerly look forward to number IV in Ft Walton. I sure hope we can bring out some more folks to enjoy the festivities, perhaps we can "light" up the boonies to find them. Keep rolling. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, & a very happy, safe & healthy New Year to you all. Bob
Bob Connolly <B52DBOB@AOL.COM>
Norfolk, VA USA - Tuesday, December 10, 2002 at 16:27:14 (EST)

I would like to wish each & everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Lets hope the new year will bring mush happiness & many more gunshippers at our next reunion in Ft. Walton Bch. FI. I would like to see the people that was at the other reunions to return to the next one. Lets make this one a record setter with max participation.
Marry Christmas Gus Sininger Association President
Gus Sininger Association Prez <g.sininger@seii.net>
Ft. Walton Bch., FI. USA - Monday, December 09, 2002 at 08:54:01 (EST)

Hi Walter Hamm! It is good to see that you are still among us. You were a great crew member & would love to hear from you. Chuck James
Charles M. (Chuck) James <idmirage@rmci.net>
Buhl, ID USA - Sunday, December 08, 2002 at 20:47:49 (EST)

I was a Gunner that was in the original group 71st SOS at Nha Trang, & the 17SOS at Tuy Hoa. I was on Captain Marvin Evans crew until the Reaervists came home. Next I was on Lt Col Charles James crew. served in Nam from Jan 69 til Jan 70. I was also an Instructor Gunner & Flew with Major Ray to train new crews. I remember Norm Evans from Lockbourn. He used to get sick every time the gear came up.

WALTER L. HAMM

Selma, AL USA - Saturday, December 07, 2002 at 22:28:04 (EST)

Nice site. I enjoyed it very much!

[David Jay <david_jay58@hotmail.com>](mailto:david_jay58@hotmail.com)

USA - Saturday, December 07, 2002 at 13:35:18 (EST)

I saw on tv to go to the nfl.com/vfw website regarding prepaid phone cards for members of the military this holiday season. Can anyone tell me where to find out more about this? My brother was in the 1st Air Cav 1967-68, so Vietnam Vets have a special place in my heart. God bless you all. He came through OK but has many health problems, as do most of you. Will check back again to see which I can find out. Would like to send a phone card so one of our soldiers can call home. Little enough to do for our guys & gals. Thanks.

Nancy Fedell <nanfed@180com.net>

Cody, WY USA - Saturday, December 07, 2002 at 01:14:41 (EST)

I was not a member of the AC-119 Gunship organization but I would like to say many thanks to all of you for your hard, dangerous & very hazardous work while you were in Vietnam. I was at HQ MACV, J-34 Division in Statistical Analysis. We had all of the reports about your activities & of the varied other activities in the VIETNAM WAR. We compiled the statistics, two sets, one real one & one that we released to the public & they were not the same by any means. I was in Vietnam from August 1967 to August 1968 & as one Vietnam Vet to another, WELCOME HOME! Thanks for your service & it is an honor to see your web site.

Lonnie C. O'Shields <Lonnie1O@aol.com>

Albuquerque, NM USA - Monday, December 02, 2002 at 11:46:11 (EST)

Hello my name is Dewight H Fage, I love my dad I always have him in my thoughts. I decided to search one night for anything on the net for any info about my father I came upon a web site with a story about an AC119 gun ship crash on April, 28th 1970. I have brief memories of times with my father. Times that are still tattooed in my memories. I guess what I'm getting at is, I would like to correspond with anyone who can help me fill in the blanks. All I have is pictures & a few letters about my dad If anyone can help me it would be feel very grateful. if anyone has any info please contact me at dewightfage@msn.com I will get back to you a/s/a/p.

Dewight H Fage <dewightfage@msn.com>

USA - Sunday, December 01, 2002 at 15:32:45 (EST)

I was ground crew chief from nov. 71 till nov. 72 at NKP & Ben Hoa any one remember me please email me Hey guys great site hope to attend next reunion would love to be back in Ft walton beach I worked the C-123s at FT Walton in 70-71 before thailand & Nam

Thomas Schroeder <fxwg1998@aol.com>

newalla, ok USA - Saturday, November 30, 2002 at 21:09:58 (EST)

To all Shadows & Stingers: HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I look forward to the next reunion! Cheers, Marty Noonan 17th SOS Pilot Aug '70 to Aug '71

Marty Noonan <b777jock@earthlink.net>

Long Beach, CA USA - Saturday, November 30, 2002 at 10:00:22 (EST)

Hi to all, I would like to take a minute to wish everybody a Happy & Healthy Thanksgiving. This is your secretary Ray Barradale, to all who sent in membership apps & checks, they have been forwarded to Art Perry for deposit your apps have been forwarded to Everrt Sprous for processing, I have had some health set backs since the reunion, I contracted a very bad lung problem which had me down for about two & a half weeks, six days after that I was rushed to the hospital with heart failure, had to have three stints put into the right side of my heart, less than a month after that I was back in the hospital having a stint put into my right kidney, that was Nov 20 th 2002. I am still recovering from that, things are a little slow for, but if you hang in there with me all will be taken care of....Looking Forward To Seeing All of You At Our Next Reunion Oct 3rd, 4th & 5th 2003. If I can be of any help

to anyone please feel free to e-mail me at raynsue@ptd.net. Best Always Ray Barradale
Ray Barradale <raynsue@ptd.net>
Albrightsville, Pa USA - Friday, November 29, 2002 at 20:46:31 (EST)

56 FMS NKP 2JUNE72-6JUNE73 .RECIP ENGINE SHOP ALSO ENGINE BUILD-UP FOR STINGER AND
A1S.GREAT SITE THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED
PAUL L OCHELTRREE <PLOCHELTRREE@AOL.COM>
BROOKLYN PARK, MN USA - Wednesday, November 27, 2002 at 15:43:37 (EST)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, to all of my Gunship Brothers. On Thanksgiving day. Let's remember those brothers
that have flown their last mission.
Bob La Rosa <la448@zianet.com>
Alamogordo, NM USA - Wednesday, November 27, 2002 at 03:26:44 (EST)

A great site. My daughter found the site for me since my computer had died. I was at Danang Aug 71- Dec, NKP
Dec 71-Apr 72. I was a Stinger pilot. Anyone else out there at the same time? Please write. John
John Kalbert <jmkalbert@interisland.net>
Friday Harbor , WA USA - Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at 13:15:46 (EST)

Enjoyed your site very much! Thank you! Keep up a great work!
[Phentermine](#)
LA, CA United States - Sunday, November 24, 2002 at 04:36:50 (EST)

Someone out there had a Stinger checklist at the last reunion. I understand that there is a picture of the overhead
panel including the jet engine start & control switches. I would like to get the applicable pages scanned to me for
my own file as well as forwarding to an author of a book about the "Stinger". Thanks, Lee
Lee <linvel@earthlink.net>
Lompoc, Ca USA - Friday, November 22, 2002 at 16:55:42 (EST)

RetCMSgt Bill Petrie has done a wonderful job with his Gunship Site.After finding it, I contacted him & informed
him that I had been at Dreux AB in France in 1955 when our Squadron Photo of The 60th Field Maint.Sqd photo
was taken with AC 53-8155, which went on to be a "Shadow" Gunship in Vietnam. He has very kindly added it to
the Shadow Scrapbook Page 6 (photo 35). I hope that former Airmen who were at Dreux or Rhein Main with me
might drop me a line.Thanks.
John Needham <jneedham@nycap.rr.com>
Warrensburg, NY USA - Thursday, November 21, 2002 at 10:48:20 (EST)

56th FMS, Avionics technician, Aircraft Radio, May, 1971 to May, 1972
Larry White <LWhite49@hotmail.com>
Phenix City, AL USA - Thursday, November 21, 2002 at 10:25:36 (EST)

I am the son of Captain Joseph P. McGillis. I was just surfing the net & I stopped by so I decided to sign your
guest book. My father flew Stinger Gunships in 70 & 71 out of Danang. If you would like to contact him feel free
to write me. Thanks
Joe McGillis <joehd56@hotmail.com>
Missoula, MT USA - Wednesday, November 20, 2002 at 22:27:14 (EST)

OOPS!! I meant EC-47's at NKP, of course all you knew that!!
John Cabe
USA - Sunday, November 17, 2002 at 12:35:11 (EST)

This web site is awesome! I have signed in before. I was stationed at Danang from June 72 until the shutdown in
December & transferred to NKP. I was assigned to the 366th FMS at Danang & the 56th FMS at NKP. I was in
the sheet metal shop & we repaired all models stationed there, F-4's, & Stingers at Danang, OV-10's, AC-47's,
CH-53's at NKP. I enjoyed most of my time in SEA, at least the parts I can remember. I rotated back to Langley
AFB & became friends with a guy named Scott Libby. He was an IO on SPECTER, & we both were moved to

McChord AFB when the C-130's vacated Langley in 75. I got out in 78 & I lost touch with Scotty. The last I heard he was a Flt. Engr. on C-141's. If any of you guys know him or know his whereabouts please let me know. I would like to touch base with him again. Best wishes to all you vets & their families, & may God bless you all.

John Cabe <john.t.cabe@boeing.com>

Camano Island, Wa USA - Sunday, November 17, 2002 at 12:20:28 (EST)

Me again. My Email address did not print correctly my last sign on. George Carter are you still alive?

Maj. Tom <thomman2000@yahoo.com>

USA - Thursday, November 14, 2002 at 17:22:30 (EST)

I was a gunner with the 18th SOS from May 72 thru Feb 73. Any old Stingers from that time are more than welcomed to give me a shout!!!

Maj. Tom Honzik (Ret) <thomman2000>

Chicago, Ill USA - Thursday, November 14, 2002 at 17:20:39 (EST)

Flew AC-119K's from 1969 to 1970. Helped deliver the first AC-119K's to Nam in 69.

Robert (Bob) Leach <bleachnc@bellsouth.net>

Etowah, NC USA - Thursday, November 14, 2002 at 06:36:11 (EST)

18th Special Operations, Phan Rang, Air-Nav, 69-70. Would be great to get a listing of people on this site. great work

Boyd Pettitt <boydpettitt@yahoo.com>

Stockbridge, GA USA - Wednesday, November 13, 2002 at 09:47:51 (EST)

HI FELLOW VETS ON THIS VETERAN'S DAY. DID YOU CATCH THE PROMOTION THAT THE NFL/VFW ARE PUTTING TOGETHER?. THEY ARE BUYING PREPAID PHONE CARDS FOR THE GI'S FOR THE HOLIDAYS. REMEMBER THE "MARS" CALLS THAT YOU MADE FROM ACROSS THE POND? WELL THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT OUR GUYS OVERSEAS. JUST LOG ON TO WWW.NFL.COM/VFW AND LET A GI TALK TO HIS FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY.

JERRY SNYDER <DET1114@VERIZONMAIL.COM>

MT SINAI, NY USA - Monday, November 11, 2002 at 17:59:58 (EST)

Hey gang, I thought I had sent something a week or so ago, but I don't see it. Anyway, I had to miss the reunion this year due to a conflict with my tenth wedding anniversary. Although my bride CLAIMED to have enjoyed watching a bunch of over-the-hill warriors wax all weepy-eyed nostalgic (OK, maybe it was the beer doing it) & getting knee-walking, belly-crawling drunk at the first two affairs, I felt that to insure domestic bliss I should take her somewhere else for our anniversary. Accordingly, we spent 2 1/2 weeks in Hawaii, doing 3 islands. Had a blast. I have to admit, though, that the hair on the back of my neck stood up a few times just imagining the gross lies & character assassination being hurled at me by Stan & Ollie, Butch & Sundance, & the rest of you reprobates taking advantage of my inability to defend myself. Regardless, I hope everyone had a great time.

Bob Frederick <frederickunltd@yahoo.com>

Louisville, KY USA - Friday, November 08, 2002 at 20:45:31 (EST)

Bill, you have done an excellent job with your site. Thought your visitors would like to know that I have moved my USAF Fixed Wing Gunships website to www.gunships.org. The site contains extensive material on the AC-130, & less material on the AC-119 & AC-47 aircraft. It also has a Discus message board. I welcome any inputs that will help me beef up the AC-199 section of my site. Regards, Frank Vaughan

Frank.Vaughan@webmaster@gunships.org

Phoenix, AZ USA - Thursday, November 07, 2002 at 02:25:38 (EST)

Just went back to make sure my previous message worked & found I need to clarify my last message. When you get in the Web site, you will bring up an entry for a Douglas C 124. Double click on this entry. about 2/3 of the way down the page with the C 124 picture, you will find an item marked "Squadron Index". Double click on this entry to get a list of aircraft. You will find the AC 119 listed under "Gunships". Double click on AC119 Stinger Gunship. This should clarify where I found the information Keith

Keith Dalrymple Jr. <dalrymple@espanola-nm.com>
Espanola, NM USA - Wednesday, November 06, 2002 at 23:38:43 (EST)

To all the AC 119K folks looking for a Model of the Stinger. I found the following web site which has models of many types of aircraft available for purchase. They are hand made, hand painted, & expensive but at least available. Take a look & see if this might be something you would like to purchase. Keith
www.worldaircorps.com/tmpages/b3210c3w.htm

Keith Dalrymple Jr. <dalrymple@espanola-nm.com>
Espanola, NM USA - Wednesday, November 06, 2002 at 23:16:54 (EST)

Thanks for the site. Maybe some of you can help me. I am looking for NCO & Officer Club tokens & North & South Viet Nam coins & paper money to include M.P.C. I want to put together a history collection of these items. You may contact me at jvpray@aol.com or E.L.Vaughan 6325 Phobus Drive Richmond Virginia. 23234. I left Viet Nam 1968 the next day my unit was attacked. I was with the 316th TCW 38th Sqd. My unit delivered the two elephants that the movie "Packyderm Drop" was made about. Thanks for everyone who served with no real thanks from anyone. God Bless, Elder.

Elder Vaughan <jvpray@aol.com>
Richmond, Va USA - Wednesday, November 06, 2002 at 01:53:43 (EST)

Capturing the 18th SOS History – Part II. We're casting a wider net to document our 18th SOS history. My original posting (11 October 2002) focused on the initial years (1968-1970). We now want to expand the time frame to include the entire Vietnam period of the 18th SOS. We think the first folks became involved in late 1968 at Lockbourne & Clinton County. I overheard someone at this year's reunion saying that his crew was involved in the shutdown & deactivation of the unit. We need it all!! This initial work is focused on the 18th but once we get the ball rolling I would be happy to share our "lessons learned" in data collection & processing with anyone who would want to head up a similar efforts with the 71st & the 17th. If you'd like to help or have a recommendation for us to consider, please drop me a note (takitus@email.com) Thanks Ron Julian.

Ron Julian <takitus@email.com>
Bellbrook, OH USA - Sunday, November 03, 2002 at 16:22:09 (EST)

Hello. I was checking out your site & thought I would complement you on building such a nice site. Your site has very valuable information which is really helpful for defence personnel. I looked at some other sites to buy discount laser printer toner cartridges, toner refill kits for brand name printers such as HP Epson Canon Lexmark & also want to send flowers silk roses wedding bouquets to my loved ones. I have to go now. Keep up the good work.

Sam <samuel_jackson_2002@yahoo.com>
LA, CA USA - Sunday, November 03, 2002 at 07:02:01 (EST)

What a grest sight. I was on the C119Gs 17SOS. At fan rang & ton snut from apr 71 to Nov71 Was in the pe docks. From there i went to cam ron bay. Where i worked C7sin the PE. docks. NOV TILL .MAR 72.

James m O"DELL <JCHEVY48@AOL.COM>
Fairfield, cal USA - Saturday, November 02, 2002 at 14:43:03 (EST)

Where would I get hold of the Shadow video from Norm Evans?

Rod Friese <frieserod@aol.com>
Marietta, GA USA - Friday, November 01, 2002 at 23:41:54 (EST)

"WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS BELOW THE JUNGLE CANOPY?" THE LIGHTING THAT YOU ALL ONCE PROVIDED WILL SHINE ON!!! MY FATHER {COL.WILLIAM E. LONG 71 SOS B FLIGHT) WOULD HAVE ENJOYED YOUR SITE. I DO HAVE SOME PICTURES AND WILL SEND THEM LATER.

MICHAEL LONG <mrlong@hom.net>
USA - Friday, November 01, 2002 at 21:48:32 (EST)

It looks like the guest book is back. I am working on the next newsletter. We are trying to make it better without making it too much bigger. Hard to do. We would like pictures, more stories & information. Our plans are to go to an on-line newsletter in the near future. We would of course still mail it to members who do not have internet

access. Those who can go on line, could view it & print it out. We could add a lot of info & cut printing & mailing costs at the same time. Bill Petrie is working to get me going & I hope to be up & running again soon. Take Care & God Bless Editor EV

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Thursday, October 31, 2002 at 21:31:53 (EST)

Excellent site!

Michael OHasson <michael@illumimedia.com>

Oklahoma, OK USA - Thursday, October 31, 2002 at 20:45:49 (EST)

I just got the Shadow video from Norm Evans. If you haven't seen it, it is a must. What a great tribute to the Shadows. Everybody seems to be included--groundcrews, gunners, IO's, nav's, & pilots. My dad, Lt. Col. James James even got his face in in the last segment when the VNAF was taking over. The plane, 170, is the one he flew on the last Shadow mission. Thank you to whoever put the video together. Dad would have turned backflips over it. Jenny (James) Bowman

Jenny (James) Bowman <jennyjbowman@hotmail.com>

Dyersburg, TN USA - Saturday, October 12, 2002 at 20:41:13 (EDT)

Nav Aids Repairman, 4413 SOTS, changed to 415 SOTS, 69-72, at Lockbourne, & at Hurlburt Field. I worked 119 G&K, 130 A.

Ron Davenport <rddavenport2000@yahoo.com>

Indian Trail, NC USA - Saturday, October 12, 2002 at 16:33:40 (EDT)

Help us document a piece of the 18th SOS history! We think we're looking at the time from about November 1968 through late December 1970. Our objective is to gather the information, sort it into a chronology of the period & send it to Donna Crews at Hurlbert Field for possible inclusion in her history of the 18th. If you were a member of the original 1969 Lockbourne crews (or know someone who was) or you were assigned to the 18th SOS in 1970, we'd very much like to hear from you. For the first go-around, just drop me a note with your email address. I'm working on a questionnaire to help us gather the right information. Once we get the questionnaire built, we'll send it to those who have indicated that they want to help. Call/email your buddies & friends -- Let them know. To prevent any privacy issues, I plan to work only with those who respond to this message & will not be using any existing databases. If you know someone who doesn't have email but wants to help, send his or her snail mail address to me.

Ron Julian <takitus@email.com>

Bellbrook, OH USA - Friday, October 11, 2002 at 20:23:34 (EDT)

Just surfing several sites. I was a weapons loader assigned to the 23rd TASS '69-'70, & I remember when the Ac-119's came in. They parked very close to our aircraft, 0-2'S AND 0V_10'S. Can't remember his name off hand, but I had been stationed with one of the aircrew members earlier at McChord, AFB with the 318 FIS. Great site

Michael Wilcox <Mikesmonza@aol.com>

Olympia, Wa USA - Thursday, October 10, 2002 at 23:16:04 (EDT)

Good job Bill & All who helped with this. I was a FE at NKP-DaNang & Saigon during 1971&1972. If any of you guys remember me drop me a line.

Ed Hiller <edhiller@comcast.net>

Bowie, Md USA - Thursday, October 10, 2002 at 19:20:47 (EDT)

I just learned of this site & the Association today. I have been griping for years that my combat unit hadn't had a reunion. Now I find out that I have missed three of them. Thank you for everyone who had a part in forming the Association. The website is great. I look forward to joining the Association & to attending the 2003 Reunion. I was a navigator in the 18SOS at DaNang & then in Stan-Eval at Phan Rang March 70-71.

Dale E. Cartee <Carteeda@aol.com>

Abilene, TX USA - Wednesday, October 09, 2002 at 22:15:26 (EDT)

About 1 1/2 years ago someone at the association gave us the heads up that the VA had been ordered to approve disability to those Vietnam veterans that had been diagnosed with type 2 Diabetes regardless of when it

was diagnosed as long as it was after their service in Vietnam. Thanks for the heads up I followed the instructions & filed a claim & was recently approved, if any of you have the disease get down to your local Veterans Rep. DAV, Amvets, American Legion etc & file the claim

Ed Thayer <imaokieboy@pldi.net>

Crescent, Ok USA - Wednesday, October 09, 2002 at 00:49:30 (EDT)

Just to clear things up, I'm looking for any stories that pertain to the AC-119K "Stingers" As the historian of the 18th Flight Test Squadron, additional duty, the 18 SOS is part of our lineage & I'm trying to capture anything & everything I can. Sorry 17th & 71st, though you guys are just as wonderful & made the same sacrifice, your not directly a part of the 18 FLTS lineage. The product I'm working on is an in-house document & I'm not sure what or if any kind of official publication will be made. Time will tell, we'll see once I get it done if the Air Force wants to do anthing officially with it. Take care all of you.

Donna <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>

Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Monday, October 07, 2002 at 14:13:48 (EDT)

My hats off to everybody that had a hand in this past reunion. It was great. By the way - the persons that I was in connect with regarding the 17th video, I apologize that none were ready before the end of the reunion. but if you e-mail or write to Norm Evans he has assured me that upon receiving your order, the 17th video will be in the mail in a few days. Again, contact Norm Evans for further instructions.

Garry Gourley <gfgourley33@hotmail.com>

Corpus Christi, TX USA - Monday, October 07, 2002 at 10:54:19 (EDT)

Looking for e-mail address of CMSgt John Morrow Ret. The address he posted doesn't work.

Walt Kotzur <hanvan1@aol.com>

Keeseville, NY USA - Sunday, October 06, 2002 at 15:09:11 (EDT)

Great Site. Looking for any gunners or crewmembers who flew AC-47 Gunships with the 4th Air Commando Sqd 1965-1966, Flew my missions out of Ton Son Hnut, Pleiku, Bien Hoa & Can Tho. I am currently trying assemble a roster from my Vietnam TDY orders. So if any of you are out there e-mail me at the address below

Walter Kotzur <hanvan1@aol.com>

Keeseville, NY USA - Saturday, October 05, 2002 at 23:36:14 (EDT)

Your website is great & very usefull. Keep up the good resources. Best greetings from Germany - John R.Kredit
[RatenKredit](#)

Germany - Friday, October 04, 2002 at 18:00:39 (EDT)

Once I again, I salute each of you! Thank-you for allowing me to be part of such a WONDERFUL group of guys. Even my husband enjoyed himself. I'm working on the few corrections to the history wall display & will have them up before the end of the year. I've learned so much this past year & it was a pleasure to be able to understand everything the guest speaker talked about :) If anyone has a story to share, PLEASE don't hesitate to email me with it. I'm going to be working on the written part of the history project & want to document as much as I can. If there is anything else I can help with, please don't hesistate to ask. Looking forward to talking with you all through the year & you can count on my being at next years reunion. Take care & know you story will not be forgotten....

Donna <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>

Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Friday, October 04, 2002 at 08:59:58 (EDT)

I guess I need to add my WOW also. It was a very good reunion & to be honored as your new prez & along with the award was well to say the least mine blowing. But I'm pleased to take on the job & only hope to as good of a job as the past prez have done. I would like to see more people come , if the ones that came to the 1st,2nd, & 3rd came to the 4th just think what a ball it would be!!! Lets all look for new gunshipes in any form & build this association up. A lot of new faces were at this reunion & I hope to see a lot more for the next one OK. Please let me know of any thing that you would like to see or do & I & the rest of the board will look at all request.Hope to see everyone at the 2003 Reunion once again here at Ft. Walton Bch. Fl. God bless All.

Gus Sininger <g.sininger@seii.net>

Ft. Walton Bch., Fl USA - Wednesday, October 02, 2002 at 10:25:40 (EDT)

Great reunion! Thanks to all the organizers. It is always nice to return to the Ft Walton Beach area (just wish I would have purchased some of that waterfront property in the early 70's!). My opinion on the move to Ohio in 2004 is that I would like to see the reunion stay in Ft Walton on a permanent basis. It is the home of the gunship, a beautiful area & there is much to do & see. After visiting the museum at Wright Pat I'm not sure what else there would be to do. Just my thoughts anyway.

Bruce Abbott <abbottracing@worldnet.att.net>

Canon City, CO USA - Tuesday, October 01, 2002 at 15:23:25 (EDT)

I would like to add my thoughts to those of Everett's. What a great time! It was great seeing some old friends, meeting new ones & relaxing. Look forward to the next reunion & seeing even more friends. If you haven't been to one of these things, you really need to do it! C2

Craig Corbett <rccorbett@drc.com>

Burke, VA USA - Tuesday, October 01, 2002 at 09:12:48 (EDT)

WOW, what a reunion. This was the 119 Association's third & my second. Everyone said this was the best yet & I have to agree. The attendance was down a little because of the fear of the hurricane. I figured I was going to be there no matter what. We flew through flak & everything else, so what's a little wind. It turned out to be great weather & everyone had a wonderful time. We have a new board with the exception of Art Perry. Gus Slinger is the President, Wayne Laessig is the Vice President, Ray Barradale is the new Secretary, Art stayed on as Treasurer & of course, the new position of Newsletter Editor, which I took. We plan to do 3 newsletters a year. One right after the reunion. One midway through & one a couple of months before the next reunion. The next reunion will be October 3, 4 & 5, 2003, at Ft Walton. There are plans to have reunion 5 in Ohio, in the Museum Area. Look for the next newsletter for photos & reunion wrap-up. Be sure to thank all that put so much effort in Reunion III. Dr Larry Fletcher, Art Perry, Jimmy Grant, Bill Petrie, Norm Evans, Gus Slinger & many more than I can name here. If you missed it, you missed a great one. Make plans now for next year. Take care all my brothers & may God bless each of you.

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, Mo USA - Tuesday, October 01, 2002 at 08:59:20 (EDT)

Great Website & very usefull. I am working for online as seen on tv store. I find your site while searching using search engine & It's a pleasure to sign your guestbook. Thanks!

Ian Harrison - seen tv <harrison_ian@yahoo.com>

Texas, Texas USA - Saturday, September 28, 2002 at 06:02:16 (EDT)

IT IS GREAT TO FIND THIS SITE I WAS A GUNNER JAN-DEC 72 AT NKP AND DANANG.IT'S GOOD TO FIND WE MIGHT BE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

JOHN WOLFF <EBERT1983@AOL.COM>

UNDERWOOD, IA USA - Friday, September 27, 2002 at 20:18:37 (EDT)

Hello there , Robert Andy here . Just want to say your site is very nice . These days I have been looking around for computer deals . I am think of changing computer monitors ,maybe my desktop computers too. I am hoping to find computers sales online at discount computers price . Maybe I can get new laptop computers online or get a notebook computers at computer stores . I am thinking of upgrading my computer parts & buy a new computer cases . Hope I can get cheap computers . Maybe I will just refurbished computers on my own . Enough of my blabbering wish me luck in finding what I want . By the way it is my honour to sign such a great site guest book.

andy

USA - Friday, September 27, 2002 at 13:32:19 (EDT)

There is a new Gunship website that has the makings of a super place to visit. The address is <http://airwarvietnam.com> or you can go to airwarvietnam.com/gunship.htm Your photos can be shown & your stories told. My inputs only cover the end of the war. Your inputs are really needed in order to properly display our gunship's history. Looking forward to the reunion. Sure hope the weather doesn't affect it too much. Lee

Lee Kyser <linvel@earthlink.net>

Lompoc, Ca USA - Wednesday, September 25, 2002 at 12:18:43 (EDT)

Is the reunion still on? Will the Hurricane cancel it? Inquiring minds want to know.

Ollie

Gresham, OR USA - Wednesday, September 25, 2002 at 11:24:50 (EDT)

Great Site! Lots of interesting information. Hope all of you that got to the reunion have a great time seeing old friends. A new site, Air War Vietnam.Com features stories & information on SEA flying units & scans of photographs & patches. This site's purpose is to honor those that paid the ultimate price & to help promote sites of individuals, units, & organizations that have a SEA focus. Encourage those that are interested to contribute your story & the history of your unit. Thanks for your time. Welcome Home! Mark, USAF, Ret.

[Mark D. Bacon](mailto:iceman01@airwarvietnam.com) <iceman01@airwarvietnam.com>

Anchorage, AK USA - Monday, September 23, 2002 at 01:19:46 (EDT)

See you all in a few days. Firing Circle Editor Everett Dale

Everett Dale Sprou <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Sunday, September 22, 2002 at 08:37:26 (EDT)

Sorry about the goof. My E-MAIL address was wrong the first time this one is correct.

Richard H. Craig <grey50@thesafety.net>

Mercer, PA USA - Monday, September 16, 2002 at 22:11:22 (EDT)

Just ran across the site. Was maintenance 70-71 Phan Rang & Tan Son Nute, TDY for TIC over Christmas & New Years at Da Nang. Have some pictures & one mission tape of spec-ops camp overrun from cockpit recordings. Recognized some of the pictures & have some shots (different angle) of ARC volunteers throwing "Ditty bags" to crewmember in right seat. I remember because I didn't get one & they made me quit work to take the photo's. Look at the picture & you can see the ground wire still installed & the jack in place. I was assisting in a nose strut repack on that aircraft. 069 was my main aircraft to crew at TSN, it had "K" model tanks even though it was a "G". I remember when we invited two "K"s down to simulate Shadow on missions over Cambodia, when they turned on their radar guided AAA they must have been surprised. Anyway, I am now retired & looking back, it was fun for the most part. Keep up the good work.

Richard Craig <grey50@safety.net>

Mercer, PA USA - Saturday, September 14, 2002 at 21:06:20 (EDT)

Hello! Amy Catering San Diego California. Thank you for letting me sign your guestbook & thank you for your website. Glad you are here.

[Amy](#)

San Diego, CA US - Saturday, September 14, 2002 at 17:06:26 (EDT)

Hi Guys, I know it's been a long time since I've been back in the guest book. I was at the VA Hospital in Wilkes Barre PA, the other day & while I was in the waiting room I picked up a magazine called SOLDIERS, while thumbing through it I came across a picture of a young man by the name of SFC. Adrein Leavitt. If anybody out there remembers our 1ST SGT From FOL-A DANANG, VON LEAVITT. Adrein is his son & if you see this picture there is no doubt about it!!!!!! I am going to bring the magazine with me to the reunion, for all to see. If I don't see you before I'll see ya on Sept, 26, 2002 in Fort Walton Beach Fla.... P/S SHELBY DEAN LUCKY Where the hell are you..... Best Always Ray Barradale AKA Rockin Ray-Ray

Ray Barradale <raynsue@ptd.net>

Albrightsville, PA USA - Saturday, September 14, 2002 at 03:09:46 (EDT)

Time is getting shorter & shorter for Stingers & Shadows to make reservations for the AC-119 Gunship Reunion. September 15th is the deadline. Remember getting "short" in SEA? Don't get caught being "short" in the USA.

The Shadow

Saigon, RVN - Friday, September 06, 2002 at 17:42:24 (EDT)

Hello my name is Cisco. English language is my second language. I visit sites like yours to learn new English vocabulary words & improve my English grammar. I hope to have effective communication & business communication for a new job in US. I learned a new word of the day from your site. I plan to be public speaking & business writing better now from your site. Thank you.

[Cisco](#)

Bogota, Putumayo Colombia - Thursday, September 05, 2002 at 03:42:52 (EDT)

Flew as gunner with the 18th SOS at NKP from may71 to Nov71 & DaNang from nov71 till may72. Lived in the "cave" so cant remember too many names. Have been in contact with Larry Mersek & Dan Jensen recently & were wondering if it would ever be possible to have a reunion somewhere on the westcoast someday. I think its wonderful for many of you but alot of us just cant make it that far away. Is there any others interested? Still eating cowpot & lovin it!!!

David Vaux <VAUXFOLKS@msn.com>

Silverdale, Wa. USA - Wednesday, September 04, 2002 at 23:44:08 (EDT)

Great site! I was in the 930th Cmbt Spt Sq from Oct of 69 to Sept of 72. The gunships had just returned from Vietnam when I joined. My uncle, H Dale Eddelman, was in the 931st as a pilot. When I was in we had the dreaded A-37 Dragonfly. Capt Pat Hurlbut was my OIC, Lee Hoy was our "unofficial" NCOIC. Another guy named Steve(he was a photographer for an Indy newspaper) & I kept data records on the 930th & the 931st.....on antique equipment. Great site! Brought back a lot of memories.

Mike Eddelman <W31dale@aol.com>

Denton, Tx USA - Thursday, August 29, 2002 at 07:45:36 (EDT)

18 SOS/Danang 71/72 Still working with specops at KirtlandAFB. The website is terrific. Hadn't really thought about things for years. It seems like a million years ago or was it yesterday? All the best.

[Bob Call](#) <bigbadabqbear@yahoo.com>

Albuquerque, nm USA - Tuesday, August 27, 2002 at 13:19:04 (EDT)

NOTICE: This Friday, August 30th is the cutoff date to make a room reservation in the "guaranteed" block of rooms reserved for this year's reunion at Four Points Sheraton in Fort Walton Beach. After August 30th, all rooms will be on first-come/first-served basis for everyone. To make your room reservation at 4-Points Gunship Headquarters, call 1-800-874-8104. Hopefully see you at the reunion. veepee fletch

Larry Fletcher <lfletcher@socket.net>

Lake Ozark, MO USA - Monday, August 26, 2002 at 21:48:02 (EDT)

Nice site - thanks & regards from the tropical paradise of Thailand :-)

Bangkok, Siam Thailand - Monday, August 26, 2002 at 01:39:34 (EDT)

Gentlemen, From a cop who stood in a bunker with an M-60 between the runway & taxiway at NKP from Octo 70 to Oct 71 & waved everytime a 119 came in or left - I salute all of you for your duty. I read some of the letters with fascination & the memories of NKP came flooding back. Maybe if I ever get my scanner working I'll send pics I have that date back to those days. Take pride in your effort because it wasn't for nothing. Some of us remember you with thankfulness in our heart. And when those who have gone on before are mentioned, it is with a voice of awe because of the commitment. Everyone who served deserves some recognition & as one who stayed on the ground & just watched - the people who flew the 119's exemplified the integrity of the Air Force. Hilry M. Smitty Smith

Hilry Smith <Mhilry@aol.com>

Blackfoot, Id USA - Saturday, August 24, 2002 at 18:20:21 (EDT)

(DO YOU RMEMBER HIM) HEY BROTHERS.... Last night while I was in my local Walmart & wearing my Association tee shirt. A Gentleman stopped & looked at the back of my shirt. He said, "my Dad fly on AC-119's." I turned & spoke with him. His Dad flew on (Shadow's ?) Supposed to have been in country in 1969? Dad was (TSGt Donald S.Ragland) He was an (FE) So is there are any of my brothers out there that may have Know Donald S. Ragland. His son said his Dad passed away in 1993. His son Craig would like to hear from you with any thing you can recall about his Dad. Please E-mail me & I will pass on any info to him. Thanks Bob La Rosa-Stinger Gunner la448@zianet.com

Bob La Rosa <la448@zianet.com>

Alamogordo, NM USA - Friday, August 23, 2002 at 14:00:25 (EDT)

Found your website via the 381st Bomb Group Memorial Association talk group. I never knew they used the "Flying Boxcar" for this purpose. If my father & his crew would have had this kind of fire power on their B-17 WWII would have been over in a matter of months ! Great site !

Steve Herr <SCKHERR@att.net>

Memphis, TN USA - Thursday, August 22, 2002 at 22:10:50 (EDT)

Read the story by Hank Alau. Hank, I remembered our adventure at Clark Survival school. But, your memory is better than mine when it comes to names. How did you remember mine? Thanks for filling in some of the details. Woodie Ps. I got to go back to survival school & tell them about my adventures. I always told the the story of how we weren't captured at Clark - two of the very few who weren't - & emphasised that while it was a game, they had better try to evade. Take care

Woodrow Bergeron <wjbcpa@alltel.net>

Blairsville, GA USA - Wednesday, August 21, 2002 at 10:42:50 (EDT)

I JUST FOUND YOUR SITE THIS WEEKEND, AUG 2002, I FLEW WITH THE 18 SOS FROM JAN 72 UNTIL DEC 72. JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH GUS IN FORT WALTON, WILL TRY TO MAKE THE REUNION IN 2003

DALE MARTIN <DJMARTIN1977@HOTMAIL.COM>

PHOENIX, AZ USA - Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 21:13:43 (EDT)

I was in the 56th Security Police Heavy Weapons Section at NKP 70-71. NKP aquired those gunships during that time frame. They were awesome during take off because the props & jets would shake the ground at the end of the runway. After take off we would watch them from the towers, fly over to Laos & shoot up the trail. That red line from the sky to the ground was something to see. When they came back to the base, a flyover was done with the search light from the rear of the plane lighting up the entire base. I was there when NKP lunched all it's aircraft for the POW rescue raid, & the AC-119's led the charge. Great site, keep up the good work.

John U. Rochester III <jrochester3rd@yahoo.com>

Vancouver, WA USA - Monday, August 19, 2002 at 21:42:58 (EDT)

I just found your web site while looking for an Air Force Retirement ring for a friend who recently retired. I am so glad I found this site, my father was a gunner on "Spooky" stationed in Vietnam, his name was Ssgt Charles A Ragan, he passed away about 24 years ago, & my brothers & I never knew too much of what he did or what he went through mostly because he would not talk to us about it, I would love for anyone who could help to write us & let us know what it was my father did & if you knew him would be even better, we don't know much except that he was in Vietnam in '68 - '69 & when he returned we were stationed in California & he flew a plane that brought back alot of the men killed in action from over there. We have lots of pictures but can't make out any of the Squadron emblems. Please help.

Pamela Strobe <firstchoice4@yahoo.com>

Red Springs, NC USA - Saturday, August 17, 2002 at 08:51:32 (EDT)

Did anybody else get torqued when the Discovery Channel's documentary on gunships said that the AC-130s did such a good job of supporting American ground troops that they earned the nickname of "Shadow?" I guess it doesn't take much to spin me up these days, huh?

Chris Chandler <chris@jack-chandler.com>

Richland, WA USA - Friday, August 16, 2002 at 14:33:53 (EDT)

Great web site. Good information & very interesting stories. Kudos to all of you from a Spectre gunship gunner, '71-'72. (My best man at my wedding was Ken Preston, an AC-119 gunner)

Frank Scafidi <t.scafidi@attbi.com>

Sacramento, CA USA - Sunday, August 11, 2002 at 23:31:53 (EDT)

Anyone comming to the 2002 reunion, please bring an AC-119G Dash-1 or pilot's checklist. There are some numbers I can't remember. Imagine that!!!! I am looking for minimum control airspeed, maximum airspeed with a runaway prop, & any other data available. Email me if you can. Thanks, Dave

David E. O'Mara <SwampRidr@aol.com>

Mt. Pleasant, SC USA - Saturday, August 10, 2002 at 21:45:09 (EDT)

I was a combat engineer attached to the 588th eng. batallion in South Viet Nam from Apr. 1969 til Apr. 1970. The unit that I was in was the 362nd eqip. CO stationed out of Tay Ninh base camp. We had a Quarry at the base of the Nui Ba Den mountain for the first 5 months that I was there & I saw your support of our little LZ several times during that time. We shut that LZ down & moved to a place called LZ Caroline, just a little closer to the Cambodian border during Sept. 1969. There we built a PSP landing strip for choppers & fixed wing aircraft to support the incursion into Cambodia. After5 that we built another dirt strip at an LZ for the 5th special Forces at a place called KATUM, just a few clicks from the border. This whole place if I remember was where the Ho Chi Minh trail headed towards Saigon. To make a long story short,I recall your spooky gun ships, & what we refered to as the Black Shadow gun ships saving our asse's on several occasions either at the Black Virgin Mountain' or when we were building roads or LZ's in that area along the border in Tay Ninh. I would just like to tell you men from the Air Force, air artillery units that you gave us a real way home. I know that you saved my ass more than once. Thank you. Ken Eck

ken eck <kenection2@hotmail.com>

steamboat springs, CO USA - Friday, August 09, 2002 at 01:30:05 (EDT)

Just found this site & pictures. Flew with Lt Fletcher. Was in the 17SOS from Aug 1970 to Aug 1971. Thought I could make the reunion this year but can't. Just printed my application for the association. Great web site

Ken Stearn <kstearn@crosslink.net>

Gloucester, VA USA - Tuesday, August 06, 2002 at 20:10:52 (EDT)

I often wonder, when I see the Flight of the Phoenix, if anyone has flown that C-82 other than Jimmy Stewart! And he, like Ted Williams went into combat & didn't get out of service like some quarterbacks?

dick matzen <retiredrich@mls.com>

tacoma, wa USA - Monday, August 05, 2002 at 19:05:48 (EDT)

This is a great site & I enjoyed looking at it. I surfed in from the web.

Tim <tjtelecomm1@aol.com>

Grovetown, GA USA - Sunday, August 04, 2002 at 19:05:09 (EDT)

It's been a while since I visited the site, & I needed to catch up on what's been going on among all of us former left-hand-turners. Yeah, I'm still around.

Chris Chandler <chris@jack-chandler.com>

Richland, WA USA - Sunday, August 04, 2002 at 13:22:09 (EDT)

Just checking in to see if any other fire control troops will be at the reunion.

Johnny M Higgins <jmhiggins@alltel.net>

Little Rock, AR USA - Monday, July 29, 2002 at 12:27:22 (EDT)

(I NEED YOUR HELP) 73rd TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON / 434th TROOP CARRIER GROUP Address: <http://www.73rdtroopcarriersq.com> OPERATION IDENTITY For all the Great Men who served in the 434th TCG, we Honor you for the great service to our great nation during a time of need. My dad, SGT Johnnie Satterfield (deceased) served in the 73rd Troop Carrier Squadron. Please visit my website that honors my dad & the great 73rd Troop Carrier Squadron. I have my dad's picture of the 73rd TCS posted on my website. We are now engaged in OPERATION IDENTITY. I am trying to find out the identification of all the great Airman in the picture of the 73rd TCS & also the identity of the Air Crew that served with my dad (Crew picture is posted under CREW in the left margin of my Website Home Page.) To view the 73rd TCS picture, visit my website & look in the left margin of the Home page. Open the link called "73rd TCS" & review the Squadron picture real close. Please if anyone out there served in the 73rd TCS, please send me your name & where you are located on the picture. I will post your name on the your picture. I already have 3 Airman identified. I need your help, please circulate this message across the world so OPERATION IDENTITY will be a success. Also view the Air CREW picture & if you, your family members, & or friends served with my Dad please send me your identification. Make sure you view all the pictures posted. Please sign my GUEST Book.

Mike Satterfield <bsatterfield1@nc.rr.com>

Dunn, NC USA - Monday, July 29, 2002 at 11:26:07 (EDT)

Nice Site!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Boris <boriskta@sicom.com.tk>](mailto:boriskta@sicom.com.tk)

- Monday, July 29, 2002 at 08:07:24 (EDT)

I WAS A DUSTOFF PILOT IN VIETNAM IN 69-70. I WAS ON A URGENT MEDEVAC MISSION EARLY IN THE MORNING (0300). I STARTED TAKING 51CAL FIRE IWENTUP ONGARDAND ASKEDVIF THERE WAS ANYONE THAT COULD GIVE ME GUNCOVER, OUT OF THE RADIO SCLIENCE CAME A VOICE "THIS IS THE SHADOW" CAN I HELP YOU. TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT. I GOTTHE 51CAL TO FIRE AGAIN. THE GUN WAS HIT WITH FIRE FROMTHE SKY . I NEVER KNEW WHER FROM. COULD IT HAVE BEEN YA'LL?

JERRY W. KINSEY <MOONPIE@PRODIGY.NET>

SHANNON, MS USA - Sunday, July 28, 2002 at 20:27:07 (EDT)

Sorry I have been so long in getting back on line been surfing & found out alot of new info Paul Tobey give me a hollar if u get a chance thanks Bobby

Bobby Dixon Sr. <scutter_2005@yahoo.com>

Chatsworth, GA USA - Sunday, July 28, 2002 at 11:40:11 (EDT)

I found the site to be extremely informative, & eye opening. Thank you!!!!

Diane Sweeney <goodwinsgal@cs.com>

Palm Bay, FI USA - Saturday, July 27, 2002 at 14:54:52 (EDT)

Great Job. Keep up the good work.

Tatenn Ra <tatennra@swbell.net>

Oklahoma City, OK USA - Tuesday, July 23, 2002 at 22:56:17 (EDT)

Hey guys, I ran into an interesting ad on Barnstormers 2000. A firm in Italy is seeking to buy several C-119s for a remake of the movie "The Flight of the Phoenix". They sent me the web address that has pics of existing C-119s & a list of many serial numbers & where they are. The web site is: <http://www.oldprops.f9.co.uk/C119.htm>. They may need ferry pilots/engineers if they find any airworthy birds so get your medicals(& life insurance) up to date (Hm..I wonder if you need a type rating?) I told them they could contact any of you soldiers of fortune by leaving a message here. Any of you flight engineers got the courage to nurse one across the Atlantic? Just thought some of you might be interested. As far as I know there are no AC-119s in the group. Check serial numbers. Regards to all. Bert

Bert Blanton <blantonb@cableone.net>

Ponca City, OK USA - Sunday, July 21, 2002 at 19:15:46 (EDT)

I arrived in Saigon in December 1971 from Seymore Johnson AFB in N.C. & was at Danang until December 1972. I did a C.O.T to Nkp Thailand until December 1973. I worked on the stingers mostly while at Danang on night shift. I will never forget the rocket attacks. I have a lot of good memories of my tours in SEA, some bad ones too. I remember when the BX was blown away by a rocket & when the barracks got hit & some guys died. My year in Thailand was awesome. Met some great people, I wish I could remember them. Too much partying at the "Hole in the Wall" I guess. I am from N.C. I have been working at Boeing in Everett, Wa. for the past 24 years. If anyone remembers me drop me a line.

John Cabe <John.t.cabe@boeing.com>

Camano Island, wa USA - Saturday, July 20, 2002 at 10:05:52 (EDT)

Greetings to you & your guests. Love what you've done with your site. As an educator I can say you have great communication skills.

[Catherine](#)

La Mesa, Ca US - Tuesday, July 16, 2002 at 01:48:17 (EDT)

Ran into this site doing some research on the R3350 engine. I was with the 17th SOS in Tan Son Nhut (TSN) with Teal, Davy Alou & dear Rodney Sizemore. I knew Fletcher as well. I was there during the calendar year of 1970. Bob Mundle & Carlson were my co-pilots. Missed the reunion, but if someone will note the next REUNION I will be there. I live near Chicago. Drop by any time. Pat Moran "hanger101@attbi.com"

Patrick (Pat) Moran <hanger101@attbi.com>
Woodridge, IL USA - Sunday, July 14, 2002 at 10:33:24 (EDT)

I wish I did what you do instead of making piano benches. Your site looks great.
[Cynthia](#)
San Diego, CA USA - Wednesday, July 10, 2002 at 04:35:20 (EDT)

Hi Brothers & Friends, I am finally back on line after a bad Virus. Got the Newsletter rebuilt & starting to send it out again. I am still looking for Shadow Photos. I have a lot of Stinger Pics, but I would like some unique shots of the K also. You can send them via e-mail or snail mail. If you have them on CD, that would be great. I am putting together what I hope will become an official AC-119 Gunship Association Photo Album. My snail mail is 3521 Salena, St Louis, MO 63118-4024. My land line is 314-865-0920. Thanks see you all in Sept.
Everett Dale Sprous, Editor, The Firing Circle <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, MO USA - Friday, July 05, 2002 at 09:46:39 (EDT)

Hi All: Stumbled across the web-page, it is very good. I was in SEA June 7 to June 71, 17th SOS Gunner, PCS to all the bases, as we were sent crew by crew to various missions. I am fortunate to have saved all my picture negatives from the time period. Even have some 8mm movie film from the period. All negatives are 120 format B & W. I have printed 8 X 10 prints from all & still have them. I am willing to make the negatives available to anyone doing legitimate historical research on the 14th SOW. For instance, pictures of Billy Kit, Michael P. Smith Rodney Freese, G.? Kincaid, Cpt. Barry Harmers "G" Crew with Lt. Newell (do you like my crewcut) Lee, Jim Greig, Bill Zito, (also an AC130E veteran), & me, (like anyone cares about my pic. Also have some B & W 8 X 10 prints of AC119 G & K ac in flight formation, (no negatives of these). I am particularly interested in speaking to the man who writes the newsletter from St. Louis, since I am a St. Louis native & now living in CA. Also the woman from Hurlburt Field who is apparently working on the history. contact me at dvoisey@hotmail.com The web page is great. I am joining the association just to get the newsletter.
David Voisey <dvoisey@hotmail.com>
Stockton, CA USA - Thursday, June 27, 2002 at 13:41:37 (EDT)

Just found your site. Have been looking for several years for info about a reunion. I was on my last flight before DEROS the night Stinger 21 got hit near Ban Ban, Laos. In fact they took over the area we had been hunting. After they got hit, they beat us home to DaNang. With their problems, the Squadron forgot about my last flight. I did not get the usual hosing. Glad I have been able to find you guys after 32 years.
David Hinken <dhinken@aol.com or dhinken@juno.com>
Green Valley, AZ USA - Thursday, June 27, 2002 at 01:37:30 (EDT)

howie & jerry don't be late for take-off i will be there on the 27th bob.
bob holmes <bholmes4@tampabayrr.com>
tampa, FL USA - Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at 21:12:40 (EDT)

Howie you bet your sweet a__ I'll be there. Arrive Thursday evening see you all then. Fly straight!!!!
jerry snyder <det1114@verizonmail.com>
USA - Sunday, June 23, 2002 at 12:26:03 (EDT)

Attention to Orders: Hitzmann, Henderson, Holmes, Snyder, Tobias & other members of Crew 1 NKP April 70- DEROS. Where the hell are Ryan & Trainor & Griffin? The reservations are in. I'll be at the reunion this year for sure. Hope to see you all there.
Ollie <hsreid@earthlink.net>
Gresham, OR USA - Monday, June 17, 2002 at 15:09:24 (EDT)

I've been looking for a sight like this for some time. I was part of C-Flight that shipped from Lockbourn on Dec. 29, 1969. What I've seen on this sight is really good & I hope to keep up with it.
William T. Forbes Jr. <wkforbes@aol.com>
Lansdale, PA USA - Monday, June 17, 2002 at 08:59:29 (EDT)

I was a member of 71st SOS stationed at Nha Trang with the reserve unit from Columbus, IN. I appreciate the comments the work that went into this site & the brotherhood of fellow airmen who served on this project.

[Chuck Callahan <bud410@yahoo.com>](mailto:bud410@yahoo.com)

Indianapolis, IN USA - Friday, June 14, 2002 at 22:33:34 (EDT)

Great site. Lots of interesting information. Would like those that are interested in contributing the history of their unit to <http://www.airwarvietnam.com> The site will feature stories & information on SEA flying units & scans of photographs & patches. Those that contribute will have a link from their section to their site. This sites purpose is to honor those that paid the ultimate price & to help promote sites of individuals, units, & organizations that have a SEA focus. Thanks for your time. Mark, USAF, Ret.

[Mark Bacon <iceman01@airwarvietnam.com>](mailto:iceman01@airwarvietnam.com)

Anchorage, AK USA - Saturday, June 08, 2002 at 22:40:33 (EDT)

Hi guys, Just forwarding an email I got, from a Retired Chief Woody, in case there is any interst: Looking for any old member of the 12th TFW that was at MacDill in 1962 & went on & opened Cam Ranh Bay in 1965 with the F-4's. I'm a retired 462XX Gun Plumber & if any are known in your area give them the message. The reunion is down in Tampa.FI. 18-23 June 02 Thanks: Chief Woody (Woodard)email: datura@atlantic.net

Donna Crews <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>

Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Thursday, June 06, 2002 at 09:02:15 (EDT)

My name is Edmund Marco & it's a pleasure to sign your guest book. I work for an advertising agency in London. Our agency represents direct marketing companies that are involved in the marketing of products as seen on TV in England. Most of the infomercial products come from the U.S. but then again we export our talents as well. My brother has appeared in infomercials in the U.S. advertising various products. I think it's hilarious that English people respond so well to American products while Americans tend to respond well to sales people who have an English accent!

[Edmund](#)

London, Kent England - Friday, May 31, 2002 at 03:30:27 (EDT)

With Memorial Day approaching I already feel an emotional surge of both sadness & honor. This years Independence Day may prove to be the most memorable of all. I know it will for my family & I. I want to thank all my Shadow & Stinger brothers & wish you all a happy & safe holiday season. Let's kick some UBL ass!

Dan McDuffie <danmcduffie@insightbb.com>

Oakford, IN USA - Thursday, May 23, 2002 at 10:37:02 (EDT)

Hey Guys, It's really great to hear so many familiar names & welcoming bach so many fond memories. To many of you you may remember me as "Hamp". I started out at Nha Trang & went on as the brass saw fit.. I'd really like to hear from some of you guys & am really looking forward to attending the Shadow reunion in September. Hope to see a lot of you there for that. Drop me a line as there were many of you that I have not stopped thinking about since I left there on May 27th, 1970. One of the happiest days of my life & one of the saddest. Take care & hope to hear from you soon. Please contact me at "shadowsqt@hotmail.com". (Duane Hampshire RVN 69-70)

Duane Hampshire <shadowsqt@hotmail.com>

Titusville , FI USA - Sunday, May 12, 2002 at 20:47:31 (EDT)

Hi-Guys @ Girls----This is to let you all know that The New T-shirts for the association are ready for mail out so please get your request in soon. Once again they come in White, Ash (gray) With pocket if requested & a Lt. Blue that does not come with Pocket. Get your order form fill out & mail to me with your donation. Thanks

Gus Sininger <g.sininger@seii.net>

Ft. Walton Bch, FI USA - Wednesday, May 08, 2002 at 08:58:22 (EDT)

Welcome Home Brothers...Having worked with the 415 SOTS upon its move to #9, in 1971 after DEROS from Udom RTAFB, it has been my priv to have been associated with such a fine bunch of people..I installed & modified IR,LLLTV,LTD/R,GLINT,NOS (NOD) on the AC119 & AC130. I guess I am going to have to join this group, as I am a member of TLCB,(Thailand,Laos,Cambidia Brotherhood) & Spectre Association.. Now back to a question. Does anyone know of or where to find a gun plumber named Ken Yaznitsche (spelling may be slightly wrong) a good friend & neighbor of mine west of Hurlburt Field?? Thanks for a great site & I will be seeing ya in

FWB later this year. thanks again.!!

[David G. \(Capt-Video\) Fredrickson <AC130Z@aol.com>](mailto:David.G.(Capt-Video).Fredrickson@AC130Z@aol.com)

Geneva, AL USA - Tuesday, May 07, 2002 at 17:04:51 (EDT)

Love it! I'll check back soon for new content. _

Amanda Elsworth

Phoenix, AZ USA - Tuesday, May 07, 2002 at 14:55:26 (EDT)

I was killing time at work & ran across your site. Nice. _

Stephanie Parkhurst

Fresno, CA USA - Tuesday, May 07, 2002 at 13:47:35 (EDT)

Correction to my previous post: >>TSgt<< Graves, not SSgt.

Michael Craig

Endicott, NY USA - Tuesday, May 07, 2002 at 01:31:00 (EDT)

Did Fred Graves serve as Maint. NCOIC at Phan Rang in 1970-71? I believe I have pictures of a SSgt Graves.

Michael Craig

Endicott, NY USA - Tuesday, May 07, 2002 at 00:43:41 (EDT)

Hi Brothers, the latest Association Newsletter has a new name. Hope you all agree the name, THE FIRING CIRCLE, is appropriate. I added the photo of the tracers coming down in a circle. I will have copies at the Reunion.

everett dale sproul-the editor <edspro@juno.com>

st louis, mo USA - Monday, May 06, 2002 at 16:19:02 (EDT)

First let me salute all of the heroes whose names, stories & legacies grace the pages of this wonderful website. I thank each & every one of you for your many untold sacrifices... for the country I love...& in many ways for me. I am so very grateful to you, & if I could tell you personally I would do so. My father was Jim Acquaviva. I buried him this past Wednesday at Arlington National in a ceremony that almost defies description. I was awestruck at the level of honor & solemnity of it all, but also could not help but think of all of the countless thousands of Vietnam Veterans still living today who have never been honored in such an appropriate & well-deserved manner. I said a special prayer in my heart that day for all of you, that you each may come to know in some way the level of appreciation that my father finally received that day. I am only sorry that he had to die in order to earn such recognition. I am feeling almost desperate to learn more about Dad's Vietnam experiences & friendships. I was blessed & honored to meet Mr. Kraus & Mr. Wohlgamuth (sp?) who embraced me in such a way that defied the fact that our only common bond was knowing my father. They each shared with me tidbits of their memories of Dad, & it left me wanting more. I would so much appreciate & stories or photos any of you would be willing to share with me at this time. You can send them me via e-mail, or if you wish to 'snail-mail', please e-mail me for my mailing address. Thanks to Mike Kraus for telling me about this site. Mr. Wohlgamuth, I hope your first visit to 'The Wall' was a gratifying experience for you...you were in my thoughts that afternoon. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to read this. God Bless you & God Bless America.

Cathy Acquaviva Culligan <Culliviva@aol.com>

Goshen, KY USA - Friday, May 03, 2002 at 22:07:47 (EDT)

I'm looking for any info on an old buddy of mine (Donald R. Fugate)that was on the gunship program. We were stationed at Itazuke, Japan on F-100D/F, he was WCS & I was Camera Repair. The next time we saw each other was when I got to Ton Son Nhut in Feb 1970. Later he was in one of my classes at Lowry AFB in the mid 1970's. I heard from him via phone in the early 1980's & he was concerned about his health, maybe cancer. Haven't heard from him since. Any info would be appreciated. Roy Colding USAF Ret EMail: rcold36@aol.com

Royce G. Colding <rcold36@aol.com>

Aurora, CO USA - Friday, May 03, 2002 at 15:08:19 (EDT)

Yesterday I found a website for the TLC Brotherhood (Thai-Laotian-Cambodian) & left a message in their guestbook in an effort to locate some lost crewmembers. Today I received an e-mail from John Sweet who is vice president of that association & a former security policeman at NKP in the early 70's. He wanted to let me know of

his personal website & of a return trip to NKP that they have organized for this year. His site is <http://aircommandoman.tripod.com> & has some pictures of the base as it was & as it is now. What a difference! The runway is still there & in use & there is a new terminal building but everything that we remember is gone & has been reclaimed by the jungle. I thought maybe some of you would be interested in checking out his site.
Bruce Abbott <abbottracing@worldnet.att.net>
Canon City, CO USA - Friday, May 03, 2002 at 13:29:03 (EDT)

Hi Guys. I goofed again, I received some pictures to include a couple of the 7.62 mini guns. I copied them into my file & unfortunately deleted the email afterwards. I forgot who sent them to me & I want to give proper credit to the pictures. Please let me know who sent them. Thanks!
Donna <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>
Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Friday, May 03, 2002 at 10:04:05 (EDT)

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the death of a brother Shadow crewmember, Jose Cachuela. I don't know the details yet, but I received the following e-mail yesterday: ***** Our brother Warrior Jose Cachuela passed from this world, which was his stage, this morning. I took the liberty of gleaning your E-mail addresses from past E-mails I had received from Jose & with Cindy's concurrence I am passing you this information. If you have any questions, I remain his "hoa" (friend/associate). Wayne W. Wahineokai (808) 239-6399 HM***** This email was received from wahineokw001@hawaii.rr.com Jose was a great person & a great friend. I will miss him! John Hope, Colonel, USAF-Retired
John Hope <JLHope@aol.com>
Springfield, VA USA - Thursday, May 02, 2002 at 15:52:19 (EDT)

Opps, I forgot one other request. Does anyone have any pictures of the Four 7.52 mini-guns? I only have two & would like to get a few others for the history project I'm working on. Thanks again! donna, 18 FLTS
Donna Crews <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>
Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Monday, April 29, 2002 at 12:11:13 (EDT)

Hi Guys, For the wall display I'm including the poems about the 18 SOS & in one of them it says "They fly the Ho Chi Trail; And go on T.I.C.s." I need to know what that acronym is. Could someone please email me back & let me know what T.I.Cs stands for. Thanks! donna
Donna Crews <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>
Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Monday, April 29, 2002 at 12:08:49 (EDT)

I just found out about the reunion while I was reading the TREA Magazine. I contacted Fletch about the reunion & he told me about this site & it is FANTASTIC!!! I have made my reservations for the reunion & I am looking forward to it. I was in the 17th SOS, July 1970 - July 1971. I spent 6 months at TSN & then returned to Phan Rang. I was in Line Maintenance at TSN working with SMS Henry Turner, Dennis Lowery & many more great guys & LTC {Terrible} Tom Teal was the Commander. While at Phan Rang, I worked in Phase Dock & TSG Ron Miller was the Supervisor & CMS Bell was Maintenance Superintendent. I read the Guestbook & saw several names I recognized. Looking forward to renewing friendships from past years, see you in September.
Jim Terry <jterry1943@att.net>
Fairfield, CA USA - Friday, April 19, 2002 at 10:55:26 (EDT)

Hi Brothers, today a Veteran Brother, my Brother, Retired Army SSGT (E-6) Ray Alvin Sprous, Sr., 63 years old. died of a heart attack. My brother had one tour in Nam. As a matter of fact, I was at Bien Hoa Air Base & he was at Bien Hoa Army Base, '70, at the same time. Just a few years ago, we lost my brother's son, Air Force Captain, Ray Alvin Sprous, Jr., to brain cancer. Please take a moment to remember all our brother's. Thank You
Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Friday, April 19, 2002 at 10:04:00 (EDT)

Hi Guys, I've been very busy working the history project & have a question I'm hoping some one can answer for me. I requested those pictures from Tom Morrissey who graciously sent them to me. From all my notes I know the crash landing occurred on 19 Feb 1970. Does anyone out there now more details. Like why did the crew have to crash land, what happened? The names of the crewmembers & their positions. Thanks for any help you extend, it is greatly appreciated. My project is moving along & I've finished 14 story boards so far to be taken to base

graphics. You'll have to stop by the Squadrn during reunion time & see what will be done by then. I'll be picking Fred's party suit up some time next week from the frame shop. Take care!

Donna <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>

Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Thursday, April 18, 2002 at 11:21:12 (EDT)

SATURDAY EVENING I ATTENDED A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JIM ACQUAVIVA. IN ATTENDANCE WERE OVER 100 FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SOME WHO MET JIM PRIOR TO HIS MILITARY CAREER, SOME OF US WHO MET HIM DURING SERVICE AND OTHERS SINCE HIS RETIREMENT. UPON ARRIVAL I KNEW ONLY TWO FOLKS IN THE ROOM, BEFORE LEAVING I HAD MADE MANY NEW FRIENDS, OUR COMMON BOND BEING OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH JIM. JIM WENT DOWN IN A HEAVY FOG WITHIN 5 MILES OF THE BOONE RUNWAY IN EXTREMELY RUGGED TERRAIN. GRAVE SIDE SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 1PM ON MAY 1ST AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY. ANYONE ATTENDING SHOULD CHECK IN AT THE GATE NO LATER THEN 12:30PM, AND TELL THEM YOU ARE THERE FOR THE ACQUAVIVA SERVICE. PERSONAL CARS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CEMETARY, BUT NO TAXIS OR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. VIDEO TAPING IS ALLOWED. FORGOT TO MENTION LAST ENTRY MY LAND LINE IS 919-731-7567

MIKE KRAUSS <BALDEAGLE_1949@MSN.COM>

GOLDSBORO, NC USA - Tuesday, April 16, 2002 at 20:30:52 (EDT)

I have 2 black & white photos of the 119K that went down in DaNang (crashed short of the runway) 1970. If anyone is interested, let me know.

Tom Morrissey <TMorrissey@voyager.net>

Lansing, MI USA - Monday, April 15, 2002 at 20:46:51 (EDT)

I have a technical question that I hope someone here can answer. I know that many veterans of the air war in Indochina read & visit this site! Can someone please tell me how long would it normally have taken a Bell 205 helicopter to fly from Thon Son Nhut airport in Saigon to the Udon Royal Thai Air Base in Thailand? Perhaps you, or someone you know, made that flight from time to time? I realize a 205 isn't a gunship, but I know that many helicopter pilots are very expert about their vehicles & can easily compare the performance of one 'copter with the others that are in service. Anyway, I hope one of you can help me. My email address should show on the post, but in case it doesn't, it's Morrigel@yahoo.com. Sincerely, Morry

Morry <Morrigel@yahoo.com>

Vancouver, WA USA - Monday, April 15, 2002 at 05:57:13 (EDT)

i was 1 of 5 drivers stationed with the 18th at Lockbourne afb when everybody was being trained. i would take the maint specialists to & from the aircraft AC-119K's. i remember a del flowers who i believe was an flight engineer. i don't remeber many others, but sure is nice to know that there is now a web site for the 18 S.O.S.

william L. hanson <nosnah@icomnet.com>

goldsboro, NC USA - Sunday, April 14, 2002 at 20:30:09 (EDT)

Anyone out there who has a 17th Mission patch that they can give up for awhile. I live next to a Navy base where there are a lot of Philippino dependents & some of them are in the sewing business. I have found one operator that says she can duplicate the mission patch but needs an original to copy. Any help will be greatly appreciated & if the patch comes out with any similarity, I'll get a bunch made so that they will be available to all 17th crews.

Garry Gourley 17th SOS Tan San Nhut 70-71

Garry F. Gourley <gfgourley33@hotmail.com>

Corpus Christi, Tx USA - Saturday, April 13, 2002 at 11:30:11 (EDT)

I reuilt Your jet engines at the jet shop at DaNang in 71-72 for the 8th S.O.S. Stinger Squadron. Nice work in happy valley area. Thanks for keeping DaNang a little less rocket free.

Ron Hale S/Sgt USAF 1971-72 <gngracia@aol>

Woodbine, .Md USA - Friday, April 12, 2002 at 09:33:37 (EDT)

Just thought it would be a good time to check back in on the guest book I changed isp & have a new email address so if anyone wants to get in contact with me from the 17 SOS they can ED

Ed Thayer <imaokieboy@pldi.net>
Crescent , OK USA - Thursday, April 11, 2002 at 22:41:08 (EDT)

nancy is my best friend. she's a nifty difty person. oh, the website is cool too. much love in buddhas name
alfred
USA - Wednesday, April 10, 2002 at 13:27:16 (EDT)

I JUST SPOKE TO NANCY.JIM ACQUVIVA'S ARRANGEMENTS ARE A MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULED FOR 7 PM SATURDAY,APRIL 13TH AT THE HAMPTON FUNERAL HOME ON ROUTE 321 BETWEEN BOONE,NC AND BLOWING ROCK,NC.THE FUNERAL HOME IS LOCATED ON THE RIGHT COMING FROM BLOWING ROCK.INTERMENT WILL BE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.THE DATE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE.WHEN I HAVE MORE INFORMATION I WILL POST IT ON THIS SITE. MIKE
MIKE KRAUSS <BALDEAGLE_1949@MSN.COM>
GOLDSBORO, NC USA - Tuesday, April 09, 2002 at 21:05:19 (EDT)

I'll tip one tonight to Jim.
Dan McDuffie <danmcduffie@insightbb.com>
Oakford, IN USA - Tuesday, April 09, 2002 at 11:41:23 (EDT)

Fellow Association Members it is with the deepest regret that I inform you that a fellow Stinger has slipped the silvery bonds of earth. James Aquaviva died in a plane crash his way home from the sun-n-fun flyin. He was doing what he loved the most. He will be missed by all but remembered by all of the ac-119 Gunship Association.
Douglas Wohlgamuth <Busch791@aol.com>
Ruskin, FI USA - Monday, April 08, 2002 at 22:45:24 (EDT)

Fellow Association Members It is with the deepest regret that I post that James Aquaviva has slipped the Silvery Bonds of Earth he passed away this morning doing what he loved the best. He died in a plane crash on his way home from the sun-n-fly in Florida. He will be missed by all but remembered by all of the ac-119 Gunship Brother
Doug Wohlgamuth <Busch791@aol.com>
Ruskin , fL USA - Monday, April 08, 2002 at 22:28:01 (EDT)

Hi All, just an update to let you know the 18 SOS history is coming along. As you most know, the 18 SOS is part of the 18th Flight Test Squadrons lineage. I was interviewed last Monday for an article in the base paper about the history project I'm working. I'm also in the process of getting Fred Graves party suit framed. That, along with a scarf, patches, flight crew checklist will also be framed. I'm working on a wall display & have been in contact with base graphics. Things are moving along & you will all be remembered for what you did. Thanks for all the info sent my way, it has been greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing some of you again & meeting others at this years reunion.
Donna Crews <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>
Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Monday, April 08, 2002 at 16:57:34 (EDT)

I first discovered this web site last Sept. I was truly amazed at how well it was put together & shocked to see there is a yearly AC-119 gunship reunion. The newsletter is also a great addition. After finally reading through all the posts I decided it was time to add mine. This guestbook has allowed me to make contact with a few stinger gunners. Come to find out after living here in Poulsbo, WA. for the last 8 years only 5 miles from me lives another stinger gunner, Dave Vaux who I knew at NKP. Lockbourne, OH. Feb. '69--Dec. '69 Phan Rang Dec. '69--Mar. '70 DaNang Mar. '70--Dec. '71 (Capt. Kuhn's crew) DaNang May '71--Sep. '71 NKP Sep. '71--May '72
Larry Mersek <1flyer@sprintmail.com>
Poulsbo, WA USA - Monday, April 08, 2002 at 00:13:45 (EDT)

Requests for our first-ever Association Newsletter are pouring in. I am printing & mailing them ASAP. If you are a member & did not get the Newsletter, or you would like to receive one, drop me a line or call. My Snail mail: 3521 Salena, St Louis MO 63118-4024. My land line: 314-865-0920
Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Sunday, April 07, 2002 at 09:38:03 (EDT)

Just wanted to say hi to everyone. I found out about this site through the VFW magazine, it's great. I'm hoping to make the next reunion. Oh yea, Hi to Bobby Holmes if your looking, I was one of the gunners on the 35 hit flight that set the record for one night (Spectre hit 36 the next night). We were flying with Lt.Col.B.

Toby Tobias <wsit@npcc.net>

Nappanee, IN USA - Thursday, April 04, 2002 at 22:37:23 (EST)

How do I get the newsletter???

Valdez <thecornfarmer@hotmail.com>

denver, co USA - Thursday, April 04, 2002 at 06:59:55 (EST)

I was in maint. on the AC47 of the 3rd SOS at Nha Trang in 69 & on AC119G at Tuy Hoa 69-70. Glad to see this web site & the assn. Dont see much on the FOL at Tuy Hoa.

Levi Rosecrans Smsgt Ret. <rosy@pisanet.com>

Alton , Ill USA - Wednesday, April 03, 2002 at 10:35:08 (EST)

LOL! Hey, look below. She called me Mister McDuffie. WOW, & I thought I'd always be a gunner.

Dan McDuffie <danmcduffie@insightbb.com>

Oakford, IN USA - Tuesday, April 02, 2002 at 20:14:37 (EST)

Thank you Mr. McDuffie for putting the tape on CD. The aircraft number wasn't on the tape but is visible in the after mission pictures--it was #170. The crew on the final mission was Lt. Col. James W. James--AC---Capt. Gary Walker-CP----Capt. Warner Giles-Nav---1st Lt. Pete Clark-NOS---SSgt. Kenneth Vanderhoff-FE---SSgt. Earl Murray(sp)-IO----TSgt. Charles White--Gunner---SSgt. Eugene Lee-Gunner

Jenny (James) Bowman <jennybowman@flairmail.com>

Dyersburg, TN USA - Tuesday, April 02, 2002 at 17:25:31 (EST)

Hi All, I'm sure you "Shadows" will like this. I just completed CD set #19. Lt. Col James W. James recorded his last mission flown from Tan Son Nhut. His daughter was kind enough to send the tapes to "Fletch". Fletch got them to me & now there ready. If you haven't already done so, check out <http://home.insightbb.com/~danmcduffie/> for additional mission CDs. Dan

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

Oakford, IN USA - Tuesday, April 02, 2002 at 11:38:22 (EST)

For those who might have an interest there is an AC-119 model kit up for auction on eBay, AC-119K Gunship 1/72 Scale Model Kit Item # 1717759490 that ends on April, 4,2002.

Donald J Luke <oerm2133@aol.com>

Tucson, AZ USA - Monday, April 01, 2002 at 23:24:45 (EST)

Still trying to make a reunion. Maybe this year we will be able to break lose & get to Ft. Walton. I will stay in touch with this site for all the updates. Ron.

Ron Gilbert <rprkhill@netins.net>

Seneca , Mo USA - Monday, April 01, 2002 at 22:53:18 (EST)

17th SOS - Phan Rang Airbase, 1970, Denying them the Dark.

Dan Biggs <dbiggs@experio.com>

Paris, France - Monday, April 01, 2002 at 08:29:03 (EST)

Hi Brothers, it's great to see the positive comments coming in on the First-ever Association Newsletter. They have all been sent out to paid members. If you did not receive your copy or know of someone who did not, or would like to it sent to someone, please drop me a line or call. My snail mail is 3521 Salena, St Louis, Mo 63118-4024 MY land line # is 314-865-0920.

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, Mo USA - Sunday, March 31, 2002 at 12:52:38 (EST)

Hello to All, especially to Dale Sprous, Dutch Payne, Jimmy Grant, Larry Fletcher, & Art Perry who have put together a VERY good Association Newsletter, a publication worth of all the men who have served with the units

of the Association. It is unfortunate the those how have passed away were unable to see all of this come together (ie. Newsletter & Reunions). Here's wishing you continued success... Roy Price (A/G 18th SOS Sep70-Sep71 Phan Rang > NKP > DaNang)

Roy Price <rprice@internetcds.com>

Grants Pass, OR USA - Saturday, March 30, 2002 at 21:02:22 (EST)

Just received the first ever copy of the AC-119 Gunship Association News Letter in the mail today. To all of the Association Officers, Great work & a well deserved Sierra Hotel. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at GunShip III at Ft Walton FL. Bob La Rosa Stinger Gunner

Bob La Rosa <la448@zianet.com>

Alamogordo, NM USA - Saturday, March 30, 2002 at 20:39:09 (EST)

Just received the first ever copy of the AC-119 Gunship Association News Letter in the mail today. To all of the Association Officers, Great work & a well deserved Sierra Hotel. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at GunShip III at Ft Walton FL. Bob La Rosa Stinger Gunner

Bob La Rosa <la448@zianet.com>

Alamogordo, NM USA - Saturday, March 30, 2002 at 20:28:46 (EST)

I didn't have a problem with the 4 Points Sheraton last week when I reserved my rooms. Could just be the person on duty. I got the reduced rates for our group.

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, Mo USA - Saturday, March 30, 2002 at 00:44:38 (EST)

Hi to all who are planning on going to the reunion. I called the Fort Walton Beach Sheraton & the person I spoke with didn't even have us listed for a reunion. I don't I dont know who should handle this matter, but I hope somebody from the powers to be gets this problem corrected. I hope to see you all at the 2002 reunion, best always.

Ray Barradale aka Ray-Ray <raynsue@ptd.net>

USA - Friday, March 29, 2002 at 15:08:56 (EST)

I would like to say Hi to everyone out there. I called the Fort Walton Beach Sheraton, the other day to make reservations they don't even have us listed for a reunion. I don't know who should take care of this matter but I hope

Ray Barradale aka Ray-Ray <raynsue@ptd.net>

USA - Friday, March 29, 2002 at 15:01:12 (EST)

I was just checking out the schedule of events for the reunion & noted that the memorial service is now held in Pensacola. Are we not able to have the memorial at Hurlburt Field anymore? Seems strange to me unless Hurlburt is not allowing any visitors to the facility. I wasn't at last years reunion so I wasn't sure if it was the same at that time.

Bruce Abbott <abbottracing@worldnet.att.net>

Canon City, CO USA - Friday, March 29, 2002 at 12:55:00 (EST)

Just re-read my comments. Obviously I ment Stinger not Spectra although the AC130 is still flyig in real time (Kind of scary actualy).

Paul (P.K.) Fuller <kr2nd@snet.net>

CT USA - Thursday, March 28, 2002 at 22:00:41 (EST)

Great Site, It brought back many memories from long ago (most of them good). I was a Electronics Sensor tech (FLIR & NOS) at NKP & Bien Hoa from October 71 to October 72. Keep up the good work in keeping the Spectra flying in cyberspace.

Paul (P.K.) Fuller <kr2nd@snet.net>

CT USA - Thursday, March 28, 2002 at 21:22:17 (EST)

Received my copy of the first Gunship newsletter yesterday! Great idea & love the information. I hope to be at this years reunion & see many old friends. I have a suggestion that I would like to propose to all. We have lost

two great individuals that did a tremendous amount of work in getting this association on its feet. Fred Graves & Mike Friel. Everyone is aware of Fred's efforts but I'm not sure if many know the work that Mike did in using contacts to locate many of the 119 folks. At any rate, I would like to suggest that we think of perhaps some type of fitting memorial to these two gentlemen. Perhaps an annual award to one of these names to the individual that travels the furthest to get to the reunion. Just one thought, I would like to hear your ideas & suggestions. Would like to make it an item for discussion at the next reunion meeting.

Crai Corbett <rccorbett@drc.com>

Burke, VA USA - Thursday, March 21, 2002 at 08:13:43 (EST)

I forgot to mention that I got to fly in one of the "Boxcars" as they were called. I flew from Niagara Falls Air Force Base to Floyd Bennett Field one winter night. What a ride...I remember using that little funnel at the rear of the aircraft when one had to relieve oneself. I say it with a smile because to this day I remember that funnel & the rear wings of the aircraft moving up & down as if actually flew. They had port holes towards the rear & one could look out. The other curious thing was the web belt seats that ran from the front to the rear & one was actually flying sideways..I remember it like it was yesterday...Thank you for the memories.

John Villanueva <Villa2416@aol.com>

Port Richey, FL USA - Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 00:27:11 (EST)

Stopped by to get some info on this year's reunion. I am going to try to make it this time. Hope to see all you Shadows & Stingers there. Bill, keep up the good work on the website. If you haven't read Shadows of Saigon; you're missing a very good read. Pick it up & read it on the flight to the reunion!

[jim.mattison](mailto:jim.mattison@sonic.net) <jimatti@sonic.net>

rohnert park, CA USA - Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 00:23:49 (EST)

I am very proud of the work the U.S. Air Force did during Nam. I unfortunately was with the 15th Fighter Group, the 4621st Support Group, & the 35th Missile Sqd.(Bomarks)all stateside(1959-1963). But, I applaud all those guys in the gunships helping our troops on the ground. They still have them & are now in Afghanistan kicking butt! I salute all military personnel, whatever branch..Thank you guys!

John Villanueva <Villa2416@aol.com>

Port Richey, FL USA - Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 00:15:08 (EST)

Hi Brothers, by now some of you have received the first-ever AC-119 Gunship Association Newsletter. All paid members should receive the newsletter by April 5, 2002. I would like some feedback on the publication. If your address changes, let me know for the newsletter. For membership, let the Association Secretary, Jimmy Grant know. The AC119's are flying again. my snail mail is 3521 Salena, St Louis, Mo 63118-4024. My land line is (314) 865-0920.

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Monday, March 18, 2002 at 16:22:53 (EST)

"Just ask the guy on the ground ..." Well, I'm an ex-ground pounder & we usually loved to have the gunships around. But it wasn't so cool the night up at Dak To when Spooky shot the ##### out of our messhall & nearly hit the ASP! I think we were on the same side though ... most of the time. :-)

Charles Rice <chas@tu.ac.th>

Bangkok, Thailand - Friday, March 15, 2002 at 22:29:42 (EST)

I was part of the DaNang crew which bailed out of the AC-119K (call sign aptly named "Lemon"). Sgt Clyde Douglas Alloway was the IO on that crew & was lost at sea that night in 1970. I have recently been contacted by his son & daughter who want to know more about their Father. If you knew him or flew with him or have any remembrance of him, contact me by e-mail petec@pyramid3.net or call me at 361 790-7561 (collect is fine) or write me at Pete Chamberlain, 469 Copano Ridge Road, Rockport, TX 78382. Thanks & see you at the 2002 Reunion!

Pete Chamberlain <petec@pyramid3.net>

Rockport, TX USA - Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at 15:31:36 (EST)

I noticed the Stinger also
Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Sunday, March 10, 2002 at 23:25:06 (EST)

Great site thanks much. remember all air power starts with GROUND POWER, A.G.E. man retired. Na Trang, Phu Cat 1969, Take care all.
Richard S. Raesly <kc8gxv@qix.net>
Oscoda , Mi. USA - Sunday, March 10, 2002 at 15:27:48 (EST)

Just looked at nguyen's Phan Rang site & unless my old & fading memory is really doing a job on me the gunship on the 17th Sign in the middle of the photo album is a "Stinger"
Bill Jowers <jowersb@bellsouth.net>
Columbia, sc USA - Saturday, March 09, 2002 at 21:23:19 (EST)

Just to say hi to everyone and give my new e mail address(bholmes4@tampabayrr.com). Looking forward to meeting everyone at the reunion. Looking for missing crew members try www.classmates.com they might be listed. Have model of a AC119k gunship with jets & guns will bring it to reunion.
bob holmes <bholmes4@tampabayrr.com>
tampa, fl USA - Saturday, March 09, 2002 at 20:44:52 (EST)

members, Last reunion the 18 SOS flag came up missing. We as an association are getting ready to buy a flag for the 17 SOS. Guess what, until the 18 flag is returned there wont be a 17 SOS flag displayed. Wouldnt it be correct for both flags to be present at all of our functions. Whoever the misguided individual was that copped the flag "IT AINT FUNNY" . Return no questions asked to any officer in the association
Art Perry <aperry9567@asol.com>
ormond beach , fl USA - Friday, March 08, 2002 at 21:29:19 (EST)

Yo, Bill, It's 2002
Ollie, Yankee Air Pirate
Gresham, OR USA - Thursday, March 07, 2002 at 12:53:48 (EST)

WOW! Some great pix. Thanks for this site.
Dan Siegel <dansiegel2000@yahoo.com>
Ridgecrest, CA USA - Wednesday, March 06, 2002 at 00:58:31 (EST)

looking for info on a plane crash of a ac-119 at Ton son nhut ab sometime during the year of july 69 to july 70. please let me know where i can find this info. thanks & god bless
Richard Stocker <gunner25247@hotmail.com>
Huntington, WV USA - Tuesday, March 05, 2002 at 20:03:53 (EST)

i am trying to find out about the 1st special ops wing at hurlburt in the esrly 70s.i was stationed there & was assigned to the 549th tasts on ov-10s any help would be helpful.thank you
don baxter <plaidtractor@yahoo.com>
morgantown, in USA - Tuesday, March 05, 2002 at 11:08:51 (EST)

Gulf War autobiographical tells the struggles of a Gulf War Lieutenant who served in the National Guard unit with the 251st Evacuation Hospital. What you will read may be shocking... Check out web page.
[William J. Simmons, Sr.](http://www.wjsimmons.com) <wjsimmons_2000@yahoo.com>
Columbia, SC USA - Monday, March 04, 2002 at 14:32:42 (EST)

Attn: Jim Alvis - You requested a copy of the reunion video but I haven't had any luck getting in touch with you at www.71stsos.com. Send me a home address/email address & I will get it on the way. Lee linvel@earthlink.net
Lee Kyser
USA - Saturday, March 02, 2002 at 21:13:03 (EST)

Great site. I was at NKP from Dec 71 until Dec 72. I worked at the 56th Chief of Maintenance Complex. I also worked as the Maintenance Search & Rescue coordinator at TUOC. To borrow from Mr. Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Sawatdee, chok dee.

Rick Rogers <rickster2195@yahoo.com>

Rio Rancho, NM USA - Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 18:10:17 (EST)

Hi Guys, it's been awhile. Been busy getting things up to date here in the office, but I'm ready to tackle the history again & have it completed by May when our Commander is PCSing. Sorry about the ignorance of the last guest comment. My email address changed once again - LAST Time. I've marked my calendar for this years reunion & look forward to meeting those I didn't have the chance to last year. Take care, donna

Donna Crews <donna.crews@hurlburt.af.mil>

Hurlburt Field, FL USA - Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 11:22:03 (EST)

Jenny, I went thru training with your Dad, & served with him in Vietnam. We were the last of the Shadow crewmembers. I'll attempt to get some pictures in the scrapbook. Their were four pilot & four navigators. I don't know where the rest are.

Al Breaud <albreaud@airmail.net>

Highland Village, tx USA - Wednesday, February 20, 2002 at 10:49:31 (EST)

I am the daughter of Lt. Col James W. James who commanded C flight at Thon Son Nhut in 1971. He flew the last Shadow mission on 10 SEP 71 & then stayed on as an advisor to the Vietnamese leaving Vietnam in February 1972. Dad passed away 24 FEB 99. He would have been really excited & proud of this site. If you have any stories or memories of my Dad, please send them to me. His time with the Shadows was his proudest military experience. Best wishes, Jenny James Bowman.

Jenny James Bowman <jennybowman@flairmail.com>

Dyersburg, TN USA - Monday, February 18, 2002 at 10:15:36 (EST)

Who ever wanted my e-mail address this should be it but my computer is down for awhile so hope this works.

Leon Mott <Hermott50@aol.com>

Tucson , AZ USA - Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at 23:37:16 (EST)

Just checked out Khai's website. Anyone who spent time at Phan Rang should have a look. It's GREAT!

Rod Friese <rfriese49@msn.com>

Marietta, GA USA - Sunday, February 10, 2002 at 23:22:57 (EST)

<http://nguyencaokhai.bravepages.com/>

[khai nguyen cao](mailto:nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com) <nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com>

USA - Sunday, February 10, 2002 at 20:26:32 (EST)

Hi All, I have just created web site from Phan Rang <http://nguyencaokhai.bravepages.com/> This site to share Phan Rang photos with veteran served at Phan Rang during war. Please visit my web & sign on guesbook Khai Nguyen Cao

[khai nguyen cao](mailto:nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com) <nguyencaokhai@yahoo.com>

Phan Rang, Viet Nam - Sunday, February 10, 2002 at 20:15:15 (EST)

"Don't let the sound of your own wheels drive you crazy." The Eagles. My favorite quote.

[Jennifer Toey](mailto:Jennifer.Toey)

San Francisco, CA USA - Sunday, February 10, 2002 at 05:32:39 (EST)

Hello everyone, I signed the guestbook once before but it has been a few years & thought I would do it again just in case some of my crewmembers are just finding the site. I was a Stinger gunner at Phan Rang, NKP & TSN 70-71'. Some of the pilots I flew with were Captain's Weida, Curtis & Sullivan. Also Col Rogers & Lt Col Botbyl. I finished up with Col Botbyl & was on the mission with him out of NKP when he bailed out the crew due to fuel starvation. Col Botbyl, the co-pilot & flight engineer were able to make it back to NKP & the rest of us were picked up by chopper. Probably a good decision by him at the time but a scary prospect for those of us in the back. I made the first reunion but missed this year due to the construction of a new home, hope to make the next. Bruce

Bruce Abbott <abbottracing@worldnet.att.net>
Canon City, CO USA - Thursday, February 07, 2002 at 17:51:15 (EST)

Leon Mott from Tucson AZ--put your correct e-mail address so I can contact you.. Garry Gourley FE Saigon 17th SOS 70-71

Garry Gourley <gfgourley33@hotmail.com>
Corpus Christi, TX USA - Tuesday, February 05, 2002 at 11:35:16 (EST)

To all the old 17th Navs or anyone having access to the old mission tapes of the 17th combat missions. I just received two CD's converted from old mission tapes of the 17th from Dan McDuffe who spent a lot of time & effort formatting the old tapes to CDs. They were great & brought back a lot of memories. The big problem is that there seems to be few known or excessable mission tapes (Thanks to Larry Fletcher for the few we have) to make more new CDs to save for HISTORY & the few of us from the 17th that would like to have for our own memory for what ever that is worth. If possible, would anyone out there have some hid away in an old shoe box. I would sure appreciate it for my own legacy & maybe some of my other comrades. Thanks in advance. Garry Gourley 17th SOS FE Tan San Nhut 70-71
Garry F Gourley <gfgourley33@hotmail.com>
Corpus Christi, Tx USA - Monday, February 04, 2002 at 18:19:08 (EST)

I am looking for anyone who was on board aircraft tail number 53-8069, on May 7th, 1969 & remembers the slow primer explosion we had on gun one. I need e-mail or letters stating that I was hit with pieces of the casing, hot gases & gun powder, that we made a emergency return to Tan Son Nhut & I was taken to the base hospital. I need these for my one of my VA claims. My e-mail address is iwso@adelphia.net & my snail mail address is 1655 North 4th East, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647. My thanks in advance Bill
Bill Hamilton, Major, USAF, Ret <iwso@adelphia.net>
USA - Monday, January 28, 2002 at 16:33:12 (EST)

Hi! I have been collecting authentic flags of the ARVN South Vietnam infantry & special forces. I don't know of any place in the world where there is a complete collection displayed. Some of the regiments were killed to a man I am told, & I have gone to great lengths to acquire their regimental flags. I have had terrible time trying to find a complete list of all the flags I should be looking for. As near as I can tell, there should be close to 30 of them. Do you know anyone that has a list with pictures? If anyone here knows of anyone that has a flag of an ARVN regiment/division/special ops outfit... Please let me know. P.S. If any of you have some terrible thing to say to me about collecting them, please keep things in perspective. I was born in Vietnam. I am 6'2" & look pure white. My father was one of you guys & he bailed on me. The man that got me & my mother out of Vietnam was an ARVN ranger. He did this at terrible risk, because of my appearance. He raised me & has always been my hero. He is gone now, & I want to put all these flags together in a place to honor him. Please understand & help if you can.
Skye Ferguson <skyef@aproimage.com>
USA - Friday, January 18, 2002 at 17:46:54 (EST)

Hey guys, thanks for your service in Vietnam. I was four years old when some of you were churning up the ground over Khe Sahn, The Trail, & other hotspots in SE Asia. My dad flew B model hueys for the Navy at that time (go Seawolves), & just like I feel he cannot be thanked enough, neither can all of you. Almost nightly, I am reminded of your role during that war by AC-130U's popping off 25 mm's, 40's, & 105's over Eglin Air Force Base. You guys led the way, & I'm one American who fully recognizes your accomplishments. Thanks again.
Doug Przybyszewski <talonspeed@yahoo.com>
FWB, fl USA - Monday, January 14, 2002 at 21:39:21 (EST)

I just finished reading the book SHADOWS OF SAIGON it sure was a good book brought back lots of memories. I think that ELTON FLETCHER did a good job. Ret.M/SGT.& Shadow IO from 70.
Allen Chandler <allenbchandler@aol.com>
Tucson, AZ USA - Friday, January 11, 2002 at 16:26:31 (EST)

Hi Gang - Nancy & I have relocated so that we can be closer to two Great Moms - both of our Dads have passed. IF I can do anything for anyone - plz do not hesitate to call - 505-867-3367. See you all again at the next reunion.

Remember - if you ain't a STINGER, you ain't shit!! Cheers - Mac
Steve Mac Isaac - STINGER'71'72 <NMacisaac@aol.com>
RIO RANCHO, NM USA - Friday, January 11, 2002 at 13:00:34 (EST)

Sorry folks, the guest book is srcrambled on my computer at home again. The only way I can get to it, is send a message from work. I will be off line for a few days next week while my PC goes to the shop.

Everett Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Thursday, January 10, 2002 at 11:48:59 (EST)

I was a NOS & table nav at DaNang from Jul 71-Feb 72 & then at NKP from Feb 72-Jul 72. I spent about a month at An Loc in early 1972 during that seige. I retired from the Air Force in 1993 after 23 1/2 years & now work with cadets at the Air Force Academy in the chapel program with an organization called Officers' Christian Fellowship.

Terry Stokka <terry.stokka@usafa.af.mil>
Colorado Springs, CO USA - Tuesday, January 08, 2002 at 23:16:31 (EST)

I'd like to know if any other fire control techs are signed up for the reunion yet?

Johnny M Higgins <jmhiggins@alltel.net>
Little Rock, AR USA - Monday, January 07, 2002 at 16:53:28 (EST)

Hi Brothers, it looks like I am the only one using the guest book. Anyway, I would like to find out who had the cards at the last reunion that said, "gone to "P", if you touch my drink, I'll distroy your town" I would like to have some more of those cards. Thanks Everett (Dale)

Everett Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Saturday, January 05, 2002 at 23:59:27 (EST)

Sorry, I didn't mean to implicate that I was writing a book. I will leave that to the professionals like Dr Elton Fletcher (Fletch). I am trying to rebuild & add to my AC119 Gunship Photo Book that of course will be displayed at the next reunion. Thanks Brothers

Everett Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Friday, January 04, 2002 at 14:37:26 (EST)

Ok Shadow Brothers, I'm trying to put together a complete AC119 Gunship Book. So I need photos of the Shadow & crews. If any of you have any to spare, I would appreciate you sending them to me. If you can send them by e-mail, that will work also. Thanks to all

Everett Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Thursday, January 03, 2002 at 14:15:49 (EST)

Hi all, I am just trying this as a test from work. When I go on the guest book from home, everything down to the beginning of 2001 is scrambled. Must be some kind of code. I guess it's time to go to the computer hospital.

Everett Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, Mo USA - Thursday, January 03, 2002 at 12:53:40 (EST)