

USAF AC-119 GUNSHIPS

Guestbook Visitors During 2003



*Thank you for visiting the AC-119 Gunship site.
Please tell us about your visit by [Adding](#) to this guestbook we are keeping!*

Please Note: We are a group of Vietnam Veterans documenting our history & we use our personal funds to host this web site. We welcome your visits to the site & hope you enjoy reading & seeing some of our "little known" history. However, we do mind you trying to advertise at our expense.
Please continue to visit.... but advertise elsewhere. *Thanks!*

Howie, "drinking comes to mind" as for what to do. Right Fletch? What else would a gunner think of?
Bob MGarry <spooky1969@aol.com>
Ma USA - Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 00:23:01 (EST)

sorry that didnt come out right...it was supposed to say 'kinda ironic..thanks for the info Mr. Kennedy"
adrein leavitt
USA - Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 23:15:02 (EST)

Just signed on to see who has visited the site of late, & to let you know I have a new email address. The old one thru AOL no longer exists! Hope everyone had a great holiday season. Hope to be at this year's reunion. Maybe I can finally make it to one!
Al Reynolds <shadow47ag@cox.net>
Las Vegas, NV USA - Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at 14:00:25 (EST)

I'm with Howie. The Sunday night party seems to be the most fun of all. By then even the newest members have someone to visit with.
Johnny M Higgins <jmhiggins@alltel.net>
Little Rock, AR USA - Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at 09:55:39 (EST)

Are there any plans for Sunday after golf or evening activities at the reunion.
Howard Reid <hsreid@earthlink.net>
Fairview, OR USA - Monday, January 12, 2004 at 18:27:20 (EST)

I was reading Mr Kennedy's comment about CLL & it is ironic that my dad (SMSGT Von Leavitt) used to say he was never sure about thw agent orange concept as he was just fine.....yet he died at 60 from CLL.....kinda thanks for the info Mr Kennedy.
Adrein Leavitt <aLeavitt2085@earthlink.net>
FT Bragg, USA - Saturday, January 10, 2004 at 15:00:50 (EST)

49 of the 100 chromed AC-119 Gunships license plate frames have been sold. If you want to order a frame, or if you want to view the image, contact me at either of the following addresses. linvel@earthlink.net or lnvl@earthlink.net
Lee Kyser <linvel@earthlink.net>
Lompoc, Ca USA - Thursday, January 08, 2004 at 22:54:20 (EST)

A happy & prosperous New Year to all my gunship brothers
Ollie, The Yankee Air Pirate
Fairview , OR USA - Wednesday, December 31, 2003 at 14:26:22 (EST)

I was on the flightline crew of the 4413 CCTS at Lockbourne AFB on AC-119's in 1968. From there I went to Na Trang & worked on AC-119's in the 71st SOS. We were there two months before the aircraft arrived in country. We went from there to Phan Rang where the squadron changed it's name to the 17th SOS & the Indiana ANG's went home. I would like to hear from some of the old gang. I guess that makes me a charter member of the 17th SOS. People who know me will know I grew up in Kentucky.
William H Miranda III <wmiranda@cfl.rr.com>
Deltona, FL USA - Monday, December 29, 2003 at 20:40:56 (EST)

Yes! the messages were goobered up by the idiots who put garbage in our guestbook. I've deleted them. May all their teeth fall out before next Thanksgiving. Da Webmeister
[AC-119 Gunship webmaster](#)
USA - Monday, December 29, 2003 at 13:35:33 (EST)

Is it just me or did all the 2003 messages prior to 25 December disappear?
Bob (de Debil) Frederick <frederickunltd@yahoo.com>
Louisville, KY USA - Sunday, December 28, 2003 at 12:48:42 (EST)

I would like to wish all my Gunship Brothers & their families the best of the holiday season. May God keep you safe & healthy. I hope to see you all in October in Dayton. Watch for the latest Firing Circle Newsletter coming soon.
Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>
St Louis, MO USA - Thursday, December 25, 2003 at 10:38:03 (EST)

I am proud to have served with such noble warriors as the Air Commandos of Stinger & Shadow. Happy holidays & a prosperous new year to all. Hope to see everyone in Dayton. In the meantime, keep the shiny side up!!
Jay Smith <JayCsmith@aol.com>
Clinton, MD USA - Wednesday, December 24, 2003 at 22:03:15 (EST)

Hope all my brothers have good health & many days of happiness. god bless all
bob holmes <bholmes4@tampabayrr.com>
USA - Wednesday, December 24, 2003 at 19:06:50 (EST)

Sorry I didn't make the reunion this year. I sure am planning on attending in 04. I just wanted to wish each & every gunship person a Merry Christmas & a safe & Happy New Year.
Ken Stearn <kstearn@crosslink.net>
Gloucester, Va USA - Wednesday, December 24, 2003 at 16:10:45 (EST)

Wish one & all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year Lets remember our GI's that are not home for the holidays in our prayers. See you in Dayton Gus Sininger
Gus Sininger <g.sininger@seii.net>
Ft. Walton Bch, FL USA - Wednesday, December 24, 2003 at 10:18:25 (EST)

Hope this finds everyone healthy & happy looking forward to seeing everyone in dayton so merry christmas & a happy new year
Tom Schroeder <jodistom@aol.com>
Newalla, ok USA - Wednesday, December 24, 2003 at 09:55:13 (EST)

In this holiday season, remember "those gentle heroes" around the world in those remote locations who are providing freedom for others as they do for us & as we did for them.
The Yankee Air Pirate
USA - Tuesday, December 23, 2003 at 12:34:54 (EST)

Merry Christmas to all Brother "Gunshippers" & their families. Hope this Holiday Season is the Greatest for you & yours. Please remember the Men & Women that are serving our Country, wherever they may be stationed. We all have "been there - done that - have the T-shirt to prove it", & know what it is like to be away from family & friends during the Holiday Season. See you in Dayton, Rogers, President, AC-119 Gunship Association
[Rogers Stevens <Rogac119@aol.com>](mailto:Rogac119@aol.com)
USA - Tuesday, December 23, 2003 at 09:10:57 (EST)

Wishing all Gunshippers & thier families a Merry Christmas & a Happy, Safe & Healthy New Year.
Jim Terry <shadow70@sbcglobal.net>
Fairfield, CA USA - Monday, December 22, 2003 at 23:46:35 (EST)

May all my Gunship brothers enjoy the best of the holiday season, & give a thought to those of us who did not RTB
Bob Frederick <frederickunltd@yahoo.com>
Louisville, KY USA - Monday, December 22, 2003 at 19:58:47 (EST)

Hello fellow gunshippers, Hope you all have a merry Christmas .Looking forward to seeing you in Dayton
Fred Eggert <fwandkd@diodecom.net>
Fairbury, Ne. USA - Sunday, December 21, 2003 at 01:57:56 (EST)

I am a lifetime member of our 119 association. Please change my membership listing email address to:
kennedy1536@msn.com
In January, 2003 the VA added a new cancer to the previous four types of cancer associated with Agent Orange. See their announcement at
<http://www1.va.gov/agentorange/docs/IOMIDENTIFIESLFAKWCHRONICLYMLEUKEMIA.DOC> It is called Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia or CLL. In November, 2003 I was diagnosed with stage 4 CLL. As a FLIR on AC-119K's I was stationed at Phan Rang, Da Nang & Tan Son Nhut with the C-123 ranch hand Agent Orange delivery aircraft. I started six months of chemo treatments in December, 2003. The only "cure" for CLL is bone marrow transplant & they do not perform that procedure on people over age 60. The January, 2003 VA announcement, which adds CLL to list of cancers associated with Agent Orange, points out that manifestation of the symptoms can take over 20 years. A good web site for sytoms etc. is:
<http://www.healthtalk.com/chroniclymphocyticleukemia/diseasebasics.cfm>
Max C. Kennedy <kennedy1536@msn.com>
Omaha, NE USA - Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at 15:28:28 (EST)

Greetings all. A friend showed me an old copy of the Air Force times with the reunion information therein. Too bad I just found out about the reunion since I was visiting FWB while it was going on. I'll keep my eye on the site for future updates. Merry Christmas to all, Jim.
Jim Goodson <jimgoodson@cfl.rr.com>
Satellite Beach, FL USA - Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at 15:22:53 (EST)

Great Web Site. I was one of the first pilots in the K's & ferried the birds to Nam.
Bob Leach <BLEACHNC@BELLSOUTH.NET>
eTOWAH, nc USA - Sunday, December 07, 2003 at 21:24:45 (EST)

Happy Thanksgiving to all the Gunshippers, their families & lets not forget those who are in uniform today protecting our freedoms.
Jim Terry <shadow70@sbcglobal.net>
Fairfield, CA USA - Thursday, November 27, 2003 at 13:48:13 (EST)

Happy Thanksgiving to all of the association & their famalies.As we enjoy this festive day & give thanks for all that we have, take a moment & say a prayer for those that are now carrying the banner of freedom in such far away places as Iraq. They are in harms way as we were so many years ago.
Garry Gourley <gfgourley33@hotmail.com>
Corpus Christi, Tx USA - Thursday, November 27, 2003 at 09:43:38 (EST)

Great web site! I served with the 21st & 23rd TASS Sq. Rustic FAC's. I was a Radio Operator at Rustic Alpha (Nui Ba Den) in Aug/Sept of 1971. I recall talking to a VNAF gunship, call sign "Hocklong", which had US advisors on board. I think it was an AC-119 under the Vietnamization program. Sgt Doug Robertson, USAF Rustic Radio 71-72
Doug Robertson <Para4T5@aol.com>
Pittsburg, CA USA - Thursday, November 27, 2003 at 01:13:06 (EST)

I was one of the original crew chiefs on AC-119K Stinger in 1968. Flew my tail number 826 to Vietnam. I just found this site by accident & I am glad I did. I am now in IRAQ believe it or not...who would think? More later...
Henry Sehne <HSehne@aol.com>
Poughkeepsie, NY USA - Tuesday, November 25, 2003 at 10:53:10 (EST)

"Gunshippers" have a safe & enjoyable Thanksgiving, eat a bunch, enjoy the family, & remember our troops where ever they may be stationed. We all know what it was like to be away from home while we were in SEA many years ago.
Rogers Stevens <rogac119@aol.com>
Clarksburg, WV USA - Sunday, November 23, 2003 at 19:06:25 (EST)

Just received my license plate frames from Lee Kyser. Thank you Lee for the great job you did. I hope everyone gets a chance to display these plates on their vehicles & continue to support our great unit.
jerry snyder <det1114@verizonmail.com>
MT SINAI, ny USA - Friday, November 21, 2003 at 09:31:21 (EST)

Change of E-Mail Address (ref: 11-15-03 at 23:38:21 EST Guestbook entry): pono2u@hotmail.com . Old address will terminate in 2 weeks. Mahalo Bros!
Jesse Lau <pono2u@hotmail.com>
Panama City, fl USA - Thursday, November 20, 2003 at 20:11:09 (EST)

Great reunion it was my first & very touching time for me I will be attending in 2004 hope to see everyone again & I hope we can get even more to attend, see ya all in dayton
Tom Schroeder <jodistom01@aol.com>
newalla, ok USA - Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at 05:03:58 (EST)

hello,..anybody copy?? phu cat/DaNang--69/70
robert greene,jr. <stinger912002@yahoo.com>
kansas city, mo. USA - Monday, November 17, 2003 at 15:47:29 (EST)

Awesome site, Bill! After soooooo many years! Aloha, fellow maintainers & combat aircrew. Hadn't done personal e-mail nearly 3 yrs; only getting on home PC internet last few mos; & am grateful to all who have worked so hard, especially connecting old friends together. Was a Stinger IO/right scanner June/71 to May/72 at Da Nang & NKP. Scanned thru msgs mostly to recognize a few names > IOs Bob Behrens, "Andy Anderson", Jerry Hester; Gunners John Biedka (yea, was there at "Swiss Chalet" on CTO w you guys, too when "Mac" got bitten on the forehead), Larry Mersek (town hootchmates), Perry Martens, David Vaux. Donald "Ray" Davis was our FE. Ray set the record longest Taipei-run TDY record(17 nites, 18 days); had to loan me money the last 5 days; & AC (also Flt CC) LTC McGuire loaded the cargo compartment w a full house of Taiwan furniture! Would appreciate hearing from you guys, including a lot of names I can't remember (Gunner like Caruso?). Especially want to find & holler at IO Bob Behrens, my Lead Gunner Jackie "Mac" McGinnis, my FE Ray Davis & the rest of our crew. (850-215-8850) Soooo sorry I missed the recent reunion, only 45 mins from me! Relocated from Honolulu Jan 03 & lost the Association paperwork in the process. I'm ready to join now! Also remember RTB & having to circle rocket city Da Nang awhile during an attack where a barracks near our "cave" & the restaurant took a direct hit, quickly lit up the sky, & burned down in no time! I forgot how many guys died. Got other memories but need to return lid to mouth. Was also a Shadow crew chief Jun 69-Jun 70 at Nha Trang, Tuy Hoa, & Phu Cat. Recognize a few of the aircrew names but not fellow Maintainers. Fellow crew chiefs Massachusettes "Mo" Moore, Pennsylvania Walter "Bernie" Brinkman & "Punky" Pulkinen, & Hawaiian I were the 'midnight raiders' . . . at Tuy Hoa (relocating from Nha Trang). The super-humid, hot hootch had only 2 big standup fans (one at each end); & just 1 frige which the supervs hogged. The 'friendly 4' 'appropriated' 2 more fans & 1 frige from other unknown brrks for our own. Would be great to hear from these 3, too. most remembered for? at Tuy

Ho, i was the crew chief who burned the paint off #1 engine on my plane while hosing 115/145 on it after refueling that wing . . . not long after I ran the engines . . . twice! (during last 10 days before R & R Hawaii). also am the same cc who pushed the SOAP tube into the oil tank (& had to drain the tank to remove it): also happened in that same period. Lost a real heavy TIC mission tape at Delta 45 where (I think) only the radio opr in the unit survived retreating from huge NVA unit. Got a copy from a Shadow FE or Lead G. Would like to get that particular one again. Again, much mahalo to u guys & hope to hear from some.

Jesse Pono Lau <jesseponolau@hotmail.com>

panama city, FL USA - Saturday, November 15, 2003 at 23:38:21 (EST)

Due to the meltdown, the merchandise webpage was lost. The license plate frames, as seen at the reunion, are ready for purchase. The total price for one, including shipping, is \$13.00. There is a slight savings when purchasing more than one since the shipping cost, per frame, decreases. The frames are high quality chrome. The logo reads "COMBAT AIRCREW" on the top & "AC-119 GUNSHIPS" on the bottom. To view the product or to place an order, contact me at lnvl@earthlink.net or at the e-mail address below.

Lee Kyser <lnvl@earthlink.net>

Lompoc, Ca USA - Saturday, November 15, 2003 at 14:59:57 (EST)

Bill-----I'm sure the "meltdown" is just what you needed. This site was absolutely THE BEST...hope you can put it back together again!!

Ted Curtis <Stingerted@comcast.net>

Irving, Tx USA - Saturday, November 15, 2003 at 10:34:50 (EST)

Folks, we've had a MAJOR web site meltdown. As a matter of fact, we lost the entire site. I'm trying to rebuild the ENTIRE site from backups. I'm not even close yet & it will be a chore. I'll be working on it starting tomorrow morning. Some stuff will be gone... period, like some of the guestbook entries are gone since November 11. I may be able to recover some. Many of the web site pages will be missing or corrupted & many links will be broken until I straighten them out...THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM but we'll get it licked. Just bear with me. Your webmaster

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

Oklahoma City, OK USA - Friday, November 14, 2003 at 19:19:19 (EST)

Just wanted to salute all of you Veterans & say Thanks! I will be running in the Gulf Breeze 5k Veterans Day race tomorrow morning & will think of you all. I will also be wearing my sign that I'm running in honor of my two deployed son's whom I received a call from today. They both sound tired, homesick, & ready to come home. Dustin says there is more going on in Afghanistan than is reported. Tony says Baghdady has become more dangerous & has been putting in very long days. Dustin made a comment about how the Vietnam Veterans survived the day in & day out of what they lived through, he says he just can't imagine worst conditions than what he is living every day in Afghanistan. My little boys have certainly grown up. I will run my best race for all soldiers present & past tomorrow. I salute you all!!!

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

Ft Walton Beach, FL USA - Friday, November 07, 2003 at 15:50:44 (EST)

Hello Brothers, as I look through the guestbook, I have to agree that we had a really great reunion, I as well as others met some old friends as well as some new ones, & we (Sue & I) are looking forward to Dayton, & the fifth annual reunion. I would like to thank the association for presenting me with the Terence F. Courtney Above & Beyond Award. I only felt that I was doing my job as secretary, but I guess that's what makes OUR ASSOCIATION so GREAT, people just doing their job, again thank you very much for the honor. If anybody has any questions concerning the VA feel free to contact me. Best Always Brother Ray Barradale.

Ray Barradale <raynsue@ptd.net>

Albrightsville, PA USA - Monday, November 03, 2003 at 23:10:13 (EST)

Hi Brothers, I received this message today 11/01/03. Everett, Hello, my name is Christina Solano & I am writing to you concerning my father Michael Solano. My father passed away on September 21st of this year. He was a member & was paying dues. My father had just received a letter from you in October, which was forwarded to me, so I wanted to write & give you this unfortunate news. My family is deeply saddened but we know belonging to your association gave my father great pleasure. My brothers, sister, & I attended the reunion in September of 2000 with my dad, & we are so happy we did. I would just like to thank you for your association because I know how much it meant to my dad. Sincerely, Christina Solano

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Saturday, November 01, 2003 at 23:16:21 (EST)

Seeing all the guys & families at the Reunion was really great - it's part of what it's all about! When I read the gracious comments from our honored family guests, two things happen - tears still flow, & it makes all the work worthwhile. So....., for you turkeys who dropped out of coming (GYST & come to Dayton). And....., for those of you who haven't come to one - you're missing one of the best experiences you can have. Lynette & I not only rekindle old friendships but we continue to make some very neat new ones. Thanks to ALL the great workers who made it happen & especially to Gus, Bill, EV, & Jim Terry - we owe you guys big time.

Wayne Laessig <Qadvocate@msn.com>

Vacaville, CA USA - Thursday, October 16, 2003 at 16:42:04 (EDT)

I attended both the memorial service & the dinner at the annual reunion held on October 4, 2003. I was very impressed with the excellent way in which both events were organized. The ceremony was very moving to me since I lost close friends in Southeast Asia myself. This Gunship organization is a top notch group. I salute each & every one of them. Jerry Stalnaker, Colonel, USAF-Ret.

[Jerry Stalnaker](mailto:gwstalnaker@seii.net) <gwstalnaker@seii.net>

Destin, FL USA - Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at 10:31:01 (EDT)

Thanks to all for one of the greatest times of my life. to see all my Stinger 1 brothers again after all these years was unbelievable. congrats to all who organized the whole weekend. my wife & I had a tremendous time. have started a count down calendar for next year. will be even better next year when Stinger 1 will have at least 8 members there. 9 if ryan does his job & gets Henderson to come. thanks again to all who made this so special. brothers forever

MIKE TRAYNOR <mike119gunner@juno.com>

orchard park, ny USA - Monday, October 13, 2003 at 13:12:23 (EDT)

Hi All, I took over 200 photos at the Reunion. I do believe I caught almost everyone at least once. If anyone would like a CD with these photos on it, I will be glad to make them & mail them out. The cost to cover the cost of the CD & postage will be \$5.00 per CD. Thanks EV

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@msn.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Monday, October 13, 2003 at 08:50:14 (EDT)

Reunion was fantastic & can't wait for the next one at Wright Pat & the AF Museum. We'll get our story where it belongs, in the real history of gunships in Vietnam. The most thrilling thing at the reunion was when we were told that they're doubling the number of gunships in the AF after finally recognizing their true worth, which we already knew. I'm also excited with the prospect of a unified gunship organization with the Spookys & the Specters but which also retains our unique 119 identity & heritage. Keep up the good work past & present officers & thanks for the best reunion ever.

Irv Greenberg <irvgberg@hotsprings.net>

Hot Springs, AR USA - Sunday, October 12, 2003 at 12:23:42 (EDT)

Tom Morrisey Crew 10 - contact me - I lost your email address

[Larry Juday](mailto:ljuday@wa-net.com) <ljuday@wa-net.com>

Vancouver, wa USA - Saturday, October 11, 2003 at 06:45:40 (EDT)

De Debil's photographic memory has faded as has the thinning & greying of his hair. Klongs are canals, binjo's are the drainage ditches that lined the streets at NKP. After nearly diving into one at Rocket City to escape personal harm from a 122 rocket, I made a personal committment that "I would rather die" than fall, dive or tumble into a binjo ditch. Terry "When you're hot, you're hot" Bott will attest to that fact. Talking of slings & arrows there are no witnesses to the alledged falling into the ditches of NKP. It's all fabrication by De Debil & a sniveling attempt to discredit my capacity for the juice of the barley. Crew 1 will bear witness to out prodigious accomplishments. Just you wait for the replay at Dayton in 2004.

"Ollie"

Gresham, or USA - Friday, October 10, 2003 at 11:57:28 (EDT)

Words are inadequate to express the deep appreciation of our family to The AC 119 Gunship Association for the very thoughtful remembrance of my husband, Major Mo Alves, USAFR, who was killed in the crash on takeoff for a combat mission of an AC 119 Shadow on October 11, 1969, at Ton Son Nhut, now thirty-four years ago, & yet, as if yesterday. Our family is so grateful to all of you for all the thought & effort to make the Memorial Ceremony such a sensitive tribute to all those having given all. Our son, Kevin, who resides in Tampa, joined me with his family, wife & our four darling Spice Girls, while his older brother, Michael, resides with his family, another beautiful granddaughter & a handsome grandson, in S CA as do I, & though he was unable to attend in person, he was present in heart & spirit. It would have meant so much to Mo to be remembered in presence of his family, wife, sons, grandchildren, even after such a long passage of time .. to some .. And it is important to me that our grandchildren had the opportunity to realize the deep respect all of us of The Armed Forces hold for one another, albeit we so often are taken for granted .. along with our loved ones. Mo took great pride in keeping our guys on the ground alive. Earlier in his career, prior to completing his degree requirements for an MS in Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering at The Air Force Institute of Technology, subsequently assigned to Minuteman, Re-Entry Systems, AF Space & Missiles Systems, promoted to rank of Major & position as Program Director, he had excelled as a Navigator/Bombardier assigned to a B47 Crew in the Strategic Air Command, then given a spot promotion to Captain, extended a Regular commission. During the Vietnam tour, we exchanged daily letters & extemporaneous tapes in which he would tell me how boring? it was "over there" .. just up there? & flying around? He joked about his gun & holster? set because of my fears that he be caught unarmed!? I suspected he was misleading me as I was President of Southeast Asia Officers? Wives & others were hardly sanguine, but the enormity of the risk to all who served on those Gunships wasn't apparent to me or Kevin (who was six years of age when his Dad was killed, Mike 8) until we viewed the memorabilia on display & listened to comments of your speaker, Air Force Major General Douglas S. Metcalf. I now realize that all in attendance could easily put themselves in our place. Special thanks to Jim Terry for such a warm & personal phoned invitation, a hearty welcome & abundant extensions of courtesies to all of us, & to Bernie Smith who remembered to refer to my husband as Major Mo. Pictures of Major Mo, & others in photos with those unknown to me were forwarded to Chief Petrie & will soon appear on the website. Another member of Mo's crew, of whom he frequently spoke, Major Jerome [Jerry] Rice, was killed in the same crash, & I would like to take this opportunity to assure his family that I have thought often of them & their sorrow at his loss.

Teddi Alves <TeddiAlves@aol.com>

Huntington Beach, CA USA - Thursday, October 09, 2003 at 18:18:40 (EDT)

Well for some reason I still don't have a warm fuzzy feeling after reading Ollie's post about how well he & Stanley were going to protect my reputation. As any of you who know both of us can attest, he does not have even a passing acquaintance with the truth, especially when it comes to remembering events that transpired after consuming prodigious quantities of Jack Daniels. I, on the other hand, am blessed with a photographic memory, particularly of the innumerable occasions on which I escorted him down the hill from the NKP O Club to his hootch to be sure he didn't fall into the klong & drown, since he was probably needed to find targets the next night. And the next day the ungrateful wretch would wrongfully accuse ME of being responsible for his inebriation. Oh, the slings & arrows..... Seriously, I'm glad the reunion was a success, & I hope to make R-V next year. "de Debil"

Bob Frederick <frederickunltd@yahoo.com>

Louisville, KY USA - Thursday, October 09, 2003 at 11:55:43 (EDT)

Great Re-union AGAIN !! Made all re-unions except #3 (Wx Cnx) !!. Had a wonderful experience happen while waiting to catch my flight out of FWB. After checking thru the Security Screening i was setting in the waiting room ,With my flight jacket with all the Gunship Memoribelia & patches on it laying across my lap. A young lady (in her early 30's) tapped me on the arm & said "Thank You" I asked her for what ? she responded with "For being there & doing what you do" That was a very touching moment for me. See everyone at Dayton next year

Milo G. Yowell <Stinger21golf@webtv.net>

Halfway , OR USA - Wednesday, October 08, 2003 at 23:39:09 (EDT)

Many thanks to the past board for their efforts & many hours of hard work to create a great reunion. My bride is signing up as an associate member to help support our association because all of the members have welcomed her into our family of Shadows & Stingers. Many of our wives have helped out to make the reunions work & I know we all thank them. Many thanks to all our brides! Thanks to all that came to the reunion as that is what makes it great. I hope to see each & everyone again in Dayton along with old faces & new faces. As the speaker from Specter said we got our shit together. Take Care & God Bless our Troups

Doug <Busch791@aol.com>

Ruskin, FL USA - Wednesday, October 08, 2003 at 17:48:56 (EDT)

As your past president I want to thank all of my Board Members for your great support for us to pull off this years reunion, that I fell was a great reunion. Thanks to all for the very kind words & compliments. It was an honor to serve as your 2003 president & I look forward to relaxing in Dayton in 2004. See you all & hopefully many more gunshippers (Crew & especially more Maintenance people)in Dayton Ohio.

Gus Sininger <g.sininger@seii.net>

Ft. Walton Beach, FL USA - Wednesday, October 08, 2003 at 12:22:18 (EDT)

I found a golf club on the course the other day & someone mentioned that the groups in front of us might have lost one. It is a Golfsmith 3 iron, please let me know so that i can mail it to you. sorry i forgot to bring it up at the bbq dinner sunday.

jerry snyder <det1114@verizonmail.com>

mt. sinai, ny USA - Wednesday, October 08, 2003 at 08:55:37 (EDT)

What more could I possibly say about a great reunion. It was great seeing everybody from Stinger Crew 1, we had 6 of us there this year & we will a have minimum of 8 of us there next year. We lay down the challenge for other crews to beat that if you can. Looking forward to next year already.

jerry snyder <det1114@verizonmail.com>

mt. sinai, ny USA - Wednesday, October 08, 2003 at 08:52:50 (EDT)

The reunion was great this year. I don't know how it could get any better, other than finding more of our brothers. Now for my news, as all the Stingers know our original flag is missing. I was lucky enough to see the flag on Monday 6 Oct 2003. If someone would contact me that lives in the Ft Walton Beach area. I will let them know its location so it can be retrieved. If you want to call 210-663-3159 or e-mail.

Jerry Hester <hester@access1.net>

Converse, TX USA - Tuesday, October 07, 2003 at 18:40:14 (EDT)

Just went on e-bay looking for gunship stuff & found a Zippo Lighter with the "Fly United Duckk" & the initials "R.L.W." ingraved on it. The guy says he bought it in Spokane WA, in the early 80's from a guy that said he was with the 17th SOS. If anyone wants to bid on it, there are over 2 days left to bid & the bid is at about \$26.00. Please let me hear from anyone that bids or knows who may have been the original owner. Thanks

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Tuesday, October 07, 2003 at 13:40:59 (EDT)

Ditto on the reunion. This one was special to me for a couple of reasons. One - as always, I was able to see some good friends, Two - was able to see Tom Milligan, Sundog 29, after 30 plus years & Three - see Larry & Deb Barbee. Also can't forget the fact that my Life Time Membership Number is 119! Hope to see all & more at Dayton next Year! C2

Craig Corbett

Burke, VA USA - Tuesday, October 07, 2003 at 12:53:47 (EDT)

Another great Reunion. This was our 4th & my 3rd. I must say they just get better each year. This year was very special. We had several family members of our lost comrades in attendance. If anyone says real men don't cry, you haven't been to a Memorial Service such as we had this year. Look for the 2003 Reunion photos on this web site & in our Reunion Newsletter, coming soon. I am looking forward to our next Reunion in Dayton, Ohio the first weekend in October 2004. I hope with all my heart that more of our fellow gunshippers attend & that we can locate more families of our lost in SEA friends. Thank You all so much for your support & kind compliments on the previous newsletters. If you have never recieved the 1st, 2nd or third issue of "The Firing Circle", please let me know. I will get them to you. Please let me know if you can receive the newsletter via email. It saves a lot of time & expense if I can send it out electronically. Thank Care my Brothers & Family members.

Everett Dale Sprous <edspro@juno.com>

St Louis, MO USA - Tuesday, October