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**Of AC-119 Gunship**

**Air and Ground crew Members.**

**From:** Wayne Laessig January 5, 2012

**Subject:** Squadron Heritage visit 13-14 June, 2012

**To:** Lt Col Donald D. Purdy, Jr.

 Commander, 73rd SOS, Stinger II

 316 N Torch Blvd, Bldg 190,

 Cannon AFB, NM 88103

Sir, better late than never! On behalf of our AC-119 Gunship Association, thank you and your fine men for ‘hosting’ our Heritage Team of Col (Ret) “Mac” Mac Isaac, and MSgt (Ret) Bob La Rosa this past June.

 I read their Trip Report with great interest - we are so proud and pleased the 73rd SOS is one of our Heritage Squadrons. A special ‘tip-of-the-hat’ to your Operations Officer Lt Col Chester Dooly, Capt Jim Naugle, First Sergeant MSgt Tony Slaght, Capt Alex Hill, and a special ‘Nickel-on –the Grass’ for then 1/Lt Josh Martin and Capt Brian Schmidt.

 Heritage Squadrons are very important to our Association – you and your men and women are our future! A special ‘thank you’ to the crew that was at Eglin AFB during our past Reunion, as well as for the two fine bottles of Squadron Only ‘hooch’ – they were a great gift!!

 This coming September 25th we will hold our Reunion in San Antonio, Texas and on September 19th of 2014 we will return to Albuquerque for a Reunion with a sister Heritage Squadron, the 71st SOS. We invite any and all Stinger II air and ground crew to attend our Reunions! Mac and Bob will provide details.

 Thank you again for being the professional Air Commandos you are! Good luck with Your STINGER II Heritage Room – Col Mac is anxious to visit you again! What we past Stingers started in Vietnam is now in the very capable and professional hands of the aircrews of the 73rd SOS Stinger II.

Very Respectfully,

Wayne Laessig

Stinger Co-Pilot on then 1/Lt Mac MacIsaac’s “all Lt Stinger Crew”, and

President, AC-119 Gunship Association