

1. **Part of the USAF Special Operation during the Vietnam War:** From 1968 thru 1973, three AC-119 Gunship Special Operations Squadrons (SOS) were deployed to & operated in South Vietnam, Laos, & Cambodia. Their mission was to provide armed reconnaissance, firepower support of Troops In Contact (TIC), & interdict enemy supplies coming down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The three Squadrons were the 71st SOS (Reserves) & 17th SOS flying the AC-119G “Shadow”; & the 18th SOS flying the AC-119K “Stinger”. Numerous additional units performed direct support roles, such as maintenance of the vintage AC-119s.
2. **Creating the AC-119 Gunship Association.** In 2000, with the Internet & email improving wide-range communication, a handful of AC-119 crew members decided to try to hold a Reunion of AC-119ers. Their efforts resulted in the first very successful Reunion at Fort Walton Beach (FWB), FL, where many of the former aircrew completed their AC-119 combat training. At that first Reunion, close to 450 air & ground crew attended, & the participants decided to create the “AC-119 Gunship Association” as a non-profit organization & hold follow-on Reunions.
   * 1. We have held Reunions every year since 2000, with some at FWB, others at locations where our three SOS Squadrons were re-activated. The currently active SOS units are our “legacy”, & they know us well & embrace their “heritage”.
     2. Our reunions may include a significant Memorial Service, local site-seeing & bus tours, & a golf outing.
     3. Our Reunions & the Association evolved to include all air & ground crew who directly flew or supported AC-119s; family members of those men, family members of the 17 AC-119 members who were Killed In Action (KIA), & current active duty Legacy Squadron members.
     4. Reunion participants include Vietnam veterans, spouses, & guests. Most are combat veterans & many are military retirees. We often have KIA family members attending as our honored guests.
     5. The Association’s goals: to remember our fallen & rekindle old friendships, to create new friendships, to reinforce the AC-119’s place in history, & to celebrate the lives of all involved.
     6. Visit our website to learn more about us: <https://ac119gunships.com> We published a hard-cover History Book in 2005 that can be viewed on our website.
     7. We have an active, 500+ member (vetted) Facebook Page with lots of pictures, shared stories, & current events.

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