

# Assoc Discussion on Formation of USAF Gunship Assoc

**From:** Wayne [qadvocate@msn.com] Sent: Fri, Oct 10, 2003 12:02 PM To: Rogers Stevens; La448@zianet.com; Gus Sininger; Ray Barradale; Doug Wohlgamuth; Bill Petrie; Everett Sprou; [Takitus@email.com](mailto:Takitus@email.com) Subj: Notes for AC-130 Reunion on Formation of a USAF Gunship Association

Greetings all!

What a great get-together, and I know Dayton will be a great one also!

Here's draft notes on the Formation of a USAF Gunship Association for Norm and Gus when they attend the upcoming AC-130 Gunship Reunion. Please send any thoughts or comments. The attachment looks better than this text but I pasted in here just in case...!

Thanks! Wayne

## Formation of a USAF Gunship Association

### 1. Background:

- Individual AC-47 (Spooky), AC-119 (Shadow and Stinger), AC-130 (Spectre and Spooky), and Air Commando Associations and Reunions
- AC-119 Reunions include:
  - AC-119 Gunship Association which includes about 250 Life and other Members: crewmembers and maintenance members from 71st, 17th, and 18th SOS's, members associated with other AC-119 support Squadrons and Shops, and families and friends of AC-119ers.
  - 71st SOS Reunion in Ohio (not a formal Association, Reunion-focused, with broader WWII and Korea aircraft focus that includes AC-119G Shadows)

### 2. Concept includes:

- Umbrella Gunship Association that embraces AC-47 Spooky, AC-119 Shadow and Stinger, and AC-130 Spectre and Spooky
- Tim Shaeffer summarized some thoughts:
  - We ARE mostly well-aged (over 55) and long-term we are getting older and fewer
  - WE all are fixed-wing gunshippers
  - We can have a louder voice by working together
  - His vision is "Chapters" to maintain identities with umbrella group to help administrative stuff.

For example, Reunions and websites would still be focused as they currently are on each weapon system BUT with links and an umbrella organization to link them.

- Umbrella benefits include:
  - Support for current generation of gunship troops and their families
  - Promote the side-firing (Fixed-wing) gunship concept
  - Preserve the side-firing (Fixed-wing) gunship legacy
  - Provide a forum for gunship members to socialize
  - Maintain an avenue of communication through newsletters and websites.

### 3. AC-119 Gunship Association current status:

- Tabled at October 2002 Association Meeting after a great deal of pro and con discussion.
- Reviewed by both Board and membership at October 2003 Association Meeting

### 4. Final Consensus and decision:

- Agree with the concept and rationale
- There are over-riding needs to stay as we are for now - timing is the primary issue.
- We're the "lost" gunship between the more well-known AC-47 Spooky and AC-130 Spectre. We're still growing our internal structure and organization, and we're still not done defining our specific AC-119 niche as a Vietnam-era gunship. It is critical to maintain our focus on putting the AC-119 into the Air Force and Vietnam history
- Continue leadership discussions and leadership participation in each other's annual Reunions (Norm Evans is our primary participant since he is a member of all 3 groups)
- Revisit again next year after we see how well our "Dayton-Air Force Museum" efforts succeed in putting the AC-119 into the Air Force and Vietnam history