

Registration for the 2024 Reunion.

The Association is ready to gather once again, this year in Colorado Springs, CO, Sept. 11 -15, 2024, for the Association's 24th reunion. Here is where you get to refresh old friendships, make new friendships, and move our AC-119 legacy and heritage just a bit closer to the daylight.

The Board worked diligently to put a great reunion package together. Hotel information and the Program for 5 days is included on the following pages. The Registration is on this page, below. The Reunion includes our Hootch, Meet & Greet, Association Meeting, Banquet, and Farewell, as well as TWO fantastic Tours! **PLEASE READ the Program Info carefully!** This announcement is out later than usual, mostly due to the fact that the Board and Committee workers are spread thin. You're not surprised to hear that the number of active Association folks is getting lower – we are losing more people than we are gaining. For this reason, reunions like this one are so important to keep our friendships engaging, and to meet new friends. There is an increasing number of friends and family participating, which helps make reunions successful. With some of the ills from the past few years behind us, the Association should have a great turn-out this year. We have made commitments on expected participation, and it is VERY IMPORTANT for us to get attendee numbers as soon as possible. **Therefore, you are encouraged to register early!**

This information is on the Association's Website, and we post this on our Facebook page for those of you using social media.

Hope to see you ALL there!

Coming up in future issue of the Firing Circles:

Report of the successful 50th Anniversary Vietnam Memorial event in Washington, D.C

Updated information on the Vietnamese restoration of the last surviving Stinger – our AC-119K "850".

Suzanne Hill's poem: "A Soldiers' Return"

Long overdue updates on Association Membership, Final Flights, By-law changes, and more....

Here is the link to Register: <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/AC-119Gunship2024>

Hotel Info and Program Below

M. Drzyzga, March 11, 2024

Embassy Suites Colorado Springs
719-599-9100

Location

7290 Commerce Center Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Reservation Information

Please call the number above and reference the AC-119 Gunship Association or book directly at

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ac119gunshipseptember2024/>

Group Name: AC-119 Gunship Association

Reunion Rates Available: September 9 – 16, 2024

Room Rate: \$155.00 plus applicable taxes (Currently 10.20%) per night

Breakfast: Complimentary Hot Breakfast for Two Included in the Room Rate. Served in hotel's West Atrium 6:30am – 9:30am (Mon-Fri) and 7:00am – 10:00am (Sat – Sun).

Reception: Complimentary Reception for Registered guests is served nightly from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in 14ers, each guest receives two complimentary beverages and light snacks.

Cut-off Date: 8/19/24. After the group cut-off date, Hotel will accept additional group reservations at the contracted rate based on room availability.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation must be received 48 hours prior to arrival date or there will be a charge of one night's room plus tax.

Parking & Shuttle Information

Self-Parking is Complimentary.

The hotel does not provide shuttle service.

Wheelchair Accessible Rooms

If you are need of a handicap accessible guestroom, please call the hotel directly for assistance.

Wheelchair Rental

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for details and to make reservations.

Reunion Registration

To register for the reunion please re-visit <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/AC-119Gunship2024>

**AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 10-16, 2024
EMBASSY SUITES COLORADO SPRINGS**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

0800	-	2200	Hootch Open	
1400	-	1900	Reunion Registration with Armed Forces Reunions	
			On Own to Explore	

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

0800	-	1000	Reunion Registration with Armed Forces Reunions	
0800	-	2200	Hootch Open	
1030	-	1600	Royal Gorge Train Ride	
1500	-	1700	Reunion Registration with Armed Forces Reunions	

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

0800	-	2200	Hootch Open – Closed During Meet and Greet	
			On Own to Explore	
0900	-	1600	Air Force Academy & AC-130J Ghost Rider Tour at Peterson Space Force Base – NOTE: this event is SEPARATE from AFR’s Registration Form. “See GROUP TOUR DESCRIPTION on next page”	
1700	-	2200	Cash Bar and Welcome Meet and Greet	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

0800	-	2200	Hootch Open – Closed During Banquet	
0900	-	1100	Association Annual Meeting	
1700	-	2200	Cash Bar/Dinner Banquet	

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

0900	-	2400	Hootch Open – Closed During Farewell Dinner	
1700	-	2000	Cash Bar/Farewell Dinner	

***FOR ALL HOTEL REGISTERED GUESTS - BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED DAILY IN THE WEST ATRIUM 6:30am – 9:30am (MON-FRI) and 7am – 10am (SAT & SUN)**

A COMPLIMENTARY EVENING RECEPTION DAILY (MON-SUN) FROM 6:00PM – 7:30PM

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. (AFR)

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to August 12, 2024, AFR shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee of \$10 per person. Attendees canceling reunion activities after this date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR’s vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee of \$10 per person.

AFRI TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:

ROYAL GORGE TRAIN RIDE

Experience America's most spectacular rail journey aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. In 1905, President Teddy Roosevelt described it best as "the trip that bankrupts the English language!" Come experience not just a memorable train ride through the Colorado Rockies but enjoy gorgeous scenery on a narrated two-hour train ride through the "Grand Canyon of the Arkansas" - an unforgettable journey under the famous suspension bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of the Royal Gorge, towering over 1,000 feet above. The ride includes a \$25 voucher lunch on the train, where a bistro-style menu is available during the ride. Do not miss the train ride that has been called "The most spectacular 12 miles of railroad in America."

**10:30am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel
\$167/Per Person includes train, bus, guide, and lunch voucher.**

GROUP TOUR DESCRIPTION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: AIRFORCE ACADEMY TOUR & AC-130J GHOSTRIDER TOUR.

NOTE: This Tour is dependent on the uncertainties faced by Air Force Special Operations Command every day.

IMPORTANT: this Tour is separate from the rest of the AFR Registration Form. To register, use this on-line link:

<https://www.ac119gunships.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Colo-Tour-Reg-Form.pdf>

Cost is \$39 per person & includes busses from the hotel to the AF Academy. The busses include a knowledgeable AF Academy Guide to point out & describe the many well-known features of the Academy. The last stop will be at the SEA Pavilion featuring the AC-119 Memorial Plaque dedicated last year. Buses will depart the Academy and then stop at a restaurant for lunch, on your own. After lunch, we are then on to Petersen Space Force Base for a tour of an AC-130J *Ghostrider* Gunship from Cannon AFB's 16th SOS and the unique opportunity to walk through an AC-130J *Ghostrider* & meet/talk with its crewmembers.

**9:00 am board bus, 4:00 pm back at hotel
\$39 Per Person**

Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. All tours require a minimum of thirty-five people. The Association will manage driver and Guide gratuities.

NOTE: There is a limit of one hydraulically lifted scooter or wheelchair per handicap accessible bus. If you use a scooter but can climb the steps to board the bus, either you and/or a person traveling with you must be able to put the scooter in the bus's luggage compartment. Due to liability issues, drivers and tour guides cannot assist with scooter.