

# The AC-119 Gunship Association

## FLASH

May 15, 2026

### The Story of TSgt Clyde Alloway as told by Ron Merino Jolly Green Rescue Pilot

“It all began over 50 years ago after a night rescue mission June 6, 1970, offshore Da Nang Vietnam, on the South China Sea. Lemon Ten, a Stinger AC-119K Gunship, experienced a runaway prop that prompted an overwater bail out of the ten crew members. I was a Jolly Green co-pilot that night, and I spoke with TSgt Alloway at length as he struggled in his parachute a mile or so off the coast. He would attempt to answer my request in an exhausted voice, saying, "I think I'm drowning...I can't get out of my parachute...it's pulling me under". My request followed...where are you? Can you see our lights? Can you see the parachute flares? He answered with increasing weakness... "no... I'm caught...I'm tired...I can't get out...it's pulling me under". Then we heard nothing. I was the last person he spoke to before he slipped under the surface and was lost. We recovered nine Stinger crew members but not Alloway. Although, I have thought about that night many times and tried to figure out what I could have done differently; some things became clear after the fact. Years later, I realized I didn't know who the crewman was, and I was the last person that spoke to him before he died. I needed to know him; the search began.”

### THE STORY OF CLYDE ALLOWAY VIDEO

Video by Roy Davis

PS Turn off “closed captioning”  CC