


From: Wayne Laessig **Sent:** Wed, Apr 10, 2013 10:02 AM **To:** DuneIntl@aol.com **Subj:** 850: UPDATE: Vietnamese Air Force Veterans Association Contact Bruce, Great update! The Board's perspective was that we welcome them at our Reunion, but if they're not interested, we won't push it for now. I do want to at least establish a method to stay in contact with them for when(ever) we get a clearer path on re-acquiring 850, but we all agreed the VAFVA is not part of that effort until we have a solid agreement in place with the Vietnamese who currently own it; & perhaps even then not as a formal part of that activity until we actually have the aircraft in our possession. If you have a business trip to Vietnam, the Board endorsed your face-to-face engagement with the Vietnamese & that we can fund a few days of your hotel, meals, etc to do that (for the extra days). Bob will call you & fill you in on our discussion. Many thanks! SDIWH, (Some Day It Will Happen :->) Wayne

From: DuneIntl@aol.com **Sent:** Tues, Apr 9, 2013 8:37PM **To:** gadvocate@sbcglobal.net; desertfox1@q.com; drzyzga513@hotmail.com; busch791@tampabay.rr.com; stinger7172@live.com; jmatti@sonic.net; ac119kjm@d.aol.com; gorylj@bellsouth.net; Stinger04@ymail.com; takitus@sbcglobal.net; jhester7_sabx@gmail.com; ac119gunner@hotmail.com; shadow1969@indy.rr.com; western20@windstream.net; takaifarm@bellsouth.net **Subj:** UPDATE: Vietnamese Air Force Veterans Association Contact After running into several dead ends, disconnected numbers, a number of people that only spoke Vietnamese, a plethora of no-returned messages, etc, I think we MAY have some good news...I finally made contact here in Houston with a representative of the Vietnamese Air Force Veterans Association (the omnibus equivalent of our gunship organization – they have members from the gunships as well as A-1, A-37, F-5 guys, etc). I tracked them down by contacting the hotel where I know they held a reunion a couple of years ago - lots of hotel personnel turnover there but one lady remembered them & made contact for me. The person I spoke with is Mr. Paul Truong (that's his American name anyway...) & I sent him an email this evening – as soon as he replies with a solid address I will forward his e-mail/phone/address contact info to all. I pasted together the attached letter & sent to him – let's see if this is the right guy & if we get some traction with their group. Regards, Bruce

 **DUNE INTERNATIONAL** Domestic & International Petroleum Exploration Bruce L. Byrd, Jr. 10878 Westheimer, Ste. 233 Houston, TX 77042 E-mail: duneintl@aol.com www.duneinternational.com

April 9, 2013

Mr. Paul H. Truong

RE: AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion

Mr. Truong:

Thank you very much for calling me back today – I was having difficulty making contact with someone from the **Vietnamese Air Force Veterans Association**. I live here in Houston, & in 2007 I was invited by one of your members (Mr. Harold Bach) to attend your reunion which was held at a local restaurant on Bellaire Blvd. Unfortunately Harold is now deceased, & the previous contact numbers I had do not work. In 1971 I flew with the 18th Special Operations Squadron on AC-119K Stinger gunships.

About 14 years ago several former AC-119 Stinger & Shadow aircrew, maintenance, & other Special Operations personnel organized the **AC-119 Gunship Association** to provide a means to reunite our group again. We have held reunions every year since then in several states including Florida, New Mexico, California, Ohio, Missouri, & South Carolina. **This year our reunion will be held in San Antonio, Texas, September 26-29, 2013** at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel.

On behalf of the AC-119 Gunship Association we would like to invite all members of the Vietnamese Air Force Veterans Association to join us at our reunion this year in San Antonio. We always have a large attendance of former gunshippers from all over the US, & we are certain that you will see some old friends, make some new acquaintances, & have a very enjoyable weekend with all of the planned reunion activities. **We remember all of our former VNAF friends – AC-47, AC-119G, AC-119K, A-1, A-37, F-5, UH-1, O-1, +++ everyone is welcome!**

The AC-119 Gunship Association website is: www.ac-119gunships.com . We invite you to browse through our webpages, photo albums, & even leave a note in the Guestbook to let us know that you visited. Information for our reunion, including registration is on the following page: <http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/reunion/reunioninfo2013.htm> We would appreciate it if you would distribute this letter to your organization, & we welcome all of your members to join us in San Antonio this September for a memorable reunion. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the Association Officers if you might have any questions or need any additional information. I have attached some additional contact information for our organization on the following page.

On behalf of the AC-119 Gunship Association we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce L. Byrd, Jr.

10878 Westheimer Rd., #233

Houston, TX 77042

Phone: 713-785-2608

E-mail: duneintl@aol.com

www.ac-119gunships.com

... Read our latest Newsletter:

http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/assocnewsletter/Newsletters/newsletterwinter2013web_ver.pdf

... Browse through some of our pictures:

<http://www.ac-119gunships.com/scrapbooks/scrapbooks.htm>

... Leave us a note in the Guest Book to let us know you were here:

<http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/mailcall.htm>

... Join us at our reunion!

<http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/reunion/reunioninfo2013.htm>