

From: Wayne Laessig <qadvocate@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2010 8:57 PM
To: 'William Petrie'
Subject: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Stinger 41 and Possible Banquet Speaker

Much gras mi compadre, and you're absolutely right!

Sometimes being part of the labeled "Mafia of 9" means the power to say "not on my watch" is included. Thanks! Wayne

From: William Petrie retcmsgt@att.net **Sent:** Mon, Mar 01, 2010 11:09 AM **To:** Wayne Laessig **Subj:** Re: Stinger 41 and Possible Banquet Speaker
Nicely put Wayne. I know how delicate that subject has been. It doesn't stop at the Stinger 41 crew either. I have been contacted in the past (in our first year or two) by accident investigators, etc., who, after seeing some message traffic, said we, and the families, might not want to know the truth on a few of our incidents/accidents. Some have tried to dig for more information and it would be hurtful to bring it all out. I know in Stinger 41's case I've argued with a few folks that it made no difference what went down about that mission. The important fact that remained was that Terry gave his life for that crew. Not many people remember, but between you and me, Ken Brown said he would not jump out of a gunship no matter what happened to it.
As they say, best let sleeping dogs lie.

Another great job on your part my friend. Bill

From: GUS SININGER [STINGER7172@COX.NET] **Sent:** Tues, Mar 02, 2010 3:42 PM **To:** Wayne Laessig **Subj:** Re: Stinger 41 and Possible Banquet Speaker
Yes we are, It's about time he did. He just don't know who is is messing with does he? Gus
From: "Wayne Laessig" <qadvocate@sbcglobal.net> **Sent:** Mon, Mar 01, 2010 11:02 PM **To:** "Gus Sininger" <Stinger7172@cox.net> **Subj:** FW: Stinger 41 and Possible Banquet Speaker
Mac understood. We ARE pretty fart smellers, ain't we :>)
From: Steve Mac Isaac [colmacmac@mac.com] **Sent:** Mon, Mar 01, 2010 3:48 PM **To:** Wayne Laessig **Subj:** Re: Stinger 41 and Possible Banquet Speaker
COPY ALL, - do NOT disagree with anything - Very well presented - That is why I went my 'WISE BOARD' before I 'got-ahead-of-My-Gunsight'!!!! Thanks for Your consideration! - Love & Luck & Cheers – Mac ps; See 'yall in S.F.

From: Wayne Laessig <qadvocate@sbcglobal.net> **To:** Steve Mac Isaac <colmacmac@mac.com>; Gus Sininger <Stinger7172@cox.net>; Jimmy L. Ward <wa8jm@aol.com>; James Alvis <jralvis@indy.rr.com>; Doug Wohlgamuth <busch791@msn.com>; Larry E. Fletcher <fletch12@charter.net>; Bill Petrie <retcmsgt@att.net>; Tony Pakutinski <the4paks@hotmail.com> **Sent:** Mon, Mar 1, 2010 9:47:57 AM **Subj:** Stinger 41 and Possible Banquet Speaker
Mac, I discussed the Board policy on Stinger 41 (Terry Courtney's crew at An Loc) with Gus and Craig Corbett (Stinger 41 survivor).

There are two factors in this necessarily long "we decline" response.

First, we've learned from feedback that our guys and their spouses are not as interested in Guest Speakers unless they are one of our own (actually in or involved in AC-119s). We've brought everyone we know of, who had an important piece of our AC-119 story, to reunions as a Guest Speaker. As we find more of our AC-119ers in our outreach efforts, we may find some additional ones. Until then, our Board decided not to include some very important and respected heroes as speakers (Bud Day, Gen Horner, several other well known POWs, Ken Carpenter - Sgt Levitow's AC, etc) and maintain the Association's focus on our AXC-119 heritage. With that in mind, we may not have "Guest Speakers" at our Reunion Banquets, and that's OK - in those cases the Prez might say a few words but not as a "Banquet Speaker".

The second factor is sensitive, but to the Board and Association, very important. I discussed it with Gus and Craig and they agree.

The following is for you and the Board only (plus Bill and Tony as the Board's eyes, ears, and voice): Over the years, we've been fortunate to discover Sundog 29, Tom Milligan, who was the FAC flying Terry's wing that day. He came to one of our reunions, did a current FLIR technology presentation, and met with the Stinger 41 survivors. A couple years later, we found the A-1 driver, Lamar Smith, who provided fire suppression and was SAR leader for Stinger 41's crew recovery. In both those cases, everyone involved (the surviving crew, others who had been there that day, and the Stinger 41 families of those we lost) let us know there are aspects that would not serve anyone well and would possibly create problems for the crew and families. Terry heroically gave his life giving every one of his crewmembers the chance to live another day. That's what was (and is) important to the surviving crew, and they do not want to open that day up to any further presentations or reunion inclusions. It is still too much for many of them to relive and the Board unanimously decided to respect that.

The Board's Stinger 41 policy is that we will not send survivor/family contact info to anyone who was involved in that day's mission, SAR, or otherwise. We do forward messages from folks like Lt Gen Waskow if THEY initiate a contact request, and we leave it up to the respective Stinger 41 crew members and families if they want to respond to that contact. So far, that has worked well.

With those factors in mind, we very respectfully decline your offer to invite Lt Gen Waskow as a Guest Speaker. If HE wants to initiate contact with Stinger 41 survivors or family, we will forward his message to them, and they decide whether they'll respond (or not).

Lastly, the reason I'm the person responding, is because over the years I was directly involved in all the above, and the

Board and survivors asked me to be a "funnel" for any Stinger 41 contacts or info requests.
ALL, please keep this message only at the Board level, which includes Bill and Tony.
Mac, thank you for continuing to provide support and opportunities to the Association - please don't stop doing that!!!! Thanks! Wayne

From: GUS SININGER [STINGER7172@COX.NET] Sent: Mon, Mar 01, 2010 4:33 AM To: Wayne Laessig Subj: Re: Question Sirs??? Wayne I have read it and it's a go. Just be sure to say that this was talked over with me. Please copy the Board as you said. Again Thanks Gus

From: "Wayne Laessig" <qadvocate@sbcglobal.net> Sent: Sun, Feb 28, 2010 12:55 PM To: "Gus Sininger" <Stinger7172@cox.net> Subj: RE: Question Sirs??? Gus, here's a draft of what I thought we should send to Mac, with Cc to the Board so they ALL understand and follow the prior Board's policies on Stinger 41. I talked to Craig and he still totally agrees. Please make whatever changes you think are needed, send it back to me, then I'll send it to MAC with Cc to the full Board plus Bcc Tony and Bill. Thanks! Wayne

From: Steve Mac Isaac [colmacmac@mac.com] Sent: Thurs, Feb 25, 2010 8:10 PM To: g.sininger@seij.net Cc: Wayne - #1 G.I. #1 G.I. Subj: Question Sirs??? I have 'Located' the FAC who was 'over-head' AN LOC when WE lost our STINGER, he became the 'ON SCENE COMMANDER'...WHO HELPED RECOVER OUR SURVIVING CREW.....is this too much '18 SOS' in-your-face....or is it HISTORY.....GOOGLE anything YOU can.....AN LOC IS NOW THE FAILED SECOND 'Failed' TET for the NVA....They sent US Home...give our Aircraft to the ARVN.....YOU two know know better than MOST.....the RESULT.....but.....IF(?) YOU TWO HEROS....run short of a MAJOR SPEAKER.....let me know.....He is Lt. GEN. TOM Waskow, USAF Ret., a Classmate of mine from USAFA in CLASS '1970'.....CAN NOT 'say 100%' until your SENIOR LEADERSHIP say 'Try' - will report back - when advised?? Love & Luck & Cheers - Mac