

## AC-119 Board Zoom Meeting ~ 1632hrs PST ~ 12 March 2025 (DRAFT)

Meeting Summary with AI Companion Created

In Attendance: Terry Sarul, Bob Safreno, Doug Wohlgamuth, Mike Drzyzga, Roy Davis, Dave Voisey, Wayne Laessig, Gus Sininger Note: Wayne prepared the agenda & Terry will officiate this meeting

**Quick recap** The meeting covered various personal health updates, reunion planning details, & organizational matters for an upcoming event. Discussions included prostate treatments, hotel reservations, task delegation, & logistics for the reunion's hospitality room & merchandise. The group also addressed classification issues, recognition efforts, & administrative procedures while concluding with approval of previous meeting minutes (02/11/2025) & consideration of future reunion locations.

### Next steps

- Mike: Follow up with Cash McCall regarding Military Times PR
- Mike: Contact & invite historians & armament team from headquarters to the reunion
- Wayne: Create a spreadsheet to track reunion registrations & hotel bookings to share with Gus & Kelly
- Gus: Check if there are grills available at the Navarre venue & coordinate backup plan with Larry & Norm
- Wayne: Arrange U-Haul rental for transporting grills if needed
- Wayne: Send out the Firing Circle information to the 18th squadron members
- Gus: Mention to the 18th that spouses are welcome to join if their members are deployed
- Wayne: Create & distribute Flash about the Robeck's trike & trailer display, requesting donations
- Gus: Get permission from hotel for Robeck's trike & trailer display area
- Terry: Purchase & bring small bottles of wine for the hooch
- Wayne: Prepare & send name tag template to Gus & Mike for review
- Roy: Work with Ev on name tag design & production once template is finalized
- Mike & Andrea: Help Gus with hooch shopping when in town early
- Wayne: Include reminder about bringing lanyards in upcoming flash communications
- Terry: Contact Carol Hinton about Quilts of Valor coordination & potential local quilt donations
- Terry: Reach out to Jim Mattison to offer assistance with Facebook admin duties
- Andrea: Write up content for a flash about Facebook administration & security measures
- Gus: Purchase beer for the hooch
- Wayne: Contact Kelly & Charlie from AFR to prepare 2026 reunion suggestions west of the Mississippi Riv
- Mike: Update & distribute the board contact list Excel spreadsheet after returning on March 22
- Wayne: Have POC procedures posted on board-only section of our Website by Liz
- Roy: Continue work on resolving the Stinger 41 classification issue & Mike Friel's Purple Heart case
- Mike: Prepare written report about Zoom Workspace for the April meeting
- Doug: Process \$1,350 automatic payment to Liz at the end of the month
- All Board Members: Attend next meeting on April 8th, same time & place

### Summary

**Florida Trip & Bill's Health Update** Mike provides an update on his trip to Florida, mentioning that he's currently in Clearwater & heading to Orlando. The group discusses internet connectivity issues, with Mike switching to his hotspot for a more stable connection. Wayne joins the call & informs the group that Gus will be joining shortly, while John Forbes is unable to attend due to a baseball game with his grandchildren. The participants briefly discuss recent weather conditions, including storms & fallen tree limbs. Terry offers to moderate the meeting, as Wayne has prepared the agenda. Wayne then provides an update on Bill's health, mentioning that he's recovering from a fall but still experiencing pain & headaches. Wayne also notes that the group will divide responsibilities to keep things running smoothly in Bill's absence.

**Reunion Planning & Transition Discussion** The meeting involved discussions about the upcoming reunion, hotel reservations, & the transition of responsibilities. Wayne & Doug discussed the number of people registered for the reunion & hotel reservations, with Wayne mentioning that he would share the hotel reservation information. There was also a discussion about the firing circle, which contained links for registration & hotel reservations. However, some attendees, including Bob & Terry, did not receive the email with the firing circle information. The meeting also touched on the transition of responsibilities, with Craig handing over the 18th point of contact to Ev. The conversation ended with a discussion about covering for the President's role as he recovers from injuries.

**Task Division & Backup Plan** Board discussed their plan for handling tasks & issues. They agreed to divide responsibilities among themselves, with Wayne & Bill focusing on agenda items & flashes, while Mike, Terry,

& Roy handle other tasks. They also discussed the need for a backup plan in case of unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or travel issues. Team decided to communicate through email or texting to address any issues that arise. They also agreed to keep each other informed about any changes or updates.

**18th SOTES Reunion Planning Update** Wayne will send out info about the reunion to the 18th group. He provides instructions on how to access registration information & reports. Group discusses current registration numbers, with at least 50 room nights already booked. Wayne emphasizes the importance of encouraging attendance while people are still able to come. Gus confirms that the AFR menus, events, & tours are under control. The 18th SOTES participation in the meet & greet at Navarre is likely but not confirmed. If they can't participate, the group plans to organize their own informal gathering. Mike will invite the historians from headquarters & Armament Museum lead docent to join the reunion events. Wayne suggests inviting spouses of deployed 18th members to attend as well.

**Navarre Event Planning & Fundraising** Team discussed upcoming event at Navarre, with Wayne confirming it will proceed even if weather is bad. They also discussed the arrival of Robecks, who are bringing a trike & a wrapped trailer. Board considered ways to raise funds for Robeck's support, with Wayne suggesting a flash about their efforts & a potential donation drive. Team also discussed layout of the hotel where event will be held, with Gus confirming there will be a suitable place to display trike & trailer.

**Reunion Hooch Funding & Supplies** The group discusses the funding & supplies for the upcoming reunion's "hooch" (hospitality room). Gus confirms that \$1,500 has been promised to cover costs. They plan to publicly recognize this contribution. For beverages, they decide on Yueng-Ling & Modelo beers, with some light beers & small bottles of wine. Terry offers to bring the wine selection. The group agrees to open the hooch on Wednesday at noon, & Gus, Mike, & Andrea will handle the shopping together.

**Treasurer Report** Doug reported account balances: Operation \$10,598.65 QM: \$2,948.86 Total: \$13,547.51. Doug indicated we have a payment to Liz for \$1,350 at end of March. He has a \$64 check to deposit. All present approved his report. NOTE: the numbers also reflect the added \$1,500 from the Mims donation for the Hootch that Gus received.

**T-Shirt Design & Reunion Planning** The group discusses reunion T-shirt designs, with Bill potentially creating one. They consider using a fundraiser model by Custom Ink if a design is finalized. The team agrees to wait for Bill's design before proceeding. They also address name tags, deciding to have Ev Sprous create them using a simple design that includes name, squadron, role, & hometown. The group plans to remind attendees to bring their lanyards. Wayne encourages board members to register or confirm their attendance to boost confidence levels for the event organizers & hotel.

**Classification & Recognition Challenges Discussed** Roy discussed the ongoing issues with the classification of a report & the challenges in distributing it. He mentioned drafting a letter to President Trump & planning to write to the Secretary of Defense. Roy also shared his concerns about the logic behind the decision made by the Review Board & the potential impact on the recognition of the Gunship Society. Wayne shared his experiences with families of the KIA & the importance of recognizing their efforts. The team also discussed the case of Mike Friel, who was injured during a mission, & the potential for him to receive a Purple Heart. The conversation ended with a discussion on the challenges of record-keeping & the importance of affidavits in supporting their claims.

**POC Procedures & Facebook Page Updates** Wayne reports he finalized POC procedures based on input from others & will have Liz post them on board only website. Procedures include KIA management info. Mike said Ev wants to become the 18<sup>th</sup> POC, but must talk with current POC Craig Corbett for a transition. Regarding Quilts of Valor, Terry & Gus have potential quilt donors, & Terry will contact Carol Hinton to determine the # of quilts needed for the reunion. Facebook page is stable under Jim Mattison's management, with Tony (Pacman) occasionally posting AC-130 content. Terry offers to help Jim with admin tasks, & Mike mentions that Andrea is effectively screening out scam requests to join the group. Wayne suggests creating a flash update about Facebook page's content & admins' efforts to maintain its integrity.

**Meeting Summary: Phoenix Reunion Location Discussion** The board discusses & approves the minutes from the previous meeting & the treasurer's report. Mike mentions he's working on a Zoom Workspace report for the April meeting & suggests asking AFR for 2026 reunion location suggestions west of the Mississippi. The group considers Phoenix as a potential location due to its accessibility & local support. Wayne agrees to ask Kelly from AFR to provide suggestions based on their criteria. The meeting concludes with a brief round of updates from members & is adjourned.

Closed: 1741hrs PST Prepared by Bob Safreno Mike Drzyzga review/updated March 13, 2025