**AC-119 Board Zoom Meeting ~ 1633hrs ~ 10 June 2025**

Meeting Summary with AI Companion Created

In Attendance: Terry Sarul, Bob Safreno, Doug Wohlgamuth, Mike Drzyzga, Gus Sininger, Lloyd & ME Froelich, Wayne Laessig and John Forbes. Note: Mike prepared the agenda & Terry officiated this meeting.

**Quick recap** Updates on reunion logistics including registration, transportation, and accommodation arrangements. The group then reviewed veterans' experiences during the Vietnam War and addressed various organizational matters including treasury reports, membership updates, and plans for upcoming events. The conversation ended with discussions about newsletter distribution, website management, and future plans for documenting veterans' experiences, including the possibility of involving Kirstin Hamman in sharing her family's Vietnam history.

**Next steps**

* Wayne & Team: Make a decision on the 2026 reunion location between Phoenix and Reno
* Bob & Sandy: Complete reunion registration through the website's yellow banner link
* Roy: Contact Jason Starne to discuss his documentary progress and explore the possibility of focusing on Stinger 41 instead of the whole organization
* Mike: Research and implement Google Workspace for nonprofits
* Roy: Lead the QR code project for memorials, including selecting content and placement location
* Mike: Call Brian Olmsted regarding museum tour arrangements and get confirmation
* Mike: Evaluate PA system shipping costs to different locations and explore alternative sound system options
* Wayne: Contact Kelly to get hotel pricing and hooch availability information for both Phoenix and Reno 2026 reunion options
* Wayne: Send follow-up emails to registered attendees who haven't signed up for the Navarre meet and greet event
* Wayne: Add Roy, Paula, and Sandy to the reunion attendee list
* Wayne: Forward Lamar's video URL to Liz for posting on the website
* Wayne: Send MCL with 18th breakout information to new POC John Funk
* Wayne: Send email to Kirstin Hamman to arrange zoom call with Gus and Larry about Vietnam location confirmation
* Wayne: Share Ev's new email address with the group if not already distributed
* Mike: Call Bill Walter to confirm his participation in the reunion
* Mike: Bring projector for reunion presentations and events
* Gus: Purchase flip chart, post-it pad, and markers for reunion events
* John & Wayne: Complete distribution of newsletters to remaining snail mail recipients
* Terry: Obtain Facebook member list and coordinate with Ron Julian for cross-referencing with MCL database
* Mike: Contact Ron Hinton and Mike Krauss about obtaining pictures from Colonel Teal's office
* Roy: Monitor responses from Alan Armitage about obtaining magazine copies of Barry Levine's article
* Lloyd & Mary Ellen: Work on undeliverable contact information using free search tools before sending to Roy for People Finder searches
* Mike: Contact Wayne Taylor to remind him to register for the Fort Walton Beach reunion
* Wayne: Check through Karen Graves' box of materials for potential rocket pictures
* Team: Consider nominations for Above and Beyond award
* All attendees: Attend next meeting on July 8th, same time and place

**Summary**

**Reunion Registration and Travel Plans**

Bob raised concerns about being missing from a recent Excel list and not finding a registration form for the reunion, which led to a discussion about the registration process and the need for him to sign up. Mike explained that the registration link was in a recent newsletter and that Wayne had done an excellent job creating the registration package. Bob also inquired about transportation for a members and Guests issue, and Mike suggested renting a 4-door sedan for the trip, with the possibility of additional carpooling. The conversation concluded with a lighthearted exchange about a Vietnam magazine article that Bob had sent, which some attendees had already seen and even framed.

**Vietnam Gunship Mission Experiences**

The veterans discussed their experiences flying gunship missions over the Trail during the Vietnam War, particularly focusing on the dangerous daytime missions in April 1972. They recalled how the Air Force initially stopped gunship missions due to high casualties but were overruled by Army General Hollingsworth who deemed them essential for the war effort. The group also discussed how the lack of intelligence about the enemy's radar-guided 37mm guns contributed to the high casualties, and Terry shared his experience of being unable to effectively call out enemy fire during a daylight mission due to limited visibility.

**Treasury and Attendance Updates Meeting**

The meeting began with updates on attendance, noting absences including Bill Petrie and John Forbes due to medical issues, while Gus and David Voisey were also absent. Terry provided a health update, sharing improvements post-procedure. The treasury report was presented by Doug, Operating Account, $9291.80 QM, $1138.78, Hootch $1500.00 with the total amount standing at $11,930.58, and the group discussed including financial details in future meeting minutes. The membership report was skipped due to David Voisey's absence, and the conversation ended with a brief mention of the Walton Beach Reunion update, which Wayne and others would discuss.

**Reunion Event Logistics Planning**

The team discussed logistics for an upcoming reunion event at a hotel, including room arrangements, audio-visual equipment, and registration details. Wayne reported that the hotel had agreed to provide most requested amenities, including a free suite for John Paul, audio-visual equipment, and a dropdown screen for events. The group also addressed plans for a meet-and-greet in Navarre, including food and beverage details, and discussed the need to encourage more attendees to register for both the hotel stay and the Navarre event.

**Supporting Ev's Attendance Goals**

The group discussed Ev's decision not to attend the reunion, with Wayne explaining that Ev is financially and physically unable to travel, despite earlier promises of financial support. Terry confirmed that Ev sounded resigned about not attending during their recent phone call, and Wayne noted that while Ev's motivation to continue treatment has waned, Lee has been successfully mediating between Ev and O, who has power of attorney. The team agreed to continue supporting Ev's progress through positive communication, with Wayne emphasizing that their goal should be encouraging Ev to attend next year's reunion rather than convincing him to attend this year.

**Event Location Decision Meeting**

The group discussed potential locations for an upcoming event, with Phoenix and Reno being the main options. Wayne noted that Phoenix has more draw but requires emphasizing its attractions, while Reno might be harder to promote but offers unique opportunities like a Lake Tahoe tour. The team decided to request more detailed information on tours and hotel rates from Kelly before making a final decision. Wayne also mentioned that he, Gus, and Larry had successfully located the exact spot where Tommy Hamman was killed, which will be shared with Kirstin for the Vietnam trip.

**Fort Walton Beach Museum Plans**

The group discussed plans for a museum tour in Fort Walton Beach, with Wayne Taylor and his wife planning to attend. They agreed to remind attendees to register for the event to secure their spots. Mike is compiling a list for the Armament Museum and will contact Brian Olmsted about docents and logistics. The group also discussed evaluating a PA system for future reunions, with Wayne suggesting smaller, more portable speakers as an alternative. Roy provided an update on the Stinger 41 project, noting that the proposed Assistant Secretary of Defense contact may no longer be in that position.

**Memorial QR Code Implementation Plan**

The board discussed implementing QR codes at various memorial sites, with Roy offering to serve as point of contact for the project. They debated placing QR codes at the Fort Walton Beach memorial or the National Museum in Dayton, with Wayne suggesting it would be most appropriate to link to a tribute video for fallen service members rather than Stinger 41 content. The group agreed to proceed without seeking permission, with Roy taking responsibility for selecting the content and placement of the QR codes, noting that they could be easily updated if needed.

**Newsletter Distribution and Updates**

The team discussed the distribution of the John Forbes newsletter, which was sent out on June 6th, with most areas completed except for some snail mail deliveries. Wayne announced that John Funk has accepted the POC role for the 18th and shared a plan for handling undeliverable addresses, with Lloyd and Mary Ellen taking the lead on initial searches using free tools like social security search and Find a Grave, while Roy will handle advanced searches using People Finder. The team also discussed Roy's completed article for Barry Levine, which was published in The Flash, and Wayne reported that Kirstin Hamman is excited about her upcoming Vietnam tour, which will be publicized in the next newsletter with an updated "Who's Coming" list.

**Veterans Reunion Planning and Database**

The group discussed plans to invite Kirstin, who has family connections to Vietnam veterans, to share her personal experiences at a future reunion, potentially accompanied by her children (Tommy’s grandchildren). They also addressed the status of a newsletter article and the process of collecting information from new members for the database, with Terry taking the lead on coordinating this effort. Wayne suggested cross-referencing the Facebook member list with the MCL database to update missing contact information, which Terry agreed to pursue by obtaining the Facebook list and working with Ron and Wayne to compare and update the records.

**Project Updates and Award Planning**

The meeting covered several updates and discussions. Wayne reported progress on website management and addressed issues with the Brown family regarding awards and a headstone, with Randy Holbrook acting as a mediator. Michael shared that he had not yet pursued Google Workspace for nonprofits and faced challenges contacting Ron Hinton and Mike Krauss for a specific picture. Roy suggested focusing Jason Starne on creating a documentary about the Stinger 41 mission instead of a broader organizational documentary. The group also discussed potential candidates for an upcoming award.

The next Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 8th 2025, 4:30pm PST.

Meeting Adjourned at 1758hrs PST, Prepared by Bob Safreno

Edited by Wayne Laessig ~ June 15, 2025