**AC-119 Board Zoom Meeting ~ 1531hrs (PST) ~ 8 July 2025**

Meeting Summary with AI Companion Created

In Attendance: Bill Petrie, Terry Sarul, Bob Safreno, Doug Wohlgamuth, Mike Drzyzga, Roy Davis, Dave Voisey (late), Lloyd & ME Froelich, and Wayne Laessig (by Phone). Note: Mike prepared the agenda & Terry officiated this meeting.

**Quick recap**

The meeting covered a range of topics including personal updates from members, and reunion planning details. Discussions also focused on award nominations, financial reports, and various ongoing projects such as documentary production and magazine articles. The group addressed logistical matters like AV equipment transportation, the implementation of QR codes on military monuments, and the potential transition to Google Workplace for nonprofits.

**Next steps**

* Bill Petrie: Collect board member nominations for Above and Beyond Award by August 12th board meeting
* Wayne: Forward Phoenix location decision to Charlie Day at AFR to initiate hotel selection process
* Wayne: Work with AFR to get hotel recommendations for Phoenix 2026 reunion
* Roy Davis: Continue working on Mike Friel's Purple Heart award package
* John Forbes: Create and distribute July Flash newsletter focusing on reunion details and updated "Who's Coming" list
* Mike Drzyzga: Include Armament museum visit information in next Firing Circle newsletter to generate more interest
* Mike Drzyzga: Prepare and deliver gunship presentation at the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum in Cape May on September 20th
* Mike Drzyzga: Contact JP to discuss Google Workspace implementation and migration strategy
* Mike Drzyzga: Coordinate with Bill Walters regarding his visit and book sales at the reunion hooch
* Roy Davis: Contact Jane Leach at Dayton Museum regarding QR code implementation on memorials
* Roy Davis: Follow up with Jason Starn in a couple months regarding the 119 gunship documentary progress
* Roy Davis: Get expense information on people finder service for outreach program and inform Lloyd
* Jim & Terry: Continue cross-referencing MCL with Facebook members and create roster for Wayne
* Wayne: Follow up with Lloyd regarding outreach programs
* Doug: Contact Gus about providing additional funds for purchasing 17th patches when needed
* Gus: Purchase flip charts and posted pads for reunion events
* Bill Petrie: Cover the cost of lithographs to be donated to the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum
* Terry: Coordinate with daughter regarding table centerpiece designs for the reunion
* Terry: Follow up with Roden company regarding model kit donations for the reunion
* Mike Drzyzga: Find a suitable organization to donate the AV equipment currently stored in his garage

**Summary**

**Reunion Planning Update**

The meeting began with a roll call, noting the absence of several members including David Voisey and John Forbes. Wayne provided an update on reunion planning, including the distribution of attendee lists and coordination with various team members. He mentioned ongoing efforts to reestablish contact with former teammates and the status of website updates. Terry inquired about Jim Mattison's roster from Facebook, which Wayne had not yet received due to Jim's current circumstances. The conversation ended with Wayne agreeing to follow up on outstanding tasks and providing an update on his wife's medical situation.

**Treasury and Attendance Updates Meeting**

The treasury's report was presented by Doug, Operating Account $8,286.35, QM $828.60, Hootch $1500.00 with the total amount standing at $10,614.95, and the group discussed including financial details in future meeting minutes. The membership report: David Voisey, No new members.

**Above and Beyond Award Nominations**

The board discussed the Above and Beyond Award nominations, with Bill suggesting Jim Mattison as his nominee and noting that board members need to email their nominations to Bill by the August 12th board meeting. The group also discussed the 2026 reunion location, with Bill indicating he prefers Phoenix based on Wayne's previous presentation and informal vote structure.

**Phoenix Chosen for Reunion Location**

The group discussed the location for their next reunion, with Phoenix emerging as the preferred choice over Reno and San Antonio. Wayne's poll indicated Phoenix would be the bigger draw, while concerns about high tour costs in Reno led to its elimination. The decision to proceed with Phoenix was seen as urgent, as they need to inform Wayne to interact with AFR regarding hotel arrangements, with Charlie waiting for their response. The conversation ended with all members voting in favor of Phoenix except Lloyd, who was experiencing technical difficulties but ultimately confirmed his preference for Phoenix.

**Phoenix Updates and Reunion Planning**

The group approved forwarding information to Wayne for Phoenix, discussed financial reports from Bob and Doug, and reviewed the membership report from David Voisey which indicated no new members. They also discussed plans for the 2025 reunion in Walton Beach, including arrangements for a trike display at the hotel. The conversation ended with a brief mention of Wayne's report and communication with Brian Olmstead.

**Bill Walters Book Sales Discussion**

The group discussed Bill Walters, an AFSOC historian and former AC-130 Gunner, who has been invited to visit the Hooch during our reunion. Terry suggested allowing him to sell and sign his books, though Roy and others raised questions about whether he should donate a portion of sales to the association, similar to what Larry Barbee did. The group agreed to wait for Bill to bring up the book sales himself before addressing the donation issue, with Mike as the point of contact.

**AV Equipment Logistics and Reunion Planning**

The group discussed the challenges and costs of transporting AV equipment, with Mike noting the $200 shipping cost from New Jersey to Fort Walton Beach and considering options like selling or donating the equipment. Roy provided an update on efforts to obtain a package from the Assistant Secretary of Defense to rebut the Air Force's previous response, while also working on Mike Friel's Purple Heart application, though they face difficulties in finding eyewitnesses to support the claim. Wayne Taylor's potential attendance at the Armament Museum was mentioned, with Mike awaiting a response from him regarding registration for the reunion.

**Military Monuments QR Code Initiative**

The group discussed the placement of QR codes on military monuments and memorials. Roy proposed having Gus and Ron Julian approach Fort Walton Beach and Dayton about adding QR codes, though Bill expressed concerns about potential legal issues. Terry inquired about the presence of QR codes at the Dayton Air Park, which Mike confirmed were not currently present. The group agreed that Roy would contact the museums directly to discuss implementing QR codes, with Doug offering to provide contact information for a helpful staff member at the Dayton museum.

**Project Updates and Membership Review**

The group discussed several ongoing projects and initiatives. Roy provided updates on a documentary about the 119 gunship and an article published in the Friends Journal Magazine. They are working on an article for the Air Force and Space Association magazine, with General Wascow taking charge. Terry reported on the newsletter status and the need to focus on the reunion and recent attendee list. The group also discussed the progress of verifying Facebook members and their relatives for the MCL, with Terry noting that out of 13 recent applicants, only one has been accepted. Jim is working on a roster to cross-reference with the MCL. The conversation ended with a brief mention of outreach efforts, with Lloyd expected to follow up on some programs and meetings.

**Google Workplace Migration Postponed**

The group discussed transitioning to Google Workplace for nonprofits, but decided to table the decision for now due to the complexity of the migration and the current functionality of their existing tools. Michael agreed to reach out to JP for guidance on the transition, as he has experience with similar migrations. The team also discussed the cost of their current Google and Zoom subscriptions, noting that their Zoom subscription is being donated by Andrea and Mike.

**Reunion Plans and Museum Donation**

The group discussed various topics, including a magazine article featuring Bill, which he plans to bring to the reunion. Terry advised Mike not to stress over implementing Google Workplace, emphasizing that there is no hurry. Doug shared information about a spreadsheet containing historical data on awardees, suggesting that Jim Mattison's name might be listed as a past nominee. Mike also mentioned an upcoming presentation he will give at a museum in Cape May, New Jersey, and the group discussed the possibility of donating materials to the museum.

**Reunion Plans and Model Kits**

The group discussed plans for an upcoming reunion, including a potential donation of model kits and centerpieces. Terry shared that a model kit manufacturer was eager to participate in the reunion and offered to send kits for attendees. The group also reviewed a personal model kit project made by William, which sparked a discussion about the transition from three-bladed to four-bladed props on aircraft. The conversation ended with a reminder of the next meeting date will be Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 1630hrs PST.

Meeting Adjourned at 1711hrs PST, Prepared by Bob Safreno

Reviewed/comments: M. Drzyzga 7/9/2025+

Reviewed: W. Laessig 7/10/2025