**AC-119 Board Zoom Meeting ~ 1639hrs (PST) ~ 12 August 2025**

Meeting Summary with AI Companion Created

In Attendance: Bill Petrie, Terry Sarul, Bob Safreno, Doug Wohlgamuth, Mike Drzyzga, Dave Voisey and Wayne Laessig. Note: Mike prepared the agenda & Terry officiated this meeting.

Quick recap

The board reviewed Above and Beyond Award nominations and discussed a potential 2027 reunion in Virginia Beach, while also addressing various administrative matters including email system changes and meeting schedule adjustments. The group reviewed ongoing reunion planning efforts, including registration numbers, hotel arrangements, and upcoming events, while also discussing website updates and coordination with various members for database management and presentations.

Next steps:

* Wayne: Call Gus to inform him about the Board's support for attending the Virginia Beach reunion, with Dave Voisey as backup if Gus can't go.
* Wayne: Inform the board via email about Gus's decision regarding the Virginia Beach tour.
* Bill: Call Charlie Day to confirm someone will attend the Virginia Beach event.
* Wayne: Continue following up with people who haven't signed up for various reunion components.
* Terry: Call Al and Carmen about their Navarre registration status.
* Bill: Send another email to John to coach him on sending out the firing circle email to the 18th members.
* Wayne: Send the updated reunion registration spreadsheet to everyone.
* Wayne: Continue discussions with Kirstin Hamman about a Zoom call, diary sharing, and potentially being a keynote speaker at a future reunion.
* Wayne: Follow up with the Froehlich's about their progress on people finder tasks for Lloyd.
* Wayne: Follow up with Lloyd and M.E. regarding people finder for Roy.
* Bill: Update the Excel spreadsheet with Jim Mattison as the recipient of the Above and Beyond Award.
* Board: Revisit Tom Waskow's award consideration after the Stinger 41 situation becomes clearer.
* Mike: Try sending Wayne a message via Facebook Messenger to test if Wayne can receive it despite being banned from Facebook.
* Mike: Update the Facebook page about the museum visit to get more interest.
* Mike: Contact Annette Robeck about potentially using the PA system for their presentations.
* Mike: Update the museum visit list with the newly added attendees.
* Mike: Either sell the PA system on Facebook marketplace or donate it to an American Legion post that needs it.
* Terry: Finalize the reunion table centerpiece concept with his daughter.
* Terry: Continue following up with new Facebook members to get their information for the MCL and database.
* Terry: Follow up on Colonel John Grey information for Facebook request.
* Wayne: Summarize the newsletter process in an email and distribute it to everyone.
* John Forbes: Put out a call for articles for the newsletter.
* Wayne: Follow up with the PAO contractor regarding the Air Memorial Park Guide.
* Wayne: Call the Air Memorial Park Guide.
* Michael: Look for Terry's PowerPoint presentation on the website for his September 20th presentation at the Vietnam Museum at Cape May.
* Bob: Update everyone with his new Gmail address once he completes the transition from Juno.
* Bob: Change his email and notify everyone on his contact list including Ron Julian.
* Bob: Note that the October meeting will be moved to the 13th at 7:30 PM Eastern time.
* Doug: Add Bob and his wife Sandy to the Navarre meet and greet list.
* Dave: Be prepared to attend the Virginia Beach familiarization tour if Gus is unable to go.

Summary:

Bob and others discussed issues with receiving the Firing Circle newsletter, with Bob not receiving recent copies, and Doug confirmed Bob is signed up for the Navarre meet and greet. Bob shared his experience being interviewed by Larry for a book about his experiences, highlighting his contributions to the history of the Charlie Chaser.

Email Switch and Meeting Reschedule

Bob informed the group that his email was hacked and he plans to switch from Juno to Gmail, though he is still working out how to manage email groups in the new system. The group discussed rescheduling their October meeting from Tuesday the 14th to Monday the 13th to accommodate Bob's travel plans to Vietnam, with the meeting time set for 7:30 PM Eastern. The group also confirmed that daylight saving time ends on November 3rd.

Facebook Ban Mystery Investigation

Wayne reported being permanently banned from Facebook after multiple failed attempts to appeal the decision, despite not being able to identify any specific violation of community standards. He discovered that his profile contained contact information for Gus Sininger and Mike Drzyzga, though he couldn't determine how this happened. Wayne's attempts to contact Facebook support were unsuccessful, and he was advised by Liz that she had never seen such a case before. The group discussed potential solutions, including testing if Wayne could still receive messages through Facebook Messenger.

Above and Beyond Award Decision

The board discussed the Above and Beyond Award nominations for Jim Mattison and Tom Waskow, ultimately deciding to give the award to Jim Madison with a 6-0 vote, while tabling Tom Waskow's nomination until the outcome of the Stinger 41 project is clear. Bill Petrie was assigned to update the Excel spreadsheet with the decision and any relevant comments. The meeting then moved on to discuss the Secretary's report, which was not covered in this transcript segment.

Virginia Beach 2027 Reunion Visit

The group discussed a potential visit to Virginia Beach in November 2026, organized by the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, to explore hosting the 2027 reunion there. Wayne explained that the offer includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, meals, and transportation for one representative and their spouse, with no commitment required. While several members expressed interest, including Dave who offered to check availability, others like Mike Drzyzga and Terry noted scheduling conflicts due to overlapping events. Wayne confirmed the offer was valid for November 2-4, 2026, and emphasized the need to respond promptly. The board decided to ask Gus to confirm his availability to attend, with Dave Voisey as a backup if Gus cannot go. Wayne agreed to contact Gus the next day to confirm attendance. The board also approved the July meeting minutes and noted that Secretary Bob Safreno would be in Vietnam during the October meeting, so they moved the October meeting to Monday, October 13th at the same time (7:30 PM Eastern).

Treasure Report and Reunion Updates

The treasury's report was presented by Doug, Operating Account $87579.40, QM $1425.79, Hootch $1500.00 with the total amount standing at $10,005.19, with a third quarter payment due to Liz at the end of September. David reported no new member activity. Wayne provided an update on the 2025 Fort Walton Beach reunion, noting that most attendees are now registered and hotel arrangements are being finalized, with Kelly helping to ensure all attendees confirm their participation. Wayne also discussed the success of Lamar's video post on their website and mentioned ongoing efforts to coordinate with John, the new 18th POC, regarding email communications. Finally, Wayne shared plans for the upcoming Phoenix reunion, including potential tours such as Sedona, the Verde Canyon Railroad, and a boat ride, which are being explored further.

Project Updates and Task Review

The group discussed several ongoing projects and updates. Wayne reported that hotel proposals would be available next week and promised to send an updated compliance list to everyone, including a detailed spreadsheet showing event registrations and hotel reservations. William shared his plans to add additional information to a memorial plaque at Lackland AFB , and Wayne provided updates on an Air Force Association article in progress, expressing concerns about the writer's focus and requesting a review before publication. The conversation ended with Wayne mentioning that he would follow up with Lloyd regarding people-finder tasks and that Roy was still pursuing Mike Friel's Purple Heart award package, though it appeared unlikely to succeed due to the criteria requiring enemy-inflicted injuries.

Reunion Planning and Updates

The meeting discussed updates on the reunion, including the registration count of 107 people, with Wayne predicting attendance between 125 and 150, and Terry considering using the number of AC-119ers for centerpiece concepts. Mike Drzyzga provided an update on the museum docent lead, Brian Olmsted, confirming readiness for the group visit, though only 4 people, including Mike, had registered so far. Terry and Wayne discussed the PA system, with Wayne suggesting donating it to another 501(c)(19) organization or selling it on Facebook Marketplace. The group also decided to send out 3-4 newsletter flashes between now and the reunion to remind members and encourage registration.

Flash Process and Database Updates

The meeting focused on several key topics. Wayne clarified the process for managing and approving flashes, emphasizing that John assembles the flash and sends it to the board for review, with Bill having final approval. Terry reported progress on coordinating with Ron Julian to add new Facebook members to the MCL and friends and family database, noting that one member had responded with information. Wayne mentioned that Liz had updated the contacts page on the website to fix coding errors. Michael discussed his upcoming presentation at the Vietnam Museum on September 20th, which he is revising to include more information about the association beyond the G model. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about a request for information about Colonel John Grey, which no one could immediately help with.The conversation ended with a reminder of the next meeting date will be Tuesday, September 09, 2025, 1630hrs PST.

Meeting Adjourned at 1805hrs PST, Prepared by Bob Safreno

Reviewed by Wayne Laessig 8/13/2025

Reviewed by Mike Drzyzga 8/14/2025.