**AC-119 Board Zoom Meeting ~ 1645hrs (PST) ~ 9 September 2025**

Meeting Summary with limited AI Companion input

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

Quick recap: The meeting began with local & national news updates, including discussions about death sentences, shootings, fires, & homelessness initiatives in the Bay Area. The group then addressed various reunion-related matters, including location decisions, outreach programs, & financial updates, while also discussing the handling of awards & registration status. The conversation ended with updates on upcoming events, media projects, & administrative tasks, including website management & contact list transitions.

Next steps: No next steps were provided in the input. Yellow highlighted items are next steps/tasks.

Summary: Bob experienced technical difficulties with the meeting ID code & sent a new invitation to resolve the issue. Wayne mentioned he & his wife Lynette have COVID-19 & are dealing with a home remodel, while Roy inquired about the new COVID variant causing throat issues. The group agreed to start the meeting without Gus, who was running late, & Wayne shared that he & his wife are recovering but are taking precautions to avoid spreading the virus to others.

Association Reunion Planning & Outreach: Dave is scheduled to visit Virginia Beach for a reunion scouting trip, but Wayne emphasized that the association is not locked into using Virginia Beach & can choose another location if preferred. The purpose of Dave’s visit is to get an onsite feel for Virginia Beach hotels, tours, activities, Hootch options, etc as a potential 2026 Reunion location. Dave has an abridged Reunion Guide to help him with the things we look for. Wayne also affirmed that the Association should cover any of Dave’s expenses not paid by the VAN $$$ (hotel, travel, food, etc).Dave will summarize his observations & recommendation at the next Board Meeting after the visit.

The group discussed an Outreach Program led by Lloyd & Mary Ellen, which Wayne explained will initially focus on re-establishing contact with former members who have lost touch, starting with POCs' lists of unresponsive contacts. Mike, Terry & Bill offered to take a group of Wayne’s 18th “bounce backs” to do preliminary outreach. Wayne will send them his “Email Undeliverable” spreadsheet.

The meeting also covered a request from John Forbes for firing circle stories, with Bill confirming he had replied to John's email & would work with him on submissions. Mike intends to write an article about the new 17th SOS using an Air Tractor for missions, & Wayne suggested adding stories about why members continue to attend reunions, noting an increasing trend of family & friends attending rather than fellow veterans.

Reunion Planning & Donations Update: The meeting discussed the positive feedback on Bill's reunion article. The minutes were tentatively accepted pending Roy's review & comments.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Doug, Operating Account $6,189.45, QM $2,818.31, Hootch $1,500.00 with the total amount standing at $10,507.76, Doug also noted a $750 donation from Colonel Gonzalez, making the overall total now $11,251.76. The group agreed to send an appreciation email, Bill taking lead.

Discussed how to handle the "Above & Beyond" awards, with Wayne & Bob recommending mailing recipients not present at the reunion. Jim Mattison will not be attending this year’s reunion.

The conversation ended with a clarification that Bob & Sandy are registered for the Reunion & Navarre Event.

Reunion Planning & Event Updates: Wayne confirmed he would add Sandy Safreno to the MCL. Discussed beverage arrangements for the Navarre event, with any beverages transported from the Hootch to Navarre, but Gus will check on alcohol restrictions at the park.

The group discussed the 2026 Phoenix reunion. Wayne said we are waiting on contracts from AFR & suggested either the President or Treasurer as signatory, & with Roy Davis identified as an on-site contact for anything needing a “boots on the ground” perspective.

Wayne will follow up with Kirstin Hamman regarding her upcoming visit.

Mike reported 13 people had signed up for the Armament Museum visit

Doug inquired about the PA system's donation status. It was donated by John Cootz, so any money we can get for it is a bonus. Mike will try to find someone who will purchase it.

Terry reported that Lisa has table centerpieces for the banquet under control, but Gus reported that the Island will have centerpieces already, Gus will coordinate with the Island. Roy reported on T-shirt sales progress, noting the order form deadline of Sept 27, 2025, & we sold 41 out of the minimum 62.

Roy discussed the use of QR codes at Hurlburt & Wright-Pat’ – with the codes use still being considered at Hurlburt, & used in written pamphlets in Wright-Pat’.

Air Force Awards & Reunion Updates: Terry asked if we could show a video at the banquet, suggesting a video project by Roy featuring a song for KIA dedication, which received positive feedback. Mike said the problem could be A/V necessary – & the group discussed alternate speakers.

They also addressed issues with the Air Force's handling of awards, with Roy explaining efforts to escalate concerns to the new Secretary of the Air Force & submitting an IG request due to lack of results transparency.

The group considered expanding our PeopleFinder subscription, a tool for locating individuals at $25 per month, but decided to research alternatives before making a decision.

Wayne proposed decreasing the use of snail mail for reunion updates, which was supported by the group, & they agreed to consider this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Purple Heart Award Process Challenges: The group discussed the process of obtaining a Purple Heart, focusing on the case of Mike Friel Sr., who was injured when a gun exploded in 1972. They explored the criteria for receiving the award, including whether the injury was caused by enemy fire, & compared it to other cases where pilots received Purple Hearts for plane crashes during combat missions. Roy & Wayne shared their experiences with the awards process, highlighting the challenges & inconsistencies in obtaining decorations.

Stinger 41 Awards Status: The conversation included discussion about the various avenues that have been or are being worked: the current AF Magazine article, the role of Generals with Tom Waskow taking lead, Whit Peters & other officials in the awards process. If all fails, the group considered writing letters to local representatives to express frustration with the delays & inconsistencies.

Newsletter & Media Updates Meeting: John has Bill’s timeline on near future Flash distribution. Wayne & John Forbes will handle the 18th SOS distribution together for now, but we need a more permanent POC.

Mike discussed plans for a story about the new 17th SOS, but after the reunion.

Gus reported on Quartermaster activities & mentioned he would mail Doug's check this week. Wayne provided an update on the website, noting that Liz continues to manage it well & that he has not communicated further with the PAO folks. It is on his “to do” list.

Mike shared details about his upcoming presentation at the Vietnam Forgotten Warriors Museum in Cape May on September 20th, which will include a gift of Shadow & Stinger lithograph.

The board discussed the need to move their contact list to Google Workplace, though Mike noted this process would be time-consuming. Since Zoom is paid for another year, no rush to proceed.

Miscellany, Banquet Video, & Meeting Updates:

We covered several topics, including phone number changes, flash procedures, & a video project for the upcoming banquet.

Roy suggested using a 3-minute video with a link instead of printing photos in the newsletter to save space. Mike agreed – a good idea. The group discussed the possibility of playing a tribute video during the banquet, with Roy offering to help arrange it. Same issue with A/V.

David shared an update on Ev's condition after visiting him & mentioned plans to visit him & do a road trip to the Air Museum in Mesa. Ev is still struggling to improve is mobility.

The board's next meeting was scheduled for **Monday, October 13th**, which was noted to coincide with the closure of reunion registration.

Meeting Adjourned about 1820hrs PST, Prepared by Bob Safreno

Reviewed by Mike Drzyzga 9/11/2025 & Wayne Laessig 9/15/25