

AC-119 Gunship Association Membership Meeting Summary Held Nov 15, 2025 at Fort Walton Beach

1. Membership Report - Dave Voisey:: Annual & Life were eliminated ~ There is now "Regular" & "Associates". Total Members: Regular & Associates 2024: 549 (504+45) ~ 2025 632 (460+169)
2. Treasurer Report - Doug Wohlgamuth: See detailed report below. Hootch costs this year were covered by Eddie & Del Mims. Thank you!
3. Association Database - Ron Julian maintains an SQL database that is tied to the website & creates the Master Contact List, which each POCs gets as a breakout Spreadsheet for their distribution.
4. Website Home Page www.ac119gunships.com; Historical info <https://www.ac119gunships.com/historyreferences/ac-119-air-&-ground-crew-our-bios-videos-&-stories/>
5. Quartermaster - Gus Sininger needs to step back & he's looking for help managing QM Store.
6. Newsletter "Firing Circle" Editor John Forbes: 11 Firing Circle & Flashes distributed to 1,200+ people!!. Future: same format, with only 2 Firing Circles snail-mailed. Flash messages will only go to those with email address.
7. AC-119 Gunship Facebook Page has 835 members at "*AC-119Gunships*" Our official Association Facebook Page. We also endorse "*AIR FORCE GUNNERS*" & "*Fixed Wing Gunships*" initiated by Ev Sprou; "*U.S. Military Veterans news you can use*" created by our Facebook Admins.
8. Association - Point of Contacts (POCs) your "go-to(s)" to UPDATE your contact information!!
 - 71st SOS – Interim John Forbes; Chuck Callahan volunteered as POC after the meeting
 - 17th SOS - George Renfro
 - 18th SOS - Interim Wayne Laessig; Bob Dydo volunteered as POC after the meeting.
 - Maintenance Personnel - Tom Brander
 - KIA Families; Family/Friends; & Honorary - Wayne Laessig

9. Legacy Squadrons - Point of Contacts (POCs) if a Squadron was/ is activated as the 71st, 17th, or 18th no matter the aircraft, we are part of their history, lineage, & heritage.
 - 18th SOTES Hurlburt AFB - Gus Sininger
 - 71st SOS Kirland AFB - CV-22 Osprey (Note: Chuck Callahan volunteered after the meeting)
 - 16th SOS Cannon, AC-130J Spectre - They absorbed the 17th SOS "Jackals"
 - 4th SOS Spooky - Hurlburt, AC-130J - They absorbed the 73rd "Shadows" 2023
 - 17th SOS returned, OK WRANG OA-1K "Jackals"
10. Stinger 850 Update (Only surviving AC-119) which was originally found at TSN with other U.S. aircraft. Boots on the ground verified, thanks to Bruce Byrd. Disassembled once & relocated three times. Hangered once & started to be restored (picture). Lots of information & pictures on our Web Site. No hope of "repatriating" 850 back to the USA. MAYBE find it on Web - use "Google Earth". See 2024 Newsletter. May be moving to a museum near Khe San. Terry Sarul has a new contact in Australia - Frank Palmieri. As of October 2025, nowhere in sight! Reportedly still intact. Wayne discussed Kirstin Hamman's upcoming trip to Vietnam.
11. Awards & Decorations, PACT act, DD214s - Chair, Roy Davis: Stinger 41 Awards in Process 4 + Years! Use the Agent Orange Registry & PACT Act, Get with the VA, use a Veteran Service Officer to Correct/Obtain DD214s.
12. Future Reunions 2026 - Phoenix, AZ at Phoenix-Mesa Holiday Inn. October 20 - 25. 2027 - Somewhere EAST of Mississippi River. Armed Forces Reunions (AFR) is our Reunion event coordinator. We polled the attendees asking: current reunion format 5 days with 2 tour choices, OR Shorter (less formal) event Fri & Sat only. Large Majority of attendees: keep reunion format as is.
13. Election of 2025/26 Board of Directors/Slate of Officers: Mike Drzyzga moved to approve the Slate; Gus Sininger seconded; passed by all members present: President: Bill Petrie; Vice-President: Terry Sarul; Secretary: Robert "Bob" Safreno; Treasurer: Doug Wohlgamuth; Immediate Past President: Mike Drzyzga; Members-at-Large: Gus Sininger, Roy Davis & Dave Voisey
14. Moola, Denaro, Bread, Pienza, if you might leave the Association some money in your will, donate it now if you can!!!!. A couple of years ago, one of our members donated \$10,000 that helped keep our heads above water!