

AC-119 Gunship Association Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday September 30, 2006
MCM Elegante Hotel Albuquerque, NM

1. AC-119 Gunship Association President Wayne Laessig opened the annual meeting at 0910 hours with the Association membership's Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Association Chaplain Larry Hunter.
2. The minutes from last year's annual meeting were accepted and approved by the membership.
3. Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth gave the annual Treasurer's report. We had \$13,500 to operate on following last year's Reunion. Costs included mailings, web, Awards, T-Shirts, Coins, patches, pins, hats, etc. Reunion costs are expected to be close to break even this year – Hootch costs are a large factor. Expected dues, T-shirt, coins, and other merchandise sales, along with auction donations (71st, 17th, and 18th Squadron-numbered coins plus additional contributions are auctioned at the Banquet), should result in an expected operating account of \$12,000 for 2007. Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
4. Secretary Jim Alvis gave the membership report and statistics through September 23, 2006. There were 62 new members last year and 8 deceased. From 2002 through 2006 memberships increased as follows:
 - Life 50 in 2002 215 in 2006
 - Annual 152 in 2002 164 in 2006
 - Honorary 1 in 2002 18 in 2006Secretary's report was accepted and approved.
5. Wayne went over the Association's By-laws for membership: anyone directly involved with any aspect of AC-119s (including trainers, maintainers, other support folks, etc) can become a Regular Life or Annual member. Anyone else who has any affiliation with AC-119 Gunships (extended family members included) can become an Associate Life or Annual member.
6. Wayne discussed Newsletter and Point of Contact (POC) efforts this past year: close to 90% of members have emails; snail-mails cost \$600 (copies and postage) for 2 Newsletters and POC contact messages.
 - Almost all 71st and 17th SOS in attendance were contacted at least once by their POC. Most of the 18th in attendance were contacted (the 18th list is double the size of the other two combined). Great work POCs Jim Alvis (71st) Chuck James (17th), and Ev Sprous (18th).
 - No Maintenance POC contacts were made. Jim Terry volunteered to be the Maintenance POC for next year (including all support personnel).
 - Jim Alvis emphasized the need to provide e-mail address updates. E-mails are cost-effective and when we have to snail-mail to determine a "changed" e-mail address it costs the Association - not much cost for updating one-person's changed e-mail address, but cumulatively costly for us. **Please**, send e-mail or other address/phone changes to Jim Alvis, Secretary at 3110 Maqua Court, Carmel, IN 46033-4136 or shadow1969@indy.rr.com
7. Mac discussed the Awards and Decorations area. Considerable information is available on the website – check it out first. Send in a polished product and you will likely have good results.
8. Wayne asked for a vote of confidence from the membership for the board to make common sense decisions about projects and expenditures for the good of the association. The vote was overwhelmingly positive.
9. History Project: Wayne emphasized the importance for AC-119 members to write and tell their story for inclusion into a history book and introduced Larry Fletcher – Larry volunteered one year ago to be the History Book Project coordinator, with Ralph Lefarth assisting on photographs.
 - Larry only received 48 biographies (the Air Commando Association's history book had 165 biographies and that was not enough). Larry reiterated the need for bios. He will take care of editing the written biographies where necessary - there is no minimum length for the bio, which can include career info after your tour in Vietnam. It is best to provide too much info rather than too little. Bio input sheets were distributed and bio formats are on the AC-119 Gunship website.
 - Send any photos to Ralph for processing - he can scan prints and slides for digitizing. Ralph needs to know who sends the photos and identification of the photo's individuals, dates, location, and situation.

Wayne then requested a vote of confidence from the membership to allow Larry Fletcher and the History Book Project team to proceed with the AC-119 History Book Project. The vote carried unanimously.

10. Historical items and memorabilia “repository”: On a related topic, Larry has accumulated a considerable amount of items donated from Association family members. Right now there is no permanent home for memorabilia and historical items such as photos, letters, and tapes. Such items need to be preserved for future generations. Larry suggested we need determine a suitable repository for such items, and identified the Vietnam Center in Lubbock, TX for consideration. Voice vote resulted in a positive response. We will determine details on Vietnam Center procedures, including a possible Association funded visit.
11. Reunion 2007: this Reunion is a joint reunion with the AC-47s and AC-130s. Norm Evans (Co-Reunion Coordinator with Gus Sininger) stated that ‘joint’ applies only to the banquet. Each group will conduct their own special functions and activities. The biggest remaining decision is where to hold the banquet – that is still being worked. Wayne asked for a vote of confidence from the membership to allow Gus and Norm to determine the best location for Reunion 2007 in the Fort Walton Beach/Destin area. Vote of confidence was approved unanimously. The dates for the reunion will be determined – it may be the 1st weekend in October, or the following Columbus Day weekend. Gus and Norm will represent the AC-119 Gunship Association for negotiations with the other two associations. **AC-47 POC _____ was introduced.** He will work with us to expand the AC-47 contacts for the Joint Gunship Reunion.

Anyone remember the AC-47 guy’s name? Was it Don Hiers? Norm, I introduced him – did you write down who he was?

12. Reunion 2008 – Wayne opened the floor reunion 2008 location proposals. The single most important criteria was for someone to step forward as the “Reunion Coordinator”.
- Wayne Laessig, Jim Terry, and Bill Zito proposed a Reunion near Sacramento/Travis AFB at Fairfield, CA. Their proposal included Wayne as Reunion Coordinator with a team of three plus, a Hilton hotel proposal with all 3 Reunion events, Hootch, plus tour options in the Napa and San Francisco areas.
 - Jake Jaeckle proposed a Reunion in Dallas, TX and offered to be the Reunion Coordinator. He provided location photos for Reunion Ranch and a presentation to the membership (no hotel or specific details).
 - Several members then offered comments about the ‘veteran friendly’ environment at Branson, MO (no hotel or specific details). Wayne said the criteria included identification of a specific Reunion Coordinator and asked if there was anyone offering to be the Branson Reunion Coordinator. Jerry McDonald stated he would be the Reunion Coordinator if Branson was selected.
 - No other proposals were offered so the three proposals were voted on:
Fairfield, California 49 Branson, Missouri 60 Dallas, Texas 7
 - Reunion 2008 will be in Branson, MO. Note: due to the close vote, we later asked ALL participants at the Banquet for an input followed by a vote from only those with Regular memberships. The vote for Branson was clear and Branson was re-confirmed as the location.
13. Association Board Nominations for 2007: Doug Wohlgamuth agreed to continue as Treasurer, Vern Hansen as Vice President, and Jim Alvis as Secretary. Nominations were opened for President; several were nominated but declined and Ray Barradale volunteered. Ray was unanimously voted in as President. Wayne Laessig will fill the remaining Board position of Prior Board Member. The Board and members reaffirmed Bill Petrie as Webmaster; Rogers Stevens will continue as Newsletter Editor.
14. Meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.