

## AC-119 Gunship Association Meeting 28 September 2013 San Antonio Texas

1. Meeting opened with Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Secretary Report:** we stayed at the same membership level – up 3 from 2012 to 426 members, with a few more Life & Honorary & a few less annual members. Total contacts increased from 1083 to 1134
  - a. Emails+Phone+Address = 697   ↑  915
  - b. Only   Phone+Address = 259   ↓  114
  - c. Only                Address = 124   ↓  105
  - d. Newsletter snail mailings ↓ from 383 to 219; & E-mailings ↑ 31%
3. **Treasurer Report:** We're in decent shape but with unclear web & database development & management costs; estimates are \$5,000-10,000 for Web & Database search & management costs
  - a. Annual Expenses: \$13,000 -15,000
    - 1) 65% of annual expenses are Hootch beverages & food, KIA Families, T-Shirts, Videos
    - 2) 15% Web/Database/Outreach; 10% each mail/Reunion advertising; & Memoriam donations/awards
  - b. Annual Revenue: \$13,000 -15,000
    - 1) 34% T-Shirts/merchandise; 27% Raffles/Auctions; 26% Reunion Fees; 13% Association Dues
  - c. Annual carryover: \$10,000 – 12,000. But after this Reunion our carryover is more than ever before (about \$20,000) & the IRS increased our end-of-year cap from \$25,000 ↑ \$50,000
4. **State of the Association Report:** Association Charter-why we exist; what we do to achieve that, how we do it

Charter	What we do to achieve that	Who does that
Old Friendships	Reunions, MCL Database, Newsletters, Flash Messages, Outreach, Web Mail Call	Reunion & MCL Coordinators, Newsletter Editor, POCs, IT & Outreach Tms, Facebook Admins
New Friendships	Outreach, MCL, Legacy Squadrons, Reunions	Webmaster, IT & Outreach Tms, Facebook Admins, Legacy POCs
Get AC-119 into rightful place in history	KIA Memorial, web pictures & stories, Stinger Monument, Lithos, Coins, History Book, Newsletters, Web stories/pictures/histories, ACA Interface, video sessions/DVDs, KIA Families, Legacy Squadrons, AC-119K Tail #850, database with ALL our media (HB, videos, pix, lithos, documents, etc)	<b>Project Managers</b> for KIA Memorial, Webmaster, Monument, Lithos, Coins, & History Book. Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, videographer, KIA/Legacy POCs, Facebook Admins

- a. **Current “How”** = Web ↔ Facebook ↔ Database ↔ MCL ↔ Outreach ↔ Newsletter
  - 1) Mostly manual entries & updates; manpower & time intensive
  - 2) Dedicated volunteers: Board, POCs, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor, IT Committee, Outreach Tm
- b. **Future How; what’s it going to take? VOLUNTEERS!!!**
  - 1) Web/Database development & management (probably from a contracted source)
  - 2) Automate & link interfaces: Web ↔ Facebook ↔ Database ↔ MCL ↔ Outreach
  - 3) Annual cash flow: merchandise, raffles/auctions, Association Dues, joint Association/ Legacy efforts
  - 4) Increased Outreach, including Legacy Squadrons (we are their history, heritage, & legacy - they are our future). 300+ new contacts from 3 volunteers in 2013; still 2000 NOT yet in our Database/MCL
- c. We will only achieve our Charter if we contact the 55% of the AC-119ers we’ve “missed” so far, AND get our historical stuff into a database that’s easy to access & update. We’re learning more about the “access” and “use” of our historical database and will provide info to all in a separate Newsletter
5. **Strengths & Challenges:**
  - a. Web Strengths: primary historical site: info, pictures, stories; primary merchandising tool; primary internet face for those with computers who don’t like or use Facebook
  - b. Web Challenges: management time and costs, interfaces with MCL and database; ability to use real time
  - c. Facebook Strengths: open, real-time communication; FB Management Team & Policy/Use Guidelines
  - d. Facebook Challenges: only helps “IF” you use FB & if it feeds Web, Database, MCL
  - e. Newsletter Strengths: allows more complete articles/info; the ONLY info source for 20% of our contacts
  - f. Newsletter Challenges: management times, cost, timeliness
  - g. Database/MCL Strengths: one location for all our contacts & documents for individual & historical uses]

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- h. Database/MCL Challenges: humongously manual labor-intensive; lack of self-feeding links From-To Web, Outreach, Reunion Tracking, Merchandise tracking, Legacy Squadron historical requests
6. **What does Association need**
  - a. Web Search Team (contract + volunteer development & management)
  - b. IT Team (contract + volunteer Team to develop & manage Database, MCL, & interfaces)
  - c. Outreach Team who can & will spend HOURS looking for, finding, & TALKING to guys
  - d. Replacement Newsletter Editor, decide how many NLs we want, & what to include in NLs.
  - e. \$\$\$\$ Everyone sign up spouse for Associate Life Membership (one-time \$\$ gain)
7. **KIA Families:** “Our Past – always remembered.” We were fortunate & honored to host the families of John O’Neal Rucker and David “Roddy” Slagle, a highlight for all of us ((Info in Summer 2013 Newsletter)
8. **Our Future:** Legacy Squadrons – our active-duty connections & POCs
  - a. 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS; Hurlburt – Gus Sininger; 18<sup>th</sup> SOS Flag from Da Nang; Hupe Model; weekly interfaces & solid Commander support; Heritage Friday Patches
  - b. 71<sup>st</sup> SOS; Kirtland CV-22 Ospreys - Al Heuss; tougher (distance) but strong Commander support; critical for 2014 Reunion
  - c. 17<sup>th</sup> SOS; Kadena MC-130 Combat Shadows - John Morrow; toughest (distance) but good Wing / Squadron interest: Heritage Friday Patches
  - d. 73<sup>rd</sup> SOS; Cannon AC-130W Stinger II – Steve Mac Isaac & Bob LaRosa; newest but strong heritage interest; triggered AC-130 Spectre interest; critical for 2014 Reunion
  - e. ALL are VERY interested in seeing, meeting, talking to Ron Terry
9. **History:** last existing AC-119 is Tail # 850 located at Tan Son Nhut. 2009 decisions: no spending of Association money; use Air Attaché to determine whether any of it is recoverable because airframe is too corroded to recover; too expensive to restore; & other AC-119 aircraft are in Taiwan, China, or somewhere
  - a. 2010-2011 updates: no Association money spent, but no Air Attaches for Vietnam anymore & no other AC-119 aircraft exist. Clarified: no intent to refurbish to flyable; only to display-level if recovered
  - b. 2011-2012 updates: aircraft was jacked & towed to other locations & did not fall apart, but there is evidence of increased risk of destruction or inclusion in “American War” Museum
  - c. 2013 decision: we will continue to stay updated on 850’s status & authorized Bruce Byrd to extend business stay in Vietnam to initiate contacts to improve chances to get them to let us have the aircraft
10. **DD214s** – info provided by Steve Mac Isaac: expect to see this in a Newsletter
11. **McBlair Lee:** authored the story of the Fall of Saigon & the loss of the last Vietnamese AC-119K defending it, based on that crew’s only surviving crewmembers recollections
12. **Hootch & Photos**
  - a. Pat McGillis explained his *20MM/7.62 Memorabilia Boxes* (Info on Web/in Summer 2013 Newsletter)
  - b. Doc Fletcher’s Book *Charlie Chasers*(Info on Web/in Summer 2013 Newsletter)
  - c. Photographs: AS SOON AS WE ADJOURN; everyone, then Squadrons, Maintainers, & Ladies
13. **2014 Reunion #15** in Albuquerque, NM. Theme “Operation Legacy” Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2014. Coordinator Steve Mac Isaac. Held at MCM Elegante – best rate in years! Under \$100 with breakfast; Hootch, M&G, Banquet, & BBQ in the hotel. Tours plus 71<sup>st</sup> & 73<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Squadrons hosted events
14. **2015 Reunion Proposals:** prior proposals included Dallas & Washington DC. Al Sproul reported on recent contractor-managed AC-47 Reunion in D.C. We do have a Scope Of Work for possible contractor support.
  - a. Ev Sproul proposed St Louis; [redacted] proposed Dallas-Ft Worth.
  - b. Votes: [redacted] St Louis; [redacted] Dallas-Ft Worth. 2015 Reunion 16 will be in St Louis
15. **Board Elections:** returning Board VP Bob LaRosa, Secretary Mike Drzyzga, Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth, Prior Board Member Gus Sininger, & Member at Large Jim Dunn offered to continue; unanimous Yes vote
  - a. New Board voted in: President Larry “Doc” Fletcher, & Members-at Large Phil Diehl & Cash McCall.
  - b. **New Board met Sunday for transition & strategy planning as well as project assignments**
16. Project Volunteers: Jim Mattison, 2013 Member at Large, volunteered for Web Search, Database, & Facebook Teams. Marty Noonan, Lee Wolf, Mike Mullens, & [redacted] joined Outreach Team; **Bob Dydo, [redacted], & [redacted]** joined Database & Web Search Teams
17. Adjourned → PHOTOS! → McBlair Lee Session with VNAF Instructors