

## AC-119 Gunship Association

### Membership Business Meeting, Saturday, 9/19/2015, Crown Plaza, St. Louis, MO

1. Opening Pledge of Allegiance lead by L. Fletcher (LF) & then Prayer of Thanks offered by Larry Hunter (LH), Chaplain. Secretary M. Drzyzga used a PowerPoint presentation following LF's agenda. Reminder to "silent" cell phones!
2. LF made a strong pitch to have individual or group video sessions completed by videographer J.P. Macissac (Rm is small) – J.P. spoke & reminded all to do it, not for us, but for our legacy. If you are timid, pull a group together. Wayne Laessig related a story of how the video's greatly supplemented a student report originally based from our History Book.
3. LF -- hardy welcome to Eight 1<sup>st</sup> timers!! Five (in attendance) of eight stood to be recognized.
4. LF pushed the updating of the MCL, which is located in the hooch.
5. Gus S. provided an update on Frank Bartlett, having health problems & unable to attend. Further, LF mentioned that Lee Keiser has to miss his 1<sup>st</sup> reunion this year.
6. Secretary's Report, M. Drzyzga: Since Sept. 2014, we added 17 new members (16 Life & 1 Annual), for total membership of 455. There was a small membership increase due to continuing efforts of the Facebook Committee. Membership numbers are basically flat over near term, but maybe we can keep the slight increase going in the next year. Plea to make sure that the members update personal data, & provide updates to Sec' or POCs. Also, "Snail" mail is costly as compared to email, Stamps costs \$0.49 ea. now.
7. Treasurer's Report -- D. Wohlgamuth: provided a detailed summary of annual expenses & income: Summarily, we started the year \$ 32,217, added from sales/donations up to \$34,384, & will end the year at about \$20,000. Our monthly expenses have increased with PayPal fees & Teleconference Service costs. The Association earmarked \$10,000 for Web Site development, we made two payments to TWE as their work continues, & we welcome additional "tax-deductible" donations for this effort. Jim Dunn motioned, & Roger Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup>, that both Secretary's & Treasurer's report be accepted. So moved.
8. IT Committee report, W. Laessig: Original project estimate of three months to complete was poor. The info (data files) we need to put on the new site was in many different locations, & it took 6 months to gather it. Also, there was e-file naming convention incompatibilities. Contractor TWE had a tough time learning what we needed. MD provided a Google I-Drive (i-Cloud) which now holds more than 1000 document files. MD went on-line with the laptop & WL demonstrated the new Quartermaster function. Next will be the Alpha Roster for on-line updating. There will also be a "Board only" area. WL will add the "reunion coord' guide" for everyone to access. The new Web Site should be up & running in 6 months. LF introduced the members of the IT Committee: WL (lead), Ron Julian, Jim Mattison, Bob Dydos, & Mike Drzyzga.
9. Gus Sininger - Quartermaster: Gus will need help retuning his inventory to FWB. Spiral-bound History Books are still available, for \$25 at the reunion. Generally, the orders seem to increase pre-reunion. Provide to Gus any new ideas for merchandise for Board approval.
10. Future Reunions – A) Gus provided info re: FWB, 2016 "Welcome Home". **DATE: 10/26–30, 2016** includes a Halloween Party. We are at Ramada Inn. Regis Form will be available soon. Children's meals are ½ price. Gus summarized meal selection & costs. Spouses will be responsible for arranging tours. Larry Hunter (LH) is Gus's assistant. Wide range of boats for large or small fishing trips is available at reduced prices. Additionally, Gus provided info on donated Remington 1911 .45 cal pistol from gunsmith Ron Soderquist. Tickets will be with treasurer DW, Gus keeps possession of the handgun. Winner must use an FFL to transfer ownership. LH spoke about changes in the hotel situation in FWB area, with elevated "resort" costs limited our choices. Ramada does a lot of reunions, worked enthusiastically for us, & our room-night cost will remain at \$119. All reunion functions will be in the Ramada.  
**2017:** Roger Stevens (A. Huess/ R. Julian) for **Dayton, OH**. Locked in for: 9/28 - 10/1. Hotel is not selected yet. Our banquet will be in the museum. The Gunship kiosk is fully completed leading to the theme "They are finally telling our story". Available will be a tour of the Museum's "Restoration Shops". The Memphis Bell will be finished & on display. The fourth hanger will be completed & holding presidential a/c & those a/c now outside.  
**2018:** proposals needed for next year business meeting. MD verbally polled the attendees if LasVegas is a good place for a reunion. We can use a professional "event planner" that MD knows there. It was clear from audience response that LV was of high interest, & MD will have data to present next year. Ev S. suggest for 2018 or 2019, he can host one in Tuscan, AZ.
11. B. Petrie (BP) desires to continue as N/L *Firing Circle* editor. He is now using a Hot Spot in an area of OK w/o good internet access. Anyone with picts or news should send them to LF or BP, PLEASE include names those individuals with faces. LF recognized Ev S. as first NL editor.
12. Association's FaceBook page is continuing successfully: administrators Terry Sarul, Andrea Drzyzga, Lee Wolfe, & Jim Mattison recognized.
13. Bruce Byrd (BB), Update on Stinger "850" at TSN: Bruce did a review of the last 8 yrs. efforts of positively ID'ing & determining the condition of 850. MD used his PDF file presentation. 850 has been moved again, & now is

missing both wings. The airplanes seem to be relocated with a future purpose, apparently to be kept as history, in a museum of some kind. BB desires to re-connect with a near-by tenant: American Link Logistics Group, & possibly travel there in 2016.

14. Legacy Squadron updates from POCs:
  - A) Al Huess/Col. Mac - 71<sup>st</sup> SOS: Col. Mac visited Kirtland, they have two new A/C, very busy in-training, the new commander is unknown at this time.
  - B) 73<sup>rd</sup> at Cannon with "W's are Stinger IIs, AFSOC Shut down Spector's (H's) & many of the fliers deployed to join the W's. Col. Mac has lost contact. Our stuff that was in the legacy room is missing. They have been desiganted the 16<sup>th</sup> SOS. Cannon AFB is all Sp. Ops, home of the 23rd SOW. Col Mac will visit Cannon as his health permits.
  - C) John Morrow -- 17<sup>th</sup> Combat Shadows in Kadena, Japan: All those MC-130Ps are gone. There is a new Commander there. Our contact /historian disappeared. DV is in contact by email with a Capt. Pilot who is trying to re-establish unit history. This story has more to reveal.
  - D) Gus -- the 18<sup>th</sup> FSTS (Hulbert): Gus has an appointment with new Commander, Gus will attend their annual Xmas party, they still have on display a lot of our memorabilia.
15. LF: POCs recognized: Jim Alvis for the 71<sup>st</sup>, Dave Voisey for the 17<sup>th</sup>, Ev Sprous for 18<sup>th</sup>, Andy Bright for Maintainers/Ground Support.
16. WL, POC for Honorary/ KIA families: Introduction for new attendees, explaining the sensitivity of dealing with families. Any & all detailed contacts with KIA families must be made through Wayne Laessig. This will avoid potentially damaging relationships, & very hurt feelings.
17. Awards & Decorations, POC Col. Mac:
  - A) Tells story of personal letter placed on a windshield from "a grunt" (Maj. USMC), thanking gunshippers for what we did.
  - B) For any VA action, the DD214 must be accurate & complete. If the DD214 is incorrect, those errors must be fixed. Info is available on the Association's Web Site. Attendees can share copies of their "orders" as very well supporting documents.
  - C) Mac is looking for anyone who knows Robert E. Kneusel, FE Stingers, Ret. SMSgt. Mac must have his DD214 repaired in order to move forward with VA paperwork. He did make our 1<sup>st</sup> reunion, but felt a bit alienated. MD will include this as a NL item, plus WL can sort MCL to I.D. those most likely to know him.
  - D) We all must be on the Agent Orange registry – go to the VA to register. LH: Eglin AFB & its aux fields are on the Agent Orange location list.
18. K. Stern reported that there is a Phan Rang AFB master roster "posted" on the InterNet.
19. New Board for 2015-2016. LF introduced the extended Board members. The Board is willing to stay one more year to keep project continuity, unless anyone wants "on" right now?? Norm Evans motioned, Don Craig 2<sup>nd</sup>, to keep the exiting Board members another yr. Motion passed, no discussion needed. WE need to take advantage of newer folks to added fresh ideas. We do have Lee Wolfe helping Gus & R. LeFarth helping Doug W.
20. Norm Evans: presented a Biography Form & information re: a project by Spector Association to make a book "50 Years of Gunships" . Anyone of Fixed Wing gunshippers can send pict's & stories. See Norman for additional information.
21. LF opened the agenda to questions/comments from the attendees on the floor:
  - a. Jerry Hester: Paul Campbell was remembered as "Uncle Sam". He is living in LasVegas. Please visit him if traveling that way. He wants visitors.
  - b. Terry Sarul (TS): i) interest of addendum to the current Association History Book. As many as 500 additional bios/stories may be out there. TS wants to start the process by availing the biography form. WL should post the Bio Form on Web site & (Bill P/ MD) add a news item note in next NL/Flash. WL reported that the spouses may transcribe new videos into written bios. ii) TS introduced newbies: Bruce Whelan & John Wolff (absent earlier).
  - c. Ken Stern spoke regarding Banquet dress code: Is Jackett/Tie necessary? Unanimous decision to make a policy of "casual dress code". Attendees can certainly "dress-up" if they want. But "Casual" means neat & clean!
  - d. Ev Sprous: Pitched FaceBook & Association membership.
  - e. Gus: Was asked why reunions are scheduled at different weeks every year & can we keep a fixed week in the future? Thoughts flew up from the floor that many factors such as hotel rates/timing, host base activities, & reunion coordinator schedules interfere. No decision – meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted (DRAFT) Oct. 1, 2015

M. Drzyzga, Secretary