

SPECTRE Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2020; 6:00PM Central



Programmed Participants:

Fred Taylor, President-

Bill Allen, Vice President-

Bill Patterson, Treasurer-

Bill Walter, Historian; absent: duty/health

Ed Rodriguez, Quartermaster-

P.J. Cook, Web Developer-

Jerry Michaud, Board Member; attended by phone – as Zoom petered out-

Ski Gonsowski, Board Member-

Duane Spencer, Board Member-

Ed Metz, Board Member; attended using phone alternative-

Darren Vitalo, Board Member-

Barry Gossman, Board Member-

Norm Evans, Board Member; attended using phone alternative-

Kevin Moyer, Board Member-

Dick Vancil, Secretary-

Special Guest: Bernie Frakes-

Fred opened the meeting and Bill A verified the attendees. All members were present, except as noted. The meeting started at 6:00.

Fred wished everyone well. This meeting was held as a virtual Zoom conference and dial-in telecom.

REPORTS:

Fred called for the previous board minutes.

BOARD MINUTES:

All attendees had reviewed the last board meeting minutes (sent earlier), and concurred, as written.

Duane made a motion to accept the minutes. Bill P seconded the motion and a vote was taken - the Minutes were accepted and PJ will post to the website.

Fred asked for the Treasurer's Report.

Bill P reported the following:

TREASURER'S REPORT JUNE 02, 2020:

Checking Account **1517

\$04536.29

Gunner Jack Fund **0419	\$10,393.77
Scholarship Fund **5921	\$16,755.33
Operating Fund **5913	\$29,928.37
MS BOND	\$25,000.00
Total	\$86,613.76

Duane made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Norm seconded it. The motion passed and the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Fred asked for the Quartermaster's Report.

SPECTRE STORE:

- Ed R reported:

May	Sales						
Date	Gross Amount	Fees	Shipping & Handling	FL Sales Tax	Membership	Donations	Net Amount
Totals-->	\$717.50	-\$25.33	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$692.17

May sales were up, not a lot, but better than April. We sold \$717.50 in merchandise. Ed R had to reimburse two customers for a total of \$35 due to non-availability of requested t-shirt sizes. Ed R is still not re-ordering for t-shirts or embroidery. Ed R was able to pick up the Lifetime Membership Brass Cards and mailed them to the members. The receipt was paid via our credit card as we did not want any additional delays in payments or receipts to the Treasurer.

Fred called for a motion to accept the Quartermaster's report. Bill P made the motion and Duane seconded it. A vote was taken and the QM Report passed with no objection.

DISCUSSION:

AC-130 PLAQUE DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION

As a residual task from his presidency and to honor his commitment, Bernie attended tonight's meeting to lead the final discussions and submittal of the AFA Plaque. After some discussion regarding the intent of the plaque and some verbiage adjustments it was decided that Bernie would rewrite the plaque wording and submit our final recommendation to the Air Force Academy reps for their edit/approval/use.

This was formalized by Duane's motion seconded by Vito and unanimous vote to allow Bernie to make the necessary changes and put this matter to bed.

The agreed upon AFA Plaque wording is:
Air Force Academy SEA Plaque

4 Jun 2020

THE AC-130 GUNSHIP (GUNSHIP II) PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED BY PROGRAM MANAGERS AND ENGINEERS ACTING AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE IN 1967-1973 TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF NIGHT-TIME INTERDICTION AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. INITIALLY INTENDED TO BE A HEAVILY ARMED UPGRADE OF THE AC-47 AND AC-119, IT HAD FOUR 7.62 AND FOUR 20MM GATLING GUNS. IN 1968 THE 16TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON, "SPECTRE", WAS ACTIVATED AT UBON RTAFB, THAILAND AND EQUIPPED WITH AC-130A GUNSHIPS. THEY WERE RAPIDLY COMMITTED TO NIGHT INTERDICTION OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL. BY THE END OF THE FIRST "OPERATION COMMANDO HUNT", SPECTRE WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TRUCK KILLER IN THEATER AND BY 1973 HAD DESTROYED OR DAMAGED OVER 10,000 ENEMY TRUCKS. PROGRAM OFFICE AND ACADEMY PERSONNEL FLEW ON COMBAT MISSIONS AS FULL CREW MEMBERS. THE AC-130S WERE CONTINUOUSLY UPGRADED DURING COMBAT OPERATIONS BY THE PROGRAM OFFICE AND ENGINEERS SUPPORTED BY AIR FORCE ACADEMY FACULTY. LATER PRODUCTION AC-130 GUNSHIPS WERE UPGRADED WITH NEW SENSORS, FIRE CONTROL COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE, DEFENSIVE ELECTRONICS, AND 40MM/105MM CANNONS. OSD AND SECAF FORMALLY LAUDED THE AC-130 PROGRAM OFFICE TEAM AS CRITICALLY RESPONSIVE AND INNOVATIVE. THEY ALSO PRAISED THE COURAGEOUS SPECTRE CREWS, WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL ACADEMY GRADUATES, FOR THEIR BRAVERY UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE. DESPITE VALIANT EFFORTS, SIX AC-130 GUNSHIPS ALONG WITH FIFTY-TWO CREW MEMBERS WERE LOST. WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER AND HEREBY PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE CREWMEN WHO GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE DURING COMBAT MISSIONS OVER SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Fred thanked Bernie for his efforts on this matter and conducted a vote to authorize Bernie to forward the wording to the Academy reps. The project and submittal was approved without dissent. Bernie will let the board know of any further correspondence on this issue.

As previously agreed, it is our preference that an "A" Model AC-130 silhouette be depicted on the AFA plaque. Bernie will ensure that the AC-130A requirement is conveyed to the AFA heirarchy finalizing the plaque.

GUEST SPEAKER UPDATE

Bill P started the guest speaker discussion noting the uncertain times and health risks involved for many seeking to attend our, as yet, unfinalized, reunion. It was pointed out that many military reunions have already been canceled for the upcoming post-summer convention period due to health concerns and travel restrictions.

Fred interceded and asked that all guest speaker arrangements be placed in abeyance until a final determination is made regarding the next proposed reunion (dates, times, locations, etc.). This matter is tabled until such time as a final reunion decision is made. More to follow, at a later date.

REUNION UPDATE

Vito and others commented that even understanding the current uncertainties and risks that we owe the membership a decision on the reunion. It was suggested that poll the general membership via Facebook and ask for their attendance plans, if we were to hold a reunion. This will give us a better basis for our final reunion decision.

Bill A agreed to take the lead and ask folks on the Spectre FB Website about their reunion preferences. This may entail both reunion venue and length changes. No decision was made at tonight's meeting regarding the next reunion other than to postpone any decision until after the next meeting (o/a July 7).

Bill A posted the following on our FB page ...

"At last night's meeting of the Spectre Association Board of Directors the question of cancelling the Annual Spectre Reunion scheduled for October 8-11 2020 came up. There have been a lot of other service reunions cancelled already due to this Covid-19 scare. The Board is split on whether to go ahead or not. Our county has only had 210 reported cases and 6 deaths, to date. What I'm looking for is feedback from my Spectre brothers as to how you guys feel about going ahead with the Reunion, even if you may not be attending, though we'd love to have ya, If we go ahead with it as planned. Let us hear from you."

PJ noted that the Air Commandos' Reunion was still planned. Fred has conflicting info on the Air Commandos reunion status that he will verify and report back regarding its validity.

We await input from our membership as to whether or not to host a formal reunion this year. More info to follow.

BUSINESS MEETING LOCATION UPDATE (VFW)

Fred stated that it is uncertain whether or not the VFW will be open for our next meeting on 7 July, so we will tentatively meet at Bill A's house. Everyone concurred. If this becomes necessary, Bill A's address and specifics will be sent to all board members.

The VFW remains as our preferred meeting location and will be “primary” if it is open and available.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred called for new business.

No new business was discussed other than the next meeting place previously mentioned.

There being no further business, we agreed to adjourn. Vito and others noted the the Zoom Meeting format worked well and preferred it over the “phone-in “ sessions.

There were several negative comments about the Zoom session timing out (at the 40 minute point) and cutting everyone off. We may need to consider paying for an account to prevent that issue in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM

POST MEETING NOTE:

The VFW just announced they were returning to normal operations as of June 5th so it looks like our next meeting will be at the VFW as we normally do with our out of town board members joining by phone.

As of today, 6 Jun, only 3 responses have been against having the reunion, the remainder have been in favor, overwhelmingly.

- Dick Vancil - Secretary