

61st AHC Advisory Panel

Website Management



Meeting Agenda

17 November 2012, 10:00 EST

The Discussion points of the meeting agenda are rearranged in the priorities set by the panel. Comments regarding each point are entered as shown below.

Member's opening statements:

Honorary member Mr. James "Jim" Beach.

Other members.

Opening remarks were made by each member mostly thanking Jim for his efforts in setting up the site that we now see. Remarks are generally supportive of having the site to be more active. The panel discussed membership but the matter was deferred to a later meeting.

Work Priorities are as follows:

1. Visitor's counter. Marve P. summed up the matter as, "It would be fun." Discussion was included, and finally declared this would be easy, good for management, and "It would be fun." So in fun, the visitor's counter will be added as a first topic of improvement. (Visitor's counter has been added but there was a problem with the front page where the recent Bong Son Project editing is temporarily lost. We should have a recovery by around December 1st. GW)
2. Privacy Statement. Discussion was made, and concluded to have Marv S., and G. Wax would go over a privacy statement, and a code of conduct would be added as a next priority. All agreed. Subsequent to the meeting Marv S., sent an email to Wax that he had the Privacy statement, and code of conduct is ready for review, and installation. In process.
3. Military Records Corrections help, and referral.
 - A. DD Form 149 filing information.
 - B. 10 USC 1103 process.
 - C. VA referrals information..

Items 9., and 10., on the agenda garnered a great deal of discussion with probably the greatest enthusiasm for the assistance to 61st AHC members, and any veteran who visits. The panel agreed that getting military records corrected was important. It is noted there is concerned the Awards Program didn't work very well, and that recorded history is filled with possible errors. The assistance, or referral for VA help was discussed with enthusiasm, noting that help can be obtained with claims processing. Regarding 10 USC 1103, this is corrected to read 10 USC 1130; so the correction is important to note. Again, the interest in this process was enthusiastically made noting that we don't know very much about it. During the entire meeting these items were most enthusiastically discussed. These items are to be included on the agendas of future meetings.

4. Guest Book by name, and service dates. This item was discussed as the fourth most important to develop. Interest is noted for the assembly by year, and, maybe, quarter; or some date search method so members could arrange the book, or roster by service date. This would enable members to survey the names that would be most relevant to them. Jim noted that on the original website in the member's area, the Directory had a list of members by year. This should be fairly simple to update the current roster to add a year(s) of service.
5. History editing feature for an additional pages. Discussion of this item gained considerable interest for updating, correcting, and adding to the History statements. Gordon said the 69 history is started but it didn't work as he expected for display during the meeting. Subsequently, the web problem was solved, and the 69 history is on it first shaky legs. Everyone was encourage to visit, and see the start. Editing features were approached with caution and interest for the review of additions, or changes before being placed on the web. Including the names of members in the history was discussed; other than CO. An understanding was established that changes would be reviewed before being brought up on line. Enthusiasm was pretty strong on this point, and subsequent to the meeting, Marv S. circulated an email with an example that deserved merit for inclusion. Political, and religious matters were discussed and considered inappropriate for the site. Some examples were provided to demonstrate the points. This matter was decided to be deferred for future meetings when we could establish posting rules. Jim emphasized to watch for political and religious oriented material. He explains that he had some problems with this years ago. The original Unit History for 70-72 includes the names of Gains and Losses to the unit by month. With the old site storage space, he was not able to add everything into that unit history. (I am not sure how space will affect us but Robert Kimes told me the amount of available space, and it appeared to be quite large. Maybe, we can ask for more if necessary, or to buy additional space with a monthly charge. Space is fairly cheap now. GW)

Marv Strawn has circulated a 67 history revision. (GW - I learned more about the 61st AHC than I knew before. Good job.)

6. Pictures, stories, and rosters by year, and quarter. Get explanations for pictures. These items were discussed with considerable interest to better organize, or arrange pictures and stories. Emphasis was made to encourage participation of the 61st AHC members.

Stories that would help pull together the fragmented experiences that members would help present a clearer picture of our missions, and the execution of those missions.

7. Member's biography, and contact information. This topic was discussed with interest. A brief bio, or vitae was discussed, and considered a note worthy topic. The site's objective to unite members was acknowledged. This item is deferred to later meeting for further consideration.
8. Member's only area. This item was decided to not be of interest for the panel. All agreed that we probably will pursue development of a member's only area. Jim said Jerry Feldman set up the member's area before. Everyone had their own password, and could change their profiles as they wanted. But, Jim said people wanted to drop this stuff onto him, for him to change; and it became too big of a job. (People might be more computer literate compared to ten years ago. GW Marv Strawn later mentioned some points about member's privacy - issue to be explored.)
9. Marve P. offered a point about having a "potpourri section" where members could ad-lib entries to the site. A sort of free form. This idea could be included in items above, or made as a separate area. While shown here as a ninth item, it is noted that it could be elevated to a higher priority at a later time. This matter will stay on future meeting agendas.

Cost of operations was discussed with an agreement to work with volunteers first then using a professional support staff. Small costs to be paid by G. Wax, since sending out small amounts for reimbursement doesn't make sense. Larger efforts to be agreed upon in advance by the panel for sharing by the panel. As interest in the site grows, maybe a site operations donate link could be added. Later to the meeting, Gordon suggested the Ken E. that if donations exceeded operating costs, then the residual could be donated to the Bong Son Library Project. Ken to check out the Bong Son Library Project discussion, and donation link.

Marv Strawn: In the past, we have been contacted by family members wanting to know more about someone who was in the unit. I also think our unit members will want more memories to share with their children and grandchildren as well as reconnect. Discussion followed this point with focus around something like a Locator Panel of volunteers that would help location family members of our KIA, or deceased members, or just wanting to gain contact with members, and family members. A locator area was discussed. Matter to be deferred to future meetings. An example surfaced subsequent to the meeting related to Lt. Dalton's nephew; Thomas Latimer. A test email showed an obsolete email address with a postmaster reject for him; a test Locator Team project email was sent by Gordon. Can we locate Tom Latimer? Matter to be deferred to future meetings.

Gordon is going to check out putting some of the above items up at the top of the page, in a tab format.

After just a little longer than one hour the meeting was closed, and attendees hung up.

Draft prepared, and sent out for comments. Final to close November 26, 2012 after being delayed by Thanksgiving Holiday. Comments from members were added almost as submitted back to me.

Members:

Jim Beach	207-469-3771
Marve Papka	303-795-8554
Ken Embers	785-410-2195
Monk Hilliard	717-258-4283
Marv Strawn	414-477-7252
Larry Mattioda	262-891-3273

Gordon Wax	406-777-1040	854 Pine Hollow Road, Stevensville, MT 59870,
- Moderator/ Secretary		

Note: I have some addresses so I'll add those to the list if no one objects. For others, please let me know about having your address shown here.