

Report to the Membership (cont.)

A member then asked if the membership will be told prior to the end of the reunion where the 2005 reunion will be held. The President advised that an effort was being made to obtain definite dates from the Chinese on the August 2005 celebration so the Reunion could be planned to insure that the Chinese 2005 tour and our 2005 reunion do not interfere with each other.

Another member asked if a decision could be made now on location with actual dates to be determined later. It was explained that locations, dates and room prices all go together. It would be very difficult to select a location before taking a look at the dates and prices available. At this point it was stated that at the present time San Antonio is the first choice for the 2005 reunion but the room rates were very high a \$145 plus tax. A straw poll was then taken from the membership present as to whether the \$145 room rate would be a detriment to attending. The poll strongly indicated that this room rate would not be a deterrent to attending our last reunion.

There being no more discussion from the floor, Dr. Mark Russell, on behalf of JPAC, then made a visual and oral presentation to the membership explaining methods and procedures used by JPAC when searching for MIA aircraft and crews. He reviewed a recent successful effort in their search for MIA in Burma. An aircraft was located and examined northwest of Myitkyina. He explained that JPAC was searching for MIAs from all wars. Their ability to search in Burma is very limited by their budgets. This was a very interesting presentation.

This presentation was the last item of business at the meeting. The membership was asked if there was any further business to come before the group. There being no further items for discussion the President asked that all members of the Board meet in the back of the room following dismissal for a short called Board Meeting to consider a couple items. The meeting was then adjourned at 10:40 am.

CALLED BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

Immediately following the Business Meeting the Board met for a brief session. **Two items were discussed.** The first item was a motion to vote on the site of the 2005 Membership Reunion. Based on an understanding that the now available dates of the 2005 China Tour, as provided by Mr. Liu, would be from August 10 – 19, 2005, dates which would not be too close to dates available for a San Antonio Reunion, the Board voted and passed a motion to hold the 2005 Reunion in San Antonio on September 9 – 13, 2005.

The second item discussed was to make a \$1,000 donation to the B-24 Memorial to be located in Balboa Park in San Diego, CA. Our interest in donating is based upon the use of the C-87 version of the B-24 in flying the Hump. This item was discussed to the extent that we wanted to ensure that some reference would be made to the use of the C-87 over the Hump on plaques contained at the site. With this understanding a motion was made to donate \$1,000 to the project if we could receive reasonable assurance that our desires for the C-87 mention be met. This motion was voted on and passed with the condition stated. The President will contact the B-24 sponsoring group for a discussion on this matter. The Board meeting was then adjourned.

Hump Flying After the Surrender

The situation at the U.S. Army Airbases in China that we were still supporting by delivering supplies, became very volatile. Before each flight we were briefed on the situation at our destination, insofar as such facts were known in the operations office. During hostilities with the Japanese, on the prodding of the US, the Chiang Kai-shek Nationalists, and the Chinese Communists under Mao Zse Tung, had entered into a truce agreement. It was always at best a shaky arrangement. After the surrender all bets were off. No one was sure when the hostilities would be resumed for the control of China. It was not whether, but when the shooting would begin. This was a critical question to the planners of the post war evacuation of the American troops still in China.