**Amplifying Details Handout for the Reunion (Tentative Plan) 11-13 November 2024**

**Blue Angels.** Do their final Homecoming Show 2 weekends before (1-3 November) our Monday kickoff on 11 November. No show for us, but it’ll help a lot with traffic and crowds.

**Base Access**. Is back to normal! “Real” ID’s or passports required so please bring them!

**Room Rates and Availability:** Hilton rates are $169-189/Holiday Inn rates are $159­179, with differences being Gulf View or ‘Standard’. Both hotels will have rooms for us at that rate from Friday, 8 Nov thru Friday, 15 Nov.

**Reunion Program**. We will strive to provide a great reunion program and will keep you advised. We think our 2018 P’cola program worked well and we’ll shoot for something similar in ’24. We’d like to first note some basic changes from our normal routine, made appropriate with our use of two hotels as venues.

First off--We’re in two adjacent hotels and there are good reasons for this despite some minimal inconveniences. For those budget-minded, the Holiday Inn Resort has a slightly less expensive room rate than the Hilton P’cola Beach across the board. Rates at both the Inn and the Hilton, sister hotels, vary a bit as well for whether your room looks out South at the Gulf of Mexico or North over Gulf Breeze and P’cola Bay. The Hilton would also charge us lots for a Ready Room/Happy Hour space and would not allow us to self-cater that operation. The Holiday Inn’s rooms are comparable, meeting space is very adequate and inexpensive, and will let us self-cater our happy hours. The hotels ARE adjacent and a 150 yard walk gets you from one to the other.

Secondly—as in the past, we’ll be running two types of social events, **Ready Room Happy Hours** for informal socializing and our **two main receptions**. The Happy Hours will have goodies for sale, video and slide shows ongoing, self-catered light snacks and drinks, and be open about 4 hours a day, Mon afternoon, Tues evening, Wed afternoon and a shorter kiss-off session Thursday morning with coffee and donuts. Our two receptions will be Monday evening’s Welcome Reception (We’ll also do a modest Birthday ceremony here with, at minimum, hymn-singing and a fine cake to share). and our main Farewell Reception Wednesday evening with guest speaker, choral presentation and unit photo opportunities. Both receptions will have catered hors d’oevres and cash bars.

Third—again as in the past, one of the best parts of our reunions has been the informal unit gatherings for meals (or whatever). We expect to promote and help organize these unit get togethers throughout the reunion and hope all our previous

organizers will be back in force with their unit rosters and contact lists. These mostly lunches and dinners are a key part of reunion fun. Please help each other out getting them organized! We’ll be providing lists of suitable restaurants in the next several months. We’d like your ‘mini-reunions’ to be scheduled outside of reception hours, please, and stand ready to support our “flight leaders” all the way thru. We’d like to especially encourage Tuesday dinners and Wednesday lunches to deconflict with our main touring day and two evening receptions.

**Monday** (11 Nov) will be registration, **Ready Room Happy Hour (~12-1600)** and **Welcome Reception (~18-2200).** Happy Hours at the Holiday Inn, Receptions at the Hilton for the entire reunion! Registration at the Holiday Inn until 1600, then resumes at the Hilton reception 18-2200.

**Tuesday** (12 Nov) will be our touring day with a Memorial Service at the P’cola Veterans Cemetery (and its Marine Aviation Memorial Tower and Vietnam Memorial Wall), National Naval Aviation Museum tours (including lunch by the Blues Diamond), and staggered bus departures back to the beach hotels thru the afternoon (~0830-1600). Ready Room Happy Hour (19-2300) and unit dinners (on your own) in the evening.

**Wednesday** (13 Nov) will be our on own touring and possible unit beach party day, Ready Room Happy Hours in the afternoon (12-1600), unit luncheons or on your own touring/relaxing, and our evening **Farewell Reception (19-**

**2300).** Extra trolleys will be arranged to/from the hotels and downtown P’cola.

**Thursday** (14 Nov) is a morning Ready Room Happy Hour (09-1100) with coffee, juice and pastries...while the committee undecorates and talks about the next one.

**That’s our plan...until it changes, of course.**

**Beachfront Locale.** We think the beachfront locale will make this a great one for unit mini-reunion gatherings too. We’ll look at potential catering options for unit beach parties as we get closer to 2024. We plan to work with Beach Bum Trolleys to get them primed to service our hotels to make getting downtown quick and easy, as well.

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