

281st ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

COMPANY NEWSLETTER #11

JULY 2001

REUNION 2001 SPECIAL

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSN REUNION (SOAR)
281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY ASSN REUNION
26-30 SEPTEMBER
Plaza Hotel & CASINO
ONE MAIN STREET
LAS VEGAS, NV 89125
(800) 634-6575

A word from the President

Hello everyone! It is that time of year again. I hope everyone has booked their flights and hotel rooms in Las Vegas for the Reunion. Get those forms filled out and mailed in.

This thing is like the World's Fair, it gets bigger and better every year. We are anticipating having upwards of 150 Intruders and guests at this event. I hope everyone has a safe trip and am looking forward to seeing you in Vegas. I will be the slightly overweight, balding guy with a mustache, wearing a 281st Cap sitting at the bar. That probably describes about half of us.

Bob Mitchell
President
281st AHC Assn

The Editor brings you "The rest of the story"

One month to go and counting. I don't know about you but I'm really getting excited about our second annual reunion. If the numbers keep rolling in as they have to date then we'll have upwards of 150 Intruders descending on hapless Las Vegas.

When the reunion committee first began working on our Vegas event we based our assumptions on the number of folks we had at our first annual reunion in Washington DC at which there were eighty odd Intruders and family. As I mentioned above it now looks like we'll likely have 150+ for the 2001 gathering! Fantastic! And all this is primarily due to the efforts of your Membership Chairman,

Senior Member-at-Large, Gary Stagman. He's been doing an incredible job locating long lost Intruders all over the US. Tell him how much you appreciate his efforts when you see him next month.

Enclosed in this NL you'll find the reunion application. Follow Jeff's instructions in filling it out. I would like to mention that some members are planning on bringing children. Be advised that the SOAR is a very macho adult affair and was not conceived as a family event, hence the Hospitality Suite and the like. If you bring children and plan on attending the luncheon's on Friday and Saturday, as well as the Banquet then you would be advised to purchase the full "All Functions" or "Entire Reunion" \$80 option. Cheaper that way, evaluate the registration / application and you'll see what I mean. I might add that your committee is aware that there is a dearth of events of interest to the distaff side at the SOAR. Because of this Peggy Matthews has been looking into activities that the ladies might enjoy. Contact Peggy at: (email) smatthews@kscable.com (Tel) 785-273-3395.

The 281st part of the Las Vegas event will begin on the 27th with the joint 281st/DELTA Memorial. After thirty years we're back together again. This should be a memorable occasion indeed. On Friday the 28th, the 281st will be having our own exclusive gathering at the American Legion Post located nearby. Your Assn will be footing the bill for this event. The party will kick off at 1330hrs and last until the Legion kicks us out! There will be a full BBQ style meal served at approx 1700. And because of the concern that certain of us might succumb to dehydration due the Las Vegas heat, Bob Moberg, Jack Mayhew and Barc Boyd have contributed \$200 bucks each to pay for libations in order to insure against such an eventuality. Thanks, guys. Also, Steve Matthews and Jack Mayhew are developing a schedule of events for the afternoon, so you can expect a lot more than just BS, beer and har-dee-har-har. The emphasis will be on insuring that old friends, new friends, wives, girl friends, kids, and families, have a great and memorable reunion afternoon. At the SOA Banquet on the 29th, an Awards Ceremony has been arranged where the Air Medal

w/V will be presented to Mike Mcknzie by Chuck "Bruiser" Allen, DELTA CO (1967-68) and Jack Mayhew.

Steve Matthews, your Webmaster asked me to mention that the Reunion 2001 Webpage and Registration Form is linked to the homepage "Intruders Table of Contents Reunion 2001", "Info Sep 26, Las Vegas & Registration Form" on the 281st Assn Website <http://www.281stahc.org>.

Lastly, 281st memorabilia (hats, shirts, pins, etc) will be available at the Reunion. Also, don't forget to call the hotel for room reservations.

OK guys (and gals), that's it from my end. Now its your turn. SEE YOU IN VEGAS!

Fred Mentzer
Immediate Past President
Member, Reunion Committee

The Vice Pres says

Fellow Reunion attendees, I have been asked to do another run of black caps with 281 AHC in yellow on the front. Ask anyone who has one because these are highly visible and will become a collectors item one day. They will sell for around \$8.00 and every penny above the cost will go into the Association kitty. Please let me know if you want one which I will bring to Las Vegas. I plan on printing around 48 but will print more if need be. For those of you not going to LV, let me know also and I will add to the list and they will be shipped out after the reunion with a mail cost added. Do not send me any money now. Just the order will do. My cut-off for orders will be 1September.

Switching my hat to VP, here are some matters we will be dealing with at the 281st General Membership Meeting on 29 September.

Some time ago, President Bob Mitchell sent out a message for anyone that wants to make a change in the bylaws to forward them to me for consolidation. The changes to the bylaws should be sent via email or snail mail to me where I log in the document, time/date received and the author's name. At the General Meeting, under "New Business", the Secretary will read the request for change of bylaws and open the floor for discussion. The author of the request should be prepared to explain why that particular amendment is being presented. I will consolidate the amendments and have copies to hand out at the General Membership meeting at Las Vegas. If you are not attending the Reunion and wish to submit a request for change, find a proxy to submit the request and have them become the co-sponsor.

The acceptable format for submission is as follows as an EXAMPLE:

ARTICLE V-NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 7. Association officers who were not reelected to office shall immediately arrange for the complete transition of official duties and responsibilities to the newly elected officers.

CHANGED TO READ: Section 7. Association officers who were not reelected or re-appointed to office shall immediately arrange for the complete transition of official duties and responsibilities to the newly elected or appointed officers.

The above example requires that you read the Bylaws and submit as per the correct Article, Section and Subsection. If it is an addition or deletion, it also should be in the correct Article or Section. Please do not send me an email with phrases such as: "Jack, we should change the bylaws to have a morale/(moral) officer on the board."

Jack Green
(short-timer)
Vice President

Something short from the Membership Guy

Thanks to all the help from all the "Intruders" we are presently at almost the 100 gain mark since July 2000. There are many more out there just wanting to be found, so any help is greatly appreciated. I hope that everyone has liked their membership certificates and cards. Keep them coming, & see you-all in Las Vegas.

Gary Stagman
Chairman, Membership
Senior Member-at-Large

Last word from the Reunion Chairman

OK, we are getting relatively close to the reunion in Las Vegas and it's time to fish or cut bait. A few of you have signed up and forwarded your money for the reunion. Fewer of you have indicated you are attending by signing the roster on the homepage. A fewer still have done neither. Here are the final instructions, in as clear a fashion as I can make them: - Go to www.281stahc.org and scroll down to the registration link and click on it. Print it and fill it in. --Tricky Part # 1...If you are an SOA member and intend to renew, check block 2 A or B, then enough checks for your guests, filling in the guest names. Check the raffle (block 4) if you want to, add up the dollars and make out a check for the proper amount and send it TO ME (Jeff Murray, 5105 Los Padres Ct, Ft Worth, TX 76137). DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY TO BOB MITCHELL, despite what it says on the bottom of the form. --Tricky Part # 2...If you are not an SOA member and do not want to become one, just fill in the Guests block at 2 C, then a raffle ticket if you want one, add

up the \$ amounts and make out a check for the proper amount and send it TO ME (same address). BOB MITCHELL DOES NOT WANT YOUR CHECK. Put your name on the guest line, your sponsor's name will go on the top line. DO NOT fill in the top line. -There is a back side of the form. Fill in whatever you want to fill in. DO NOT mail anything to SOA unless you are already an SOA member.

The cost for attending is \$80/per person. This \$80/per person covers 2 lunches, free drinks in the SOA Hospitality Room anytime it is open, the Saturday night dinner, and any SOA activities you may want to attend. To highlight once again the planned activities, the 281st is having a Memorial Ceremony, a General Meeting to plan future reunions and elect officers for future years, an afternoon away from SOA in the local American Legion Hall complete with beer and BBQ, and at the Saturday dinner one of our crewmembers is receiving an Air Medal w/V device for valor during his tour. To me that alone is worth the trip.

If you have questions, call me. 817-390-6136 usually gets my work voicemail but I am good at calling back real quick. 817-428-1458 is good after 6 p.m. most of the time. It is not too late to consider coming to this reunion. If you've been to others you know they are fun. If you've never been just ask someone who's been to one how he liked it. So download the form, sign up on the roster which is also on the homepage, and let's get ready for Vegas 2001!

Jeff Murray Wolf Pack 33, 1968-69 Reunion Chairman

p.s. DO NOT SEND ANY CHECKS TO BOB MITCHELL. SEND THEM TO ME: 5105 Los Padres Ct, Ft. Worth, TX 76137. Also, if you want to pay by credit card, indicate so on the reverse side of the form. Send that to me as well.

Jeff Murray
Chairman
Reunion Committee

Notes & Memo's

Here's a copy of an email message from our President, Bob Mitchell, concerning the Assn email chat sites.

Hello,

I got your e-mail address from the membership roster. In an effort to keep our information current, I am sending you this e-mail to ensure that the e-address we have for you is correct and to explain to you our Network Systems.

We have created a special network for all members of the 281st AHC Association. This network is called the 281AHC-HQ net. We do not allow the normal chatter and banter on this net as we do on the 281AHC-CHAT net. It is reserved for official business of the Association or for items of

interest to all. This does not include jokes and BS.

Our numbers have grown to the point that it is difficult to send an e-mail message with fifty or so addresses on it, that is one reason for the HQ Net. We can send one message with one address and it will go to all members. I realize that some of you have been on the old net (281AHC-CHAT) and got off due to the large volume of traffic and the amount of BS on the net, another reason for creating the HQ Net. There may be newer members included in this mail out that would like to join in the 281AHC-CHAT net, if so just let me know by return e-mail and we can take care of that as well. The bottom line is that I would like to add your e-mail address to the 281AHC-HQ net and if you are so inclined would welcome you to join the 281AHC-CHAT net. All you have to do is reply to this message and state your preference. If you would prefer to not have your address on either of the nets, just let me that as well. Bob Mitchell

Following is an email message concerning Jack Mayhew's "Book of Remembrance" project.

Date: Sun, 03 Jun

From: "John W. Mayhew" <jwmayhew@earthlink.net>
Subject: Letter from Karen

Flight, I received a nice letter from Karen Heintz thanking us for publishing Ned's remembrance on the web site. For those of you who are working on this project I thought you would like to know that she expressed her appreciation for all the work that was done by all and went on to tell me that she visits it almost daily. She and her daughter have both told us that the site has brought her family closer. For those of you who have not committed to help, this is one more example of how meaningful this project is to the families of the 44 we lost, and to us. We still need help and I can sign you up tonight. Jack Mayhew

† Date: Tue, 29 May 2001 †

From: "David Dosker" <ddoskertexas@home.com>
Subject: My Friend, Jim Cary

Dear Col. Cary,

It is with deep sadness that I add my voice to those expressing our profound sorrow at the loss of your son and our friend Jim Cary. I was out of the country and just found out.

I knew Jim at the 281st. He was my Aircraft Commander the first time I participated in one of our insertion missions at An Hoa in October 1968. His calmness under fire was a true inspiration to me. On numerous occasions I went into "the hole" with him as Aircraft Commander. He taught me well. We did not have contact for many years as we went about the business of living our lives and raising our kids.

Through the magic of the internet we again came together a couple of years ago. I had never forgotten Jim and he indicated that he had remembered me. We had a long talk which I shall treasure. He was generous in his discussion with my son that evening. Our getting reacquainted has been a highlight of the last several years. I have family in Louisville. Jim and I planned to get together when I came to

visit my Dad. However that visit was to bury him. I am eternally sorry I couldn't make time to catch up to Jim then.

Jim was a gentleman. I count my self fortunate to have had the privilege to have served with him. We would be pleased to have you accept the Honorary Membership that Bob Mitchell mentioned.

Please extend my condolences to all his loved ones. I wish I could have been there to try to help. He brought me back many times.

Sincerely,

David C. Dosker
Rat Pack 13
281st AHC

Our President, Bob Mitchell was invited to represent the 281st Assn, by the 2/10AvnBn, 10th Mountain Div, Ft. Drum, NY. Bob's report follows.

Date: Sun, 13 May
From: Mitchellrw@aol.com
Subject: 2-10th Aviation Regiment

Gentlemen,

Sherry and I got home from Ft Drum last night. We had a great time at the 2-10 Spring Dining-Out. The event was held at the Bonny Castle Resort in Alexandria Bay, NY which is on the St. Lawrence River in the 1000 Island area. Our room was on the riverside and we had an excellent view of the river and islands.

Our Host was LTC Scott Zegler and his wife Tracy. LTC Zegler is the Commander of the 2nd Battalion (Assault) of the 10th Aviation Regiment. This event was not like some of the ones I had been to in the past. It reminded me of our unit, the Crewchiefs and maintenance troops were there as well as the Pilots, XO and Operations Officer. It was a party and everyone was comfortable with one another. The moral was high due to their just finishing a major training exercise at Ft Polk, LA. I suppose they were about as happy as we were when we left Ft Polk.

The exercise was at the Joint Regional Training Center near Alexandria, LA. This training center is similar in use as the National Training Center only for smaller units, normally Brigade size. Also the terrain is obviously different. The 2-10 was supporting the 2nd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division. Their exercise was a major success.

I spoke to the group on the "Brotherhood of War," I gave them the background and early history of the 145th/281st and how it tied into the early years of Delta to set up the Brotherhood theme. I also tied the 281st into their current day unit due to their 10th Aviation Regiment having adopted the lineage and heraldry of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. Talked a little about the equipment we used and how the crewchiefs and maintenance guys adapted systems to the helicopters (weapon systems and stolen or borrowed rocket pods) that laid the groundwork for what they are using today in the 2-10. I also talked about the McGuire and STABO rigs and tied them in with the SPIES rigs that they use today. The troops loved it and are fired up about their link to the 281st. Anyone from the 281st has an open invitation to come to Drum and visit with this fine group of men and women.

After the meal, there was dancing and talking. Hell we even smoked cigars and drank a little whiskey. Sherry and I had a great time with Scott and Tracy and their troops.

Attached is a picture of Scott and me. The Plaque I am holding has the Battalion Coin and a picture of the 10th Mountain Division Monument at Ft. Drum. I am the "old Phart" on the right:-) If you look closely at my right lapel, you will see the 10th CAB Crest. This crest (slightly modified from the original) is their Regimental Crest and is worn over the right pocket of their Dress Greens or Dress Blues if they have affiliated with the Regiment. Bob

281st Assault Helicopter Company Association

President....Bob Mitchell
Vice President....Jack Green
Secretary/Treasurer....Joe Bilitzke
Senior Member at Large....Gary Stagman
Junior Member at Large....Dennis Crowe

Immediate Past President....Fred Mentzer
Legal Advisor, Chat Site Admin....Brent Gourley
Reunion....Jeff Murray
Historian....Dean Roesner
Webmaster....Steve Matthews

Web

281st AHC - www.281stahc.org
Members Only Chat Net - 281AHC-HQ@yahoogroups.com
Informal Chat Net - 281AHC_CHAT@yahoogroups.com