

# 281<sup>ST</sup> ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

## "INTRUDERS"

Company Newsletter No 12

November 2001

# REUNION 2001

## A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!!

### The word from the President

Fellow Intruders, My thoughts today keep returning to one of the most enjoyable moments in my life. Our reunion in Las Vegas was a perfect example, even at 30 plus years later, of how this unit made history in the annals of Army Aviation and more specifically, Special Operations.

Camaraderie, loyalty and esprit surfaced again to make for a fun-filled event for all the members and their guests. My heart-felt thanks to all those who put this event together.

The following members were called on and stepped forward to assist me in guiding the Association for the next year as Executive Board members. Bob "MOP" Mitchell advanced to Immediate past President as per the Bylaws and will assume the addition duties of 2002 reunion chairman and Historian. Steve Matthews elected to Vice President and will continue as Webmaster and Appointed to Awards Chairman. Dennis Crowe advanced to Senior Member at Large as per the Bylaws. J.R. Saunders elected to Junior Member at Large and will assume the duties of Quartermaster responsible for all Association sales of memorabilia. James "MOM" Torbert elected to Secretary. Brian "BP" Paine elected to Treasurer. Additionally, other appointed positions were filled and approved by our Executive Board: Jack Mayhew will remain as Memorial Chairman. Fred Mentzer will remain as Newsletter Editor.

Many of you know that Gary was awarded the Intruder KIA/MIA of the year award. The EB debated almost 15 seconds as to the winner of this award. Thank you for all you have done to build this Association. Gary had put the word to JR Saunders that he needed to run for Junior Member at Large and he was un-opposed. We did not tell him that he had two years to serve on the board. Thanks JR, I know you will do us proud. Mom Torbert stepped up also un-opposed and will make a great Secretary. Steve ran Un-opposed and will move into the Presidents job next year. Congratulations Steve. The job of Treasurer was a race between Fred Mentzer and Brian Paine and the latter came out the winner. Fred will keep us all informed with his wit and completeness in

our Newsletter that will be coming out following the usual rest period after the reunion.

If anyone has any reservations about coming to next years reunion, just ask a member who has just returned from Vegas. We really had a great time and with everyones help, we should be able to have a bigger group next year.

John W. (Jack) Green III  
President  
281st AHC Association

^ *Joyce Baker, beloved wife of Jim Baker, passed away at Las Vegas on the first night of the Annual Reunion. Our deepest condolences to Jim and his family.* ^

^ *Words cannot adequately express our sorrow, and we share the grief of the families and friends of the victims who lost their lives in the attacks of 11 September 2001.* ^

**"God Bless America"**

### From the VP & Webmaster

Thanks to a bunch of camera nuts we have a lot of great REUNION 2001 pictures on the website. Visit <http://www.281stAHC.org> and in the Table of Contents you'll find "Reunion 2001 Pictures" (What a great looking group!). Thanks to all who contributed, and I'll bet there are still more to come. Speaking of pictures, I was able to convert ALL of the over 1,400 personal pictures you've submitted for the website into a presentation that was run during the Friday afternoon get together. From the look of it, guys were pretty pleased to see pictures of themselves and others they knew, as well as lots of AO places they remember (or not). PLUS, we saw alot of picture albums at the reunion. That stuff should be on the website! If you can't scan them into digital images, find a friend who can do that for you and get your pictures and memorabilia into the unit history - NOW!!

You'll also find a link to pictures of our "Intruder of the Year" Award recipient Gary Stagman. Gary's efforts at enlisting new members earned him that and much gratitude. Thanks Gary!

Down near the bottom of the Intruders Homepage is the list of the Association's newly elected Executive Board Members and other committee chairmen. Take a look and contact your representatives and offer to help out your Association.

As you make it all the way to the hit counter at the bottom of the page, you'll see that we're over 10,000 hits on the website. Spread over 30 months this averages to about 300 hits each month. Not too shabby for a highly specialized website. Keep up the good work, and refer us to a friend. We have about 10 GuestBook sign-ins per month over this time period also. If you wonder who's been signing in, take a look see. Probably somebody you know!

As always, I'm still looking for more stories, pictures, memorabilia, and anything of value to the collective memory of the 281st AHC Intruders, so dig thru those footlockers, boxes and closets and get it sent in. I prefer electronic files, web-ready, but I'll take anything and make it so. Thanks for all your support for making the best Vietnam helicopter unit website on the Internet.

Steve Matthews  
"Rat Pack 15" 6/68-6/69  
Vice President & Webmaster

## Membership Committee

**W**hat a **GREAT** year we had!!!! We have increased the membership by over 100 new members. We had hoped to double the membership and that was surpassed, thanks to all the **"INTRUDERS"**. This year the New Association President Jack Green said in Las Vegas that he would like to see the membership doubled again. Well we will accept that challenge and with the help of all Intruders, **WE** will succeed!!

We are finding a lot of the support personnel. Throughout this past year more we have gained more of the earlier guys in the 65-68 timeframe; i.e. flight crews, flight operations, allied shops, aircraft maintenance, orderly room, supply, pol, avionics and motor pool. I have a list of guys that I have made contact, so hopefully that list will shorten and more will be added to it. Remember if you have contact with a buddy that was with us; pass his information on so we can contact him. There are many of the guys out there that are just waiting to be found.

I have heard many good comments about the Membership Certificates and Membership Cards. I hope that they continue to be something to be very proud to display and show to others. As new members join, their membership certificates and cards are normally sent out in the next day's mail. I had started in the past few months, making return address labels with the Intruder

Patch with the members name and address.

We are still seeking stories and remembrances of things that have happened to you and others during your tour.

We have had several of the Annual Members change their memberships to Life Members. Also some of the new members are going directly to the Life Membership.

**At the present time the current membership is at "171" !!!!! Great job fellow "INTRUDERS" thank you for your continuing support. Without your support, "WE" would not be where "WE" are!!!! We are all "Intruders".**

Speaking of Membership Renewals:

It is coming up on the time that I will be getting ready to send out Membership Renewal dues notices for the 2002 year. This is somewhat early, but if many of you send in your renewals before 15 Dec 2001, then I won't have to send reminders and spend unnecessary postage. For the ones with computers, you can go to the 281st AHC web site and print a copy of the application, check the Renewal Block and please write below it 2002 dues.

This message will constitute as a reminder of your dues are coming due by 31 Jan 2002. We will accept renewals anytime.

Thank you for your support to the 281st AHC Association.

Gary Stagman & John Korsbeck  
2001 - 2002 Membership Committee

## From Your Memorial Team

**V**egas 2001 was a great thrill for all of us. Jeff Murray did a magnificent job as our reunion chairman and he especially did us proud with the joint 281<sup>st</sup> /Delta memorial service. Jeff worked hard and his production of the very moving memorial service left us all feeling good about our commitment to **our KIA/MIAs that they will never be forgotten.**

We had come to believe that we had uncovered and listed all of the KIA/MIAs but to our surprise Charles Jordan, from New York City and one of the first Intruders came to us in Vegas and ask about a missing KIA. Using the collective knowledge of the flight we put together the story of PFC Gary Bernard Flabbi of Baltimore, MD. Gary, a CE was KIA on Oct. 23, 1966. Thanks to Charles we have located Gary's brother and have obtained pictures of him. His information is now on the KIA/MIA listing on the web site.

We were honored to have with us in Vegas family members of our KIA/MIAs. Attending for the second time were Dr. Karen Heintz Forcht, member # H-002, widow of Ned Heintz and Larry Heintz, member # H-003, brother of Ned. Also attending was Mr. Kenny Dayton, Jr. Member # H-016, brother of James Dayton. Our other very special guests were Mrs. Clara McCoig and Mrs. Sherrie McCoig, aunt and cousin of Donald McCoig. The McCoigs live in Las Vegas and were very helpful in

organizing our luncheon event. We currently have 18 honorary members and would like to have at least one from each of our KIA/MIA families. If you have contact with anyone who qualifies for honorary membership in the association please contact us.

As the heading says, we are now a team. Jack Serig and Corky Corkran have joined the memorials committee and will now carry the load, so feel free to call on us for help with your remembrance commitments. Remember we are here to help you in any way possible. ***We still have over half of our KIA/MIAs up for adoption, and we need your help.*** - Jack, Corky and Jack

### **NOTES & MEMO'S**

***(Note – The following is an email report to the membership from our Immediate Past President Bob Mitchell)***

Subject: Historical Brief

Gentlemen,

I recently joined with Fred Funk (Ratpack 68-69) and put together a historical briefing for the Historians, U.S. Army Special Warfare Center and School at Ft Bragg, NC. Fred called me and asked if I would help him put together documentable information that would establish the fact that the 281st and its legacy units, 145th, 6th and 2/171st Aviation Platoons were the first Helicopter Special Operations Aviation unit in Vietnam. The Army Historians were interested from the standpoint of establishing historical links from Vietnam era units to the present day 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) at Ft Campbell, KY.

We were able to put together adequate documentation to establish that we were the first Special Operations Aviation (SOA) unit and if fact were the only ones considered to be organic or part of the 5th Special Forces Group (A). We showed them the historical chain of events that led to the formation of the 281st from the movement of the 145th from down south to Nha Trang, the 6th Platoon and the consolidation of these units into the 2/171st and ultimately the assumption of the assets and mission by the 281st in 1966.

We also showed how the 281st interacted with Project Delta and Recondo in the development of extraction equipment as well as tactics and techniques in performing the Special Operations missions. We were able to show the actual statements made by Commanders of Project Delta in their AARs pleading for assigned Army Aviation assets to train with and support Special Operations missions performed by Project Delta. Most notable of these former Commanders was Charlie Beckwith who was later instrumental in the formation of today's Delta Force.

We were very pleased to have had the opportunity to tell our story and show the U.S. Army that the concept of organic or assigned Helicopter support for Special Operations is not something that suddenly appeared with the advent of the Delta Force but is something that was worked many years before by a group of dedicated hard working pilots, crewmen and ground support personnel then known as the INTRUDERS.

Fred and I were happy with our presentation and consider it to be a success. The Special Warfare Center will be using our material to include pictures in a major presentation for the 20th Anniversary of the 160th SOAR on 12 Oct 2001 at Ft Campbell. Additionally, we will contribute to an article that will be published as a prelude to the Anniversary of the Special Forces next year. The 281st will take its rightful place in the history of the U.S. Army Special Forces units and will be recognized as a pioneer Special Operations Aviation unit.

The two Historians, both retired U.S. Army Colonels, were excited about the data presented and want to continue our work together. I see this as a plus for the members of the 281st and its legacy units. We need approximately 50 pictures that can be sent by e-mail to be used in the presentation at Ft. Campbell. These pictures need to depict Special Operations. Pictures of McGuire, Rappelling and or ladder operations are needed. Pictures of aircraft showing the rigging are also needed. I realize that I have already asked for these pictures and in fact have received several, but we need more. The pictures will be consolidated into a picture show that will run continuously during the presentation. Specific mention of the individuals contributing the pictures will probably not be possible and I cannot guarantee they will not be used again for this purpose by the Special Warfare Center. My guess is that they will be used during the Anniversary celebration of the Special Forces next year at Ft Bragg.

Thank you for your support of this project. Pictures can be E-mailed to me or Fred via the Chat Net or direct to our e-mail addresses: <funkf@soc.mil> or <mitchellrw@aol.com> Please respect the policy of "low volume e-mail" on the HQ-Net and send your pictures on the Chat Net or direct. Remember if they are sent across the Chat net, everyone can enjoy them. Please send the pictures one at a time to avoid lengthy downloads.

There are many pictures on the 281st Website and unless the contributing individuals object, I would like to use as many of those as possible. If you do not want your pictures passed along to this project please let Fred or me know as soon as possible.

Bob Mitchell and Fred Funk

(This is proof that the Bandits and Ratpack can still work together:-)

***(Next are email messages from the membership concerning our fantastic Vegas 2001 Reunion)***

**From: John W. Mayhew**

Date: Mon, 01 Oct 2001

What a shot in the arm this event was. I can only tell you that this was one of the greatest events that I have ever attended. Seeing so many new people and their families was certainly the high point of the event. My hat is off to Jeff, Fred, Steve, Bob and anyone else who planed and carried this off. I told some one that these events are to the average individual much like a duck setting on the water. From the surface it looks like they are calm and collected but if you were to look under the water you would see the sucker paddling like hell just to stay afloat. Thanks guys, you did a super job.

Having so many of the crew members, admin and maint types was in my mind the high point of the event. There are no words that express the felling of joy that came from seeing all you guys and being able to tell you how much you were and are, appreciated. It is my belief that this association will have reached the top when we look at the board of directors and see you guys in the majority and running the organization.

Before we loose the energy generated by this event let's all pledge to come back next year and bring at least one new member. - Jack M.

**From: Bonnie Ohmes**

Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2001

It is not my intention to nose in on your business but I just had to write a note and tell you how great the reunion was from this woman's viewpoint! The reunion was wonderfully planned and executed! We all certainly enjoyed it very much!

Mostly, I wanted to tell you that I was very proud of the way the 281st men and ladies handled themselves at Vegas! They were very much gentlemen and ladies and they should have left a great taste in the mouths of the SOA. I spoke to many of their men(SOA) and spouses and they were very friendly but a few had terrible habits that left lots to be desired. Those individuals only made the 281st look all the better. Thank you all for making the reunion a real adventure for some of us and a pleasure to be there. Have a great year until 2002! - Bonnie Ohmes

**From: Gary Stagman**

Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2001

Was just farting around in the airport at LV, so decided to play \$\$ machine. well usually my losses are at a \$20.00 Maximum, but dropped \$80.00 in this Red, White & Blue machine and got 3 Red 7's to a tune of \$240.00. Collected that and got on the plane out of there. All in all myself I ended up with more money coming home than what I originally took with me. Now as for Nicki, well we won't talk about that!!!! It was a wonderful trip, and we thoroughly enjoyed every one there. I just cannot believe that I talked so much each day that I was so hoarse by night the I couldn't talk no more. The one other highlight was the "KIA/MIA Award, but still trying to figure how I became the recipient, as anything that was accomplished was still a Unit effort of all. Daumn, I miss all of you already, wish we could have another one next week. - Gary

**From: LaRie Hamilton**

Monday, October 01, 2001

Ken and I would like to say we thank all of you for a wonderful time . This reunion was much needed to meet the faces of the second family I and Ken so treasure. Not a person disappointed us in any way. Every one new I met and the ones I have known for years were just as I pictured them. That picture beautiful.

As I sat watching Ken having conversation with his old buddies and new friends I could understand why this all meant so much to him. Thank you all for being so wonderful to your ladies, you made us all feel so special. I dont think the President gets as many photo flashes as the ladies when we took the group picture. - LaRie

**From: Daughter of Steve&Peggy Matthews**

Date: Tue, 02 Oct 2001

To the 281st AHC men and women, I just wanted to drop you all a quick note and say how much I enjoyed this past week. It was wonderful to put faces with all the names I have been hearing from my folks. You were all so kind and made me feel right at home. I had an amazing time getting know all of you, visiting with my parents, and listening to all the men's stories.

In this current time of war for our nation, the stories were especially moving. I realize daily, as I watch those around me during all of this, what a special gift it has been to grow up knowing that I live in the greatest country in the world. And to know that the greatness is due, in large part, to men like my father and all those at the reunion and what they were willing to do and sacrifice. I have a faith and pride in this country that many of my generation do not because I have seen first hand the courage, patriotism, commitment, and strength upon which it is built. Looking around the room during the banquet at all those men dressed in their best, I couldn't help but stand in awe of what these men had accomplished and sacrificed in the name of honor, God, and country.

It was a privilege to be there with them. Thank you for allowing me to share this special time with all of you and I hope to see you again next year. - Kimberly "Matthews" Graber

**From: John W. Mayhew**

Date: Tue, 02 Oct 2001

On the way to the A/P at 3:30 AM I shared a cab with a fellow from Oregon. As we moved out I asked him about his assignment in country and he responded that he was with the Mike Force and several other SF recon units. He then ask me the same question and I told him I was with the 281st. He immediately slid to the side of the cab and announced that there was not room for both of us. Considering our previous situation with one of the former Delta members I became a bit concerned but he immediately stated that in his view "the 281st guys had the biggest Gonads in the world and that with a 281st pilot in the cab there was not room for anyone else." He spent the next 30 minutes telling me how times you had saved his butt and how much respect he had for you. When we arrived at the A/P he insisted on paying for the cab, gave me a big hug and went his way with a smile. Made my day. - JM

**From: Jack Interstein**

Date: Tue, 2 Oct 2001

To all members. It was truly an honor for me, to meet and walk and talk amongst you gentlemen and fellow Intruders. I felt 10 feet tall the whole time I was in Las Vegas and haven't come down, yet. Good health to you and your families in the coming year and as we say around Passover, hopefully, next year we will meet again, in the promised land (Las Vegas or St.louis!). - Jack

**From: Paul Swol**

Date: Thu, 04 Oct 2001

I have to send this on HQ net as I haven't been able to receive chat mail since I got out of the hospital (Brent Help !) As most of you know I've been sick with lung cancer for a while and feeling weak and piss poor , But the reunion made me feel so much better It's hard to believe, And I need to thank you all for your support ,prayers and thoughts , It's like a new lease on life and has giving me a lot of courage to face what needs to get done. Before having met all of you the only thing I wanted to do was take a skateboard down the side of the Hoover Dam and splash down.

We got home at midnight last night safely and this was one of the best vacations that my wife and I have ever had, Again Bandit led Rat Pack home and Paul Leonard made it home safe. However half way through Nevada we stopped for lunch and Smokey Joe started choking on a piece of meat at a restaurant. I grabbed him and did the Heimlick maneuver on him but he weighs over 300 pounds. I got him breathing again but in the process I ripped the muscles on the left side of my chest and where they had my chest tubes put in my back. So I'm off to the doctors today to check the damage. Don't mean nothing anyway That's what brothers are for

To Bonnie Ohmes and Sherry and the other ladies that gave me encouragement I love you all and will see you again next year I hope.

To the 281st Executive Board your efforts and hard work have made us all Proud beyond description and set an example for all the SOA and other units that may try to get there men together

Again thank you all. - Paul, Bandit 69/70

*(Note: Paul suffered a relapse and was hospitalized again in late October. Fortunately, he is now back home in Ft Bragg, CA)*

**From: Louis Lerda**

Date: Thu, 4 Oct 2001

I'm glad that the Reunion was a resounding success. I guess that I was naive in believing that everyone realized the one thing that made the 281st so unique was the team work. That "whatever it takes" attitude that exemplifies all outstanding organizations. I don't ever remember a time or unit where everyone did so many "little" things to help each other get the job done. I always was proud of our unit for that reason alone, the glory was just eye wash.

One of the Old Guys.

**From: J R Saunders**

Date: Thu, 4 Oct 2001

I remember getting in late from a mission. It's was almost dark. My CE and I went and got a quick bite to eat, than back down to line to start a 75 hour on the ship (totally dark now).

Now something was going on at the club that night (can't remember what) and we were sure to miss it. We had just gotten started on the job, when the next thing we knew,,,,,out of no where comes 5 CE's / Gunners and 5 Pilots, to help with the job, to get it done so we could go to the club with everyone else.....Pilots and Crew.

The interesting thing here is, we had not told anyone we had to do a 75 hr insp. - JR

**From: John Galkiewicz**

Date: Tue, 02 Oct 2001

Gentlemen,

The reunion is now over and with pictures in hand it is now my turn to say a word or two. I got home about 7:30 and found that the X had arranged for my son to stay overnight with her folks while she was out. Adam (12) gave me a call and wanted to come over and spend the night and to find out what I had brought for him, that was fine with me. He was a little disappointed that I was not able to find a machine gun for him. He also was saddened that I could not get him a real Green Beret either. I did get him one of those little Elmer Fud "Wambo" tee shirts and gave him one of the SOAR coins with the skull. In about 5 seconds he had the shirt on and liked it but didn't know who Elmer Fud was. He plans on taking the coin to school and showing it off. In deciding to go to the reunion I had two objectives in mind. The first was to get answers, if I could, to several questions I wanted answers to. The second was to see the faces behind the emails. I got both.

I was only a member of the "Grunt" club for about 5 minutes and wanted to know who pulled our crew out. Aaron Rich finally fessed up and was more than happy to fill me in on his side of the details of that event. He said he had read my version of the story but that I was wrong about one thing. Aaron had said that if we had tied down the main rotor he could have put his ship down right next to us. Being rather busy none of us thought of tying down that blade so Aaron had to do the best with what he had and that meant making his own landing spot. In doing so he lost a little bit of blade (2-3 ft) to the bamboo. So I now stand corrected in that the max speed obtainable going home was not the 60 knots I guess I remember but actually 50 knots that Aaron was all too well aware of. Needless to say Aaron was also concerned about the thing staying together until we reached base. That was by far the worst case of out-of-trim blades that I have ever felt.

One of the people I was looking forward to seeing was Johnny Hughes. He was my crew chief when I had one of three tail rotor failures I had over there. On that one we ended up rolling up in the rather steep LZ. Though the ship ended up upside down, thanks to the LORD, none of us got even a scratch. The rotor blades came off neat and clean and the transmission stayed put and didn't put a bear hug on Johnny. Johnny didn't make it to the reunion but Dan Wall did and told me he had pictures of the ship in the LZ. Boy did that ever catch me off guard, finding out someone had pictures of all of that. Dan said he would forward me copies and when he does I definitely will add them to the story. I'll also send copies to Johnny.

I wonder how many other guys are holding on to pictures that mean a whole lot to someone else? Being able to now relate faces to emails sure was a blessing in its own. I got to meet with just about everyone that makes up the majority of the chatter. I met Barclay Boyd for the first time and that guy is huge, glad he was on our side. How fortunate I was to have been sitting next to Jack Mayhew as he and Barc told stories of how it was flying over there in the early years when there were no rules. I felt very inferior sitting there listening to those stories. The war did have its share of characters it seems. I spent a lot of time with Robin Hicks. He and I had entered the unit at the same time and flew many a mission together. We both were saddened at the loss of McCoig and though he was Robin's AC I had the privilege of flying with Mac as well. At the Memorial Service there was one candle for each of the lost that SOAR and we had. When it came time for McCoig's candle lighting Robin took it up there, but with him went several of the guys and we all put our hand on his as he lit the candle. Robin then gave the candle to McCoig's relatives that were sitting in the front row. Boy did that put a lump in my throat. Later Robin went over some of the details of what it was like getting out of there and spending the night getting shot at and mortared. There was never a thought of leaving McCoig behind even though snipers and constant enemy fire tried their best to add to the toll. Robin eventually got Mac and his crew out of there but little did he realize that in doing so he only added to the spirit and pride of the unit. He could have left Mac there but he didn't, the 281st just didn't do that kind of thing if at all possible. How do you say Thank You to something like that?

I got to meet Allan Hawkins. Hawkins and Sabastian were one of two crews that Condrey would go out of his way to ask for when it came time for insertions. The three of them put in and took out many a team together while I just sort of watched. I often wondered what those seasoned veterans were thinking when they first saw this skinny little high school kid with a big grin walking up to their aircraft for the mission? Those Professionals kept me alive long enough for that training to sink in so I in turn could pass it along to those that followed. I didn't know that then.

Thursday night was the best night for stories. Seems most of the stories that were coming out were the funny ones. I got a kick out of Robert Ohms telling about some of the funny things that went on in the maintenance hanger. Also in that group was Paul Swol. Bless his heart for Paul should have been in the hospital starting chemo. I heard he started out in a wheel chair but soon pushed it aside. As the guys were telling their stories I could see Paul taking it all in with a glow of pride and a smile on his face. Then Paul stepped right in and began adding some of his stories and everyone got quiet because he could only talk in a rough whisper. I can't really put into words the pride I saw glowing in that man because he was with his buddies, guys that understood, and pain or not, he was going to tell his stories. GOD I felt proud seeing and being part of that.

For me the most impressive and humbling part of the reunion was the general session meeting. It was just us guys and I sat on the far left side of the group. By turning my chair slightly I got to glance at just about everyone there. I couldn't help but to think to myself what a brave bunch of guys I was now here with in that room. Though I knew I was part of the group somehow I felt like I hadn't measured up yet to their standards. And though some of

us were years apart in our tours it now was as if we had know each other for years. You guys made me feel proud and honored to be part of that.

Next year though, I hope someone can get to the dinner hall ahead of time and put 281st signs on the tables we need and keep us all together. And if it can be worked out, I would gladly pay someone for a chance for some stick time in a Huey, even if it were only to see if I could still hover the thing.

Damn I'm proud to be a part of the 281st. - Galkie

*(And last, this in from Jack Mayhew)*

#### **NHA TRANG 2002**

There has been some discussion of organizing a return trip to Vietnam in 2002. Marshall Hawkins was there last year and reports that it was a very enjoyable trip and that the local travel agencies are very flexible and accommodating. You can see a copy of his report on the web site under the heading of "Nha Trang revisited 2002".

If you are interested in traveling to Vietnam in 2002 and perhaps surrounding countries please let us know by contacting either Marshall at Tel: 405-364-3932, e-mail: gfo@mmcable.com or myself at 410-451-4087, e-mail: jwmayhew@earthlink.net. In your response please consider the following:

What are your views on such a trip?

Would you be interested in going?

In what year and month would you like to go?

If you went how many would be in your party?

Would you agree to travel to a central departure travel point?

If you made the trip would you be interested in visiting adjacent countries?

If you made the trip how long would you like to stay in Vietnam?

How long would you like the total trip to be?

See you on board. - Marshal Hawkins & Jack Mayhew

***Editors Note: Due the length of this Newsletter there will be no Roster attached to the snail-mail version. Newsletter #14 will contain the latest roster. All those who have a recent email address or have changed address please email me at [fmentzer@earthlink.net](mailto:fmentzer@earthlink.net).***

### **281st AHC Association, Inc. (Established July 4, 1999)**

#### **Elected Board Members**

President....Jack Green  
Vice President....Steve Matthews  
Immediate Past President....Bob Mitchell  
Senior Member-at-Large....Dennis Crowe  
Junior Member-at-Large....J.R. Saunders  
Secretary....Jim Torbert  
Treasurer....Brian Paine

#### **Key Personnel & Committee Chairmen**

Membership....Gary Stagman  
Memorial....Jack Mayhew  
Quartermaster....J.R. Saunders  
Legal Advisor....Brent Gourley  
eGroup Administrator....Brent Gourley  
Reunion & Historian ....Bob Mitchell  
Webmaster & Awards....Steve Matthew

#### **WEB**

**281<sup>st</sup> AHC** - [www.281stahc.org](http://www.281stahc.org)  
**Members Only Chat Net** - [281AHC-HQ@yahoogroups.com](mailto:281AHC-HQ@yahoogroups.com)  
**Informal Chat Net** - [281AHC\\_CHAT@yahoogroups.com](mailto:281AHC_CHAT@yahoogroups.com)

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