

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY "INTRUDERS"

Company Newsletter No 16

January 2003

2003

Looking forward to a great new year for the
"Intruders"

A New Years Message from the Pres

Dear Intruders & Families,
On behalf of the 281st AHC Association I would like thank each of you for the support you have given our organization this past year and wish you a very happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

As XMAS arrived it would appear that so has another war in which at least one of our members will be involved. I know that you join me in wishing the very best for CWO-4 Joe Bilitzke, who has been alerted for mobilization, and his lovely wife Darlene. Joe is one of our original founders and continues to be a strong contributor to our association. He is currently on loan to the VHPA where he is serving as its president. Joe & Darlene, know that you are in our hearts and prayers.

This past year has been a great one for all Intruders. We have found more of our brothers and families of those we lost or left behind and we have come together as a strong organization. Thanks to Bob and Brian the new web site is up and running, Lynn is on the way to organizing and hosting a great 2003 reunion and we appear to have a handle on most of our organizational challenges. So this is a good time to give thanks for all our successes and to build on them in the coming year.

Have a great New Year and hold your families tight.

Jack Mayhew
President

The VP Speaks on Reunion 2003

The 2003 Reunion will be held from 11 to 14 September, at the Wyndham Greenpoint Hotel in Houston, Texas. The hotel is located on the north side of Houston near the intersection of Interstate 45 and Sam Houston Parkway at 12400 Greenspoint Drive. It is close to George Bush Intercontinental Airport and the hotel will provide free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. Reservations can be made by calling the Wyndham Reservation Center at 1-800-WYNDHAM or at www.wyndham.com and identifying yourself as a member of the 281st AHC Association. The rates for a standard room are \$79.00 per night single or double and \$89.00 for triple or quad. King Suites are available at \$89.00 single or double and \$99.00 for triple or quad. For those of you with RV's, campers, etc. the hotel will allow you to park them on site.

The Advance Party will arrive on Thursday, 9/11. This will consist of the Executive Board (EB), selected members of the Reunion Committee and anyone else who wants to get started early. There will be a meeting of the EB that evening at 1900. Friday is arrival and registration day. There will be time for golf that afternoon for anyone who would like to participate, provided someone will step up and take charge of setting up the golf. If you are interested, please contact me. There will be a Welcome Get Together in the main lobby from 1700-1900. Dinner will be on your own with old friends.

Saturday we will have the Annual Meeting from 0900 to 1100 followed by lunch from 1200-1400. The Remembrance Observance will be from 1530 to 1630. There will be a Reception at 1830 followed by a sit-down dinner at 1930. The room will be available for informal get togethers until 2400. Sunday will be departure day.

If you fly into Bush IAP the hotel will provide free shuttle service. If you fly into Hobby IAP you will have to rent a car, pay for a cab (about \$65.00) or take the free shuttle to Bush IAP and then the free shuttle to the hotel. There is plenty of on-site parking for those who drive their own vehicle. There are two restaurants in the hotel and several more within easy walking distance. There is also extensive shopping in the vicinity. There is lots of space in the lobby for informal meetings and BS Sessions. In addition to the main meeting room we have another room for registration, memorabilia sales and informal get togethers.

We are still looking for help and if you would like to be a part of helping your fellow Intruders then let me know at 727-786-8105 or on the web at bhi2@ix.netcom.com

The Registration Form will be in the next Newsletter and on the web site. We think that we have selected an outstanding venue for the 2003 Reunion and that this will be the best yet.

"SEE YOU IN HOUSTON"

Lynn Coleman
Vice President and Reunion Chairman

The Membership Committee Rotors On

We are finding a lot of the support personnel. Throughout this past year we have gained more of the guys in the 65-70 timeframe; i.e. flight crews, flight operations, allied shops, aircraft maintenance, orderly room, supply, avionics and motor pool. I have a list of guys that I have made contact with, 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 been using Post cards with the 281st pictures on them with a note hoping that they will respond, and a lot of them have!!!! It saves postage and direct costs to the Association.

We are still in the need of orders and anything with fellow Intruder names on it, for us to research and also to help "Corky" to keep adding to his Morning Report Roster. This roster is a listing of every name that has been found, and still is in need of any others that have not been listed.

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 "239"!! 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 2003 year. This is somewhat early, but if many of you send in your renewals before 31 Jan 2003, 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 2003 dues.

This message will constitute as a reminder of your dues are coming due by 31 Jan 2003. We will accept renewals anytime.

REMINDER: Please make all checks payable to: 281st AHC Assn, Inc.

Thank you for your support.

Gary Stagman & John Korsbeck
2002 - 2003 Membership Committee



The Senior Member@Large Says

The start of a glorious new year is upon us. This year can and should be a transitional year for our growing association. The stand alone, all intruder (SOA MEMBERS WELCOMED OF COURSE) reunion, planned for Houston in Sept will give us all the opportunity to really meet and get to know each other in a more intimate setting. Hopefully, we can take advantage of this time, to iron out any past disagreements and plan ahead for a successful association, for the future.

Speaking about the future, its never too early to start planning for future reunions. Lynn Coleman and the board have planned a terrific reunion. Great location, great site with excellent amenities, and all at a reasonable cost. If you have any ideas, suggestions or complaints....or just think we can do better....you are encouraged to bring in any "deals" for future consideration. The more detailed the better.

"Intruder of the Year Award," circa 2003, is up for nominations. Please send them to me, asap, directly ...jint_10306@yahoo.com... so that the awards committee may review the many worthy candidates out there! A short nominating e-mail (snail mail) will suffice.

HOUSTON 2003

.. come one .. come all .. come together !

Jack Interstein
Senior Member@Large

From the Pres to the SAT Committee

I received a call from Kendal Smith yesterday in which she informed us that Paul Swol's service connected disability was formally approved by the VA and that his widow will now receive his benefits. Kendal asks that I pass on the Congressman's and her thanks for the efforts that each of you contributed in making this possible and to wish each of you a Happy New Year. This was great news on which to start the New Year and

from my view point this is what our association is all about.

On behalf of all the membership we thank you. You have shown us that we continue to live by the 281st creed that says: "We Will Leave No Man Behind". - Jack Mayhew

The Website Committee Reports

Under the skillful guidance of the noble chairman, your Association Website Committee is pleased to announce that please one of the site development is ready for viewing and your recommendations and comments. I must tell you that this site has a lot of "sweat equity" invested in it and it is, and probably always will be, a "works in progress". Both Bob Mitchell, the Chairman and Brian Paine, our worker bee, have donated hours of their time as well as employing, at their own expense, the assistance of experts in the field so as to make this site one that you will be proud to call your own.

From the beginning this project has had the goal of providing each former member of the 281st and their families with a place to go for information concerning their association's activities, house the history related materials of the unit and it's attached detachments in a manner that will allow future generations to share in the rich history of the 281st AHC, and to honor those that we lost, left behind or who have subsequently departed our ranks.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that this is also a project that has a mandate from the Association EB to proceed so as to not infringe on any existing platoon or unit related site or to be in competition with same. The EB clearly recognizes the contributions of each the early sites and considers this to be the next step in the association's growth. Therefore, this site is not intended to replace or devalue any existing site. There is certainly room in the vast virtual world for all to expand.

Please take a few minutes to visit the site and give us your views and recommendations. We need and want your input. Please post your responses to the HQ Net so that we can all see them or if you wish, you may send

them back channel to Bob or Brian. The committee is also accepting volunteers.

Bob Mitchell – Brian Paine – Jack Mayhew
Website Committee

Notes and Memo's

(The following is an email to the President from Honorary Member Karen Forcht, widow of Ned Heintz KIA 1969)

From: Karen Forcht
To: John W. Mayhew

Jack: I have spent the last hour reading the new website. Looks great. For reasons none of us fully understand, we are now a family and need each other. I will always treasure my time with the 281st--I can feel Ned's presence when I am with all of you. He would be very proud of all his buddies and pleased to know that they didn't forget everything they shared. I was particularly moved by the ceremony for Paul Swol. Someone took Larry Heintz and I to meet Paul in Las Vegas as Paul knew Ned. He was in the bar area at the American Legion Hall and we sat down with him for a few minutes. It was difficult for him to talk and he got tears in his eyes when he told us how much he admired Ned as they were in Trang together. We all had a good cry and a big hug together. Says a lot about a man's character to take the time to offer us his thoughts when he was in obvious bad shape himself. I have treasured that moment many times. As God's grace would have it, I was lucky enough to find myself at the luncheon table with Paul's widow and his aunt this year in Las Vegas. They are special people and, again, we are now a family. If I can ever do anything to help find more family members, all you have to do is ask. Our mutual need becomes greater every year as we all age.

Thanks to you many times over for all you have done to encourage and help Michelle in her OCS pursuit. She thinks you are a very special person and is forever in your debt. It will be a proud moment when her Mom pins those bars on. For you to take time from your busy schedule to work with her is very admirable and rare. Again, we are now ALL family. I am forever in your debt. If I can repay your kindness in any way with your children or grandchildren, just ask. The one thing I can do is work well with young people--they all seem to find their special place sooner or later.

After all, they are our future and I have complete faith that they will be there when it counts.

Concerning the web-page...I had my Seniors in my Computer Security Management class do a quick review of the initial new site (as well as the new one) at the end of the semester. Gave them a few extra credit points and they dug in. Told them that is they couldn't find me on the page, they hadn't looked far enough--that was the challenge. Their write-ups are on the way to you in hard copy. Many of them have had the web design class and were going for the design/logistics aspect, so bear that in mind. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing--particularly for college students. If we can help you in the future, just ask. These kids love to do "real" things. Many of them told me afterwards that they really loved to look at the site as they know very little about Viet Nam and the page was truly educational to them. Some of them told me that they are now encouraging their fathers to find their units and get involved. Some of the foreign students were absolutely amazed that Americans are so patriotic. One of them told me, "That is really what America is all about--you are together, even though you don't seem to be". Thanks for providing such a good experience for "my kids".

Had lunch in NYC with Jack Interstein a few weeks ago. He will be a great addition to the officer slate. What a group you have put together. All different folks, but yet each has a lot to offer. All of you should be proud.

Have been a little wordy, but wanted to get everything in my mind in one place. Now to dig in on finishing up my semester grades.

God Bless All of You. What a special group you are. Thanks for everything.

Karen Heintz Forcht
Professor, CIS/OM Program
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(The following was sent out on the 281st AHC Nets by Jack Serig. The article is by Gary Rousch, a founding member, past President and Webmaster of the VHPA.. Although a bit lengthy for a newsletter such as ours, I felt you'd all appreciate Gary's article and feel the same rush of pride as I did. - Fred M)

From: Gary Roush - VHPA Webmaster

"In The Shadow Of The Blade" Project....

In my travels over the years, I always knew how, when and where things were going to happen on each trip before I left. On my way to the airport to begin this adventure, I made the comment to my wife of 35 years that this was the first trip I was about to make without knowing where I was going to sleep that night let alone what was planned for each day. That sense of adventure stayed throughout the entire trip.

As one of four Vietnam veterans on this crew, I feel an enormous responsibility to pass on to all Vietnam veterans what we experienced. The four of us were very fortunate to see and hear first hand what Americans think of us. Although the best way for us to pass on to other veterans what we saw and heard is to be sure that the finished documentary accurately portrays our experiences, I will try to provide some highlights below. The bottom line is that Vietnam veterans are highly regarded.

To all Vietnam veterans - it was a tremendous honor for me to represent you in front of thousands of people gathered specifically to honor you. Some examples of these people were children singing patriotic songs in the school auditorium in West Point, MS, students at the Pam Am Flight School in Florida, hundreds of people at the Southwest Airlines hangar in Texas, the entire community of Liberty County, GA, and veterans at Angel Fire, NM.

They all thanked you for your service to our great country.

What meant the most to me on this journey, that began 2 October 2002 and covered some 10,000 miles, was the camaraderie of the crew. In many ways it was like being back in Vietnam. The long hours of hurry up and wait, lack of sleep, unpredictable meals, sleeping in a wide range of accommodations from rustic cabins without hot water or toilet paper and insect infected cheap motels to private homes and luxury hotels in the heart of a city.

Listening to the hundreds of war stories and deep emotional experiences and seeing the impact that these events had on thousands of lives, made most of us reach our emotional limits on a daily basis. Like in Vietnam, the stress relief was lots of good-natured teasing and bantering that went on among the crew. We were generally together for meals whether they were sandwiches standing under a shade tree, a BBQ provided by our local host, leftovers from a church luncheon, or breakfast burritos from the back of a pickup truck. The bantering was always there helping all of us to get to know each other like we did in Vietnam.

This was especially true while flying in the Huey. Why the Huey? The Huey is the indisputable icon of the Vietnam War. It stands out more than any other thing as representing the Vietnam War and its veterans. Its unmistakable wop wop sound of its main rotor blades as it approaches and the familiar buzzing sound of its tail rotor as it leaves is forever burned in Vietnam veterans' minds. Unlike Vietnam veterans, the Huey is accurately portrayed by the news media, so it is truly a fitting icon for us.

This project, In the Shadow of the Blade, is the most significant event for Vietnam veterans since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated 20 years ago. It is of that magnitude, but there is a significant difference. The Wall honors our dead while the Huey honors those of us who survived. The Wall is primarily about death, sorrow, guilt and pain while the Huey represents our youth with its exuberance, joy excitement and love of life. The Wall is a black gash in the earth, representing to some, embarrassment and shame, while the Huey flies freely in the sky representing what it is to be an American with freedom, pride and strength. Both The Wall and the Huey have sacred places in our hearts.

Why is it that the Huey so accurately represents us? I think it is because the Huey did what we did. Like the cooks and mess hall crews, the Huey fed us. Like the clerks and AG personnel, the Huey provided us with administrative support. Like the drivers and mechanics in the motor pools, the Huey gave us transportation. Like the doctors, nurses and orderlies in MEDEVAC units, the Huey saved our lives. Like the engineers and Seabees, the Huey provided us with protection from the elements. Like the grunts and the Marines, the Huey took the fight to our enemies. Like our Chaplains, the Huey gave us peace of mind. The Huey was reliable and strong and rarely failed to bring us home. We truly were in the shadow of the blade.

B.G. "Jug" Burkett has authored one of the most important books ever written for Vietnam veterans - "Stolen Valor". As he describes in his book, our valor has truly been stolen and continues to be stolen by the news media, fakes and wannabes. This Huey and the documentary "In the Shadow of the Blade" is about returning our valor. On this journey, we heard over and over from people from all walks of life - "Thank you for your service, we are proud of you, welcome home!" We proudly served our country and it is finally being recognized with the help of this project.

Of course the Huey did not fly alone, but was coaxed into the air by a special breed of madmen described by Joe Galloway as God's own lunatics. Who are these lunatics who would expose themselves to the withering fire aimed at destroying our beloved Hueys? They are men like Bob Baird, Mike Venable, Bill McDonald, and nearly 100,000 other pilots, crew chiefs, flight engineers, medics and gunners - made up of America's finest. Like other veterans of all American wars, these men are ordinary people who have demonstrated their extraordinary ability to get the job done under extremely adverse conditions. This tradition continues with men like Bruce LeMoine and Jim Palmersheim who are willing to make huge personal sacrifices to continue the tradition of protecting our freedom and way of life.

Vietnam veterans are neighbors, cab drivers, school teachers, lawyers, doctors, carpenters, mechanics - in all we are more successful than our peers. We are not homeless wackos or in prison in any greater numbers than our peers. We have not committed suicide in higher numbers than are peers. And we were not and are not baby killers.

I had an interesting conversation with one of the camera crewmembers who is not a veteran. In describing to me a conversation he had with one of his peers about this assignment of traveling with Vietnam veterans making a documentary about the Vietnam War, his friend expressed concern about how he was going to deal with the Vietnam veteran wackos and asked if he was concerned about his safety. Thanks to the news media, this is a common image that the general population has about Vietnam veterans. In fact the image of a bearded, dirty looking wino, in a tattered uniform with random medals and insignia is so prevalent that normally clean cut veterans think they have to look this way to play the part to fit the image.

Members of the news media are naturally drawn to those things that fit in their mind's eye what is typically a Vietnam veteran. I can illustrate this point. We had one Vietnam veteran on this trip with a bushy gray beard with extra insignia on his uniform. The other three of us were clean shaven and "normal" looking. The one with the beard, by his own count, was interviewed by TV and news media reporters between 40 and 50 times during our trip. The rest of us probably had ten interviews among us. So the distorted image continues to be reinforced by our news media 30 years after the end of the war.

One thing we did not see on this journey was protesters. At least if they were around they did not identify themselves. I wonder why? Could it be the realization that history now shows that they prolonged the Vietnam War?

North Vietnamese soldiers now tell us that because of the overwhelming defeat of the Viet Cong during Tet 1968, they were looking for a way to end the war until they heard Walter Cronkite and the peace movement telling them that they were winning. So tens of thousands of American soldiers and millions of Southeast Asians died needlessly because of the peace movement and its supporters. In fact, more people were killed in Southeast Asia after the fall of Saigon in 1975 than during the entire 10 years of U.S. fighting there. While we can hold our heads up high and be proud of our service, the peaceniks should hide their heads in shame.

The last LZ, at the Texas Air Command Museum, was sponsored by the Allied Pilots Association. I hope someone passes on to American Airlines that they got some priceless, free advertising on this journey. At nearly every LZ, Bob Baird, Bruce LeMoine and Jim Palmersheim were introduced as American Airline pilots who had volunteered their time to accomplish this incredible service. The implication was that American Airlines was a major sponsor of this journey despite the fact that they were not. American Airlines should be very proud of these three men because they represented their company in a very professional manner treating everyone with the utmost respect and compassion. They helped with a tremendous amount of healing for hundreds of veterans and their families.

They are truly ambassadors on the highest order and it has been an honor for me to be a member of their crew. I wish you could have observed Bruce and Jim going into their routine when they spotted a veteran hanging back. Generally these events took place without any cameras around. "When was the last time you rode in a Huey?" they asked the unsuspecting veteran. "In 1968, when I was medevaced

out of the bush," was a typical reply. "How would you like to ride in one again?", they would ask. This would then begin a thrill of a lifetime or finally closure after 30 years for that veteran. We will never know the complete impact of events like this. But having witnessed many of these, I can tell you that the result was extremely powerful.

Bruce and Jim are perfectly suited to accomplish this. Here is one example. A taxi driver who approached the Huey at one of our refueling stops said to me with tears in his eyes after taking his unexpected ride in a Huey - "You have no idea what this has meant to me - you have no idea." But you know what? I do have an idea. It means that someone out there cares about his service in the Vietnam War. It is the feeling of not being alone, that there are other Vietnam veterans who feel just like he does and that what he did was honorable and respected. He no longer feels out of place because he does not fit the news media's depiction of a victim from an unpopular war.

He realizes that Vietnam veterans are normal respectable members of society just like him. It is recognition by other veterans for a job well done.

A special thanks to Pat and Cheryl Fries and their crew at Arrowhead Films for making this project happen. They now have the difficult task over the next year of condensing over 200 hours of film into a ninety minute documentary. They also need to make a living while doing this so if someone would like to help them out financially, now is the time to do it. Also, we would like to be able to continue to fly the Huey across America. It would be nice to be able to make a journey to the Northeast and one to California with many LZ's along the way. Any future trips require financial sponsors so if you can help, please let us know.

Gary B. Roush
242 ASHC Muleskinners

Cu Chi, RVN May 1968 to May 1969

(In the Shadow of the Blade <http://www.intheshadowoftheblade.com> ; Texas Air Command Museum
<http://www.texasaircommandmuseum.org>; Arrowhead Film and Video <http://www.arrowheadfilms.com>)

(Following is an exchange of emails between Dean Roesner, James Wolfe and Jim "Mom" Torbert. Dean and Jim survived a horrendous accident/incident in the highlands near Dalat (contact Dean if you want the "nitty gritty"). Dean was not hurt bad but Jim was evacuated with a broken spine among other serious injuries and Dean never saw or heard of him again until the contact written about below. Hey, its what we're all about. Great ain't it!)

From: DeanRoesner@aol.com
Monday, December 30, 2002
Subject: Intruder James Wolfe

Hi Jim!

This is an amazing coincidence of timing. It was only about a couple of months ago that I told my memories of the story and found out who the AC and PP were. The AC was Doug Stowe, the PP was Bobby Stanfill, and I was the CE. Since you only flew as my gunner about 2 weeks, all I could remember was your first name. Anyway, after I told the details of the crash, other members put together the names. I never knew any details about you as I wasn't told much in the hospital and you were flown out before I returned to the unit. I'm very sorry about your back. I knew it was broken and also one or two compounds of one of your legs as Doug and I cut you out of the monkey strap. I didn't break anything but tore some muscles in my back and still have some nerve damage but am OK. Bobby was knocked unconscious when he and the seat went through the windscreens/instrument panel but recovered and came back to the unit and flew again. Doug came out the best and finished his tour. I finished my tour and went home in June 69. Don't know if you want them, but I have B&W 8 1/2 x 11 military pictures taken during the accident investigation and will send you copies if you want. Sincerely, Dean Roesner

Date: Thu, 2 Jan 2003

From: "James Torbert" <jtorbs@bellsouth.net>

Subject: Intruder James Wolfe

Dean and James,

Glad you two have found each other. I keep some what in touch with Bobbie Stanfill, who now lives in Ozark, Alabama. Dean, I promised you pictures some time ago that I have of the recovery. I will try my best and get them out tonight. They are a part of my slide presentation that I make to high school and college classes. Welcome home! - MOM

(The following is a memo from Gary Stagman our trusty Junior Member@Large who serves as our election leader. Gary says; "I want to let everyone know about the new voting procedures, therefore it should be put in the NL, as not all have 'puters". Included, in fine print, are the pertinent by-law references for those who want to know!)

2003 Membership Election schedule for the Vice President and Junior Member@Large

1. Nominations need to be into the JM@L by NLT 11 Jun 2003 (90 Days)
2. Ballots to be mailed NLT 11 Jul 2003 (60 Days)
3. All ballots are to be postmarked NLT 11 Aug 2003 in order to be counted. (30 days)

ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Junior Member-at-Large (JM@L) shall be responsible to receive all declarations from members who wish to submit themselves as a candidate for an elective office in the Association, and shall co-ordinate with the Treasurer in order to determine the eligibility of each request for candidacy prior to its acceptance.

Section 2. All declarations and nominations of members in good standing who are interested in serving the Association in an elected position must be forwarded to the Junior Member-at-Large, not less than 90 days prior to the date of the next announced General Membership meeting (GMM), in order for the Junior Member-at-Large to act in a timely and proper manner to execute the election process.

Section 3. The Junior Member-at-Large shall be responsible for conducting an election of officers prior to the annual General Membership Meeting of the Association in accordance with the provisions of this Article. Additionally the President shall appoint no more than three members in good standing to serve as a Nominations and Elections Committee to assist the JM@L in the election process. The JM@L will serve as the chair of this committee. The committee will seek members in good standing who are interested in serving as an officer in the Association as well as accept nominations from the membership. Should an individual be nominated by the committee or any other member of the Association his name will not be placed on the ballot without his consent.

Section 4. The Junior Member-at-Large shall obtain a current list of members who are eligible to vote in the Association elections from the Treasurer in accordance with Article I, Section 4, b. above to certify the election.

Section 5. Association elections shall be by written ballot, except as allowed for in Article III, Section 8, above. Ballots shall be produced by the Nominations and Election Committee and mailed/e-mailed to the membership no later than 60 days prior to the next scheduled General Membership Meeting. The election process can be handled by e-mail and/or regular mail at the discretion of the Nominations and Elections Committee. All ballots, electronic or regular shall be returned to the JM@L and postmarked or dated no later than 30 days prior to the next scheduled GMM. The Nominations and Elections Committee will certify the ballots pursuant to Article I, Section 4, para c. After the committee process the JM@L shall present the ballots to the Executive Board for final approval prior to the next scheduled GMM. The JM@L will be scheduled on the agenda of the GMM and will present the results of the election to the membership. All ballots shall be kept confidential, with only the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Executive Board being privy to the information contained thereon.

- a. Should a position to be filled be uncontested, the individual who declared for or was nominated for the position shall be considered to be elected by acclamation.
- b. Should all of the positions to be filled be uncontested, the JM@L will mail/email the slate of officers to the membership and declare the election complete and make his official report at the GMM.
- c. As the above described election procedure will be available to all members, regardless of their location, there will be no provision for proxy voting. Accordingly there will be no provision for an election of officers during the GMM.
- d. Should no one qualify or seek an open position during the above described nomination and election process the newly elected President, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a member in good standing to the open position at the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Board.

Section 6. As the last order of business at the GMM, the outgoing President shall present the newly elected officers to the general membership. The newly elected slate of officers will then become the Executive Board of the Association and will conduct its first meeting before the end of the Reunion.

Section 7. All Association officers, elected and appointed, who are subject to be re-elected to office or re-appointed to a committee chairmanship, shall arrange for the complete transition of official duties and responsibilities to newly elected, or appointed officers, in the event they are not re-elected, or re-appointed. All files, records, and properties are considered to be the property of the 281st AHC Assn and shall be transferred to the new custodian without delay to prevent undue disruption to the good order and conduct of Association business.

(Here is some "hot of the press" info from the Board concerning the newly approved memorabilia to be made available for purchase by the membership)

Our Memorabilia Committee Chairman Brian Paine along with Earle Broussard have been hard at work skulling ideas and gathering quotes for the following items that will be made available to the membership through the mail and from the Assn Website. Coins; Pins: *Intruder*, *Bandits*, *Rat Pack*, *Wolf Pack*; Patches: *Intruder*, *Bandits*, *Rat Pack*, *Wolf Pack*; Baseball Caps; and Shirts. These items will also be available at our Houston 2003 Reunion. All current prices on the website are being revised while the prices for newer items under development have yet to be determined, so watch these spaces. In the meantime continue to check the website or contact Brian via the website, email, telephone or snail-mail.

(Last, but not least, a word from the Editor)

I had intended to include a roster in this newsletter however I ran out of pages! Bummer! I will try to have it in the Spring NL. The roster is available on the 281st Website or I will send a copy on request. There will hence forth be four newsletters each year published in January, April, August and November. Anyone desiring to pen an article or place something of interest just give me a jingle, write or send an email. Its YOUR newsletter, lemme hear from you, good or bad. – Fred Mentzer **"We Rotor On"**

281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC. Established July 4, 1999

(Back of 281st Challenge Coin)



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Jack Mayhew

Vice President

Lynn Coleman

Secretary

Jeff Murray

Treasurer

Fred Mentzer

Senior Member@Large

Jack Interstein

Junior Member@Large

Gary Stagman

Immediate Past President

Bob Mitchell

THE OFFICIAL WEB

281st AHC Assn: <http://www.281stAHC-Assn.org>

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APPOINTED OFFICERS

Awards

- Jack Interstein

Membership Committee Chairman

- Gary Stagman

Remembrance Committee Chairman

- Jack Mayhew

Historian

- Bob Mitchell

Internet Groups Administrator

- Brent Gourley

Website Committee Chairman

- Bob Mitchell

Legal Advisor

- Brent Gourley

Newsletter-Public Relations

- Fred Mentzer

Reunion Committee Chairman

- Lynn Coleman

Survivor Assistance Chairman

- Marshall Hawkins

Memorabilia Sales Committee Chairman

- Brian Paine

Chaplain

- Norm Kaufman

Other 281st AHC Websites

281st AHC "Intruder" <http://www.281stahc.org>

1st Platoon "Rat Pack"

<http://downtown.ala.net/~bgfry/281/ratpack.htm>

2nd Platoon "Bandits"

<http://www.angelfire.com/tn/mitchellrw/index.html>

3rd Platoon "Wolf Pack"

<http://Wolfpack36.org>