

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

NHA TRANG
1965-1970

Company Newsletter No. 21

Summer 2004

NEXT MONTH !

It's Reunion Time

Don't dawdle, don't wait, don't prevaricate !

Get out that check book, fill out the reunion form
and MAIL THE BUGGER!!

*Inside this newsletter, forms, information, everything
you want to know!*

**DO IT
NOW!**

28 September – 3 October 2004

SOAR XXVIII

Special Operations Association Reunion

281st Assault Helicopter Company Assn Reunion

Plaza Hotel and Casino

One Main Street

Las Vegas, Nevada 89125

(702) 386-2110 / (800) 634-6575

email: reservations@plazahotelcasino.com

<http://www.plazahotelcasino.com>

*Bob Mitchell is the Reunion Planner and can be reached at
bob.mitchell@mitchellsbodyshop-inc.com or 731-427-6446 Day, 731-424-7276 Night.
Questions regarding the reunion should be directed to Bob.*

From The President

Fellow Intruders,
It is now less than 60 days until we meet for our Annual Reunion in Las Vegas. Bob Mitchell and his committee have done a great job putting it together and I am sure that all who attend will have a great time. The application is on the web site so if you haven't filled yours out yet, now is the time. Also, don't forget to call the Plaza Hotel to make your room reservations

Because of his incapacitation, Fred Phillips was unable to continue to serve as Vice President and resigned. Last month I appointed Ray Oksa to be acting Vice President for the remainder of the year. Ray has stepped right in and taken over. I really appreciate those Intruders who have stepped up and done the job when they were called upon. Having men of this caliber willing to take on added responsibilities has certainly made my job easier.

Brian Paine, our Treasurer, approached the Executive Board with an idea for honoring our comrades who were killed or missing in action. He suggested that we procure a 281st Guidon for each fallen Intruder, embroidering their name on it and hanging them during our Memorial Service and Banquet.

The EB approved the idea and appropriated the funds. Then several Intruders pledged the cost of the Guidon (\$32.50) in order to honor a particular individual. If anyone would like to contribute, send a check to Brian Paine, 22407 Rippling Shores Court, Katy, TX 77494. Include a note identifying the Intruder you would like to honor.

Our elections are now complete. None of the three offices up for election was contested, so those who had thrown their hats in the ring were declared elected by the Election Committee in accordance with our bylaws. The new officers for 2004-05 are:

President: Ray Oksa
Vice President: Gary Stagman
Junior Member at Large: Jay Hays

My congratulations to the new officers. I know that all Intruders will give them their full support.

As my term as President of the 281st AHC Association comes to an end, I would like to thank all of the members for the cooperation and support that you have given me throughout the year. No matter what the circumstance, when I needed help you stepped up and did the job. It makes me proud to be associated with such dedicated and resourceful people.

See you in Vegas.

Lynn Coleman

Senior Member at Large

There were 5 names submitted as nominations for Intruder of the Year. These included Jay Hays, Jack Mayhew, Bob Mitchell, Earl Broussard and Ray Oksa. Two of these were out of the running according to the by-law preventing an individual from receiving the award twice.

The awards committee was tasked to make a decision between Jay Hays, Earl Broussard and Ray Oksa. I will include some of the discussion that was submitted along with the nominations. I have edited the comments to preserve anonymity.

Jay Hays

Jay goes out of his way to pick and adjust his routes in order to visit as many Intruders as he can. In doing so he gets those he visits more interested in the group. Jay Hays is sort of the roving 281st Association ambassador. He certainly went out of his way to put on that mini-reunion. Jay's heart is in it. Giving the award to Jay would do the award justice and inspire others to have mini-reunions of their own as well. I feel that Jay would be a fine choice for Intruder of the year.

Earl Broussard

Earl stands out as one who approaches the standards for Intruder of the Year. Earl worked relentlessly last year on the reunion. He is working with Bob this year on the reunion and is already working on the 2005 reunion. He will be a major force in the 2005 reunion. Earl is a major contributor to the Guidon project in labor and work. Although not asked to do so, he is tracking the

contributions for this project...running materials around town...and helping with communications with the embroidery shop. Earl will be assisting with getting the PX items to Vegas and setting things up there. He also took the reins to look into the school project for Iraq. Earl has never said no to any request for assistance on association projects.

Ray Oksa

Ray did an outstanding job as Registration Chairman for the 03 Reunion, to include taking photographs of all attendees and then sending everyone a copy of their photograph. He also wrote up a procedure for Mini-Reunions and assisted in the planning and execution of various mini-reunions, thereby increasing the fellowship enjoyed by the members.

After much discussion the Intruder of the Year awards committee made their decision. According to by-law the winner will not be announced until the awards ceremony at the 2004 Annual Reunion.

Norman C. Kaufman SM@L

The Junior Member@Large

For those of you that didn't know, Fred Phillips has resigned the office of vice president due to illness. President Lynn Coleman has appointed Ray Oksa to fill the office of vice president for the remainder of the 2004 term. Ray's appointment was confirmed by the rest of the EB (Article IV Sec. 2). Fred's resignation created one more office to be filled in election (president).

The Only nominations received for the three open offices were: Junior Member at Large = Jay Hays, Vice President = Gary Stagman and President = Ray Oksa.

According to Article V Section 5b "Should all 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."

I am declaring this election complete and seeing that all members in good standing get the newsletter, either by mail/email, I would like to present to the General Membership

their new officers for 2004-2005.

Reino "Ray" Oksa - *President*
Gary Stagman - *Vice President*
Jay Hays - *Junior Member@Large*

Ken Hamilton
Junior Member at Large



FAREWELL TO A 281ST LEGEND

Robert J. "Mo" Moberg
22February1934–31May2004

Mo succumbed to cancer in Bangkok on Memorial Day.



† **Ronald W. Davis** †
Retired CW4 281st 67-68
Died of a heart attack at age 65 in Pensacola, Florida.

† **Sylvia Szwed** †
Beloved wife of Craig Szwed
Passed away on 15 July 2004 after a long battle with a degenerating disease.

The Chaplain's Corner

Religion and politics. These are two of the most volatile subjects to enter into a discussion about. I'm not an expert on either one and yet I find myself in the middle on many occasions. As a pastor sometimes people want me to tell them how God would want them to vote. Voting is something each individual must decide. I believe that God is in control of this world contrary to what most politicians think. God places people in positions of leadership and the scriptures tell me that we should support these leaders. Personally I would not want any of their jobs.

There are many families in this country with a person missing from their regular place at home and at work. The son, daughter, dad, mom.... You get the picture is somewhere serving his country. All of us have experienced this separation from family and some of you may be experiencing it with a family member

-serving now. Most of all there are those missing someone permanently because they have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Now I know I'm not supposed to talk about religion and politics but I offer this solution to peacemakers everywhere. God offered what they all say they are striving for over 2000 years ago. "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." If all the people of the world would take this to heart then a lot of discussion about politics and religion would be unnecessary and a lot of folks would not have to make sacrifice

Norm Kaufman

Guidon Project

Proposed by Brian Paine and Earl Broussard

The project was unanimously approved by the Executive Board. The Guidon's are replicas of the original, each with the individual KIA-MIA name embroidered on along with the wings and 281. They will be used during Remembrance programs at our Annual Reunions. You will see all 46 Guidon's honoring our KIA/MIA's at the Vegas Reunion.



Timothy J. Carolan, Jim R. Cavender, Gary B. Flabbi, Thomas A. Guenther, Michael A. Hughey, Robert E. Jenne, Daniel E. Jurecko, Frank M. Kaiser, Paul B. Lambertson, Stanley J. Miller, Tarry T. O'Reilly, Josef L. Thorne

The 12 KIA/MIA listed above remain to be pledged for. If you desire to participate in the project contact Brian or Earl.

The Remembrance Committee

We have made a change to the committee and have taken action to include all Intruders, members of the attached units, the 6th Platoon and the 145th as members of the Remembrance Committee. This unilateral

action means that **YOU** are now a part of this very large committee that has only one mission: Remembering the 46 Intruders we lost in Vietnam and identifying and remember our brothers lost from the 6th and 145th. Acceptance is not necessary in that from now on we will consider everyone to be a member of this committee. A simple warning: Declining this honor or resigning may be viewed by some in the same manner as moving to Canada to avoid the draft.. Welcome aboard, we still have a lot of work to do so please contact us when you are ready to start.

Congratulations and thanks go to Bob Ohmes for completing the remembrance for Michael Gallagher. Bob's write up for Michael, along with his sketch and photo are posted to the KIA/MIA section of the web. (http://281stahc-assn.org/remembrance/remem_html/kia-mia/gallager.htm) This was a difficult task but our Command Sergeant Major hung in there and his continuing efforts over the past few years paid off. Thanks again Bob for a job well done. Bob is a great reference for help on how to accomplish most rewarding this task. (Robert L. Ohmes rohmes@kc.rr.com)

Jack Mayhew

Bean Counters Corner

Flight, the association has been able to maintain it's financial soundness for another year. Our sources for money primarily are membership fees, reunion fees, memorabilia and donations. Although the annual renewal fees are far from 100% we are fortunate to have Gary Stagman locating old friends and increasing the association membership. We need to, as a group, strive to obtain 100% renewal of annual memberships. When the association has taken on a special project members have stepped forward with donations to offset the expenses of the project. Thus far, the annual reunions have balanced out and we have not had any significant drain on the association's bank account. Although there is an initial outlay of cash for inventory, the PX has been able to operate in the black to this point.

With your continued support, the association will continue to maintain its presence on the world wide web, seek and recruit old friends into the organization, offer quality memorabilia through the PX, keep the memories alive for our lost comrades, hold top quality reunions and much more. Thank you one and all. *Brian Paine, Treasurer*

Notes and Comments

Ohio Mini Reunion

Out there in cornland (Ohio) a group of our intrepid members held a Mini-Reunion extraordinaire. Ray Oksa sent me pictures, newspaper articles and letters of appreciation and recognition for inclusion in this Newsletter. Unfortunately space is limited so I will bring most of the material to the Vegas reunion for display in the 281st Hospitality Room. Included will be letters of recognition from the Mayor Michael Chaffee of Lordstown, Ohio and Governor Bob Taft of Ohio. Our guys and their gals had a great time (and ate lots of icecream). Read the names across the photos continuing from the second and third lines. – Fred



Russ Erbe, Gary Stagman, Larry Loudin, Paul Greiner, Ray Oksa
Rich Schlerher, John Galkiewicz, Norm Kaufman, Allen Denmark,
Jay hays, Jack Interstein, John Castello, Harold Rismiller, Joe Horwath



Barbara Loudin, Beth Erbe, Marge Kaufman, Nicki Stagman,
Barbara Schleher & Katie, Dory Hays, Hanna Oksa,
Marolyn Denmark, Marcia Castello, Doris Hays

Now for some emails off the 281st Chat and HQ nets. Many folks will not have seen these messages, hence their inclusion in the newsletter. – Fred

The Association extends heartfelt condolences to Craig Szwed and his family

From: Craig Szwed Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2004

Dear family, friends, and associates,

Please accept my apology for using this blanket method of notifying you, but there are many, many people to contact. After helping Sylvia through the past 2.5 years of suffering in her 5-6 year ordeal with cortico-basal ganglionic degeneration, I haven't the energy to call or write each of you individually.

My beloved friend and wife, Sylvia Ann (Brunaccioni) Szwed, went to be with our Lord Jesus Christ at 2:10am this morning. Her crossing over Jordan was peaceful. We will all miss her terribly, but thank God that she is rejoicing in Him now and no longer suffering.

God bless you, and thank you, for all the prayers to Jesus that have sustained us in these trying times. Craig

In July the Executive Board approved granting Tom Ross honorary membership in the Association. Tom was with Detachment A-502, 5th Special Forces Group and is the author of the recently published "Privileges of War". The 281st is prominently mentioned in the book. He intends to be at the reunion and I am told he will autograph books for the 281st.

From: Tom Ross

Former S2/S3, Special Forces Detachment A-502, Republic of South Vietnam
Author of *Privileges of War*

Subject: Open letter to my brothers at the 281st Attack Helicopter Company

Upon returning home today, I found a large envelope addressed to me from Gary Stagman. The envelope was decorated as if Uncle Sam had done it himself. When I noticed that the return label had a 281st patch on it, I couldn't

wait to see what was inside and couldn't imagine what was being sent to me by the 281st. Then, when I opened the envelope . . . it was difficult to believe what I held in my hands.

Gentlemen . . . you have done me a tremendous honor by making me an Honorary Member of the 281st AHC Association. It is not possible for you to know how deeply touched I am by your gesture. You could not give this great honor to anyone to whom it would mean more. Thank you very, very much!

I will now give you one of the many reasons your recognition means so much to me. For those of you who have already read my book, you know I enlisted with the goal of going to Vietnam (just as most of you). But, as Paul Harvey would say, "Now, you're about to hear the rest of the story". . . I wanted to fly helicopters. So, I took the tests, took the physical at Ft. Rucker, passed both and was given a class date ninety days out. Being an impetuous youth, that seemed like an eternity to me. I simply couldn't wait . . . I needed to get to the war. So, that's when I enlisted and applied for Special Forces (the second bravest thing I could think to do).

Since it's too late for anyone to get into trouble, I will tell the second part of the story. I have actually been at the controls of a 281st ship. We were on an observation mission west of A-502's base camp at the fort when I told the above story to the ship's pilot and crew. The pilot asked if I had anything to trade if he let me fly. I know he didn't want anything, but was just yanking my chain. "Absolutely!" I said. "The cook just finished baking several cherry pies when you picked me up. Let me fly this thing and I'll treat all of you to homemade pies and ice cold milk," I said. We landed on a paddy dike and the co-pilot gave me his seat. I have to tell you . . . it was a great charge to fly us all back to camp. Then . . . we did, in fact, eat cherry pie. Those of you who gave me my flying lesson know who you are . . . thank you!

To all of you who served in the 281st . . . thank you for your courage, your selflessness, and your incredible dedication to our country. You have always had my respect and will always be my heroes.

Warmest regards and sincere deep thanks for this great honor,

Tom Ross
Former Major, U.S. Army Special Forces

Next a report from Jack Mayhew concerning our presence at The Wall.

Date: Tue, 01 Jun 2004 From: John Mayhew <jmayhew@huntwood.net>

On **Memorial Day** we gathered at the Wall and again, with the help of the entire 281st family. The event was organized by Frank Hood of VA and we all placed information plaques at the base of the panels that our troops are listed on. The attached picture is of Linda George placing Bob Gardner's plaque. The flags, flowers and 281st guide-on displays were provided by Kelly who organized and supervised this effort again this year.

Check out the web site for all the great pictures taken by Brian Paine. It would be an understatement to say that MO's death cast a shadow over the event but on the bright side we were able to help a family come to grips with the loss of their son who was a Delta Medic in 69. The family was never told what he did or how he died and we stood with them in the rain for over an hour answering their many questions. One of the things that stand out at the Wall are the remembrances which have a picture of the individual and it is sad that we are missing pictures for so many of our heroes. However, I can proudly tell you that the 281st was one of the best represented units at the wall and the only one with a guide-on. Several individuals stopped to ask about the unit and how they could get their unit guide-on. This is a great event and one that I would highly recommend for next year.

Thanks, Frank, Kelly, BP and all for a great effort. – *Jack Mayhew, for your Remembrance Team*



Jack Mayhew, Frankie Esquillan, Brian Paine, Walt Strobe, Joe Corney, Beetle Bailey



Jack Mayhew, Jack Interstein, BP, 5th Grp Guy, Bill Purdy, Beetle Bailey

The following an email to Jack Mayhew on the Chat Net from Honorary Member, Linda George, widow of Bob George KIA 1968. - Fred

Date: Wed, 2 Jun 2004 From: "Linda George" <bg@stroudsburg.com>

Jack - Was great to see everyone as usual. Please give Kelly my special thanks, what a gal. When you have a spare minute, ha, ha, would you be so kind as to send me her email address?

BP - The pictures are great. Sorry you missed Tom Ridge, he did a very nice job. My home address is as follows: 100 Wooddale Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. Have a good road trip and a safe trip home. Don't know where you went after Marge and Norm's but the Poconos (E. Stbg.) is right off of route 80 on the PA/NJ border. I would have given you the grand tour.

If anyone plans on visiting the "Wall" this summer you will only get to see half of it. They are closing half at a time to install new lighting, the project won't be complete until Veteran's Day. Also, the "In Memory" plaque will be dedicated on Veteran's Day eve. Of course I plan to be there, so if anyone is coming, please let me know. There are so many DAT's that should be a part of the "In Memory" book but have not been added. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

I'm so sorry everyone couldn't be in DC this past weekend, from beginning to end it was really something. The WWII Dedication and interacting with all the WWII Vets was something that I will never forget. The parade of motorcycles (approx. 300,000) was unbelievable. Arlington was aglow in Red, White and Blue and the "Wall" almost comes to life as family, friends and comrades gather to celebrate the lives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We didn't even really notice the rain cause our faces were wet with tears, our hearts filled with sorrow yet with such pride you just felt like you could burst. If it sounds like I was overwhelmed, well I was. I can't express the feeling I had placing those plaques and gently pressing my fingertips over all the names of the fallen members of the 281st. Thank you Frank, Jack, Brian, Jimmy, Stobe and everyone else who took part, I was extremely honored to be in your company and if you believe in God, you have to know that the 47 men you paid tribute to were honored that you were there as well. So, here's a great big HOOAH to all of you!!!!!! I look forward to our next visit. - Fondly, Linda George

Farewell to a Friend... a Soldier... a Legend...



Robert J. "MO" Moberg passed away in Bangkok on Memorial Day 2004. How fitting to take off on his last flight on a day of national recognition for America's honored dead. And how appropriate.

Along with all who knew him or had heard stories of his exploits, I was shocked and saddened to hear of Bob's passing. I was shocked because he, as with his friend and comrade Chuck Allen, always seemed to me to be a cut above us normal mortals. I mean how could a man like Bob succumb to a disease that effects ordinary people? He could only have been ambushed. Even then I'm sure he did not go peacefully into the night. I have no doubt that he fought the Grim Reaper every step of the way because was a warrior. He would not allow the enemy an easy victory. None the less he is gone, leaving his friends and comrades with a myriad of memories and stories. I'll try to recall some of my own from that time now more than thirty-five years ago.....

I first met Bob when I reported to the 281st in July of 1967. I came up to Nha Trang on an Intertheater Transfer from the 25th Infantry Division at Chu Chi. Al Junko, the CO at the time, moved me into a room already occupied by Bob at the infamous "Villa". No problem there, Bob and I got along famously. We enjoyed the same things; good food, bad women, booze, and, a good time. Not necessarily in that order and very frequently all together! Up until that time I had considered myself more than proficient in those categories. I learned very quickly that I had met "The Master".

One evening, I suppose it was sometime after we'd returned from Samurai I, we were in our room at the Villa. We'd had more than a few drinks with the evening meal and were "ready for some action". I recall Mo telling his young adopted Vietnamese son Sie to "bring us some whores". Sie

scurried out the door of the Villa, across the street and down a side road, to secure from one of the numerous houses there, a couple of resident young ladies. When the lovelies came into the room, there was Bob fandango'ing around the room to a booming tape of loud Spanish music, bottle of Scotch swinging in the air and grinning like an idiot. The girls took it all in with aplomb. Seems they'd seen it before. We did shake them up a bit though. When it came time to retire and they'd gone into the bath room to do girlie things, Bob and I turned out the lights and switched beds. The ladies returned and many shrieks and giggles ensued. Made us go back to our own bunks. Twenty Piastre loyalty. Go figure!

It wasn't long after that Junko banished us to the first floor of the Villa. Seems like loud music and giggling broads disturbed his and others slumber. Spoil sports!

Another fond memory is during Samurai II. I'd taken over the Wolf Pack after Barc Boyd got shot and was occupying a GP Medium with Bob. We each had a bunk and there was an extra for visiting VIP's. Bob kept a "special" bottle of Crown under his bunk for when a particular visitor would show up, that person being Chaplain Grady. The Chaplain would usually appear off of a re-supply C-130 whenever he felt it was time to visit the Delta heathens. We never knew when that might be. Bob would save up on raunchy jokes and get the Chaplain crocked in the evenings after chow. I can still vividly recall the Chaplain sliding giggling off the bunk onto the dirt floor, bottle clutched to his chest, with Mo leaning over him rattling off one joke after the other!

There are other stories, many in fact. But those are for another time when we're gathered at Reunion's reminiscing. One last thing. I mentioned the fairer sex. Mo seemed to have an uncanny effect on the female of the species. It didn't seem to matter what the age, race, color, creed, education or class. They all, without exception, melted in his presence. It was amazing to see.

There are many stories of his exploits as a soldier in combat, with the 281st, as well as in Cambodia and Laos after Viet Nam. Most can be found on the 281st AHC website in a special section under Remembrance, DAT (Died After Tour).

So its farewell to a friend, a mans man, a soldier. I look forward to the day when I can hopefully obtain a special visitors pass into Valhalla where I know he is, with other heroes past, to share a drink, tell some stories, have some laughs, and maybe even shed a tear..... Fred

"Sure the LZ is secure, I'm whispering because I have a cold. Trust me."

281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.

<http://www.281stahc-assn.org>

Established 4 July 1999



EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President**
Lynn Coleman
- Vice President**
Ray Oksa
- Secretary**
Jeff Murray
- Treasurer**
Brian Paine
- Senior Member@Large**
Norm Kaufman
- Junior Member@Large**
Ken Hamilton
- Immediate Past President**
Bob Mitchell

APPOINTED OFFICERS

- Awards** - Jack Interstein
- Membership Committee Chairman** - Gary Stagman
- Remembrance Committee Chairman** - Jack Mayhew
- Historian** - Bob Mitchell
- Internet Groups Administrator** - Brent Gourley
- Commo Committee Chairman** - Bob Mitchell
- Legal Advisor** - Brent Gourley
- Reunion Committee Chairman** - Bob Mitchell
- Survivor Assistance Chairman** - Marshall Hawkins
- Memorabilia Sales Committee Chairman** - Brian Paine
- Chaplain** - Norm Kaufman
- Newsletter Editor/Public Relations**
Fred Mentzer

Membership

Membership is “*SLOWLY*” growing and the finding of new intruders has really fallen off, in the area of “*new*” finds. In fact we have gained in membership in the past **9 months**, a gain of **14** new members to make a total of “**295**”!!

I still am begging for more information that is contained in old orders, roster, etc. I still have very little information on guys in the 1969 timeframe... That is the only year that I have almost no information to research for guys. I do have a positive side of all this is that in talking to guys, I am getting some directions to head in when they mention names in our conversations...

The next thing I want to discuss is in order for us to keep in touch with you, I must have current personal information, so we can get the information passed on to you guys.

I'm finding that a lot of folks are moving, changing E-mail address and telephone numbers, which make contact of any sort is just about out of the question. PLEASE keep your information on the master roster up to date.

Not membership but noteworthy information:

Another one of the highlights is hearing from a guy that he has made progress with the VA. That sometimes can be very frustrating as some of the VA offices do not want to work or help an individual. They sometimes make it so hard, that many just give up. I try to keep passing on information as I get it, because it is important information that may help someone. I keep telling guys don't give up, because that's what they want you to do. Also to help you in your VA claim, please contact a service organization (i.e., VFW, DAV, AMVETS. Etc.) to assist you in your claim. They can get a better and faster response from the VA than just you doing it on your own.

Thank you for your continuing support, to the 281st AHC Association!!

Gary Stagman
Chairman
Membership Committee

2525 Revere's Route
Granite City, Illinois 62040
Tel: 618-797-1336
email: COOTER@Charter.Net

General...

In June 2004 Lynn Coleman appointed Ray Oksa as interim VP to replace the ailing Fred Phillips. Lynn also appointed Bob Mitchell as Reunion Chairman.

Ray has prepared registration forms for annual reunion attendees, nametags with holders, and has assembled a corps of people to assist in registrations and other needs as required (feel free to volunteer). A raffle board with 225 chances at \$20 per chance is being prepared and he is working on 15 prizes for winners (all prizes worth more than the \$20 chance cost).

Ray plans to take individual pictures of each intruder family at registration. Intruder registration monies and annual dues monies collected will be forwarded to Association Treasurer Brian Paine.

2004 281st AHC REUNION...

SOAR/281st Reunion is scheduled for 29 September through 3 October 2004 in the Plaza Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas. The exact dates, times and places for the 281st events are published in the chart below. The Special Operations Association has locked in a block of rooms at a reduced rate for attendees. To reserve a room at the reduced rate you must call the hotel at **800-634-6575** before 21 August 2004 and tell them you are with SOA. **The rate is \$42.00 per night.** The SOAR Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) will be mailed out in late July, and a SOAR Registration Form will be included. The PRP will be mailed out to all SOA members as of that time.

When we hook up with SOA we are their guest, so to speak, and we try to integrate our events into their schedule. They do not publish their schedule until after June. So, it does make it difficult for us to nail down exact dates and times for our specific events.

While it is not mandatory for you to be a member of SOA to attend the reunion, it does make it easier. The SOA has a single fee for the reunion that covers all of their events except the Machine Gun Range Firing. The fee includes a hospitality room that is open almost all the time. Drinks are included in the fee. To gain access to the hospitality room you must pay the SOAR Fee. Many of the 281st members are qualified for full membership in the SOA and others are qualified for Associate Membership. John Korsbeck is the Liaison to the SOA for the 281st AHC Association and also on the Membership Committee for SOA. He is the single point of contact for questions concerning membership. Contact John at **kcountr@ttc-cmc.net**. You may also call John at **406-654-2547** with questions concerning membership in SOA. Applications for membership in SOA must be received by John Korsbeck before **1 September 2004** to be processed before the reunion. His snail mail address is:

**John Korsbeck
Box 44
Malta, MT 59538**

SOA Membership Criteria is available on the 281st Website or from John Korsbeck. Completed SOA Membership applications for 281st members should be **mailed directly to John** at the above address. This will save time and mailings. **Should you decide not to join SOA, you can still attend SOAR as a guest of a sponsoring SOA member.** We will set up these sponsors as needed.

281st AHC Association Annual Reunion Registration

Must be Mailed Not Later Than 15 Sep 2004

30 September-3 October 2004, Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Mem # _____ Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ (_____) _____
Home Phone _____

INFORMATION FOR NAME TAG:

(Name) _____

(Unit on Name Tag -6th ALP, 145th ALP, 2/171st, 281st, 483rd, 499th, Platoon): _____

Guests' Name Tags: #1 _____ #2 _____

ATTENDING 281st Reunion:

Registration

Member: Reunion \$ 25.00 \$ _____

Guests: Reunion #Guests ____ X \$ 25.00 \$ _____

My 2005 Annual Membership Dues are enclosed \$ 25.00 \$ _____

Registration for children under 18 not required. Parents responsible for meal costs.

TOTAL DUE ----- \$ _____

PAYMENTS: Check or Money Order made payable to "281st AHC Association" Please make a separated check for your dues to help us keep the monies straight.

VOLUNTEER: Yes, I wish to volunteer !!!! I will be happy to do my share and assist with:

Registration ____ As Required ____

SOA MEMBERSHIP: If you are member of SOA please give your member number _____

Mail this completed form along with your Check or Money Order to:

281st AHC Assn
Reino Oksa
PO Box 627
Bayse, VA 22810

Telephone:
540-856-2837

Email:
hko@shentel.net

Host Hotel reservation deadline is 21 August 2004 for SOAR reduced rates

Please use the area below for specific comments or requests:

REUNION SCHEDULE...

The 281st AHC Association will be providing a Hospitality Room this year. The location of the room will be provided to you at the Registration Desk upon your arrival. We will also have a limited supply of PX items available in the Hospitality Room. The SOAR Hospitality Room will be open continuously, but requires SOA Registration and Nametag for entry. As you can imagine there are plenty of things to do and see in Las Vegas. We have only a few scheduled events which will allow you plenty of time to visit with your old army buddies or see the town. We also have events scheduled around SOA that may be of interest to our members as well. The following schedule is tentative and may be changed prior to the actual event.

THU 30 SEP	1000-1800	Registration-SOA Registration Area
FRI 1 OCT	1000-1800	Registration-SOA Registration Area
FRI 1 OCT	1000-0200	SOA Hospitality Room
FRI 1 OCT	1000-1530	281 st AHC Hospitality Room and PX
FRI 1 OCT	1000-1130	SOA POW-MIA Seminar
FRI 1 OCT	1130-1330	SOA Hosted Luncheon
FRI 1 OCT	1330-1530	SOA General Membership Meeting
FRI 1 OCT	TBA	281 st Golf Outing
FRI 1 OCT	1600-1800	281 st Executive Board Meeting (Or directly after SOA General Membership Meeting)
FRI 1 OCT	1800-2100	281 st Pool Side Cocktail Party
SAT 2 OCT	0700-1300	SOA Range Firing
SAT 2 OCT	1000-1400	Registration-SOAR Registration Area
SAT 2 OCT	1000-1700	SOA Hospitality Room and PX
SAT 2 OCT	1000-1300	281 st AHC Hospitality Room
SAT 2 OCT	1300-1500	281 st AHC General Membership Meeting
SAT 2 OCT	1600-1700	281 st AHC Remembrance Ceremony
SAT 2 OCT	1700-1820	SOA Cash Bar at Derby Terrace
SAT 2 OCT	1715-0200	281 st AHC Hospitality Room and PX
SAT 2 OCT	1830-2100	SOA Main Banquet
SUN 3 OCT	RTB	See you next year!

There are no events scheduled for the 281st on Thursday or Sunday. These days are travel days.
Actual Location for events TBA at beginning of Reunion

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES..

If you desire to participate in SOA activities you must register with SOA on a separate form. SOA members will have this form mailed to them in the PRP. **Remember if you are not a member of SOA, there many of us who are and we can provide sponsors for non-SOA members. Contact John Korsbeck for details.**

To register for the 281st AHC Reunion please fill out the registration form and mail to the address provided on the form with your check. If you are also renewing your membership, please be sure to write two checks, one for Reunion and one for Dues. Contact Reino Oksa for details.

If you plan on attending the 2004 281st AHC Reunion in Las Vegas, please sign the "Sign In Roster" on the 281st AHC website. This will help us keep track with approximately how many will be attending.

SOAR XXVIII REGISTRATION and Dues

Must be postmarked Not Later Than 11 September 2004

*Special Operations Association Reunion * 29 Sep – 3 Oct 2004 * Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV*

_____/_____
 SOA#/Type Last Name First Name MI

 Address City State ZIP(5+4)

Home Phone _____ Email _____

INFORMATION FOR NAME TAGS:

(Sponsor) _____

Guests:	Last Name	First Name
#1	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____
#3	_____	_____
#4	_____	_____
#5	_____	_____

Attending entire Reunion, including Banquet:

		<u>Pre Registration</u>	<u>(Late Registration)</u>	
Member	\$ 125	(\$155)	\$ _____
Number of Guests	_____ multiplied times	\$ 125	(\$155)	\$ _____

NOT attending entire Reunion - Indicate (check) individual days below:

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday NO Banquet	Saturday With Banquet	
	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$65	
Sponsor						\$ _____
Guest #1						\$ _____
Guest #2						\$ _____
Guest #3						\$ _____
Guest #4						\$ _____
Guest #5						\$ _____

ANNUAL MEMBERS (2005 dues must accompany Registration) \$30 \$ _____

Raffle Tickets: \$2000/\$1000/\$500 U.S. Saving Bond (include stubs): # ___ X \$5 \$ _____

Range Firing (see reverse for detailed information) (NoRefunds) # ___ X \$50 \$ _____

Vendors Only: Tables Required # ___ X \$100 \$ _____

TOTAL DUE _____ \$ _____

Payment and Volunteer Information on Reverse

Payment: Check or Money Order _____ **Please make payable to "SOA"**

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____ Discover Card _____

Account#: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____

Name as printed on card: _____

Billing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____

Signature (Required for credit card transactions) _____

VOLUNTEER: Yes, I wish to volunteer !!! I will be happy to assist with:

Registration _____ Bar Area _____ Firing Range _____ As Required _____

ANNUAL SOAR RANGE FIRING

Saturday, 2 October 2004

Number Participating _____

(Must be at least 14 years old. Sponsor must accompany Minors).

The Annual Range Firing will take place on Saturday, 2 October 2004, from 0700 to 1300 at the Boulder Pistol and Rifle Club in Boulder City, NV. The buses will depart the Plaza Hotel and Casino at 0700 and return at 1300. This year you will find the \$50 donation listed on the front of the SOAR Registration Form. We must have at least 40 participants sign up by the end of the registration period for the event to be conducted. If fewer than 40 sign up, it will not be cost effective to conduct the range firing. Should this happen, and the range be cancelled, donations will be refunded. If the range is a go, and the registered participant fails to show, the donation will not be returned (no exceptions).

The Boulder City Range is an NRA approved range with portable toilet and shade areas. There will be various pistols, rifles, and shotguns available to fire. "Release of Liability" forms, relieving the city of Boulder City, the Boulder Pistol and Rifle Club, and the SOA of liability during range firing must be signed prior to firing. Safety will be a primary issue and Safety Rules will be strictly enforced.

Mark Kinsler, SOA GL Member, provides the weapons and ammunition for the range firing. He goes to a lot of expense and effort to make it all available. The Board of Directors (BOD), on behalf of the SOA Membership, thanks Mark for his generous effort and contribution.

Funds donated by the participating members go to the SOA General Operating Fund.

The BOD

**Submit completed form to S. Z. "Rick" Grabianowski, Treasurer, SOA,
PO Box 20279, Reno, NV 89515-0279 or fax to (775) 323-7153
or email to SOAR28@grabianowski.com**