

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

NHA TRANG
1965-1970

Company Newsletter No. 35

Summer 2008

ITS NOT TOO LATE !!

BOOK NOW FOR...

REUNION 2008

AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL ST LOUIS AIRPORT



YOUR ASSOCIATION WANTS TO SEE YOU AT THE

THE 281ST AHC ANNUAL REUNION

From the Prez...

Intruders, last month I went to the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Member Association Reunion (VHCMA) at the Crowne Plaza, St Louis. Their costs are higher and the hospitality room only had soda and beer. It's a nice group of guys "that have been there and done that" also, but they are not the 281st. Their attendance was up as many said "yes gas is expensive but it will likely be worse next year".

Bob Ohmes had surgery 6/19/08 on both hands to remove all or part of 3 fingers. Doris and I visited with Bob and Bonnie in Kansas City 6/22/08, it was great to see them and what a positive attitude they have.

On Monday 6/23/08 I visited with Awards Unlimited Lincoln, Nebraska to finalize shipping of PX items for the reunion. We will have a new gray t-shirt the design is thanks to Fred Mentzer. Also a newly designed key chain for each registered member in attendance.

I spent a couple days in Branson MO. with Jr. Member@Large Frank Becker with wives. The Becker's hosted us with about 2/3's of their crop acreage under up to 11 feet of water! Frank said all he had to do was stay home and watch it rain. Talked with Fred Lewis but was unable to meet as he was taking a bus load of reservists to Texas for summer camp.

In the last couple months we have lost some more brothers, John Korsbeck and Ron Javins, passed away. While traveling without access to e-mail (laptop crashed) I received word that Ron had passed on the 18th of June. Ron was very helpful at our reunions with registration and the PX, even though he was dependant on a electric cart for mobility. On June 30th I finally was able to check my e-mail and had received an e-mail from Ron on the 16th bringing me up to date on a reunion matter as Ron was our Kentucky coordinator.

I have written about my travels to make this point... don't let this reunion slip by you as can't be sure if you'll be around next year! As Richard Murray has said "we need to change this from a reunion to annual therapy". Reunion Chairman Frank Little and his

committee have worked hard to keep your costs down and put this event together. Don't miss it!! See You in St. Louis!

Jay Hays
President

The VP Speaks....

Final arrangements are being made for the 2008 Reunion. As you know we have invited former members of the 8th Trans to attend. Next year we hope to share our Reunion with the other units for the 10th Battalion. Hope you are making your plans to attend.

I was saddened to learn of the passing of my good friend Ron Javins. He served this association as a member of the election committee and was a regular to help out in the PX. Please keep his family in your prayers.

In closing I urge each of you to remember the 46 members of the 281st that paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation. It is our duty not to let their service be forgotten. The Remembrance Ceremony is reason enough to come to St Louis.

Frank Little
VP & Reunion Chairman

The Junior Member @ Large....

Greetings from the soggy Mid-West. With any luck by the time you get to St. Louis we will have stopped treading water, just slosh when we walk. It has been very wet but by the 1st of Aug. we should be hot and dry as always in Missouri. I believe there will be plenty to do in St. Louis as always.

As the JM@L I am to get the election together the slate of new officers for the 2008-2009 year. This year we are to elect a Vice-President and a Junior Member @ Large. We only had one name for each. For V-P Jim Torbert and JM@L Ed Hass. In this case the election will be by acclamation and they are to take office at the reunion membership meeting on Sat. Aug. 2, 2008.

Thanks for the chance to serve you this part of the year. See you on the flight line.

Frank Becker
Junior Member @ Large

The Chaplains Corner

As I sit here thinking about something for the newsletter it is just about a week before the Fourth of July. When I found this article in what I call my "Keeper" file I thought, "What better reminder on the anniversary of the beginning of this great country?"

You may have seen this before but some things just need repeating. I know I'm preaching to the choir but maybe you can show this to someone that hasn't seen it and needs to.

It makes us think about all that was given for this nation. I'm proud to have served with each of you as we include ourselves in that elite group that fought to preserve the rights we all enjoy.

Norm Kaufman
281st Assn. Chaplain

A VISITOR FROM THE PAST

By Thelen Paulk

I had a dream the other night, I didn't understand
A figure walking through the mist, with flintlock in his hand
His clothes were torn and dirty, as he stood there by my bed
He took off his three cornered hat, and speaking low he said:

"We fought a revolution, to secure our liberty
We wrote the Constitution, as a shield from tyranny.
For future generations, this legacy we gave
In this, the land of the free and the home of the brave"

You buy permits to travel, and permits to own a gun
Permits to start a business, or to build a place for one.
On land that you believe you own, you pay a yearly rent
Although you have no voice in choosing, how the money's spent."

"Your children must attend a school that doesn't educate.
Your Christian values can't be taught, according to the state.
You read about the current news, in a regulated press.
You pay a tax you do not owe, to please the I.R.S."

"Your money is no longer made of Silver or of Gold.
You trade your wealth for paper, so you life can be controlled.
You pay for crimes that make our Nation, turn from God in shame.
You've taken Satan's number, as you've traded in your name."

"You've given government control; to those who do you harm,
So they can padlock churches, and steal the family farm,
And keep our country deep in debt, put men of God in jail,
harass your fellow countrymen, while corrupted courts prevail."

"Your public servants don't uphold the solemn oath they've sworn.
Your daughters visit doctors, so their children won't be born.
Your leaders ship artillery, and guns to foreign shores,
And send your sons to slaughter, fighting other people's wars."

"Can you regain the freedom for which we fought and died?
Or don't you have the courage, or the faith to stand with pride?"

Are there no more values for which you'll fight to save?
Or do you wish your children, to live in fear and be a slave?"

"People of the Republic, arise and take a stand!
Defend the Constitution, the Supreme Law of the Land!
Preserve our Great Republic, and God-Given Right!
And pray to God, to keep the torch of Freedom burning bright!"

As I awoke he vanished, in the mist from whence he came
His words were true, we are not free, we have ourselves to blame.
For even now as tyrants, trample each God-Given Right!
We only watch and tremble, too afraid to stand and fight.

If he stood by your bedside, in a dream, while you're asleep,
And wonders what remains of our Rights he fought to keep
What would be your answer, if he called out from the grave?
"Is this still the land of the free and the home of the brave???"

† **IN MEMORIAM** †



John W. Korsbeck
May 1, 2008
Rat Pack 17 05/69-05/70



Terrell "Ernie" Peterman
March 23, 2008
Bandit Pilot 1970



Ronald Javins
June 18, 2008
Avionics 3/70-12/70

"Rest in Peace, Brothers"



† HONORARY MEMBER †

Mrs Dorothy Dayton
June 6, 2008
Mother of Jimmy Dayton
KIA 1968

†

Now... Membership Man'nnnn..

After 8 years we now have member # 352 !!! Just after the 2007 reunion in St Louis, I had three conversions from annual to Life, one new Life Member and one new annual member. It was great that we were able to collect a lot of the 2008 dues with the reunion Registrations. (This year I have been very thankful the wonderful response of the 2008 and 2009 dues received. It has picked up a lot from previous years, so I thank you all very much for your loyal support.)

So far in 2008 I have 2 New Life Members pending their final payments. I also have 6 new Life Members paid in full. And also three New Annual Members. I know everyone loves a surprise, but every now and then I'll get a non-return addressed envelope with a Money Order and a note that instructs what I am to do with this. I have no clue as to who the donating people are, as no postmark or anything to identify to who or whom is doing this, but just want to thank you who ever you may be for being so kind and thoughtful of your fellow man. "So here's a hearty SALUTE to whomever is doing this", I do know that the recipients of this kindness are filled with awe of this being done. *I DO NOT myself have any idea as to the benefactor may be!*

Now it's time to get the 2009 dues out of the way, that way you don't get letters and such from me begging for the dues. Just joking about the begging.

The by-laws state that dues could be sent using reunion registration form. Of course the person receiving the reunion registration forms, must keep me up-to-date, then I will have a straight roster of members in good standing.. Thanks!

All NEW applications for membership and RENEWAL DUES will come to me (unless

sent in with reunion registration form) at the address on the membership form. If you need a renewal form or application, email me at: cooter@charter.net. You can also get the application off the 281st web site at www.281st.com.

I want to thank everyone who has been sending me their new information to update the master roster, this saves postage and you get your newsletters faster. PLEASE keep your information on the master roster up to date.

Thank you for your continuing support to the 281st AHC Association!! And making an old man's life easier!!! This allows me the extra time to try to help others thru information to pursue their claims with the VA system

Again thank you for your support and have a VERY SAFE summer and also during the upcoming Holidays...

Gary L. Stagman
Membership Chairman



SGM Bob Ohmes & The Prez



Dave Bitle - The Punchbowl - Memorial Day 2008

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A Note from the Editor...

There were many tributes to John "Country" Korsbeck. So many that I was unable to include all in this newsletter. I therefore chose a few that I felt were most representative of the love and respect that demonstrated John's effect on all those who were fortunate to have known him.

Dean Roesner, Rat Pack CE, 07/68-06/69

He was another of the good guys, although I knew him better from the phone calls and the reunions and the endless entertaining emails, than I did in VN. I sit here not doing a very good job of holding back the tears, something I haven't ever done much of in my life. Knowing him was way too short of time, but thank God I at least knew him, and as a friend. - Dean

LaRie Hamilton, wife of Ken Hamilton, Rat Pack CE 12/67-10/68

JK was a very special person to me. If I could have chosen another brother to add to my own family it would have been JK. He helped this Texas lady thru some rough times with his emails and his famous coloring book. Making me laugh when I really needed a laugh. As you all know JK loved to battle it out with the General and today the General is weeping as she has lost a true friend and big brother. He and Judy are the best of people one could ever have called friend. So sorry for your loss Judy as he will be missed by many. Funny but my adopted brother passed away on the same day, almost the same time, that my real brother did four years ago. Judy is doing as well as expected. Judy, again, I am so sorry for your loss. - LaRie

Bob Mitchell, Bandit 24 05/69-05/70 ...

John Korsbeck and I were in the same Flight School Class and of course served in the 281st together. We were buddies in those days and have been friends ever since. He is the one guy that kept in touch with me over the years. John used to call me, beginning in the late 70's, every Christmas and we would talk for an hour or two. He told me about the SOA when it was first formed up and tried to get me to join. He is the guy who told me about the VHPA. John had a network of 281st and SF guys that he talked to at least once a year. I am proud to say that I was one of those.

While hovering in the LZ under fire the day Roger Green and Steve Bovio were shot down, I felt a little turbulence from the rear. John Korsbeck had my 6 o'clock. As John moves on to Fiddlers Green, I know all of us will cover his 6 o'clock.

Be strong Judy, we love yall. - Bob

Jim 'MOM' Torbert, Intruder MOM 11/68-11/69

Ever since I got the news on Friday morning, I have each day found my mind wandering and remembering things about "Country". How glad I am that in my life I was able to know and spend time with John. You are so right Jim and Jeff, there was not anyone like him, a one of a kind special person. My life was blessed by knowing him and I will be toasting a glass at 3pm Thursday in memory of my friend. - MOM

Jeff Murray, Wolf Pack 33 10/68-10/69

It was the summer of '69 and I was getting short. We still had to box up the ammo, load up the Charlie Models and head north for another Delta, this time at Mai Loc, and run that for a few months before I could officially begin to wind down though. Having already gone thru a Delta at Phu Bai and a few at An Hoa I was feeling fairly confident in our ability to get the job done and done well, with minimal hiccups. But no, this rotation started off with Rat Pack, led by the singularly unimpressive Ace Miller who not only thought he was God's answer to aviation but somehow figured out he knew how to fly. Zinging into the homemade peneprieme runway adjacent to the SF camp, leading the way as was his wont, Ace proceeded to mark the LZ in a manner akin to that exhibited by Wild Bill Holt (not to be confused with Jim Holt, another Wolf Pack platoon leader who could actually fly) back on April 9, 1968, except this time it was August 2nd and he had a whole runway to hit instead of a lone tree, which he did in a resoundingly loud manner. He came into the runway a mite hot, another trait of his, forgetting that he had not performed a by the book pre-flight (that wasn't RLO duty), and when the KY-38 came a-loose and lodged against a pedal good old Ace was suddenly doing donuts near the tent area with the entire rest of the flight still aloft watching and wondering what the heck he was up to.

When he finally planted said aircraft on the left skid, albeit a mite hard, JK was in a full uproar. He was fixing to climb out of said aircraft and whomp his platoon leader about the head and shoulders but his exit was blocked by the skid which was pushed against his door. As Ace was such a friendly guy this apparent assault by JK was completely out of character but I am convinced that Ace is still alive today only because of that bent skid. I hardly knew JK before that, when he wandered in we all knew he was ex-SF but unlike the Lee Brewers and Fred Funks

and Jackie Keele's of the world he was a WO1, the others somehow having obtained the exalted rank of CW2, but he was different in other ways. One, he wasn't old. Two, he walked around with his hat cocked back like Whitey Ford heading for a cold one, and three he always smiled and could talk your ear off, even if he had no idea who you were.

No one was surprised that Ace had crashed a helicopter, it was only a matter of time, but I for one was not ready for him to take out one of the bright lights of the 1st Platoon, as that platoon had only a few aviators capable of carrying on a credible conversation. That JK survived his minor mishap and the rest of his tour is a testament to his skill and a bit of intestinal fortitude, and after 8 reunions, at least 4 of which I got to see JK again, I can say I am truly going to miss the guy, for he was one of a kind, an Intruder to the end.

JK my man, save us some seats up there, we'll get there but please, don't get in a hurry. And we won't tell Ace where you are. - Jeff

A tribute to Ernie Peterman from Ken Boling, Bandit CE 06/70-11/70

God Bless him he was one of my finest pilots I ever took a screwdriver too. I know Ernie was a BANDIT for sure. I greeted him and helped my A/C break him in. I'll surely miss him and some of that western humor. May the HEAVENS REJOICE for it is a much better place now that Ernie has entered those pearly gates. SALUTE! - Ken

Following are some "ruminations" by Jack Mayhew, CO 1967-68. Some names he refers to...; Al Junko, CO early 1967; Majors Don "Zorro" Jutz, and, Pat Sheeley (DAT), 1967; the infamous Gary Stagman; Freddie is yours truly, Wolf Pack 36, 1967-68; and Bruiser is Major Chuck Allen, Delta CO, 1967-68.

God, I'm getting old, spending my Sunday AM thinking about helicopters that are made up of a million plus parts all moving in different directions and maintained by guys like Stagman. We all should be on our knees in church thanking someone for guys like SGM Bob Ohmes, Don Ruskauff and all the Maint crews (Stagman also). When we first started the reunions the first thing that we heard was "I don't remember anybody and or I won't know anybody". Now we know almost everybody and have moved to identifying the bloody aircraft. Everybody must be on Blue Berries and Vodka (bought mine yesterday). However, I must say that it is easy to get attached to an aircraft that in itself has saved your butt. If you should happen to visit the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker you will find a Caribou with the marking of 3080. I lived in that aircraft for the better half of three years and could think of no better resting place for my ashes than under her wing. She was the first in VN and one of the last out. I'm afraid that this is something that is hard to explain to those who have not been there and done that.

As to Al Junko; I recall him telling me that he missed it by one during his watch if you count the ones that were destroyed by sapper the day of his change of command. In fact I think he has a plaque with the info on it that Jutz or Sheeley had made for him. (Let's get him and his plaque to the next reunion) Before I went over to replace him Col. Bill Smith, the 17th AVN Gp Cmdr told me in no uncertain terms that Al's record was one not to be repeated. During Mo & my watch we had several combat losses but only one accident. That occurred late one night between Kontum and Pleiku when the crew had an engine failure and set the thing down a bit hard, spreading the skids. The recovery outfit out of Pleiku recovered it and it got into the hands of the field maint company before we could get to it. They added up the damage and based on the hours estimated to repair it, categorized it as an accident, thus our only accident report. Don't recall who the crew was but they did a great job getting the thing on the ground in one piece considering the area they were in and the rough terrain. Speak up if you were in the crew.

The Pack may have put a few holes in Stagman's new H model and they certainly scared the hell out of all of us several times but they saved all our backsides time and time again to say nothing about the Delta teams.

For the record Bruiser and I had a *Come to God* meeting over recovering our down aircraft and crews after which he bucked the issue up to Group who left the decisions related to recovery of 281st assets up to the 281st. Bruiser was not happy with the decision but to his credit he stuck with it. Our policy was simple. If we could recover it without putting a recovery crew in harms way we recovered, if not Freddie and the Wolf Pack (should have had a band by that name) recovered it. To the best of my knowledge during our watch we never had a crew or team recovered by anyone other than our own rescue crews. I don't think that there was another aviation unit in country that can say that and it clearly points out the skill level and dedication of all the folks that served in the 281st crews. 46 names on the wall is 46 too many but without the spirit of leaving no man behind that you guys carried with you all the time that number would be much, much larger.

I had an AC come to me one day who wanted to discuss his frequent assignment as Rescue 1. I heard him out and we moved on. That day he recovered two crews and two of the individuals were wounded so severely that they were immediately evacuated to Japan. That night he went with me to the field hospital to visit the folks and he never brought up the issue again. We might want to identify those individuals who flew Rescue and actually made a crew rescue. We can then recognize them at our reunions. My list would start with; Charlie Fredricy, Don Torrini & Tommy Condrey. Do you remember who pulled you out of the jungle?

Let's hear from you if you were rescued or helped in the rescue. - JM

For those who are members of the Special Operations Assn, a note concerning SOA website Memorabilia Sales, from Jim Hetrick, President...

We are no longer working with the vendor that operated SOAMS for us. We will be up again with a new vendor by the end of July. There was a flyer mailed out today regarding Memorabilia sales.

Sorry for the inconvenience. - Jim Hetrick

Here's an email off the HQ Net posted by MOM Torbert on May 18th.....

Flight, this last week I had the very special honor of being part of a team hosting the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who were in Atlanta for the CMH Foundation. I spent the day on Thursday with Wes Fox and Bruce Crandall. Both men were awarded the CMOH from action in Viet Nam. Fox was/is a Marine who was awarded the medal as a 1LT CO for action on the ground around the Danang area. And of course Crandall, who was just recently presented the award, is best known from the book and movie of "We were Soldiers", was a Major and CO of a helicopter company. I hosted these two gentlemen as we went to a local high school and spent the day talking with students, faculty, and staff. There are 105 living CMOH recipients and 37 of them were here in Atlanta for their foundation meeting. What a rare opportunity and treat that was. If any of you have a chance to meet and/or even hear one of these gentlemen speak, I would highly recommend being present. - MOM

The Editor speaks....

That's it for the Summer Newsletter. Don't forget the first page.... "It's not too late"! So print out the application, get out your pen, and fill the bugger out! Also call the hotel to secure your room.

Join your old comrade in the Hospitality Suite for a cool one. Bring the wife, kids, grand kids and friends. We'll have a ball!

SEE YOU IN ST LOUIS

Fred Mentzer

As Barc Boyd says; "Just another old Wolf Pack 36"

CALL! CALL! CALL!

HELP SUPPORT OUR REUNION

If you are attending the reunion... call friends. Encourage them to join us in St Louis.

A 'by the State roster' is attached to help.

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

281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Established 4 July 1999



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Jay Hays
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Fred Mentzer



FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Intruder Scholarship Program is up and running. Thanks to the work of a great Board of Directors, (BOD) and several generous contributions the fund is closing in on Ten Thousand dollars in received or pledged monies.

The BOD will meet on Friday the 1st of Aug to review the recommendations of the four reviewers who evaluated the five bright young students under consideration for scholarships that will start in the fall of this year and they will announce the Intruder scholarship awards for 2008 at the closing event of the annual reunion in Saint Louis on Aug. the 2nd.

It's time to think about next year. While we have a bit of "Seed" money we need to raise additional funds for the children and grand children of our fellow intruders that need assistance in getting a college level education. When you pay your dues and or your reunion fees please consider adding a small contribution to the scholarship fund. Ever penny of your donation will go into the fund and will be used for next year's scholarships. This is also the time to talk to high school seniors in your family and remind them that scholarship help is available to them. To receive information and/or an application have them contact the secretary and /or any member of the BOD.

Robert Sorem, Co-Chairman/Treasurer

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Intruder06@comcast.net

202-683-1660



REUNION 2008 "R&R HONG KONG"



281st AHC Association Reunion Registration

Reunion Form Must be Mailed No Later than 30 Jun 2008

July 30-August 3, 2008, Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, St Louis, MO (Room Rate \$59.00 nightly)

"Host Hotel reservation deadline is 1 July 2008 for reduced rates 314-291-6700"

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

Current EMAIL Address: _____

INFORMATION FOR NAME TAG: Name _____

Dates in country with the 281st AHC (or an associated unit): _____

Guests' Name Tags: #1 _____ #2 _____

(Please list additional guests on the back of this form)

ATTENDING 281st Reunion: Registration Information

Member:	Reunion		\$ 100.00	\$ _____
Guests: (16 & up)	Reunion	#Guests _____ X	\$ 100.00	\$ _____
Children (11-15 yrs)	Reunion	#Guests _____ X	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
My 2009 Annual Membership Dues are enclosed			\$ 25.00	\$ _____

Registration for children 10 & under not required but encouraged. Parents responsible for meal costs.

TOTAL DUE ----- \$ _____

PAYMENTS: Check or Money Order made payable to "281st AHC Association" and mail this form with your fees to:

281st AHC Association
c/o Don Torrini
1 Biscayne Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025 Tel: 618-920-3810 Email: donaldo12@aol.com

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

Registration _____ As Needed _____ Other _____

Please use the area below for specific comments or requests:
