



281st Assault Helicopter Company Association

“INTRUDERS”

NHA TRANG
1965 - 1970

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 44

Winter
2011

Check out the “New” **INTRUDERS**



**G Co., 2-10 AVN BN
10th CAB
10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION**

Deployed since October 2010.

Read “The Rest of the Story” by the Troop Support Committee Chairman Joe Bilitzke in this Newsletter.

From the Prez.....

First let me wish you all a Happy New & Prosperous Year as we enter the 2nd Decade of the 21st Century. Since we did not have a Christmas NEWSLETTER issue this year, I also hope your Christmas was as Merry & Happy as mine. I spent mine in the great East Texas Pineywoods with my healthy and happy parents who are both 87, in good health & who just celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. My dad is a Navy WWII & Korean veteran and still works an 8-hour day in a local machine shop. Most of my family was there too including wife Carol, daughters Joanna & Tina (USAFA Grad 2007) the USAF 1st LT at McGuire AFB, NJ. Tina brought her boyfriend Navy Lt Erik Decker who is currently serving on the USS Cole just back from Yemen chasing pirates in the Indian Ocean.

I regret that it was not a great time for Jerry Bahre, who lost the love of his life Sue, or for Linda Green who lost her husband and 281st hero (double DFC winner) Jack Green. Jack Green was one of the men that made the Intruders the unique unit that it was and still is. I want to thank all of the Intruders who went to support the memorial ceremonies and the burial of Sue Bahre at Arlington National Cemetery. I want to send my personal thanks and appreciation to the following Intruders who attended these events. For Sue Bahre's memorial in Connecticut thanks to Jack Interstein (JINT), and Ed & Ellen Haas for attending Sue Bahre's Memorial Service and supporting Jerry on behalf of the 281st AHCA. I want to thank JINT, Karen Forcht-Heinz and Marshall "Hawk" Hawkins for attending Sue's burial at the Arlington National Cemetery. I also want to thank Al Smith, Jim Jackson, John Hyatt, Brian Paine and Bob Mitchell who were in attendance for Jack Green's Memorial Service and Funeral in Baton Rouge. I am sure that Linda was most appreciative that the 281st AHCA was well represented at Jack's service. I want to acknowledge Jack Mayhew for keeping us all informed about these sad events and a special thanks to Gary Stagman for his prompt and efficient support of these events with flag cases being delivered in a timely manner. Sue and Jack will be missed; they contributed a lot to make the 281st AHCA the proud organization that it is.

Jack Green was Chairman of the newly approved Book Committee; I trust that one of his

committee members will step forward and complete this project in his honor. I think that the book about the 281st if completed should be dedicated to the memory of Jack Green who inspired this effort.

Our second new committee led by Chairman Joe Bilitzke and Co-Chair Ed Haas is supporting of the New Intruders and their stateside families. The new Intruders are the Air Assault Helicopter Company (G Co., 2-10 AVN, 10TH CAB, 10TH Mountain DIV (LI), Fort Drum, NY who are now deployed at FOB Shank in Afghanistan. Inspired and assisted by Jack & Cindy Mayhew, Jack's TSI co-workers Tim Schaffer and Julie Kramer, and Jay Hays, the 281st AHCA was able to provide our new Intruders with Christmas trees and gifts to show our support and appreciation for their sacrifice and service in support our fight against terrorism. I will ask our web-meister and also contributor to this effort to post Joe's 12/12/2010 email of acknowledgement to the website for all to see. We raised more than \$3,000 to provide a Christmas giving campaign for the soldiers and families. BTW the website contains a lot of this information and I hope you are all monitoring that on a regular basis. Fred Mentzer, our web-Meister, spends diligent time keeping this updated for all to view.

Now it's time to address New Year's Resolutions for both the 281st AHCA and me personally. First, I want to remind all those that want to participate that we are meeting in St. Louis at the STL Crown Plaza Hotel on 10 FEB 11 to organize and plan for the 2011 Intruder Reunion. Any member of the 281st AHCA is invited to attend and participate in the process. 281st AHCA Vice President Ed Haas is the Chairman of the Committee Intruder Reunion 2011. He will be presiding over the meeting. Attendees at the meeting can take advantage of the \$60 Reunion Room Rate by calling the Crown Plaza front desk for this meeting. Their number is as follows: (314) 291-6700. I want to add a reminder that we voted and decided to make this an Intruder Reunion and not continue the combined Vagabond format of the last two years.

And now the **First Resolution** and challenge to all Intruders whether you can attend the planning meeting or not. Several of us have volunteered to help Ed in increasing the participation in Intruder Reunion 2011. We are calling all members in an area to encourage them

to attend. For example, I am calling those in Northern California and others are taking the regions they live in. I want to challenge all members to attend in 2011, and for those who have attended regularly please call an Intruder you know and try to get him and his family to attend. Please coordinate with Chairman Haas if you are willing to take a whole state or a region. The 281st Roster is located in the "Members Area" under the "Morning Report" then "Present and Accounted For" section. Please help us make the stand-alone Intruder 2011 Reunion the best attended ever!

The **Second Resolution** is one of my own. Many of you know that the Monument Project at the Airborne and Special Forces Reunion was something I brought to the Association in 2008. I now want to propose another effort similar to this one, but in many ways more ambitious than the Monument Project.

A student at Solano Community College in Vacaville, CA (about 40 miles NW of San Francisco on Interstate 80) contacted me to let me know that the college was in possession of one of our helicopters. Arthur Lauth, the student informed me that they had a former 281st AHC Helicopter: **UH-1H 67-17146**. He invited me to come talk to their Airframe & Power Plant (A&P) class, to tell them about the 281st, how the bird was used, and to take a look at the bird, which is in un-restored but 97% complete condition. They want to restore the bird, but of course, they have no funding. The college owns the bird acquired through the Federal Property system of giving ex-military aircraft to governments, museums, etc. I attended he class and the pictures below are from that visit. The class Instructor, Michelle Duleck, a former USAF crew chief on C-5s out of Travis, AFB (Fairfield, CA) was very happy that I had come to talk to the class. She is standing with Arthur and I in the photo.

To make a long story short I want to propose to the Association that we take this on as a project and help get this bird restored, flying and painted with the 281 on the door again. I will propose to the Executive Board that we set up a committee and I will gladly serve as Chairman and hope that many of you out there will give this the

attention we gave the Monument Project. I know it seems like a daunting task, but the college has the talent and labor to take this on. Funding can come from donations as well as grants and other sources. Yes there are many complications and unanswered questions, but as with the Monument Project where there is a will there is a way.

I will ask Fred to post some more information on the aircraft on our website and gather as much data from the logbooks as possible. I have roped Joe Bilitzke into returning to talk to the class with me in January. I will probably try to get two other Northern California 281sters involved too. Phillip Copenhaver lives in Vacaville and Paul Morsen is close by in Benicia. Any others close by in California or from a distance are welcome to join in this effort. If you are interested, please contact me directly by phone (916-201-6965) or email (ksmith9146@sbcglobal.net).

Here's wishing you all a great 2011; **SEE YOU ALL IN JULY/AUGUST AT INTRUDER REUNION 2011 AT THE CROWN PLAZA AIRPORT HOTEL IN ST. LOUIS! CALL A 281ST BUDDY AND BRING HIM ALONG TOO!**

Just one more personal and closing note: Friday January 7th marks the 42nd anniversary of my DEROS from the 281st and RVN. I am proud to have served with you Band of Brothers! I am even more proud of the bond that this brings to the 281st AHC Association. Lets make it even stronger and better in 2011.

Ken Smith
President

The Veep says.....

The Christmas and New Year's Holidays have come and gone. As has become more "the rule" rather than "the exception" these last few years those holidays have been times of both sadness and joy. The Sadness we experienced in the passing of both Intruders and Intruder family members like Jack Green and Sue Bahre who have been such an important part of the efforts and activities of the Association and the Scholarship Committee; and, the Joy we experienced knowing that the efforts of the Troop Support Committee were such a great success in

bringing an “Intruder Christmas” to all the G Afghanistan and at Home. (If you want more Company Intruders and their families both in details and pictures check the 281st website – Fred Mentzer has it all posted.)

As has been the custom, the start of the New Year brings with it the time to turn the “Intruder Focus” to the annual association reunion. The 2011 Reunion will be a 281st AHC Reunion. We will not be hosting the Vagabond Reunion or any of its subordinate AHC’s. The thrust of this year’s Reunion is to get Intruders who have never been to an Intruder Reunion or who haven’t been to one recently to attend in 2011.

The 2011 Reunion will be held once again in St. Louis at the Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel. **The Reunion will start on Wednesday August 3, 2011 and end on Sunday August 7, 2011.** The Hotel room rate remains at \$60 per night. The booking code for room reservations is **AHR**. When making room reservations call the Crowne Plaza directly at **(314) 291- 6700** and ask for the **In-House Reservations Desk** to get the special Reunion rate. The hotel is now accepting our reservations.

The Reunion Committee will be holding its **Planning Meeting for the 2011 Reunion** at the **St. Louis Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, February 10, 2011.** The meeting starts promptly at 0900 on the 10th. Committee members are urged to attend. The Meeting Agenda will be sent out to the Committee Members in mid-January on the 281st Reunion Net. The Hotel will honor the Reunion Rate of \$60 per night for the Planning Meeting. Reservations must be made through the In-House Reservations Desk and ask for the 281st Meeting Rate (Feb 9th – 11th).

Anyone who wants to join the Reunion Committee is welcome and can contact me by phone @ (860) 677-0748 or email me at haased@ix.netcom.com. Further details will be released on the website and in the Spring Newsletter as they are developed. **I’ll see you and a buddy in St. Louis in 2011.**

Ed Haas
Vice President &
2011 Reunion Committee Chairman

The Scribe speaks of the VA & You.....

So here you are edging ever so closer to that magical time when your kids take away your car and hide the keys. Once that happens a rest home can’t be far behind. Actually I’m only kidding, but a bunch of us are probably already doing that for our parents, and having just gone through that I realize time is marching on and I may be next. Let me tell you a small story and see if anyone can relate.

Last year my mom went in to a relatively large facility, they have homes all over the country. They had a room where residents could hang pictures of their husbands in their military uniforms, and I mentioned my dad had been in WWII. “You qualify for a VA benefit” I was told, and before you knew it I was getting called by some girl from some insurance company that caters to seniors. Now I didn’t tell her that I work for Merrill Lynch and know a thing or two about retirement rules and regulations, instead I opted to hear her spiel. She said mom qualified for a VA pension but she first had to get rid of some of her assets, i.e. money. “What do I do with it?” I asked. “Put it in your name” was the answer. “Isn’t there an exclusion” I asked? “Not with the VA” she replied. “What do I do next” I asked? “Buy an annuity and get some income” she said. “Isn’t the dependent’s VA benefit based on income?” I asked? “Not in all cases” she replied. “What’s the interest rate?” I asked. “3% the first year, 2% thereafter” she said. “And if I do this she gets her VA benefit?” I asked? “Yep, no problem at all” she said.

Now I’m not a tax advisor and I know a few CPA’s are in our esteemed group, so if I’m wrong I’m going to get hooted down here but here are the facts as I know them:

-You can’t give away \$150,000 in one year without taxing yourself at the Gift Tax rate, which is kind of high. The max you can give to one person in one year is \$13,000, so if you take \$150,000 of mom’s money she will more than likely be taxed out the wazoo next year. And the IRS knows, I don’t know how but they know.

-If you are giving money away to get under the asset level in order to qualify for government assistance, it has to be out of your name for 3 years or it doesn't count. Selling the house and shuffling the proceeds to your name does not help at all unless you started a few years ago.

-VA home health benefits are awarded based on income, not assets. It is easy to turn assets into income but it's hard to get rid of income. If mom is getting dad's military retirement, Social Security and dad's pension from Sears it is a pretty good bet she makes too much money for the VA to want to help.

-Think long and hard before buying an annuity that pays an inordinate amount of income, chances are it is a self-liquidating annuity and while it may pay mom for as long as mom is alive, chances are there will be nothing left to bury her with once she goes.

Here is a website you can peruse: <http://www.veteranaid.org/program.php>

Jeff Murray
Secretary

From the desk of the SML.....

Happy New Year to everyone. Here it is the first of a new year and we wonder what this new year will bring for each of us. Hope it includes time in St Louis in Aug. For me as I look back some 43 years ago in Feb. when I returned to the world as we said in those days. A lot has happen in that time. 40 years ago the 9 of Jan. Cheryl and I were married. With this come all the dates in between. Like time in College, the places we lived before moving to the farm here in Mo. Also birth of our children and all the things that go along. That includes the marriage of our first one this summer.

Along with those memory's is the one some 5 years ago when one of the 281st. members called me one night and we talked for better than an hour. In fact my wife was gone that night to a meeting came home and went to bed. When I got off the phone and went to bed her question was who were you talking to. Up till that I had never thought or talked much about the year and one half I spent in the 281 st. The time since my family has ask me about it and I have even went with my daughters who teaches in middle school to talk on Veterans Day about the Army and my time in Viet Nam. The reunions that we have attended in St Louis have help fill in a lot that I have forget about the 1 1/2 years in the 281st, and found out a lot about what went on in and around the 281st. I am sure I am not the only one who done their job, whatever it was, a wire runner (like me) who made sure the radios worked when the mike was keyed, a wrench bender that kept the Jesus nut on, or the FNG looking for a bucket of prop wash. Even the pilots who were all of 2 or 3 years older than most of us EMs some 40 years later see what the big picture was. I had never thought about it until talking in the class room. I told that bunch of 8th graders that the pictures were of people who were only 5 or 6 years older than they. What we done as a bunch of kids, as we would say today, was amazing. That is not all the reunions have done, talking with the people have help me get some benefits from the V. A. that I would never have know about.

Last year our daughter was to join us for one of the actives we had planed in St Louis, she wound up staying for another day. If you have been able to attend the reunion I am sure you have seen the kids and grandkids who come along and have a good time with a bunch of old men.

Enough from me, come join us in St Louie in Aug. I am sure you will have a good time. It will bring back memories from long ago, many good, maybe a few that you would like to forget.

Frank Becker
Sr. Member at Large

The Jr Member@Large speaks.....

Happy New Year to you all; I hope you had a good holiday season. For those of you who haven't done so in the past, how about getting more involved in the operation of your Association as a good resolution.

As the Junior Member at Large, it is my responsibility to administer the annual election of officers, which includes seeking members to serve and accepting nominations from the membership. There are only two positions to be filled this year, the Junior Member at large and the Vice President. The organization needs new blood in administering its operation. Except for the Vice President, who is responsible for organizing the annual reunion each year, most of what is required as an officer is a relatively small amount of your time. In the next few months, I will begin the process of accepting nominations and seeking members interested in serving. For too long we have seen a few of the same faces rotating through the EB, and those guys need (and want) a break. You can help out and get a good opportunity to see how things work from the inside. So give it some consideration this year and let me hear from you.

Also, remember the reunion this year from August 3 through 8 in St. Louis. Ed Haas will put together another outstanding event in the tradition of years past. This year it will be an Intruders only reunion, so bring yourself and another intruder to revisit the spirit of "Hell From Above" with guys who know what it means.

Finally, here is a short holiday story. On Sunday after Christmas, Joan and I visited overnight with Rich and Barbara Schleher and their daughter Kaitlin in Lawrenceville, NJ. Rich had to have been one of the youngest door gunners ever in Viet Nam, and we had gotten to know him and the family at our reunions. We had talked before arriving about dinner plans, and Barbara told us to plan on eating in because "Rich made a killer pizza". She was absolutely right, because it was delicious, and we found out the next morning that he made a killer breakfast also. It snowed that night, and they ended up with about 14 inches. But, Rich got the snowplow out after breakfast and had the drive cleared in no time. We really had a great visit.

Jim Baker
Junior Member at Large

From Mom, the Past Prez

It's always a very long day. We get there early between 6:30 and 7:00 am and do not leave till around 4:00 to 4:30. And, it is almost all day on your feet, no time to sit down.

This is one of the volunteer jobs I do for my Vietnam Veterans organization. Every other Friday we go to the Atlanta Airport to support the USO and welcome home and to send back to the war zone our United States Service Men and Women who are coming home for two weeks of R & R. It is one of those volunteer jobs that we all do, that you sometimes don't feel like getting up and going, but once there the dividends received in the feelings you get are the whole reason for volunteering.

A couple of months ago it was my Friday to be at the airport. We set up a podium at the top of the escalators where everyone comes up from the gates to go to baggage claim. We put up a few signs and flags and have a banner which says Welcome Home. Some of you that travel may have seen this when you arrive at the Atlanta airport. The troops coming home for R & R have been on this flight for 14 – 16 hours, depending upon the winds and if they have to stop and refuel or not. Needless to say, they are tired, worn out, need a shower, are hungry, but are completely excited about being home for two weeks. The flight does not have an exact arrive time, so while we are waiting to greet them we kind of get to know the people who are waiting with us at the top of the escalator to greet their love ones coming home.

We got to know them pretty quick as most of them also had flags and home made signs. They would all come over to me and asked very impatiently about what I knew of the updated arrival time.

The first person I became acquainted with was a young Hispanic male, with the largest arrangement of red roses I have ever seen. He was waiting for his wife who was serving as an MP. She had been gone for 9 months and he could not wait to welcome her home.

Then there was one of the most beautiful and striking young lady I have ever seen. She was dressed perfect, looked perfect, as my kids would say, Dad, she was "HOT". Her husband was

coming home for his two weeks. They were stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and she had driven down the night before to be there bright and early when he arrived. She looked great.

Two young girls were there with their Mom to greet their Dad. They were, I would guess about 8 and 12. They had made signs, brought flags, and were as excited as could be about seeing their Dad.

Of course, not everyone arrived at the same time as they had to go through customs, and then take the train in from Concourse E. The first to arrive was the young man from Fort Campbell. His wife ran across the terminal, right past the security line, her three inch heels not even touching the floor, and threw herself in to his arms and gave him one long and super kiss. This got everyone in the crowd cheering and applauding. She grabbed his hand and pulled him off to the parking lot. I am not real sure if they made it back to Ft. Campbell that afternoon or not, but they were one happy couple.

By now everyone had gotten into the arrival of the troops coming home. Every service person coming up the escalator was greeted with cheers and applause and flag waving. The two young girls would wave their signs and flags, but had still not seen their Dad. Finally he appeared, and the 8 years old dropped her signs and did a flying leap in to her Dads arms, encircling him with arms and legs and planting kisses all over his checks. Hardly room for her sister and Mom to share in the welcome.

Then the welcome with the roses. She looked so tired, but was so refreshed with the flowers and her husband there to greet her. They found a couple of seats over to the side and went and sat, held hands and talked for about 15 minutes before departing.

I was about to take everything down and head upstairs to the USO, when I noticed a single man in uniform coming up the escalator. The look on his face was just a little different. Kind of a concerned look, but still eager. Then for the first time I noticed a lady, off to the side by herself walking towards him I could not help but notice the look on her face was also, different from any other person there to greet their love one. In fact, as she went to greet him, tears began rolling down her checks, he also began with tears coming down his cheeks, they hugged, very tightly for a long time and then she let go, tears still flowing and reached down and picked up a brand new baby and gave that little girl into the shaking hands of her father who was seeing her for the first time. I can tell you; of the hundreds of people there at the top of the escalators, I do not think there was a dry eye. What a special opportunity to be present for the special gift of a Mom presenting their child to the Father for the very first time. The whole terminal burst into cheers, as this young Marine and his wife left, his hands still shaking, holding his new daughter, but with the biggest grin from ear to ear I have every seen.

Welcome Home!

Jim "Mom" Torbert
Immediate Past President

The Scholarship Committee.....

A short reminder for our five scholarship students: First semester grades, proof of next semester attendance and a letter outlining your socialistic achievements and goals to date, are due before the treasurer will release your 2nd semester check. (Your letter will be published in the next newsletter) Please send them to the secretary at:

J. Mayhew
Secretary 281st. Scholarship Fund
2021 Huntwood Drive
Gambrills, MD. 21054

We are now accepting request for scholarship applications for the 2011-12 scholastic year. Please email your request to the secretary at: intruder06@comcast.net
Or e-mail them to: intruder06@comcast.net

The Chaplain's Corner

During the New Year may you have:

enough happiness to keep you sweet - enough trials to keep you strong,
enough sorrow to keep you human - enough hope to keep you happy,
enough failure to keep you humble - enough success to keep you eager,
enough friends to give you comfort - enough wealth to meet your needs,
enough enthusiasm to make you look forward to tomorrow - enough determination to make each day
better than the day before.

Norm Kaufman
Chaplain 281st AHC Assn.

Remembrance.

This has been a busy time for your remembrance team. The loss of a member of the Intruder family hits all of us hard and with the help of Gary and I Fred is hard at work getting the DAT roster up to date and the memorials for the family members we lost posted to the web site. Please take a moment to check the web for the losses we have suffered recently and if you would like to remember a former Intruder by adding to their web page please email your remembrances to Fred Mentzer at: Mentzer0191@comcast.net

Jack Mayhew
Remembrance Committee

From the Membership Chairman

This past year dues have come in very slow. With the dues being included on the reunion registration form has helped immensely! It could also be better too.

Starting 1 Aug 2010 was the start of the NEW dues year for 2011. In fact I've had some that are catching up on their dues now, THANKS!! So things are now looking up very good in this area. I want to thank everyone that has been sending me their new information to update the master roster, this saves postage and you get your newsletters faster. If for some reason that you do not receive your newsletter by email or snail mail, go to www.281st.com and click on newsletters and you can print it off.

PLEASE keep your information on the master roster up to date then you should receive your newsletters as they come out. If you have a good email, then it saves postage in mailing. Thank you for your continuing support, to the 281st AHC Association!!

This dues year (2011) will be 1 Aug 2010 to 31 Jul 2011. We are currently running at about 50% of receiving renewal yearly dues. PLEASE send in your dues as I on 19 October 2010, I had complete right reverse total shoulder replacement surgery. The surgery went just great!! The rehab is going great and with no pain any more...

So go ahead in send in your dues, I'll have my secretary fill out the deposit slip and get them in the mail to the bank.... I can trust this secretary to get it done as I've been married to her for 42 years! Again thank you for your support and have a very Safe and wonderful early Winter and Spring season.

Gary L. Stagman,
Membership Chairman

IN MEMORIAM

An officer and a gentleman went home today--mission accomplished. Jack Green died at 1:50 pm. He was peaceful and without pain. It was a privilege to hold his hand as he took his last soft breath. I could see the beauty of God's world in this good, kind, intelligent, brave man and I could feel God's love as He brought Jack home.

*May God Continue to Bless Us All
Linda*



JOHN W. "JACK" GREEN III

CPT John W. "Jack" Green III died 11 December 2010 at his home in Baton Rouge of pancreatic cancer. Jack was a pilot in the 145th Airlift Platoon, the first Army Aviation unit attached to 5th SFG (Abn), Det B-52 Project Delta, for helicopter support. He flew the first mission for Project Delta that utilized the McGuire rig in an emergency extraction and served as the Operations Officer for the 145th. Jack remained in the 145th as it was absorbed by the 2/171st and ultimately the 281st AHC which assumed the mission of the 145th and 2/171st and was attached OPCON to the 5th SFG in May of 1966 to support Special Operations. Jack was the first Bandit 26 in the 281st. Among Jack Green's many awards and decorations is the Distinguished Flying Cross that was awarded to him for conspicuous valor in accomplishing the extraction of a Delta Recon Team under heavy fire. Jack was a Charter Member of the 281st AHC Association and served as its Vice President and President.

Jack is survived by his wife, Linda Anderson Ydarraga Green; two daughters, Erin Green Eason and Jena Green; stepdaughter, Cathy Moffett; stepsons, Mark and Kevin Ydarraga; and thirteen grandchildren.

The Troop Support Committee

Best wishes of the New Year to Intruders around the world. This is an update of the 281st Intruder Association, Troop Support Committee (TSC).

In the last issue of this newsletter (Summer 2010 #43), you were introduced to the re-activation of the TSC. It has been a very busy few months since that report. I urge you to visit our Intruder website (<http://www.281st.com/index.htm>) where webmaster Fred Mentzer has assembled an excellent link to the TSC and our supported unit. Fred keeps this link updated with pictures and reports from the field.

To those of you who might not be aware of our support relationship, a brief update. The Troop Support Committee was originally formed to provide a 281st AHC Association connection and support to an active duty unit serving overseas. The supported unit was an aviation unit, generally picked at random.

In May 2010, I was contacted directly (e-mail) by Captain Brian Middleton. (I'm still not sure how he located me.) Here is what CPT Middleton wrote:

Sir, my name is CPT Brian Middleton. I am the company commander of an Air Assault Helicopter Company (G Co., 2-10 AVN, 10TH CAB, 10TH Mountain DIV (LI), Fort Drum, NY). My company was stood up to meet the needs of our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in October.

Since my Battalion (2-10 AVN) draws its lineage from 10 BN, and our main effort will be to support both conventional forces and Special Forces in the mountains of Afghanistan, we felt it appropriate to draw from the 281ST AHC. We are inspired by the sacrifices, dedication, and perseverance which were so greatly displayed by the Intruders that we have chosen that as our call sign.

We wish to celebrate in your accomplishments and would like you and the original Intruders to share in our upcoming successes. We will be organizing a family organizational day here at the airfield in August and will be truly honored if some of the original Intruders would be able to show some support.

Needless to say, the TSC realized we no longer had to randomly pick a unit to support. Here was another Intruder unit requesting a liaison with us. What an opportunity!

Our initial connection took place during the Family Day event at Ft. Drum on 17 September. The Intruder Association was represented by number of our members, including Association Vice President (and TSC Vice-Chairman) Ed Haas and TSC Senior Advisor (that means experienced), Jack Mayhew. During the day's events and a dinner that night, the new Intruders had an opportunity to meet with Ed and Jack and exchange ideas about the proposed link between the 281st Intruders and G Company Intruders.

Our next order of business was helping with the acquisition of a new G Company Intruder challenge coin. Before being deployed, CPT Middleton appointed CW2 Jonathan Bourland as project officer to obtain the coins. Working with CW2 Bourland and using their unit's design, we helped purchase the coins.

We were happy to help make this event a reality. Our web site shows you a picture of both sides of this historic coin.

Thanks to many of you, we were able to provide a touch of home during the holiday season. Through the generosity of our Intruders and with the work being done by employees of Jack Mayhew's company, we were able to provide gift packages to the troops far from home. The Intruder web site contains a complete story and pictures of this event.

As a UH-60 "slick" unit, the G Company Intruders arrived in Afghanistan and were hooked up with their maintenance and gunship support from other units. Unlike the 281st, they were not deployed as a self-supporting unit; but rather a part of a larger task force. The unit was further split when a small contingent of aircraft, pilots and crew was deployed to another forward operating base (FOB), separate from the main body. FOB Shank is located in Logar Province.

Logar sits on the eastern edge of central Afghanistan, directly on the border with Pakistan. The province is known as "Bab al-Jihad", or "the Gates of Jihad". Located in the middle of a supply route for the Mujahedeen, it was the site of one of the fiercest battles with the Soviet army. The Afghans destroyed the largest, single Soviet convey during their war with Afghanistan.

Fortunately to date, we have not received any reports of any personnel losses or serious casualties. There have been a few aircraft banged up. But flying at altitudes exceeding 10k feet, in the middle of a freezing cold winter, with bad guys shooting and scooting, this is not surprising.

If you'd like to send a personal e-mail, here is a short list of some G Company Intruders in contact with us:

- CPT Brian Middleton [brian.m.middleton@us.army.mil]
Commander, G Company Intruders
- SFC Bryan Boots [bryan.s.boots@us.army.mil]
1st SGT, G Company Intruders
- 1LT Andrew Brennan [andrew.j.brennan1@us.army.mil]
2nd Platoon Leader, G Company Intruders
- CW3 Russell Leslie [russell.leslie@us.army.mil] or [paleiniraq@yahoo.com]
Standardization Instructor Pilot, Forward Section Leader, G Company Intruders

In closing, please let us know if you have any ideas which would help in the support of our war zone comrades. Also remember our website has all the latest activities from overseas.

Joe Bilitzke, Ed Haas, Jack Mayhew
Troop Support Committee

This concludes the Newsletter. As always, anyone wishing to post an article or to comment on content, please contact me at: mentzer0191@comcast.net. I encourage you to support our namesakes deployed in Afghanistan who are carrying on the proud tradition of the "Intruders". And don't forget their families and loved ones in Ft Drum and around the USA.

Fred Mentzer
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster



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