

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

Company Newsletter No. 6

March 2000

Coming Up! July 3rd, 2000.

The First Annual Reunion of the 281st AHC Assn

The Reunion

Four Months To Go!

And then it's our first annual reunion in Washington DC. Your officers and committee members are hard at work preparing a schedule of events of which you can be proud. Bob Mitchell, the Reunion Chairman and his committee, have been putting in a heap of time and effort preparing for the reunion. A lot of detailed info from Bob and a schedule of events is included in this newsletter. Thanks Bob.

Probably the most important part of our reunion meeting on the 3rd of June will be the election of Assn officers. Jerry Montoya, Nominating Committee Chairman, will conduct the proceedings through nominations and voting by those members present. As our Assn grows and matures future elections will be conducted through a procedure more in line with our By-Laws. We will endeavor to have this process in place for our 2001 elections.

Speaking of membership, our Secretary/Treasurer reports that applications continue to trickle in. I use the word "trickle" to emphasize that we need your dues to provide the where-with-all for the continued growth of the Assn, the Newsletter, reunions, memorabilia, the 281st Website, etc. We're off to a good start, but we need more folks to **JOIN THE ASSOCIATION!**

In addition to our planned DC memorial ceremony we will be participating in a memorial event at Ft Drum, NY (near Watertown). The 10th Avn Bn will be dedicating a number of aviation buildings on the post to honor the memory of soldiers who gave the supreme sacrifice while serving in subordinate elements in Viet Nam. Our own Donald McCoig, KIA 29 March 1968, will be memorialized. The schedule of events follows:

2 May 1900 Social/reception at The Commons (on post)

3 May 0900-1200 Dedications at the 2/10, 1/10 and 3/17 hanger buildings.

3 May 1330 McCoig Bldg dedication, 2/10 HQ Bldg

3 May 1500 Johnson Bldg dedication, Avn Bde HQ

3 May 1630 Vagabond Memorial Park ceremony

Jack Mayhew is the 281st Ft Drum Memorial Chairman. To date Jack has been unable to contact any members of Donald's family. Please get in touch with Jack if you can help. Also we want to have as many of our Assn who can make it to be present at Ft Drum. Contact Jack if you can attend.

Financial Report

Here's the latest sitrep, as of 02/10/00, on the Associations MPC status as reported by Joe Bilitzke. This is a truncated Balance Sheet report. Anyone wanting a more detailed breakdown can contact Joe or myself.

Insertions (Assets)	
Checking	1,255.63
Savings	3,002.91
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>4,258.54</u>
Extractions (Liabilities & Equity)	
Liabilities	0.00
Equity	<u>4258.54</u>
TOTAL LIAB & EQ	<u>4,258.54</u>

Bob Mitchell - Reunion 2000 Chairman

Your Reunion Committee is proud to report the following information reference the 281st AHC Reunion 2000 to be held in Washington, D.C.

The reunion will be headquartered at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. It will be held in conjunction with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Reunion that will run from 30 June - 4 July 2000. The scheduled formal events of the 281st AHC Reunion will be held on 3 July 2000. Through the efforts of Jack Mayhew, the organization "No Greater Love" will conduct two memorial events for us on this date. The first will be a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown. The second will be a Remembrance Ceremony held at the Special Operations Memorial. Both of these events will be held on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Transportation to and from Arlington has been arranged. The bus will pick up the members at the Renaissance Hotel at 8:30 AM on 3 July and transport us to ANC. After the Memorial/Remembrance Ceremonies the group will be transported back to the Renaissance for lunch and a continuation of our gathering. We have a meeting room reserved at the Renaissance to conduct our Association meeting and to hold our social event. Specific times and for all of these events will be published in an official itinerary that will be included in your reunion packet. Response to e-mail and website advertising of the 281st Reunion has been great and we have several members who have already mailed in their registration. Included in this newsletter is a registration form for the 281st AHC Reunion. Please complete the form and mail to me at the address provided as soon as possible. We need an accurate count of those who plan to attend. We would like to hear from you very soon to be able to make the

necessary arrangements for the scheduled events. We are still working on the issue of a Hospitality Room for the days prior to the 3rd of July.

Registration fee is only \$10.00. This amount will cover the expense of putting a reunion packet together that will include a souvenir coffee mug inscribed with the Intruder Patch, a hat/label pin, Intruder and Platoon Patches (magnetized) and information sheets. We are looking forward to a very memorable reunion and a great time with old friends. Bob Mitchell

Steve Matthews - Historian/Webmaster

The new Internet website HOMEpage is now at URL <http://www.281stAHC.org> The Assn. is paying for web hosting service in order to have the space and functionality necessary to expand the Intruder website (without commercial interruptions). As of now, there are over 20 Megabytes of information on the Internet for the world to see and read about the Intruders. We will double that within the next several weeks. We are always looking for more information, especially "official" documentation, after-action reports, unit orders, citations, and anything that will help fill in the gaps in the Intruder Story! We also want anything that Intruders want to share with others photos, stories, memorabilia, etc. Please contribute! AND, if you're not on the Internet, please consider that too. There are over 120 Intruders currently online with email, and that number is growing every day. It's a great way to share stories, pictures, history, BS, and all else relevant to our collective Vietnam experience. There are lots of guys willing and able to help anyone get started.

As Historian, I want to invite anyone who has an interest to volunteer for the History Committee (fancy name for a bunch of guys with a common goal). The fantastic growth in the number of Intruders stepping forward has caused a HUGE growth in the amount of historically significant material that is also coming forward. It's a big job and anyone with the interest and time to devote to putting the pieces together to tell the WHOLE Intruder story will have MUCH gratitude from many guys. Contact me by any means to volunteer! THANKS!

Steve Matthews
"Rat Pack 15" 6/68-6/69

Closing Thoughts

The Assn continues to grow at a healthy pace. More and more of our former 281st comrades are finding us by word of mouth and particularly through the Internet. This can be seen on the sign-in pages on the 281st Website and the Platoon Websites. Many of you out there are unaware that there was an earlier attempt to establish an Assn. Steve Matthews recently contacted Dean Roesner, who was active with the original organization as Historian. He has joined us and brings with him the original 281st AHC Guide-On and \$600.00 collected for the original newsletter. How about that?

While on the matter of the Website you're all aware that Steve Mathews is the Webmaster as well as

Historian and an incredible job he has done. But, these jobs together have become too much for one man to handle. Steve needs HELP! Particularly with the History. In fact he would like to turn over the duty to someone able, willing and eager to come to the aid of the Assn. Contact Steve or myself if you can serve.

Jack Mayhew, in addition to being the Ft Drum Memorial Chairman, is working with Bob Mitchell on the 281st Reunion and is our Point-Of-Contact in Washington DC. Jack has made arrangements for the Assn to have a room to serve as a Hospitality Room at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. When you get to DC check the bulletin board in the VHPA reception area at the Renaissance Hotel for 281st announcements, messages, and the location of the room. Other members of the Reunion Committee are Dennis Crowe and Brian Paine. Again, many thanks to Bob and his committee for the outstanding job they have been doing.

We've had some enquiries about Tee-shirts and pins. Jack Green published some info in the last newsletter. Contact Jack for the latest.

"We Rotor On"
Fred Mentzer
"Wolf Pack 36"
President

Notes & Memo's

Nov-Dec99 - Lots of fun and a ton of comments on the 281st ONElist List Serve net with the "Top Gun" voting. This was to vote for the best site on the vet web. We didn't win, but we sure got introduced to a lot of folks who hadn't heard of us before.

19Feb00 - Telecon from Jack Jacobs, Dan DiGenova's brother-in-law, saying how happy he is that Dan has found the 281st again and how he personally enjoys reading about the Assn, especially the stories.

5Mar00 - (Some Assn history on ONElist by Ken Hamilton) Jeff/Flight, You were right about the reunion in St Louis. It was Wes Schuster. It started when Paul Meledy (CE Rat Pack '67-'69) went to an air-show at Scott AFB and saw a guy in a flight jacket with a 281st patch on it. Paul asked him when he was in Nam and the guy said "never this is my unit" and showed him the building.

Paul started calling people, trying to get a reunion going and to see if we could get into Scott for a tour. In the process he found Wes was trying to get a reunion going as well. When we found Don Torrini lived in the area we had the key to the gate. We toured the facilities and were surprised to find that the plaques we had in the orderly room in Nha Trang were hanging in the orderly room at Scott. Torrini told us that the unit was going to be deactivated. That we should try to get our hands on all the old 281st stuff before it went into storage somewhere. I don't know if anything was ever done about it.

Does anyone have any idea as to where this stuff would get stored? If or how we could get our hands on it? Ken H.