

# 281<sup>ST</sup> ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

## "INTRUDERS"

Company Newsletter No.7

May 2000

### NEXT MONTH! REUNION 2000!

## *In Washington DC, the First Annual Reunion of the 281<sup>ST</sup> AHC Association*

### *From the Pres*

This is my final newsletter as President of the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Assn and what a wonderful experience it has been. I am proud to have been given the opportunity to serve as an officer of our association. It has been gratifying to watch the organization grow from the original nineteen who came together in 1998 at the VHPA reunion at Ft Worth to discuss forming an association, through the twenty three who attended the founding meeting in 1999 at Nashville, and on to our first annual get together next month in Washington DC. And now our roster stands at one hundred ninety and growing. Fantastic!

And speaking of growth, the Assn Internet chat site has developed into a vigorous and dynamic gab forum. A group of our vets, particularly from the 1968-70 time frame are having a big 'ol time trading stories and photos. So if you have Internet access, log onto [281AHC@eGroups.com](mailto:281AHC@eGroups.com) and join the fun. Thanks to Brent Gourley for setting up this great service. Again on the Internet, Steve Matthews has moved the 281<sup>st</sup> Website to a new location, <http://www.281stahc.org>, and has continued to add new features and content. Great job Steve, we appreciate your good work.

To close out my comments as your President, it has indeed been an honor to serve. I am confident that under the new leadership the Assn will continue to grow, provide the means to find long lost comrades, help rekindle old friendships, and to honor the memory of those who didn't make it home with us.

**"We Rotor On"**  
Fred Mentzer  
"Wolf Pack 36"  
President  
281<sup>st</sup> AHC Assn

### *From the VP*

I know that all of you have been waiting with baited breath the results of the dry tee shirt contest and now here it is as of 15 May 2000. These are the orders that will go to the printers very soon, so don't let the grass grow under your armpits and get that last minute wardrobe request to me no later than 1 June.

Shirts will be Ash and have color platoon Logos on the left breast. That's where all you heroes' wore your medals when in public. A silhouette of the 281st Logo will be on the back of the shirt in black outline. Cost of these shirts will be \$15.00 for sizes Adult small thru Xlarge. Anything above that will be \$20.00. The hats will be Black with Gold lettering having 281 AHC in an arch across the crown. Hat cost is \$6.00. When in San Antonio these hats were very visible and drew a lot of attention.

Send no money now. Just orders by email, phone or snail. Let me know number and size by platoon, and if you plan to pick up your goodies in DC or to be mailed to you after the convention for a S&H cost of \$5.00. I will confirm your order and notify you when to send the check and where.

### *From The Web Master/Historian*

The Association website continues to get many visitors from all quarters. (Our GuestBook was even signed by a former ARVN SF team member.) The newest feature is "In Country - In Pictures." So many guys have submitted their personal pictures from their tour that it became necessary to give them each their own webpage(s) of just pictures, in "thumbnail" size. Each page contains about 40 thumbnail pictures that link to their full size picture. So far there are about 500 pictures that are online, or in the process of being put on the website, and there will be MANY more to come. Anyone who is not on the Internet and has pictures they would like to share, please send them to me and I'll scan them and send the originals back to you.

This brings up the other topic of the Webmaster/Historian. I have received many pieces of memorabilia from several guys, and will have all these "memories" at the reunion in DC. Intruders have generously offered to give their keep sakes (truly impressive collections!) to the Association for posterity, and I have committed to keeping it safe and sharing it with everyone, both through the website and at reunions. Again, anyone who has anything from their tour that they would consider leaving to the Intruders Assn., please contact me about the "how to." (I just hope I can get it all on the plane!)

Thanks to everyone for all your support and continued interest in making the Intruder website the best on the Internet.

**"WE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!"**

Steve Matthews

## ***Ft Drum Memorial Ceremony***

**A**t Ft Drum, New York, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2000, the 10<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade conducted dedication and memorial ceremonies at which our own CWO Donald McCoig, KIA March 1968, was honored. The headquarters building of the 2-10th BN, 10<sup>th</sup> CAB was dedicated to Donald. The 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Assn was represented at the event by Jack Mayhew, Bob Mitchell, Dennis Crowe, Bob Ohmes, and Ken Boling, some accompanied by family members. Following are messages that were posted to the association after the ceremonies.

### **Jack Mayhew**

To Fred Mentzer, President, 281<sup>st</sup> AHC

Dear Fred and members of the 281<sup>st</sup> Executive Board. I am proud to report to you that the Warrant Officer Donald Bruce McCoig project was completed on 3 May 2000. As Bob Mitchell has reported, along with his great pictures, the event was successful. Not only were we able to honor one of our own but the 281<sup>st</sup> in now formally linked to D Troop of the 3-17th Cavalry Squadron. This linkage is formally stated in the monument to the 281<sup>st</sup> that was erected in the newly created "Vagabond Park". Having the 281<sup>st</sup> Guidon at the ceremony was a powerful symbol of our commitment to the men of the 281<sup>st</sup> and especially to the 43 individuals we lost. The officers and soldiers of the 10th Brigade treated it with the great respect that it fully deserves.

The 281<sup>st</sup> was represented by Bob Mitchell, Dennis Crowe, Bob Ohmes, Ken Boling and myself. We were all received as honored guest and treated extremely well by the host units. The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade did a first class job in preparing for and conducting the event. In attendance were Family members and Vietnam veterans from throughout the United States. Ken Boling and his son Ken drove in from Michigan to represent the 281<sup>st</sup> at the event.

The ceremonies themselves are well described by Bob's in both his pictures and kind words. I will ask him to please put both on the full membership list for all to see. It was an honor to be able to perform this task which I must say quickly turned into a work of love. I sincerely thank each of you who helped make this a great day for all of us, especially Bob Mitchell and Steve Matthews for their research assistance and Robin Hicks, who contributed so much to documentation and more importantly his soul to the spirit of the occasion.

Jack Mayhew  
Intruder 6

### **Bob Mitchell**

Flight,

I made it back from Ft Drum about 0130 this morning. I arrived in Nashville late last night and had to drive the 2+15 to Pinson in the rain. Not a bad drive, it gave me some time to reflect on what I had observed over the past two days.

After 25 years, almost to the day that the Vietnam war officially ended, we had a meaningful ceremony and memorialization for our fallen comrades. Oddly enough it was 30 years to the day that I left the 281<sup>st</sup> enroute to the world. The Command/Staff and members of the 10th Aviation Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division treated the Veterans and relatives as genuine heroes. We were assigned drivers and escorts for the activities of the day. Most were Aviators, WO's/1LTs/CPT's.

The morning started with the dedication of the 10th Brigade HQ Building and was followed by the 2nd Battalion HQ, the 3/17 Cavalry Hangar, 1/10th Hangar, 2/10th Hangar and culminated with the dedication of "Vagabond Park." All of the ceremonies were somber and very professionally planned and executed. The range of emotions for the Veterans and family members in attendance ran very high. The young men and women of the various units involved were very accommodating to us and went about their duties with enthusiasm and purpose. Music for all of the ceremonies was provided by the 10th Mountain Division Army Band.

The second ceremony was that of WO Don McCoig, 281<sup>st</sup> AHC, KIA 14 May 1968. The ceremony was opened by LTC Stewart Ramaly, Commander, 2/10 AV BN. COL Jack Mayhew, former Commander of the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC, spoke on behalf of the McCoig family and the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Assn. COL Mayhew made an excellent presentation. The formal unveiling of the Memorial Plaque for Don McCoig was performed by LTC Remaly, Dennis Crowe, Ken Boling, Bob Mitchell, Jack Mayhew and Bob Ohmes. Also in attendance at the ceremony, representing the 281<sup>st</sup>, were Helen Crowe, Bonnie Ohmes, SFC Larry Ohmes and his wife, and Ken Boling, Jr. Larry Ohmes, son of Bob and Bonnie is a member of the 2nd BN and is stationed at Ft Drum.

The ceremonies ended with the dedication of "Vagabond Park," a small common area between one of the barracks and the dining facility. The Park is a circular monument to the 10th CAB and its twelve companies. The centerpiece is a granite marker with the 10th CAB crest. It is surrounded by six smaller markers with two plaques on each marker representing the twelve units. Walking through the main entrance and facing the center marker you will find the 281<sup>st</sup> plaque to your immediate right.

The 10th AV Bde has adopted the lineage and heraldry of the 10th CAB and has aligned each of its units with one of the units of the 10th CAB. The 281<sup>st</sup> is aligned with Delta Troop, 3/17th Cavalry. Their callsign is "Desperado." The alignment was done in numerical

order from the 48th through the 281st with the current units, so there is no particular significance to the alignment. It was done for historical and lineage purposes. Interestingly, there is only one unit in the Battalion that adopted one of the Vietnam callsigns, the "Bandits" of B Company, 1/10 AV who are aligned with the 60th AHC "Ghostriders." The "Voodoos" of B Company, 2/10th AV were using "Wolfpack" while in Bosnia but voted to make "Voodoo" their permanent callsign after returning to Ft. Drum.

D Troop, 3/17th CAV is a Divisional Cavalry Attack Troop that is equipped with OH-58D (i) Kiowa Warriors. These aircraft are fairly lethal light attack aircraft equipped with stowed .50 Cal machine guns and Hell Fire Missiles. They have state of the art Target Acquisition Systems with digital target hand-off capability. The Hell Fires are laser guided and can kill a Russian T-72 tank in one well placed shot. The unit will be equipped with the Commanche when it is fielded in 2007. We met and visited with the Commander, CPT David Warnick, and some of the pilots and crewmembers while we were at the airfield. They were just like we were some 30 years or so ago, very young and full of piss and vinegar.

Another note of interest to some would be the Brigade Command Sergeants Major, CSM Leon Hite. CSM Hite is a close personal friend of CSM (Ret) Mark Ruiz. Many of you will remember Mark as a Door Gunner/Crew Chief and Bandit Platoon Sergeant in the 281st in late 1968 and mid 1969. Leon was a 1SG under Mark in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY.

I was continually plagued by some sort of allergy I suppose since my eyes were watering and my nose running most of the day. As I sat and listened to former Commanders, Crew Chiefs, Door Gunners, Pilots and relatives memorialized the lives of the remembered Pilots and Crewmen, I could not help but remember every one of our fallen comrades. I looked around the ramp on the airfield and saw every one of them in the eyes of the young soldiers standing steadfastly at attention behind the seated guests. I felt honored to have been a part of the history of Army Aviation and to have participated in laying the ground work for the young helicopter pilots and crewmen of today's Army. I am very proud to have been a member of a unit like the 281st that has such a rich heritage and legacy. I am satisfied that the tradition will continue.

Welcome Home Intruders!  
Bob Mitchell

### Ken Boling

Flight,

Returned home last night 1238am. Totally at a loss for words but will do my best in making my observations.

Emotionally drained for a starter. The reception of the 10 Avn Bde. was exceptional. I met soldiers that reminded me of myself and yes many of you out here on

the net. They were as we were young and ambitious, eager to do their best. I was very fortunate to meet the Crow family and John Crow, Dennis' brother, Jack Mayhew, Bob Mitchell, John Freiburger, and others <others> I wish had a note book <crs>.

The ceremonies were very emotional for all and some how listening to the families and fellow crew members describe those fallen brothers of ours kept triggering my own memories of those I had known. The rivers were constantly running and the damns I put up could not hold the flood of tears from over flowing.

The weather was picture perfect and the heat of the day was catching up on us by the ceremonies end. I'm not writer or reporter and although I listened intently and attended each dedication, my ability to relate or convey to you here is stumbling and very narrowly done.

I'm Very Proud of you all here on this net and I know it's difficult to get out and attend. So for my brothers here I was able to pick up a few of the programs and those of you who served with the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion <bc> me and I will send you one.

A special thank you to Jack Mayhew for your contribution to the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC dedication and memorialization yesterday. I am proud to have served with the "Intruders." Thank you sir for acknowledging me as a gunner and recognizing the vital job we had done as part of the team.

I had a guide for the entire dedication, a WO2 Mr. John Kelly who did an outstanding job of keeping me and my son from getting lost. He also was very nice to take pictures for me and when I have them developed, I'll find a way to put them on the net. <webbers can't do that ya know>

In Closing I extend another special thank you to Mr. John Crow and John Freiburger whos' ears I bent for several hours at the Best Western. Thank you all for the pride you have restored to me over this past year + and for your selfless devotion to those beliefs which continue to keep us all free.

God Bless Each and Everyone  
Your Bro BOW

### Bob Ohmes

To All!!!

My wife and I just returned from Ft. Drum this afternoon and I'd like to add my 2 cents--the Memorialization went off just great and it was a day of very emotional highs and lows. I knew it would be so but witnessing it all was an experience I will never forget. From the first Dedication to the last, you could look through the audience, both male and female, and see very few dry eyes. As I sat through the many speeches, there were many times I had to swallow very hard to make it through. The knowledge of those individuals who gave their lives all too soon became too personal. So many memories I had put on the back-burner suddenly rushed forward --- it was very difficult to hold back the emotions but who needed to??

Jack Mayhew gave an outstanding talk about the 281st mission and Donald McCoig. It was great to have the 281st Guidon there for the Dedication and the photos afterward --it was the only Guidon there from the Vietnam era. My thanks to Pvt(P) Johnson of HHC, 2-10 AVN BN for being the Guidon bearer at the dedication--he did a great job and said he was very honored to be asked to perform this task. It was super to meet with Jack Mayhew---I had served under him in the 281st, as well as Bob Mitchell, Dennis Crowe, and Ken Bowling----we had some interesting conversations and memories. My son was surprised to hear Jack Mayhew and I tell the same stories about the unit. For years, he thought a lot of it was just war stories and now he is a "believer". These men were all inspirations for me--I wish I was going to DC for the reunion for more fun but prior commitments won't allow--our son and his family leave from Baltimore in early July for Germany and we are all going to Virginia to see old friends first for a week or so. I had spent many years at Ft. Eustis as either an instructor or writing MOS tests---Lary was born there and his kids want to see what it was like.

In closing, it was an honor to attend the Dedication and be a small part of the Delegation honoring Donald McCoig and the others. I was in the unit when Donald was killed so it had a special meaning.

**"HELL FROM ABOVE"**

Bob Ohmes

### Notes & Memo's

**Email 28Feb00**-Subject: Company flag To: President@281stahc.org - "Did you know I have the original company flag that went to VN and was in the orderly room until I took it in mid 69? I flew it at the 2 reunions we had several years ago with the old 281st org." Dean Roesner (Note: This is the Guidon mentioned in the Ft Drum letters. Dean returned it to the 281<sup>st</sup> after many years of safe keeping. Thanks, Dean)

**Email Mar2000** - from Michele Gallagher, daughter of Michael Patrick Gallagher KIA 21May67, requesting personal information about her father. Kevin Murphy responded on behalf of the Assn. Thanks, Murph.

**Email 25Apr00** - from Dean Byrne "Sarge Unk." <kabloey@hotmail.com> - Hi, I am Dean Byrne, I flew with the Bandits from late Nov 69 thru mid Jan 70 - every other day for 7 weeks as a door gunner. I was not assigned to the 281st, but to 5th SFG(A) as NCOIC of the SFOB Security force. I'm probably the only guy you'll ever talk to who had a combat moon lighting job in VN. - I can damn well bet I'm the only guy with a combat mos & assignment you'll ever meet who was never issued a weapon of any type during my tour in RVN. - I'm looking for anyone who has orders for crew wings from Dec 69 or Jan 70 that has my name on them - Either SSG Robert D. Byrne or Dean Byrne. I don't know if these were by platoon or for the whole company but I flew with the Bandits. -Also if you know anyone who has an interest in 281st T-shirts I still have them available. I had made them for the conventions I attended several years ago, and then a rerun for later mail orders. I have shirts for the Wolf Pack (red), Bandits (blue) and the 281st (grey) company shirts. Nothing for the Rat Pack as none of the guys who promised to send me a patch to use as a pattern and to get correct colors, ever did so. Shirts are \$17 post paid. - So much for the blathering at this time, Dean Byrne, Bx 13382, Ft. Carson, CO, 80913

**Apr-May00** - Lots of messages on the 281<sup>st</sup> eGroup chat site expressing concern and support for Gary Stagman. Gary underwent major back surgery and is recovering nicely. Matter of fact he's back on the net holding his own slinging humorous barbs left and right. Great to have you back, Gary.

**Apr-May00** - Word from Bob Moberg out there in Thailand, China, Kazakstan and other mysterious locales that his ticker is ailing. Thai military hospital informs him that he may need angioplasty. Bobs a bit miffed about having to cut back to "one olive" in his martini! I'll keep you informed. Meanwhile Bob, "The force is with you".

**Email 2May00** - Subject: ^ LTC (CH) Randolph "Grady" Spry. USSF (Ret) ^ from SOA (Special Operations Association) forwarded by Dave Dosker - Flight, Some of you may remember Grady Spry. I'm sure one of us transported him during our tour. I dimly remember a guitar playing Chaplain. Let us salute one of our friends.-Dave ^ Saturday we attended a memorial service for Grady who departed this world via a massive coronary last Thursday. He was SF qualified, and served with the 5th in VN 67-68. I am sure a lot of the membership will remember him as the guitar playing, M-79 pistol toting Chaplain, who always showed up at a camp that was either under attack, or about to be. He was especially fond of the troops at the Phu Bai launch site (from whence he acquired the M-79). He also liked the "Mike Forces" and spent a lot of time with them. He also did his Chaplain thing and conducted around 80 memorial services during his tour with the 5<sup>th</sup>. ^ - Batman, sends.

**Email 8May00** - From Francis Boisseau Wolf Pack 1966-67 - Fred, Would like to clean up some space on the computer. Since the heart attack in Feb. no flying and can't get my First Class flight physical back so it is behind the desk and off the Alyeska contract. You can delete the boisseaufg@alyseska-pipeline.com address, no longer work or fly from the pump station. Outstanding job on the web page. Stay healthy and enjoy life. - Francis

**Last Word** - When you get this Newsletter it will likely be less than a month until the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC First Annual Reunion. An application is enclosed for those sitting on the fence. If you decide to join us in Washington DC fill out the app ASAP and mail to Bob Mitchell or better yet, give him a call. And speaking of Bob, many thanks to him and his committee for a fantastic job in setting up the reunion. Lastly, I urge all those who have not yet done so to join the association. Normally the newsletter contains a roster but I ran out of pages. Anyone wanting a roster can contact me or download a copy from the 281<sup>st</sup> Website. Thats it gang. Its been great. "See you in DC"!

## ***And now the word from Bob Mitchell, Reunion Committee Chairman***

**B**y the time that you receive this newsletter we will be less than 30 days out from the Reunion. Your Reunion Committee has put together a very aggressive itinerary for the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Association. In conjunction with "No Greater Love" and through the diligent efforts of Jack Mayhew we should have a very meaningful, fulfilling and fun time in Washington, DC.

If you have not registered with VHPA yet, time is running out. You can register through the VHPA website at [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org) or you may call 1-800-505-VHPA. If you have not confirmed to me your intentions to come to the 281<sup>st</sup> Reunion please do so immediately. You may e-mail me at [mitchellrw@aol.com](mailto:mitchellrw@aol.com) or call me after 6:00 PM CDT at 901-424-7276. You can give me your registration fee (\$10.00) when I see you in DC if you like. I need to get an accurate headcount for the various activities we have planned. The only VHPA event that we as a group will attend is the Banquet on the evening of 3 July. I will arrange for seating in a group. The tables will be designated but there will be no name card for the chair. Each member attending the Reunion will be given a reunion packet that will contain:

- 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Coffee Mug commemorating the reunion
- An Intruder hat/lapel pin
- A Project Delta hat/lapel pin
- Itinerary
- Miscellaneous information

Additional mugs and pins will be available for purchase. We will also have other souvenirs available for purchase. An Official Reunion picture will be taken at the Business meeting and will be available for purchase. Brian Paine will be doing double duty as our Official Reunion Photographer as well as helping with the administrative chores involved in our reunion. Marilyn will probably give him some help. I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to Jack Mayhew, Dennis Crowe and Brian Paine for their help in putting this reunion together. A special thanks and a "Hand Salute" goes to Jack Mayhew for his "above the call of duty" help in making this reunion the success I am sure it will be. It has been my pleasure to have served as your Reunion Chairman for 2000.

For your convenience I am providing a calendar of events for the VHPA and the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC. Transportation to and from the 281<sup>st</sup> events will be provided. The bus for the 281<sup>st</sup> Cookout/Social will load at the Renaissance at 14:00. It will also return us to the Renaissance. The bus will load for the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Events at 8:45 at the Renaissance Hotel. The bus will return to the Renaissance approximately 12:30. The time for the 281<sup>st</sup> Cookout/Social is subject to change. Members will be notified of any changes by means of the VHPA Bulletin Board. A more detailed explanation of all activities will be included in your Reunion Packet.

### **June 30, 2000 Friday**

VHPA Registration, 8:00-18:00  
 281<sup>st</sup> Registration check Bulletin Board  
 VHPA New Guy Reception, 17:00-17:30  
 VHPA Early Bird Reception, 17:30-19:30  
 VHPA Entertainment, 20:00-21:00  
 VHPA Disc Jockey, 21:00-24:00

### **July 1, 2000 Saturday**

VHPA Golf Tournament, 7:00-15:00  
 VHPA Registration, 8:00-18:00  
 281<sup>st</sup> Reunion Committee Meeting, 9:00 (Bob Mitchell)  
 281<sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting, 12:00 (Fred Mentzer) \*  
 VHPA Welcome Reception, 17:30-19:30  
 VHPA Entertainment, 20:00-22:00  
 VHPA Disc Jockey, 22:00-24:00

### **July 2, 2000 Sunday**

VHPA Registration, 8:00-18:00  
 VHPA Church, 8:00-9:00  
 VHPA Wreath Laying at VVM, 9:00-10:30  
 VHPA Picnic, 11:00-14:00  
 281<sup>st</sup> Cookout and Social Gathering, \*  
     15:00-20:00 (Jack Mayhew)  
 VHPA Buffet, 17:30-19:30  
 VHPA Entertainment, 21:00-24:00

### **July 3, 2000 Monday**

VHPA 5 K Run, 7:00-8:30  
 281<sup>st</sup> Wreath Laying at Tomb of Unknown, (ANC)  
     10:00 (No Greater Love)  
 281<sup>st</sup> KIA/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, (ANC)  
     10:30 (No Greater Love)  
 VHPA Registration, 8:00-18:00  
 VHPA Business Meeting, 9:00-11:00  
 281<sup>st</sup> Members Lunch, 13:00-14:00 (Bob Mitchell)  
 281<sup>st</sup> Ladies Activities, 13:00-16:30 (Peggy Matthews)  
 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Assn. Business Meeting and Mini-Reunion,  
     2:00-16:30 (Fred Mentzer)  
 VHPA Ladies Luncheon, 13:00-14:00  
 VHPA Presidents Reception, 15:00-16:00  
 VHPA Banquet, 17:00-20:30  
 VHPA Dance, 21:00-24:00

### **July 4, 2000 Tuesday**

Parade, 11:45-14:00  
 Fire Works, 21:00-

\* Times for this event may be adjusted (earlier or later)



Col Joseph Smith  
Commander  
10th CAB  
Fort Drum, NY 13603

Subject: Dedication and Memorialization Ceremonies, Ft Drum, NY, 3 May 2000.

Dear Col Smith,

On behalf of the 281<sup>st</sup> Assault Helicopter Company Association, please accept my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for an exemplary performance by you and the members of your command.

The thoughtful and thorough preparation, the sensitivity shown, the dignified conduct of the ceremonies, and linking the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC to D Troop of the 3-17 Cavalry not only honors the memory of CWO Donald McCoig but each individual who served with the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC.

Colonels Jack Mayhew and Bob Mitchell as well as CSM Bob Ohmes and SGT Ken Boling have written glowing reports to the 281<sup>st</sup> Assn membership praising the professionalism and esprit they observed by the men and women of the 10th Aviation Brigade "Vagabonds". Especially noteworthy for their courtesy and professional demeanor were LTC Steward Remaly and CSM Douglas Murray of the 2-10 Aviation Battalion, and Capt David Warnick and F/SGT Daniel Mackey of D Troop, 3-17th Cavalry. The 281<sup>st</sup> AHC representatives were particularly proud of the excellent job done by PFC Johnson of HHC 2-10 AVN BN in acting as honor guard for the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Guideon.

In closing sir, the appreciation of the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Association members, families and guests attending the solemn memorial event cannot be adequately expressed. Please convey to the members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade our deep felt thanks along with the commendation of "a job well done", and inform them of a common theme that ran throughout the reports mentioned above; "They were us, thirty years ago". High praise indeed.

Sincerely,

Frederick F Mentzer  
Major, USA Retired  
"Wolf Pack 36"  
President