

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY "INTRUDERS"

Company Newsletter No 15

October 2002

REUNION 2002 "A Success" Big Time !!

Your New President

Dear Fellow Intruders:
On Saturday the 29th of September we completed our 5th annual reunion. From the day that Tubby Brudvig organized a small band of our brothers and held the first reunion, in which Wes Schuster was elected as the first president we have, with a short interlude, continued to grow. I am pleased to tell you that this year's reunion was attended by over 125 former Intruders, their wives and our honorary members.

I'm sure that everyone will be posting pictures of the event but I must tell you that pictures will not tell the full story. Without a doubt this was the best event yet and credit for that goes to Bob Mitchell and his committee. I saw Bob relax for the first time late Saturday night and even then some one came up and asked him a question. Bob and his team did us all proud. Make sure you check out the web site for the official 281st commemorative coin that Bob designed and procured.

There were several highlights of the event but two stand out in my mind. First, under Jack Serig's leadership we had a marvelous remembrance ceremony honoring our 45 MIA/KIAs. In a remembrance event you know that you have done your job when there isn't a dry eye in the house and Jack and his team did just that. Second, we presented Air medals to Mike McKenzie and Galen Martin. Both 67-68 crew members. What an honor it was to be able to recognize both of these gentlemen with long over due awards.

Now the challenges: First we are open to discussing new locations and times for our next reunion and we would like your input. If you have a view or suggestion please contact Lynn Coleman, our new VP and let him know what you think. ltlcoleman@netscape.net

Next but not last, we now challenge each of you that attended this year's reunion to return next year and bring with you at least one new attendee.

As I was going up the elevator on Saturday night I overheard an Intruder say; *"I always thought that there was something special about the 281st and now I know it*

for sure". If you were there it was great to see you and if you missed this year's event please start now and plan to be with us next year.

Jack Mayhew
President

"Once an Intruder— Always an Intruder"

The 2002 Reunion

This year's reunion was a success. We had over 127 members and guests registered and only a few who could not make it due to last minute problems. Phread Sherrill and Joyce had a motorcycle accident in Kansas enroute to Las Vegas from North Carolina. John Hyatt had pressing business related to Federal Emergency Management Agency operations in New Orleans due to the hurricane. These are the members who contacted me during the reunion to let me know why they would not attend. We had 112 folks attend our Luncheon and an equal number or more attend the other functions.

Many new faces at the reunion as well as guys who have attended past reunions. We had several happy "mini-reunions" between aircrews from over the years. A lot of memories were revived and confirmed I am sure. Some guys may have had to alter their war stories a little bit after talking to the other guys on board the aircraft. I can say from a personal standpoint, Ron Lee got me straightened out on a couple things that I was having a hard time remembering.

Monies collected for Reunion Fees, Lunch and Coin Sales more than covered the expense of the reunion. We have shown that our reunion can be funded without dipping into the Treasury of the Association. There is a Member Poll on the Association Website that allows members to vote on whether to hold our reunion with SOA again next year or to go off on our own to a different location. If you have internet capability please

visit the website and register your opinion. 281st AHC Assn. Official Website is located at: http://www.angelfire.com/tn3/281stahc_assn/ There is an underline between "ahc and assn. The site can also be visited by going to: <http://www.281stAHC-Assn.org>. Lynn Coleman is the Reunion Chairman for next year.

Association By-laws. I was a member of the committee that studied and recommended changes to the by-laws. These changes were reviewed and approved by the Executive Board and finally were ratified by the General Membership during the reunion. Most notable of the changes is the voting procedure. You no longer have to attend the reunion to be able to vote on Association business. The Junior Member at Large is charged with the responsibility of conducting the election process. He will seek nominations and send out ballots by email and/or regular mail well before the General Membership Meeting that will be held during the scheduled reunion. The elected officers will take office after the General Membership Meeting. You may wish to review the new procedure which is posted on the Association Website. Because of this new procedure you may want to ensure that your email address and/or regular mailing address is current. The current membership roster is posted on the Association Website. Updates and/or changes can be made with Gary Stagman.

Bob Mitchell
Immediate Past President

The Membership Committee

During the months since the reunion of 2001, we have gone from 171 members to 237!!

There is a very long list of new ones that have been contacted, but haven't joined as of yet. So we are growing and making more contacts. We had a pretty well rounded group in Las Vegas so the membership was represented from just about every area of the 281st AHC and associated units.

One of the most ironic things was that this year my original door gunner was in attendance. I had not seen him since I was airlifted out in April 67. He said "I was thought you were dead", well, you can't believe the rumors!!!!!! LOL Especially when I called him out of the blue last December!!!

We still have several members that have not paid their renewal dues.

We presently have sent Honorary Membership Cards and Certificates of Membership for Next of Kin of Intruders families. We at the present time have 37 Honorary Members.

Membership recruitment has slowed somewhat, but should pick up again!! There still are many of the guys out there just waiting for someone to contact/find them. Remember if you have contact with a buddy that is not a member; pass his information on, so we can contact him, or better yet you talk to him and convince him to join.

Thank you all for your support to the 281st AHC Association.

Gary Stagman
Junior Member@Large

ELECTION INFORMATION:

This year's election was held at the GMM in Las Vegas. Due to the change in the by-laws, next years election will be conducted very different. Everyone will get a chance to vote, it's just that certain deadlines must be met. Please look them over, Section V for all the changes.

The following have by acclamation been installed as the new Executive Board for 2002-2003:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: | John W. "Jack" Mayhew |
| Vice-President: | Lynn F. Coleman |
| Senior Member @ Large: | Jack S. Interstein |
| Junior Member @ Large: | Gary L. Stagman |
| Secretary (1 Yr Term): | Jeffrey "Jeff" Murray |
| Treasurer (2 Yr Term): | Fred Mentzer |
| Immediate Past President: | Robert W. "MOP" Mitchell |

(Bob will remain in this position until this years new President moves into the Immediate Past President Position in 2003)

Great job to all of you "INTRUDERS" out there and thanks for your continuing support.

Gary Stagman&John Korsbeck - Membership Committee

The Senior Member@Large

The reunion of 2002 was better than the reunion of 2001 and I firmly believe the upcoming reunion, 2003, no matter where it is held, will be better still. In order for that prediction to come to fruition, we, the board, need your confidence and cooperation. You can show that confidence by letting us know what you are thinking. Have you voted on the website poll? Give us suggestions on how to get the best reunion site, with the most perks, for the least cost, for the benefit of the most members that can possibly attend. Needless to say, not everyone will be satisfied with the Executive Boards eventual choice of venue. That's not possible! What is possible is to assure the membership, that every effort will be made, by the Executive Board, to produce a site that is reasonable and doable for as many members as possible.

There are certainly other issues of importance before us. We need to substantially increase our numbers, for in numbers, there is strength. We need to maintain and effectively utilize our limited resources. Most of all, we need to treat the association and our fellow intruders with dignity and respect. Lets show that dignity and respect at all times, under all circumstances, in the upcoming year.

Jack Interstein (jint)
Senior Member@Large

Bean Counter Report

Our trusty CPA, Brian Paine, provides the following numbers as to the Associations financial status. This report is *non-standard* in order to conserve space in this newsletter. Anyone desiring a more detailed report is invited to contact either the Treasurer or Brian. Hey, ain't no problem, you want, you get.

Cash Report (as of 18 Sep 02)

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Checking | \$ 9,662.05 |
| Savings | 8,437.10 |
| | 18,099.15 |
| * Held In Reserve | 13,425.00 |
| Memorial Fund | 171.55 |
| Reunion Costs | 2,500.00 |
| | \$15,846.55 |
| Available Cash | \$ 2,252.60 |

*Life Memberships

Fred Mentzer
Treasurer

Future Reunion's

The question of where the Association should hold its annual reunion has come up.

Should we go back to Las Vegas with the SOA or hold our own reunion at a different location? If you think we should hold our own reunion somewhere other than with SOA at Las Vegas, or, if you are happy with our current arrangement of holding our reunion in conjunction with SOAR, let me know by email, letter or phone call. Also, if you would like to express your opinion on a location for the reunion please tell me about it. Those who are up on the Internet can go to the Assn website and vote accordingly.

The 281st AHC Association Executive Board is charged with the responsibility of determining the place and date for the annual reunion. Your feedback will be used in making this decision.

Lynn Coleman - VP & Reunion Chairman
80 Poole Place
Oldsmar, FL 34677-2349
Tel: 727-786-8105
email: bhi2@ix.netcom.com

Notes and Memo's

(Following are some "after action" emails concerning the 2002 Reunion)

From Earl Broussard

I had a fantastic time at the reunion and really enjoyed the fellowship of all the Intruders. I want to express my sincere thanks to all who made this reunion happen, you all did a wonderful job. Those planning it next year should use your formula. The membership should be very happy with the leadership of our 281st Association.

Jack, maybe next year I will even keep my hat on at all times. - Earl

From Jack Mayhew

Earl, I know that I ribbed you a bit about your hair, or lack thereof, but the the thing I should have told you, that it was your smile and great sense of humor which allows you to stand out in any crowd.

Be well my friend and we will see you next year. - JM

From Craig Szwed

Sylvia and I thank all the 281st AHC Assn. members and your families (yes, you, too, Katie) for helping Sylvia and me through our first reunion. It was an ordeal for both of us, but the love and support you all shared was wholly appreciated by us. God bless you and thank you!

Since so many members and spouses have requested that I do so, I will be emailing copies of the poem read at the Memorial Service and the one I wrote Saturday morning, so they can be posted by the webmaster in conjunction with all the other information pertaining to the 2002 Reunion, once we have recuperated and regained our balance. The trip home was especially difficult for Sylvia, but she came through as a real trooper, giving it all she had. Now its time to rest a while.

As the Lord Jesus provides me the grace and strength during this time, I intend to try to send each one with whom I spoke at least a short note or email. God bless you one and all. - Craig

From Jack Serig

Special thanks to the following association members for their presentations at the Remembrance Service: Craig Szwed, Dennis Crowe, Norm Kaufman and Marshall Hawkins. And to Jack Mayhew for providing input and backup support.

Best wishes and good luck! - Jack S.

From Dale and Ginger Dunbar

Thanks to all for a great time at the reunion. Dale had a great time seeing his buddies, both old and new. I enjoyed meeting everyone and putting faces with familiar names from the HQ.

Again, thank you all for a wonderful time. - Dale & Ginger



281st AHC - Las Vegas 2002

281st AHC Association, Inc.
(Established July 4, 1999)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Elected)

President

Jack Mayhew

Vice President

Lynn Coleman

Secretary

Jeff Murray

Treasurer

Fred Mentzer

Senior Member@ Large

Jack Interstein

Junior Member@Large

Gary Stagman

Immediate Past President

Bob Mitchell

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

(Appointed)

Remembrance Committee

Chairman

Jack Mayhew

Website Committee

Chairman

Bob Mitchell

Reunion Committee

Chairman

Lynn Coleman

Survivor Assistance Team

Chairman

Marshall Hawkins

Memorabilia Sales

Committee Chairman

Brian Paine

OTHER OFFICERS

(Appointed)

Awards

Jack Interstein

Historian

Bob Mitchell

Internet Groups

Administrator

Brent Gourley

Legal Advisor

Brent Gourley

Newsletter-Public Relations

Fred Mentzer

Chaplain

Norm Kaufman

OFFICIAL WEB

281st AHC: http://www.281stAHC_Assn.org

Members Only Chat Net: 281AHC-HQ@yahoogroups.com

Informal Chat Net: 281AHC-CHAT@yahoogroups.com

Other AHC Websites

281st AHC "Intruder" - <http://281stahc.org>

1st Platoon "Rat Pack" - <http://downtown.ala.net/~bgrly/281/ratpack.htm>

2nd Platoon "Bandits" - <http://www.angelfire.com/tn/mitchellrw/index.html>

3rd Platoon "Wolf Pack" - <http://Wolfpack36.org>

Newsletter Editor & Publisher Fred Mentzer
fmentzer@earthlink.net