

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

NHA TRANG
1965-1970

Company Newsletter No. 34

Spring 2008



Meet me in St Louie....., Louie.



Meet me at the



St Louis Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel



30 July – 3 August 2008

.... Read on, more information in this newsletter

The Prez says.....

Reunion Chairman Frank Little assembled the Reunion Committee in St. Louis leap year day and the organized Intruder effort was very productive. State Coordinators have been asked to help keep the lines of communication open and the Commo Committee has done a good job and will keep the web site up to date with the latest news.

The EB has regrettably accepted the resignation of Fred Lewis, Sr. Member @ Lg., for personal reasons. Fred will be missed by all this year! Paul Maledy has volunteered to handle the Hospitality Room. In accordance to the By Laws Ken Smith, Jr. Member @ Lg. has moved to fill the unexpired term. Frank Becker has accepted the EB appointment to Jr. Member @ Lg. Frank is recovering well from surgery to remove a large non malignant tumor.

You will find an update in this news letter on our Scholarship Fund and many thanks to Tim Schaffer for initiating the scholarship nonprofit corporation on behalf of the 281st AHC and his business partner Jack Mayhew. This is for any former member of the 281st AHC, Family or Heirs. The Scholarship Corporation is independent from the Association but its Board of Directors consists of former 281st AHC members and family. No current Association Officers or EB members are on the Scholarship Board in compliance with IRS guidelines. Our EB has approved and welcomed the Scholarship Board to use our newsletter, Net Groups, Web and Reunion to promote their purpose.

I now ask that you schedule your time to come to the Reunion and please (as they say in Alabama) "contact your Buddies" to insure they are attending as well.

Brian Paine has been appointed as Treasure of the Special Operations Association, congratulations to B P. Our Membership Chairman Gary has continued to find new members, recently Jim Kerns in Taylor Mill, Ky. WELCOME Jim and Elaine, looking forward to seeing you in St. Louis. Also thanks to you the members who have updated your dues and several who have joined the ranks of our Life Members. This enables us to keep

your Association moving forward and serving the Members!

See you in St Louis

Jay Hays
President

From the VP & Reunion Chairman...

Your Reunion Committee consisting of myself, Jay Hayes, Fred Mentzer, Don Torrini, Fred Beck, & Paul Malady meet recently in St Louis to plan our Reunion for 2008. Frank Becker just had surgery and spoke with us by phone.

We have decided to use "R & R Hong Kong" as our theme for Friday night's theme. If you liked "R & R Hawaii" last year, you will love this one.

We have two "info sessions" addressing PTSD and ID Theft planned. A guest speaker for Saturday night's banquet will be of great interest to all. (Name to be announced later)

Also, we have invited former members of Barc Boyd's old unit, the 8th Trans Co (later the 117th AHC), to attend.

Please contact your old buddies from the 281st and ask them to make their plans to attend.

My personal thanks to all the Reunion Committee members that work very hard and at their own expense to plan this reunion.

I look forward to seeing each of you in St Louis.

Frank W. Little
VP & Reunion Chairman
Rat Pack CE 1/67 – 1/68

The Bean Counter speaks....

Just a short note to remind the members that the association is a tax exempt organization and that your dues and donations are tax deductible for your federal income taxes and presumably deductible for state income taxes. Check with your state or tax advisor regarding the latter.

We are allowed a tax exempt status under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Beside allowing our members to claim tax deductions for dues and donations, our income from the reunion and memorabilia sale

are tax exempt. Since our gross receipts are under \$25,000 we only have to file a yearly "e-postcard" to the IRS. If we would be fortunate in the future to exceed that threshold it gets a little more complicated.

Jerry "Fred" Beck
Treasurer

The Chaplains Corner

'GOD AND THE SPIDER'

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Although safe for the moment, he realized that the enemy soldiers would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen."

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave.

As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave.

"Hah, he thought, "What I need is a brick wall and the Lord has sent me a spider web. God does have a sense of humor."

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while.

"Lord, forgive me," prayed the young man. "I had forgotten that in you a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget the victories that God would work in our lives. Remember, whatever is happening in your life, in God, a mere spider's web becomes a brick wall of protection.

Norm Kaufman

Chaplain

† **John T Stevens** †



Wolf Pack Pilot 1967-68

Passed away 19 December 2007

"Rest in Peace, Brother"

†

From the Junior Member @Large

Hello from the newest member of the EB. I want to thank the pres. and the rest of the EB for the appoint to fill out the rest of this year as the Junior member @ large. Also let me report at this time I came through colon surgery on Feb 18 with very few complications, and the best news was that there was no cancer. Thanks for all the prayers, calls, cards and thoughts. It is great to have a group of friends from a point in time a few years back when the going gets tough. Looks like by the time you read this I should be back on the tractor into spring planting.

I am told that the main job of JM@L is to run the election of officers each year. When I ask who we were to elect at the 2008 meeting in St. Louis that was a good question. After putting that question to a few different people I was directed to our keeper of all the 281 st info. good or bad. That person being our own Gary Stagman. Took him a little time and a few strokes on his key board and he had me answer for this year and several to come. A big thank you to Gary. You saved my butt.

So here is the way it is to be in 2008, We are to elect the vice pres. They will be expected to serve for the next 3 years on the EB board as v-Pres, Pres., and past Pres. Also we are to elect a Junior Member at Large. They will be expected to serve on the EB board for next 2 years as Junior Member at Large and Senior Member at Large. Now I need names to fill the in the ballot. The way the by-laws read you will need to respond to me with your name or someones name by May 4, 2008. This can be either by e-mail or snail mail by May 4 at the address below.

When we get names for the ballot they will be e-mailed if we have a address or snail mail around June 3, 2008. These will need to be returned to me by July 3, 2008 again e-mail or U.S. mail.

Again I need names by May 4, 90 days before the annual meeting. Also a phone # so I can check if they agree to serve.

Looks like they have a great reunion planed for us in St Louie. Plan to see everyone there this summer.

Frank Becker
JM@L

Notes and Comments

For those who knew and flew with WO John Boyington, Wolf Pack 1970, Jack Mayhew sends the following....

News release March 8, 2007 – L-3 Communications Integrated Systems announced today executive John E. (Ed) Boyington, Jr. will succeed Daniel A. Grafton as Vertex president and will lead the company from its Mississippi facility. Boyington joined L-3 Communications in September 2003 from the U.S. Navy. In August 2003 Boyington completed 33 years of military service with the rank of Rear Admiral. His last assignment was Chief of Naval Air Training and Commander of Navy Region South.

Here's a snippet off the HQ Net. Dennis Crowe, Bandit 23 1968-69, surfaces in an email exchange with Jim "Mom" Torbert...

Yo, MOM! I'm still alive and well down here in UCLA -- that's the Upper Corner of Lower Alabama. I'm semi-ambulatory after a knee replacement.

Helen and I are going over to Camp Shelby later this week, to observe a ceremony/send off for the 39th Inf Bde. My daughter, SSG Molly Crowe is assigned to that Bde and they are deploying to Baghdad. Her unit has drawn the embassy for guard duty. WE are sure hoping that all turns out OK with her outfit.

My son, SFC Dennis Crowe II, is a part of a mobile training team that is going to Kabul to train the presidential security battalion there.

My nephew, GySgt John Hermann is in SW Afghanistan right now. He is with a Special Forces Team there. He got a Taliban marksmanship medal last week when he go hit with a piece of shrapnel from an RPG round. He is OK and has returned to duty already. So, you can imagine that we are praying a lot for these kids.

Later -- Dennis/ Bandit 23

How about another of our vets "still at it" so to speak. Les White, Bandit 28 1968-69, sends from Kuwait. I doubt that Les will require much R&R to recover from the stress of combat... :=)

To: Jack Mayhew 03-08-2008

Hello Jack!

I got your invitation to the 281st Reunion being held in St. Louis next month. Boy I wish I could be there! It's been a while since I was able to attend but it will be a while longer I'm afraid. I still fly the "Unfriendly Skies" almost everyday for a living. As a matter of fact, I've been an active pilot for 40 years now. I've seen a lot of during those years and had many memorable experiences but none of them compare to my experience and memories with the 281st. 1968 and 1969 still seem like yesterday. It's amazing the bond and camaraderie that we all share from that time together in the un-friendliest of places. We are all getting a little long in the tooth now but the fire and spirit are still with us. I'm sure each and everyone of us would gladly do it all over again given the chance.

I gave up the U S Army in 1971 to join the civilian pilot ranks as you probably know and started flying for a little company called PHI. At one time there were only two helicopter operators larger than PHI, the United States Army and the Russian Air Force. Today things are a little different. PHI has downsized and there are a lot of operators around the world that have large fleets. I resigned from PHI and have found myself sort of back in the military.

I now fly the Amir of Kuwait, the Royal Family, Ministers and other visiting dignitaries. Another pilot

friend also resigned from PHI and we both came to Kuwait together. We fly for the Kuwait Air Force assigned to Squadron 91, the Amir Squadron. We fly Sikorsky S92's and they are terrific. We take delivery next month on another one that cost a little over \$40 million. It has it all. I'm told it is the most expensive S92 to date. Can't wait to strap it on. We've been to many Middle Eastern countries and have deployed to Mongolia and Morocco in support of the Amir. I guess you could say we fly "Kuwait Air Force One". The Amir also has a Boeing 747 at his pleasure to take him on longer trips. We instruct Kuwait Air Force pilots in the S92 when we are not flying VIP's. It's been a good ride so far and I look forward to many more.

Anyway, that's my present situation and the reason I can't be there to join in the celebration and good cheer. I hope everyone enjoys the time together and I look forward to catching one of the reunions in the future.

As you know, alcohol is forbidden in the Muslim world. I get an occasional invite to the US Embassy where you can have a few but it has to be kept quite. So, Have One For Me! A Toast to the 281st from Kuwait!

My best to all,

Leslie White
Bandit 29
1968-1969
leswhite3@cox.net



As many are aware, and others not, the 281st Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established. Following is the initial report by Jack Mayhew on the formation of the fund. Also contained in this newsletter is the formal document concerning the fund.

The 281st Memorial Scholarship is up and running! The Board of Directors met in Long Beach, CA on Saturday, January 19th, and with minor changes formally set the program into action. Many thanks to Buck Sorem for hosting the meeting, providing transportation, tour info and guidance throughout the meeting that keep us on track. We especially wish to thank his lovely wife Ilona, who opened their home to us and feed the troops in a manner that was truly exceptional. Attending the meeting was the Co-Chairman, Marshall Hawkins, Board members: Joe Bilitzke, Dr. Karen Heintz-Forch, Charlie Frediricy, Jim (Mom) Torbert, Brian Paine CPA and yours truly as the scribe.

The board solved all the outstanding issues and set the program in motion for 2008. To date we have 7 request for information/ application forms and will now go about the process of making sure that everyone is aware of the program and that we have a plan for raising funds to support the program. In this regard it is not the board's intention to "badger" the membership for additional funds but rather to let those individuals, to include our honorary members, that have an interest in the program participate.

We would now like to ask the Executive Board (EB) to discuss the interrelationship between the Scholarship Program Board, the EB and the membership so as to insure that there are no misunderstandings in the operation methodology of the Scholarship Program as it relates to the functions of the EB and the association. Please keep in mind that both organizations are 501c organizations and as such one cannot be controlled by the other. Therefore, it is up to scholarship board and the association EB to insure that there is a smooth working understanding in place. It is the sense of the scholarship board that it will work closely and in harmony with the EB and will report its transactions, to include financial information, to the EB and the membership at the annual reunion. With the EB's approval the board will use the associations communication facilities, (newsletter & web site) to inform the membership of the program, the actions taken by the board, and the means of contributing to the program to include setting up scholarships in the name of a former Intruder. This is the time to get any questions, comments and or suggestions on the table for discussion. Since the start of this process we have worked on making sure that this will be a viable ongoing program and we now have the structure for that program in place.

To the board members that attended (at their own expense) we all say thank you. You are truly great Intruders.

Jack Mayhew, Secretary for 2008

Hot off the press....

From: HQ_281AHC@yahoo.com [Jack mayhew] Thursday, March 20, 2008

Subject: Great News

When you read his B Troop of the 158th Cav is on their way home and as far as I know they suffered no losses. They will be released by the end of March. Thanks to all who supported these brave young men. - Jack M

Here are a couple of pics featuring your Reunion Committee "hard at work" this February in St. Louis...



Fred Beck Jay Hays Fred Mentzer Frank Little



Don Torrini (front left) Paul Maledy (right rear)



Lunch at the Plaza with Management

To conclude this Spring Newsletter, a few words from the Editor...

First let me apologize to those members who receive the NL by snail mail. You are likely wondering why you received the Christmas edition in February! It had to do with a miscommunication between the printer and myself. Yours truly must take the blame for failing to follow up. Sorry, won't happen again.

The reunion this year will be our fourth at the St Louis Airport Plaza Hotel. The hotel again offers us excellent pricing and outstanding service. I cannot imagine a better venue or a more helpful and gracious staff anywhere! And at a price that approaches mind boggling. So break out the calendar and underline "30 July to 3 August"! Begin arranging your flight, drive or wagon train. Fill out the reunion registration form sent to you by Don Torrini and prepare to HAVE SOME FUN!!

See you in St Louis.....

Fred Mentzer – Editor

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

281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Established 4 July 1999



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Jay Hays
Vice President
Frank Little
Secretary
Jeff Murray
Treasurer
Jerry (Fred) Beck
Senior Member@Large
Ken Smith
Junior Member@Large
Frank Becker
Immediate Past President
Darryl Stevens

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Awards – Ken Smith
Membership Committee Chairman - Gary Stagman
Remembrance Committee Chairman - Jack Mayhew
Historian - Bob Mitchell
Historical Memorabilia Chairman – Fred Lewis
Internet Groups Administrator - Brent Gourley
Communications Committee Chairman – Bob Mitchell
Reunion Committee Chairman – Frank Little
Survivor Assistance Chairman - Marshall Hawkins
Memorabilia Sales Committee Chairman – Jay Hays
Chaplain - Norm Kaufman

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations
Fred Mentzer



March 7, 2008

TO: All Intruders and Honorary Members

Subject: Greetings

Dear Intruders & Friends,

The 281st AHC Association will celebrate another reunion during July 30-August 3, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO. On April 15, 2008, the Reunion Committee will be mailing the reunion announcements in the next few weeks, so watch your mail.

This will be our 12th reunion, and our 4th “stand alone” at St Louis since your association was re-formed. These are great events and if you attend one I assure you that you will come back. We are all members of a unique organization and one that we can all be proud of. We have tried to carry that over into our organization by welcoming each and every member of the 281st without regard to rank or duty position. Our reunions are organized and run by our members and they deserve all of our support.

I am proud to be a member of the Intruder association and I must say that I have enjoyed seeing my old comrades and making new friends. So please put away any preconceived thoughts toward military reunions and give this one a shot. You will never regret it and the price is right. This is a family affair so bring the wife, kids and grandchildren.

If you're not a member of the association but have access to a computer, please visit the 281st AHC Association Web Site, www.281st.com. and watch for reunion updates. See you in Saint Louis.

**Don Torrini
Bandit Pilot 1967-68
Reunion Committee 2008**



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:
