

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

Company Newsletter No.4

August 1999

The 281st AHC Association Now Exists!

The 4th of July, 1999

The 281st Assault Helicopter Company Association was voted into existence at the reunion held at the VHPA Annual Reunion in Nashville on the 4th of July. We had some 26 veterans of the 281st AHC signed in at VHPA and 23 were present at the 281st reunion. The Constitution and By-Laws of the association were approved and officers elected. Following are your elected and appointed officers.

1. Elected Officers

President - Fred Mentzer
Vice-President - Jack Green
Secretary/Treasurer - Joe Bilitzke

2. Appointed Officers

Historian - Steve Matthews
Membership Officer - Don Corcoran
Liaison Officer - Jerry Montoya
Legal Advisor - Brent Gourley
Webmaster - Steve Matthews
Reunion Officer - Bob Mitchell

The Reunion

The reunion began on 4 July 1999 at 1100 hrs, Renaissance Hotel. Blearly eyed and hung over but non the less eager 281st vets had a heck of a time reminiscing and generally bullshitting until the meeting was called to order (order?) around noon time. As said above, there were 23 including Bill Purdy and Ken Boling who motored in from afar. To much of our time was taken up with organizing the association and not enough for renewing and refreshing memories and friendships. Won't be that way next time. Next year we'll make sure there's plenty of time (and booze) to carry on in a style and manner to remember!

The Meeting

The first meeting of the 281st AHC Association was called to order at or about 1200hrs. The first order of business was voting and

approving the Constitution and By-Laws of the association. That done the membership went on to vote and approve a number of agenda items of the which some the most significant were: subdued gray tee-shirts with a Intruder logo on the back and plat/attach/detach logo's on the front pocket, black hats with orange 281st AHC over the bill, and extending honorary membership to widows

Financial Report

Following is the Association MPC sitrep to date. Henceforth, our Treasurer will make this report.

15 May 1999	Balance		<u>\$ 312.37</u>
May-Aug 1999	Insertions	+ 1058.00	1,397.37
May-Aug 1999	Extractions	- 309.90	1,087.47
15 Aug 1999	Balance		<u>\$1,087.47</u>

Closing Thoughts

Our association is alive, healthy and growing. As I said in the last newsletter: "GET THE WORD OUT!" We want to let folks know of our existence. Many are finding us through the 281st Website. We've had a number of Special Forces/SOA veterans visit the website. Checkout the following "Notes & Comments" and deny that your eye's didn't get a bit misty and your chest tighten up a bit.

I would like everyone to give some thought to next years reunion. At this years meeting we decided to gather again with VHPA, which will be in Washington DC. But we were only 23 and our numbers now exceed 137. It has been suggested that our annual reunion be in conjunction with the Special Operations Assn held each Oct in Las Vegas. Please let Bob Mitchell know if you like that idea and would attend.

Finally, I am honored and proud to have been elected president of our association. I will do my utmost to help establish and carry on a tradition in which we can take pride. In memory of comrades lost and for those more recently departed; "We Rotor On!"

Fred Mentzer
"Wolf Pack 36"
President

281st Assault Helicopter Company Association, Inc.

President/Newsletter Editor – Publisher

Fred Mentzer

Vice President

John (Jack) Green

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Bilitzke

Legal Advisor

Brent Gourley

Historian/Web Master

Steve Matthews

Reunion Officer

Bob Mitchell

Liaison Officer

Jerry Montoya

Membership Officer

Don Corcoran

Notes & Memo's

6/5/99 - Email from Ken McNeil concerning slick crash of 8/6/67. Looking for info on whereabouts of Gary Omdahl.

6/10/99 - Email from Joe "Andy" Anderson in Abu Dhabi. Wants to know if anybody has address's for crew chief Daniel Digenova, and gunner Don Creed, with him when he was shot down in the A Shau, 16 March 68 in the old frog Snoopy. Also looking for info on Rus Parmenter, not sure of spelling.

6/11/99 - Email from Bob Moberg in China. Says he was contacted by David Bittle in Hawaii about being shot down together near Phu Bai. Ended his mail, about the 281st, quote: "God Bless such a fantastic bunch of loyal, courageous, professional soldiers. I loved and still love every last one of you!!!"

6/15/99 - Mail form Harry Wetmore, Wolf Pack, 67-68. Back in '67 when I asked for ideas for a patch he got the design from his alma mater, U. of N. Carolina and Plt Sgt Bittle had patch made up in Nha Trang. Wanted to know if I had a address for David Vallume. Anybody know of David's whereabouts?

6/19/99 - The aforementioned David Bittle checks in from Hawaii. Talks about contacting Bob Moberg and mentions an old Delta Recon hand, J. "China Boy" Graves who ran the Nung Platoon. Welcome aboard Dave.

6/21/99 - Email from Jerry Stanfield in Hawaii. A bit of history follows:

Dear Fred, The information from Bob Laya pretty much agrees with information on my RECORD OF ASSIGNMENTS document. I was a SHOTGUNNER TDY from the 25th Division to MACV to the 145th Avn. Plt. A/L on or about the second week of March '65. The main body of the 145th was stationed at Vung Tau. At that time the 145th had one slick and one gun on "loan" to the Special Forces unit at Nha Trang. I was at the PX and when I returned I discovered that I had volunteered for the gun (632 Mardi Gras, Miss Oklahoma). I cannot recall when the rest of the unit joined us at Nha Trang but it was not for the better. I do know it was before June 1965, the day I lost my pilot/gunner WO1 DE Bishop. I rotated back to the 25 Div on or about the 10th of June '65. If you would like to give me your phone number I would be glad to fill in some of the details. If you should want to forward this to Steve or whoever please feel free. I still dont have this web thing down solid. ALOHA Jerry

8/9/99 - News from Buck Yancey (Bandit 23), heart is still causing him problems. Says thanks to all for support.

8/10/99 - Email from James (Pappy) Holt, Wolfpack 36, from 1999 to 1970. Found us on the Internet. Welcome aboard Pappy.

8/11/99 - Email message from the 281st Website Guest Book

From: Southern California

Time: 1999-08-11 084947

Comments: I found you because you invited me in your mailing. As a former A-Camp type, and II Corps Mike Force, and SOG/CCC, I want to thank you guys for being there when we needed you. I am one of those who doubtless owes you his life. Know that I have done good things with it. You have no idea how it felt when, pinned down and down to the last magazine, we heard the beautiful 'wop-wop' of your Hueys.. You came for us when we needed you, and some of you died trying. "Thank You" doesn't seem enough somehow. If I am in the same grid square with any of you guys and I have a dollar on me, you won't be able to buy a drink. Best wishes for success with this web page.

'Bac-Si' John Padgett SOA/CCC & II Corps Mike Force.

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

8/15/99 - Last Minute Thoughts

1. Those on the computer who haven't checked the 281st Website, copy the following URL:

<http://www.angelfire.com/ks/281stAHC/index.html>

2. Veterans of the 281st are eligible for membership in the Special Operations Association (SOA). Contact our Liaison Officer, Jerry Montoya for details.

3. Everyone please double check the roster and let me know of any omissions or errors.

4. Welcome to the roster: Mrs Bob George and Mrs Monty Montgomery.