

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

Company Newsletter No 17

April 2003



## Support Our Troops

*"God have mercy on us all! From my military experience and combat, I am not thrilled with war either, but... "Steady on!" We are in it again, so let's get the dirty job done, and done right, this time!"*

--- Excerpt, Craig Swezd, 281<sup>st</sup> Association Chat-Net 24 March 2003 ---

### **Our Prez Speaks**

#### **R-DAY, MINUS 5 SHORT MONTHS**

September the 12 is only 5 short months away. If you have not done so please mark your schedules, get your tickets, make your reservations and get to Houston early. Please go the Web site and sign up now so that Lynn Coleman and his team can get a handle on the number of reunion attendees that they need to plan for. Remember the more the merrier. One more quick comment on the reunion. This is a reunion of all former members of the units that made up the 281<sup>st</sup> task force, and their families. We have all experienced events of this nature that were not family friendly, and in that regard I would like to assure you that our reunions are planned and carried out to encourage attendance by all, so please bring your families.

We have decided to make a change in the distribution of the Newsletter. In the past we have, at the association's expense, sent the news letter to everyone on our mailing list. Effective with the July 2003 news letter we will only distribute it to association members in good standing. The news letter will continue to be sent by email, with those few non-email members receiving it by regular mail. Your Executive Board felt that the association

should no longer bear the cost of distributing the news letter to non-members or those whose dues are in a delinquent status.

We have also come to the conclusion that we may be publishing too much personal information on the web based roster. Therefore, we are going to reduce the personal information we show on the web roster to very basic information and distribute a complete roster with the news letter. Our plan is to develop and distribute an Annual Member Directory/ New Member Package.

The "Member Directory" will include but not be limited to:

1. Association General Information
2. Membership Roster
3. Constitution
4. By-Laws
5. Survivor Assistance Information

The "Member Directory" will be in loose leaf form and tabbed so that the Roster can be pulled out and replaced as it is updated and sent out as part of the news letter. Bob Mitchell is working on this project and if you have any suggestions or time to help, please contact him.

Many thanks for the positive response to our plea for help in keeping the HQ Net clear of non 281<sup>st</sup> related traffic.

Gary Stagman will be mailing out election materials before we know it and now is the time to step up and put your name in the hat for a position on the EB. If you are up to a low pressure job, great hours and big bucks please contact Gary or I and we will insure that you get on the ballot. We need new blood with new ideas and energy.

See you in Houston,

Jack Mayhew  
President

## ***The VP and Reunion Chairman***

### **2003 REUNION**

The 2003 Reunion will be held from 11 to 14 September, at the Wyndham Greenpoint Hotel in Houston, Texas. The hotel is located on the north side of Houston near the intersection of Interstate 45 and Sam Houston Parkway at 12400 Greenspoint Drive. It is close to George Bush Intercontinental Airport and the hotel will provide free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. Reservations can be made by calling the Wyndham Reservation Center at 1-800-WYNDHAM or at [www.wyndham.com](http://www.wyndham.com) and identifying yourself as a member of the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Association. The rates for a standard room are \$79.00 per night single or double and \$89.00 for triple or quad. King Suites are available at \$89.00 single or double and \$99.00 for triple or quad. For those of you with RV's, campers, etc. the hotel will allow you to park them on site.

The Advance Party will arrive on Thursday, 9/11. This will consist of the Executive Board (EB), selected members of the Reunion Committee and anyone else who wants to get started early. There will be a meeting of the EB that evening at 1900. Friday is arrival and registration day. There will be time for golf that afternoon for anyone who would like to participate, provided someone will step up and take charge of

setting up the golf. If you are interested, please contact me. There will be a Welcome Get Together in the main lobby from 1700-1900. Dinner will be on your own with old friends.

Saturday we will have the Annual Meeting from 0900 to 1100 followed by lunch from 1200-1400. The Remembrance Observance will be from 1530 to 1630. There will be a Reception at 1830 followed by a sit-down dinner at 1930. We are still working on the menu, but it will be something special and there will be a choice of a meat or a fish. After Dinner we will have our Awards Ceremony. The room will be available for informal get togethers until 2400. After that you can use the Lobby bar for socializing. Sunday will be departure day.

If you fly into Bush IAP the hotel will provide free shuttle service. If you fly into Hobby IAP you will have to rent a car, pay for a cab (about \$65.00) or take the free shuttle to Bush IAP and then the free shuttle to the hotel. There is plenty of on-site parking for those who drive their own vehicle. There are two restaurants in the hotel and several more within easy walking distance. There is also extensive shopping in the vicinity. There is lots of space in the lobby for informal meetings and BS Sessions. In addition to the main meeting room we have another room for registration, memorabilia sales and informal get-togethers. We may also have some vendors there. Our on-site coordinators are investigating the possibility of getting busses/vans for shopping and other tours on Friday and for the Ladies on Saturday morning. More later

We are still looking for help and if you would like to be a part of helping your fellow Intruders then let me know at 727-786-8105 or on the web at [bhi2@ix.netcom.com](mailto:bhi2@ix.netcom.com)

The Registration Form is in the current Newsletter and on the web site. We think that we have selected an outstanding venue for the

2003 Reunion and that it will be the most exciting Reunion yet. If you can think of anything else that we can do to make it more enjoyable let me know! I am always open to suggestions. **SEE YOU IN HOUSTON.**

Lynn Coleman  
Vice President and Reunion Chairman

### ***The Senior Member At Large says...***

#### **2003 Intruder of the Year**

There is still time to forward to me your recommendations for the Intruder of the Year, 2003. The sooner, the better. I have received several eminently qualified nominations so far. Please forward them to me, back channel, at Jint\_10306@yahoo.com. I can also be reached via snail-mail; Jack Interstein, 18 Bay Terrace, Apt. 1D, Staten Island, NY 10306. Please give me a few comments on your reasons for the nomination.

As the reunion, 2003, approaches may I suggest to the membership, that you start writing down your thoughts on how to upgrade, improve, change direction, stay the course, do away with and anything else you can think of for general discussion in Houston. I am sure the Executive Board would welcome a greater participation from the membership in guiding the direction of the association in the years to come.

Looking forward to renewing old acquaintances, meeting the new members and first time attendees and their families.

JINT  
Senior Member at Large

### ***Our Junior Member at Large (JM@L)***

#### **Voting**

In order to vote in this year's election, you must be a member-in-good-standing, meaning that your dues must be paid and up

to date. This includes nominations and appointments.

In accordance with the By-Laws, Article V, Sections 1 thru 7, the following will be in effect for this year's election:

The following positions will be filled during this year's voting process:

Vice President - JM@L - Secretary

The 2003 Membership Election schedule is as follows:

- Nominations need to be into the JM@L by NLT 11 Jun 2003 (90 Days).
- Ballots to be mailed NLT 11 Jul 2003 (60 Days).
- All ballots are to be postmarked NLT 11 Aug 2003 in order to be counted (30dys).

Should a position to be filled be uncontested, the individual who declared for or was nominated for the position shall be considered to be elected by acclamation.

Should all of the positions to be filled are uncontested, the JM@L will mail/email the slate of officers to the membership and declare the election complete and make his official report at the GMM

As the above described election procedure will be available to all members, regardless of their location, there will be no provision for proxy voting. Accordingly there will be no provision for an election of officers during the General Membership Meeting.

Should no one qualify or seek an open position during the above described nomination and election process the newly elected President, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a member in good standing to the open position(s) at the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Board.

Gary Stagman  
Junior Member At Large

## Notes and Memo's

*(More from the Prez)*

Flight: I have received several inquiries as to the financial condition of your association and I am pleased to tell you that our highly paid CPA has completed the financial statement for 2002 and submitted it to the Executive Board. Our net income for 2002 was \$6,416.38 for 2002 as compared to \$3,225.89 for 2001. Our total Liabilities and Equity increased from \$11,937.46 in 2001 to \$18,720.39 in 2002. Of interest in the statement is the increase of \$1,075.00 in new membership funds over 2001. We need to work on this area as our new membership numbers are significantly down for the YTD 2003. Please respond to Gary Stagman's request for help and let's all find at least one new member this year.

In the same area as new membership we are lagging behind in the payment of membership dues for 2003. If you have not yet sent your '03 dues to Gary Stagman please do so as soon as you can as we face some advance expenditures for the upcoming reunion. We are planning the reunion as a self supporting event but there are expenses that we must pay in advance. Remember, if you attended a reunion in the past the challenge is to come back and bring at least one new person with you.

The planning and advance work for the reunion continues with Lynn Coleman and company doing a great job getting ready for Houston. We had a few snags in the room reservations system that were uncovered by you early birds but those has been corrected and we are on our way toward a great reunion with the most folks ever attending. Make sure you are there and bring your pictures, memorabilia, stories **and your family for a great time**. The success of any reunion depends on largely on the contributions of the on site team and in that regard our Houston team of Brian Paine and Earl Broussard are doing a super job of handling the many details that go into making your reunion a success. If you have a special request or need associated with the reunion please fell free to contact either Brian or Earl.

See you in HOUSTON! - Jack

*(Reunion Committee member Brian Paine writes the following, with an aside to Marshall "Hawk" Hawkins)*

Here's some detail for making your reservations for the reunion. The direct line to the hotel is: 281-875-2222. The reservation desk is only open Monday through Friday. There is a 800 # > 1-800-996-3436...the number choice you want is '6' if you don't want to listen to their propaganda.

As stated in the preliminary info put out, the standard room rate is \$79.00. The Wyndham Hotels also have a ByRequest program. Go to <http://www.wyndham.com/> and you will find the info on this program. Follow the bouncing ball and sign up. There is NO fee for this program. The benefits are listed on that page. However, the free communications portion of the package will not be available to us in Sept. As stated in the benefits outline you WILL get 500 frequent flyer miles per night for one of the airlines listed. Additionally, there is a personalized room benefit. The details are also listed on this page. (Sorry Hawk, wimmen are not included in this benefit).

Once again....it's free so take advantage of it. If you have ANY questions or problems getting reservations BC me and I'll do what I can to help you out.

We're only a short term pregnancy away from the event ! - Brian Paine & Earl Broussard

*(Here's an example of what we're all about. An email to our intrepid Gary Stagman, Membership Chairman)*

Hi Gary, It was really great getting this email from you. You guys have done a wonderful job with this site and with getting the members in touch with each other, especially the original members of the 281st Avn.Co.

By the way, I emailed Charles Jordan on Tuesday and he called me on Wednesday. We talked for an hour. He lives only a short distance from me but we haven't seen each in about 32 years. He told me to tell you that his dues are forthcoming. He emailed me a picture of the two of you taken at the reunion in 2001. After looking at the picture now I remember who you are. If you would see me you would remember me. Jordan, OC Barnes and I hung out together. Yes, please send me the info on the organization. I don't know whether you know it or not, but Gary Flabbi volunteered to go on that field operation in my place so when I saw his picture on the webpage it brought me to tears but that was all good. Gary, I went over with the 281st Avn Co, which left Ft. Benning on May 15, 1966, boarded The USS Gordon which sailed May 16 to arrive in Nha Trang on June 9, 1966. I rotated back on May 16, 1967.

I don't remember my platoon but here is the rest of my information. 281st Avn.Co., 483rd T.C. Det. (6/9/66 to 6/16/67)

*Lawrence Harris, 130-06 228th Street Laurelton, NY 11413-1741 (718-341-3585 / offdutyalh@aol.com)*

*(An email to LaRie Hamilton from her sister, a Houstonian, about things to do in Houston. I've taken the liberty of editing it to conserve space. If you want to know more, contact LaRie)*

Hi LaRie,

If I'm not mistaken, you are staying in the Greenspoint Area (Beltway 8 North & I45). Close to the hotel is a seafood restaurant: Jimmy G's (281 - 931-7654), 307 North Belt (good seafood, Cajun gumbo. His family has been in the business for years). Pappas Seafood House (281-999-9928), 11301 I-45 North (This restaurant is South of the North Belt just 1 exit). Saltgrass Steak House (281 - 872-4545), 14909 I-45 North (This restaurant is North of the Belt on I45 a few exits, maybe 2 or 3 exits). Pappasitos, (281 - 821-4500), 15280 I45 North (across from the Saltgrass and has good Mexican food - very large portions. These restaurants are middle of the road as far as price goes. They all have a lot of customers because you get quality food every time.

There are some fast food restaurants all around the Greenspoint Shopping Center Area. There is a Bennigans right there at the Belt & Imperial Valley (Imperial Valley runs behind the Center I think). Also out by the Saltgrass Steak house is a Joe's Crab Shack.

During the day, if you didn't want to go too far from the Hotel, about 5 miles North of the Belt on I45, you can exit and go to a place called Old Town Spring. They have all kinds of specialty shops out there, tea rooms & burger places. I think some of the burger places have a band on the weekends

If you wanted to venture a little farther - Harwin Drive is a place that has all kinds of stuff for low, low prices. I go to a place called Park Imports at 9889 Harwin and they have tons (I mean tons) of earrings, necklaces & bracelets. I've bought the most beautiful earrings out there for \$2.50, bracelets for \$2.50 - \$3.00. You can't believe the prices. And across the street from Park Imports there are shops that sell purses, nice purses for \$20. It is a haven for finding lots of quality looking things for pennies

And, of course, there is always Kehma, Texas. It is south on I-45 like you were going to Galveston. It has lots of restaurants on the waterfront and they have some rides for kids and a

train that goes all around the place. It would probably take you about an hour to get there from your Hotel. You would also pass right by the Space Center on Nassa Road One.

I hope this has been helpful. - Janet

*(To end the newsletter here are a couple of comments from the Editor/Publisher)*

This will be the last Newsletter (NL) that will be sent out to all identified vets of the 281<sup>st</sup> team. Early on our numbers were such that the Assn could afford to send out the NL to all. That is no longer the case, primarily due to the outstanding efforts of Gary Stagman to bring the roster of identified guys close to 600 folks! Therefore, the NL will now go out via regular mail and email to paid up members only. However, the NL will still be available for download from the Assn website.

Concerning the Houston Reunion, I encourage you to get your reservations in ASAP. The Assn has committed to confirm enough folks for 100 rooms which the hotel requires before August 31<sup>st</sup>. If we don't, the Assn pays! So, the name of the game is; "Support your Assn, get the reservations in!"

Hey, it's going to be a fantastic time! **SEE YOU IN HOUSTON.** - Fred Mentzer, Editor

## We Rotor On!

### 281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Established July 4, 1999



#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**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

#### THE OFFICIAL WEB

**281st AHC Assn:** <http://www.281stAHC-Assn.org>  
**Members Only Chat Net:** [281AHC\\_HQ@yahoogroups.com](mailto:281AHC_HQ@yahoogroups.com)  
**Informal Chat Net:** [281AHC\\_CHAT@yahoogroups.com](mailto:281AHC_CHAT@yahoogroups.com)

Newsletter Editor & Publisher.... Fred Mentzer  
[ffmentzer@comcast.net](mailto:ffmentzer@comcast.net)

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS

**Awards** - Jack Interstein  
**Membership Committee Chairman** - Gary Stagman  
**Remembrance Committee Chairman** - Jack Mayhew  
**Historian** - Bob Mitchell  
**Internet Groups Administrator** - Brent Gourley  
**Website Committee Chairman** - Bob Mitchell  
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**Reunion Committee Chairman** - Lynn Coleman  
**Survivor Assistance Chairman** - Marshall Hawkins  
**Memorabilia Sales Committee Chairman** - Brian Paine  
**Chaplain** - Norm Kaufman

#### Other 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Websites

**281st AHC "Intruder"** <http://www.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>