

Hospitality Suite

Since it was just plain luck that Chuck Doty ended up with an oversized room in Chicago and offered it as our hospitality room; and since that room was the hub of activity during our entire stay; and since the size of our group is likely to exceed last years, I have inquired about a hospitality suite at the New Orleans Sheraton. The rates are considerably more reasonable, plus they will offer us an additional discount.

Here's the deal:

A decent sized suite with a connecting bedroom.....	\$365.00/day
discounted to.....	\$250.00/day
deduct \$70.00/day (whoever the lucky individual is that gets the connecting room would pay the normal \$70.00/day room rate)	-70.00/day
	<u>\$180.00/day</u>
	X4
	<u>\$720.00</u>
	+tax

Based on 30 Phoenix attending, the suite from Wed. night thru check-out Sunday would run about \$25.00 each.

It would be nice to know who agrees, disagrees, etc., with the hospitality suite arrangements in order that this could be settled, one way or the other, early enough to assure a reserved suite if needed. So feel free to express an opinion (Note that July is only 4 months away, so express your opinion a little quicker this time.) In fact, if you agree, go ahead and send me your 25 bucks. We'll prepay the suite bill, you'll forget that you spent \$25.00 and the suite will seem like it's free when you get there.

Also keep in mind that a few refreshments consumed in the hospitality suite over the course of the reunion will save you more than \$25.00 in bar bills. Much more in some cases. A whole lot more in others. As always, any corporate sponsor is welcomed.

* NOTE

This is where the second response is necessary. *Quickly, before the suits are gone.*

Phoenix T-Shirts

For those of you that were not in attendance last year, Ken Mayberry had about 30 T-shirts silk screened with a large Phoenix patch. They went rather quickly at the reunion and he took orders from those that wanted additional shirts. This year Ken is once again bringing T-shirts (different color). The shirts were the hit of the entire VHPA reunion, since they identified the Phoenix as a group, and no one could believe that we had so many people there. If you would like to assure yourself a T-shirt, you might drop Ken a line and let him know.

Ken Mayberry

Recently Located

- Jim Lloyd
- Bob Floyd
- Don Fuller
- Rick Gillis
- Maurice Morton

Notes Of Interest

I have previously mentioned the notoriety that the Phoenix achieved at last years reunion. Not only the size of our crowd impressed the VHPA, but our unity as expressed through our T-shirts, our 24 hr/day hospitality room, our slide and memorabilia show, our quick change from ties to T-shirts after the banquet, and the fact that wherever one Phoenix was found, there were always several more. This show of camaraderie has triggered two other events that you may be interested in.

1) Mike Sloniker works in the Pentagon, attended the VHPA Chicago reunion and came into the meeting room while we all were watching slides. That was his first introduction to the Phoenix since Lamson. Mike spends considerable time and energy, during his off hours, in the POW/MIA office, and since witnessing our group together, has taken a special interest in the Phoenix.

Through his efforts in utilizing a myriad of resources, such as the MIA files, declassified DoD documents, VHPA contacts and his knowledge of other aspects such as aircraft markings (blue ball on the Phoenix tailboom), Mike has been able to assemble a considerable amount of information on crash sites that are listed as containing "bodies never recovered". As this information is provided to the Joint Recovery Commission, teams are sent back to those crash sites. The latest recovery trip (Jan 90) recovered remains from 2 locations.

Mike's old unit, Sharks and Dolphins of the 174th are meeting in New Orleans complete with T-shirts. (Hey Mayberry, I wonder where they got that idea?) I, for one, certainly plan to buy Mike a beer or ten. Mike is also the guy who located Jim Lloyd and Don Fuller and let me know where to reach them.

2) Our special brand of "Espirit de Corps" was also responsible for a large packet that I received from Ft. Eustis, Va. It was a unit history of the 158th Avn. Bn. from conception to the present, and a request for any specific history on C Co. that I could provide. It seems that C/158 is alive and well as an Army Reserve unit, but has been redesignated C Co., 4th Bn., 158th Regiment. Their unit history goes directly back to Ft. Riley, KS.

Ft. Eustis is the home of the Army Transportation Museum, and the NCO's of C Co. are restoring a UH-1 and asked what aircraft markings were used on Phoenix a/c in Viet Nam. You may visit one day and see something familiar,

During the January drill, after a briefing on unit history, it was reported that a couple of the flight leads adopted the Phoenix call-sign. They have also requested and received a Phoenix patch.

3) Mike has also discovered that 6 of the "original issue" Phoenix aircraft are still flying in various NG/AR units around the country.

Lots of wives seem to be making the trip this year. I think we had 9 last year, and at least 13 guys have mentioned that their wives will be joining them this year. Welcome ladies.