

Gentlemen,

The VHPA reunion in Philly was a huge success complete with the mysterious appearance of an OH-6 in the lobby of the Wyndham Franklin Plaza one morning. Although the Phoenix contingent was smaller than usual, we were no less visible. (translates as boisterous, semi-obnoxious and/or rowdy at times.) As in the past, a new face or two with a Phoenix background showed up for their first reunion. This year it was Bob Sauer and Bob Holcomb. Each was as surprised as every "first timer" is that the reunion was as full of familiar faces, sights, sounds, etc. The last time I saw Bob Sauer, he swore that he would never miss another one, and flailed himself repeatedly for missing the 1989 reunion in Chicago when we had a large Phoenix crowd and he was a mere 6 blocks away.

All of us who denigrated the city of Philadelphia as a reunion site, myself included, owe the city an apology. The hotel, restaurants, historical sights, people and tourist attractions were a surprisingly pleasant addition to the real reason we all go to these reunions. Sorry Philly.

Kansas City in 95

For all of those who do not receive the VHPA newsletter, I am enclosing the tentative schedule of events for the Kansas City reunion. Of course some of this is subject to change, but it will give you an idea as to the activities planned and the time frame we are dealing with. While none of this information requires a response on your part, there is one additional item that some of you may be interested in. If so, I would ask that you at least give me some feedback, as some additional planning will be necessary.

As some of you know, particularly those that spent a year there, FT. Riley, Kansas is the birthplace of C/158th Avn Bn. A whole barracks full of the ugliest aviators the Army could find were shipped to FT. Riley upon graduation from flight school. Thinking that they had eliminated Viet Nam from their travel itinerary, these boys settled right in to the university campus scene in Manhattan, Kansas. Only later was it discovered that this stroke of good fortune had a darker side. The Army, in its infinite wisdom, decided to form an airmobile battalion. Taking a very large map, the Pentagon utilized the eenie, meenie, miny, mo method of selecting locations from which they would draw their aviation companies. Manhattan, Kansas was of course selected as miny. If Manhattan had been selected as meenie, we would have all been Lancers.

This story, while taking some liberty with the facts, does have a point. FT. Riley is a relatively short bus ride from Kansas City. We have

been invited by the Commanding General of FT. Riley to visit the post during our stay in KC. He has offered to put me in touch with one of his staff officers to work out the details. While some of you original boys undoubtedly met the CG of FT. Riley during your earlier stay, others of us have met the current CG, his name is Major General Randolph House, (known as Phoenix 16 back in 1970) Randy has had four different jobs in the last four years, so assuming he can keep this one a while, the invitation should hold through the reunion.

If there is sufficient interest (and only your cards and letters will let me know) I will make the necessary inquiries as to schedule, transportation, required haircuts, etc. A couple hour bus ride with a batch of Bloody Marys wouldn't be bad. Let me know.

DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

A few years ago we collectively put together a list of anyone that flew with the Phoenix that anybody remembered at all. That list produced some 185 names. We have slowly put quite a dent in that list. While I know that list is far from complete, we have accounted for well over 100 of our guys. This year's VHPA directory has turned up another name that I remember as being on that original list. Dwaine "Duke" Dennler has appeared in the directory. While Duke doesn't know that we exist yet, I will send him a copy of this newsletter.

Locating Crewmembers

Larry Frazier has sent me a list of almost 350 names of C/158 enlisted men, a good deal of whom were crewmembers. Larry has painstakingly tracked down the addresses of at least a couple of dozen of them. The job is tedious and expensive when you are doing it by yourself. If you can provide any further information to Larry from old orders etc., please send them to Larry. If you are interested in trying to locate someone in particular, please see the attached sheet for information and address.

VHPA also has a CD ROM with all the telephone listings in the country. As was printed in the VHPA newsletter, if you would like to locate someone, and all you have is the name, send the name and your request along with a self addressed, stamped envelope to Phil Marshall (Phil was a Dust off pilot for the 18th Surgical, so he likes the Phoenix) at the address below. If you can make a guess as to the geographic area that this person would most likely reside in, it might help.

Phil Marshall

1175 Beaver Valley Rd.

Beavercreek, OH 45434-7036

much later

The first 2 pages of this newsletter were typed in spurts over the past several months. There was always the best of intentions to finish it and mail it, but it just didn't happen. I even missed the postage increase deadline.

However, encouraged by a large number of Christmas cards and phone calls indicating Kansas City was on the summer itinerary of quite a few of you; and further fueled by a call from Jack Ross last night, I am getting this sucker in the mail before any more of you start calling me dirty names. (my mother was not an RLO) Besides, I need to let Randy House know something if we are going to visit FT. Riley.

Since I started this another Phoenix, Ken Newcomb, has surfaced. I have not spoken to him yet, but his area code indicates that he is still in Arkansas.

If you guys collectively decide to break with tradition and actually let me know your plans ahead of time, we may be able to arrange something along the lines of a hospitality area similar to past years. I'm holding my breath.

Larry Frazier's information and address follows.

I'm sending the latest copies of the crewmembers and pilots listings. I'm not planning on spending a whole lot of time on them in the near future for several reasons. I really don't have the time, and I've already invested several hundred dollars. We generated some interest, but not enough to warrant additional costs. I really need you guys to look through you're old orders etc. to locate more social security numbers, full names, etc. and send them to me. If you're really interested in finding certain ones, send me \$5.00 each and I'll have the search done several at a time. I plan to continue collecting data and sending it out once or twice a year to all those interested. I probably won't attend a reunion this year because of a couple other things. The Crewmembers Assn. doesn't want to have their reunion on the 4th of July weekend like the Pilots Assn. and we probably won't see a joint reunion between the two groups for several more years.

Clear Left!



Larry G. Frazier
2546 Belair Lane
Greeley, CO. 80631
(303) 330-1522

It's time to make plans for reunion

BOB SMITH
REUNION CHAIRMAN

I trust you all had a very enjoyable holiday season. Can you believe it . . . 1994 is already history, and YOUR annual VHPA reunion is only a few short months away.

Now's the time to book those discounted airline tickets, while fares are REALLY low, and some of the airlines are still offering two-for-one promotional sales.

Just pick up the phone, make your reservations, and send back your registration form now . . . before time slips away and prices go up.

Speaking of saving money, did you notice one of our major activities starts on Saturday, July 1, this year? Many of you traveling by air will take advantage of significantly lower advance purchase fares requiring a Saturday p.m. stay.

Early registrations indicate a substantial number of our members will check in Saturday afternoon. We wanted to do something special, and have set up a great early bird event starting at 6 p.m.

Remember those in-country and island R&R days? That's our Saturday night theme — a Polynesian pool party, complete with hors d'oeuvres, live music and a 10-member Hawaiian dance group, including hula, fire and knife dancers.

Bring your swimwear and be ready to mingle and party! We have added a \$10 per person charge to cover costs.

The December Newsletter did not mention this additional amount. However, with the large anticipated turnout, we felt it important to set up a first-class, fun-filled event to help start the weekend festivities in a top-quality fashion.

Sunday, July 2, will be a full day,



The Westin Crown Center is reunion headquarters.

with mini-reunions, a large static display, and optional Major League baseball. The Kansas City Royals take on Chicago in an early afternoon game that will get you back in time for the evening's festivities.

It's important you register in advance if you want to go to the game, as it has always been sold out weeks ahead of time in years past. We will hold a block of tickets as long as we can — but, unfortunately, this event definitely is "first-come, first-serve."

Remember the M*A*S*H-theme party we told you about in the December Newsletter? Well, Sunday is the night, and be sure to wear your fatigues, flight suits, etc. . . . and get some for your spouse or guest, also!

Major entertainment and great food have been arranged throughout the evening. It'll be the time and place to really "light the fires" and "crank."

Monday's schedule includes an

option to play in our own golf tournament, takes trips to Worlds/Oceans of Fun, the zoo or the Truman Library. (Sorry, we just learned the Nelson Museum will be closed that day.)

Monday night is Casino Night, which will start with a reception, and include dinner, entertainment and our own "private" gaming casino in the hotel.

Oh yes, you'll be able to win things, too. We're planning on some significant prizes, too!

Later in the evening, for those who would like to try their luck on the real thing, we'll have transportation available to one of the new riverboats that have just been licensed in town.

Prefer to stay in the hotel to party and dance? We'll have music provided by a very well-known local radio disc jockey.

Tuesday night, July 4, it all will wind up with the final banquet — with two bands, no less! We told you Kansas City was going to be special! Awards, entertainment, short presentations, plus a few other "surprises" we're still working on.

Sound like a great, fun-filled reunion? You bet . . . but you have to make plans to attend now!

Low airfares, low room rates, low beverage prices, and a high energy, exciting get-together. It's a simple formula for a great time!

Mini-reunions

To schedule a room and audio-visual equipment for your mini-reunion, contact Bill Medsker, RR, Graham, MO 64455. You can phone or fax him at (816) 939-4521.

Scheduling will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

A listing of mini-reunions will be published before the reunion in the Newsletter.