



# 48<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company

APO San Francisco 96240; 96321; 96349

★ BLUE STAR ★  
FIRE SUPPORT BY THE  
**JOKERS**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BLUESTARS!!!!

48 years and counting for the 48<sup>th</sup>! July 2013 marks the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 48<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Co, 48<sup>th</sup> Aviation Co, A/3-158<sup>th</sup> or whatever else you might remember us as. The unit designation doesn't matter. What matters is that they're still known as "Blue Star". Now this is something worth noting and celebrating. Not many units from RVN still exist today. July 5<sup>th</sup> marks the actual anniversary of the 48<sup>th</sup>. With that said, our summer mini reunion/anniversary celebration has been scheduled for Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 1300 til the last man standing calls it quits. What???? You need more information? Well, here goes the rest of the story.....

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual VHPA Reunion will be held beginning July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>. Our reunion will be held in the great city of San Francisco where everyone will be expected to wear a flower in their hair, or at least those of us who still have hair. This year's reunion hotel is the Hilton San Francisco located at 333 O'Farrell St, SF. The hotel is also known as the Hilton Union Square. There are at least 3 ways to make your hotel reservation while ensuring you receive the VHPA Group Rate of \$119 per night during the period of June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup>. These are:

- Go to the personalized website at:  
[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_gi\\_new&groupID=16466303](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=16466303)  
You can also use the link provided by [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org)  
If you are a Hilton Honors member, provide those details on the second step "Guest Details" screen.
- The hotel's reservation line is 415-771-1400. You should say you want to make a hotel reservation and need to mention any keywords such as "VHP" "VHPA" or "VHPA National Reunion" so the agent can locate the contract.
- The toll free Hilton central reservations line is 800-445-8667. You should guide the agent to the Hilton San Francisco Union Square property and use the keywords outlined above to find the contract.

Now I don't know about you but getting a room at a Hilton right in the middle of SF for \$119 a night is an incredible deal!

If you're planning to drive, the self-parking fee is \$20 plus tax per day for VHPA attendees. There are large parking structures across the street around the hotel. The Mason O'Farrell Garage's rates are \$32 for 24 hours plus an extra \$1 for in and out privilege.

As usual, I'm a bit tardy in getting this Newsletter out once again. Time just seems to be flying by anymore. The older I get, the older I get faster! I figure that if I ever get the

chance to retire, things might slow down but fat chance of that happening. I'm still chasing around after my 15 year old son so any thought of slowing down is just a pipe dream. This year we lost several more Blue Stars. One of our more "colorful" Blue Stars, Clancy Smith pulled pitch a few months ago from complications related to Agent Orange exposure. I'd like to urge anyone who hasn't visited the VA for an Agent Orange screening to schedule one as soon as you can. There is a wide variety of Agent Orange exposure related illnesses that could be identified and possibly save your life. You may be entitled to compensation and medical care for these related illnesses . It's worth checking out.

### **And the Activities.....**

#### **TOC**

Once again, the VHPA will provide us with a TOC free of charge. We'll have a place we can gather throughout the reunion period. The TOC will be in operation from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>. Our "official" mini reunion will be held in our TOC on July 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1300. Our TOC room has not yet been designated as of this writing but the location will be posted in the VHPA registration area so look for the signs. I'm not sure what the hotel's policy will be on bringing outside adult beverages into the TOC this year. Every hotel/state is different. Of course we'll make it happen if we can and once again we'll depend on your generosity to "smuggle" in beer, wine, etc and some munchies. It's worked out pretty well in the past so we'll keep our fingers crossed.

#### **Banquet and VHPA Activities**

In addition to our own activities in the TOC, there will be a variety of activities sponsored by the VHPA. You can view these activities at the VHPA website at [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org) and clicking on the reunion link. As always, you DO NOT have to be a member of the VHPA to attend the reunion. It is open to all. HOWEVER, if you wish to participate in any VHPA activity, you will have to register in order to purchase tickets EXCEPT for the closing banquet. The VHPA has established a non-registered guest cost to purchase Banquet tickets. This year, a non-registered guest can purchase a banquet ticket for \$90. Any event ticket purchases should be done online at the VHPA website. When you purchase a ticket(s) for the banquet, you will be asked your seating preference. Please be sure to indicate that you'd like to sit with the 48<sup>th</sup> or Blue Stars. AND.... Back by popular demand (more like overwhelming demand) will be the NYPD Emerald Society Bagpipers.

#### **Fall Reunion**

You bet there's gonna be a fall reunion. This year we'll be back in Gettysburg, PA November 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. Keep reading and see the Op Order with all the info. You'll find the fall reunion info, a form to fill out and send in that also includes a place to order T shirts. If you can't attend the reunion, you can just order T shirts by completing the form and send it in with you payment. If you're not planning to attend the reunion and do order T shirts, please include \$2.50 to help with the postage and packaging for shipping. Many, many thanks to Pat Coleman, Ben and Janet Gay and Tony Terrana for taking the bull by the horns and putting Gettysburg 2013 together.

## **Blue Star Aviation Association**

Is alive and well. I hope to have a Treasurers report for you during our short business meeting during our mini. We've had several expenditures for floral arrangements that were sent to those who we had information for who had passed away. Please remember that if you know a Blue Star who has pulled pitch, please pass along any info you have so we can send a floral arrangement.

It's also that time again – time for annual dues to be sent in. I know that times aren't so good for many of us and we understand. Annual dues are only \$25 and those dues help fund our reunion activities and enable us to send floral arrangements. We've done OK with donations collected during our reunion activities and our ability to fund the reunion of the hour but we've really been unable to build upon any extra collected to maybe step it up a little for the next reunion. The fall reunion has become pretty self-sufficient but our summer gathering is still lagging way behind. If you haven't joined the Association, you'll find the form on our website. Just complete it and mail it in along with your check. If you're a current member or not so current member, please send a check in for you dues.

A couple of years ago, we started a **"buy your buddy a beer fund"**. Basically, if you can't attend the reunion and you'd like to buy your buddy a beer or just make a contribution, send us your check and mark it so and we'll see that a cold one or two are hoisted in your honor. Can't ask for a better deal than that now can you! Please send your Association dues, applications, TOC contribution or plain contributions to:


Bobby Schulze  
PO Box 142  
Baileytown, AL 35019-0142

Our website is still going strong. We're at [www.48ahc.org](http://www.48ahc.org) . Logan Weiler continues to do an outstanding job as our webmaster. Please take a little time to visit and browse our site. In addition to tracking our RVN heritage, there's a lot of great info and pictures from the current Blue Stars, A/3-158<sup>th</sup> Blue Stars who seem to be spending more time between Iraq and Afghanistan than at their home base in Germany.

## **In Closing.....**

Let's face it guys, we're not getting any younger! I have spoken to many who have said that they planned to make the next reunion but unfortunately, that opportunity never came. I know there are a lot of guys who live pretty close to SF who can spend a day or two with old friends. You owe it to yourself to renew and old acquaintance, say hi to an old friend or have a beer with a new friend. We all share something in common that belongs to a very small group of men. A group of men who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for a buddy or for another soldier who you didn't even know. If you're sitting on the fence, undecided or even convinced you don't want to attend a reunion for whatever reason, reconsider. Give it some serious thought and come out and visit with some old friends.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Carlos Cortez  
Blue Star 237 and Joker 90

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cell: (562) 305-8461



**48<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Reunion**  
**November 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Operations Order, DTG 11MAY2013**

**Situation:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Reunion will be conducted from Nov 7 to Nov 10, 2013 in Gettysburg PA.

**a. General Instructions:** This Order is sent to get everyone notified about how to make reservation and to provide some general planning information. A full agenda with more specific information, cost figures for events and a signup sheet is being generated and will be sent as soon as available.

**b. Location:** Country Inn & Suites by Carlson Gettysburg  
1857 Gettysburg Village Drive  
Gettysburg PA 17325  
Phone: 717-337-9518  
Fax: 717-337-9665  
Web: [http://www.countryinns.com/gettysburg-hotel-pa-17325/pagetty/?s\\_cid=se.ggl.cis\\_cmp30](http://www.countryinns.com/gettysburg-hotel-pa-17325/pagetty/?s_cid=se.ggl.cis_cmp30)

**c. Dates of Operation:** Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**d. Room Reservations:**

Room rates are: \$80 per night plus tax for standard room; \$90 per night plus tax for King Suite.

In order to secure the special room rates, ask for the “Blue Star Reunion;” reservations may be made at any time up to and including the beginning of the reunion; however, reservations made after October 7, 2013 will be on a space available basis.

For those who want to spend extra days prior to the reunion and/or days after the reunion, the special reunion room rate will apply to those reservation dates.

**e. Thumbnail Agenda:** This is an overview of the planned events; a detailed agenda will be provided at the TOC along with a detailed listing of “free time” activities which will be available during the reunion.

**Nov 7, Thursday** – Check in, meet & greet at the TOC; the new Seminary Museum will be open till 5:00 pm for those who want to visit [http://www.gettysburg.travel/visitor/member\\_detail.asp?contact\\_id=94892](http://www.gettysburg.travel/visitor/member_detail.asp?contact_id=94892) .

**Nov 8, Friday** – Gettysburg National Military Park Tour; for those interested, a bus will pick us up around 9:15 and take us to the Center to see the Introduction Film, Cyclorama and Museum, lunch at the Museum is on your own, and a 2 hour tour of the battle field with licensed guides providing the narrative, return to the Museum to finish touring the Museum and book store, then return to the hotel NLT 4:30 pm. Banquet is planned for 6:15 with cocktails (cash bar) at 5:30 and memorial at 6:00; a full buffet menu will be provided; cash bar and music will be available throughout with the ability for after dinner dancing.

**Nov 9, Saturday** - Open time; a brochure is being produced which will highlight activities in Central Pennsylvania including sites in Lancaster, Hershey, York, Gettysburg and miscellaneous other sites.

**Nov 10, Sunday** – Breakfast, farewells, etc.

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**Signup Sheet – Due NLT September 7, 2013**

**Please return both pages of the signup sheet**

Names of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info: Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (home/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

**Museum and Battlefield Tour, Friday, November 7:** Gettysburg National Military Park Tour; cost of tour includes: bus transportation from the hotel around 9:15 to the Center, the Gettysburg Battle Introduction Film, the Cyclorama Presentation, the Museum Tour, a 2 hour tour of the battle field with licensed guides providing the narrative, return to the Museum to finish touring and book store, then return to the hotel at a time to be determined but NLT 4:30 pm. Lunch is available at the Museum, but is not included in the tour fee. Note: The maximum bus seating is 86 passengers; priority will be given based on date of receipt of this form and payment.

Total #: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00      Tour Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet, Friday, November 7:** Traditional Buffet including complete salad bar with all the trimmings, fresh roasted turkey, carved hickory smoked ham, carved pork tenderloin, homemade mashed potatoes, homemade old fashion stuffing, shredded sauerkraut, turkey gravy, buttered corn, seasoned whole green beans, fresh baked dinner rolls and whipped butter plus dessert table with seasonal pies, peach, apple and blueberry.

Total #: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00      Banquet Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Star T Shirts**

\$12 Small to XL; \$14 2X and Larger

# Shirts: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ @\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Shirts: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ @\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Shirts: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ @\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Shirts: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Shirts: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**See Shirt Design on next page.**



Total Submitted:

Tour \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_

T Shirts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: 48<sup>th</sup> AHC**

Please mail your check along with the completed signup sheet to:

**Janet Gay  
15521 River Bend Trail  
Lanexa VA 23089**

**We look forward to seeing all of you at this reunion; we believe we have some great and fun things planned. Please make your reservations and send in this signup sheets as soon as possible but no later than September 7, 2013.**