



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

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## GREETINGS FELLOW BLUE STARS,

Spring has sprung and we're rapidly headed towards summer. Once again, with summer, comes our annual reunion. This year we're off to Orlando. This year's summer reunion will begin on July 5<sup>th</sup> and end with the closing banquet on July 9<sup>th</sup>. However, there are a few tours scheduled on July 10<sup>th</sup> for those staying on. Yes, the dates are right. The VHPA actually took comments to heart about scheduling on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I know a July 5<sup>th</sup> start doesn't exactly miss the 4<sup>th</sup>, but next year the reunion will be in August. Hopefully this will be more accommodating to many folks. The hotel in Orlando can only be described as magnificent. First class accommodations, a great restaurant and sports lounge, and an amazing water park. If you're headed to Orlando with kids or grandkids, this is the place you'll want to be. The water park includes a pool area with a big lazy river and other fun stuff.

I can never say enough about motivation to get everyone to attend a reunion. Unfortunately, as we're all getting up there in years, it seems that age is rapidly becoming a motivating factor. As I've sorta become a contact point for a lot of folks, I usually receive the news of another Blue Star who has become ill, incapacitated or passes away. Unfortunately, this year is no exception. Many of us are becoming ill with maladies that the VA has recognized to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange and many of us are just plain getting old.

Seize the opportunity to once again renew a friendship or make a new one. I know many of these reunions are "regional events" and I know there are an awful lot of folks located in the southeastern US so that this reunion is within a reasonable driving range. And, there is an added bonus this year..... free parking at the hotel!

### **The Skinny on the Hotel**

This year's reunion site is the Hilton Orlando located at 6001 Destination Parkway (formerly Canadian Court), Orlando (phone) 407-313-4300. The VHPA group rate is \$119 per night during the period 1 July to 14 July. In addition to the free self parking, internet access is also free to attendees.

There are three ways to make a reservation: Hilton's group services have established a personalized website specifically for this reunion. Simply go to [www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/ORLOCHH-VHP-20110704/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/ORLOCHH-VHP-20110704/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG). Click on the attendee's link immediately below the American flag. You can also scroll down on the initial screen and click the Book a Room tab in the 'quick and Easy Reservations for Attendees' area. Either action gets you to the 'Dates

and Preferences' screen. Provide your arrival and departure dates, room type preference, make certain the code VHP is entered in the Group/Convention field and click the continue tab. This gets you to the 'Rooms and Rates' screen. Make certain to click the 'radio button' under the VHPA NATL REUNION section, then click the Continue tab. This gets you to the guest information screen. After you complete the required fields in this screen, click the 'Book Now' tab at the bottom of the screen. This gets you to the Confirmation screen. You can call the Hilton's toll free reservation line at 888-488-3509. You should say you want to make a hotel reservation and you need to mention any number of keywords such as "VHP", "VHPA", or "VHPA National Reunion" so the agent can find the contract and set you up at the correct rate. You can also call the Hilton's toll free central reservations number, 800-445-8667. You should guide the agent to the Hilton Orlando property and use the keywords outlined above to find the Contract.

### **The TOC & the Main Event - THE MINI**

Once again, we have a great TOC lined up for this year. Our TOC is scheduled to be the Clear Lake Room, located adjacent to the registration area. There may be some room shuffling so be sure to check in the registration where the TOC will actually be

The mini reunion is scheduled for Friday, July 8th beginning at 1300. WE are currently scheduled to have our mini in the Lake George A room. Once again, be sure to check and confirm the location.

Once again, the VHPA is providing us with a TOC for the entire reunion period. Our TOC is scheduled to be in the Clear Lake room. The Clear Lake room is located across from the main registration area. We are also planning to have draft beer on tap. We will be asking for your donation for a beer. Right now, it looks like 3 bucks a draft will cover most of our costs. Basically, if we buy the draft beer from the hotel, we get the room for practically nothing. While the TOC operating costs have hopefully decreased this year, we still need to solicit your contributions to continue to make it happen and build our war chest for future reunion activities. Last year was our first experience with the draft beer thing and requesting a donation per beer. Quite truthfully, it didn't work out too well. We had a lot of folks drinking beer but not many making donations. We'll give it another shot again this year and see how it goes. Remember, we're only able to do this with your support and contributions. Your contributions also help us support our annual Fall reunion, more on that later. We really need your support. Remember, any funds raised above our expenses remain in our Association treasury. If you cannot attend this year's festivities but would like to make a contribution or, if, you are attending and would like to make a contribution now; you can send your check to (or make an online payment/contribution - see next item):

Bobby Schulze  
PO Box 142  
Baileytown, AL 35019-0142

PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO BOBBY SCHULZE. Also, please mark your check as a TOC contribution or payment of dues.

**NEW, NEW, NEW!!!!!!!**

Bobby has been able to set up an online account that will enable anyone to pay your dues or make a contribution to the Association by credit card. The link is known as SmartyPig. The SmartyPig link is: <https://smartypig.com/find-friends/friends-goals?userId=3c4f6f44-027e-4cab-a55d-aaffbff51ed0> . Please save this link for use now and future use.

### **The Reunion**

The VHPA has planned a full slate of events this year. These events can be viewed on the VHPA website at [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org) and clicking on the Reunion Information link. Typically, most who attend will manage to find their own way around Orlando but will plan to attend the banquet. The closing banquet is another significant event of our reunion. This year the banquet will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The banquet cost for a non-registered adult guest is \$90 and \$18 for children.

### **Banquet Seating**

If you're planning to attend the banquet, don't forget this little "detail". There will be a banquet seating selection area set up in the main registration area. When you arrive in Orlando, one of your 1<sup>st</sup> stops should be to select a seat at the banquet. This will ensure that those who desire can sit together as a unit.

### **Website**

Logan continues to do a great job keeping our website up and running and updated. Stop in and see what's new. We still at: [www.48ahc.org](http://www.48ahc.org)

### **The Blue Star Aviation Association**

Our Association was formed to provide a vehicle to facilitate our reunions and provide us with a means of communicating and staying in touch with each other. We've done this by providing funds for our website, funding various reunion activities, and most importantly, recognizing those of us who pull pitch. In the past, we've been fortunate to continue to remain solvent by members renewing their annual membership. I'm the first to recognize that the present state of the economy has impacted everyone. I'd like to ask that everyone who can possibly find a way to renew your membership, take a few minutes to do so. We really need and count on your support. While the reunion activities are somewhat self supporting, our Fire Mission Fund and membership fund rely on all of us for replenishment. Please, if you possibly can, take the time to renew now and send Bobby Schulze a check for \$25 (at the address above), or take advantage of our online SmartyPig account. If you aren't a member, please consider joining. We need your help to support a great organization and a great group of guys - us and our Association! Please remember to make your check payable to Bobby Schulze (again a banking thing) and mark your check "Association Dues".

## **Fall Reunion: Williamsburg, VA November 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**

Once again Janet Gay has taken flight lead and is organizing our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Reunion. I might note that she is being assisted by Ben Gay who is in the trail ship. Here's the skinny:

### **48<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Reunion, November 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>** Warning Order 1 to OPCODE 5-11, DTG 050700HZMay11

**Situation:** The 48<sup>th</sup> AHC was involved in intense social operations during the fall of 2010 in Savannah and will continue with summer 2011 social degradation in Orlando. Following these semi-conscious, delirious actions, the 48<sup>th</sup> AHC will execute a full scale precision assault into *LZ Williamsburg* located at the Woodlands Hotel & Suites, Colonial Williamsburg VA beginning November 9<sup>th</sup> and continuing through November 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**Mission:** Move from current location by whatever means available landing at *LZ Williamsburg* O/A 1600H, November 9<sup>th</sup> where you will receive detailed instructions on eating, drinking and making merry continuously for the duration of the visit within personal standards of decorum, regarding only legal limits of exuberance.

#### **General Instructions: Location**

Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites, one of the Colonial Williamsburg Hotels, is located directly across from the Colonial Williamsburg Visitors' Center. The room rate for a standard room (2 double beds) for single or double occupancy is \$89 per night; king size suites including queen size sofa are available for \$119 per night; complimentary continental breakfast included. The special guest room rates will apply three days before and after the event. A GP medium and cots will be provided in an adjacent wooded area for select individuals.

**Event Dates:** Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Reservations:** For reservations, call 800-261-9530 between the hours of 0830 and 1700 EST. Use booking code #17008 or Group Name '48<sup>th</sup> AHC'. **Reservations must be made prior to Wednesday, September 7, 2011.** Reservation must be accompanied by one night's deposit for room plus tax. Reservations made after September 7<sup>th</sup>, will be based on a space and rate available basis. Individual deposits are refundable, provided notice of cancelation is received by the hotel by 1700 EST at least 3 business days prior to reserved date of arrival.

**Arrival & Departure Times:** Check-in time is 1600. Check-out time is 1100.

#### **Special Instructions:**

#### **In Closing**

Time marches on and will spare no man. I know many of us keep putting off attending a reunion for one reason or another. Whether it be because we were too busy with work, the reunion is too far away, the reunion city sucks, "I'll wait until I'm retired and have more

time", "now that I'm retired, I can't afford it" and the list goes on - as does time. Please take time and consider renewing an old friendship. Come to one of our reunions; whether it be this summer in Orlando, this fall in Williamsburg or next summer in New Orleans. You really owe it to yourself to smell the roses. While most of us were only together a short time, we all shared an experience that is unique to us and only us. I have friends who I have known most of my life but do not feel as close to them as friends that I only knew for a year. Funny how it works that way, but, absolutely true.

This fall we'll be gathering in Williamsburg, VA. Our next summer reunion is scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. I know you're thinking New Orleans in August will be miserable but who plans on being outside all of the time anyway and the beer is always cold! It's never too early to start planning!!!!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Remember, we depend on your generosity to keep our TOC going and our Association strong and healthy.

Best Regards,

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Joker 90

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