

NIGHT STALKER ASSOCIATION



FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President

Tim Cash



Vice President

Tony Fuller



Quartermaster

Ernie Salyer

Secretary

Mark Gallegos

www.nsa160.com



NEWS FROM THE NSA PRESIDENT



Dear NSA Members,

Thanks to tremendous teamwork and focus from our members and leaders around the country, I'm proud to report that there is a great deal of Night Stalker Association information to share with you in this issue.

First, I would like thank all of our members for assisting me in moving our Association to a national level. Without the support and efforts by numerous volunteers we could not have moved the Association as far forward as we have. It has been a busy year of positive change for us, with many more changes to come over the next several years. There are a few significant accomplishments I would specifically like to highlight.

In 2009, the NSA:

- Officially recognized the Huntsville and Tampa Chapters as Local Chapters (Societies).
- Developed a new Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Mr. Bob Johnson.
- Conducted the first ever audit on the NSA finances and procedures.
- Created the NSA Forum (<http://www.nsa160.com/forum/>) so that we can interact and communicate more effectively with NSA members.

One of the major initiatives that we are working for the coming year is creating a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to separate the Scholarship Funds from the General Fund. This will allow us to attract more corporate donations, thus giving more Night Stalker Family Members the opportunity to receive a higher education. This new 501(c)(3) will be known as the Night Stalker Foundation and will be closely monitored and managed by an NSA oversight committee.

The 2009 Scholarship Program was an enormous success that allowed for more than \$45,000 in scholarships awarded by the Night Stalker Association. A special thank you to the Special Operations Fund for matching all NSA scholarships again this year. Additionally, I would like to thank our corporate and individual scholarship sponsors who many times go unnoticed. Without your perpetual support to Night Stalker Families, the Scholarship Program could not make the significant impact that it does every year.



NEWS FROM THE NSA PRESIDENT CONTINUED



I would be remiss if I did not publically thank Dillon Aero for their generous donation to the Night Stalker Association of \$25,000. In dire economic times for many corporations in America, Dillon Aero certainly set a new standard supporting Night Stalkers. From all NSA members, I applaud Dillon for their contribution and hope to see them at next year's WONSA events.

As many of you know, the Regiment suffered the loss of ten heroes in three separate incidents since our last newsletter edition. On Aug. 19, A Blackhawk flown by CW4 Terrance Geer and CW4 Robert Johnson and crewed by SSG Paul Jackson and SSG Chad Tucker crashed during a training mission in Colorado. SSG James R. Stright died in a helicopter crash Oct. 22 during a training mission off the coast of Virginia. And on Oct. 26, a Chinook helicopter carrying coalition forces during operations in western Afghanistan crashed, with five Night Stalkers among those who perished. They were CW4 Michael P. Montgomery, CW3 Niall D. Lyons, SSG Shawn H. McNabb, SGT Josue E. Hernandez-Chavez and SGT Nickolas A. Mueller. Many thanks to the Night Stalker Association members for all the support they provided to our Families of the Fallen in their time of need. Our prayers remain with their Families and fellow Night Stalkers.

Fall is in the air and change is evident. Not only is there a change in the weather, but also a change coming to the Night Stalker Association leadership. After over 20 years of volunteer service to the Association, Mr. Ernie Salyer will depart from his post as Quartermaster of the NSA at the end of his term. This will be a huge loss to the Night Stalker Association as Ernie has been at the helm since its creation and spent countless hours of his time supporting the Night Stalker Soldier and his Family, as well as ensuring the Association continued moving forward. I hope that all will join me in thanking Mr. Salyer for his dedicated service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Also leaving his post will be the Vice President, Mr. Tony Fuller. Tony has been a leader for many years within the NSA and has assisted me greatly over the past year in bringing our Association to the national level. I am sure that while Tony may not be an elected leader of the Association he will continue to serve as a volunteer. Thank you, Tony, for your support and friendship. We are currently soliciting membership for nominations to fill the two vacancies left by Ernie and Tony: Quartermaster and Vice President. Please exercise your privilege as a member by voting for the incoming officers. You will be able to find the ballot and instructions at the NSA Website (www.nsa160.com).



NEWS FROM THE NSA PRESIDENT CONTINUED



Membership is critical to the success and longevity of the NSA. You provide the ideas and direction for the Association and just as important, the dedication and muscle that make each and every NSA event a world-class affair. Make a commitment in the new year that you will participate in or volunteer to help at the NSA Bass Tournament, Golf Tournament, or Red Dog Scramble. Entrants and volunteers alike have a great time at these events while simultaneously raising funds for the NSA. Encourage your buddy to join the NSA and to participate in one of these well-known local fundraisers.

I hope to continue publishing monthly Night Stalker Association Notes in an effort to keep all NSA members abreast of issues that impact the Association and our members. As with every communiqué that I pen, I ask that we all remember why it is that the Night Stalker Association was created and continues to this day: to support the Night Stalker Soldier and his or her Family. Should we ever lose sight of our mission we will most certainly cease to be of relevance to our active duty Soldiers and their Families. I ask that all members assist me in maintaining our mission and ensuring that the elected leaders at all levels of the Night Stalker Association are being good stewards of our organization. After all, it is YOUR Association.

Happy Holiday and wonderful New Year

Tim Cash
NSDQ!



NEWS FROM THE NSA VICE PRESIDENT



Dear NSA Members, Corporate sponsors, and Night Stalkers and families,

I would like to say farewell as your Vice President for the past three years. I have learned so much from the volunteers who keep this great Organization up and running. I would like to personally thank all that serve the NSA to allow us to support our Night Stalkers and their families. I would also like to thank the Regiment for allowing us to serve and for supporting our mission!

I have had the pleasure of working under three separate NSA Presidents. Donnie Calvery, Herb Rodriguez, and Tim Cash. I would like to publicly thank them all for their mentorship. For those that think the NSA is just a store for Night Stalker paraphernalia, this is not true. It is an organization that requires much time, dedication, and the ability to deal with a crisis situation through the roughest of times. Unfortunately, the last few months have proven just that. Thanks to all members of the Board of Directors, Satellite Chapters, volunteers, etc. Without you, the NSA would not exist!

It is time for elections once again. The Office of "Vice President and Quartermaster" are open for election this month. Please take the time to fill-out a ballot and VOTE! This is your Night Stalker Association, your vote does count. Thanks to the Nominees for sacrificing your time to run for office.

The Holidays are amongst us and the New Year rapidly approaching. Please take a break and enjoy the Holidays with those you care about the most. I wish everyone a safe and Joyous Holiday Season. Let's not forget about the Night Stalkers and every military member deployed during this Holiday season. They are the Heroes that allow us to relax and enjoy. Please put them in your prayers as well as their families back home.

Last but not least, thanks to Ernie Salyer. Ernie has served the NSA since it was founded. Ernie has over 20 years of service as a volunteer of the Night Stalker Association and has always kept an NSA store up and running. Ernie has retired from the Army, Government service, and now the NSA. Please take the time to stop-by the store and tell him Thanks for his selfless service. Thanks Ernie!

Again, it has been an absolute honor to serve an organization that has a very tough, but simple mission-Taking care of Night Stalkers and their families. Happy Holidays to all members, sponsors, volunteers and especially Night Stalkers! NSDQ!

Tony Fuller



NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER



Dear NSA Members,

This has proven to be an extremely busy time for the Regiment, but as always, the Soldiers of this unit have continued to impress me with their strong work ethic and dedicated service. We have been challenged in every manner possible, physically, mentally and emotionally, but still these Night Stalkers continue the strong legacy that you have laid before them.

Many of you may already know that the Regiment has suffered some great losses over the last couple of months. On 19 Aug., a Blackhawk flown by CW4 Terrance Geer and CW4 Robert Johnson and crewed by SSG Paul Jackson and SSG Chad Tucker crashed during a training mission in Colorado. On 22 Oct., another Blackhawk crashed while conducting overwater operations off the coast of Virginia, killing SFC James Stright. Then on 25 Oct., a Chinook flown by CW4 Michael Montgomery and CW3 Niall Lyons and crewed by SSG Shawn McNabb, SGT Mueller and SGT Josue Hernandez-Chavez crashed while conducting military operations in western Afghanistan. We have been overwhelmed, but not surprised, by the enormity of selfless responses our Families, the NSA and community have and continue to provide to those Families that lost a loved one. The thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness by everyone have provided hope on what have been dark days. We are extremely proud and thankful to be associated with those of you who have proved to be both caring and wonderful. On behalf of all Night Stalkers, I wish to express our sincere thanks for your support of the families of those Soldiers lost.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to invite you to next year's Formal. I know that some of you may still be recovering from the last one in May, but we must start looking forward to ensure next year's is as successful. You will be excited to hear that in 2010 the event will be held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville on Friday, 21 May. We have already started coordination for reduced rates on rooms, therefore we will request attendees to RSVP earlier than last year to ensure we get the needed number of rooms blocked (we will notify you of the suspense for the RSVP). We are also pleased to announce that Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will be returning to entertain the Night Stalkers. Please reserve this date and join us in Nashville for what should be a great night.

Lastly, I want to thank you. Thank you for the amazing support you continue to provide to every member of this organization. It goes without being said that this unit would not be what it is today if it were not for the efforts of the Night Stalker Association members. You continue to be there for these Soldiers and their Families and we are deeply indebted to you!

NSDQ!

From the Command Sergeant Major



Fellow Night Stalkers,

It's been a busy summer for the Regiment as we continue to run at a true Night Stalker pace. Numerous training exercises CONUS and OCONUS while still maintaining a full time commitment in support of the global war is not easy work, but all of you make it look routine. We continue to receive nothing but the highest accolades from our higher headquarters and the commanders of the ground forces we support.

The Families of the Regiment continue to be the corner stone of all, and provide outstanding support to our Soldiers. Your support enables our troops to give maximum effort when they work and deploy. They are more able to stay focused and we thank all of you for your hard work and dedication as well.

We are pleased to report that three months into the new job that every expectation has been verified as we have seen first hand the incredible work by all. We appreciate the service and sacrifice freely given by all Night Stalkers and we want you to know how proud we are to serve with each and everyone. Please remember our deployed Soldiers and their families during this critical time in service to our Nation.

CSM David & Haevenly Leamon
N.S.D.Q!



NEWS FROM THE 1st BATTALION



On behalf of all 1/160th Night Stalkers and their families, I want to pass on my deep gratitude for the compassion and support provided by the NSA to the unit and families of our Hooter Brothers who were killed in 378's accident in Colorado. The NSA's donation's were part of the Night Stalker family's legacy and ability to provide unmatched support during these unfortunate times. Thank You - NSDQ! LTC Allan Pepin



NEWS FROM THE 2nd BATTALION



Greetings once again Darkhorse Families. Kay and I hope you had a wonderful summer and that you and your family were able to fit some quality time into our very busy schedule.

This month marks the eight year anniversary of the Darkhorse Battalion's deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. We've been engaged in combat virtually every day of those eight years. Some would call the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines that served during World War II the "Greatest Generation"; I would call them a Great and Heroic Generation, but not the Greatest in light of what today's generation is sacrificing in the service of our Nation. The Soldiers and families of this generation (**you and your families**) have selflessly continued to volunteer for the arduous life of a Soldier knowing that the path you are taking will lead to a battlefield far from home. This conflict has lasted longer than the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War and yet the brave men and women of this generation altruistically put on their uniforms, grab their weapons, and face the enemy on behalf of their fellow citizens.

Additionally, the generation that fought and won WW II did so in the era of the draft where very few young soldiers had families of their own. In contrast, the generation fighting the current conflict is an ALL VOLUNTEER force that is generally older, married, and with children. Therefore, it isn't just the individual soldier raising his or her hand and volunteering to serve the Nation; it is a commitment by an entire American family. This type of selfless dedication and loyal service is why the United States of American is the greatest and most benevolent Nation in the world. GEN MacArthur embodied this idea in three words... "Duty, Honor, Country." For these reasons I believe that history will judge this generation (**you and your families**) as one our country's greatest; if not *the* Greatest Generation.

Kay and I want you to know that your contributions and service do not go unnoticed. We both know how difficult it is to raise a family amidst the backdrop of constant combat deployments, training exercises away from home, professional development schools, etc.; it is certainly not easy, but all of you do it without complaint. I have the honor of witnessing the actions of our Darkhorse Soldiers on the battlefield (flying the absolute toughest missions in the war) and the steadfast support of the Darkhorse families back here at Fort Campbell. For both Kay and I, it is awe-inspiring to watch.



NEWS FROM THE 2nd BATTALION CONTINUED



When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that "I'm a Soldier in 2/160th SOAR(A), the Darkhorse." I don't tell them my rank or my current position, because that is not what I'm most proud of; I just tell them I'm a Darkhorse Soldier because being on the same team as all of you Great American families is truly what makes me proud.

Thanks again for all that you do.
"Beware the Darkhorse"
Respectfully,
Tom and Kay Drew



NEWS FROM THE 4th BATTALION



After a fantastic summer the weather is changing and the rain is starting here at Ft. Lewis, but not before we had a great Western – Week of Night Stalker Activities (W-WONSA). We had families and supporters from the community turn out for all the events. Our golf scramble was a huge success with all the hard work put in by the Delta Company’s “Hexmates”. Charlie Company “Chupacabras” put on the Battalion’s first annual softball tournament that was won by B Company “Evil Empire”, after blowing out the competition in a double elimination.

We had the great honor of being able to dedicate the 4th Battalion hangar to CW3 Hershel D. McCants, Jr. who was lost while supporting operations in Afghanistan. Alpha Company “Guns-a-go-go” did an excellent job of arranging the commemoration ceremony.

We had our biggest turnout so far for our formal ~ 430 people came out to share in the celebration. A great time was had by all. Thanks to HHC “Bulldogs” for making this amazing night happen.

As we look forward to the Holidays with great anticipation, the FRG is getting ready to host a Single Soldier’s Thanksgiving Dinner and the Battalion Christmas party. A huge thanks to all the wives who volunteer to make these events happen while supporting the Soldiers at home and also overseas.



NEWS FROM THE SOATC



Happy fall and Holiday Seasons!

Greetings from TEAM SOATC! We hope that each and every one of you had a safe and enjoyable summer. Fall is here and winter is just right around the corner, so please continue to practice good safety habits as we have done in the past.

TEAM SOATC consists of military, Family members, GS employees, and civilian contractors that stand ready to support the Regiment and to professionally train Soldiers around the clock. We would like to thank each and every member of the team for their continuous dedication, work performance, and positive attitude that you bring to work with you every day.

One big announcement; through the incredibly hard work of many, especially Mr. Gil Major, SOATC is now recognized by Aviation Branch, USASOC, TRADOC, and the Army as an official school. We have our own "school code" under the JFK Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg and all 28 of our Programs of Instruction are now listed and tracked in ATRRS. There is a lot of good which comes from this, not the least of which is the "Company" name will likely be changing to "Center". Special Operations Aviation Training Center is more appropriate to the size of formation, level of throughput, and incredible span of control our trainers, leaders and maintainers manage on a daily basis. Thanks to Gil and everyone who worked so hard to make this happen!

We hoped everyone had a great time at the Christian Way Farm during the SOATC Fall Festival on 24 October; it was great to see you and your Families there.

Congratulations to SSG Timothy Cohen and SSG Brian Herriman for recently getting promoted to Staff Sergeant on 1 October. We would also like to congratulate Mr. Herbert Rodriguez for receiving the Order of St. Michael on 16 November.

On 18 November, SOATC had their annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and it was a meal fit for a king. Thanks to Miss Glenda Rake for coordinating the event, it turned out fantastic. We would also like to thank everyone who contributed and made the annual event a success.

Continue to keep the thoughts and prayers for every member deployed and fighting for our continued freedom!

NSDQ!

Brian and Christine Hughes
Johnny and Fontella Jones



2010 NSA OFFICER BALLOT



Votes for the 2010 officers for the Night Stalker Association must be submitted to the NSA no later than 14 December 2009. **YOU MUST BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER TO VOTE** (one vote per member).

Mark your choice or write in another individual. Print your name and sign the ballot.

Your vote will **NOT** be counted unless your name and signature can be verified.

Vice President

Michael Zonfrelli

Write in _____

Quartermaster

Kenneth Helms

Write in _____

Member Name _____

Signature _____

Instructions for submitting ballot (submit by one of the methods listed below):

- 1. Mail to or deliver to NSA 11304 Bell Station Road, Oak Grove KY 42262**
- 2. Fax ballot to (270) 412-4970**
- 3. Scan and email ballot to president@nsa160.com**
- 4. Copy ballot into an email and send to president@nsa160.com if email address clearly identifies member (i.e. AKO, RegNet, or corporate email)**