



Night Stalker Association

Fall 2011

NSA Fall 2011

Dear NSA Members,

We hope and trust everyone had a pleasant and relaxing Summer and all is well as we move into the Fall with all of its associated activities.

The Board of Directors (BoD) would like to thank everyone involved with supporting the NSA Bass Tournament and all of the events of Week of Night Stalker Activities (WONSA). Both efforts were huge successes from a financial standpoint, as well as service provider aspect. Thanks to all the great volunteers, without whose support, it would not be possible to sponsor these enjoyable and important events. As we continue to see the same faces volunteering their precious time over and over again, I ask all members to consider becoming involved in the planning and execution of NSA activities. There are only a few official board members within the NSA and without volunteer support, we cannot provide the level of support to the soldiers and families of the 160th that we want to and that they deserve.

Here are a couple of highlights for specific events or upcoming events:

NSA Bass Tournament: This year's tournament was again very popular within the local, as well as regional fisherman. The weather cooperated this year and there were over 120 boats launched on Lake Barkley for the event. Overall, the NSA managed to make over \$5,000 while still paying out to the top 12 places with the proceeds from raffle tickets providing a large portion of the prizes. We are planning on conducting next year's tournament out of Lick Creek and will again schedule it for the later part of April. We will begin planning the tournament sometime in December and are always looking for help in setting it up.

WONSA: Overall, a very successful week from the NSA perspective as we sponsored or co-sponsored most of the events during the week. Fortunately, there were no new names to place on the memorial wall this year, but the ceremony was still an emotional one and very well conducted. The NSA Awards Ceremony and subsequent luncheon with corporate sponsors was again a huge success and well attended from within the ranks of the Regiment. Novadell Links golf course provided the venue for the annual NSA golf tournament. Although the weather was a little cooler than expected, both the morning and afternoon flights were completely full. The NSA again helped offset the cost of Regimental Formal tickets for the junior enlisted by contributing over \$5,000 to make sure this event could be enjoyed by all ranks. The week concluded with the NSA picnic in the Old Bunker Area and was another great success.

30th Anniversary Celebration: We are just coming off of the Regiment's celebration of the 30th Anniversary and the NSA was a key player in making this important event so successful. The weather was perfect and the Oak Grove War Memorial Park was a great venue for this event. There were over 50 of the original Plank Holders in attendance for the recognition ceremony which added an extra level of excitement to the event. Additionally, the New York Fire

Department (NYFD) presented a token of appreciation to the Regiment which was constructed out of the original steel from the World Trade Center.

2011 NSA Scholarship Program: We have again achieved a new milestone within the NSA scholarship program and were able to award over \$84,000 in scholarships to very deserving recipients this year. Additionally, we are fortunate to have a very generous donor, the Special Operation Fund, continue to match our scholarships dollar for dollar. The responsibility of the scholarship program will be assumed by the newly formed Night Stalker Foundation (NSF) beginning next year. The NSF is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with the sole purpose to administer the scholarship program.

NSA Christmas Party: The NSA is pleased to announce we will again provide a Christmas Party for the members. This year, the party will be held on December 8th at the Kiwanas Heritage Lodge on Old Russelville Pike. Specific times and events will be published separately and posted on the website.

NSA Website: We are in the process of trying to improve the usefulness of the NSA website for the members and are open for suggestions on what you think and how you want information presented.

NSA BoD Elections: The 2-year terms for the NSA Vice President and Quartermaster will expire at the end of this calendar year. The NSA will accept nominations for these positions from 15 October until 11 November; the voting period will be from 12 November through 9 December. Any active NSA member can nominate and is allocated one vote for the election.

NSA Membership: With the recent request for financial assistance from the unit, there has been some renewed interest within the Night Stalker family regarding the membership levels and participation. The NSA exists to support the current and past soldiers and families of the 160th. With that comes an expectation that our membership numbers within the active duty ranks would be very high. Surprisingly, this is not the case and a recent analysis of the database indicates the percentage of NSA members among the active duty Regiment personnel is low. We are all recruiters for the NSA and I ask for your help in spreading the word on what the NSA does for the soldiers and families of this great organization.

As always, the NSA BoD is always open for to the members for idea or suggestions on how to make this a better organization. Likewise, we also want to know what we could be doing better for our members. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time to provide your feedback.

Sincerely,

Marc Moquin

NSA President

Fellow Night Stalker Association Members,

Fall is upon us and old man winter will soon be here. We have had an exciting and eventful year and we will keep the momentum as we move into the holiday season. We have several holiday events scheduled (detailed inside) for our Night Stalkers and their Families. We look forward to seeing you there.

In October, we were able to take a well-deserved opportunity to bring together our Night Stalkers and their Families as we held our 30th Anniversary celebration day. We enjoyed a fun filled day full of games and activities including a Black Dagger parachute demonstration and several live concerts that lasted throughout the night. Most importantly we had the unique opportunity to gather and recognize more than fifty TF-160 plank holders. Although our formation has changed, the values and visions of these original unit members remain an essential part of who we are today.

Night Stalkers continue to answer the nation's call in locations throughout the world. The Regiment remains actively engaged and continues to support our ground forces as they take the fight to a determined enemy both in Iraq and Afghanistan. We still face a formidable enemy in Iraq. The fight in Afghanistan is constant, and I continue to be amazed by the exceptional accomplishments of our Night Stalkers serving in harm's way. Our goal remains to help set the conditions for our coalition and Afghani partners to enhance security and create an opportunity for stabilization and governance.

As conventional forces begin to draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan, the special operations mission has not changed and the demand for our expertise has never been higher. Over the last 30 years, we have grown and transformed to meet this demand. This year, we completed our most recent transformation with the activation of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion bringing identical fleets of 47s/60s to three of our formations.

Night Stalkers are hard at work maintaining the reputation we have earned over 30 years of precision rotary wing aviation support. CSM and I have been out and we've have seen the hard work first hand. Every night, in locations throughout the world, we continue to provide precision support in the most complex environments. Our successes are a direct reflection of the resiliency and dedication of our Soldiers and their Families. Thank you for who you are and what you do for the great Regiment.

NSDQ!

COL John Thompson

CSM Greg Chambers

Greetings from the Darkhorse! In August 2nd Battalion handed off command and control of our Regiment's operations in Afghanistan to 3rd Battalion. Although the temperatures were not much better back at Fort Campbell, it was good to be back as our children began school again. We had two changes of command in August with CPT Mark Buck assuming command of HHC from CPT Robert Kurts and MAJ Paul Wuensch taking over B Company from MAJ Mike Athanasakis. The other big event in August was the official presentation of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the Darkhorse. This distinct recognition, the first of its kind for the battalion in its history, acknowledges the superb work of the entire unit from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 while deployed across the world combating terrorism.

September brings a great change in the life of the battalion as the Darkhorse will finally grow by one company when we formally stand up Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion. The 'Warhorse', led by Major Keith Sandoval and First Sergeant Tom Hale, is the Regiment's first MH-60M company. It will take three years before the company is fully fielded but this unit is ready to start training as they develop the tactics, techniques and procedures to operate the Army's newest and most advanced helicopter. At the end of this long transformation, 2nd Battalion will be a mirror image in size and structure of 3rd and 4th Battalions.

During the busy fall training season, the Darkhorse will conduct its first ever Spouse Appreciation Flight. This is chance for our Soldier's spouses to see what the Darkhorse does on a daily basis, with highlight being a 30 minute Chinook flight around the local area. The morning of this event we will conduct a Battalion awards ceremony to present a multitude of valorous awards for operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Our Soldiers continue to do incredible feats of bravery on a nightly basis.

Thanks for your continued support to our Soldiers, both deployed and at home, and their families as we all reflect on the past 10 years of conflict. Our efforts have not been in vain as the Darkhorse's incredible work continues to make a tremendous difference in the success of our nation's operations. God bless each of you and your families.

Beware the Darkhorse!

LTC Phil Ryan and CSM Lou DeAnda

Hello Fellow Night Stalkers!

I want to first tell everyone how thrilled my Family and I are to be here in 3rd Battalion. I assumed Command from LTC Kirk Keepers on 16 June 2011. My thanks to the Keepers Family for turning over such an outstanding Battalion. You and your Family will be missed.

These are busy times for 3rd Battalion. CSM Sotorosado and I just redeployed yesterday from almost 3 months overseas where we worked with Night Stalkers from every Battalion within the Regiment. Our Night Stalkers are still the finest Soldiers in the Army and continue to do an amazing job of supporting our Nations Special Operations Forces every night.

3rd Battalion continues supporting the US SOF Forces not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also in Central and South America. The OPTEMPO, professionalism, and commitment shown by all of our Soldiers every day, continues to make me proud.

Over the next several months, 3rd Battalion has several events planned. On 20 October, we will be holding our annual 3rd BN Cocktail Party/Auction at Kevin Barry's. This is always a fun and entertaining event, and I look forward to attending and participating this year. The following day on 21 October we will hold our annual Golf Tournament at Crosswinds Golf Course. On 15 November we will host our Annual Single Soldier Dinner at the Hunter Army Airfield DFAC. Next, in December, we have SWONSA (Savannah Week of Night Stalker Activities). This year we will hold our Night Stalker Games on 8 December consisting of Ultimate Frisbee and Softball. Then on 9 December we will have the awards ceremony/barbecue, and the Lady Night Stalkers will hold their annual Bazaar (a great opportunity for Night Stalker themed Christmas Presents. On 10 December we will host our annual 3rd Battalion Formal at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. Finally, our annual Christmas party, to include a visit by the man in the red suit, will take place on 17 December. It will be a busy 3 months, but we look forward to celebrating with our fellow Night Stalkers.

Carey and I, along with Estevan and Melissa Sotorosado would like to thank all the Soldiers and their Families for everything they do; we couldn't do it without you. A special thanks to the active NSA Members for the support you provide to the Night Stalkers and their Families.

NSDQ / LNSDQ!!

LTC Bill and Carey Golden and CSM Estevan and Melissa Sotorosado

Dear Night Stalker Association Members, Families, and Friends,

As we complete fiscal year 2011 and tally up the statistics, the pace and productivity of SOATB becomes clear. SOATB runs 28 different programs of instruction that are recognized by the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). In the past 12 months, SOATB has trained over 1,500 Soldiers and provided that combat power to the line battalions and HHC, 160th SOAR (A). 325 enlisted Soldiers and 92 officers graduated from Combat Skills. We produced 69 nonrated crew members (NRCMs) and 26 enlisted Flight Instructors. 22 Blackhawk pilots graduated from Advanced Skills along with 26 Chinook pilots and 12 in the Little Bird. Additionally, we trained 105 Soldiers in maintainers and avionics courses and over 847 students completed some form of training in the Allison Aquatics Training Facility. We also produced instructor pilots and maintenance test pilots for the Regiment as well. In all, it was a very busy year.

Since the last newsletter, we recognized a couple of members of the SOATB team. First, in September, we presented Mrs. Glenda Rake a certificate and a pin for 35 years of service to the United States Government. She has been a steadfast member of the SOATB team and is the face of the Battalion. Second, we were honored to present two of our Civilian Mission Flight Instructors with the Bronze Order of St. Michael – Mr. Brian Lynch and Mr. Jim Crisafulli. These two gentlemen have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army Aviation, represent over 72 years of Army Aviation experience couple with over 21,000 flight hours, and truly live the Night Stalker Creed.

SOATB continues to lead the way with the fielding of the MH-60M Blackhawk. This new thoroughbred is a welcome addition to the stable and will provide our warfighting commanders with new and vastly improved capabilities. We are looking forward to beginning the training program with C/2 and starting Green Platoon with this new aircraft sometime this coming year.

We turned over a great deal of the battalion's leadership and staff since our last NSA newsletter. To all of those who served in SOATB's ranks and helped make the transition from a company to a battalion, we thank you for your efforts. To all of the new members of SOATB, we welcome you aboard and hope you will find fulfillment in your jobs and appreciate the importance of training future Night Stalkers.

The SOATB Command Team would like to thank the Night Stalker Association and all of its members for supporting our Soldiers and their Families. We appreciate your camaraderie, assistance, and everything you do for the unit.

SOATB – the FIRST step in Night Stalking! NSDQ!

LTC Mark and Kelly Kappelmann and SGM Johnny and Fontella Jones

