



Florida Military School



Reunion Newsletter #4

September 21, 2001

Gathering Update

We can march. We can do the manual of arms. We can prepare for SMI. Now, can we party? The December Gathering of cadets, faculty and staff in Ormond Beach on December 2, 2001 is headed for a great success. The response has been very favorable and the list of confirmed attendees (most with spouses or significant others) is as follows:

John Aldous
Lawton Bennett
John Chandler
Chuck Drosin
Max Elliott
Tim Hurlbut
David Knowles
David Laing
David Mishoc
Robert Mouro
Charlie Mussallem
Paul Naugle
Brownie Ramsey
Thornton Ridinger
Stewart Robinson
Sam Schulken (faculty)
Tom Sperling (faculty)
Andy Staley
Carl Steely (faculty)
Tim Tyndall
Jim Wylie

Yes, this Gathering is really going to happen and you don't want to miss the chance to see a lot of old friends and share some experiences. Your wife or guest will not be alone, almost all of the attendees have noted that they are bringing someone. Remember that your RSVP's with a check for \$17.50 per attendee is due to Andy Staley no later than November 1, 2001. In case you lost your RSVP or your directions, please contact any committee member.

There will be a continuously running slide show of FMS pictures presented at the Gathering. There will be lots to laugh and cry about. The Gathering will also be the point from where we will launch plans for the next Gathering and begin planning for the All-Class Reunion to be held in October of 2002.

In the event that the directions to the Gathering were confusing and you become disoriented, you can call Andy Staley on his cell phone at (813) 727-1765 and hopefully we can zero you in on the party.

Reunion Reminder

If you haven't already marked your calendar, go get it right now. I'll wait..... Okay I see you're back. Mark the dates of October 12th and 13th of 2002 as "attend the FMS All-Class Reunion in Orlando". Thanks to all those

that have offered to help. We are still looking for volunteers to help with entertainment, food and beverages, and event coordination. We promise not to over-burden anyone, so step forward!

Business Cards

The Alumni Committee is encouraging everyone to send their business cards in so we can scan them for posting on the website and providing printed handouts at future events. No, you're probably not going to be really successful in selling me a life insurance policy, but it is a great way to network. Send your card to Andy Staley, 11501 Gibraltar Place, Temple Terrace, Florida 33617.

Donations

The committee would like to thank the rank and file for standing up to the plate with the donations that have been received. Within three weeks of the last newsletter with a plea for donations you responded generously and have placed the FMS Operating Fund in the black.

When you stop and realize that just sending a newsletter like this costs about \$70 you can see how we can go through money easily. We believe these communications are imperative and plan to keep the newsletters coming, so the costs will remain. While we are not making any general plea for funding at this time, keep us in mind if you have a few dollars to spare.

To see a detailed breakdown of the committee finances, you can go to the Andy's website, as listed below.

Note from Abroad

Carlos Mendez, Class of 1971 is from the Republic of Panama. In the wake of the tragic events of September 11th, Carlos sent an email that has been distributed to all former cadets with email. For those of you that are not online, yet, his message follows:

Dear all of you:

In the aftermath of a "horrendous, inhumane, cruel and evil" terrorist attack to NYC & Was.; I will like to express and share my deepest thoughts of sympathy in this moment of crisis, and pay tribute to all the victims, their immediate families, survivors, brave and exemplary work of all those involved in the rescue missions, government officials, and the American community as a whole.

During this "mourning suffering period" for all the American nation there are many things that are to be said: but only the real meaning of shared "friendship, admiration, courage, unity and prayer" could convey.

I've had kept track of this tragic scenario thanks to CNN, and I wish could done more on the behalf of all of you and the entirety of your noble nation in this terrible and historic moment.

Warm regards extensive to all your family members

Carlos A. Mendez

PS: Two days of mourning have being declared in Panama as a tribute to the aforesaid.

Close But No Cigar

We all know the individual separation anxieties that we experienced as young men away from home, family, and friends (not to mention girls). The few times each year that we had furloughs were far and few between and we often dreamed of having just a few extra days back home. Well, I can recall two times in my tour of duty at FMS that we almost had unexpected furloughs assigned. I wonder if anyone else remembers.

The first one occurred in the 1967 school year. The water main over at the airport that served the school broke and we were completely without water for at least two days. I remember taking "baths" in the pond in the woods across the road from the armory and I still don't know how George and Willie cooked the meals. The rumor was rampant that if we did not get water by that last day, we were going to be "sent home" for a long weekend while the reparations were made. Guess what. They fixed it, much to our dismay.

The second occurred either in 1967 or 1968 when an epidemic of strep throat was immobilizing the cadet corps. Although I was one of the stricken ones, I seem to remember that over 30% of the cadet corps had succumbed to the illness. I can only imagine the strain it was putting on Nursie Doyle and Dr. Dunton. Once again, the rumor of being sent home to break the epidemic and recuperate proved to be premature.

Unfortunately, I never received an unexpected furlough while I attended Florida Military School, but we could dream, couldn't we?

Contacts

For useful FMS information, remember the websites at:

<http://www.jacksonville.net/~tmt/FMS/>

<http://www/fmsphotosite.tripod.com/index.html>

If you need other information, the committee members may be reached as follows:

Max Elliott - (386) 672-8686

Robert Mouro - (904) 724-4426

Thornton Ridinger - (386) 677-2312

Andy Staley - (813) 989-0607

Tim Tyndall - (904) 858-9690

This Month's Senseless Survey

Florida Military School owned which of the following.

- a) *A twin-engine airplane*
- b) *Jeeps*
- c) *Red school buses*
- d) *All of the above*

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