



Highway Patrol Communiqué - 1 December 2016

Greetings Highway Patrol Friends & Colleagues,

Update regarding potential 2017 62nd Highway Patrol reunion.

Dear 62nd HP Colleagues and Friends,

So far, there has been very little progress in regard to holding a reunion meeting for 2017. Earlier, we provided information regarding three (3) potential locations for the next reunion. Input was also requested from interested members regarding their preferences. Very few replies (only 4) were received. The Asheville location was favorably mentioned, as was any beach resort area. Everyone suggested that a preferable location should be in a southern region.

Requests for information, proposals, and/or bids were sent to the various Chambers of Commerce, Tourist/Visitors Bureaus, and to a few hotels in the three venues. These include:

- 1.) Pennsylvania Dutch Country – most likely the area around Lancaster, PA. There are numerous attractions with many things to do and see, a wide variety of stores, shops, crafts, outlets, and a plethora of good eating places featuring local cuisine. A great many Amish farms, businesses, and a different way of life abound.**
- 2.) Asheville, N.C. A city in western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. Very scenic, known for a vibrant arts scene and historic architecture. The vast 19th-century Biltmore estate displays artwork by masters like Renoir. The Downtown Art District is filled with galleries and museums.**
- 3.) Myrtle Beach, S.C. There is plenty to do and see at this east coast popular resort area. Outlets, shops, seafood, and the ocean. We held our reunion there in 2004.**

Now, two plus months later, we have received zero responses from any of the locations. There is a definite lack of interest in hosting such a small group as ours has become. I also contacted a military reunion planning group, the Military Reunion Planners at Armed Forces Reunions (AFR). I have since had several conversations with them; however, they have primarily only reiterated what we already

knew. We are much too small of a group for them to really deal with; and based upon the small amount of rooms that we would need -we most likely will not find any deals or discounts from venues or hotels.

AFR did provide some input on our suggested locations. Surprisingly (to me), they stated that they had never before received a request for Asheville as a reunion location. They thought that Hershey Park, PA was preferable to PA Dutch country; and thought that beach venues were also preferable to groups, albeit expensive. They made suggestions as to Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and the Virginia Beach area as having a great many attractions that should appeal to a military group. They also echoed that we should look for a central locations or a dependable trolley/bus system, a hotel that will set aside a block of rooms for individuals to make separate reservation, a "shoulder" or space of a day or so before and after the event to allow individuals that want to arrive or depart later without major increases in room price, eating facilities on-site, etc.

These are the issues that we continue to face. It has always been difficult for our association to make plans that are suitable for all; or to find a location that is convenient for all to reach without excessive travel. in recent years our numbers have continued to decrease significantly. There are only a few members that have continued to travel significant distances. We are a very small group of surviving members of a very unique military unit; in reality, we only have a very limited number of interested or participating members – perhaps at best – a dozen or so. With one or two noticeable exceptions, it seems that in recent years that the majority of participating members have come from home locations that are in the south, mid-south, and Atlantic region areas. While we welcome and encourage all to participate, too many feel they just cannot attend.

Our association found it necessary to change the reunion policy several years ago - primarily due to our declining turn-out. We have hosted several reunions that were supposedly our "last one", and at each of these, there is always a call to do-it-again. I have always enjoyed the fellowship and fun of meeting with those members and their families at every single reunion that I have been able to attend. So far, there have been 20 previous reunions. It is now very evident that IF a reunion or meeting is to be successful that there MUST be "FEET (or boots) ON THE GROUND".

That is, someone to physically go to the location, find out ALL details; and then if the association president and/or officers concur, to make ALL of the necessary arrangements, and be our contact person and/or on scene "host". That is what we have had to do for the past several years.

Our Association cannot make the reservation, or be responsible *in any way* for arrangements, contracts, fees, etc. The association does not have remaining accounts or funds beyond some very minor short-term, projected necessary operating expenses (nor do we now plan to collect or maintain such funds).

An alternative, as previously suggested by some, is to find one agreeable venue, and make plans to return to the same location, at a nearly same time every year. Of course that brings us back to which location would best serve all of our needs? There is nothing that would preclude several interested members from gathering at a selected location. At present, there are no known plans. When known, we will announce info on our website reunion page, and send out emails.

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