



Geronimo!



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2015

HAD A BLAST IN TACOMA



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SEND E-MAIL

ADDRESS TO

PhilipIand-scomb@msn.com

AND WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER

The New 509 PIA President, Jaime Garza, (far left rear) stands with some of the reunion attendees, including some of our WWII 509ers, 4 past presidents of the 509 PIA, and others at the 2015 Reunion in Tacoma. For pictures of some of our new Board/Executive Committee see pg. 2. For Minutes from the General Membership meeting see pgs. 5/6 For Pictures from the reunion see pg. 3.

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 10-14

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS CALLED ON ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND ASSOCIATES OF THE 509 PIA AND THEIR GUESTS TO ASSEMBLE IN COLOMBUS, GA, ON MAY 10-14, 2016 FOR THE 509 PIA REUNION, WHERE WE WILL CELEBRATE THE FORMATION OF THE 509 PIR 75 YEARS AGO. THE REUNION WILL BE HELD AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN IN COLOMBUS, GA. SEE PG 7 FOR A LINK TO THE RESERVATION PAGE. THERE ARE MANY PLANS IN PROGRESS AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS OUT, SO PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 509 NEW BOARD
- 2016 REUNION NEWS & LOCATION
- MEMBERSHIP APP
- 509 REUNION PICS
- 1ST & 3RD NEWS
- 509 PIA NEWS
- 509TH WEBSITE LINK

<http://509thgeronimo.org/>

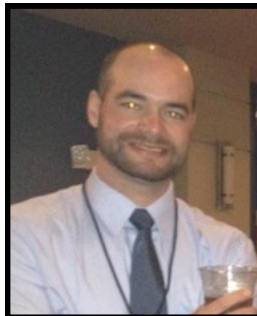
MEET OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD



Jamie Garza,
President



Joe Mancini,
Vice-President



Heath Stanley,
Treasurer



Margot Handscomb,
Secretary



Hal Persun,
Membership



Philip Handscomb
Sergeant at Arms

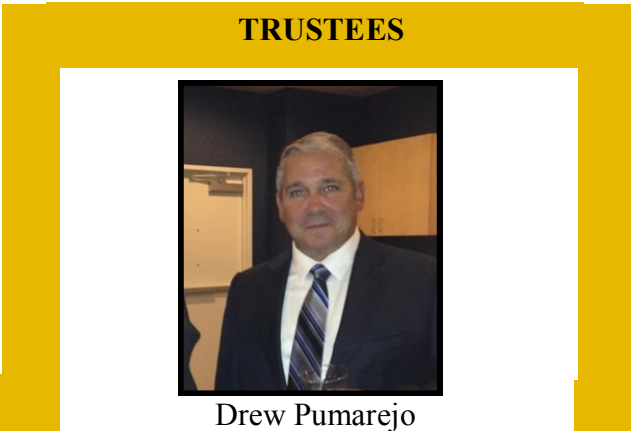
A Sincere Thank You to Hal Persun, our Past President
who is staying on as the Membership Secretary. All of our thanks and gratitude are his, for the time and hours he has put in, to make the 509 PIA grow and prosper under his steady hand. **Welcome to Jaime Garza, our new 509 PIA President, who has big shoes to fill.**



John Devanie,
President Emeritus



Barry Simpson,
Special Projects



Drew Pumarejo



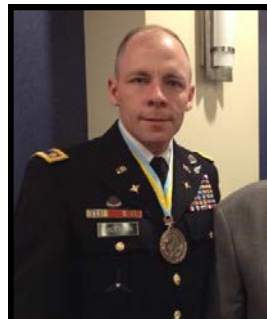
Tryggvi Larum,
Special Projects



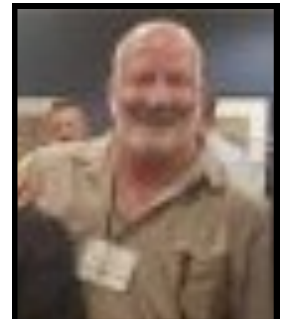
Tom Tsvigas



Lee Barber



Matt Anderson



Dave Bush



T

A

C

O

M

A

Photos of 509 1st BN change of command that was held on 02 JUL of this year. Hal Persun & Barry Simpson said farewell to LTC Matthew Tackett and thanked him for his over 2 years of faithful service to this organization and we welcomed LTC Curtis Rowland Jr. into the Geronimo family.



On 22 July, the 1st 509 BN conducted a foreign wings jump/family day jump with Italian and Peruvian Jumpmasters visiting Ft. Polk. Over 400 Geronimo earned their foreign wings during this day and a follow up jump on the next day.



The First BN lead Squad Leaders Course assisted by Asymmetric Warfare Group out of Virginia. We took many of our up and coming NCOs and put them through a week long course designed to train and equip these young leaders in what is expected of them as squad leaders and future leaders. Aug. 2015





Mission:

B/3-509 IN (ABN) executes Squad Continuity Training in place of Operation Phoenix at DTA.

Training Conducted:

- 07-3-9010 – Conduct Actions on contact
- 171-121-3009 – Control Techniques of Movement
- 113-571-1103 – Communicate in a Radio Net
- 071-326-5630 – Conduct Movement Techniques by a Platoon
- 07-2-1090 – Conduct a Movement to Contact
- SH 21-76 – Patrol Base

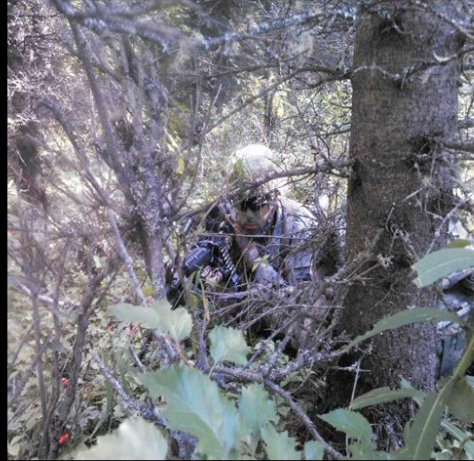


Photo 1: SPC Pedersen 2/B/509th TL conducts high man low man drills as well as magazine changes with PV2 Garcia.

Photo 2: Members of 2/B/509th conduct magazine changes.

Photo 3: SPC Kunze a 2/B/509th SAW gunner pulls security while in a patrol Base

Photo 4: Members of a 1/B/509th Gun Team pull security at the 2 o'clock position in the patrol base.

Tom Tsvigas represented the 509 PIA at the Change of Responsibility for Command Sgt. Major Scott Beeson, 3rd 509, June 2015 at Fort Richardson, Alaska. Pictures of the event and our gift to him are below.



509 PIA | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting date | time 9/5/2015 10:00 AM | Meeting location Tacoma, WA

Meeting called by Hal Persun, President

Type of meeting Annual Membership Meeting

Facilitator Hal Persun, Heath Stanley

Secretary Margot Handscomb

Attendees:

A Quorum of the Executive Committee was Present: Hal Persun, President; Heath Stanley, Treasurer; Margot Handscomb, Secretary; 509 PIA Trustees: Philip Handscomb, Lee Barber, Matt Anderson; Past Presidents, John Devanie; Greg Velasco, Dave Bush. Special Projects, Barry Simpson. June Housman, Housman & Assoc. Also in attendance were all 509 PIA members in good standing, who were in Tacoma for the 509 PIA Reunion.

AGENDA TOPICS:

- I. The Membership meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the last General Membership Meeting were read by the current Secretary, Margot Handscomb, and approved. Our Treasurer, Heath Stanley reported on our current bank acct. balance of approximately - \$17,004. For the year we have taken in \$7,670 in dues, and we have had expenditures \$6,325, which leaves a profit of \$1,399. Hal Persun congratulated our Treasurer, Heath Stanley on the great job he is doing. Huge applause for Heath.
- II. Again this year as last, there was a discussion of increasing membership in the 509 PIA. Our officers, trustees, and members attend many events throughout the year, and it was recommended by June Housman that we set up a membership table at these events, so we could make membership in the 509 PIA available on the spot. Setting up Pay Pal on our website was again recommended, and Heath, Barry, Matt and June are going to exchange info and work to make that a reality. Other member and revenue suggestions were: A link to Amazon on our website, USAA credit card bonuses, links on other military assoc. sites, and a suggested link to the 173rd with which we have a close association. These other suggestions will be investigated and discussed in future meetings or conference calls.
- III. With the increasingly tight military budget, getting a color guard from any of the 509 Battalions is more and more improbable, and we did not have one at this reunion. June Housman will arrange for a color guard for the reunion in 2016. For the future we need to look into using other sources for our color guard: local VFW or Veteran groups, local high school ROTC color guard groups, getting uniforms for some of our members and forming our own color guard, etc.
- IV. Fort Benning was nominated for the 509 PIA 2016 Reunion site, and was unanimously selected. The date will in May, 2016 to correspond with the 75th anniversary of the formation of the 509th. Matt Anderson is looking into the WWII reenactment team doing the jump. We are also looking into the 509 Living History Unit being at the reunion.
- V. Suggestions were made for the site of the 2017 reunion, 6 cities were suggested and there was a vote to choose the top 3. The 3 cities chosen were: Shreveport, LA; San Antonio, TX; and Kansas City, MO. The city will be voted on at the 2016 General Membership Meeting at Ft. Benning, GA.

- VI. A change to the current By-laws was no presented, seconded, voted on, and passed, which states that, "Only 509 veterans can serve as President or Vice President of the 509th PIA."
- VII. Barry Simpson presented Special Projects:
- a. New "Order of Geronimo" and the new medal that would be presented (designed by Tryggvi Larum) as part of "Order of Geronimo." There will be a \$500 set up fee, individual medals \$12 each, Ribbons \$2 each. Motion to adopt, seconded, and unanimously voted in. Tryggvi Larum voted to receive one of the first medals.
 - b. Motion to investigate a 509 Tax Free Corporate Foundation and bring info to the 2016 meeting. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.
- VIII. Hal Persun reviewed some of last year's activities by members of the 509 PIA and encouraged more members to get involved.
- IX. Discussion of Officers and Executive Committee members including the fact that Hal Persun will be stepping down as President of the 509 PIA for personal reasons. He will be sorely missed. Nominations and election of Officers and Committee members followed and the results are as follows:
- a. New President – Jaime Garza
 - b. Vice President – Joseph Mancini
 - c. Treasurer – Heath Stanley
 - d. Secretary – Margot Handscomb
 - e. New Sgt. At Arms – Philip Handscomb
 - f. New Trustee – Drew Pumarejo
 - g. Trustee – Matt Anderson
 - h. Trustee – Tom Tsvigas
 - i. Trustee – Lee Barber
 - j. Trustee – Dave Bush
 - k. President Emeritus – John 'Pappy' Devanie
 - l. New Membership Secretary – Hal Persun
 - m. Special Projects – Barry Simpson & Tryggvi Larum

2016 509 PIA REUNION

CONTROL
CLICK ON
LINK TO
RESERVE
YOUR
ROOM

<http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/georgia/hilton-garden-inn-columbus-CSGGHGI/about/index.html>



MAY 10-14 COLUMBUS, GA

Organization Dues Statement

January 1-December 31

Annual 509th PIA Membership

- CHARTER** **WORLD WAR II VETERAN** **LIFETIME MEMBER**
- LEGACY** **IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF VETERAN** \$20.00 per year
- REGULAR** **POST WORLD WAR II 509TH VETERAN** \$25.00 per year
- ASSOCIATE** **NON 509TH VETERAN** \$25.00 per year

Please make check payable to:

509th PIA

and send to:

509th Parachute Infantry Association
47 Washington Ave.
Box 310
Wheeling, WV 26003

We Need Your Support

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Occupation: _____

509TH SERVICE:

Unit: _____ Time Period: _____

Combat Tour: _____ Time Period: _____

OTHER COMBAT UNIT:

Combat Tour: _____ Time Period: _____

If you do not want your name and information listed in a member directory please check the box

[Click here for 509th PIA Application](#)