



Florida Military School



Reunion Newsletter

July 18, 2001

A DeLand Gathering

On July 14, 2001 a few ex-cadets met at "The Perfect Spot", a restaurant at the DeLand Airport. I've been told that this used to be "Skydive DeLand" and was an after-hours hangout for cadets. Well, I am not sure how it was in *your* time at FMS, but in *my* time, after-hours soiree's were the "kiss of death" (take it from someone with first-hand experience).



(l-r) Tim Tyndall, Max Elliott, Peter Kramer, and Thornton Ridinger



(l-r) Thornton Ridinger, Max Elliott, Peter Kramer, and Andy Staley

We did get the opportunity to hear about the day Capt. John Backus let Capt. Tim Tyndall act as band director, complete with baton and marching music. If you know Tim, it must have been an extremely nervous situation for all of the band members. We also got the inside scoop on Andy Staley's premature departure (from which he has recovered well).

What is the famous movie line? "There's a million stories in the city..." or something like that. Well, the city ain't got nothing on FMS. I believe we could have talked for days on end.

The storm clouds began rolling in so we made a hasty retreat back to the restaurant.

meant to them. Surely this will be an enlightening meeting.

In order to move forward toward the "lollapalooza" we will need help from a lot of you. At the December dinner we will ask for volunteers to serve on committees. We know that everyone has a real life to live, so we will not over-burden anyone with too much to do. Our experiences so far have been that the work on this project is very rewarding and actually fun. Former FMS cadets are like WW II veterans, there are fewer of us each year and they aren't making any more. We do not have a "Class of 2002" to which we could leave a legacy. After seeing how little trace of the school even exists except in our minds, we discussed some form of legacy. There is a plaque at the airport that is in remembrance of the airport being "NAS Sky Harbor Station". We believe there should be some remembrance that Florida Military School stood on these grounds as well. At our December gathering we will discuss the possibility of donating a plaque to be mounted either at the airport or at the entrance to the school on the pillars shown below. Give it some thought.



The old school entrance pillars

This month's Senseless Survey:

Who gave the hardest paddling?

- a. Col. Ward
- b. Maj. Pendarvis
- c. Maj. Steely
- d. Col. Prentiss

If you have comments or questions about this newsletter, please email Andy Staley at gators70@hotmail.com

Remember to go to our websites at <http://www.jacksonville.net/~tim/FMS/> and <http://fmsphotosite/index.html>

to house the library and the maintenance shop behind it. It is shown in the following two pictures.



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We got back just in time before the storm of the century opened up on us. Since we were "trapped", we were relegated to sitting and reminiscing for another hour over adult beverages, coffee, or Pepsi. No complaints were heard.

All good things must come to an end and, having actually accomplished our objective, we called it a day. The weather had relented enough and we bid each other farewell and "see you later", but not "good-bye".

A Legacy?

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