



Newsletter of the 3rd Recon Association

Volume XVII Issue 1

<http://www.3drecon.org/index2.htm>

April 2009

Presidents Message

Greetings to my Fellow Recon Marines and Corpsmen... My fellow Vietnam Veterans. I read an article recently that said there are less than a million Vietnam Veterans left, but almost twice that number who claim to be. We few band of brothers. We know who we are, what we are, what we have seen, and what we have done. We celebrate each other, and all of those who were with us in-country.

I am awed by the response to our fund drive this past February. At last count there were over three hundred contributions totaling over twenty thousand dollars received. You guys are great. Thanks!

Of all the many programs the association funds the Harborsite is our biggest expense. We are currently mailing it to over 1,750 addresses we have listed on our mailing roster. To help lower its cost we are using non-profit postal rates and are going to three issues a year versus four, expanding the size from 12 to 16 pages. Our others expenses promote the history of the battalion and honor our brothers which I hope to expand to include a 3rd Recon Scholarship Fund in 2010.

We are among a small group of Associations who all served in combat. Remember your brothers in this Association. Call or mail your Association brother today. We are not getting any younger.

There are Company Reunions planned for this summer. Delta Company is getting together in Louisville. Steve Shircliff is hosting us, and I plan on attending. I also went on Patrol with Alpha Company. They are planning their Company Reunion in Deluth, MN in August and plan to honor our brothers from Team Striker. Jeff "Striker" Savelkoul is the chair for the event.

Alpha Company is planning a reunion in Deadwood concurrent with the Association Reunion in 2010. We are posting the details on our website. I don't think the overlap is best, but I urge them all to register for both events. I am looking forward to Deadwood. Hollis and his team will host us to a great time I'm sure. It's a lot of work, and I thank Hollis and is team for taking it on.

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After Action Patrol Reports

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/index.htm>

3Charlie 1 - Team Marble Champ

<http://www.3charlie1.org/>

Treasurer's Report

My Brothers of the 3rd Recon Association,

I hope this finds all of you and your families in good health. To all the former/retired Marines and Corpsmen of the Association, I have to tell you how proud I am of all of you who contributed to the recent donation request, as it was a huge success. So far over \$20,000 has been added to the treasury, this coming from over 320 members. This brings our bank balance to well over \$29,000 and it came at a time when we are getting ready to honor the students with our Medal Of Honor recipient awards and other programs that the Association contributes to. This amount is minus the expenses to mail out the donation requests including editing, return envelopes, postage and Recon stickers. All I spoken with state their joy that so many have contributed so much, not only with this donation request, but all the time and product donations over the years.

This goes to show that the members want the Association to remain strong and be able to continue our Harborsite mailings and other programs in the name of 3rd Recon Association, which recently included a donation to the Wounded Warriors Project and to the Navy - Marine Corps Relief Society in honor of our Recon Brothers who have recently passed away. Thank you Brothers as the legacy of the 3rd Recon Battalion Vietnam will continue to be served because of you.

I received many letters from the members with their donations and they were very touching to me as members were telling me how proud they are to have been Recon Marines and Corpsmen who served their nation when called upon to do so. We can all hold our heads high and be proud of what we have done and always remembering our Brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice and our Brothers who have left us since their service in the Republic of Vietnam. Remember the line on the mailing page, **"Poor is the nation that has no Heroes, Shameful is the one that having them, forgets"**

Now that the Association has a message site, I shall be posting my treasurer report at the site for all to see every month and a much deserved Thank You goes to Jim Hunter for all he has done to get this up and running. **Continued on Page # 10**

The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

<http://www.thewall-usa.com/>

Reconnaissance gunnery sergeant awarded nations third highest medal for actions in Al Jazeera Desert, Iraq

Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz



CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa (January 16, 2009) --

There are few awards earned by United States service members that are more prestigious and carry more solemn honor than the Silver Star. This honor was bestowed upon Gunnery Sgt. Robert Blanton, the platoon sergeant of 1st Platoon, Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, by Lt. Gen. Richard Zilmer, the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Unit, Jan. 8, during a ceremony on Camp Schwab.

The events that led to the award occurred Aug. 10 when Blanton's platoon was assaulted by 13 insurgents in Al Jazeera Desert, Iraq.

"Things got heated pretty quickly," said Capt. Luke Lazzo, the platoon commander for 1st platoon. "Blanton's element was on the scene within a couple minutes of the start of the attack, and they immediately became as heavily engaged as everyone else."

Blanton was looking for ways to gain an advantage over the insurgents, Lazzo said. "Getting his vehicle to ram the building to create another breach point was one way he did it," he said.

After ramming the outer wall of the building, Blanton and Lazzo each led a team into the building to recover a wounded Marine inside, according to Blanton's Silver Star citation.

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"Pop A Smoke"

<http://www.popasmoke.com/>

Khe Sanh Veterans Home Page

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/4867/>

The Shufly Marine Who Fought Muhammad Ali

By David H. Hugel

MacArthur Foster, Charlie Company 1963



When 1st MAW helicopter squadron HMM-362 was first deployed to Soc Trang in April 1962 to provide support to Vietnam's Armed Forces as part of Operation Shufly, base security was provided by a combination of helicopter crewmen and base support personnel. As the months passed, it was determined that the burden of standing guard duty adversely impacted the effectiveness of the Marines performing their primary mission of keeping helicopters flying and running the base. To address this problem a platoon of Recon Marines from the 3rd Marine Division was assigned to assume responsibility for base security.

MacArthur Foster, a 20 year old lance corporal hailing from Fresno, California was one the early members of that security detachment. Arriving at the Da Nang Marine airbase in April 1963, then the home of Operation Shufly, Mac fell into the routine of providing base security, acting as an honor guard for visiting military VIPs, securing landing zones and other assignments in the field. Anyone who met Mac could tell that he was in great physical shape, but no one would have dreamed that he would go on to a successful career as a professional boxer and, just nine years later, fight the legendary Muhammad Ali.

After completing his tour at Shufly, Mac Foster returned to his 3rd Marine Division unit in Okinawa where he polished his boxing skills and fought his way to claim the All Marine Heavyweight Title during the spring of 1964. Leaving the Marine Corps to pursue his boxing career, Mac turned pro in 1966.

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Remembering Team Flight Time

40th Anniversary

by Stan Kozlowski

June 4, 2009, marks the 40th anniversary of the loss of 3D3, Team "Flight Time". Delta Company's Flight Time was the last full team to be lost by the 3rd Recon Battalion during the Vietnam War. 3D3 was my Recon Team. Through chance and capricious fate, I had been assigned elsewhere on that fateful morning in early June 1969, when my comrades fought their final battle in the Khe Sahn Valley. On that final mission were my six Recon Brothers: LCpl. Douglas Barnitz, Lt. Michael O'Connor, PFC Robert Percy, PFC Arnold A. Skaggs, Cpl. William Buck, Jr and Cpl. William Wellman.

Flight Time had been sent to investigate increased NVA activity near the village of Khe Sahn, along Route 9, in the western part of South Vietnam's Quang Tri Province. This strategic route between Laos to the west and the Vietnamese coast to the east, which had for centuries been a primary path through the mountains, east through the Ailao Gap, into the populated areas of Vietnam. Days earlier, on June 1, an A Company Recon team sighted more than one-hundred NVA in the region, and had been extracted after it was determined that a team of NVA was maneuvering toward their position. The next day Flight Time was sent to conduct further reconnaissance in the area.

Flight Time was inserted 200 meters south of Hill 471, and within minutes the men found cooking gear, still hot, as well as a variety of foodstuffs, weaponry, and other items that indicated an established NVA presence. The next day, after settling into their harbor site, the team reported observing five enemy soldiers. In the early hours of June 4, Flight Time was surprised by an enemy force of unknown size, and began receiving small arms fire and ChiCom grenades. The team reported an immediate KIA, one serious WIA, and four minor WIAs. They were six for six. Within fifteen minutes an aerial observer (AO) reported that the battle raged within ten meters and on all sides of the Marines. The AO fired all of his ammunition, and scant minutes later radio communication was lost with Flight Time.

Several hours later a reaction force team reported that the scorched area around Hill 471 looked as if it had been hit with a flame thrower. In addition to small arms fire and ChiCom grenades, Flight Time had also been subjected to RPGs, satchel charges, and bangalore torpedoes. The reaction team leader concluded that the condition of the site indicated that Flight Time had also engaged in hand-to-hand combat before succumbing to the enemy.

Continued on page # 5

Call a Recon Brother Today!

US, Japan sign pact to move Marines to Guam

TOKYO – Hoping to give new momentum to a plan to rework the deployment of U.S. troops in the Pacific, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed an agreement Tuesday with Japan that will move 8,000 Marines off the southern Japanese island of Okinawa to the U.S. territory of Guam.

The framework of the transfer had already been agreed on in 2006, but several major points remain to be worked out, including the location of a base to replace Okinawa's Futenma Air Station, a major hub for the Marines there.

Officials on both sides have agreed to relocate the operations of the base to another, less crowded part of Okinawa, but local opposition has stalled progress.

"This agreement reflects the commitment we have to modernize our military posture in the Pacific," Clinton said. "It reinforces the core of our alliance — the mission to defend Japan against attack and to deter any attack by all necessary means."

Japan's Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone also hailed the agreement. "We believe this Guam agreement shows the strength of our alliance," he said. "We agreed to work toward the implementation of the 2006 pact in a manner that does not compromise readiness or capability."

There are currently about 13,000 Marines stationed on Okinawa, and 23,000 U.S. troops there overall. They are part of about 50,000 U.S. troops deployed in Japan under a post-World War II mutual security pact.

The cost of the realignment plan has generated intense debate in Japan.

Guam's transformation is expected to cost at least \$15 billion and put some of the U.S. military's highest-profile assets within the fences of a vastly improved network of bases. In the pact signed Tuesday, Japan agreed to give Washington \$2.8 billion for the transfer costs, though its contribution is expected to go higher.

On Monday, The Asahi, a major newspaper, reported that some of the budget will be used to improve Naval and Air Force facilities on Guam. The daily said that would go against the pact, which has been interpreted to limiting Japanese spending to Marine-related projects.

Eric Talmadge, Associated Press
Tuesday February 17, 2009

Saepe Expertus

Semper Fidelis

Fratres Aeterni

Outstanding Veteran Service Officers

HOUSTON, TX (January 12, 2009) Not all Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are the same. Some are dedicated, loyal, and determined to make a difference for veterans. The other end of the continuum are those VSOs who are just collecting a paycheck.

As a means of assisting veterans, U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs announced today that a VSO Directory is being developed on their web site. The VSO Directory will consist of those VSOs that have demonstrated excellence in helping veterans secure service-connected benefits or increases to their VA pensions.

Additionally, all VSOs listed are nominated by veterans who have first-hand knowledge of their commitment to veterans.

We expect that our VSO Directory will help many veterans find outstanding VSOs in their area who will help them gain benefits, said Rance Jurewicz, Marketing Coordinator for U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs.

Launched in March 2007, U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs researches and distributes compensation benefits information to U.S. veterans. Also, they are a major conduit for free services available to veterans.

Contact: Beth Ann McGruder
U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs
info@veteranprograms.com
<http://www.veteranprograms.com>
Vet Center web page
<http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp>

Special Pension for War Veterans

Little-known benefit aids veterans of wars. Those who serve during conflict are eligible for up to \$19,000 a year.

By Paula Burkes February 8, 2009

A little-known veteran's benefit for long-term care expenses is available to wartime veterans and their spouses. But the benefit is being overlooked by thousands of families, industry observers say.

The Special Pension for Veterans' Aid and Attendance pays up to \$1,644 a month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime — stateside or overseas. Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396 annually and spouses of deceased veterans, \$12,681.

S 546 – Retired Pay Restoration The Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009

The association supports S 546 – The Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009.

Support S 546 - the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009 Support S 546 - Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009 Take Action!

Please send the following message to your Senators. (e-mail or letter)

I strongly urge you to consider to co-sponsor S 546, the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009, submitted by Senator Harry Reid on March 3, 2009. If enacted S 546 would correct two wrongs enacted with the original concurrent receipt legislation in 2004.

First, S 546 would enfranchise those 400,000 retired members of the Armed Forces with service connected disability ratings less than 50% to draw both their VA disability compensation and their military retirement pay under CRDP (Concurrent Retirement Disability Pay, 10 US Code Section 1414) without offset. If the disability was combat-related, these retirees were previously enfranchised for CRSC (Combat Related Special Compensation, 10 USC Section 1413a) with the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

Second, S 546 would enfranchise those 200,000 members of the Armed Forces who were retired for medical disability with less than 20 years service under 10 US Code, Chapter 61, to draw both their VA disability compensation and their earned military retirement pay under CRDP. If the disability was combat-related, these retirees were enfranchised for CRSC with the 2008 NDAA.

While not stated in the legislation, such enfranchisement of these retirees to receive both their VA compensation and their earned military retirement pay would be consistent with President Obama's economic stimulation policies.

Please actively support S 546.

Lets show our support for our brothers who are disenfranchised the way the current law reads.

William Stussie

Membership Report

I would first of all like to thank Floyd Nagler for sending me the battalion rosters including both 3rd and 1st Force Companies. The rosters were obtained by researching the 3rd Recon Archives at the Marine Corps Historical Center located in the Washington Navy Yard by both George Neville and Floyd Nagler.

It was a long tedious joint effort by George, Floyd and others between 1989 to 1990 to compile the many thousands of names of the men who served with the battalion in Vietnam. Their efforts in compiling the names in the battalion archives and contacting as many of the men listed led to the formation of our association.

There are 16 new members to the Association with 8 coming from the rosters provided by Floyd Nagler.

Below are the names of new members and the Company and year they served.

Dennis E Arthur, Charlie 1969
John R Detmer, Echo 1968
Douglas A Burden, H&S 1969
John V Cestia, Bravo/Charlie 1969
Robert A Comire, H&S 1966
Odis Lewis, Delta 1969
Dee J Frost, Charlie/Alpha 1965
Bernard "Bitch" Glazier, Delta 1966
Jerril L Mauppin, Alpha 1963
Horace L Pannell, Alpha 1966
Ron W Peters, Delta 1965
Alvin F Beauch, Bravo 1965
Louis Schmeltzer, 3rd Force 1967
Gary L Shupp, Delta 1966
Robert L Weinfuter, Alpha 1966
Michael A Cvetnick H&S 1965
Semper Fi

**Tom Enwright
Charlie Co 64/65
Membership**

**Contrary to what you've
been told...**

Red meat is not bad for you.

**Fuzzy green meat is bad for
you!**

The 3rd Recon Association is registered with the Federal Government, "IRS", as a 501 (c) (19) war veteran's organization. Under provisions, 501 (c) (19), of the code; donors can deduct contributions made to or for the use of the 3rd Recon Association. This Newsletter is not an official source for information about the Vietnam War or the United States Marine Corps. *"Neither the United States Marine Corps nor any other component of the Department of Defense has approved, endorsed, or authorized the products, services or the activities listed in this Newsletter."*

VA to help with medical costs

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 2009 - For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

"With the downturn in the economy, VA recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned."

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback. Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year "clock" begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

2011 Delta Company Reunion

"Wild" Bill Donnelly is currently checking out the potential for an Alaskan Cruise for our Delta Company 2011 Reunion. A cruise up the western coast of Canada and Alaska is filled with the beauty of the scenery and wildlife sightings and the cruises are known for their great food, entertainment and accommodations. 2011 is still a couple of years away but it does give us the opportunity to start saving up whether we end up going to Alaska, Hawaii or some other destination. Anyone interested can contact Bill by e-mail at donnelly065@cox.net.

Delta Company 08 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance 01/01/08 + \$1,762.91
Service Charge 12/29/08 - \$13.52
Service Charge Refunded 3/31/08 + \$ 15.00
Reunion Memorial Book Page 4/11/08 -\$150.00
Donations + 305.00
(Year total expenses) -\$163.52

Call a Recon Brother Today!

(Year total income) +\$320.00
Ending Balance 12/31/08 + \$1,919.39

Sincere appreciation to Lyle and Roberta Bates, Bill Donnelly, Charles "Chuck" Suchoki, "Gunny" Ted Williams, Leo Kelm, Thomas Hartung, James Thomas, Irwin Rhodes, and Bill Buhl for their generous contributions to the Delta Company fund.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Delta Company Fund can send donations made out to Delta Company, 3rd Recon Association to Leo Kelm, Delta Company Treasurer, 954 Chester River Drive, Grasonville, MD 21638-1005".

D "Butch" Waddill, Delta Company 1st Lt. Carl William Myllymaki III USMC Golf Tournament. Friday, July 24, 2009

Again we will be having another Lt. Myllymaki Golf Tournament at RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB, Richmond, Rhode Island on Friday, July 24th with a 1350 (1:30) start. It will be a SHOT GUN TOURNAMENT. We will again have a **Marine Corps Color Guard present**. Duo pipers will be playing the Marine Corps Hymn. They will also play other music upon request. **Cost to play is \$125 per person.**

We start off with **MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARDS** with pipers playing. Introduction of Marines present who served with Myllymaki. Rules are presented by Pro.

Start golf. First course meal is a **SAUSAGE GRINDER**, when playing, made by some good Italian cooks. At end of tournament we have a **TEXAS BBQ** and Awards. You will not go home hungry.

If you are not a golfer but would like to come along to enjoy the BROTHERHOOD you are also welcome. Larry Mullane, Echo 68 and Ed Osborne, Charlie 68 have been in the tournament in the past and plan on attending, again, this year. Also, Jan Myllymaki, Echo Assoc, is attending.

Richmond Country Club 74 Sandy Pond Road Richmond, Rhode Island 02832. Owned and operated by the Hendrick Family is an 18 Hole Championship Golf Course sculpted out of a pine forest with Bent grass greens:
www.richmondcountryclub.net

Please advise Dick Smith if you will be attending: Dick Smith, 200 Shore Road, Westerly, Rhode Island 02891 ph 401-596-0990 smithuri17@yahoo.com

This tournament has become quite popular so I advise you let us know if you will be playing ASAP.

All profits from the tournament support the Carl William Myllymaki University of Rhode Island Scholarship Fund.

Some Vets to Get Stimulus Payment

April 03, 2009... Associated Press
WASHINGTON - The Veterans Affairs Department said Thursday it will issue a one-time payment of \$250 to qualifying veterans as part of its stimulus spending.

Altogether, the VA said it will spend more than \$1.4 billion in stimulus money as part of President Barack Obama's economic recovery plan.

Some of the money will go to hire and train 1,500 temporary claims processors to help reduce a six-month backlog in disability claims, but a large amount will go to upgrade veterans hospitals and cemeteries across the country.

The \$250 payments will be issued as early as June. To be eligible, a veteran must have received a qualifying compensation between November of last year and January. It is estimated that \$700 million will be spent on the payments.

If you receive more than one type of benefit payment, you will receive only one payment. For example, if you receive a Social Security benefit and/or SSI, and you also receive a Veterans' Compensation and Pension and/or a Railroad Retirement benefit; you will only receive one \$250 payment.

Department of the Navy and Marine Corps

Bill Number HR 24 111th CONGRESS
On January 6, 2009 Bill # H. R. 24 was introduced into the House of Representatives to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy & Marine Corps.

The Bill's status: 01/09/2009 Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services

Committee/Subcommittee Activity: Armed Services: Referral, in Committee

Amendment(s): No amendments.

Summary: 1/6/2009--Introduced.
Redesignates the: (1) Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps; and (2) Secretary of the Navy as the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps. Makes similar redesignations with respect to Department Assistant Secretaries and the General Counsel.

Original Sponsor:
[Walter Jones](#) (R-North Carolina 3rd District)

Cosponsor Total: 202
(last sponsor added 04/02/2009)
93 Democrats
109 Republicans

Edmund K. Gross, Jr., Delta 1969



passed away peacefully on February 4, 2009. He was born Oct. 21, 1945 to Edmund K. and Murrhee Gross of Jacksonville, FL. Ed received his B.S. from the University of Florida where he was awarded an athletic scholarship

and named an All-SEC baseball catcher. He was a Captain in the United States Marine Corps and served as an infantry and reconnaissance platoon and company commander in the Republic of South Vietnam 1968-69. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry with Silver Star, the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry with Bronze Star (2), the Combat Action Medal, the Marine Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, the Army Unit Citation and the Vietnamese Campaign Medal with 9 Stars. He also completed the U.S. Army's Ranger School and Airborne School, and the U.S. Navy's SCUBA School. Upon completing his service to his country, Ed earned Master's and Doctor of Education degrees at the U of F and committed himself to education and the belief in putting students first. During 17 years at Valencia Community College in Orlando, he was Executive Director of the Valencia Foundation, District-wide V. P. of Instruction and Provost, West Campus, and established Central Florida's first African-American Museum. In 2007, he retired after serving as President/CEO for several private colleges and in his last position as President of Tampa received the Chairman's Award for International Academy of Design & Technology- Leadership Excellence, the only college president ever given this award in the company's history. Ed served on numerous civic/professional boards and committees including: the Board of Trustees of Humana Hospital, Orlando's Metropolitan Urban League, the Mayor's Task Force on Veteran's Employment, the Executive Council of the Boy Scouts, and the Fla. Council of Resource Development. He was president of Downtown Orlando, Inc., a member of the Academic Assembly of the College Board, a consultant to the Natl. Science Fndtn., the USOE and Florida's Dept. of Education, and was principal investigator in more than 50 published books and articles. He initiated the Fla. Academic Improvement Trust Fund for Community Colleges (passed into law by the state legislature), developed the curriculum for Florida Gulf Coast Univ., and wrote the plan to establish Costa Rica's community college system. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Cynthia Hale Gross, St. Augustine; sisters Constance Somora (Bill) of Ponte Vedra Beach and Dianne Turner (Lee) of Jacksonville; father- in-law Lester L. Hale (Minnielee) of Jacksonville; sister-in-law

Kent Trickle Nobles (Carl) and brother-in- law Larry Hale of Orlando; and many much-loved nieces, nephews and godchildren. Published in the Florida Times-Union on 2/6/2009

Note: The Association made a donation, in lieu of flowers, to the Wounded Warrior Fund in Ed's name.

Robert Joseph "Bob" Statzer,

Bravo Company 3rd Reconnaissance Bn 1969. Radio operator for team Wabash Panner.



Robert J. Statzer, 59, passed away Tuesday, November 25, 2008 in Pendleton, Indiana.

Robert worked for the Indiana Department of Corrections, at the Pendleton Prison Facility as an electrician. He had previously worked for P. W. Gollmer for 23 years and Dodd Electric for 12 years. He graduated in 1967 from Fishers High School.

Robert served in Vietnam with the U. S. Marine Corps. He was an avid fisherman and hunter; a member of Elwood Conservation Club and NRA. He loved the outdoors and participated in Rendezvous. He also had a passion for building computers.

He is survived by his wife, Melody (Heffner) Statzer of Cicero; both his parents, a daughter, 7 sons, 2 brothers, 3 sisters and seven grandchildren.

He is preceded in death one grandchild, Kyle Thomas Powell.

"Do not stand at my grave and weep;

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there, I did not die."

WILLIAM DOUG LEIGH - 60, of Las Vegas, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2009. He was born Aug. 2, 1948, in Cedar City, Utah, and was a 40-year resident of Nevada. Doug had been married to Cyndie for 33 years. He worked as a Local 159 union painter for over 20 years, and was currently employed at the Paris Hotel since its opening. He was also the shop steward. Doug served in U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, and was a member of the 3rd Recon Battalion, Bravo Company. He attended all reunions with his brothers. He was also a member of the Marine Corps League and of the Marine Riders of Las Vegas. Doug loved his Marine heritage and riding his Harley. He was respected by all of his Marine brothers and his many friends and co-workers. He is survived by his loving wife, Cyndie; his two children who loved and respected him, Lisa and Billy; his father, Wild Bill Leigh; his brother, Jim; his sister and Pat. Doug was taken too soon. He was not finished with life.

Flight Time – Continued from page # 2

Now, four decades later, we still remember, sometimes daily, our fallen brothers of "Flight Time". Individually, and collectively through our Recon Association, we remember and honor these men. We reflect on their heroism, on their courage and on their loss and ultimate sacrifice. We remember... Billy Buck, Douglas Barnitz, Michael O'Connor, Robert Pearcy, Arnold Skaggs, and William Wellman.

Gifted scribes help us with the details of memory, among them Larry Vetter (*Never Without Heroes*) and Chaplain Ray William Stubbe (*Battalion of Kings*). We remember and honor these heroes through our Association, through the Memorial Park in Ocala, Fl., where the names of the men of Team Flight Time are each engraved on separate memorial stones.

3D3 was my team. I had been pulled three days before Flight Time's final mission, in order to attend Recondo School in Na Trang. After I returned to the company area, and walked down that street, and saw that empty hooch ... it left a unforgettable image that still lives with me. For many years I was haunted by their deaths. For years I thought that Doc McManus, who was down from food poisoning and myself, who hadn't been assigned to serve with Flight Time that fateful day were the only men who had daily memories of our brothers lost that day. I thought Doc and I were alone in our grief, until I started attending Recon reunions where I was awakened to the fact that many other members of Delta Company had their own memories of the men of Flight Time.

As we all reflect on the loss of our Recon brothers and the sacrifice of the men of Flight Time, let us take heart in our remembering. For as Chaplain Stubbe wrote so eloquently in his account of the battlefield of Khe Sanh, "It was here that so many were buried forever in us and live in us as long as we live."

Semper Fidelis!, Stan

Col Edward V Badolato USMC (Ret) Alpha Company 1965



Ed Badolato, one of the truly inspirational figures in the homeland security community, passed away on October 30, 2008

A Towson University Alumnus, Col Badolato served in the U.S.

Marine Corps, retired at the rank of colonel, did three combat tours in Vietnam as well as tours as military attaché in Beirut, Lebanon; Damascus, Syrian; and Nicosia, Cyprus, and served around the world in more than a dozen countries. During the 1965 beach landings in Vietnam, Ed served as the Commanding Officer of Alpha Company 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion.

Ed was an expert in cargo security and served four years as chairman of the National Cargo Security Council, and as the White House-appointed chairman of a Federal Aviation Administration air cargo security working group. He offered his time, his talents and his enormous experience to a wide range of organizations, including the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the American Society of Industrial Security, the National Defense Industry Association and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. He served under former Presidents Reagan and Bush as the deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Energy, where he specialized in counter-terrorism and emergency planning.

Henry C "Clay" Yarber Bravo Company 1967



YARBER, Clay Cpl. USMC, Ret. Vietnam War veteran of Riverside, CA and formerly of St. Petersburg, died on Feb. 12, 2009, in Clarence, NY as a result of being a passenger on a

Continental Airlines Flight 3407. He was a United States Marine Corps Veteran that served in Vietnam and was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Service Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation and he served in the 3rd Force-3rd Division Recon. Preceded in death by his father and a brother, Cpl. Yarber is survived by his loving family; two sons; 4 daughters; a mother; brother; sister; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and his loving and extended family. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, to please make donations to the Injured Marine "Semper Fi" Fund (IMSFF), 825 College Blvd., Suite 102 PMB 609, Oceanside, CA 92057 in the memory of Cpl. Clay Yarber.

An Early History 3rd Recon in Viet Nam

by: Neil Grissom,
Charlie Company 1963

In April 1963 47 Company C Marines from the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion were sent to Viet Nam to guard the Da Nang Airbase. The platoon was also assigned as the first "Chicken Hawk" or "Eagle" fast-reaction-force utilized in Viet Nam as part of operation Shufly.

The platoon was comprised of riflemen, a small group of demolition experts and a couple of radiomen. Two squads from the platoon were required to be on duty at all times to provide security for Da Nang Airbase. During hours of darkness, fire teams were assigned to patrol the perimeter of the living compound and the area composed of the Da Nang Airbase. A Marine from the platoon was additionally assigned, along with several ARVN soldiers, to guard the back gate of the airbase at night, which was used by vehicle traffic. If threat levels were high, the platoon would be placed on full alert status. The platoon was informed that if the Da Nang Airbase had to be evacuated, it would be their duty to hold the base until all major assets could be redeployed to other locations.

Another duty assigned to Recon Marines in the security detachment involved its one specialty of "rappelling" out of helicopters into inaccessible areas to set up make-shift landing zones. On occasions, members of the platoon were required to spend several days on government outposts helping Vietnamese troops clear fields of fire with explosives.

During troops lifts flown by the Da Nang based Marine Helicopter squadrons in support of the Vietnamese government counter-insurgency operations, platoon members would stand-by at a "staging area", or, be inserted into the landing zone if things got hairy on the ground. On one occasion, in late April 1963, during a heli-lift of members of the 2nd ARVN Division, a helicopter was shot down about 35 miles southwest of Da Nang. The crew and passengers were immediately picked-up and the helicopter was stripped of all usable parts. A squad from the platoon, which included demolition experts, was rushed to the area to burn the hulk of the crashed helicopter so it couldn't be used by the Viet Cong.

On another occasion, August 1, 1963, a small plane with an Air Force pilot and his Vietnamese observer went down in mountainous terrain 28 miles south of Da Nang. There was a Viet Cong position approximately 200 yards from the crash scene. Two members of the platoon's fast reaction force (Edwards and Carter) and a Navy Corpsman were lowered into the crash site. After pulling the seriously injured men from the wreckage, Edwards and Carter stood guard while the Navy Corpsman administered emergency aid. While the group waited to be extracted, Viet

Cong could be heard attempting to get down a hillside through heavy brush searching for the crash site, a small island in a river. The injured men and team were successfully evacuated before the Viet Cong reached them. The pilot of the rescue helicopter, Capt. Theodore A. Heister, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the mission. Platoon members, Edwards and Carter, were recommended for the Bronze Stars with Combat "V".

Marines from the platoon were also utilized to "strap-hang" (serve as extra crew members) on UH-34Ds to provide additional security, and assist in the delivery of supplies and ammunition to outpost and camps which were being operated by U. S. Army Special Forces, CIA paramilitary and RVN government forces. During those re-supply missions the helicopters would frequently come under enemy fire, many times, at extremely close range. It was nothing unusual for an UH-34D to return to Da Nang from a re-supply mission with several bullet holes in it.

Platoon members were also given the chance to interact with U.S. Army Special Forces. They visited various U.S. Army Special Forces camps to see first hand how they operated. During one visit to a newly opened U.S. Army Special Forces camp at Cheo Reo (II Corps), Viet Cong attempted to ambush a squad from the platoon by cutting a tree down to block a road leading to the LZ where they were to be picked-up and taken back to Da Nang. Platoon members and Army Special Forces personnel withdrew to the camp and returned to the LZ later that day without further incident.

In mid August, after a three-week offensive by battalions of the 2nd ARVN Division against Communist infiltration routes along the Laotian border, a decision was made to heli-lift some 1,300 ARVN troops from that area, along with their artillery and equipment to Thoung Due a government town 30 miles southwest of Da Nang. Although not completely encircled, ARVN forces had come under a great deal of pressure by the Viet Cong and it was feared they might be cutoff from the few landing zones in that area. The fast-reaction platoon was flown to a landing zone code named ZULU about 5 miles from the Laotian border to provide security for crews from the Da Nang based Helicopter Squadron HMM 261 that were going to heli-lift about 200 ARVN troops and two 105mm howitzers from that landing zone. The heli-lift from another nearby LZ went off as planned. However, LZ ZULU was completely encircled by a rim of hills. When the troop lift was almost complete and the 105mm howitzers were being pulled out, the UH-34Ds started to draw fire from the nearby ridgeline. As the platoon was leaving LZ ZULU following the heli-lift of the ARVN personnel and equipment, attack aircraft began bombing and strafing the positions where the enemy fire came from.

Continued on page # 14

Donations

The Executive Committee would like to thank all who sent in donations to support the Association's many activities: The 4 Medal of honor programs, the gifts shipped to the current battalion, the "Harborsite" Newsletters and other expenses/programs. With the influx of cash we are in a good position to continue to serve our membership and continue all our programs that honor our brothers and promote the history of the battalion.

The association has started a new program: every year on November 10th the association will present a \$300.00 donation to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society to honor our brothers who have died, or we were notified of their passing, during the previous year.

Below are listed those who showed their support of the association's many programs with cash donations totaling over **\$20,000.00****

Should a member have an idea for a program that would promote the history of the battalion and/or preserve the memory of our brothers, we would like to hear from you with your idea.

** As of April 26, 2009

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3rd Recon Battalion Association PX

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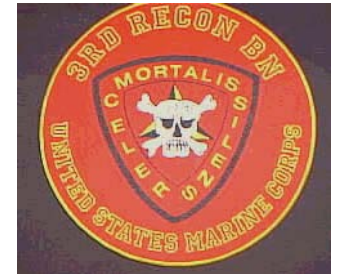
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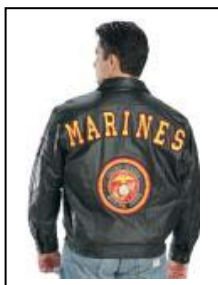
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Recon Marine

Approaching the autumn of my life, I have had the opportunity to reflect back on 63 years of commissioned service. (I just turned 83!) As a trial attorney for the past 36 years following retirement from the Marine Corps, I have seen people in a number of professions (law, medicine, corporations, and the academe) where I have observed the positive impact of mentoring on their respective careers. This caused me to pause and look back at the tremendous impact that certain Marine officers had in my 28-year career.

These memories span my days as a lieutenant in World War II (WWII) and commanding a rifle company in combat during the Korean War; 3 years at Test Unit One as a major doing experimental assignments; becoming the first Commanding Officer, Force Reconnaissance Company (with many of the new techniques for entry and egress learned under "Chesty" Puller); my infantry battalion days, first as an S-3 (operations) in Southeast Asia and later as a battalion commander in the Mediterranean; capped with my command of the 26th Marine Regiment at Khe Sanh and beyond.

Webster defines "mentor" as a friend, advisor, and/or teacher. In looking back, as any of us as officers and noncommissioned officers often do, I found most of my seniors to be outstanding. Occasionally a few would surface that one would not wish to emulate. No one told me, and I probably gained the methodology through trial and error, but I began to unconsciously evaluate my senior officers.

When I saw talent and intellect, I would try to think how I might approach similar problems. I began to mentally "accept" the good ones and vow never to be like the one's whom I perceived as less than desirable. You, as the reader, may question the propriety of a junior evaluating a senior. I never let my feelings or evaluations get in the way of good order and discipline. I always tried to give my seniors the 110 percent that they expected. If I erred along the way, I accept full responsibility for my actions.

First, let me say that not all Marines who unknowingly helped me become a better leader of Marines were senior. Many of those I look back on as mentors were younger, and many of these were enlisted personnel of both middle and higher ranks. When one learns from another, rank should have no priority of acceptance or rejection.

I am privileged, as many of you are, to receive e-mails from Iraq and Afghanistan that are chock full of tips, advice, lessons learned, and the like. I find myself comparing many of these with my similar combat experiences as an 0302 infantry unit leader. I am impressed by the cogency and writing of young officers with respect to their individual combat experiences. Our grandson is a first lieutenant of Marines with the "Walking

Dead" (1st Battalion, 9th Marines (1/9)).

For those of us who have been tried in combat (particularly when we are wounded), we try to share advice and wisdom from our survival and actions of our units with other Marines around us. This is how it is and how it should be. During WWII (serving as a combat swimming platoon commander); during Korea as a company commander; in the Mediterranean as Landing Force Commander, Sixth Fleet; and in Vietnam as a G-3, a Marine expeditionary force landing force commander, and later as a regimental commander, I tried to ensure that my staff and I would share our expertise with the newer or less experienced Marines in the unit.

Things change, and advice must change with the situation, environment, or event. As an example, when I wrote my grandson I normally would have given my usual "stay off the skyline" and "always check your six" cautions that stood me pretty well in two wars of active combat. However, Iraq and Afghanistan gave me a bit more.

Reading between the lines, our Marines of today operating in urban environments added a new one for this war: "Have increased awareness and caution if you do not see dogs on the street while on patrol in urban areas!" Why? Iraqi children are pretty smart. When they know something is going to come down (such as emplacement of an improvised explosive device or ambush of an oncoming patrol), they bring their animals inside their homes for their survival. Marines are now aware of this, so along with other precautions, when you don't see dogs on the street, "Stand by!"

My first mentor was my regimental commander of Staging Regiment, Camp Pendleton in WWII. I was spending most of my days on the beach running surf drills and survival skills for deploying Marines (a majority of them aviators). My immediate company commander (I was a young second lieutenant at the time) was a Mustang captain. I have had the privilege of commanding and learning from a number of Mustang officers who had been commissioned from the ranks. I respect them very much, and if I could, I would actively seek experienced Mustangs for my commands.

This particular WWII Mustang, however, for whatever reason, concluded that my deep tan and long hours on the beach were somehow "fun," and he wrote a very marginal fitness report so reflecting. I was called into Col Herman Hannekan's office (himself a Mustang who was awarded the Medal of Honor in Haiti). He had my poor fitness report in hand. As any outstanding commander, Herman Hannekan had been out on the beach (unbeknownst to me) evaluating our training. He had talked to my Marine aviator students to whom we had taught surf survival. He told me that his personal observations did not agree with the Mustang captain.

He tore up the prior poor report and wrote one reflecting our efforts and success. The lesson learned from this mentor was to never rely completely on someone else's opinion on reports. If you see it is wrong, correct it on the spot when possible. For the rest of my career I remembered this Medal of Honor winner and his attention to fairness and getting down with the troops.

After my tour of combat as a company commander in 1951, I returned stateside and was placed as Officer in Charge, Reconnaissance School, Coronado, CA. I became Chesty Puller's "recon officer." Chesty was not always very talkative, but I would question him about some of his experiences in Nicaragua and Haiti.

He was always willing to share. After permitting me to go through underwater demolition team dive school, Navy parachute training, survival schools, and to operate off submarines, as my mentor he listened to some of my "new ideas" for recon within the Marine Corps. Convinced (as I was), he had me write a letter with these ideas to our then Commandant, Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. This led to my being assigned to the Advanced Infantry Course at Fort Benning, GA, with the Army and later to duty with Test Unit One at Camp Pendleton where, as a major, I formed the first force reconnaissance company in our Corps. Chesty had been a student at Fort Benning in 1931. His instructors included (later WWII generals) George Catlett Marshall, Omar Bradley, and Joe Stillwell.

As I was making my departing call, he offered some advice to me on my forthcoming days as a student at Fort Benning. I had anticipated a "do the best for our Corps" and "end up in the top 10 of the class" (I did). As I was listening carefully, with a smile on his usually taciturn face, he advised, "Watch your money gambling; the Army will try to take it since it is from a Marine!" I then realized that the most decorated Marine in our Corps did indeed also have a sense of humor! I did a smart about face and headed for Fort Benning with my thoughts of Chesty Puller some 30 years before.

As a major, when commanding Force Recon, I tangentially had several contacts with then-retired Commandant Lem Shepherd. Weekends I used to dive for langouste off San Clemente or at Laguna with two good friends, Maj's Dick Noble (later tragically killed in a helicopter accident on Okinawa) and Bo Shepherd (both generals' sons). Gen Shepherd knew of the developmental work that we were doing in Force Recon and always expressed high professional interest on the tactics that we were actively developing. He was always encouraging us about these developments. This gave us even more incentive to initiate improvements in the state-of-the-art methods now used by Marine Special Operations Command, Navy SEALs, Delta Force, and the Army's Green Berets.

Continued on page # 12

Santos R Morales, Bravo Company 1968 passed away on April 11, 2009. Santos did a number of patrols out of the Khe Sanh Combat Base and was there during the 1968 siege.

The Marine was Sgt. Michael Ferschke, a team leader with Co. A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, who entered the house earlier to engage the armed insurgents. There were 10 insurgents in the building who immediately opened fire.

Ferschke moved to the corner of the room, as he was trained, to draw fire on himself. His actions allowed the rest of his team to enter the room and take down the insurgents, Blanton said.

Ferschke gave his life in the engagement, but his actions spared the lives of his team, Blanton said. "He sacrificed his life and did something way more heroic than I did. I just capitalized on an opportunity."

Lazzo, who was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions in the same engagement, pulled Ferschke from the building.

With Ferschke out of the building, Blanton coordinated air support to take out the insurgent stronghold with guided munitions ending the engagement, according to the citation.

Even after the engagement, there was still work to be done. Blanton led the team that conducted the battle damage assessment in the area of the airstrikes, said Lazzo.

The platoon occupied the area for two more days, giving the Marines time to gather their thoughts and memories of the encounter.

"I remember trying to put together a sequence of events; to remember everything that happened," Blanton said, referring to his sleepless nights on radio watch after the firefight.

The memories of the incident are like a photo album, he said. Sitting down with his Marines after the engagement was like flipping through those photos. Blanton's album contained pictures from different points in the engagement. When he mentally looked at two photos from the battle, he remembered the specific events perfectly, but what happened in between those memories was blank, he said.

Each member of the group remembered a different aspect of the battle, and comparing their memories let them better understand what happened. Blanton's own recollection of the engagement centers on the other members of his team: the sergeant setting down suppressive fire from the turret and the corporal laying into the insurgents with a squad automatic weapon.

"Anyone of these guys," Blanton said while gesturing to the Marines of 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Headquarters, "is capable of doing the exact same thing I did. It's textbook: you shoot, move, communicate."

For the past few years 12 students in 4 schools have been awarded the Association's Achievement Award to honor the memory of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion's 4 Medal of Honor Recipients. Three students are chosen from each school; Kellogg, Middle School, Kellogg, Idaho for Frank S Reasoner; Groton Middle School, Groton, New York for Terrance C Graves; Robert H Jenkins, Jr. Middle School, Palatka, Florida for Robert Jenkins Jr.; and the Marine Military Academy, Harlingen, Texas for Richard A "Tex" Anderson.

Near the end of May and early June the four schools that participate in our 4 Medal of Honor Awards will be having their respective 2009 promotion and graduation ceremonies. Representatives of the association have volunteered their time to attend the ceremonies and award this year's recipients their framed certificates and \$100.00 each.

If members of the association would like to attend the award presentations at a particular school they should contact the Association Representative for that school.

The 3rd Recon Association's Achievement Award 2009 representatives are.

For the:

Frank Reasoner Award, Kellogg Middle School contact Butch Waddill phone 406-73-2709 MST

Terrance Graves Award, Groton Middle School contact Allen Salyerds phone 607-523-7776 EST

Robert Jenkins, Jr Award, Robert Jenkins Jr. Middle School contact Len Rapuano phone 727-368-4083 EST

Richard "Tex" Anderson Award, Marine Military Academy contact Wade Hudson phone 281-635-2867 CST

For those who attend, you will find yourselves pleasantly surprised at the enthusiasm of the students, parents and faculty at the awarding of the Achievement Awards and the caliber of those selected to receive the honor.

Treasurer's Report: Continued from page 1

Brothers please support our PX as it is another source of revenue for the Association and the manager Marshall Johnson is eager to supply you with your needs.

I hope all of you are able to attend the next reunion in Deadwood/Lead, South Dakota as our reunion chairman Hollis Stabler is in the process of putting together another great reunion, along with Darlene Schneider, Marshall Johnson and others.

In closing, a hand salute to all of you who have done so much and continue to do so.

**Semper Fi
John "Doc" Winters, Association Treasurer**

This afternoon I spent some time with Holly Woods, a VA nurse who tended to Santos at the VA Hospital here in Pittsburgh... he had a liver/kidney transplant over a year ago. She told me his body started rejecting the transplanted organs a few months ago and, try as they might, the VA was unable to stop his immune system from rejecting the transplants.

I asked her why he came here to Pittsburgh seeing he was from Austin, TX and she informed me that the VA Hospital Pittsburgh, PA and the VA Hospital Richmond, VA are the only two VA hospitals in the US that do double transplants.

Also, she informed me that the VA Hospital Houston, TX and the VA Hospital Miami, FL will be doing double transplants by next year. Holly also informed me that the following VA hospitals do only kidney transplants in the US: Portland, Or; Nashville, TN; Des Moines, IA; Pittsburgh, PA and Richmond, VA.

Had I known that a Brother was in the VA hospital here I would have gone to see him. It seems we only find out about our brothers when it's too late.

Holly told me how the VA goes all out to support the families of Vets who are going through these operations including paying the air fare, all transportation costs and housing while they are at the VA hospitals while the veteran is awaiting the transplants. She said there are a number of Veterans going through this procedure...

To the very end Santos was given the best treatment available in the attempt to save him. Holly told me in his final hours he was surrounded by family and VA staff that showered him with love and respect.

We are all fortunate to have a VA system as we do.
Rest in peace Santos. John "Doc" Winters

Presidents Message from page # 1

I've had a lot of support from the Association Officers, and I've enjoyed my role, but it's not too early to tell you I don't intend to run for re-election in 2010. We need some people to stand up and take on the next tour

Recently, I got to meet with General Peter Pace for about three hours here in Tucson. I didn't pass up the opportunity to give him a 3rd Recon T-shirt. It was the one with the names of our KIA's on the back that we sold at the October 2008 Kissimmee Reunion. He was impressed. He gave me one of his Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff coins. I also talked to him about our Association. We've added his name to the association mailing roster so he can receive complementary "Harborsites" in the future.

I hope you and yours are well. I wish you good health, and good memories.
Semper Fi Bill Stussie

Field Sanitation

By Harry Hooper

In mid-September of 1966 I was ordered to an observation post called Crow's Nest. It was on top of Marble Mountain south of the airstrip at Da Nang. It was the mission of the Crow's Nest observation post to protect the airstrip, and to keep the Viet Cong from damaging the air-conditioned trailers of the aviators, and the nice barracks of their support troops, by firing rockets or mortars at them. The aircraft were a concern also. The mission was to be accomplished by raining artillery fire onto the heads of any VC who had the temerity to attack the big base and the Marine air base which was north and east of the mountain.

Marble Mountain was actually several spindly shafts of rock. The highest one rose 105 meters straight out of the sand just west of the South China Sea and it was upon this rock that the Crow's Nest sat. The mountain was mostly made of marble except that the marble became karst at the higher elevations. The entire mountain was full of caves and tunnels. Most of them were too small for a man to enter. I think if it had been possible to saw it in half it would look like a plank eaten by termites.

At the summit was an area which was 20 feet at its widest and in length, it was perhaps 150 feet. This was occupied by a wooden platform upon which was emplaced a 106 millimeter recoilless rifle. The plan was that anytime the wily Cong fired rockets at the airstrip, they would be engaged immediately by the 106 while the FO, me, would send a fire mission to my artillery battalion which would blast the offending VC into rubble. Since the VC only fired rockets at night, and usually moonless nights, exactly how we were to accomplish this was never revealed to me.

Life on Crow's Nest was not unpleasant. There were eight of us up there. There was the 106 crew, a couple of machine gunners manning a single M 60, my trusty radio operator, Lance Corporal Papkin, and my wireman, PFC Clapp. Once a week a CH-34 helicopter would appear slinging beneath it a cargo net containing C-rats, beer, and cigarettes. Prior lifts had delivered timber and corrugated tin which had been used to construct a comfortable hooch.

We had all of the comforts of home and unlike home, we could wake up mornings to a splendid view of the South China Sea and enjoy spectacular sunsets over the Annamese Mountains. Moreover, we felt safe. The climb to the top of Crow's Nest was quite difficult and entailed shinnying up a hawser for part of the way. At night we would pull the hawser to the top and we felt pretty sure that no VC could get to us, at least not without working up a substantial sweat. Occasionally, at dusk, a sniper would crank off a round or two in our direction

and we would answer with a short blast from the M-60. If we were feeling particularly surly, or if a round holed our tin roof, we would reply with a 106 HEAT round.

It did occur to me that my military career would be in serious jeopardy if some enterprising VC got to the top, swung the 106 to the north, and proceeded to blast away at important people's command posts and trailers. Consequently, every time we heard any strange sounds from the side of the mountain we tossed grenades at them.

Days were spent eating, drinking beer, smoking cigarettes, and listening to a tape player which had a single Beatles tape. The album was called "Revolver" and Eleanor Rigby was the featured song, or at least the only one I remember. We must have heard it a thousand times. After enough beer I would actually begin to worry about Eleanor's plight.

On a typical day we would watch air traffic circling and landing at Da Nang. One day we saw a B-52 make an unsuccessful emergency landing. Crow's Nest must have been at least ten miles from the airfield but nevertheless, when the wind was favorable, it was possible to hear C-130's revving up. At night we would watch F-4's and F-105's scream overhead with their afterburners flaring. One night we saw an F-4 get hit by an errant 105 millimeter illumination round and watched in amazement as the pilots parachuted from the plane. More astonishingly, a little Kaman helicopter was there to pick them up almost as soon as they hit the ground.

When vehicles traveled the MSR heading south, to what was then the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines CP, we would watch closely for snipers shooting at them. Occasionally we would see a small firefight between the Marines in the vehicles and the VC. The 106 gunners, who were truly crack shots, would fire at the snipers, undoubtedly scaring the Bejesus out of the truckers, and perhaps erasing a few VC.

The 106 had a .50 caliber rifle on top of the weapon. This was called the minor caliber. The 106 itself, was called the major caliber. The gunner, when he found the target with the minor caliber, would yell, "fire the major caliber." The explosion from the recoilless rifle was like the crack of doom. The difference between the minor caliber and the major caliber was like the difference between a hand grenade explosion and the atom bomb.

We also had a dog which provided some entertainment. The dog was named Boom Boom, either out of respect for the 106 or after entertainment of the same name which was available for a few Piasters from one of the professional women who plied their trade in the village of Nui Kim Son. It was a nice little dog and probably lived its entire life on top of Crow's Nest since I am sure the OP was occupied by U.S. troops until the pullout. That is not a lot of

running room for a dog for an entire lifetime but it probably beat becoming rotisserie dog.

One of the problems with eight Marines on a small piece of real estate was that of field sanitation. This had been temporarily solved by placing a 106 ammo box, with an appropriate hole cut into it, over a shaft in the limestone which was at least 12 to 15 feet straight down. It seemed to angle off to the side after that and we suspected that it continued deep into the mountain. When relieving oneself of C-rats washed down with beer, the alimentary canal produced a product which resounded with a satisfying splat as it bottomed into the abyss of the pit.

In time, the OP, especially at night, became redolent of sewage. As a highly trained second lieutenant, having been a recent graduate of The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia, I resolved to solve this. Someone could have become ill as a result of this situation, or at least gag. Accordingly, I contacted the S-4 on the radio and requested gasoline so that the offending matter could be incinerated. In due time the supply helicopter arrived with its cargo net and with it, four jerry cans of diesel fuel.

It may have been a product of our boredom or the excitement of having something new to accomplish, but in any event, as soon as the cans were unloaded, we removed the ammo box and poured twenty gallons of diesel fuel into the pit. With great anticipation we threw a match into the pit. Nothing. Then we lit a pack of matches and tossed it into the odoriferous hole. Nothing. Then we lit a large splinter from an ammo box and tossed it into the maw. It made a nice little fire for a while but the diesel didn't catch. Next came an illumination grenade. The pit remained as fireless as a tenderfoot with flint and steel. That is when we learned that diesel doesn't burn, at least, it didn't on Crow's Nest. Our disappointment was palpable.

This failure resulted in a radio call to the air officer requesting gasoline. We were informed that the pilots thought gasoline to be unsafe cargo when put in a cargo net which had to be deposited on a narrow rock ledge. If the gasoline can collided with the rock, the whole helicopter would erupt in flame, or so I was told. It was suggested that we should climb down the mountain, walk to the CP, strap a five gallon can of gasoline on a pack frame, and manhandle it up the mountain. This suggestion, it should be noted, came from the air officer.

Continued on page # 14

**“They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them”**

Shufly Marine: Continued from page 2

According to a 1970 Sports Illustrated article, Mac's amateur record was an impressive 20 wins, 17 of which were KO's, with only one loss. Mac's pro career likewise got off to a blazing start. He won his first 24 professional fights by knockout, but Mac's winning streak would soon come to a screeching halt when he fought heavyweight contender Jerry Quarry at the fabled Madison Square Garden on June 17, 1970. Despite the fact that Mac went into the fight a 6-1 favorite, Quarry handed Mac the first loss of his pro career, and his only knock out in the sixth round of a scheduled ten round bout.

After four more wins, all by knock out, Mac was ready to take on former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali. Having been stripped of his title by boxing authorities as a result of his failure to comply with Selective Service requirements based on his opposition to the Vietnam War, Ali was on a quest to reclaim the Heavyweight Championship. The match was held in Tokyo, April 1, 1972, and was broadcast around the world on closed circuit TV. Mac went the distance (15 rounds) against the ex-champ, but Ali out fought Mac winning a unanimous decision. (A video of Mac's fight with Ali can be found on the Internet)

Mac continued boxing until 1976, but never returned to his early form, ending his pro career with a record of 30 wins, all by knockouts, and 6 losses. He now makes his home in Madera California, not far from where he grew up, and enjoys getting together with Marine buddies he served with in Vietnam at various reunions.



Kissimmee Reunion Oct 2008

Mac Foster (center) flanked by Neil Grissiom (left) and John Gariano (right) during the Association business meeting. All served with Charlie Company 1963 supporting Shufly operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

Saepe Expertus

Semper Fidelis

Fratres Aeterni

"Often Tested,

Always Faithful,

Brothers Forever"

3rd Recon Association Scholarship

Fund The Executive Committee is looking to establish a scholarship fund to start on the 2010/2011 school calendar year. This would provide a scholarship of \$1,200 per school year to one student applicant who qualifies, \$600.00 per year for two students, \$400.00 per year for three students or \$300.00 per year for four students. A maximum of up to 4 awards will be awarded each year. A new application will be required for each year applied.

The amount may change depending upon the support the association receives through the generous donations of members to fund the many association's programs and activities.

Governing Rules for operations of the Third Recon Association Scholarship Fund:

The purpose of the 3rd Recon Association Scholarship Fund, (3rdRASAF), will be to provide financial aid to post-high school students who plan to attend an accredited institution as a full time student or who will be enrolled full time in an accredited curriculum following high school graduation.

Scholarships will be awarded to student applicants who are direct descendants of 3rd Recon Battalion members who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the years 1961 to 1971 and includes direct descendants of battalion members listed as KIA in Vietnam and those who have died since their service in Vietnam. (To include students who are under legal guardianship or adopted by members or direct descendants of battalion members.)

Selection for awarding of the financial aid scholarships will focus on the following qualities: good grades, Character, Citizenship, leadership potential, and financial need. A point selection system will be used in the case of more than one applicant. Examples of these mentioned qualities could be in the classroom, in extracurricular activities or service to the community, church or nation.

A Scholarship Fund Review Committee will be appointed to serve the President of the 3rd Recon Association and will accept, review and grade each correctly completed application. The committee will decide which student applicant(s) will receive the financial aid. The selected student(s) will be notified, by letter, on or before June 30th of a given year.

This is a proposal. To make it happen we need your input on this important matter to include your ideas of additional fund raising activities. Contact the Executive Committee, using the return mailing address of this newsletter, and let your opinion be heard.

Lets show our support for the descendants of our brothers

Recon Marine Continued from page # 9

I served under Gen David M. Shoup (Medal of Honor recipient for his actions at Tarawa in WWII) several times. Force Recon was attached to Gen Shoup's 1st Marine Division, and later in the Philippines, I served as the landing force commander. Later, as Commandant, Shoup granted me permission to take 30 days leave from 1/9 on Okinawa to actively patrol with the Gurkhas in Malaya in the British 11-year campaign against the Communist terrorists. The leave was granted with a caveat—upon my return from these jungle patrols he asked (directed) that I speak to other Marines on the lessons learned from the Brits and the Gurkhas (which I did, including briefing Gen Shoup and the Headquarters Marine Corps staff).

Our last major Marine Corps jungle experience under triple canopy had been in the Solomons at Guadalcanal and Bougainville. This, interestingly, later led to the selection of my regiment to operate southwest of Da Nang out toward the Lao border under triple canopy. My division commander, then-MajGen Donn J. Robertson, called me into his command post and advised me that he had read my article in the Marine Corps Gazette on triple canopy jungle operations. "You are the only regimental commander here [in Vietnam] who has operated in combat in triple canopy. I am going to use your regiment out toward the Lao border."

Looking back, I consider Gen Shoup and LtGen Robertson mentors of a kind that recognized the initiative embraced in my unusual request to take leave to go to the only war going on at the time in Southeast Asia to patrol with the Commonwealth Brigade of 17th Gurkha. Many of my peers felt that I was not using good judgment to use leave in this way. They were wrong. It initiated my writing articles for the Gazette and later two books on recon. Even today there is a book published in Australia, written by one of New Zealand's Malaya veterans, that includes an entire chapter on my comparison of Marine jungle tactics and equipment to those used by the Gurkha Division in then-Malaya. (It later was changed to Malaysia.)

In conclusion, I gained professionally from my mentors throughout our Corps. I was blessed with good advice, guidance, and opportunity that would not have been possible without the benefit that these mentors gave. I shall always be grateful. My advice to those of you on active duty today is to take advantage of the lore, the leadership, and the guidance that you will gain in mentoring under your fellow Marines.

Col Meyers is a 28-year veteran of the Marine Corps and served in three wars—WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He currently resides in Issaquah, WA.

From the Khe Sanh web site, forwarded by Leland Upshaw, Bravo Company 1968



3rd Recon Association

March 27, 2009

**From: John J “Doc” Winters, Treasurer
PO Box 38422
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Phone: 412-781-0388**

To: Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The 3rd Recon Association donates \$300.00 to the Society in memory of our following brothers who died, or we had notification of their passing, this past year.

*Miller W. Scott
Edmond K. Gross
Roger J. Picou
Dean L. Alwardt*

*William D. “Doug” Leigh
Robert Joseph Statzer
Gerald A. Boll
Felix Rael*

*Dale Sare
Edward V. Badolat
Henry C “Clay” Yarber
Gary F. Marte*

While serving in the Republic of Vietnam, the Marines and Corpsmen of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion repeatedly penetrated North Vietnamese and Vietcong sanctuaries by foot and by helicopter to find enemy forces, learn the enemy's intentions, and, when possible, bring deadly fire down on his head. Heavily armed, well-camouflaged teams of six and eight men daily exposed themselves to overwhelming enemy forces so that other Marines would have the information necessary to fight the war.

The battalion was the highest decorated unit of its size to serve in Vietnam. Including battle stars, men in the battalion were awarded 4 Medals of Honor, 13 Navy crosses, 72 Silver Stars and an unknown number of Bronze Stars. The battalion lost 225 men KIA and approximately 40 percent of the men received at least one Purple Heart for wounds.

The 3rd Recon Association was formed in 1989 through the efforts of a small group of former 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Marines and Navy Corpsmen who served together in the Republic of Vietnam. It has grown to include more than seventeen hundred retired and former Marines and Navy Corpsmen who served with or were attached to the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam from 1961 through 1971. Included among those numbers are our associate members, (family members of Reconners who died during or since their service in Vietnam.).

As voted on by the 3rd Recon Association Executive Committee and directed by it's President, William Stussie, the Association will make a donation to honor our brothers who have died in the proceeding year on November 10th of each year for an indefinite time. At this time we are a last-man-standing organization.

**John J “Doc” Winters, Treasurer
3rd Recon Association**

**Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Reconners, night and day.
Protect them on the mountain steep,
Keep them hid in valley deep.
From weapon, tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go.**

Links to about 10,000+ USMC RVN documents. All documents are online via the Virtual Vietnam Archive, just hard to find through their interface.
<http://www.geocities.com/rbackstr2000/rvn/rvn>

Early History - Cont from page # 6

In early September 1963 the platoon's fast reaction force was again called into action to provide force protection for a UH-34D that landed in a farmer's peanut field about 40 miles south of Da Nang due to mechanical problems. For security, the platoon set up a perimeter around the downed helicopter and dug-in for the night as the area was heavily controlled by the Viet Cong. Mechanics planned to repair the UH-34D the next day and have the crew fly it back to Da Nang. Before the sunset that evening, black dots that were Viet Cong would occasionally appear under trees in three separate locations on the jungle mountain slope across the river from the peanut field where the helicopter had made the emergency landing. While gun fire was occasionally heard during the night, there were no serious probes of the perimeter. The helicopter was quickly repaired the next day and flown back to Da Nang.

In late September 1963 a decision was made to begin rotating members of the platoon back to Okinawa. Apparently it was decided that larger forces were needed to combat an upswing in enemy activity. Marines from the platoon viewed Da Nang as "good duty" as it gave them a chance to apply their training to actual combat zone conditions.

Neil Grissom, Charlie Company 1963

Requests for help

Barb Dewey is looking for anyone that served with Walter J. "Ski" Jankowski, Delta 1966, who was KIA in October of that year. Her family has so many unanswered questions about how Walter died. Walter served with Con R Dotson, Delta 66, who passed away in 2005.

Walter was her uncle she never met. She wasn't born until 1972.

If you have any information contact:
Barbara Dewey
6944 Dion Road
Federalsburg, MD 21632
Phone 717-773-0537
narleyharleygirl@yahoo.com

Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 11:19 AM
Subject: Cpl Robert J. Statzer

My nephew **Robert Joseph Statzer** was killed in December 2008 in a weird accident. His brother, Michael, is trying to make contact with some of his fellow Marines. Bobby served with Bravo Company 3rd Recon in 1969, he was a radio operator. *Any help you can provide or suggestion in searching will be greatly appreciated.*

Contact Michael "Mick" Statzer
Phone: 765-778-8270
Address: 776 N Pendleton Ave
Pendleton, IN 46064-
Or e-mail: mspark53@aol.com or e-mail
mv-rjstatzer@verizon.net
Bud Statzer USMC Ret

Delta Company,

3rd Recon Landing/Raid in Vietnam, 1965.

Parker Ralston, Delta, 3rd Recon, is searching for anyone having served with or having knowledge of the initial landing of Delta Company, 3rd Recon under the leadership of Capt. Patrick "Patty" Collins, at Red Beach, Da Nang, Vietnam in March 1965 and their subsequent raid by rubber boats on an island off the Da Nang coast. This raid was covered in a "Stars & Stripes" article shortly thereafter with the header "Marine Raiders Return." Parker can be contacted at 816-635-4009 central time.

Odis Lewis, Delta & H & S Co's 1969

I was remiss when I was in the service. I did not make a list of the Marines that I met while on active duty. Usually a person used a nick name or a first name and once there was separation from that unit, or the service, even that was forgotten. I find myself wondering more and more about where, what, and how those Marines and Corpsmen are doing.

Please contact: Odis Lewis
631 Haven St. Forrest City, AR 72335
Or send email to: siwelo@sbcglobal.net

Sanitation Continued from page # 11

The situation was becoming one of those righteous welfare of the troops issues and with all of the indignation that could be mustered by a second lieutenant, I suggested that this was a matter which should be kicked upstairs. Eventually, the battalion executive officer came up on the net and we had a serious discussion about field sanitation and the lack of an infantry battalion commander's power to order Marine aviators to do anything. The next week the cargo helicopter arrived and in the big net I spotted five jerry cans. I knew

right away they contained gasoline because the pilot flipped me a bird right before he chopped back to the Marble Mountain Airstrip. I don't know how battalion got it done but, in any event, we were in business.

Into the abyss went twenty-five gallons of gasoline which mingled with the diesel which had pooled there from the previous week's effort. It was late afternoon. The sea breeze wafted in from the South China Sea, rustling the hairs on our heads which were already tingling with excitement. I delivered a safety lecture of sorts on the explosive tendencies of gasoline and suggested that we ignite the gas with an illumination grenade tossed from a safe distance.

A volunteer agreed to do the deed and pulled the pin from the grenade. We watched over his shoulder as he tossed the device into the pit with precision. For a moment, there was silence. Then the mountain began to shudder and then to vibrate and then a loud roar split the silence of the afternoon. Flame burst from the mouth of the pit like a mighty tongue, and to our astonishment, additional blasts roared from the sides of the mountain like fumaroles on the cone of an erupting volcano. It in fact was Vesuvius, Krakatoa, and Pinatubo, rolled into one.

We marveled at the magnitude of our work.

The radio crackled to life immediately. It was battalion headquarters, located in the flatlands some three miles away, excitedly inquiring as to the nature of the calamity. Flame and smoke, they stated, were coming everywhere from the mountain. They demanded information as to the cause. We were safe, we reported. We were just conducting routine field sanitation.

In time the holocaust subsided to a mere roar. The air smelled of burning petroleum products. By dusk the fire was out and the opening once more sported the ammunition box with the hole in it, the box which was so supportive of our daily life on the OP.

I never had the need to conduct field sanitation on Crow's Nest again. Shortly after this event, I rejoined my rifle company and became engaged in more serious business.

Thirty-four years have passed since that day and I still think of the Crow's Nest every time I hear the Beatles wailing about Eleanor Rigby. It's the nearest thing to a flashback I've ever had.

Forwarded by Lance Zellers

Reunions

2009 Delta Company Reunion

LZ Bluegrass - Louisville, Kentucky starting Wednesday June 24, 2009 and ending Sunday, June 28, 2009. As usual Reconners from all other companies are welcome to attend.

Harborsite – The Galt House

140 North Fourth Street

Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: 502-589-5200

E-mail: info@galthouse.com

<http://www.galthouse.com/default.aspx>

Schedule of events:

Wednesday - Check In/Hospitality Room

Thursday - A Day on the River (Pontoon Boat

Rental) with a few personal boats

Friday - Churchill Downs

<http://www.churchilldowns.com/>

Saturday – Business Meeting Golf/Free Day

Saturday Eve - Banquet/Cruise Belle of

Louisville: <http://belleoflouisville.org/>

Sunday - Checkout

LZ Bluegrass Information

As the 2009 Delta Co Reunion Chairman, I am pleased to announce the confirmation and schedule of events concerning this summers reunion. It is a pleasure to once again bring together the greatest BAND of BROTHERS ever assembled. For those that were fortunate enough to make the BN reunion in 2004, you know exactly the wonderful time that we all shared here in Louisville. We are again committed to bringing all of you, four fun filled days of camaraderie & enough memories to last a lifetime.

We were a little late getting the OK to put this together but rest assured we have left the briefing room and are ready to execute the patrol order..

LZ Bluegrass is open to ALL members, families & friends. We already have several commitments from members of other various companies and we ask that you please help spread the word to your teammates and get them on board.

Thanks for your attention. S/F Shortround

REUNION AGENDA: Dates: June 24th / 27th

GALT HOUSE HOTEL & SUITES

Wednesday: Usual Check In. Meet, greet and relax in the best damn hospitality room in the south.

Thursday: Enjoy a day on the OHIO RIVER. Boating, drinks, eats, sun and fun.

We are going to rent Pontoons and have extra private boats available. Also, bring your trunks, bikinis and sandals. DRINKS/SNACKS PROVIDED.

Friday: Day at the Downs. A trip to the worlds most famous race track, **CHURCHILL**

DOWN. Planning to have a race dedicated to Delta Co 3rd Recon Bn.

Saturday: Company meeting. Golf afterwards for those interested. Free time all day.

Saturday Evening: Banquet/Cruise on the **Belle of Louisville**.

COST: \$100 per person. Registration Deadline May 15, 2009

Room rates should be confirmed by Mar.15

Any and all remaining information will be posted on the Reunion Web Page.

<http://www.3rdreconfewproud.com/reunion09.htm>

Contact Info: Steve "Shortround" Shircliff

812-987-7595

812-952-1700

shortround68@msn.com

Mail Check to:

Steve Shircliff

4252 Hwy 11

Lanesville, IN 47136

3rd Marine Division Association

55th Annual Reunion

El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel

110 Lexington Ave

San Antonio, Texas 78205-1313

800-288-3927 or 210-223-9461

August 25 to 30, 2009

<http://www.caltrap.org/Reunion/directory.asp>

Khe Sanh Veterans

21st Annual Reunion

July 19 – 26, 2009

Denver, CO

Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel

4900 S. Syracuse St

Denver, CO 80239

<http://www.khesanh.org/>

Force Recon Association

Recon 2009

September 9 to 12, 2009

Quantico, Virginia

Hotel - **The Crossroads Inn**, 3018 Russell

Road, Quantico, VA

703-630-4444 for reservations. Use

confirmation code **1465**

The FRA is **not** reserving blocks of rooms this year. Make your reservations early!

Recon 2009 Banquet

– Saturday September 12, 2009

National Museum of the Marine Corps

<http://www.forcerecon.com/>

Phu Bai 1965-1966 Reunion

Members from Charlie Company are using FRA reunion as a rally point for a reunion of Phu Bai Marines 1965-66: Barry Colassard, Rudy Fontane, Doug Heath, Joe Haire, Frank Homan, Dan Leary, Jack Brantley, Harold Steur, Larry Otoole, Jerry Shea, Garner Bailey, Jr., Dennis Vogel, Michael Brooks, Bob Alsip, Dutch Strele, Marvin Freidman, Art Thorsen, etc.

Force Recon types were also there at Phu Bai (Dave Grannis, Bill Henderson, Andy Beeler, Dwayne Colby) along with B Company that our platoon became attached to (Jack Cassidy, Sam

Owens). Joel Gardner was there also and lives in the DC area, so he may come.

FRA puts on a good reunion, including a great banquet in the Museum. FRA has active Marines running it along with Marine veterans. They hold an auction to raise money for their scholarship fund. We met Wesley Fox at the Charleston reunion. At the business meeting that Rudy, Doug, and I attended in 2006, we met some original Amphibious Recon Marines, one of whom was with Jim Jones' father on the submarine that tackled Apamama Atoll.

Our focus will be on Phu Bai Marines, 1965-66. We plan to stay at the Crossroads Inn, participate in FRA events, and party in the hospitality suite set up by Rudy the Organizer.

Keith "Hud" Huddleston

2009 Alpha Company Reunion

"Operation Duluth, MN 2009" Thursday, August 13th through Sunday, August 16th
"Operation Duluth" is open to all Marines, Families, and Friends

Please join us in the celebration of our 12th Reunion gathering of Marines in Duluth, Minnesota. A great deal of planning has gone into the planning of this event and we are pleased announce our reunion gathering will be held at the **Comfort Suites Hotel** 408 Canal Park Dr. , Duluth, MN, US, 55802 (218) 727-1378

We have selected this location because it is in close proximity to a memorial where "Team Striker" is united in spirit. The memorial is located on York Island, one of the Apostle Islands, which have been designated a National Park in Lake Superior. This Island has a memorial dedicated to Merl Allen and Team Striker.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Thursday, Aug 13, 2009 – Reception 1700 to 2000 (Meeting Room)

Friday, Aug 14, 2009 Two (2) Options

1. 0800 Bus/Boat trip to York Island for the solemn dedication of Team Striker.

2. Free time to visit Duluth

Saturday, Aug 15, 2009 Alpha Recon

Association Meeting – 0800 to 1000

Saturday Banquet, Reunion Dinner on Lake Superior aboard the Vista Star

Contacts:

Jeff Savelkoul, Chairman (763) 434-0907 CST

Don Schwinn, Treasurer (858) 486-4391 PST

for info: www.alphareconassociation.org

Registration fees of \$80.00 covers Dinner

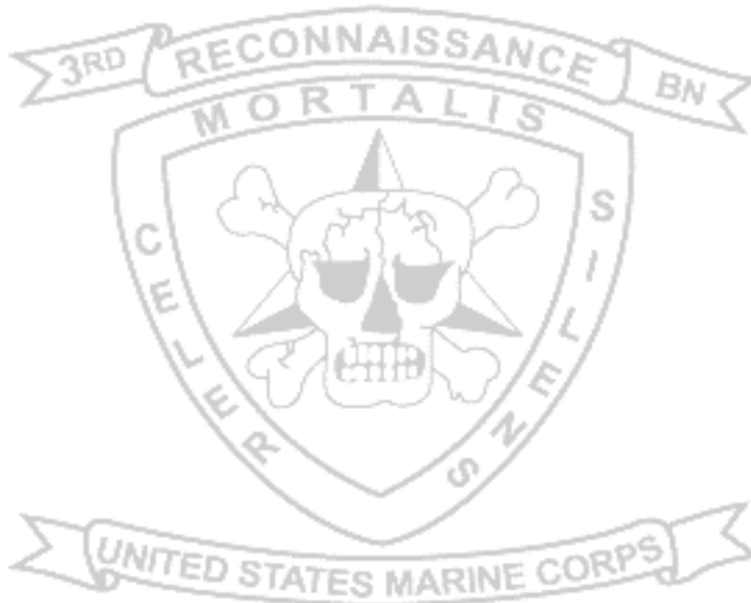
Cruise and miscellaneous expenses.

Registration by mail: **Deadline 1 July 2009**

POPASMOKE

Reno, Nevada, 7-11 July 2010

<http://www.popasmoke.com/reunions/>



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- * THE HILL FIGHTS-881N/881S * FSB ARGONNE * CAM LO * THE DMZ * CON THIEN * OP BA NA *
- * HELICOPTER VALLEY * LEATHERNECK SQUARE * THE ROCKPILE * HUE * THE RAZORBACK *
- * CHARLIE RIDGE * MUTTERS RIDGE * A SHAU VALLEY * THE DMZ * THE BACKYARD *
- * ELEPHANT VALLEY * HILL 327 * CAMP REASONER * CAMP CARROLL *

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni

"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"

"Poor is the nation that has no Heroes, Shameful is the one that having them, forgets"



A reinforced platoon of 47 men from Charlie Company was sent to Da Nang, Vietnam in April 1963 to provide security for Shufly Operations and acted as their Chicken Hawk and Eagle fast reaction forces in and around the Da Nang AO. Story on page # 6.

Left photo: Unknown Charlie Co. Marines with (L) Thompson Submachine Gun, (R) 45 Cal. grease gun.

Right Photo: Neil Grissom in canvas type camouflaged utilities and carrying a Swedish K 9mm submachine gun (Carl Gustav M/45)

The platoons TO weapons were M-14's with selectors. However they had with them 6 Swedish K's, a similar number of grease guns, 2 Thompson Submachine Guns and a M-60 Machine Gun. In addition, several members also carried their own personal side arms. Wade Hudson, not pictured, was one; he carried a long barreled 357 Magnum Revolver.

Left photo: (L) Sgt Edwards, recommended for a Bronze Star w/ combat "V" and two unknown Marines.

Right photo: Field staging of South Vietnamese Troops prior to their operations against Viet Cong Forces

