



Issue 42

**Information For And About Members Of The First
Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service**
www.1stmaw.com

Fall 2012



Chesty Puller Statue dedicated at the Marine Corps Museum On November 12 2013



The Presidents own Marine Corps band at the dedication of the Chesty Puller statue

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



Semper Fi and Happy belated 237th Birthday and Welcome Home !!!

I apologize for Our Scoop going out a bit late, but Phil and I were in New Orleans planning for our 25th anniversary reunion next year and due to a hurricane that devastated a big part of that region We had to postpone our trip from September to October. Now for the good news! Reunion 2013 is set for August 22-25 at The Embassy Suites Convention Center. Once again they will serve a free breakfast buffet (remember ?) and a complimentary managers reception in the hotel bar from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Free Wi Fi and discounted parking and rooms are suites. A good friend of Phil, Victoria Reed opened some doors for us at The WW II Theatre.

Friday morning we will see Beyond All Boundaries at Their Victory Theatre, followed by lunch at the Stage Door Canteen Theatre with The Victory Belles. Had the pleasure to see their show and also Beyond All Boundaries and I tell you Marines, be prepared to shed a tear! Still waiting on 4th MAW in New Orleans to get back to us about a tour or maybe a static display at Mag 49. Phil will make it happen if He can. China Beach night starts with a paddle boat dinner down the Mississippi and back to our hospitality room to reminisce our 25 year history and our Corps! Saturday Business meeting & If enough interest is made I'd love to give Our Ladies A Carriage Ride during our business meeting. Our 25th anniversary banquet at 1800 in their main ballroom. Our traditional Sunday farewell breakfast (complimentary) will be private in their lobby restaurant. Some of Us plan to be there 3 days before and 3 days after at The same rate . I believe that we will make this special reunion " our greatest moment " !

SEMPER FI
Frank Paco Arce
Association President



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS

Please send in your yearly dues of \$25.00. Send them to:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association—Vietnam Service
c/o Wayne Cook—Membership
19605 SE 23rd Street
Sammamish, WA 98075

Any questions contact Wayne Cook 425-313-0348 or wayco@comcast.net. Subject should say First maw.

ELECTRONIC SCOOP

The Electronic Scoop list is growing. Any other members who desires to receive their "Scoop" electronically in order to reduce mailing and publishing costs please contact Wayne Cook at wayco@comcast.net and please cc Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com and Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net. THE SCOOP CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEB SITE **WWW.1stMAW.COM**. Those members who have requested an electronic SCOOP will be removed from the mailing list as requested.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - UPDATE

Volunteers are always welcomed for Veterans day at the wall. For those who live near Quantico VA and the National Museum of the Marine Corps The Heritage Foundation is seeking tour Guides for the Museum. Training will be provided. Contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at 703-640-7965..

LOCATOR LIST

There is now an updated locator list. Anyone that sees someone they want to contact, then they need to email Wayne Cook at wayco@comcast.net or call him at 425-313-0348 and he will send the information to that person to contact them.

PX

We have removed the PX page from this issue due to some price changes and that we were getting very few inquiries. However if you want to order any 1st MAW stuff please call Wayne Cook 425-313-0348 or email him at **wayco@comcast.net**

NEW WEB PAGE URL

Our WEB page is now accessed at **WWW.1stmaw.com**. This will make it easier to remember and it will be continually worked on to make it better.

1st MAW NOW ON FACEBOOK

We are now moving to the modern age and have a Group on FACEBOOK. If you are a FACEBOOK user please join our Group. at "**First Marine Air wing Association - Vietnam Service**". If you are not a FACEBOOK member, join FACEBOOK and our Group. Information and photos will continue to be posted on our group. Please post any pictures or comments on our group.

SHUFLY Chaplains Served Our Spiritual Needs During Stressful Times **By David H. Hugel**

SHUFLY Marines relied on the Navy to meet their medical, dental and spiritual needs. When the MABS-16 sub unit #2 Marines refurbished the old French base that was to become the SHUFLY living compound, they converted one of the old barracks into a small chapel with an office for the chaplain. During the summer and fall of 1963, the resident chaplain was Lt. Herman F. Wendler.

Since Chaplain Wendler was a Protestant minister, he shared the duty for conducting weekly worship services with a Catholic priest from the nearby Air Force base, Capt. Thomas McManus. Every Sunday, Wendler would hold a Protestant service for SHUFLY Marines, while Father McManus conducted Mass for the Air Force troops. Following their services, they would each jump into a jeep for the short drive to the other base where they held another service for members of their faith stationed there.

I don't know what arrangements Chaplain Wender had made at the Air Force chapel, but at our base he set up a system for playing organ music to accompanying our signing hymns. Lacking an organ, Wendler improvised by having his father, who was a minister back in the states, record tapes of hymns from the Navy Hymnbook that he shipped to Vietnam periodically. Every Sunday, a volunteer sat in the chaplain's office behind the wall at the rear of the chapel to operate a tape recorder, wired to speakers in the chapel, that played the prerecorded hymn.

Lacking timely newspaper and news broadcasts, Chaplain Wendler filled this information gap by publishing a mimeograph daily newsletter to keep Marines up to date on what was happening in the outside world. In an effort to bolster the spiritual well being of Marines, Chaplain Wendler began the practice of reading a nightly prayer over the base PA system every evening just before lights out. He was also available during the week to talk with Marines about their spiritual and personal concerns.

Occasionally, a Catholic chaplain from MCAF Futema Okinawa would fly down to Da Nang for special events. On one sad occasion Father "Hoot" Gibson co-officiated at a memorial service for Marines and Navy medical personnel killed in a helicopter crash. On another more joyous visit, Father Edward Kane coordinated the distribution of toys and clothing donated by a stateside Catholic charity to children at the Da Nang orphanage, run by Catholic nuns.

They didn't garner much attention, but our chaplains were always there when we needed them.



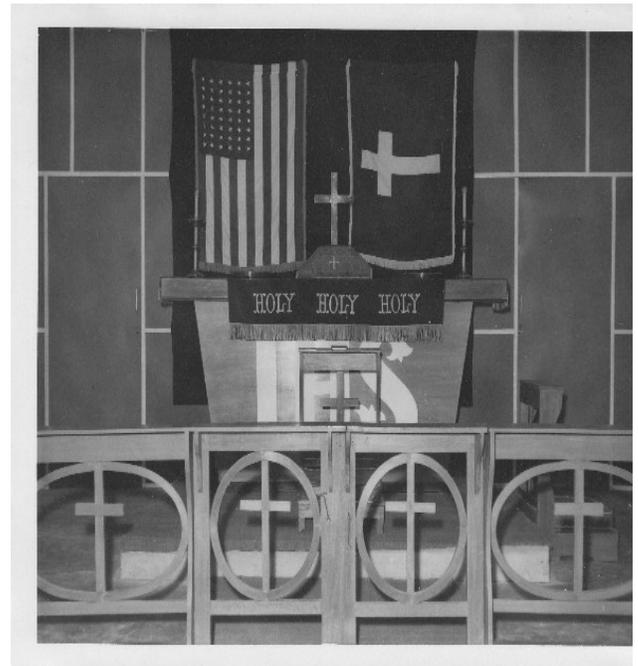
Chaplain, Father Edward Kane, assisted by Marine volunteers, distributes toys to boys and girls at the Catholic orphanage in Da Nang.



Chaplain Herman Wendler reads a nightly prayer over the base PA system every evening prior to lights out. Note the Sony



Capt. Thomas McManus was the Air Force Catholic chaplain who shared Sunday worship duties with SHUFLY's Protestant chaplain.



Interior of the SHUFLY chapel with altar set for a Protestant service. The cross on the altar was replaced by a crucifix and other items were changed for Catholic services. Then chaplain's office was behind the chapel's rear wall.

MCAS Rose Garden Marines Celebrate 40th Anniversary of Operations During Vietnam War

By David H. Hugel

To meet renewed North Vietnamese aggression during the closing days of the Vietnam War, MAG-15 was deployed to Da Nang in April 1972, but facing limitations on American troop levels, Marines were soon looking for another base of operations. In May, Task Force Delta was formed to refurbish a Royal Thai Air Force base at Nam Phong, Thailand as the future home for MAG-15 operations.

In surveying the proposed site for the airfield, 1st MAW C.G., Maj. Gen. Leslie Brown recognized the challenge of converting the meager rundown facility into an operational Marine Corps airbase. In U. S. Marines in Vietnam 1971-72, the Marine Corps' official history of the Vietnam War, Gen. Brown observed: "All the place had really was a runway and nothing else except a lot of rain, a lot of heat, and a lot of logistical problems to be resolved."

An advance party of Task Force Delta Marines arrived at Nam Phong in late May to begin their daunting task of building facilities to support the projected 3,200 men who would be conducting operations from the base. Assisted by Navy Seabees, they built 310 strong-back tents, 128 administrative and maintenance facilities, a bomb dump, and fuel storage tanks for more than half a million gallons of aviation and bulk fuel.

The first aircraft arrived at Nam Phong, which was quickly dubbed MCAS Rose Garden after a popular Marine recruiting poster of the time, in mid-June 1972. Rose Garden became the base of operations for MAG-15, including F-4 Phantom squadrons VMFA-115 and VMFA-232, and A-6A Intruders from VMA 533, that flew combat missions in Laos and North Vietnam. Their missions included mining harbors, attacking economic targets, and bombing missions to reduce the flow of supplies from North Vietnam.

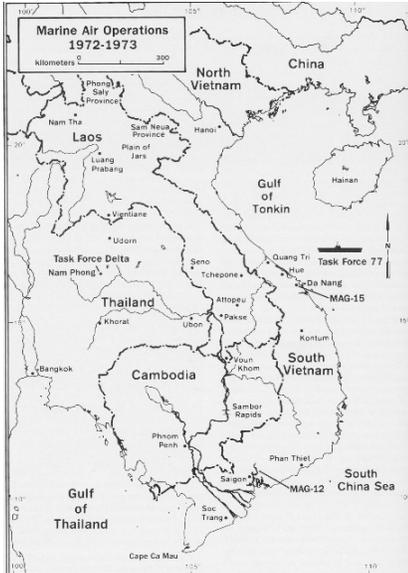
Task Force Delta concluded operations at Nam Phong with a ceremony lowering the American flag the morning of September 21, 1973, marking, according to the Marine Corps Historical Division, the end of Marine Corps participation in the Southeast Asian War. During their 15 months of operations at Nam Phong, Marines of Task Force Delta flew 10, 215 combat sorties massing an impressive 30, 998 flight hours.

To mark the 40th anniversary of MCAS Rose Garden beginning operations at Nam Phong, sixty-eight Marines and their guests attended a reunion at a hotel near the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia over the 2012 Memorial Day weekend. According to reunion coordinator, Harry Delamater, the reunion included a visit to the nearby National Museum of the Marine Corps, after which they were given a bus tour of MCB Quantico.

The highlight of the weekend was a banquet featuring a special guest, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine General Peter Pace. In October 1972, as a captain, General Pace was deployed to Nam Phong to serve as operations officer and later executive officer of the MAG-15 security element detached from the 3rd Marine Division to provide base security. In moving remarks to the audience, Gen. Pace described the pain of having Marines under his command killed during his first tour in Vietnam as a 2nd Lieutenant and reminisced about his tour at Nam Phong with many of those with whom he had served. There was also a ceremony paying tribute to the Marine Aviators who gave their lives while serving at Nam Phong, and to remember Rose Garden Marines who have died since leaving Vietnam.

No date or location has been set for the next reunion in 2014. For more information on MCAS Rose Garden, contact Harry Delamater; hgd1025@aol.com.

ROSE GARDEN PHOTOS



Map SE Asia (can you highlight where Nam Phong, MCAS Rose Garden were?)



Ground view of base



Rose Garden recruiting poster



A-6s on mission

ROSE GARDEN PHOTOS



MCAS Rose Garden patch



Tribute to fallen comrades



Gen. Peter Pace speaks at reunion banquet

Chesty Pullers statue Dedication

By Al Frater

I was able to attend the dedication to Chesty Pullers Statue .The ceremony took place at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico on Monday November 12th. This was a very well run event and worth the time I spent to attend.

It started with the Presidents Own Marine Corps Band playing several patriotic songs. Then we heard from Jim Tuohy the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League. Following Jim was Terry Jones the artist and Sculpture, who was also a Marine, then we heard Lt Gen Robert Blackman USMC Ret. who is now the CEO and president of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and finally representing the Commandant was Lt General Richard Mills. .

Then the Statue was unveiled By Jim Tuohy and 2 marines who served with Chesty Puller. We then had a reception and time to look at the beautiful statue.



Chesty



Lt General Robert Mills



MCL National Commandant Jim Tuohy



Lt General Robert Blackman USMC Ret.

REUNION 2013
New Orleans Registration Form
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE
Thursday August 22 thru Sunday August 25, 2013

MEMBER NAME _____

NICKNAME/CALL SIGN (for name tag use) _____

YEAR/UNIT (i.e. 67-68 VMFA-323) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

(For Confirmation of Receipt)

NAME OF GUESTS ATTENDING WITH MEMBER _____

GUEST NAME (s) (for name tags) _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY (Name & number) _____

BANQUET BUFFET (PERFERRED ENTRÉE MEAL) (1 per registered- _____ BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ FISH
attendee)

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES : HOSPITALITY ROOM, PADDLEBOAT DINNER CRUISE, WWII MUSEUM &
THEATER and REUNION BANQUET MEAL

NUMBER ATTENDING REUNION _____ X \$185.00 (per person) = \$ _____

NUMBER OF REUNION SHIRTS _____ X \$18.00 (each) = \$ _____ SIZE(s) ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013 (THIS IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH & FINALIZE SHIRT ORDERS, MEALS, TRIPS, FUNCTIONS, NAME TAGS etc.) After this date some functions may not be available.
LATE FEE'S WILL BE INCURRED AFTER WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013.

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

(MAKE, CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: **FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION**)

FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION
C/O TREASURER, JERRY SERGEANT
5282 OUSTERHOUT DRIVE
STERLING, MI 48659

NOTE: Room rates of \$129 + tax, and a non-valet parking rate of \$20.00 per day (for hotel guests) has been negotiated with the Embassy Suites New Orleans Convention Center.

These rates are in effect until July 23, 2013 only.

**For hotel reservations Use Group Code FMA. Contact: Embassy Suites New Orleans at
800-Embassy or Web at: www.embassysuites.com**

Street Address for those driving is: 315 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Reunion participation is for paid members and registered guests. Membership is available to all qualified individuals. Please check the association's website at www.1stmaw.com for membership details and application form information.

Scholarship Requirements and Details

The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service will award up to five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion 2013.

To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

Be a First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service member in good standing (i.e., dues are paid up to date), their spouse, dependent or direct descendent. Further, the member must have a minimum of one-year membership as of June 1, 2013.

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a deceased member of the First MAW Assn. VN Service

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a Marine or member of another military service, who lost his/her life while serving in Vietnam with the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

-AND

Applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college, university, or trade school and be in good academic standing.

Applicant will be required to submit an essay of 300-350 words. The applicant can choose one of the following topics:

What the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial means to me.

What all Americans can do to solve the energy crisis.

How I plan to use my education to aid society.

Why I support our Marines in harm's way.

To compete for a scholarship, applicants must submit their essay in accordance with the following instructions:

The essay must be typed. **Do not include applicant's name on the essay page.** Attach a cover page with the applicants name, address, phone number and email address. The cover page must also include the name of the First MAW Assn. VN Service member and membership number, along with the applicant's relationship to the member (spouse, son, daughter, grandchild etc.).

Verification from a counselor or other school official confirming that the applicant is enrolled. This letter needs to be on school letterhead.

A copy of the student transcripts

The essay and required documents must be post marked no later than July 30, 2013.

Mail To:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association-VN Service
c/o Jerry Sergeant, Treasurer
5282 Ousterhout Drive
Sterling, MI 48659



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
19605 SE 23rd Street
Sammamish, WA 98075**

We are a fraternal organization of Marines and others who were attached to or supported First MAW units serving in the Vietnam War. The organization was founded in 1986 and incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in New York State in 1988. Our purpose is to reunite members of the First MAW either through scheduled reunions or by means of our newsletter, web site, or other various functions. The organization strives to disseminate information about our history as well as about legislation, entitlements, and welfare involving First MAW members.