



THE SCOOP SHEET

Information For And About Members Of The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service

Issue 27

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Photo of DaNang Airbase complements of POPASMOKE submitted by "DOC" Haworth



Troop Lift Photo complements of POPASMOKE taken by M/Sgt Shiro Fukunaga

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

To: ALMARFIRSTMAWASSOCIATION
From: Association President
Subj: Presidents Message



BECKERICH, PHILIP

My fellow Marines, families and friends: I delayed the Spring Scoop until after my ground recon to Beaufort for our next reunion. I want to thank Robert Easter and his wife Anne for their help as well as my unofficial "Aide de Camp" Jeff "Mooney" Burstein. As many of you may have noticed at our last reunion that I am having problems with my legs and Jeff was kind enough to do the majority of the driving. In a word, a former Marine NCO providing the necessary support to this former Officer. I want to acknowledge the efforts as I always did on active duty and the Reserves. I do realize we Marines do things for other Marines without question - Semper Fidelis. So let's officially say our next reunion will be in Beaufort, South Carolina between October 8 - October 12, 2009. It is Columbus Day weekend similar to our 1997 reunion. I have just signed a contract to utilize the Inn at Town Center as our Reunion Hotel and Headquarters. The hotel is undergoing a complete renovation and will be ready by Memorial Day weekend of this year. It was the only hotel to meet our needs for a hospitality room, smoking and non-smoking rooms, a pool etc. But, here is the sweet deal. \$79.00 per night plus 7% room tax and 2% county tax. In today's high cost everything this is one honey of a deal. You can reserve your rooms beginning October 8th of 2008. Remember you can always cancel a room reservation but once the rooms are gone or September of 2009 has arrived these prices are gone. The cheapest of the new hotels in Beaufort are \$159.00 per night and up. The hotel has 150 rooms and we have 120 blocked. If we take all of those rooms early we can opt for the remaining 30 rooms. Our "China Beach" night will be at the hotel and our banquet and farewell brunch will be on base. I will leave some of the details to another time but the banquet will be a buffet similar to what we had in New Orleans. By the way the hotel has a complimentary continental breakfast and there are many breakfast and dining facilities nearby. I am in negotiations for an embroidered pocket golf shirt and other surprises of the good kind. I will tell you this that as a Science teacher that the Sand fleas are alive and well, still bite so you will need bug spray or lotion when the sun goes down. Beaufort has grown since our last visit but is still a beautiful place to see and enjoy so long as you're not a recruit. Recruits don't get to experience the hospitality of Beaufort. The museum on base has been redone and a new PX is under construction. The MCAS has much of the squadrons deployed but I am awaiting information for a static display etc. Well, enough said. Start saving a little money each month for the next reunion so we can have a well attended and great reunion. I am talking to couple of airlines that fly into Savanna, GA and Charlestown, SC about special rates as well as to car rental companies. This is difficult with the constant fuel increase costs but I am trying. I cannot say enough about reserving your rooms as early as possible. I cannot help you if you wait too long. Besides it doesn't do much for our image. I have said this before that since we are a last man's club you never know when the last reunion will be. This will be my last reunion as your President. Whether I did well or poorly by you I did the best I could with the resources available.

Semper Fidelis
Phil Beckerich III
Association President

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS

So far this year, the dues renewal rate continues to be **very** good! You guys are doing a great job! Please keep it up, and a **Thank You** goes out to all of you.. Later this year, the reminders will go out for the Life Members who are on the installment plan (a good deal!). But if this means YOU, you can help by sending in your installment payment ahead of time to save us some work.

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 Phil Beckerich at yw37@optonline.net and Al Frater at teanal@verizon.net. **THE SCOOP CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEB SITE WWW.FIRSTMAW.HOMESTEAD.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..

EDITORS NOTES

Please email me any articles or noteworthy events about our members and Association (electronic pictures accepted). All articles and pictures become property of the association and cannot be returned.

Al Frater teanal@verizon.net

VMFA 323 DVD

For all of you former members of VMFA323 may be interested in a DVD set put together by a former Death Rattler Thomas Crouson. This is "A pictorial and Video History of Marine Death Rattle Squadron 323" . At the current time there are 4 DVD's 1943-1953 , 1953-1964, 1964-1982, and 2982-Present. These are a collection of pictures and videos from former Rattlers, put together with music. I have a set it is well worth it. If you have any pictures or videos you can send them to Tom and he will add them in. If you are interested in a set send an email to Tom at tc@inreach.com and he will send you a set. A \$20 donation to cover his costs would be appreciated but is not required.



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Marine Outfits are Honored Given Navy Unit Commendations

Marine Air Groups 12 and 36 have been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for their meritorious service in Vietnam. MAG-12 was cited for rendering "consistent, devastating, accurate air support through such operations as *Starlite*, *Harvest Moon*, *Double Eagle*, *Utah*, *Texas* and *Iowa*." MAG-12 operated from Chu Lai May 7, 1965, to April 15, 1966. Personnel attached to and serving with the following units of MAG-12 in the period covered are eligible to wear the ribbon: H&MS-12, MABS-12, Marine Attack Squadrons 211, 214, 223, 224, 225, and 311. MAG-36 was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for its service in operations against VC forces from September 4, 1965, to August 24, 1966. The citation stated in part: The Group.....earned a reputation for all-weather capability, providing effective close air support

REUNION

2009 reunion scheduled for Beaufort SC



Vietnam Files

DEDICATED TO A HERO

Hugh Michael Fanning

*Name: Hugh Michael Fanning
Rank/Branch: O3/US Marine Corps
Unit: 1st Marine Air Wing, Da Nang
Date of Birth: 12 July 1941 (Washington DC)
Home City of Record: Ft. Worth TX (family in OK)
Date of Loss: 31 October 1967
Country of Loss: North Vietnam
Loss Coordinates: 205000N 1061200E (XJ248040)
Status (since 1973): Missing In Action
Category: 2
Acft/Vehicle/Ground: A6A
Other Personnel in Incident: Stephen Kott (remains returned)*

Hugh M. Fanning was born in Washington D.C. July 12, 1941. He lived in New York, where his parents later made their home, and attended college and lived in Dallas, Texas, before he joined the Marine Corps. His wife and children lived in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, when he went to Vietnam as a Marine pilot with the First Marine Air Wing based at Da Nang, South Vietnam. Fanning flew the A6A Intruder, an all-weather, low-altitude attack plane. On October 31, 1967, Capt. Fanning and bombardier/navigator Capt. Stephen J. Kott were sent on a mission over North Vietnam as number two in a flight of two aircraft on a night electronics support mission. Their radio code name was "Oatmeal." At about 1:50 a.m., Fanning indicated he was approaching the target. At 2:02 a.m., the leader observed a bright orange flash in the vicinity of the target area, and in the estimated position of Fanning's aircraft, which he estimated to be about 15 miles east of Hanoi, at an altitude of 100-500 feet. It was believed that Fanning and Kott could have survived the crash of the aircraft, and the two were classified as Missing in Action. The U.S. believed that the Vietnamese could account for them. Several reports surfaced concerning the crash of Fanning's and Kott's plane in the ensuing years, including one account that Kott was killed in the crash, but Fanning was captured and taken away by jeep. The accuracy of these reports is uncertain. In August, 1984, remains were returned by the Vietnamese purported to be those of Fanning and Kott. Mrs. Fanning was glad the years of waiting had finally ended. Her casualty assistance officer assured her that existing dental records of her husband's matched those of the remains, an important means of identification. Moreover, he assured her that her husband had not been wounded in the skull, the focus of a recurring dream that had plagued her for years. The remains were buried with full military honors in Oklahoma City. It was not until 10 months later, when she was first allowed access to her husband's forensic file, that Mrs. Fanning learned that there had been NO skull and NO teeth in the remains purported to be Hugh Fanning! Mrs. Fanning arranged for the remains to be exhumed and examined independently. The examiner concluded that the alleged remains of Hugh Fanning could not have been scientifically identified as his ... or anyone else's. The Kott family has accepted the positive identification of the remains said to be those of Stephen Jay Kott. He has been buried with full military honors. Whether Hugh Fanning died on October 31, 1967, in the crash of his plane, or was taken prisoner, is not known. It can only be known with certainty when proof is obtained of his death, or Major Fanning himself is brought home alive "Meanwhile," Mrs. Fanning says, "My husband may be dead. However, until positive proof is given to me, I must entertain the possibility that he may be alive. "Regardless of my husband's chances, I do believe that live Americans still remain in Southeast Asia. I will continue to search for the truth." Hugh Michael Fanning and Stephen Jay Kott were promoted to the rank of Major during the period they were maintained missing.

It's time we brought our men home.

Marine Corps Hymn



The U.S. Marine Corps is the United States' military band of brothers dedicated to warfighting. The proud Brotherhood of Marines is guided by principles, values, virtues, love of country, and its Warrior Culture. This brotherhood of American Patriots has no song. Instead, Marine Warriors have a *hymn*. When *The Marines' Hymn* is played, United States Marines stand at attention. They silently show their pride in their fellow Marines, their Corps, their Country, their heritage, and their hymn.

The Marines' Hymn is a tribute to Warriors. Marine Warriors stormed fortress Derna, raised the American flag, and gave us "the shores of Tripoli." Marines fought their way into the castle at Chapultepec and gave us the "halls of Montezuma." Marines exist for the purpose of warfighting. Fighting is their role in life. They "fight for right and freedom" and "to keep our honor clean." They fight "in the air, on land, and sea." The Marine Corps is Valhalla for Warriors. U.S. Marines need no *song*. They have a *hymn*.

Ironically, no one knows who wrote the hymn, which was in widespread use by the mid-1800s. Col. A.S. McLemore, USMC, spent several years trying to identify the origin of the tune. In 1878 he told the leader of the Marine Band that the tune had been adopted from the comic opera *Genevieve de Barbant*, by Jaques Offenback. Yet, others believe the tune originated from a Spanish folk song. Whatever! Regardless of its origin, *The Marines' Hymn* has remained a revered icon of the United States Marine Corps for almost 200 years.

In 1929 *The Marines' Hymn* became the *official* hymn of the Corps. Thirteen years later in November 1942 the Commandant approved a change in the words of the first verse, fourth line. Because of the increasing use of aircraft in the Corps, the words were changed to "In the air, on land, and sea." No other changes have been made since that time. When you have attained absolute perfection, there is no need for further modification:



PX News

The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service PX is online so you don't have to wait until the next reunion to get any of the items we sell. We have some new items that I hope everyone will look at and buy. Listed are some of the new items and some of the other items for your review. This is just a sample of what is on the website: http://1stmaw.wamarinesmc.us/mawpx/index.php?main_page=index

New Items:

Challenge coin \$7



FMAW Logo Hat \$18



Hat Doober \$5



Vietnam Necklace \$11



18" or 24"

POW Necklace \$11



18" or 24"

Vietnam Ribbon \$3.50



Vietnam Vet \$3.50



Vietnam Pin \$3.50



Flag Set \$3.50



Marine Corps Pin



Semper Fi Pin \$3.50



Marble Mountain \$3.50



Da Nang Pin \$3.50



Natural Death hats \$18



1st MAWAVNS Pin \$3.50



SM Combat Aircrew Pin \$4



Crew Chief Pins \$3.50



Pilot Pin \$7



Navy Flight Off \$7



U.S.M.C. Pin \$3.50



Vietnam Photos



Bombing of Viet Cong structures along a canal in South Vietnam. 1965



Christmas Special -- Bob Hope and his star-studded cast touched down at Pleiku Air Base, Vietnam, December 19, 1966,



Vietnam. Medical Evacuation. Marines of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, while under heavy fire with NVAs within the DMZ on Operation Hickory III, are carrying one of their fellow Marines to the H-34. 07/29/1967



Vietnam. Two F-4b phantoms of VMFA-542, Marine Aircraft Group-11, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, DaNang RVN, on their way to targets in support of Marines working in Northern I Corps. 01/1969



Marines crossing a small river in Quang Nam Province. The Marines were from Alpha Company 1st Battalion 1st Regiment 1st Marine Division.



Vietnam Wall Photos





REUNION GROUP PICTURE

**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
PO Box 2124
Woodstock, GA 30188**

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.