



THE SCOOP SHEET

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

Issue 34

www.1stmaw.com

Spring 2010

REUNION 2009



Paco and new Marine



Business Meeting



PI Gate

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



On April 17th Phil and myself will be attending The National Marine Corps Council Spring 2010 Meeting and hopefully will meet many connections that will benefit our association's future.

In May, I'll be representing my department for National Police Week in Washington DC and will begin making some arrangements for Reunion 2011. I'll pick Phil, Joe and Rob's memories to make this reunion one of our best . Once again I'll be needing as much help as you Marines can give us, especially you guys in the DC or Virginia area. We can only be as good as we make ourselves . By our next reunion many of us will be retired and won't have to rush home. Please continue to inform us of any family illness or death so our prayers will be with them. Our website has been corrected, thanks to Wayne. Let's add to it with pictures and anything else you feel our members would enjoy. Please support our PX. It's money for our future. I also have Embroidered T-Shirts, Golf Shirts, Sweat Shirts, and Flight Jackets with our association logo and the profits will benefit our Scholarship Fund. If anyone is available for our annual Wreath Laying Ceremony on Memorial Day in Washington, DC, please let us know .

God bless us all & SEMPER FI !!!

Sgt Frank PACO Arce
President First MAW Association

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.com. Subject should say Firstmaw.

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.

REUNION VIDEO

We have a Reunion Video available for a \$10.00 donation to our Scholarship fund. If you would like a copy of the video please contact our President Frank "Paco" Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com (646) 752-0447 or Al Frater teanal@optonline.net 201-906-1197. If anyone has photo's of videos of the reunion please contribute it to the association.

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 Airwing 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. Any member may also post comments and photos.

John Newport

Our longtime membership chairman John Newport has recently lost his longtime wife Sheila. The association would like to convey their condolences to John and his family. Below is the obituary.

Sheila Newport

NEWPORT, Sheila Sheila Honea Newport of Woodstock, GA was born October 25, 1943 and passed away January 9, 2010. She was a wonderful person, a very loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and cousin. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Sheila stayed very busy and was involved in many activities. She was president of staff at the NCO wives club, she worked at Camp HM Smith in Hawaii and was founder/director of Marine Corp Air Station Catholic Chapel CCD program, founder/director of Marine Corp Air Station New River Booster Club, founder/director of Marine Corp Air Station girls softball program, baseball commissioner and umpire in the Little League baseball league in Jacksonville, NC, she was a girl scout leader and a cub scout den mother. Sheila was past president of SCRA basketball and a SCRA basketball coach, she was also a longtime SCRA softball president. Sheila and her husband are longtime members of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Woodstock. She is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, John Patrick Newport, Jr., son, J. Pat Newport and wife, Alicia, daughters, Kelly Crenshaw and late husband Edward, Terri Harris and husband, Alan, and Erin Starr and husband, Ashley, mother, Beatrice Honea, brother, Tim Honea, 13 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and her pet dog, Sugar. Sheila is preceded in death by her father, Hugh T. Honea, brother, Mark Honea, and sister, Becky Baker. A funeral mass will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 10:30 AM at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Woodstock, Father Jaime Rivera officiating. Interment will follow at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA at 1:00 PM. The family will receive friends Monday, January 11, 2010 from 2 until 4 and 6 until 8 PM at the funeral home. Those who wish may visit [www. MeM. Com](http://www.MeM.Com) to sign the guest registry. Woodstock Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. 770-926-3107

Legislation would change the name for the Department of the Navy to add "and Marine Corps".

Two bills, HR 24 introduced by Congressman Walter B. Jones of North Carolina and S 504 sponsored by Senator Pat Roberts, a former Marine from Kansas, that would also change the title of the Secretary of the Navy to include and Marine Corps, were the subject of a news conference held on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC in late February by the bills sponsors and the Marine Corps League.

The news conference was attended by a number of high ranking retired Marines including former Commandant General Al Gray and retired CENTCOM Commander Marine General Anthony Zinni, both of whom spoke in support the legislation. It also featured endorsements of the legislation by a wounded Marine Iraq War veteran, the mother of a Marine whose son was killed in Iraq, and retired Marine Gunny R. Lee Ermey, known for his electrifying performance as the DI in the film "Full Metal Jacket".

According to Congressman Jones the legislation, which has 386 cosponsors in the House of Representatives, "is not about changing the responsibilities of the secretary (of the Navy), reallocating resources between the Navy and Marine Corps or altering the course of their missions, rather it is about showing the nation the true meaning of the department and recognizing the overall importance of the Marine Corps to our national security."

Details on the legislation and what Marines can do to support its passage can be found on the web site www.MarineCause.org.

Marines and Kids

By David H. Hugel

Although known for their well-deserved reputation as fierce warriors, Marines have also long been known for having a soft spot in their hearts for kids. The Vietnam War was no exception to this rule. Whether providing medical services to the children of Vietnamese soldiers, distributing toys at a local orphanage or hosting orphans on base at Christmas, Marines and their Navy shipmates engaged in many activities throughout the year that benefitted the kids in that war torn country.

One example of this generosity occurred during the summer of 1963 when a call went out from the Catholic chaplain for assistance in distributing toys donated by a stateside charity to boys and girls living at an orphanage run by an order of Catholic nuns in Da Nang. Several Marines from the airbase volunteered to help load the toys, which had been flown down from Japan, into a truck that they drove to the orphanage and helped hand out. From the smiles on their faces, there was no doubt that the toys were gratefully received by the children, many of whom were of mixed heritage, undoubtedly a byproduct of the longtime French presence in that country.

Christmas day of 1963 provided another opportunity for Marines to open their hearts to the local orphans, by inviting a group of children to spend the day at the Da Nang airbase. Once they arrived Marines entertained them with games and a static display of equipment, the most popular of which was an H-34 helicopter that had earlier landed on a softball field near the barracks area. Kids lined up for an opportunity to sit in the cargo/troop compartment of the aircraft, with a few lucky ones being hoisted up to sit behind the controls in the pilot and copilot seats. The children were then taken to the barracks where Marines presented them with toys wrapped with traditional Christmas gift paper, after which they all went to the base mess hall for an old fashioned Christmas dinner. The food may have been new to most of the kids, but from the smiles on their faces you could tell it was truly appreciated. Oh yeah, the fact that unlike Marines they were allowed to have cans of soda with their meal may have contributed to their delight. More than a few Marines had a lump in their throat that day, particularly those with children of their own, as they thought of their own families back in the states on this traditional family Holiday.

According to a news article written by LCpl Dick Dawson of the Shufly Informational Services Office, Navy doctor Lt. Bruce Farrell started a clinic during the summer of 1963 to treat the dependants of Vietnamese soldiers at a base just five minutes from the Da Nang airbase. He also set up another clinic in the village of Nam Dong, a brief helicopter flight from Da Nang. When Lt. Farrell was killed that fall while participating in a search and rescue mission, his medical colleagues picked up the mission he began and continued to provide medical services to those who might not otherwise receive such care, particularly the children at both locations. Doctors Ronald Swanger and Thomas Ciesla, both lieutenants in the Navy Medical Corps, accompanied by a rotating crew of volunteer corpsmen visited the nearby clinic twice a week and the more remote one whenever they could catch a flight heading that way.

The preceding are but three examples of Marine and Navy personnel volunteering to bring a little joy and much needed medical services to the children of Vietnam. These acts may have gone unnoticed by the media in their coverage of the war, but they are something we as Vietnam veterans should know about and be proud of.



Children from the Da Nang orphanage line up to climb on board one of HMM-361's H-34 helicopters, a popular attraction when they visited the Marine airbase on Christmas Day



One of the boys from the orphanage proudly shows off the new car he received as a Christmas gift from Shufly Marines during his visit to the airbase.



Marines take a break from their day to day routine to host local orphans for a traditional



Shufly's Catholic Chaplain assisted by Marine volunteers distributes toys to boys and girls at the Da Nang orphanage run by Catholic nuns.



The smile on her face speaks for itself as one of orphans happily embraces her new baby doll distributed by Marines from the Da Nang airbase.



Lt. Thomas K. Ciesla, MC, USN, examines the child of an ARVN soldier at a clinic near the Marine Da Nang airbase as an interpreter explains the diagnosis and proposed treatment to the child's father and the Vietnamese nurse assisting him. The clinic was established during the summer of 1963 to provide medical care for Viet-

**MABS-16 Marines made life livable at the Da Nang airbase.
By David H. Hugel**

In a previous article we talked about the Operation Shufly Security Detachment that protected the barracks compound and flight line from hostile Viet Cong forces lurking in the area, but they were but one element of base support activities provided by the officers and men of MABS-16 Sub Unit 2 that kept the Da Nang airbase operating under often challenging conditions.

These too often unsung Marines built and maintained base facilities, provided our water, electricity and communications, cooked and served our food, and tended to our health and recreational needs. In a nutshell, they made life livable in that hot, steamy country where many of us served during the early 1960s.

When Marines moved north to Da Nang from Soc Trang in September 1962, they inherited facilities on a former French army base, a short drive from an old airfield they shared with U. S. and Vietnamese Air Forces. The living compound consisted of a number of pale yellow stucco buildings with red tile roofs, that housed barracks, heads, showers, offices, a mess hall, chapel, medical and recreational facilities. It was a great improvement over the tent city where Marines lived for the several months after setting up operations at Soc Trang in April 1963.

One of the first challenges facing the MABS utilities section was making the old buildings habitable, and building new ones to accommodate activities on the busy airbase. Unlike the older stucco buildings, the new ones were wooden frame structures built on a concrete slab, covered with corrugated galvanized steel roofs and sides. Two notable additions built during summer of 1963 were a guard shack on the flight line, and a new B.O.Q., built to alleviate overcrowding within the officer quarters. When the structure was complete the utility unit held a brief ceremony at which they turned over a symbolic key to Operation Shufly commanding officer, Col. Andre Gomez. With a touch of Marine humor they posted a sign near the building's entrance dubbing it the "DA NANG HILTON."

Unlike a stateside base where Marines could plug into existing water and electrical systems, in Vietnam the base had to be self-sufficient, generating its own electricity and pumping its own water. The utilities section provided these services as well as an internal base communications system that was tied in with the radio communications network connecting Marines with more distant facilities in Okinawa and Japan.

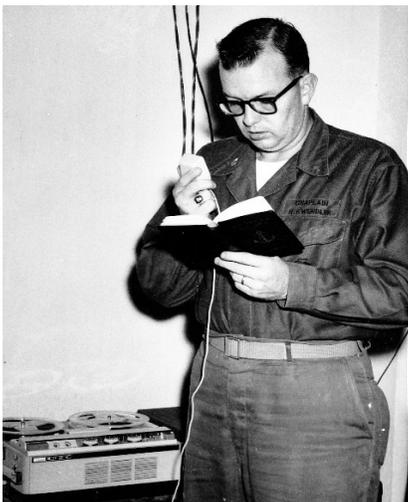
Our power needs were met through the use of three portable diesel generators that ran day and night. For the most part the generators were dependable, but they periodically broke down, shutting off the electricity to various areas of the base. This was usually only a minor annoyance, but on occasion it did result in a greater inconvenience for those of us dependent on electrical power. It also regularly disrupted one of our most eagerly awaited recreational activities - the nightly free movie shown in a makeshift theater. Obviously the movie would stop when the power went out, but that wasn't the real problem. The big problem was the power surge that occurred when the power was restored. If the projectionist didn't promptly shut down the projector when the power went off, the surge that occurred when the electricity came back on blew out the projector bulb. One night this happened three times, blowing out all the spare bulbs on hand and ending our night at the movies. While we could have gotten more bulbs from a nearby Army or Air Force base and finished the movie the next night, in this case "The Bridges of Toko Ri," was on a tight distribution schedule among the various military bases in the area, and we never did see the end of that movie. It wasn't until many years later when the public could rent films on videotape, that I saw the end of the movie.

One of the base's persistent problems was a shallow well that limited water availability to only a few hours each day. To solve this problem, Marines brought in a Seabee well drilling team from Okinawa that worked with the utility section to drill a new deep water well. The new well, that became operational in late November 1963, was more than 400 deep and provided an ample water supply for the base's needs.

Some may disparage Marine Corps cooks and the chow they served up, but those of us living at the Da Nang airbase during Operation Shufly had nothing to complain about. The cooks did a great job of keeping our meals nutritious, and to the extent they could, varied the menu. As a special treat they grilled steaks every Sunday and of course served turkey dinners with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The MABS unit also included the Navy personnel assigned to provide for our health and spiritual needs, the doctors, corpsmen and chaplain. Our Navy medical team was indispensable to maintaining the good health of Shufly Marines. They were also often called upon to provide emergency medical aid to other US service personnel wounded in the field, and on occasion they put their lives on the line to do so. During the time I was there we lost a doctor and two corpsmen killed on an ill-fated SAR to recover a downed Air Force pilot. Our chaplain conducted protestant services at the small base chapel every Sunday, after which he drove over to the nearby Air Force compound to hold services there. Along the way he would pass the Air Force chaplain who was headed for the Marine base where he would conduct mass for Catholic Marines and sailors. Every evening the chaplain also read an inspirational "Thought for the Day," followed by a brief prayer, over the base P.A. system.

There were many other services provided by MABS squadron members, from running the base photo lab to providing the administrative and clerical support for maintaining our records, process our orders and ensure we were paid. MABS Marines also ran the PX, post office, and special services that provided books, movies as well as athletic equipment and facilities for our recreational needs during off duty hours. In short the MABS-16 Sub Unit #2 Marines and sailors provided all the services essential to sustaining Marine Corps operations in Vietnam. We may never have expressed our appreciation at the time; this article is an attempt to thank them all for what they did during those early years of Operation Shufly.



Chaplain Herman Wendler read a daily "Thought for the Day" over the base P.A. system each evening.



The Shufly utility section presents a symbolic key for the new B. O. Q., christened the "DANANG HILTON," to Shufly commanding officer, Col. Andre Gomez.



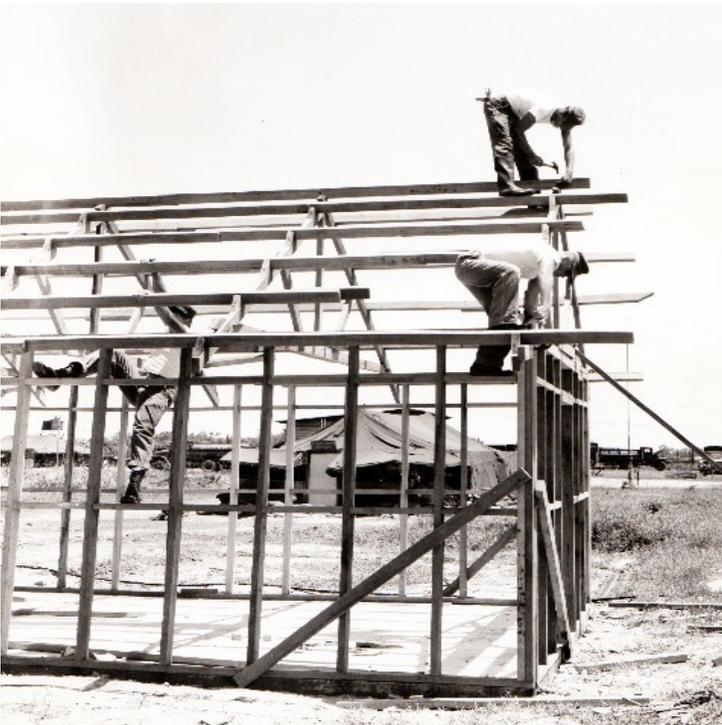
The three portable diesel generators maintained by the utilities section, ran day and night to provide the base with electrical



Marine Air Base Squadron Sixteen (MABS-16), headquartered at MCAF Futema, Okinawa, was the parent unit for Sub Unit # 2, deployed to Operation Shufly to provide the services to maintain Marine Corps operations in Vietnam. The sub unit didn't have its own patch.



Aerial view of Operation Shufly barracks compound, summer 1963. At the bottom of the photo is the barbed wire perimeter of the base beyond, which ran a Vietnamese road and Dog Patch. The MABB -16 Sub Unit #2 Marines lived in the barracks on this side of the base with the resident helicopter squadron quartered on the far side of the compound closest to the flightline. The large buildings in the center were the B.O.Q.s on the left, mess hall and recreation building on the right. The buildings on left and right borders of the photo generally housed offices, the dispensary, P.X., post office and



Utilities crew frames out a new guard shack on flightline.



Operation Shufly C.O., Col. Andre Gomez, next to SSgt Nicholes the Utility Section chief, prepares to throw the switch activating the new well dug by Navy Seabees to alleviate the base's persistent lack of water. Lt. Col. Earl Cassidy MABS 16, Sub Unit # 2 C.O. is on the far left be-

MORE of REUNION 2009



PX News

Here are some of the items we have at your First MAWVNS PX. Help support your association.
http://1stmaw.wamarinesmc.us/mawpx/index.php?main_page=index

Challenge Coin \$7



FMAW Logo hat: \$18



Hat Doober:



Vietnam Necklace: \$11



POW Necklace: \$11



Vietnam Ribbon: \$3.50 '64-'75



Vietnam Vet: \$3.50



Vietnam Pin: \$3.50



Flag set: \$3.50



Marine Corps Pin: \$3.50



Semper Fi Pin: \$3.50



Marble Mountain: \$3.50



Danang Pin: \$3.50



Natural Death Hats \$18



1stMAWVNS pin:\$3.50



Sm Combat Aircrew Pin: \$4



Crew Chief Pin: \$3.50



Pilot Pin: \$7



Navy Flight Off: \$7



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



Combat Action Rb:



MCorps: \$3.50



First MAW: \$18.00



FMF Corpsman:





**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
567 Rivercrest Drive
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.