



# THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 38

*Information For And About Members Of The First  
Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service*  
[www.1stmaw.com](http://www.1stmaw.com)

Spring 2011



Gen. James Conway and his wife Annette leave the 8<sup>th</sup> and "I" Marine Barracks parade field at the conclusion of the October Passage of Command ceremony.



Guests mingle at a reception in the garden of the Commandant's House following the Passage of Command ceremony.



Complements of Pop-a Smoke posted by Dave Hugel

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...**



Semper Fi Marines ! Less than 6 months to go before we meet in Washington. , DC for reunion 2011. Hope all of you are getting the word out to all our members and former members .

We seem to always hear from a former member on or after the reunion and regrets of not being with us. In the next few weeks I plan to reach out and try to contact many past reunion friends and maybe a call will renew their interest in our association. Our association can only survive with all of us being involved . I have tried ( and still working ) on making this reunion our best , But I can't do it by myself. As a life charter member and 1 of only 2 of Us ( Rob Waters being the other ) that have been to Every Reunion since 1988. I know that many of us wait until the last minute to make reservations and attend. It makes planning events a problem. Buses must be reserved and once reserved must be paid in advance .

Many of us have been blessed by our God to reach that magic retirement check and therefore have a bit more time to spend enjoying our comrades in arms from a time and place only in our memories Still hope to have an informal dinner on Thursday and Sunday night with as many of us as possible I will again be attending the spring meeting of The National Marine Corps Council on April 30 in Quantico .

Hope we all Remember our lost brothers and sisters on Memorial Day .  
God bless them all and may they all rest In peace forever ! May he bless all our troops in harms way

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. Any member may also post comments and photos.

## It's official; we are all Marines for life

For years there has been a debate over what to call Marines no longer on active duty. Those who are retired have traditionally been referred to retired Marines, while those who served a tour or more but who left before retiring have been called former Marines. I personally like the phrase Gen. Leonard Chapman used in a letter I received from him years ago when he was Commandant, which he closed by saying, it was always good to hear from "Marines no longer in uniform."

All these terms are now passé according to recent comments by the Marine Corps' new Commandant, Gen. James Amos. Speaking at a town hall meeting soon after becoming Commandant, Gen. Amos declared: "A Marine is a Marine. I set that policy two weeks ago - there's no such thing as a former Marine. You're a Marine, just in a different uniform and you're in a different phase of your life. But you'll always be a Marine because you went to Parris Island, San Diego or the hills of Quantico. There's no such thing as a former Marine."



## Eyewitness to Marine Corps History By David H. Hugel

On a sunny fall day last October history was made at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C. Gen. James Amos became the first Naval Aviator to assumed command of the United States Marine Corps, as it's 40th Commandant.

Several former Commandants joined numerous Washington officials and dignitaries for the ceremony at which Secretary of Defense Robert Gates was the featured guest. During his remarks, Secretary Gates honored out going Commandant Gen. James Conway for his forty years of service to our country and Marine Corps, and welcomed Gen. Amos to his new post. A transfer of the Battle Color of the Marine Corps carried by Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Carlton Kent, symbolized the transfer of command from Conway to Amos. Following a Pass in Review by the assembled troops and Drum and Bugle Corps, Gen Conway and his wife Annett were serenaded off the Parade Field to the tune "Waltzing Matilda," in recognition of his former service as Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. A reception followed for the invited guests in the garden of the Commandant's House.



The Passage of Command ceremony began with a band concert by the Marine Drum & Bugle Corps.



Secretary of Defense Robert Gates praised Gen. James Conway for his devoted service to his country and welcomed

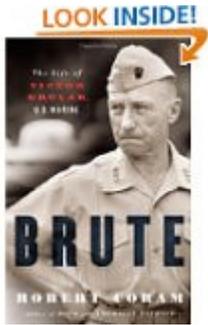


Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Carlton Kent, carries the Battle Color of the Marine Corps, signifying the transfer of command from Gen. Conway to Gen. Amos.

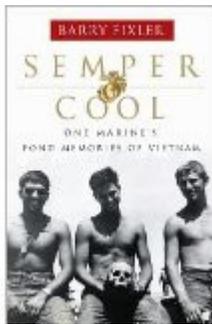


Gen. James Amos addresses the distinguished guests attending the Change of Command ceremony during which he became the Marine Corps' new Commandant.

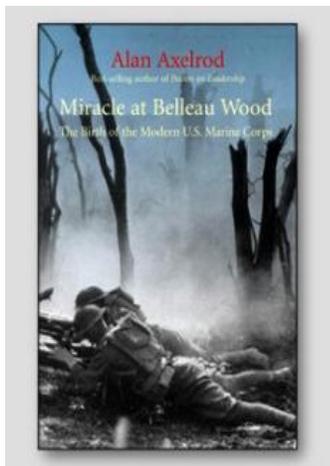
# USMC BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



"Brute" examines the life and career of U.S. Marine Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, the complex and controversial officer whose role in shaping the modern Marine Corps was as large as his stature — 5-foot-4 — was short. This is well worth the read



Semper Cool: One Marine's Fond Memories of Vietnam is the true-life memoir of a Vietnam veteran. Author Barry Fixler enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a teenager; he experienced terrible violence and hand-to-hand combat at the Siege of Khe Sanh, and gives the reader a boots-on-the-ground view of war. Yet he had positive as well as negative experiences, and ultimately the hardships he endured shaped him into a patriotic American



In "Miracle at Belleau Wood: The Birth of the Modern U.S. Marine Corps," Alan Axelrod has demonstrated his mastery at portraying battle at its most brutal and bloodiest. The fight for Belleau Wood is like a bayonet in the belly every step of the way.

The distant mirror that Alan Axelrod shows us reflects the fearful face of life and death in World War I. Called "The Great War," it was meant to be the "war to end all wars." It was neither, and into that hell went the 4th Marine Brigade, and against all odds, it turned the tide of an enemy onslaught that might have changed the course of history.

## A Photo Tour of Vietnam Today By David H. Hugel\*

Have you every wondered what it's like in Vietnam today? I know I have; I've even thought about going back to see how the old Da Nang airbase and city have changed since I was stationed there nearly 50 years ago.

Like many things in life I haven't gotten around to it yet, but recently I had an opportunity to see some of the sights in Vietnam today through the eyes of a friend, Ron Zaczek, who has made that journey not once, but three times since 1996.

Ron was a Huey crew chief who flew with VMO-3 out of Phu Bai in 1967. Ron and I met at a reception that was part of the celebration for the opening of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in 2006. After several conversations with him, I was inspired to write an article for Leatherneck about his fascinating story that is scheduled to run in upcoming issues of Leatherneck this summer.

Ron, like a growing number of Vietnam veterans, did more than think about his days in Vietnam, he booked a trip for himself and his wife to visit there in 1996, and returned in 2007 and 2008. The photos that follow were taken by Ron during his 2007 and 2008 trips and offer a picture of a country that has changed a great deal since we were all stationed there back in the 1960s and 1970s.

While itineraries may vary slightly, most commercials tours of Vietnam are about two weeks in duration and begin with a flight from the states to a major Asian city like Hong Kong or Seoul, Korea. From there it's off to Hanoi for a couple days then on to cities in the south like Da Nang, Phu Bai, Hue and Dong Ha, with appropriate side trips to nearby tourist and battle sites like Marble Mountain, China Beach, the Hue Citadel, Khe Sanh Combat Base, Conn Thien and other places so familiar to Marines who served in Vietnam.

For those thinking about making the journey, Ron offers a word of warning, not to expect to see the country and bases as you remember them. Much of that has been the torn down and replaced by modern buildings or left to be reclaimed by the tropical foliage. As one example of how much the country has changed, the 2008 population of Da Nang was 900,000 people. He found the Vietnamese to be truly friendly people who like Americans, accounted for perhaps by the fact that a large portion of the population was born after the war ended. Ron cautions, however, not to take the official tourist information signs too seriously as the Communist government often provides its own propogandized version of the war highlighting their accomplishments, which in many cases are grossly distorted.

For anyone interested in taking a tour of Vietnam, Ron recommends either of the two tour companies he used, Military Historical Tours ([www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com); 800-722-950) or Vietnam Battlefield Tours ([www.vietnambattlefieldtours.com](http://www.vietnambattlefieldtours.com) 877-321-9277). More details on upcoming tours and prices, can be found on their web sites or by calling their toll free numbers.

\* David H. Hugel was in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960-64, including a nine-month tour in Vietnam as a combat photographer, while serving with the 1st MAW as a part of Operation Shufly. He is a life member of the First Marine Aircraft Wing Association -Vietnam Service and a member of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's Founders Group. Today, he is a freelance writer based near Annapolis, Md, who contributes regularly to Leatherneck and other publications.



**Aerial view of Da Nang with Marble Mountain in background.**



**Dog Patch**



**Marble Mountain, China Beach area**



**Pool deck view from Marble Mountain resort hotel**



**Highway 1 Phu Bai**



**Phu Bai International Airport built around the deactivated tower used by Marines during the Vietnam War. The grassy area in front of the terminal was the VMO-3 operations area in 1967**

## SCHOLARSHIP

The First MAW Association will award up to five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion 2011

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

Be a FIRSTMAW ASSN. regular member in good standing (i.e., dues are up to date), their spouse, dependent, or direct descendent. Further, the member must have a minimum of one-year membership as of June 1, 2011.

**-OR**

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

**-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.

Applicant must be presently 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:

- 1. What the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Means to Me.**
- 2. What all Americans can do to solve the energy crisis**
- 3. How I plan to use my education to aide society**
- 4. Why I support our Marines who are in harms 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 applicants name on the essay. Attach a separate sheet of paper containing applicant's name, member's name and membership number, address, and phone number.

A letter from a counselor or other school official verifying that applicant is currently enrolled. The letter must be on school letterhead.

A copy of student transcripts

The essay must be postmarked no later than August 30 2011.

**Mail the essay to:**

First MAW Association – Vietnam Service  
c/o Jerry Sergeant, Treasurer  
5282 Ousterhout Drive  
Sterling, MI 48659

**REUNION 2011**  
**REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT**  
**WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE**  
**Thursday October, 6<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday October, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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 (for name tag use) \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY (Name & number) \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET BUFFET (PERFERRED ENTRÉE MEAL) (Number) BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ FISH \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES :** HOSPITALITY ROOM, CHINA BEACH NIGHT and BANQUET MEAL

NUMBER ATTENDING REUNION \_\_\_\_\_ X \$165.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

REUNION TEE-SHIRT \_\_\_\_\_ X \$17.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ SHIRT SIZE(s) \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_ 3XL

SUNDAY BRUNCH/FAREWELL \_\_\_\_\_ X \$23.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY National Marine Corps Museum Trip  
Leaves at 9:00am NUMBER for BUS TRIP \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 (THIS IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH & FINALIZE SHIRT ORDERS, MEALS, TRANSPORTATION, NAME TAGS etc.) ADDITIONAL COST WILL BE INCURRED AFTER SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:  
(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 \$99.00 + tax, and a non-valet parking rate of \$10.00 per day (for guests) has been negotiated with the Double Tree Hotel. These rates are in effect until September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**For hotel reservations Contact: DoubleTree Hotel at (800) 222-TREE (8733) or**  
**(703) 416-4100 or Web at: [www.doubletree.hilton.com](http://www.doubletree.hilton.com)**  
300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202

Reunion participation is for paid members and registered guests. Membership is available to all qualified individuals. Please check the association's website at [www.lstmaw.com](http://www.lstmaw.com) for membership details and application.

## REUNION 2011

Reunion 2011 will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City VA. from Thursday October 6 until Sunday October 9th 2011. Room reservation should be made directly with Hotel at 703-416-4100 . The registration form for the reunion is on the previous page. We will be making a trip to the Museum on Friday where we will also do a memorial ceremony at the Chapel . The cost of the Buses to the museum are yet to be determined.

Thursday October 6th Registration all day and free time

Friday October 7th Memorial service at Museum Chapel at 10:00  
Followed by a tour of Museum Lunch on your own  
At Museum Mess Hall or Tuns Tavern

Friday October 7th China Beach Night at 18:00  
Optional: comedy club located in the Hotel show  
Will end at 21:00 \$13 for us web site is  
[http:// thecrankstore.homestead.com/TheComedyZone.html](http://thecrankstore.homestead.com/TheComedyZone.html)

Saturday October 8th Business meeting at 09:00

Saturday October 8th Banquet at 19:00

Sunday October 9th Farewell breakfast 10:00

Additions and changes still need to be made let us know if you would like a Friday breakfast.



**Doubletree Hotel Crystal City**



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –  
Vietnam Service  
19605 SE 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.