

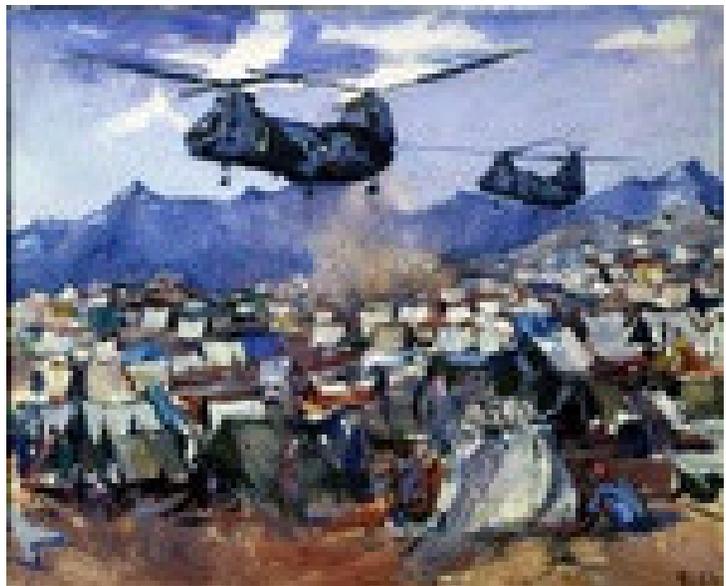
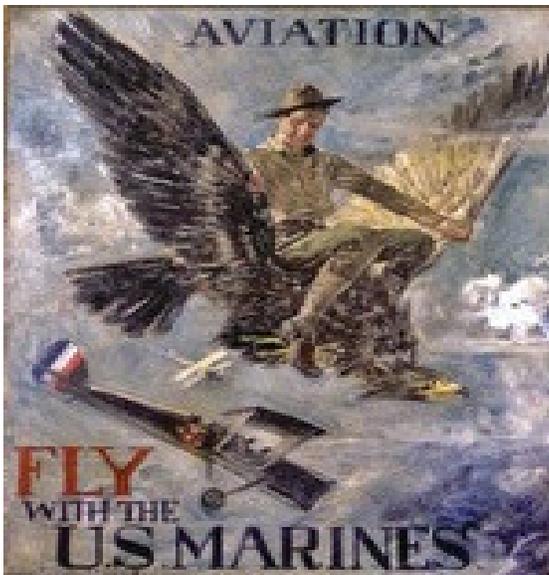


# THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 41

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

Spring 2012



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



Semper Fi Marines !

As Summer begins, I and our entire board wish you and yours a safe and healthy summer.

In May Al and I were honored to attend the National Marine Corps Council meeting at The Pentagon. We had breakfast in our Commandant's Dining Room. Saw His Office and also met Lt General Willie Williams The Chief of staff.

We were Informed that 2013 is the 60th anniversary of The Korean War ( [www.koreanwar.defense.gov](http://www.koreanwar.defense.gov) ) many don't know that Korean vets ( or their surviving family ) can travel back to Korea, paid by the Korean Government. Some of my former Court Officer partners have received their fathers and grandfathers Medals and Awards through some forms I have, If interested, contact me for the forms. I can get all your SRB and medals if you lost them.

Our Air Wing Commandant General James Amos advises us that our Corps is still in Good hands and in good shape for our future. The Wounded Warrior Regiment is doing a great job in rehabbing our wounded Marines. Unlike our wounded Nam vets, these returning wounded vets are being treated for injuries on their bodies and In their mind. They are also looking for A Few good Men to volunteer in their program. Check with your local VA for more information or [www.woundedwarriorregiment.org](http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org).

On Memorial day I attended the ceremony at The Wall. I couldn't lay our wreath, because The Wall was locked down ( as always happens when our President. visits any memorial ). Once the president was gone and The ceremony finished I found our wreath and posted pictures on our Facebook page. I know it's politics, but His words were very touching. Never again should our nation treat our vets the way we were treated. Thanks Mr President. Our Walls 30th anniversary is 4 months away and we still have a few rooms left at The DoubleTree in Crystal City ( site of Our last Reunion ) for our first vet day and USMC birthday gathering in a few years. On September 1st any rooms not reserved will be given ( at their expense ) to Marine Nam vets ( A few have asked me already ) . We plan our cake cutting ceremony about 2000 on November 10th in the hospitality room ( The Jefferson room , our reunion hospitality room ! ) It would be great to have a few good men at Our wreath laying ceremony on Veterans Day at The Wall !!!

SEMPER FI !!!

## 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.

## Finding a Home for a Vietnam War Souvenir By David H. Hugel

The mission of Marines stationed at the Da Nang airbase in 1963 was providing helicopter airlift support for ARVN troops operating in Vietnam's mountainous "I" Corps Tactical Zone, which included the country's five most northern provinces.

Following a resupply mission to an ARVN outpost in the mountains and a nearby Montagnard village, one of the pilots I knew returned with a large crossbow he had bought as a souvenir from one of the villagers. Intrigued with the primitive handmade weapon, I negotiated a swap for the crossbow.

The crossbow had a wood stock and bow (that measures 68 inches in length) with a split bamboo bowstring lashed together with some type of fiber cord. It was armed by pulling back the bowstring along the stock and attaching it to a trigger mechanism, made of some kind of hardwood. To fire the weapon an arrow, made of sharpened bamboo slivers with fibrous feathers (each arrow was 16-17 inches long), was placed in the track on the stock, which was released by pulling the trigger.

Eager to test my new treasure, I went out behind our barracks with a couple buddies and fired several arrows into a stack of sandbags. The results surprised us as the arrows penetrated the sandbags about 5 inches from a distance of 8 to 10 feet. Knowing that it would be difficult to take the crossbow with me when I changed duty stations, I disassembled it and shipped it home.

I have kept the crossbow as a souvenir for nearly half a century; however, after moving to a smaller home, I began looking for a suitable permanent home for it. I made inquiries at several museums none of which were interested. Hearing that there was a large Vietnamese Montagnard community in Charlotte, North Carolina, and knowing that my wife and I would be visiting her sister there over last year during the Thanksgiving holiday, I asked my sister-in-law to see if she could locate an institution in Charlotte interested in displaying the crossbow at a Vietnamese community center or cultural institution.

After a few phone calls, she located a Vietnamese gentleman who works with the Charlotte Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Office and made arrangements for me to meet with him to discuss donating the crossbow. Being delayed by holiday traffic I had to cancel our planned meeting Wednesday evening, but he graciously agreed to meet me at my hotel Thanksgiving morning. The gentleman's name was Gull R'Com, who told me he had served as an interpreter for a U. S. Special Forces unit during the war. He was delighted to accept the gift, which he assured me would be displayed in the new community center run by the Charlotte Diocese on the grounds of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

After all these years, I'm glad that the crossbow could be returned to the Vietnamese Montagnard community where I hope that it serves as a reminder of their cultural heritage.



Cpl Dave Hugel test fires his Montagnard cross bow into sandbags behind his barracks at the Da Nang airbase during the summer of 1963. LCpl Bill Speckles, left and an unidentified Marine watch and later took a couple shots themselves.



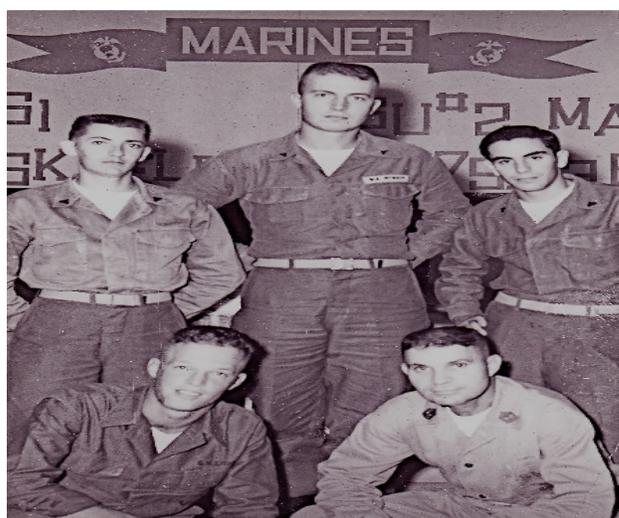
Dave Hugel presents the Montagnard crossbow he brought home from Vietnam to Mr. Gull R'Com for display at the refugee community center of the Charlotte North Carolina Catholic Diocese, Thanksgiving morning 2011.

## SHUFLY Marines Reunited at Quantico Seminar

Two Marines who served together with the 1<sup>st</sup> MAW during the early days of the Vietnam War were recently reunited at a program sponsored by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Marine Corps deployment to Vietnam, code named SHUFLY.

Dave Hugel, long-time 1<sup>st</sup> MAW Association member and contributor to The Scoop Sheet, met Wayne McNeir at an event preceding a panel discussion at the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia. During their tours as part of the MABS-16 sub unit at the Da Nang airbase, McNeir was with a communications unit while Hugel worked in the airbase photo lab. The two had not seen one another since 1963, when they were in Vietnam.

Upon meeting, they swapped sea stories about their experiences in Vietnam, and tried to recall the names of Marines in the photo that McNeir brought with him. The photo was of five Marines from Baltimore who posed together at the 1963 Marine Corps Birthday celebration at the DaNang airbase. The only name they could agree upon was 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Clayton Dobbs, who was serving as the SHUFLY Sergeant Major at the time. Anyone who recognizes the other Marines in the photo are asked to notify The Scoop Sheet editor.



Wayne McNeir is standing in the center of the photo with Hugel standing on the right of and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Clayton Dobbs is kneeling on the right of the front row.

Wayne McNeir and Dave Hugel are reunited at the April seminar at the National Museum of the Marine Corps

# a video of this can be viewed at [HTTP//www.marines.mil/community/pages/operationshufly.aspx](http://www.marines.mil/community/pages/operationshufly.aspx)

## SNAKE FLAG By TC Crouson

This VMFA-323 squadron flag flew over the squadron hangar in 1967 through 1969. The flag was made out of an old parachute in the squadron Seat Shop. The snake was designed by Milt Smith (Hydraulics Shop) and was painted on the tail rudder of all squadron F4 Phantoms during that period. When VMFA-323 rotated back to the states in 1969 Captain Gene Batterman got possession of the flag. Captain Batterman has since passed away. His daughter sold it at a yard sale to Roger Sala who served in the Navy during Vietnam on River Boats. Roger donated it back to VMFA-323 where it rightfully belongs.

Presentation of this Snake flag was made on 23 September 2011 by Thomas C. "TC" Crouson and Lloyd Welling on behalf of all Snakes who served in VMFA-323 during the Vietnam War.



Lt to Rt:

LtCol Jason Woodworth Commanding Officer of VMFA-323, Lloyd Welling, TC Crouson and LtCol William Swan (outgoing Commander).

## FLY Marines– The Centennial of Marine Aviation: 1912-2012 opens at the National Air and Space Museum

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum will present "Fly Marines! The Centennial of Marine Corps Aviation: 1912-2012," an exhibition consisting of 91 works of art selected from the Marine Corps Art Program. Originally established as the Marine Corps Combat Art Program in 1942 to "keep Americans informed about what 'their Marines' were doing at home and overseas," the collection now consists of more than 8,000 works and is managed by the National Museum of the Marine Corps, which partnered with the National Air and Space Museum to produce the exhibition. The year-long exhibition, which coincides with the national observance of the centennial, opens Jan. 14.

The works on display range from art for recruitment posters to works by master aviation artists R.G. Smith and Keith Ferris, who painted the mural "Fortresses Under Fire" that serves as a backdrop for the museum's World War II gallery, as well as Robert McCall, better known for his aerospace art and his murals at the entrance of the museum. Subject matter includes important historical moments, portraits of key figures and combat scenes—many painted by participants who witnessed the events. John Glenn, one of the best-known marine aviators, is featured in two portraits—a canvas by Bruce Stevenson that shows him as a young Mercury astronaut and a watercolor by Henry Casselli of him as part of the STS-95 crew—as well as a bronze bust from 1968 by Felix W. De Weldon, the sculptor who created the Iwo Jima Memorial.

The exhibition traces the history of Marine Corps aviation from its origins, starting with the poster art for "Fly with the U.S. Marines" (1920) by leading American artist and illustrator Howard Chandler Christy and a depiction of the first Marine aviator, Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham flying a Wright B-1 float plane in 1912 by Col. Horace Avery Chenoweth, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. It includes scenes of combat from World War I up to the conflict in Afghanistan; as well as objects from the collections of both museums that provide human and historical context, such as uniforms, squadron patches and flight suits.

The [National Air and Space Museum](#) building on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., is located at Sixth Street and Independence Avenue S.W. The museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is located in Chantilly, Va., near Washington Dulles International Airport. Both facilities are open daily from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. (closed Dec. 25). Admission is free, but there is a \$15 fee for parking at the Udvar-Hazy Center.



## Commandant Leads Centennial Celebration of Marine Corp Aviation By David H. Hugel

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta joined Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marine Aviation at a recent ceremony in Arlington, Virginia. During his remarks, Secretary Panetta made note of the fact that General Amos was the first aviator to lead the Marine Corps during it's long history.

The ceremony included a concert by the Marine Band, Pass in Review by of Marines from the 8<sup>th</sup> & Eye, Washington Marine Barracks and Drum & Bugle Corps. Following a speech highlighting the accomplishments of Marine aviators over the past 100 years, Secretary Panetta and General Amos laid a wreath at the Marine Corps War Memorial honoring all Marine Corps aviators who have given their lives in service to our country over the past century. As the ceremony concluded there was a fly over by two waves of current Marine Corps helicopter and fixed wing aircraft.

The ceremony attracted numerous Washington dignitaries, and both active duty and retired Marine aviators, as well as past Commandants and Assistant Commandants. Among them was former Assistant Commandant General Terry Dake, a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, who was the guest of honor at several 1<sup>st</sup> MAW Association Marine Corps Birthday events during his tour at HQMC.





**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.