



Issue 36

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

Fall 2010



James Amos 1st Aviator nominated as Commandant

The Senate confirmed Gen. James F. Amos as the 35th Marine Corps commandant, to replace retiring Gen. James T. Conway who has served in the post since November 2006.

The voice vote makes Amos the first career aviation officer to hold the top Marine post. He is slated to be sworn at an Oct. 22 ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, officials reported.

The Senate's confirmation vote makes Amos, who has served as assistant commandant since July 2008, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

During his Sept. 21 confirmation hearing, Amos vowed to make winning the war in Afghanistan his top priority. Amos added that he'll be forthright in assessing the Marine Corps' needs.

"I am keenly aware of the challenges our nation faces today, and likely will face in the future," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "And, I understand the critical role of our expeditionary forces."

In the biggest headline-making comments during the hearing, Amos told questioning lawmakers he personally opposes repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that prohibits gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military. He vowed, however, to ensure that whatever is decided regarding the law, he would ensure that it is enforced.

Amos credited Conway with producing what he said are the best Marines in decades.

"Our Marines have never been better trained, or better led," he said. "They are simply magnificent."

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



Happy Belated 235th Birthday & Veterans Day , Marines ! SEMPER FI !!!
The Double Tree Hotel in Crystal City has been booked for Reunion 2011 on October 6-9 , 2011 .
Reservation can be directly with Hotel at 703-416-4100 . I will be arriving on Wednesday Oct.
5th & would Love to meet informally at Dinner that night with Members arriving early . Also will be
staying until Tuesday Oct 11th & We can meet for Dinner on Sunday Oct. 10th . It's now up to
Us to make Reunion 2011 The Best We Can Make It .

Thanks to Dave Horne for being My Co-Pilot for The NMCC Fall (My 1st) meeting in Quantico .
Congrats to General . James F . Amos , Our 35th and New Commandant ! Air Winger !!!
Marine Week will be Hosted By St. Louis , Mo . June 20 - 26 , 2011 .
National Museum of The Marine Corps will Dedicate Semper Fi Park on April 13 , 2011 .
We have A Brick Dedicated to Our Association as well as Past Pres. Phil Beckerich & Myself .
For Those that haven't seen The Documentary " The Chosin " Please do .
Interviews with Korean Vets 75 Years Later . Some Never before revealed . Go to Frozen
Chosin .com

Planning Revisit to The Nam in Spring 2012 . Maybe some of You would like to Join Other Vets
in Visiting DaNang , Chu Lai & Other Exciting Places Only Remaining in Our Memories .
Wishing All of You & Yours A Very Merry Christmas & May 2011 Bring Us All Peace ,
Happiness & Lots of Love & May All Our Troops Come Home Real Soon , To Their Loved Ones .



Our Associations Brick

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.

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 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.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps - You've got to see it to believe it By David H. Hugel

Since opening its doors on November 10, 2006, the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia, has attracted more than two million visitors, becoming one of Virginia's top tourist destinations. The museum sits on a 135-acre site just off Interstate 95, outside the front gate of the legendary Marine Corps Base, a short drive south of our Nation's Capital. Its most distinctive design feature, the 210-foot steel spire extending skyward through a glass atrium, gives the museum its distinctive exterior profile.

Among the most engaging exhibits are ones taking visitors through realistic recreations of places where Marines actually fought, from the landing at Iwo Jima, to Korea's Chosen Reservoir, and Hill 881 South near Khe Sanh in Vietnam. The latter two exhibits are climate controlled to provide visitors with a taste of the weather extremes Marines faced at those two desolate battle sites. The newest addition to these experiences is an exhibit in the WWI gallery that allows visitors to experience what it was like from behind the German lines to have leathernecks, or "Devil Dogs," as the hardened German troops called them, attack through a wheat field during the Battle of Belleau Wood.

The museum offers much for those who served in Vietnam. Beginning with Operation Shufly in 1962 through the 1975 evacuation of the US Embassy in Saigon, the gallery is certain to stir many memories. Marine Corps aviation played a major role during the Vietnam War and numerous exhibits recognize this fact. One such exhibit funded by former Huey gunship crew chief, Ron Zaczek and his wife, Grace, is an eye-catching display highlighting the aviation operations during the war. Nearby there's a detailed model of the Chu Lai SATS strip, with an actual A-4D suspended overhead while the deck below is covered with SATS runway matting. The Hill 881 exhibit graphically portrays Marines on that sun baked hilltop under constant enemy artillery fire, with life like figures performing various tasks including one Marine leading a wounded buddy to a waiting H-46 from HMM-364 for evacuation.

While not all periods of Marine Corps history are depicted in exhibits, the time line, Legacy Walk, provides an informative display of significant events in American history from our nation's founding through current times, along with a written and pictorial description of Marine Corps activities during those time periods. It provides a graphic, but concise history of our country and the United States Marine Corps. Other museum attractions include a wide variety of photographs, artwork, displays and hands on exhibits of the Marine Corps' nearly 234 years of history in defense of our Nation, through the current Marine deployments in the Global War on Terror. One popular exhibit recreates the Marine Boot Camp experience for those who have never stood in those yellow footprints or heard the terrifying commands barked by a Marine Drill Instructor. For Marines who have, it should also bring back memories of those long ago days.

Those 1st MAW Association members who have not yet had an opportunity to visit the NMMC will have a chance next summer when the association conference will be held in the Washington, DC area. They can also take a virtual tour of the museum in the comfort of their home by visiting www.virtualusmcmuseum.com on their computer.

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation provided critical financial support for building the National Museum of the Marine Corps and is currently gearing up to support an exciting expansion of the Museum over the next several years. For information on how you can join the Heritage Foundation, contact its web site www.marineheritage.org. The Heritage Foundation has also created a unique way to commemorate your service or to honor a relative, former comrade or friend by purchasing a brick along one of the many walkways surrounding the museum. Details can be found by visiting the Foundation's website www.marineheritage.org under the heading "Get Involved," sub heading "Engraved Bricks."



Legacy Walk, a time line contains significant events in American and Marine Corps history from our nation's founding through current times.



Hill 881 near Khe Sanh. Visitors enter the gallery by walking through the body of an H-46 helicopter of HMM- 364. This photo depicts a Marine leading a wounded buddy to a waiting helicopter to be evacuated from that sun-baked hilltop.



President George W. Bush, CMC Gen. Michael Hagee, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Peter Pace salute as the National Anthem is played during the ceremony dedicating the National Museum of the Marine Corps November 10, 2006.



A familiar sight to recruits arriving at Marine Corps boot camp, the yellow footprints they will be lining up on once they have been herded off the bus by welcoming Drill Instructors.



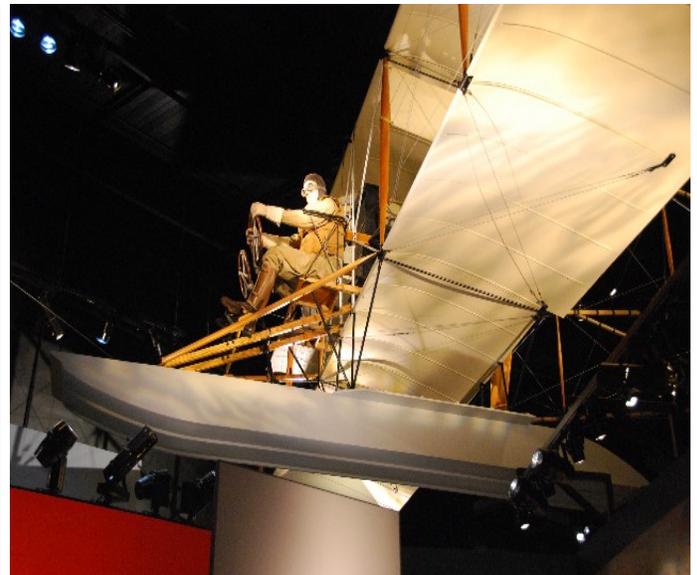
An exhibit depicting the role of Marine Corps aviation during the Vietnam War.



Operation Shufly depicts the first Marine Corps operations in Vietnam from April 1962 through early 1965, when Marine helicopter units provided logistical support for Vietnamese armed forces



A Marine M 26 Pershing tank maneuvers through the street of Seoul South Korea during the battle to recapture the country's capital city from communist forces.



Marine Corps aviation pioneer 1st Lt. Bernard Smith flies over the WWI gallery in a Curtiss A2

Heroes of the Vietnam Generation

By James Webb

The rapidly disappearing cohort of Americans that endured the Great Depression and then fought World War II is receiving quite a send-off from the leading lights of the so-called 60s generation. Tom Brokaw has published two oral histories of "The Greatest Generation" that feature ordinary people doing their duty and suggest that such conduct was historically unique.

Chris Matthews of "Hardball" is fond of writing columns praising the Navy service of his father while castigating his own baby boomer generation for its alleged softness and lack of struggle. William Bennett gave a startling condescending speech at the Naval Academy a few years ago comparing the heroism of the "D-Day Generation" to the drugs-and-sex nihilism of the "Woodstock Generation." And Steven Spielberg, in promoting his film "Saving Private Ryan," was careful to justify his portrayals of soldiers in action based on the supposedly unique nature of World War II.

An irony is at work here. Lest we forget, the World War II generation now being lionized also brought us the Vietnam War, a conflict which today's most conspicuous voices by and large opposed, and in which few of them served. The "best and brightest" of the Vietnam age group once made headlines by castigating their parents for bringing about the war in which they would not fight, which has become the war they refuse to remember.

Pundits back then invented a term for this animus: the "generation gap." Long, plaintive articles and even books were written examining its manifestations. Campus leaders, who claimed precocious wisdom through the magical process of reading a few controversial books, urged fellow baby boomers not to trust anyone over 30. Their elders who had survived the Depression and fought the largest war in history were looked down upon as shallow, materialistic, and out of touch.

Those of us who grew up, on the other side of the picket line from that era's counter-culture can't help but feel a little leery of this sudden gush of appreciation for our elders from the leading lights of the old counter-culture. Then and now, the national conversation has proceeded from the dubious assumption that those who came of age during Vietnam are a unified generation in the same sense as their parents were, and thus are capable of being spoken for through these fickle elites.

In truth, the "Vietnam generation" is a misnomer. Those who came of age during that war are permanently divided by different reactions to a whole range of counter-cultural agendas, and nothing divides them more deeply than the personal ramifications of the war itself. The sizable portion of the Vietnam age group who declined to support the counter-cultural agenda, and especially the men and women who opted to serve in the military during the Vietnam War, are quite different from their peers who for decades have claimed to speak for them. In fact, they are much like the World War II generation itself. For them, Woodstock was a side show, college protestors were spoiled brats who would have benefited from having to work a few jobs in order to pay their tuition, and Vietnam represented not an intellectual exercise in draft avoidance, or protest marches but a battlefield that was just as brutal as those their fathers faced in World War II and Korea.

Few who served during Vietnam ever complained of a generation gap. The men who fought World War II were their heroes and role models. They honored their father's service by emulating it, and largely agreed with their father's wisdom in attempting to stop Communism's reach in Southeast Asia.

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The most accurate poll of their attitudes (Harris, 1980) showed that 91 percent were glad they'd served their country, 74 percent enjoyed their time in the service, and 89 percent agreed with the statement that "our troops were asked to fight in a war which our political leaders in Washington would not let them win." And most importantly, the castigation they received upon returning home was not from the World War II generation, but from the very elites in their age group who supposedly spoke for them.

Nine million men served in the military during Vietnam War, three million of whom went to the Vietnam Theater. Contrary to popular mythology, two-thirds of these were volunteers, and 73 percent of those who died were volunteers. While some attention has been paid recently to the plight of our prisoners of war, most of whom were pilots; there has been little recognition of how brutal the war was for those who fought it on the ground.

Dropped onto the enemy's terrain 12,000 miles away from home, America's citizen-soldiers performed with a tenacity and quality that may never be truly understood. Those who believe the war was fought incompletely on a tactical level should consider Hanoi's recent admission that 1.4 million of its soldiers died on the battlefield, compared to 58,000 total U.S. dead.

Those who believe that it was a "dirty little war" where the bombs did all the work might contemplate that it was the most costly war the U.S. Marine Corps has ever fought-five times as many dead as World War I, three times as many dead as in Korea, and more total killed and wounded than in all of World War II.

Significantly, these sacrifices were being made at a time the United States was deeply divided over our effort in Vietnam. The baby-boom generation had cracked apart along class lines as America's young men were making difficult, life-or-death choices about serving. The better academic institutions became focal points for vitriolic protest against the war, with few of their graduates going into the military. Harvard College, which had lost 691 alumni in World War II, lost a total of 12 men in Vietnam from the classes of 1962 through 1972 combined. Those classes at Princeton lost six, at MIT two. The media turned ever more hostile. And frequently the reward for a young man's having gone through the trauma of combat was to be greeted by his peers with studied indifference or outright hostility.

What is a hero? My heroes are the young men who faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country. Citizen-soldiers who interrupted their personal and professional lives at their most formative stage, in the timeless phrase of the Confederate Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, "not for fame or reward, not for place or for rank, but in simple obedience to duty, as they understood it." Who suffered loneliness, disease, and wounds with an often-contagious elan. And who deserve a far better place in history than that now offered them by the so-called spokesman of our so-called generation.

Mr. Brokaw, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Spielberg, meet my Marines. 1969 was an odd year to be in Vietnam. Second only to 1968 in terms of American casualties, it was the year made famous by Hamburger Hill, as well as the gut-wrenching Life cover story showing pictures of 242 Americans who had been killed in one average week of fighting. Back home, it was the year of Woodstock, and of numerous anti-war rallies that culminated in the Moratorium march on Washington. The My Lai massacre hit the papers and was seized upon by the anti-war movement as the emblematic moment of the war. Lyndon Johnson left Washington in utter humiliation.

Richard Nixon entered the scene, destined for an even worse fate. In the An Hoa Basin southwest of Danang, the Fifth Marine Regiment was in its third year of continuous combat operations. Combat is an unpredictable and inexact environment, but we were well led. As a rifle platoon and company commander, I served under a succession of three regimental commanders who had cut their teeth in World War II, and four different battalion commanders, three of whom had seen combat in Korea. The company commanders were typically captains on their second combat tour in Vietnam, or young first lieutenants like myself who were given companies after many months of "bush time" as platoon commanders in the Basin's tough and unforgiving environs.

The Basin was one of the most heavily contested areas in Vietnam, its torn, cratered earth offering every sort of wartime possibility. In the mountains just to the west, not far from the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the North Vietnamese Army operated an infantry division from an area called Base Area 112. In the valleys of the Basin, main-force Viet Cong battalions whose ranks were 80 percent North Vietnamese Army regulars moved against the Americans every day. Local Viet Cong units sniped and harassed. Ridgelines and paddy dikes were laced with sophisticated booby traps of every size, from a hand grenade to a 250-pound bomb. The villages sat in the rice paddies and tree lines like individual fortresses, crisscrossed with the trenches and spider holes, their homes sporting bunkers capable of surviving direct hits from large-caliber artillery shells. The Viet Cong infrastructure was intricate and permeating. Except for the old and the very young, villagers who did not side with the Communists had either been killed or driven out to the government-controlled enclaves near Danang.

In the rifle companies, we spent the endless months patrolling ridgelines and villages and mountains, far away from any notion of tents, barbed wire, hot food, or electricity. Luxuries were limited to what would fit inside one's pack, which after a few "humps" usually boiled down to letter-writing material, towel, soap, toothbrush, poncho liner, and a small transistor radio.

We moved through the boiling heat with 60 pounds of weapons and gear, causing a typical Marine to drop 20 percent of his body weight while in the bush. When we stopped we dug chest-deep fighting holes and slit trenches for toilets. We slept on the ground under makeshift poncho hootches, and when it rained we usually took our hootches down because wet ponchos shined under illumination flares, making great targets. Sleep itself was fitful, never more than an hour or two at a stretch for months at a time as we mixed daytime patrolling with night-time ambushes, listening posts, foxhole duty, and radio watches. Ringworm, hookworm, malaria, and dysentery were common, as was trench foot when the monsoons came. Respite was rotating back to the mud-filled regimental combat base at An Hoa for four or five days, where rocket and mortar attacks were frequent and our troops manned defensive bunkers at night. Which makes it kind of hard to get excited about tales of Woodstock, or camping at the Vineyard during summer break.

We had been told while training that Marine officers in the rifle companies had an 85 percent probability of being killed or wounded, and the experience of "Dying Delta," as our company was known, bore that out. Of the officers in the bush when I arrived, our company commander was wounded, the weapons platoon commander wounded, the first platoon commander was killed, the second platoon commander was wounded twice, and I, commanding the third platoons fared no better. Two of my original three-squad leaders were killed, and the third shot in the stomach. My platoon sergeant was severely wounded, as was my right guide. By the time I left, my platoon I had gone through six radio operators, five of them casualties.

These figures were hardly unique; in fact, they were typical. Many other units; for instance, those who fought the hill battles around Khe Sanh, or were with the famed Walking Dead of the Ninth Marine Regiment, or were in the battle of Hue City or at Dai Do, had it far worse.

When I remember those days and the very young men who spent them with me, I am continually amazed, for these were mostly recent civilians barley out of high school, called up from the cities and the farms to do their year in hell and he return. Visions haunt me every day, not of the nightmares of war but of the steady consistency with which my Marines faced their responsibilities, and of how uncomplaining most of them were in the face of constant danger. The salty, battle-hardened 20-year-olds teaching green 19-year-olds the intricate lessons of the hostile battlefield. The unerring skill of the young squad leaders as we moved through unfamiliar villages and weed-choked trails in the black of night. The quick certainty when a fellow Marine was wounded and needed help. Their willingness to risk their lives to save other Marines in peril. To this day it stuns me that their own countrymen have so completely missed the story of their service, lost in the bitter confusion of the war itself.

Like every military unit throughout history we had occasional laggards, cowards, and complainers. But in the aggregate, these Marines were the finest people I have ever been around. It has been my privilege to keep up with many of them over the years since we all came home. One finds in them very little bitterness about the war in which they fought. The most common regret, almost to a man, is that they were not able to do more for each other and for the people they came to help.

It would be redundant to say that I would trust my life to these men. Because I already have, in more ways than I can ever recount. I am alive today because of their quiet, unaffected heroism. Such valor epitomizes the conduct of Americans at war from the first days of our existence. That the boomer elites can canonize this sort of conduct in our fathers' generation while ignoring it in our own is more than simple oversight. It is a conscious, continuing travesty.

***** Former Secretary of the Navy James Webb was awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star, and Bronze Star medals for heroism as a Marine in Vietnam. His novels include The Emperor's General and Fields of Fire.

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:



REUNION 2011
REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT
WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE
Thursday October, 6th thru Sunday October, 9th, 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
(Time to be determined) NUMBER for BUS TRIP _____ x Transportation cost (to be determined) = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____

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

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 15th, 2011
For hotel reservations Contact: DoubleTree Hotel at (800) 222-TREE (8733) or (703) 416-4100 or Web at:
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

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

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
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.