LIMA CO.

3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT
1ST MARINE DIVISION

VIETNAM 1966-1971

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Lima Company

NEWSLETTER #147 ❖ JANUARY 2025

LIMA COMPANY 3/5/1 VIETNAM WAR MARINES / CORPSMEN

40TH ANNUAL REUNION

MAY 28 — JUNE 1, 2025

NORTH SHORE HOTEL

201 75TH AVE N., MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29572



"I love the Corps for those intangible possessions that cannot be issued: pride, honor, integrity, and being able to carry on the traditions for generations of warriors past."
Cpl. Jeff Sornig

SEMPER FIDELIS

MYRTLE BEACH 2025 ❖ 40TH REUNION

RESERVATIONS

Due-By Date: April 30, 2025

Oceanfront: $223.20* per night

Oceanview: $210.20* per night
* rates includes taxes & fees

Order by Phone: 800-599-9872

Group Name: US Marines L3/5

Lima 3/5 has a block of 50 rooms;
Call now so you don't miss out.







REUNION DATES

MAY 28 - JUNE 1, 2025







MYRTLE BEACH 2025 ❖ 40TH REUNION

Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) is about 9.5 miles from our firebase.
Airlines flying into Myrtle Beach include:



Our hotel does not offer shuttle bus service. There are rental cars, taxis and rideshare (Uber & Lyft) services. Taxi service from the airport to our hotel should cost around $40 for two people. I expect rideshare services to be about the same, maybe a bit less $$.

Myrtle Beach temperatures in late May: Low - 63º High - 79º Water temp: 69º

Reunion Activities:

Wednesday (5/28) - arrive and hotel check-in; hospitality room open

Thursday (5/29) - arrive and hotel check-in; hospitality room open;
lunch at Veterans Café & Grille ???

Friday (5/30) - late breakfast (say 10:00-ish) ??? at Veterans Cafe & Grille;
golf outing (afternoon) with Jim (JC) & Kathy Carleton

Saturday (5/31) - Business meeting at 9:00 am
- Introductions—around the room
- Moment of silence for departed brothers, recent and past
- Financial report
- Reunion 2026 — any volunteers?
- The future of Lima 3/5 reunions
- Other business from the floor

Reunion group picture immediately following the business meeting;
wear your reunion polo shirt!!

Banquet
- Cocktails at 6:00 pm
- Dinner at 7:00 pm
  - Presentation of Colors
  - Introduction & announcements
  - Dinner
  - Raffles — 50/50 cash & USMC items

MYRTLE BEACH 2025 ❖ 40TH REUNION

QUESTION: Why have the reunion dates been changed to May 28 - June 1, 2025?

ANSWER: At our last reunion, when we picked the 2025 reunion dates, we were not aware of the *CAROLINA COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL*, planned for June 5 - 8, 2025 in Myrtle Beach. Our small reunion would be competing with many, many thousands of people (20 to 50 thousand per day) for limited hotel accommodations… prices are through the roof! If we go a week earlier, prices are a little more reasonable. And as we all know, everything costs more these days!

102 THINGS TO DO AT MYRTLE BEACH

The official guide to Myrtle Beach attractions & more!

If you're searching for fun things to do in Myrtle Beach, look no further. We've gathered all the best places to see and can't-miss experiences into one convenient list. We used tips and suggestions from visitors, Facebook fans, and local experts to create this one-of-a-kind guide to more than 100 attractions, shows, restaurants, and other activities right here in Myrtle Beach.

While it is nearly impossible to see and do it all in one trip, this fun list of things to do makes sure your crew—whether adults, kids, or a family with a mix of ages—has a blast on vacation. Choose your favorite activities from our suggestions and leave some room in your plans for lounging at your resort pool, too.

VETERANS CAFE & GRILLE
3544 Northgate Dr, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

At some point during the reunion, I hope a bunch of us can have breakfast or lunch at this place. They are 11 miles (19 minute drive) from our hotel and were featured on Fox News this past Veterans Day.







MYRTLE BEACH 2025 ❖ 40TH REUNION

LIMA COMPANY
3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINES
1ST MARINE DIVISON

MYRTLE BEACH 2025 ATTENDEES

No.	Name	Reunions	MOS	VN	PH	Rank	Home
1	Acton, David	5	0341	69/70	0	Sgt	NY
2	Benton, Terry	14	0311	68	1	Sgt	SC
3	Dreksler, James	10	0331	70/71	0	L/Cpl	FL
4	Freed, Dennis	23	0311	67/68	1	Cpl	CA
5	French, Larry	2	0311	69/70	1	L/Cpl	CT
6	Nordmann, Dan	24	0331	68	2	L/Cpl	MO

15 banquet meals paid for

2003 MYRTLE BEACH







MYRTLE BEACH - 2015



MYRTLE BEACH 2025 ❖ 40TH REUNION

Advance orders only ❖ Pick up at the Reunion

➔ Order must be received by April 23, 2025 ←

Polo Shirts are red, with the USMC Logo embroidered on the front left breast and the Vietnam Service Ribbon & 40th Reunion on the left sleeve.

Polo Shirt S, M, L, XL . . . . . $23 ea. Size_____ Qty_____ . . . . . $_____

Polo Shirt XXL, XXXL . . . . . $26 ea. Size_____ Qty_____ . . . . . $_____

T-Shirts are red with Silk Screened 3/5 Logo on the Front left breast.

T-Shirt S, M, L, XL . . . . . $20 ea. Size_____ Qty_____ . . . . . $_____

T-Shirt XXL, XXXL . . . . . $22 ea. Size_____ Qty_____ . . . . . $_____

Hats are red with Logo on the Front and VSM ribbon on the Back

Hats are adjustable . . . . . $18 ea. . . . . Qty_____ . . . . . $_____

$10.00 Postage for shirt/hat order if not attending Reunion . . . . . $_____

Total Shirt & Hat Order . . . . . $_____

Pre-Pay Banquet Dinner $55 Per Adult . . . . . #____ @ $55 = $_____
(Children under 12 Free)

General Fund (contribution) . . . . . $_____

Total Shirts & Hat Order . . . . . $_____

TOTAL FOR 2025 MYRTLE BEACH REUNION . . . . . $_____

★★★ ORDER FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 23, 2025 ★★★

Make check payable to:
Dennis Freed

Send Order Form to:
Dennis Freed
24665 Via Tonada
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-351-4718
prplhrt68@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **ST** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _(_____)_____ **Cell** _(_____)_____

E-Mail _____

TAPS



DANIEL HAYES

Died: 11/27/2024

Lima Co: 1968
Rank: L/CPL
MOS: 0311
WIA: 11/28/68
Awards: Navy Cross
Reunions: 0



DAVID ARRASMITH

Died: 11/29/2024

Lima Co: July 68 - Aug 69
Rank: CPL
MOS: 0341
WIA: July 68
Awards: Purple Heart
Reunions: 5



David Arrasmith 1968

LIMA 3/5 COMPANY MEMBERSHIP LIMA 3/5

ROSTER

There have been many, many updates to the Lima Company Roster since the Fall of 2023. My thanks to Dan Cantrell, who has done a majority of the "grunt's" work on status updates. Our roster now carries 637 Marines and Corpsmen and 24 Relatives/Friends.

Active	358
Lost Contact	51
Died	225
Do Not Contact (DNC)	3
Relative/Friend (R/F)	24

NO SUCH THING AS A "FORMER MARINE"

General James F. Amos
35TH Commandant of the Marine Corps
2010 – 2014

"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."



REUNION 2026 AND BEYOND

Dennis Freed will lead a discussion during the Saturday morning business meeting about the future of our reunions:

- Do we still want to hold Lima Co. reunions?
- Who will volunteer to host the 2026 reunion?
- Should we combine our reunion with the Battalion Reunion (3/5 MARINES) in Kentucky?
- Hold regional reunions or weekend "get-togethers"?:
  - Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Great Lakes, deep South, Southwest, Northwest
    OR
  - East of the Mississippi River & West of the Mississippi River
- A big-ass "Zoom" (smart telephone/computer) reunion on a particular date?

What are your thoughts?

NOT A FRIENDLY

Andy Syor

I had the 81mm mortar MOS 0341 from ITR at Camp Geiger. In December 1965, when I joined 3/5, staging at Camp Pendleton, I was an extra man in the mortar platoon, so I became one of the platoon's mule/jeep drivers. In Vietnam, on our numerous combat operations in the field, where there was nothing to drive, so I was the rear guard and/or accompanied the platoon Lieutenant when need be. When we were stationary, I was usually on outpost guard duty.

On one search and destroy operation, we were made aware of possible "friendlies" in the area and had stopped outside one remote village that looked deserted and were awaiting orders to enter. There was some sort of back-and-forth discussion between the ARVN interpreters and our USMC decision-makers about this location. Their consultation was providing the rest of us with some of that "spread out, one round will get you all" and "if you got 'em, smoke 'em'" down time.

It had been a day or so since we'd seen any action. I was at the end of our staggered group, and was casually observing an approximate 180 degree sweep, from the village to the rice paddies and back again. How everyone had situated themselves, placed some of the men between the village and me. I noticed some movement at ground level in front of one of the huts; first a head appeared, then shoulders, and finally a rifle. This Viet Cong was taking aim at our radioman and the only shot I had at him was directly through and between some of the standing Marines. Being that my line of fire was closest to the radioman, I said, "Ski, do not move" as I squeezed off the round from my M-14. For a split second the AK-47 looked suspended in mid-air as the VC's body slammed back and fell into the spider hole. Not having any gun fire until that time, all eyes went to the direction of my shot. As everyone became aware that the village was not deserted, Ski turned to me and said "He wasn't one of the friendlies."





MY STORY

Robert (Bob) Bragole – 2024

I went to boot camp right after high school graduation in ’58. There was an issue with my first duty assignment, Brig Company at Camp Pendelton. I was 18 years old and was told “… you are too young to chase prisoners; we’ll send you to typing school and make a clerk out of you.” This did not sit well with me.

Next, I was assigned to India Co.; after 13 months I transferred, to MCAS, El Toro Marine Air Base for the next two years. Then I had a choice of two duty stations, one in Japan, but someone jumped on that, so I got Morocco for two years.

I returned stateside with a strange set of orders. At Pendelton, I sat around for half an hour and then got a notice to go to FSR, where I gave them my orders— they thought I was being funny. They read my orders and said that I was in the wrong place. I told them that I wrote to the Marine Corps and said that I was eligible to retire and was getting out unless I get my MOS changed to 0311.

Three weeks later my admin chief at my duty station in Morocco, came into the office and asked what this was all about. I told him I did not join the Corps to sit behind a desk while we were going to war. That was why I joined. FSR gave me my orders back and told me I should go to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

I went there and handed my orders to the clerk, who said I could use that desk. I told him to read my orders; he read them and gave them to the admin clerk. He pointed to the door and said “You know we are going to combat, that we are the last Battalion to leave.” He handed me my orders and said to report to Lima Co. up the street.

I went up the hill and walked into the Lima Company office, a clerk took my orders and said “This is great, you can have the desk over there.” I stopped him and said “Please read the orders.” He looked at me and said I'll be right back; I heard him talking to someone in a low voice. Three minutes later Captain Tatum called me into his office. He looked at me and asked how old I was and I told him I was 26; he told me he was six weeks younger than me. Then he asked why I wanted to change my MOS. I was very honest about the fact that I joined the Marines to be one, and go to war like the rest of them; I told him that I had been at Marine Corps Base, Marine Corps Barracks, Marine Corps Air Wing and on Sea Duty. Capt. Tatum said 3rd Platoon, Platoon Sgt.

At 3rd Platoon, the only thing I did not like was being under Lt. Anderson. He did not like me one bit. He gave me 1st Squad, good guys, we all got along. The Lt. would give me orders to clean the 4-holer. I did it—my squad knew he was a little mad.

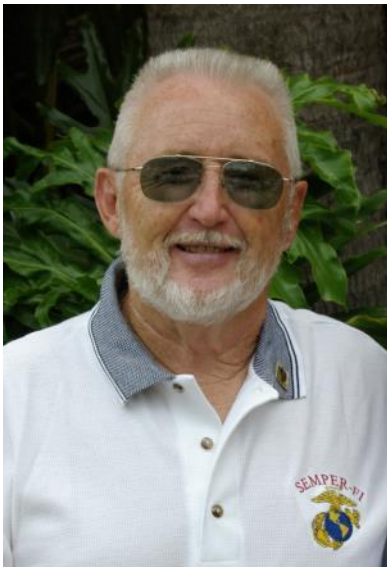
(continued)

In the field one day, he gave me orders that as the company pulled out, he wanted me and my squad to stay behind, and join the company where the Amtracs left the road last night. We were in our mode, when one of my squad motioned that there was a VC between us and a different unit. I radioed the Lt. and asked if there is a different company than ours because they were wearing the same thing we were. Lt. said kill him; I said if we open up, the other unit will open up on the right side and we will be cooked. I told my squad to leave him (VC) alone.

Later the Lt. radioed to come on in. We went to the spot where the Amtracs left the road but no one was there. I put my squad under cover and waited. The Lt. said bring your squad in. We got up got on the road and headed down and when we hit clear travel, an automatic started popping caps. The Lt. told me to bring in the squad. I said “Sir we are being shot at,” he said, “I have a fire team out; bring your squad in.” I got in and the Lt. comes out and sticks his finger in my chest and says where did I tell you to meet the company. I told him “Where the amtracs left the road.” He said “I told you to meet me here.” Thank God his radioman said “No sir, you said where the amtracs left the road.” Lt. says “I'll see you later.” Capt. Tatum said good job Bragole, now get your troops aboard.

When our Company moved out, we came out with three areas to cover. One was a small hill that was named Red Hill. Lt. Anderson yelled out “Bragole, get your men down.” Me and my squad had a great time. About a week later I was jolted awake by lots of explosions. I went to the north of the hill and someone said they believed that the mortars I called for, did the job. My radioman and I were behind the north side of the bunker, when one mortar came in after most of the action. I was wounded and Duckett, my radioman, was hit really bad. I called out to lay his body downhill, because he was choking on his own blood; get his feet up to drain the blood. Thomas Duckett passed away.





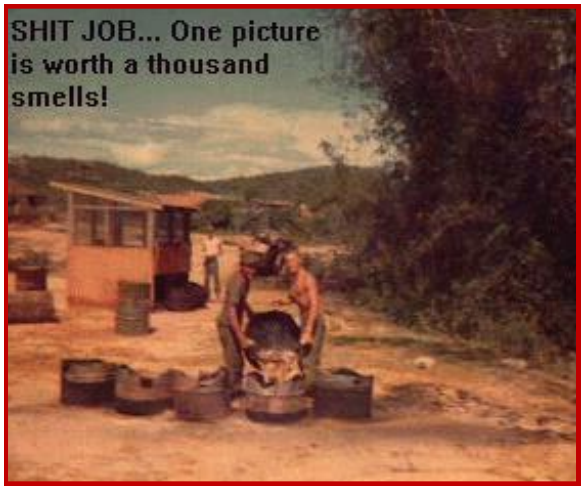
Joe Alvarado wrote...

We were on Hill 37. Ed Sylvester and I went to the head for the night shit. It was dark but we made it to the empty shitter, a three seater. While we talked someone came in and sat between us. Ed was talking about the CO, saying how he hated the man, and what he would do to him if he saw him at the moment... you can just imagine the things he said! We were still talking when suddenly the "stranger" between us, got up, opened the door and yelled… ... ... "LCPL Sylvester... I want to see you first thing in the morning!"









Did anyone arriving in-country as an E-4 & below,
NOT have "shitter duty" during your tour (corpsmen excluded)?

OPERATION HASTINGS

I have a request for Lima brothers that were with Lima in July 1966 during **Operation Hastings**. We have a group of 3/5 Marines that are currently working on writing a book and doing a documentary regarding Operation Hastings. They are about 150 pages into the book and early spring 2025 for the documentary. They would like to interview Marines that were with Lima during that time. Please put the word out to Lima Marines who participated in Operation Hasting to contact: John Olsen jcolsen62@hotmail.com (Served with India 3/5)

LIMA COMPANY 3/5 MARINES, CORPSMEN and ASSOCIATES

YOU WILL REPORT FOR TEMPORARY ASSIGNED DUTY (TAD) AT

NORTH SHORE HOTEL

MYRTLE BEACH, SC

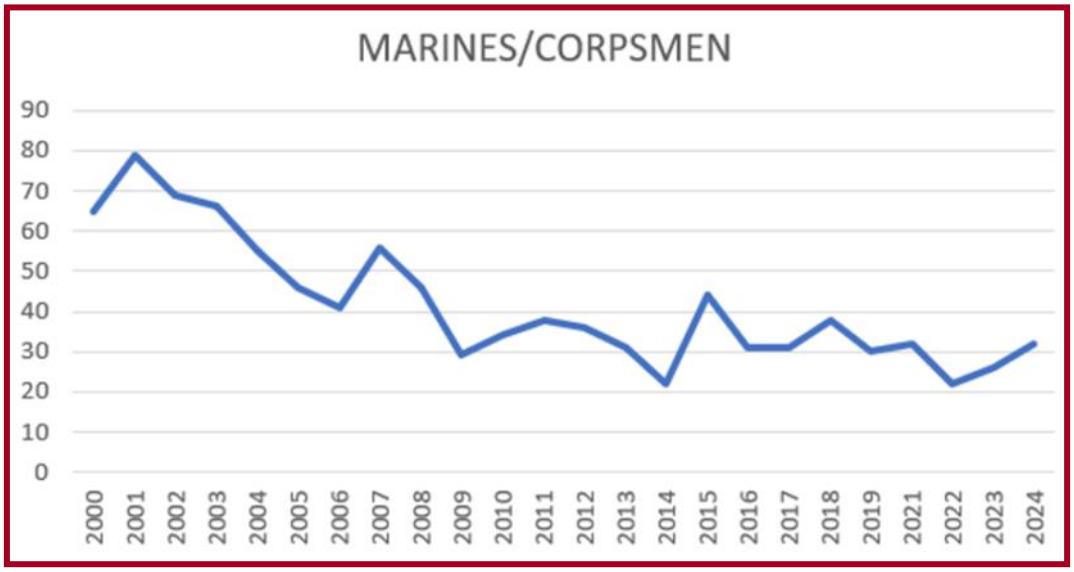
ON WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 2025 AT 1800 HOURS.
YOUR TAD WILL TERMINATE AT 0100 HOURS ON SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!

ANYONE NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL EACH MORNING AND EVENING
WILL BE CONSIDERED ***AWOL***, WITH NO EXCEPTIONS!
AND WHEN FOUND, WILL BUY THE COMPANY A ROUND OF DRINKS!
NO EXCEPTIONS!

This chart shows the attendance of Marines & Corpsmen at Lima Co. 3/5 reunions from 2000 to 2024. Early on, there were close to 80 of us, but now we number between 20 to 40; attendance is dropping due to age and health issues. The 2025 reunion—our 40th—is a big deal, so let's make it a big deal—no time left for saying "I wish I had gone."

NOW OR NEVER!!!



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HOST THE 2026 REUNION
GUIDELINES ARE IN NEWSLETTER # 141, PAGES 9 & 10,
WHICH CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT OUR WEBSITE