LIMA CO. 3/5/1 MARINES

VIETNAM 1966-1971

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Lima Company

Winter 2023-24 ❖ Newsletter #140

Lima Co. 3 / 5 / 1 ❖ 39th Reunion
Doubletree Hotel St. Louis at Westport
June 5 - 9, 2024, St. Louis, Missouri



EXPLORE ST. LOUIS

(click on the link below)

2024 EXPLORE ST LOUIS VISITORS GUIDE

SEMPER FIDELIS

ST. LOUIS REUNION

LOCATION

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel St. Louis - Westport
1973 Craigshire Road
Saint Louis, Missouri, 63146

Phone: 314-434-0100

Check-In 4:00 pm / Check-Out 11:00 am

RESERVATIONS

Due-By Date: May 15, 2024

Cost: $135/night + %15.988 tax = $156.58

Order by Phone: 314-434-0100

Reference Group Name: Lima 3 / 5 Reunion

Lima 3/5 has a block of 30 rooms;
Call now so you don't miss out.





ST. LOUIS REUNION ❖ JUNE 5 – 9, 2024

Advance orders only ❖ Pick up at the Reunion
➔ Order must be received by May 1, 2024 ←

Polo Shirts are Silver, with the USMC Logo embroidered on the Front left breast and the Vietnam Ribbon 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 Silver 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 Green 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 $50 Per Adult . . . . . #____ @ $50 = $_____
(Children under 12 Free)

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

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

TOTAL FOR 2024 ST LOUIS REUNION . . . . . $_____

★★★ ORDER FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1ST ★★★

Make check payable to:
Dennis Freed

Send Order Form to:
Dennis Freed
24665 Via Tonada
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-351-4718
dennisfreed@cox.net

Name _____

Address _____

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

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

E-Mail _____

COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

TAPS



GRANT E THAYER

Obituary

Lima Co: May 66 - March 67
Rank: Corporal
MOS: 0351
WIA: (unknown)
Awards: (unknown)
Reunions: 6

ST. LOUIS REUNION ❖ JUNE 5 – 9, 2024

TIME MARCHES ON. **ONLY 115 DAYS** UNTIL THE START OF FESTIVITIES. MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND SUBMIT YOUR REUNION ORDER FORM.
WE NEED A FEW GOOD MEN, SPOUSES & RELATIVES.

39th Vietnam Reunion
June 5-9, 2024
Doubletree Hotel St. Louis, MO

No.	Name	Reunions	MOS	RVN	PH	Rank	Home
1	Freed, Dennis/Norma	18	0311	67-68	1	Cpl	CA
2	Dreksler, James	9	0331	70/71	0	L/Cpl	FL
3	Acton, David/Sallie	4	0341	69/70	0	Sgt	NY
4	Thomas, Wesley	3	0341	66	0	S/Sgt	PA
5	Dean, Kenny/Jackie	3	0311	67/68	1	L/Cpl	OH
6	Hartog, James						MO
7	Flayler, Paul	12	0351	70/71	0	L/Cpl	MO
8	Cantrell, Dan & Anne	20	0341	68/69	0	Cpl	WA
9	Hand, Leo & Mary Anne	18	0311	68/69	1	L/Cpl	TX
10	Brown, James	9	0351	69/70	0	Sgt	TX
11	Nordmann, Dan & Mary Ann	23	0331	68	2	L/Cpl	MO
12	Pollicino, Joe/Joyce	24	0311	67/68	1	Cpl	NY

COMPANY STORIES

THE HOT GUNS OF LIMA COMPANY

Tom Hodgin
0311, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad, RVN Jan '69 — Jan '70

I joined Lima 3/5 around April 1969, following reassignment from the 106th Army hospital in Yokohama Japan, where I had been a patient. Lima 3/5 headquarters was near the airstrip at An Hoa. The company itself was garrisoned a couple of hundred yards away, at a compound right off of Liberty Road. It was cushy duty at the compound—we slept in our bunkers, had showers and three hots a day. Every morning we would provide security to the minesweepers, while walking towards a separate group of Marines with minesweepers coming out of Phu Luc 6.

I had curled up in my corner of the bunker on the berm and was fast asleep when gunfire, directed out of the compound, awakened me. A single gook had crawled close enough to the east corner of the compound to throw a grenade, which exploded halfway down the berm with no injuries. Immediately after that, a single AK-47 opened up on the compound from a village situated just outside of the airstrip and the defensive perimeter around An Hoa firebase.

"We are under attack," came blaring over our radio, and needless to say we responded in kind. We began firing at the village with automatic weapons and throwing grenades down the berm to the road. There were a couple of 60-machine guns on the berm and a 50-cal at the corner, and they were firing into the village—thousands of rounds.

81mm mortars were firing illumination rounds in between firing hundreds of HE rounds. 60mm mortars fired over 500 rounds towards the village—it was like the last days of the Alamo. Chuck Oats, PT and myself were running back and forth to the ammo bunker carrying cases of mortar rounds and 60 ammo.

This went on for the longest time until Sgt. Henry Hatchett came around shouting to cease-fire, the battle was over, and all we had done was flatten the village, which had to be evacuated. Overreact?—and not one dead VC.

The next morning, we left the compound and marched down the road into Arizona territory where we spent the next several weeks cooling off our barrels in the knee-deep paddy water. We never returned to the compound.

Then (on right) and Now





? ? ? REUNION 2025 ? ? ?

*I NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS… **YOU, YOU AND YOU**… ONE STEP FORWARD!*

AYE-AYE, SIR!

LIMA COMPANY 3/5 MARINES, CORPSMEN and ASSOCIATES

Now is the time to give consideration to hosting our **40TH ANNUAL REUNION IN 2025,** that's right folks, the **BIG FOUR-O**. Volunteers are needed to make this a reality. Yes, it's over a year away, but that means there is plenty of time to make it happen. I hope… no, no… WE hope that there will be two or three proposals for our 40th reunion, presented this June during our business meeting at the St. Louis reunion.

Below are bullet points to help plan and organize a reunion.

Host responsibilities (that's you):

HOTEL

- Close to a metropolitan airport
- Preferably has airport shuttle service
- Clean modern rooms and related facilities
- Not undergoing major renovations or construction
- Offers a reasonable group room rate; the room rate for the last 10 reunions averaged $116 + tax = $130; shoot for no more than $150 total
- Preferably has on-site dining facilities, if not, then near-by restaurants within walking distance
- Banquet room for our exclusive use on Saturday night
- Hospitality room, at no additional charge, for our exclusive use, all day Wednesday through Saturday; stock the hospitality room with soda, beer, wine and liquor; **you will be reimbursed** based on purchase receipts
- On-site parking at no additional cost

BANQUET

- Food service to include two or more main course dishes, several side dishes and dessert
- Bar service during the entire banquet; non-alcoholic drinks, beer, wine and liquor
- Guest speaker
  - Active or retired military (preferably USMC); or
  - Someone with an interesting life story or awesome personal accomplishment
  - Reasonable speaker's fee (preferably none, or a free dinner)
  - NO POLITICAL or IDEALOGICAL AGENDA
- Musical entertainment (optional); live music, DJ, or recorded

FLAG CEREMONY

- Arrange for an honor guard to present the National and Marine Corps colors
- FOR COLOR GUARDS (OUTSIDE OF 60 MILES OF A MARINE CORPS INSTALLATION):
  - Download the DD 2536 form
  - Complete the form and forward to the Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) Community Relations at mfrcomrel@usmc.mil

? ? ? REUNION 2025 ? ? ?

LOCAL ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT (Helpful, but not necessary)

Provide information about local activities or entertainment that reunion attendees might enjoy; examples are:

- Major or minor league baseball
- Museums – science, history, art, entertainment, military, etc.
- Historical sites to tour
- Botanical garden
- Scenic tours; walking, driving, bus, boat

The local office of tourism can be a good resource









