Lima Co. 3/5 Reunion

VIETNAM 1966-1971

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Dan Nordmann, Editor

Nov 2019. . . . Newsletter #123. . . . . 244th Marine Corps Birthday

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIMA 3/5

SEMPER FIDELIS

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TAPS



Dave Meinertz passed away peacefully on 18 Aug 2019.

Dave was a 2nd Lt., 0302 MOS, for the 1st Platoon of Lima 3/5 in Vietnam from May 66 to Sept 66. He was awarded a Purple Heart when wounded 22 Sept 1966. Dave attended 4 Lima 3/5 Reunions.

I just wanted to let everyone know who might have known him that Dave Meinertz passed away this morning at hospice in Daytona. Dave was part of the original Lima Company that formed up at Camp Margarita/Pendleton, in January 1966 and was platoon leader, First Platoon until he was badly wounded (I think it was in October 1966).

All of us who knew him will remember him as a very high spirited individual.

Semper Fi

Reiss Tatum

David Thatcher Meinertz born January 16, 1943, passed recently in Daytona, FL on August 18th, 2019 at the age of 76. He leaves two daughters, Kirsten and Carly, his younger sister, Ann, and the boisterous and wonderful family of his beloved deceased wife Carole.

David was larger than life in most things. He was completely devoted to his wife of 30 years, Carole, and was devastated when she passed away a few months ago. He was a particularly fine pianist, an avid yachtsman, an enthusiastic fisherman, a participatory chef, a successful advertising executive and a marine carpenter *par excellence*.

To the end, he was a marine. He joined Marine ROTC while attending college at Columbia from which he received his Bachelor of Arts. He was an officer in the 5th Marine Regiment. He fought in Vietnam 1966 – 1967 and received the Purple Heart. He was seriously wounded, promoted to First Lieutenant and medically retired after extensive treatment. His commanding officer and many of his Marine buddies were lifetime friends. They stayed in communication throughout the years - many went fishing with him and stayed to enjoy his cuisine. They rallied to help as he declined.

The world was barely large enough for David. He came, he saw and did as much as he could possible fit – all was done in his time and in his way. He shall be missed.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY



10 November 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

This year, the Marine Corps celebrates 244 years of warfighting excellence and uncommon valor. United States Marines define the world's image of elite warrior-citizens. We take great pride in the legacy built by those who came before us and in carrying that legacy into the future. Capabilities, battlefields, and adversaries change, and Marines continue to adapt to every challenge – prepared to fight and win wherever and whenever our Nation calls. What does not change is the Marine spirit – a warrior spirit rooted in our core values.

The strength of our Corps is our Marines. Our success depends on all Marines embodying the values in which our Corps was founded; it requires leveraging the talents and ingenuity of every Marine to strengthen our Corps. Since 1775, courageous Marines have answered the call to fight for freedom and shaped our reputation as the most feared fighting force the world has seen. Marines from each generation approached every battle with a lethal combination of versatility, perseverance, and adaptability that has allowed us to prevail in any clime and place.

Throughout the 244-year history of the Marine Corps, our Nation has required Marines to adapt capabilities and fighting styles to defeat adversaries in all domains. The Marines who took to the seas with naval counterparts to combat the Barbary Pirates solidified our role as a naval expeditionary force-in-readiness. World War I saw Marines fighting sustained land campaigns and returning from those battles to immediately begin redesigning how to go to war. Those innovations laid the foundation for the amphibious landings of World War II. Combat operations in Korea and Vietnam brought harsh climates and unforgiving terrains that again forced Marines to adapt and overcome. In Iraq and Afghanistan, urban battlefields and counterinsurgency tactics demanded innovations in warfighting strategies and capabilities. Today, we find ourselves once again facing new and evolving threats in different operational environments. Like our predecessors, we will move forward with the lessons learned from past conflicts while redesigning the force and innovating for future conflict with any adversary who dares to fight.

Marines, congratulations on 244 years of excellence. Like the first birthday message published by 13th Commandant General John Lejeune in 1921, this message serves as a reminder of the legacy we are charged with upholding. Today is our day to celebrate our heritage and to honor the sacrifices of those who fought before us. It is also a day to recommit ourselves to our core values and resolutely pursue the strength of character that defines United States Marines. And it is a day to look toward future battlefields, to prepare to uphold the distinguished warfighting legacy of our predecessors wherever our Nation calls.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

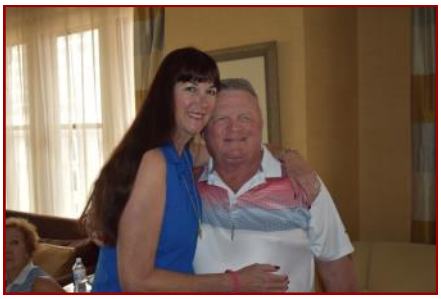
David H. Berger
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

2019 SAN ANTONIO REUNION

















BELLEAU WOOD

Gentlemen,

The attached photos are from an amazing visit my wife, Gail, our daughter, Eileen and I had to the famous World War 1 battle site at Belleau Wood in northern France. Knowing that visiting Belleau Wood, has been a goal of mine for over fifty years, our amazing, thoughtful daughter, Eileen, planned the trip for us and drove us there in her car from her home near Zurich, Switzerland. I will always be appreciative of her kindness to do this for Gail and me.

The Memorial, "Iron Mike" which you will see, is located in the center of Belleau Wood and is dedicated to the US Marines of the 5th and 6th Regiments (I served with the 5th Marines in Vietnam), who fought there from June 1 through June 26, 1918 and stopped the advance of five German Infantry Divisions, which were advancing to Paris. During the fierce fighting, over 1,800 Marines gave their lives and nearly 8,000 were wounded. Belleau Wood, like Iwo Jima, Khe Sanh and Fallujah, is hallowed ground, especially for all United States Marines. It was an emotional and memorable experience to walk through sections of Belleau Wood and drink from the historic Devil Dog Fountain in Belleau.

If you are interested, there are multiple accounts of the Marines at Belleau Wood on YouTube.

Semper Fi,

Pat Normanly

















2020 WASHINGTON DC REUNION



Joe Pollicion is still working on the 2020 Reunion in Washington DC. He will have all the information soon. I will put it in the January Newsletter.

As soon as I get the information, especially with the date of the Reunion. I will send it out on an e-mail to all of you with an e-mail address. It will be printed in the January Newsletter to those who don't have an e-mail address.

Joe is still working with Tim McLaughlin to plan some of the Group activities.

LEXI A NEW MARINE





Dennis Ward brought Lexi to the 2019 Reunion in San Antonio right before she went to Boot Camp.

Dear Lima 3/5

This is Lexi the day before graduation. We were able to sit in assigned seating because of her award she was called front and center in front the formation to receive her iron woman award. Pretty Cool! She came home for 17 days I told her if she worked as a recruiters aide she would get back up to 7 days of leave time. Can you imagine taking this girl on recruiting calls and the guys looking at her and thinking man if all the female marines look like her "I'm in" hell yeah? She is now at Pendleton doing her infantry training when she finishes she'll go on to her mos school intelligence (really) I think that is In Monterey Cal. Not sure? She really likes it. Says it is physically hard but no problem. Her one DI told her she did not like her voice and that Lexi cold not address her directly. She had to tell the marine next to her what she wanted and she would tell this DI. Pretty funny this only lasted about a week and only when this particular DI was in charge. The DI's cannot swear at the recruits, hit, or abuse in any way! A lot different than in our time. I went to her quarters and it had AC but then it is S C. When we were there it hit 100. I heard that the female Marines will start going to San Diego along W PI. She's squared away and is doing well.

Semper Fi,
Dennis Ward

TED CRISP STORIES

The Giant Spider

While on an operation up in the mountains, we were sent on a platoon sized patrol for a search and destroy mission. We encountered a large grove of banana trees. It was interesting' we could take a machete and with one whack, could cut through a banana tree having a four inch diameter trunk because it was mostly water. Continuing on the patrol the vegetation became thicker. We ran across a ditch eight feet deep and fifteen feet wide. There was no vegetation in the washed out ditch so we took the easier route following the ditch. Soon we came across a spider web the whole height and width of the ditch. In the middle of the web was the largest spider I have ever encountered. Its body span was about fourteen inches wide, black with a yellow spot in the middle of its back.

Our patrol went up the side of the ditch bypassing the spider completely for our safety.

Do you blame us?

Lorna Doone Cookies

After spending a month out in the field, the commanders would bring us back to our Company basecamp area for resupply, clean clothes, hot showers and hot food. Even though this was a nice change of routine for a while, we would still be sent on working parties during the day, filling sand bags, garbage convoy security etc. At night we would have to stand bunker watch where four men spent the night of a designated bunker around the base to defend it in case of an enemy attack.

One time at night I and three other Marines were sent to do watchtower duty. Our job was to look for mortar flashes out in the distance and, if we spotted one, then to point a directional indicator toward the flash, plot the direction and then call headquarters so they could call in a preplotted artillery strike on the flash. While I was on my first watch, which would be an hour long, I opened up a box of Nabisco Lorna Doone cookies I had received in a care package from my mother.

Pretty tasty! During my second watch of the night I again got out my box of cookies and began to munch. For some reason I remembered there being more cookies in the box. Strange! All of a sudden as I reached deeper into the box, I felt something cold in my fingers. A lizard had crawled into my cookie box and I had a hold of it. I dropped it back into the box with a chill in my bones. As I thought about what to do about the lizard and now grubby cookies a thought came to my mind.

One of the other Marines was evidently pilfering my cookies and this gave me an excellent opportunity to expose the cookie thief. So I resealed the lid on the box so the lizard could not get out. After my watch was done and the next Marine was awakened and given the communications radio. I laid down for a snooze thinking that this was going to lead to an interesting situation!

Yes!

LIMA COMPANY

3RD BN. 5TH MARINES 1ST MAR. DIV.
VIETNAM 1966–1971

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

