

Lima Co. 3/5 Reunion



VIETNAM 1966-1971

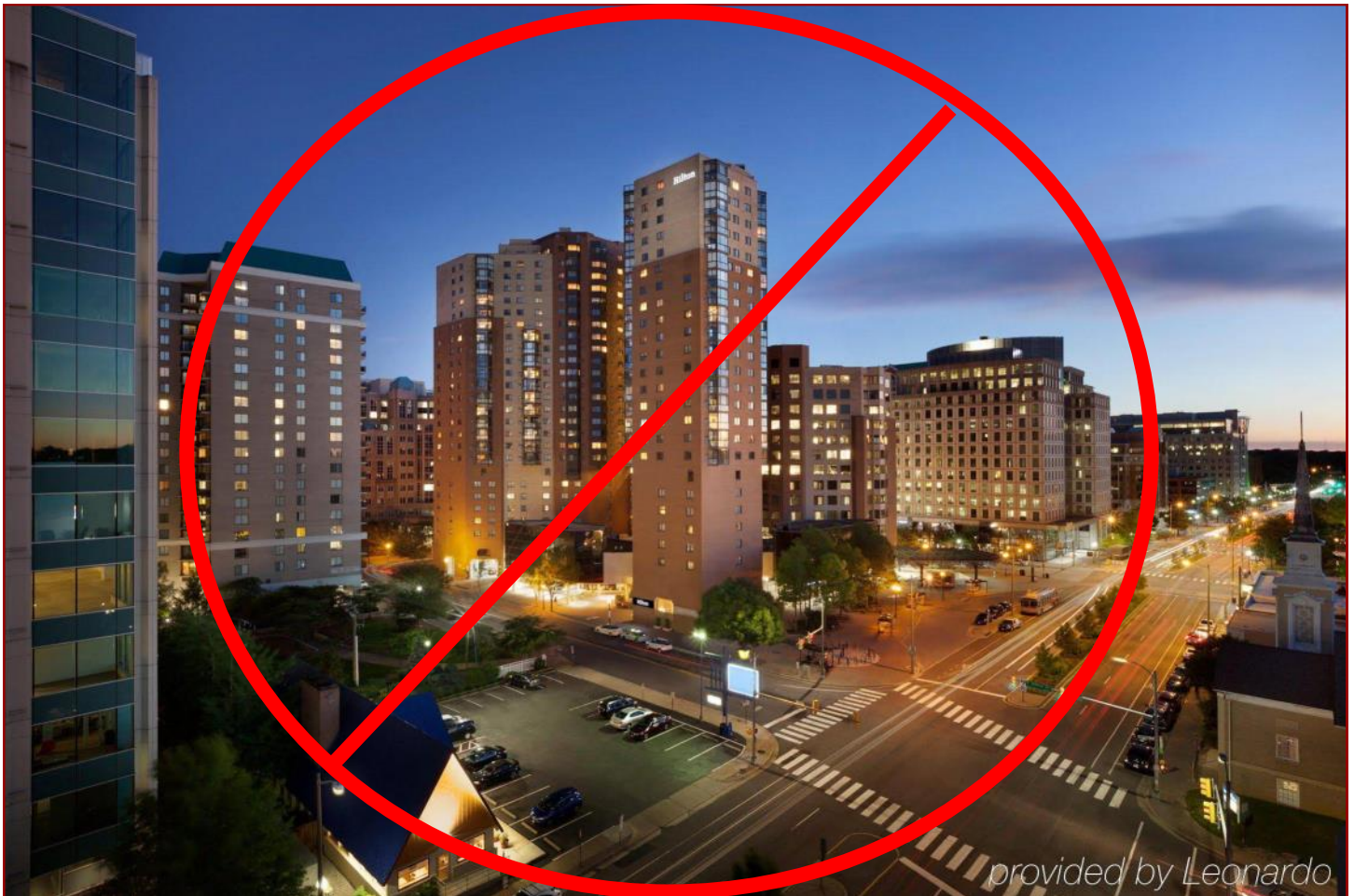
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Lima Company



March 2020 Newsletter #125 Washington DC Reunion

Hilton Arlington **Canceled**



36th Lima 3/5 Reunion **Canceled**

SEMPER FIDELIS

MEMBERSHIP INFO

If you have an **e-mail address** and you don't get the Roster updates or Newsletter via e-mail, send me your e-mail address to save on postage. We mail out 222 and e-mail 235.
Get an e-mail address.

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James Hough	Towanda, PA
Herby Ivy	Wagoner, OK
Rich Jenkins	Reading, PA
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Doug Watson	Middleton, OH
John Mesterpay	Coral Gables, FL
Patrick Oliver	Bend, OR



LOST E-MAIL ADDRESS

Tim Blank

Mike Commings

Don Farrar



TAPS

Don Anderson

passed away Jan 19, 2020.

Don served in Vietnam with Lima 3/5 from Nov 67 till May 68. He was a Sgt and his MOS was 2531, a Marine Corps Field Radio Operator. Don got 2 Purple Hearts on 22 Feb 68 and 22 May 68. He attended 9 Lima 3/5 Reunions.

At Don's request there will be no visitation or funeral service. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring.

Arrangements were completed by the Slater-Butala Funeral Home of Genoa, IL.

To sign the online guest book, go to

www.ButalaFuneralHomes.com



2020 REUNION CANCELED

Lima 3/5 Vets,

It's really not a great time in our country right now. The coronavirus has canceled our 2020 Lima 3/5 Reunion this year. Hopefully, we all stay healthy. Things seem to get worse everyday. More and more people are getting the virus and more keep dying. If you have a hotel reservation, make sure you cancel your room.

Every year when we meet at a Reunion it is a great time for us with the stories from our time in Vietnam from 1966 to 1971. The 35 Lima 3/5 Reunions have brought in 1,322 Lima 3/5 Veterans. That's a lot of good guys.

From 1966 till 1971 Lima 3/5 was involved in 39 Operations, some multiple times.

1966 There were 4 Operations. Deckhouse I & II, Hastings 2 times, and Colorado.

1967 There were 13 Operations. Desoto, Rio Grande, Boone, Union I & II 2 times each, Ariaona-Bai Loc, Calhoun 2 times, Pike, Cochise, Yazoo 2 times, Swift, Shelbyville, Onslow, Baxter, and Auburn.

1968 There were 14 Operations. Auburn, Hue City 3 times, Nutcracker, Houston I, II, III, IV, Allen Brook, Mameluke Thrust 5 times, Sussex Bay, Maui Peak, Henderson Hill, Meade River, and Taylor Common.

1969 There were 5 Operations. Muskogee Meadow, Pipe Stone Canyon 2 times, Forsyth Grove, Durham Peak 2 times.

1970 There were 2 Operations. Noble Canyon 2 times, and Imperial Lake.

1971 There was 1 Operation. Imperial Lake.

At the Lima 3/5 Reunion I've heard stories from quite a few of these Operations. I was only with Lima 3/5 on 2 of the Operations in 1968. Being transferred from Fox 2/27 after 7 months in Vietnam in September of 1968, I only had 3 days on Operation Mameluke Thrust. That's when I got my first Purple Heart on Friday the 13th, September of 68. Several guys have filled me in with several stories from those 3 days. Guys didn't remember me by name but knew an 0331 that was shot through the neck.

When I came back in November of 68, I went out with hot chow on Thanksgiving, Nov 28th. I got my 2nd Purple Heart 3 days later. Doc Bammer remembered that I was only with Lima 3/5 in the field 3 days in September and now just 3 days in November. He made sure I would get out of the field and back to the Hospital in Da Nang and go back to the States.

I just wish that we could get back together. I like listening to the stories when I wasn't a Lima Vet, especially the Hue City Operation. We'll get back together in 2021.

Semper Fi,

Dan

DOC STEVEN SWATEK

Dennis Freer got and inquiry posted on his Facebook site from Steven Cox.

Dennis,

New to the group. Looking for anyone that remembers Steven Doc Swatek Corpsman Lima 3/5 K.I.A. 3/1/68 in Hue City. He was a fellow classmate, and friend of mine from Peshtigo WI. I was also a Corpsman with 3/5, and at the time of his death was in Phu Bai. I still don't know how, but was given the sad task of escorting his body home to Peshtigo. Thank you for your past service with 3/5, but also like myself, as a law enforcement officer.

Steven Cox. Green Bay, WI.

After Dennis e-mailed me about Steven Doc Swatek, KIA from Lima 3/5, I e-mailed him back to see if he had information about Steven Cox. Doc Cox wanted to talk to anyone who had stories of Doc Swatek. He sent me this other e-mail that has Doc Cox's e-mail address.

Doc Swatek got to Vietnam 17 Dec 67 and was KIA 1 Mar 68.

If anybody remembers Doc Swatek, get in touch with Doc Steve Cox.

Dennis,

As requested, here is a little backround information on myself. Joined the U.S. Navy in March 1966 out of Peshtigo WI. After boot camp, and Medical Corps school, I was stationed in Charleston SC. till I think March 1967. I then volunteered to attend FMF school, and to be attached to the U.S.M.C. After training at Camp Pendleton, I was shipped to Vietnam, and attached to 3rd Battalion 5th Marines. After arriving in Chu Lai I was assigned to Lima 3/5, and joined my outfit, at the tail end of Union II. During operation Swift, I received shrapnel wounds, and spent a month in the hospital at Cam Ran Bay. Upon returning to my unit, I was assigned to our Battalion Aid Station. It was in late Nov 67 that new Corpsman arrived there, and I was surprised to see my classmate Corpsman Steven Paul Swatek (P42E L25). He too was assigned to Lima 3/5. Believe in late Jan or early Feb Lima company was detached from Battalion, and moved north to supplement another unit in the area of Hue city during TET 68. In Feb 68 myself and the rest of 3/5 was moved up to Phu Bai. On the night of 3/1/68 I was advised by our Chief, that Steve was K.I.A., and asked to identify his body in the morning. That day I was also asked "Do you want to go home" meaning would I escort Steven's body home to Peshtigo. Today I only know bit's and pieces, of how that was even possible? Seems Steve's dad and mother in law had some pull somewhere, and requested my assignment to do this. After some SNAFU upon arriving state side, I was finally able to bring my friend home. After the funeral, I was transferred to Navy hospital Orlando FL till my discharge in 1969. After service, and attending school, I was employed by the Ashwaubenon Public Safety Dept, a suburb of Green Bay WI providing Police, Fire, and EMS services to the community. Dennis sorry if I rambled on here too much, but just an old Corpsman proud of those Marines and Corpsman he was given the honor of serving with. Take care my friend, and thank you for your group.

Steve (hm3bud631@hotmail.com).

2021 REUNION

Skip St. Clair and Robert "Hank" Henry are going to host the 2021 Reunion in Florida. It will be in the Datona Beach area. If they have the information before the July it will be in the July Newsletter. It's been a while, 2015 in Myrtle Beach, since we have been on a beach. Lets hope that this coronavirus goes away.

OLD LIMA 3/5 REUNIONS

SAN DIEGO



2001

2002



NEW ORLEANS

DAYTONA BEACH REUNION 2004



OLD LIMA 3/5 REUNIONS



OLD LIMA 3/5 REUNIONS



JOHN MCGAUGHEY



Dan,
The Ted Crisp short story jogged my memory. I have no doubt this is a picture of the ambushed jeep. I was part of a react force the C.O. sent down from the C.P. at the "alamo". The Senior Corporal took this picture that speaks for itself. "Dumb and Dumber?", sure, but unfortunately, a very similar incident occurred a few months later on the north side of Liberty Bridge.

S/F
John McGaughey (scount sgt.)

P.S. Is there a way I can purchase a couple of hats for myself and my radio operator Bob Master?

john.susan.mcgaughey@gmail.com

TED CRISP SHORT STORIES

Chow Hall Salutation

Our Company was again in the rear area for rest and supplies. We had just gotten in from the field after being on search and destroy missions in the rice paddies for a month.

I remember I was heading down to the chow hall looking forward to some hot food. As I passed another lance corporal heading toward me, He saluted me. I thought this strange as according to proper military etiquette you were only to salute officers. I returned the salute and continued on my way.

As I passed another Marine he also saluted me. I again returned the salute. Almost to the mess hall another soldier saluted me. I immediately stopped and assessed the situation and then realized that I was wearing a set of gold and orange Harley Davidson wings on my flak jacket. We sometimes wore pins or medallions from home that we cared about to set us apart from all the rest of the other marines. They evidently thought I was a U.S.M.C. air wing pilot and were using military etiquette saluting me. I quickly removed the wings to avoid any more confusion.

But thinking back it was kind of fun.

Star Light Star Bright

It was my first week in Viet Nam and I was assigned to a night time perimeter bunker watch to help protect our base. Another Marine who was assigned to the same bunker had with him a Starlight Scope, a night vision device. This is a special optical instrument that uses light from the stars, amplifies it. When you look through it, it shows the terrain almost like daylight. After a while He handed me the scope and told me to take a turn at it. It is an awkward tool to use as this was in the early stages of Star light technology, not refined like today's night vision. He said to me "Look towards the village to the right and down low, what do you see?" I replied. "It's all hazy green and black everywhere." He said look one more time and focus. I then informed him that in the midst of the green I could see a small red light dot. He stated that the red light was a Viet Cong looking back at us with an infrared scope.

I tucked all my body parts in close inside the bunker.

LIMA COMPANY



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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

