

LIMA CO. 3/5/1 MARINES



VIETNAM 1966-1971

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Lima Company



NEWSLETTER #144 ❖ SEPTEMBER 2024

40TH ANNUAL REUNION

**Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
June 4 - 8, 2025**

Our hosts, Connie Shuler and Robert Stockham, are working on finalizing the hotel and related amenities, which will be in the next newsletter, along with the reunion order form.

[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.

SEMPER FIDELIS

MYRTLE BEACH



COMPANY MEMBERSHIP



TAPS



[Danny Currie](#)

Died: February 2024

Lima Co: May 66 - Sep 66

1st Platoon - 1st Squad

Rank: L/CPL

MOS: 0311

WIA: 12-Aug-66

Awards: Purple Heart

Reunions: 1



Charles Bagstad

Died: June 16, 2024

Lima Co: Aug 67 - Aug 68

Battalion Courier

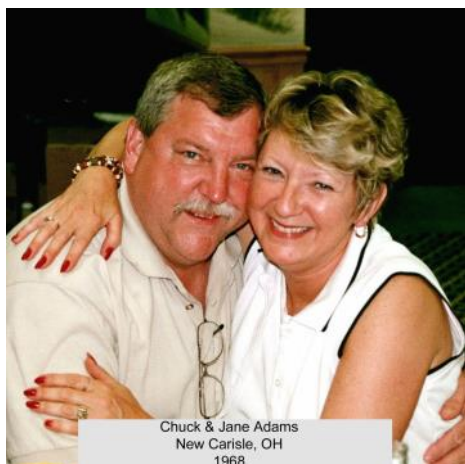
Rank: Sergeant

MOS: 0311

WIA: No

Awards: Unknown

Reunions: 1



Charles Adams

Died: August 4, 2024

Lima Co: Sep 69 - Oct 70

3rd Platoon – 3rd Squad

Rank: CPL

MOS: 0311

WIA: No

Reunions: 4

COMPANY MEMBERSHIP



LIMA 3/5

ROSTER

LIMA 3/5



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 638 Marines and Corpsmen and 18 Relatives/Friends.

Active	365
Lost Contact	50
Died	220
Do Not Contact (DNC)	3
Relative/Friend (R/F)	18

2nd Platoon - 2nd Squad May 1971

Mayor Chico Frenchie Lubby Dago Red



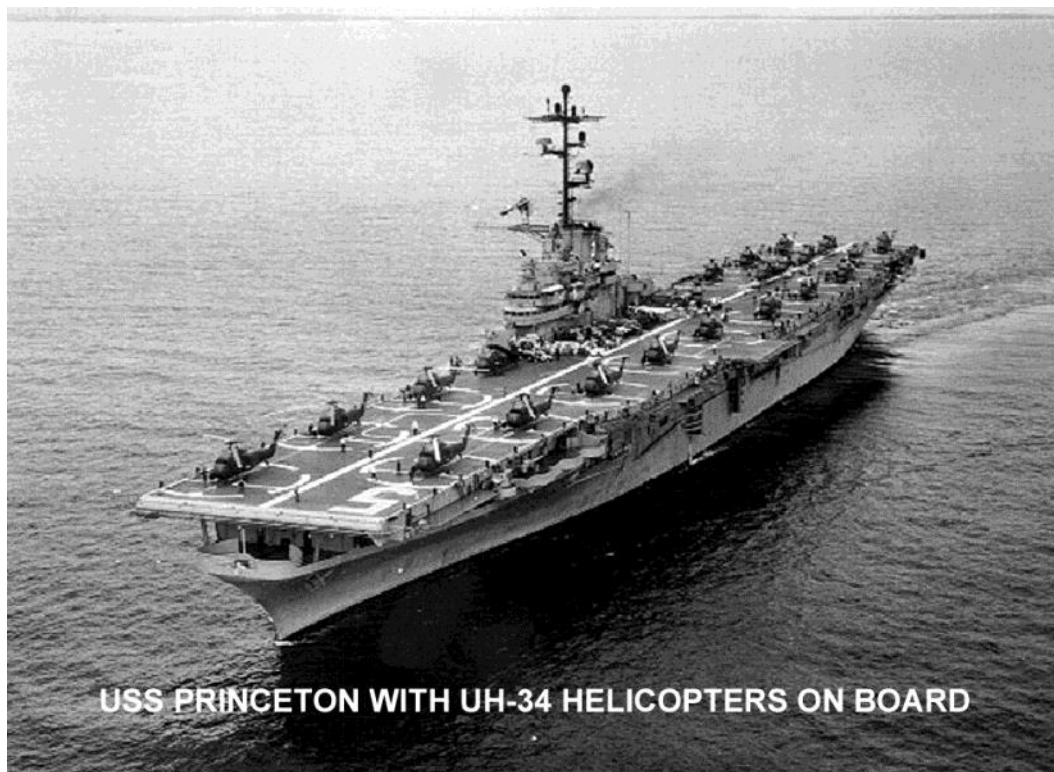
Rodriquez Texas Knoblock NC Country

Submitted by Larry French
a.k.a "Frenchie"

COMPANY STORIES

Andrew Syor writes:

I joined 3/5 at Camp Pendleton, CA in Dec 1965 as a 0341 mortarman. We trained for combat and shipped out as a battalion from Long Beach, CA aboard the APA USS Renville on Mar 1, 1966. The 81's I was with were attached to Lima Co for the duration. We boarded the LPH USS Princeton, carrying UH- 34's and floated up and down the Viet Nam coast for several months, doing numerous "search and destroy" operations, before coming ashore to a base camp, near Chu Lai, sometime during the summer of 1966 (after Operation Hastings?). Again, we did multiple search and destroy operations from our base camp. In Dec 1966 I was transferred to 1st MP's at the Da Nang Airbase, rotating back to the world in April 1967.



COMPANY STORIES

BATTALION LANDING TEAM 3/5 AS A SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ABOARD LPH-5 USS PRINCETON ('NAM 1966)

ANDY SYOR
CPL, RVN Jan '66 - Apr '67

It was sometime in mid-1966, somewhere off the Vietnam coast, we were returning to our ship (USS Princeton) after another search and destroy operation. As I stepped onto the deck, and knowing most of the deck crew from my helicopter guard duty while on the ship, I could see the startled expression on a swabbie's face.

Not knowing if it was the aroma from fifteen days of sweat, gunpowder, insect repellent and rice paddy mud or the unshaven face, I just grinned. Recognizing me, he said "Hey Jarhead, what did you do, scare 'em to death?" I replied "Yeah, VC number ten." He then said "I've got the latest scuttlebutt." I replied dryly "What's that, some chicken-shit inspection?" He laughed and said "No, we're floating back to Subic to confuse enemy observers for a few days and having liberty call instead of training."

Ski, our wireman, said he knew the perfect place for us to go and unwind. As we entered the Philippine waters we floated by the USS Enterprise and it felt like we were on a tug boat. Soon as the ship docked, "Cinderella Liberty" was sounded and five of us headed directly to the best off-limits, restricted slop chute in the Olongapo City's wild side.

After a few boisterous hours of flowing booze, a classic all-out brawl started. Broken bottles, tables, chairs with fists and bodies flying... **U**ncle **S**am's **M**isguided **C**hildren, the squid sea-going bellhops, some mean local patrons and everyone else... I felt like it was an episode of "McHale's Navy."

So I said to myself "Self," "What stupid?" "This is getting risky, and that naive, prick sergeant (personalities clash from day one—I had one, he didn't) would love to see me get office hours," so out the back door I went and somehow made it back to the ship on time.

Once on board, I waited by the gang plank for Ski and the rest of the group who returned in a Shore Patrol paddy wagon. After taking some ribbing for leaving the festivities early, I just said I'm planning on keeping my remaining supply of "odds against danger" for the combat zone.

No bullshit, GI.

"Then"



"Now"



COMPANY STORIES

MAN OVERBOARD

My recollection of the event was we were in the wire cage hanging under the flight deck just outside our squad bay. I don't remember who it was, but I think he was bragging about being a good diver. Someone dared him to jump through the opening in the bottom of the cage. He said something like "If I had a reason to, I would." Either him or someone else threw his rubber lady (air mattress) thru the hole and he jumped or dove in after it. I recall he was taken to the ship captain and asked to explain. Said his rubber lady fell in and he knew how hard it was to get 782 gear, so he jumped in to retrieve it. After being yelled at and accused of taking a dare, and of course denying it, the Captain referred to him as a damn crazy marine and told him to get out and don't do it again!

This is my recollection of the event and I guess, it must have been Haddaway. He gained great respect for that dive.

Thanks for the memories. Bob Sorensen.

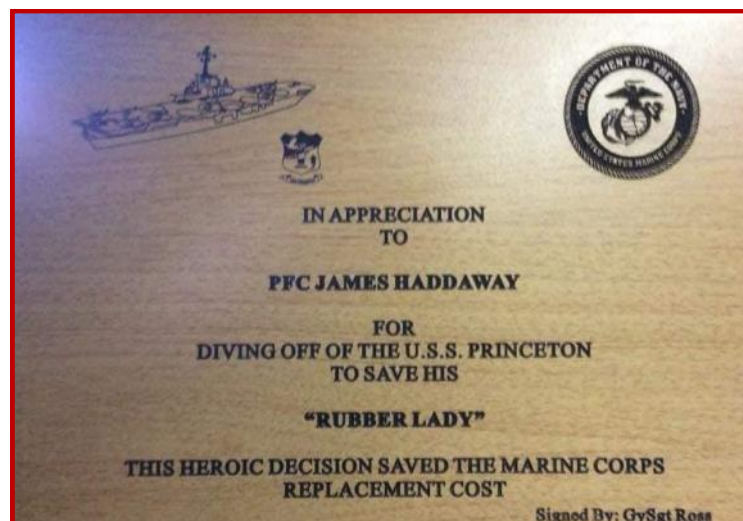


J. Haddaway "Swan Dive" impact From 80'



Haddaway hits the water; rubber lady at upper right

Looking for his skivvies



COMPANY STORIES

Submitted by ED McCURRY

H&S Co. 3/5; 81's radio; Feb 70 - Oct 70

Hi David,

I was a 2531 (R/O) (*radio operator*). Apparently we were in short supply because any number of grunts, like you (*D. Acton*), ended up being ROs. My initial overseas tour started in Iwakuni, with 1st Wing (Rear), in October of '69. A couple of buddies from radio school and I decided we didn't enlist in the green machine to live like Air Force pukes (can you believe it, I had my own room and bed and night table and table lamp as a Lance Corporal?), so we volunteered for a split tour to wonderful Vietnam (that's how 19 year old brains work). Anyway, ended up with Lima 3/5 on Hill 37 sometime in late February or early March of '70. In the summer, about the time you rotated, I was sent to Hill 52, under Charlie Ridge, at the southern end of the Arizona. Then in September of '70, 7th Marines were withdrawn and we took over their AO on Baldy and Ross, I rotated out in October, just before the monsoons hit and the battalion went out on an OP (boy did I get lucky). My last few months were spent as a corporal running working parties, spit shining the headquarters building for 7th Marines at Pendleton (maybe Camp Horno?).



Sept. 1970, Hill 52, PRC-77
Radio with KY-38 Scrambler

Short bio afterwards: Unemployed in the Bay Area, I moved in with my Dad for a short time in Northern Virginia and worked retail (7-11 and then a pharmacy chain) for 3+ years, then quit, went to George Mason University for 3 years and got a degree in accounting. Worked in corporate accounting, mostly for defense contractors since then (1980) and just retired as a controller.

To support myself when I was in school I joined the active reserves and would go on active duty in the summers. I was with an ITT unit (interrogator-translator) from '76 to '79 at the Washington Navy Yard and had an MOS change to 0251 (which no longer exists in the Marine Corps). Summer of '78 I worked at 4th Marine Division headquarters at the Navy Annex in Arlington, working on planning for the 2nd Marine Corps Marathon.

(continued)

COMPANY STORIES

Summer of '79 I went on cruise on the USS Blue Ridge in the South China Sea, working as an Intel Chief in the CIC, we were looking for boat people, got caught in a typhoon (Jesus, that was a trip), ports of call were Okinawa, Hong Kong and Olongapo in the Philippines, which also no longer exists, having been wiped out by the Mount Pinatubo volcano eruption of 1991.

Walked shore patrol in the pouring rain there, in my only set of dress greens, with the local whores laughing from second story balconies at the stupid Marines who didn't know how to come in from the rain (I just laughed with them).

In late '79, the ITT unit moved to Boston and I was transferred as intel admin chief for 4th CAG (Civil Affairs Group). Those last four months with them was an unmitigated disaster; I was not a good administrator at the time so I left when my second enlistment was up in March of 1980. I think I would have stayed had the ITT unit been around, I ended up being good at that. Got out as a Staff Sergeant.

Got married in '99, my wife died in 2017, and I live in a 1953 rambler on a half acre, with a dog and a cat. I play a shitload of mediocre golf now, help run one of the 3 leagues I play in.

After 'nam, it was all gravy, though it took me years to realize it.

Best,

Ed



Golf League Administrator

(continued)

COMPANY STORIES

Ed McCurry — continued

So David, you have caused me to revisit my bygone years after a hiatus of about 15 years. I had my share of demons, not debilitating as I could cope and never have used the VA, but they were there in my dreams, stray thoughts and unconscious reactions to negative stimuli. Sometime around 1999, when the 'net really starting picking up steam and more and more people were using it, I was on AOL military forums and found a guy who was on Hill 52 with Mike Company in June of '70, same time I was. We didn't know each other but had some common memories and shared some long, involved, emails about our emotions and thoughts about what we went through, and what we were going through. It sort of started me looking at those years after barely acknowledging that I had ever served, for decades. (In the small world department I found out that I went to high school with his brother on an Air Force base in France in '64-65...dormitory living). Shortly thereafter I was contacted by a guy from India Company (Curtis Eidson) and we ended up looking for 3/5 members. I ended up learning *Microsoft's Front Page* website software (the original Lima Company webmaster tutored me, he lived nearby in Alexandria and I went over to his house) and started building a website, for Mike, India and H&S. Starting with 17 people in early 2000 it was up to several hundred by the time I quit updating the website in 2010 (many reasons...MS stopped supporting *Front Page* and I would have been forced to restart from scratch, had hundreds of pages of material and I didn't have the time, cuz was working full time and had a healthy marriage). I made some really, really good friends. My best friends have all since died. Christ I feel old.

We started a reunion in 2000 at West Point Lake in Georgia, a fishing camp. I went to the first three and then to a couple of more later on but stopped because it got so big and folks started to form cliques. I'm not personally outgoing and won't push my way in so I started feeling like an outsider again (this is not to denigrate the folks who liked to band together...the bloody operations in which the companies of 3/5 participated caused intense emotional bonds among the survivors and I expect it was extremely cathartic to those guys. Off the top of my head I'm thinking Hastings, Essex, Swift, Taylor Common, Hue, the debacle at HaiVan Pass among others). That reunion is still ongoing, it moved to Tennessee for a couple of years and is now in Kentucky. Though Curtis was a good friend, and honchos the reunions, we haven't talked in many years, I suppose divergent interests is the root cause.

But I digress. 10 years of almost constant, at least weekly and often daily, writing and posting and thinking and sharing stories, emotions, thoughts, laughter and tears I found that the demons that had been bothering me were exorcised, more or less.

(continued)

COMPANY STORIES

(Ed McCurry – continued)

I mean they were there but they had become experiences to be looked at occasionally, not feared, but perused with curiosity, mostly. So, that was therapy and I never realized it until I stopped updating the website.

I've done more thinking on the subject matter in the last few days than I have in all the years since 2010. All because Dan (*Dan Cantrell-Lima 3/5 website administrator*) and you contacted me. Have had some dreams, but they're not bad ones.

Apologies for unloading on you.

Ed

Hi David,

Sure, you can use whatever you like.

You did do well, congratulations on a life well led. Aquatic biology, wow! My senior year in college I had to take a lab science and didn't want biology, chemistry or physics, so I took geology. I really liked it, had I taken it my sophomore year I would have changed my major...but ran out of money and GI Bill benefits. But, no regrets.

I do feel like a fraud sometimes though. I didn't see any of the horrendous stuff some of my friends did who were in the bush. Had a couple of close calls, but they were random and not really a problem to me later. I never thought I had PTSD since I could cope with life just fine. I did drink a lot for a couple of years after getting out. I don't handle alcohol well though and I had to quit drinking. It's funny though, I did go back in the active reserves in late '76 and yet disassociated my 3 + years of that run with my previous tour, like I was a different person. Mind games, I suppose.

Ed

Remembering Gunny Loucks

One thing I'll always remember is the Gunny getting the company up to move out in his unforgettable voice:

*"Off your ass and on your feet,
outa the shade and into the heat.*

Saddle up Lima, we're moving out!"

(Ralph) Lou "The Pointman" Sorrell

REUNION 2025

LIMA COMPANY 3/5 MARINES, CORPSMEN and ASSOCIATES

YOU WILL REPORT FOR TEMPORARY ASSIGNED DUTY (TAD) AT

MYRTLE BEACH, SC

(FIREBASE TO BE DETERMINED)

ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 2025 AT 1800 HOURS.
YOUR TAD WILL TERMINATE AT 0100 HOURS ON SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!

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

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!!!

