

LIMA CO.

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



VIETNAM 1966-1971

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NEWSLETTER #151 ❖ OCTOBER 2025



MARINES

— 1775-2025 —

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SEMPER FIDELIS



USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY



HISTORY OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

[\(Wikipedia\)](#)

The history of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) begins with the founding of the Continental Marines on 10 November 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide shipboard security and discipline enforcement, and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and foreign policy of the United States. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the United States Marine Corps has served in nearly every conflict in United States history. It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of U.S. strategy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps would become one of the dominant theorists and practitioners of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond on short notice to expeditionary crises has made and continues to make it an important tool for U.S. foreign policy.

In February 1776, the Continental Marines embarked on their maiden expedition. The Continental Marines were disbanded at the end of the war, along with the Continental Navy. In preparation for the Quasi-War with France, Congress created the United States Navy and the Marine Corps. The Marines' most famous action of this period occurred in the First Barbary War (1801–1805) against the Barbary pirates. In the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), the Marines made their famed assault on Chapultepec Palace, which overlooked Mexico City, their first major expeditionary venture. In the 1850s, the Marines would see service in Panama, and in Asia. During the U.S. Civil War (1861–1865) the Marine Corps played only a minor role after their participation in the Union defeat at the first battle of First Bull Run/Manassas. Their most important task was blockade duty and other ship-board battles, but they were mobilized for a handful of operations as the war progressed. The remainder of the 19th century would be a period of declining strength and introspection about the mission of the Marine Corps. Under Commandant Jacob Zeilin's term (1864–1876), many Marine customs and traditions took shape. During the Spanish–American War (1898), Marines would lead U.S. forces ashore in the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, demonstrating their readiness for deployment. Between 1900 and 1916, the Marine Corps continued its record of participation in foreign expeditions, especially in the Caribbean and Central and South America, which included Panama, Cuba, Veracruz, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Nicaragua.

In World War I, battle-tested, veteran Marines served a central role in the United States' entry into the conflict. Between the world wars, the Marine Corps was headed by Major General John A. Lejeune, another popular commandant. In World War II, the Marines played a central role, under Admiral Nimitz, in the Pacific War, participating in nearly every significant battle. The Corps also saw its peak growth as it expanded from two brigades to two corps with six divisions, and five air wings with 132 squadrons. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, photographer Joe Rosenthal took the famous photo Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima of [five Marines and one naval corpsman \(?\)](#) raising a U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi.

The Korean War (1950–1953) saw the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade holding the line at the Battle of Pusan Perimeter, where Marine helicopters (VMO-6 flying the HO3S1 helicopter) made their combat debut. The Marines also played an important role in the Vietnam War at battles such as Da Nang, Huế,

(continued)



and Khe Sanh. The Marines operated in the northern I Corps regions of South Vietnam and fought both a constant guerilla war against the Viet Cong and an off and on conventional war against North Vietnamese Army regulars. Marines also conducted the less well-known [Combined Action Program](#) that implemented unconventional techniques for counterinsurgency warfare. The Marine presence was withdrawn in 1971, but returned briefly in 1975 to evacuate [Saigon](#) and attempt to rescue the crew of the [Mayagüez](#). **13,091 Marines were killed and 88,594 wounded during the war. As a footnote, the Marines in Vietnam suffered more casualties than both WWI and WWII combined, and 58 were awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).**

Marines went to Beirut during the 1982 Lebanon War on 24 August. On 23 October 1983, the Marine barracks in Beirut was bombed, causing the highest peacetime losses to the Corps in its history. Marines were also responsible for liberating Kuwait during the Gulf War (1990–1991), as the Army made an attack to the west directly into Iraq. The I Marine Expeditionary Force had a strength of 92,990, making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history.

Also see: <https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Brief-Histories/>

THREE BATTLES

Part 1: Operation Hastings — Marines Stop NVA in I Corps

by Edward Doyle

Photos courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps



It is quite possible that a couple of Vietnam veterans, strangers, could meet, begin reminiscing about the war and while doing so, wonder which war the other was talking about, so different could be their recollections. For Vietnam was several wars, and often no two of these were even remotely alike.

[There was I Corps (for much of the war strictly Marine country) and it was called so: jungle, rice paddies, steep hills that bordered the DMZ, mountains that were not quite. And there was the Demilitarized Zone, the DMZ, where North Vietnamese Commanding Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap thought he would bring the war to a speedy and victorious conclusion. He did not include in his plans the fierce resistance he would encounter from the United States Marines.

Marine from G Company, 1st runs far cover as NVA soldiers open up with 12.7mm heavy machine gun. Action is in Quang Tri Province, northwest of Dong Ha. Marine is armed with M16, the standard weapon for Marine riflemen at the time.

Sorry about this, Giep. Must change plan. Throw off your and Uncle Ho's timetable for a few years.

Just below I Corps lay II Corps. Its terrain doubtless was the most strikingly varied, ranging from the sandy shores of the South China Sea to the mountains—real mountains—west of Pleiku. Here, Giep and Ho sought an early and, hopefully abrupt conclusion to the war. Cut South Vietnam in two, let the northern half either on the rise and strike out southward toward Saigon, the capital.

End of war, ly. But not in ing the First hile) hang on learned a l troops, parti

Three Co-
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hills full of
Viet Cong
like the First
Red One,
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Finally,



Hue City, Tet '68

No Heroes. . . Just Marines[Ⓢ]

Story by Tom Bartlett
USMC Photos

Few Marines who survived the bitter, house-to-house fighting at Hue City in 1968 considered themselves "heroes." Most claim that there was a job to do, "and we got shipped north to do it."

Three understrength U.S. Marine battalions, 13 undermanned Vietnamese ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) battalions, and the Hoc Bao "Black Panther" (ARVN) Company of volunteers were to engage a superior force of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars. The enemy was hard-core; well-equipped, trained and combat-experienced.

The enemy force consisted of the 894th, K4B, and K4C Battalions commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Van. LtCol Nguyen Trong Dan commanded the 800th, 802nd and 806th Battalions. Also, the 810th Independent Battalion, and the 12th and Co Be Sapper Battalions augmented the enemy strength.

Before the battle ended 26 days later, five more enemy battalions would arrive: the 416th, 4th and 6th of the 24th NVA Regiment, and the 7th and 8th Battalions of the 90th NVA Regiment. Nearly 6,000 NVA in all.

1st Lt. Col. Marc Gravel, commanding 1/1, led a reaction force from the Phu Bai Combat Base, taking "G"/2/5 with him in his dash for Hue. (Captain Charles Meadows commanded "Golf" Company.)

Capt Gordon Batcheller and his Marines of "A"/1 were first to meet the fire of enemy weapons and to feel the blazing heat of their lead, while enroute to the city by convoy. The battle had begun at 3:40 a.m., January 31, 1968.

On the morning of Feb. 1, 1900,





USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY



MARINE CORPS BATTLE COLORS



Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., holds the official [Battle Color of the Marine Corps](#). A duplicate is maintained in the office of the Commandant of the Marine Corps in the Pentagon. The Battle Color bears the same fifty streamers authorized for the Marine Corps as a whole. These streamers represent U.S. and foreign unit awards as well as those periods of service, expeditions, and campaigns in which the Marine Corps has participated from the American Revolution to today.

During the Marine Corps' first 150 years, Marines in the field carried a variety of flags. It was not until 18 April 1925 that Marine Corps Order Number 4 designated gold and scarlet as the official colors of the U.S. Marine Corps. These colors, however, were not reflected in the official Marine Corps flag until 18 January 1939 when a new design incorporating the new colors was approved. This design was essentially that of today's Marine Corps standard, and was the result of a two-year study concerning the design of a standard Marine Corps flag, and the units to which such a flag should be issued.

The 55 colored streamers which adorn the Battle Color represent the history and accomplishments of the Marine Corps. The newest streamers to be added to the Battle Color are the Afghanistan, Iraq, and Inherent Resolve Campaign Streamers.

[Reference Branch, USMC History Division](#)

Vietnam Service Streamer with three silver and two bronze stars





USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY



HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS FLAG

Military.com

Very little information is available regarding the flags carried by early American Marines, although indications are that the Grand Union flag was carried ashore by the battalion led by Captain Samuel Nicholas on New Providence Island, 3 March 1776. It is quite possible that the Rattlesnake flag was also carried on this expedition.



The standard carried by the Marines during the 1830s and 1840s consisted of a white field with gold fringe, and bore an elaborate design of an anchor and eagle in the center. Prior to the Mexican War, this flag bore the legend "To the Shores of Tripoli" across the top. Shortly after the war, the legend was revised to read: "From Tripoli to the Halls of the Montezumas."

During the Mexican and Civil Wars, Marines in the field apparently carried a flag similar to the national flag, comprised of red and white stripes and a union. The union, however, contained an eagle perched on a shield of the United States and a half-wreath beneath the shield, with 29 stars encircling the entire design. Beginning in 1876, Marines carried the national colors (the Stars and Stripes) with "U.S. Marine Corps" embroidered in yellow on the middle red stripe.

At the time of the Vera Cruz landing in 1914, a more distinctive standard was carried by Marines. The design consisted of a blue field with a laurel wreath encircling the Marine Corps emblem in the center. A scarlet ribbon above the emblem carried the words "U.S. Marine Corps," while another scarlet ribbon below the emblem carried the motto "Semper Fidelis."

Orders were issued on 2 April 1921 which directed all national colors be manufactured without the yellow fringe and without the words "U.S. Marine Corps" embroidered on the red stripe. This was followed by an order dated 14 March 1922, retiring from use all national colors still in use with yellow fringe or wording on the flag. Following World War I, the Army practice of attaching silver bands carrying inscriptions enumerating specific decorations and battles was adopted. This practice was discontinued on 23 January 1961.

Marine Corps Order No. 4 of 18 April 1925 designated gold and scarlet as the official colors of the U.S. Marine Corps. These colors, however, were not reflected in the official Marine Corps standard until 18 January 1939, when a new design incorporating the new colors was approved. The design was essentially that of today's Marine Corps standard.

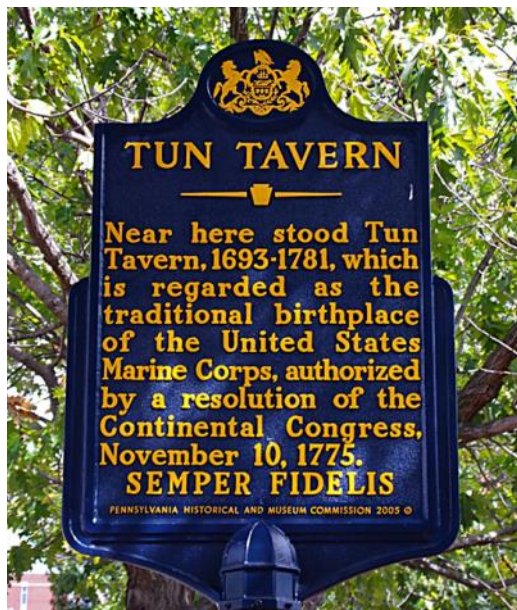
For a brief time following World War I, the inscribing of battle honors directly on the colors of a unit was in practice, but realization that a multiplicity of honors and the limited space on the colors made the system impractical, and the procedure was discontinued. On 29 July 1936, a Marine Corps Board recommended that the Army system of attaching streamers to the staff of the organizational colors be adopted. Such a system was finally authorized by Marine Corps Order No. 157, dated 3 November 1939, and is currently in practice.



USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY



TUN TAVERN



In America there are groups who have “created” destinations just because of their membership or interest in an organization or subject. These groups have a passion that draws them to their destinations, be it a love of nature, a love of country, a love of history... or love of tradition.

There was such a place along Philadelphia’s early burgeoning waterfront in the 17th century, and it gave birth to no less than six prominent organizations– all of which are still in existence today with nearly 5,000,000 members who can claim the common heritage of their organizations’ founding at this place.

The fact that members of these organizations can NAME this place without hesitation is astounding–because no one has been there or seen it for over 240 years, although most know its exact address: Water Street & Tun Alley.

That place was The Tun tavern, often referred to in historical records as simply “The Tun”. Originally opened in 1693 as what would today be called a Micro-brewery, it was one of the first taverns erected in the new settlement of Philadelphia. Originally built by Master Brewer, Joshua Carpenter, with the help of his brother Samuel Carpenter, The Tun had a reputation for the finest beer in Philadelphia. The demand for Joshua Carpenter’s beer was so strong that after operating The Tun for only about three months he decided to lease the tavern to someone else so that he could focus on his passion – crafting the finest beer and ale. It was apparently a good decision, as Joshua Carpenter was considered one of the wealthiest men in Philadelphia at the time of his death in 1722. Between them the Carpenter brothers owned four taverns and/or “coffee houses” (coffee and tea on the first floor, beer and spirits on the second).

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USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY



Joshua Carpenter's businesses were so successful that he was one of the principal founders and financers of Christ Church in Philadelphia; a structure that still stands to this day.

The tavern changed hands multiple times over the next few decades, and it was under the management of a widow, Mary Campion in the 1730's, that it gained the reputation for good food. By the 1740's it was run by the Mullan Family, and furthered its reputation as the best place to get a meal in Philadelphia under the moniker "Peg Mullan's Beef-steak Club".

Yet, as popular a "destination" as it was in the 1700's, the tavern had fallen into disrepair after standing nearly one hundred years, and was torn down in 1781, disappearing from the Delaware waterfront but never from the collective memories of the members of organizations that share a common heritage at The Tun.

It's the destination that the members of these organizations still seek on an almost daily basis according to the Independence National Park rangers who encounter them. Yet, despite knowing the address, they just can't find it.



William Penn certainly knew its address—his close friend and trusted confidant, Samuel Carpenter built The Tun and served as Penn's Deputy Governor and the colony's first Treasurer. Penn's fondness for fine ale is well-documented.

The Continental Congress certainly knew the address. Many members often met there informally after sessions.

John Adams knew the address. As the head of the Naval Committee he and members of the Continental Congress used *The Tun's* second floor meeting room to write the Articles of War that structured and organized what is now the U.S. Navy.

George Washington knew its address. After being chosen as the Commander of all American forces to fight the British, members of the Continental Congress held his celebratory dinner there.

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USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY

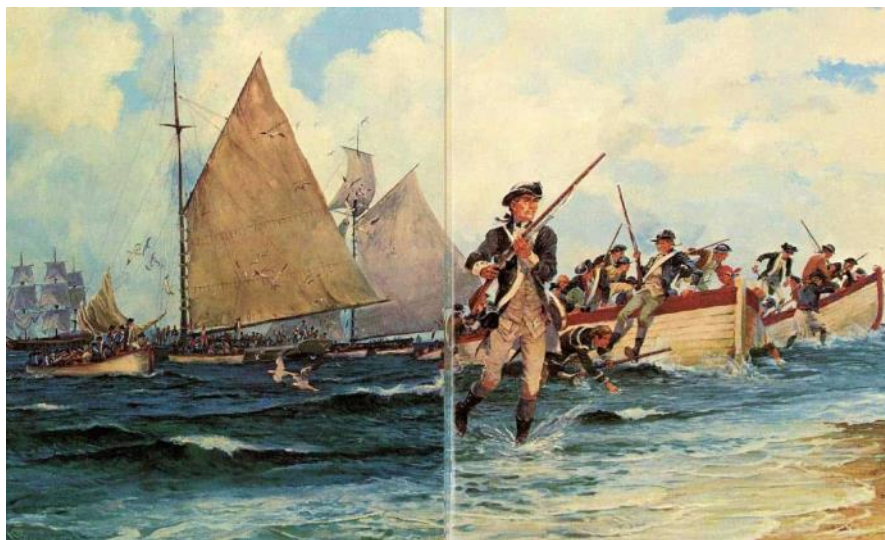


Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Haym Salomon, and most of the supporters of the American Revolution knew its address. They were “regulars” when visiting Philadelphia.

And Benjamin Franklin certainly knew its address — he joined two of the organizations founded there, and later printed the “menus” for one of the other organizations who met there for fundraising dinners. That organization still has one of those original menus... and the receipt!

And if you wanted to volunteer as a Marine in 1775, you HAD to know *The Tun*’s address, as it was the sole recruiting location for Marines in the entire country! Tavern proprietor, Robert Mullan was a Freemason as was Samuel Nicholas, the man charged by the Second Continental Congress with raising “two battalions of marines”, and together these two friends accomplished this at Mullan’s tavern (*The Tun*), likely because of its proximity to the Delaware River where the new ships of the Continental Navy were being finished.

We are told by the Park Rangers working at Independence Hall National Park that the second-most asked question after “Where are the restrooms?” is “Where is Tun?” For over 240 years they haven’t had an answer.





USMC 250TH BIRTHDAY



[MARINE CORPS 250TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF](#)

A short video featuring Commandant Gen. Eric M. Smith and Sgt. Maj. Carlos A. Ruiz

[COMMANDANT'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY GALA SPEECH](#)

April 26, 2025 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps

[NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS](#)

Lima 3/5 had our 2022 reunion banquet at the museum

See [Newsletter #134 July 2022](#)

[“THE PRESIDENT’S OWN”](#) United States Marine Band’s mission is to perform music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress, **the Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization.**



[John Philip Sousa](#), born 1854 & died 1932, 17th Director of *The President’s Own*, from 1880 - 1892.

The Marine Corps March [Semper Fidelis](#)

[The Marine Corps Hymn](#)

[Globe trotters and anchor droppers – The History of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor](#)





FIFTY YEARS LATER, A MARINE CHAPLIN REFLECTS ON HIS TOUR IN VIETNAM

By

LT John “Padre” Lepore, RVN Sept ‘67 – ‘Mar 68

Many of us watched the recent Ken Burns' documentary about the Vietnam War. The viewing jolted me back 50 years to my time in country as a Marine chaplain. I want to share with you some of my experiences and reflections. My orders to Vietnam came suddenly in September, 1967. I was to replace Chaplain Lt Vincent Capodanno, killed in action on Operation Swift.

I was greeted at the Danang Air Base by my regimental boss, chaplain Eli Takesian. His first words were "Welcome to Vietnam John, but I have to tell you, we may not win this war. Ho Chi Minh is their George Washington and we are interlopers like the French before us. Just so you know." Not what I wanted to hear, and Takesian proved to be prophetic.

A resupply helicopter dropped me off on Hill 63, southwest of Danang. Soon I was led to Chaplain Capodanno's tent where I was to stay. It was sobering and humbling to "replace" this man, who was legendary for his heroism in ministering to wounded Marines. Later, our nation gave him its highest military award: the Medal of Honor. (Currently, there are efforts in the Catholic Church to name him a saint.) He died at age 31 - my age when I arrived in Vietnam.

Some lessons about my new surroundings I learned quickly. The next morning I found a huge centipede making a home in one of my boots. Thereafter, I learned to keep my boots high and dry. There was more to learn. One day, a sergeant with a sullen young Marine in tow, came to my tent. He asked if I had given this Marine a Bible. I said I had. The sergeant opened the cover and showed me how the enterprising youth hollowed out a section of the book to store his marijuana.

Soon we moved to a base camp closer to Danang. When we did, we found that we landed in the lap of luxury compared to Hill 63. Most of us lived in hooches' (similar to small Quonset huts), for a while I bivouacked in a hooch we called "Salvation Navy." Here, I roomed with Navy personnel (the Marines get their doctors, dentists, chaplains and corpsmen, basically non-combatants, from the Navy.) Once the chapel was finished, my office doubled as my living quarters, period. Behind the chapel was an outdoor shower. The shower was nothing more than a round metal barrel filled manually with water, heated by the sun, with a handle to release water through holes in the bottom of the barrel. At the end of the day it was my oasis.

My chapel was built in record time according to the Seabees. It was a no-name chapel for all Marines, but everyone knew it was built for Chaplain Capodanno, who already was a legend in the fifth Marines. I learned it was a “cumsha” project, meaning the Marines swapped a lot of stuff, mostly beer, for the structure to be built promptly. No records are kept in such undertakings.

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Capodanno's death resulted in new protocols for chaplains working in the field to reduce the chances of our being killed. We were placed in Battalion Aid Stations where the wounded were helped by corpsmen, doctors and chaplains and then medevacked to hospitals. At times, chaplains were pressed into stretcher carriers to get the wounded into the helicopters fast. The enemy loved to fire at the helicopters. Once we were in the rear of the helicopter when rockets and mortars crashed around the plane. The pilot decided to take off with two of us still in the helo. We tried to get a return trip to the combat area but the helicopters were done flying for the day. You can imagine the kidding we got for leaving the field of battle that day.

Some chaplains visited CAP's units (Combined Action Program) along Highway 1, the main road in I Corps, leading to the DMZ. A CAP unit was composed of a squad of Marines and one Navy corpsman who lived in the small villages. It was their mission to win over the hearts and minds of the villagers and protect vital bridges along Highway 1. When I arrived at a CAP, I would on occasion find a collapsed highway bridge, with Seabees installing a pontoon bridge right beside it. Marines in CAP units felt particularly isolated and vulnerable; while we owned the daylight hours, the Viet Cong owned the nights.

At one CAP I met the real Dennis the Menace of cartoon fame. He was a small lad who joined the U.S. Marines to prove himself. Another celebrity I crossed paths with was Martha Raye, the entertainer. She was travelling on a dangerous road 'but the show must go on.' I became a fan of hers on the spot.

Part of our Marine pacification program was to bring our doctor, dentist and a few corpsmen to villages around Danang. When I could, I'd go with them to help select the most in need of care. Our doctor and dentist spent so many hours treating the villagers that they swapped jobs with the doctor pulling teeth and the dentist cleansing wounds. The corpsmen were amazed at their varied professional talents.

Operation Auburn is one I will never forget. It was a few weeks before Tet, in December 1967. Contact was made with the enemy 20 miles south of Danang. Companies of 3rd Bn, 5th Marines were air lifted from our base camp to support Marines who had stumbled into a staging area of the North Vietnam Army (NVA) and Viet Cong. Normally, the enemy would melt into the countryside when we, with air support, arrived. This time the NVA and VC stood and fought for two days. In hindsight, we learned the enemy was getting ready for the coming Tet offensive. We lost a lot of good Marines on that operation. One Marine stands out in my mind – a nineteen year old youth who got into trouble and was facing a minor courts martial. He was supposed to stay behind and take his punishment later in the week. Somehow he got permission to join us on the airlift. He ran up to me and joyously cried out, "Hey, Chap I'm going along with you and the guys." He was killed within five minutes of leaving our helicopter.

In October 1968, after 13 months, I left Vietnam. As the departing flight banked over Danang Air Base, I could easily see Highway 1, a crooked ribbon of road that connected my various stations from Phu Bai to Hoi An. The plane rose into a blanket of white clouds that obscured my view, but not the feeling of how lucky I was to be going home, virtually unscathed.

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My Marines often referred to the USA as ‘Disneyland’ – the place where there would be exciting rides to see family and friends, rides with girlfriends, rides to sporting events, movies, and bars. And the best part of all, no one trying to shoot you. But the joy of ‘Disneyland’ was tempered by what might befall buddies left behind. I would not visit Vietnam again until 50 years later.

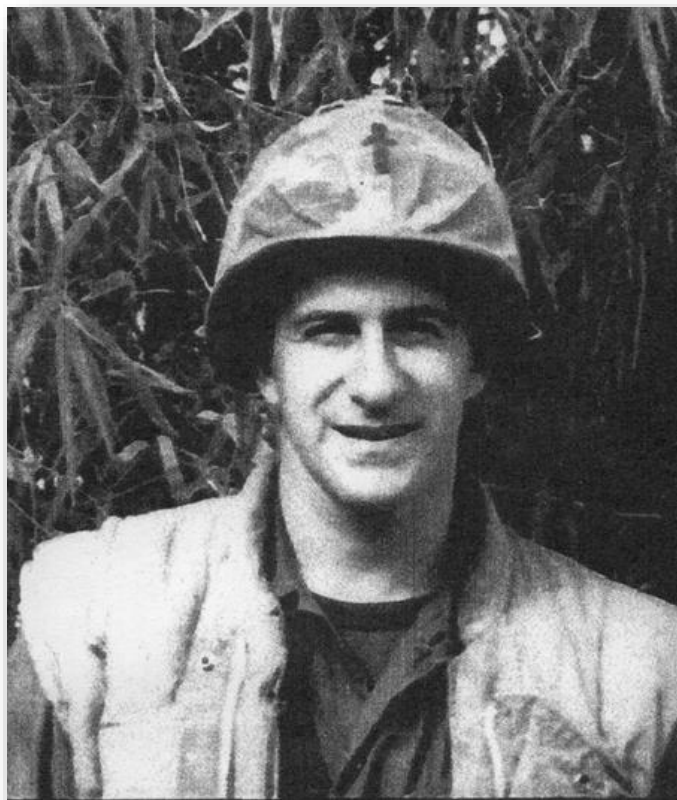
Memory is supposed to dim with time, but my experiences 50 years ago in Vietnam are as sharp as ever. Some, I cannot share with anyone and they are the hardest to forget. One byproduct of my time in ‘Nam is my lack of respect for those in authority. To this day, I no longer trust those in power who should be taking care of their people – whether in government, military, the Church or any other field of endeavor.

The overwhelming feeling I have is great sorrow for the young men who died serving their county so faithfully in a questionable war. Where did we get, and still get, men and women to follow their flag wherever it goes?

This much I know, the Marines that fought in Vietnam had far more courage and integrity than those who sent them there.

Amen.

[Re-printed with permission from the Coronado [CA] Eagle & Journal, Feb 7 – 13, 2018]





JOHN LEPORE

Prepared by: Delaney Russell (his daughter)

In 1966, the Vietnam War had an urgent need of more chaplains, John immediately volunteered for the Navy Chaplaincy from his parish in Hull, Massachusetts. His first assignment was to Naval Air Station (NAS) Guantanamo Cuba. In September 1967, Lepore got his wished-for orders to Vietnam. He had just arrived at Camp Pendleton for orientation when it was reported that Chaplain Vincent Capodanno was killed trying to save a wounded Marine. Lepore was whisked out of Pendleton and sent to South Vietnam with the prediction, "What would take us 30 days to teach you, you'll learn in a few days with your 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines!" Soon, John was wounded by a grenade when his unit ran into a North Vietnamese Army staging area prior to the Tet Offensive. Lepore's next assignment was NAS Patuxent River, after which he took a year off from active duty to complete his Doctorate in Counseling at Yale's Andover Newton Theological School. Returning to the Navy in 1971, John was assigned to Naval Base Yokosuka, Japan where replaced two chaplains due to the lack of clergy in the military.

Leaving active duty in 1974, Lepore was selected for Reserve Duty with Navy Public Affairs Unit, NAVINFO 101 where for the next 16 years he became a weekend warrior. A highlight of his naval duty was teaching summers at the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Upon reflection on his 24-year Naval career, he thought how fortunate he was to experience a ride in an A-6 Intruder Jet over the Outer Banks of Carolina, to circuit ride to isolated naval detachments in Eleuthera, San Salvador and Grand Turk Islands, to climb Mt. Fuji three times, and jump into a fox-hole and meet the real Dennis the Menace. He claimed he had the great privilege of working with the finest men and women he could possibly meet, especially the young Marines of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines that did their dangerous duties despite waning support of their country.

Commander Lepore retired from the Navy in 1990, and moved to Coronado in 1994, serving the San Diego area as a special needs teacher and counselor.

★ ★ ★

[mw inward](#) Feb 24, 2018 6:51am

John, thank you for that amazing story. As a former 5th Marines Chaplain and still currently on active duty, I can speak for my colleagues in that we all feel a deep connection to our former Marines and those Sailors who supported them. Your story brought back to mind my own deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan which I will always remember as the most challenging and rewarding ministry of my life. Your story poignantly reminds those of us still on active duty that we stand on the shoulders of giants. Thank you for your faithful service to God and country.



LIMA 3/5

COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

LIMA 3/5



ROSTER & SOCIAL MEDIA

Lima 3/5 membership roster has 645 Marines & Corpsmen and 33 relatives & friends.

Lima 3/5 Website: <https://limathreefive.org>

Lima Facebook (private group, must apply to join):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/149906508829193>

Active	359
Lost Contact	50
Died	233
Do Not Contact (DNC)	3
Relative/Friend (R/F)	33



TAPS



GERALD "JERRY" L DREW

Died: October 9, 2025

Lima Co: Oct '68 - Dec '69

Rank: Cpl

MOS: 0311

WIA: Mar '69 & Jun '69

Reunions: 9

(Including 2025 @ Myrtle Beach)

Two Marines on guard duty at Heaven's Gates following attendance at the 2025 Myrtle Beach reunion.

Gerald "Jerry" Drew

Pat Normanly





LIMA 3/5

COMPANY STORIES

LIMA 3/5

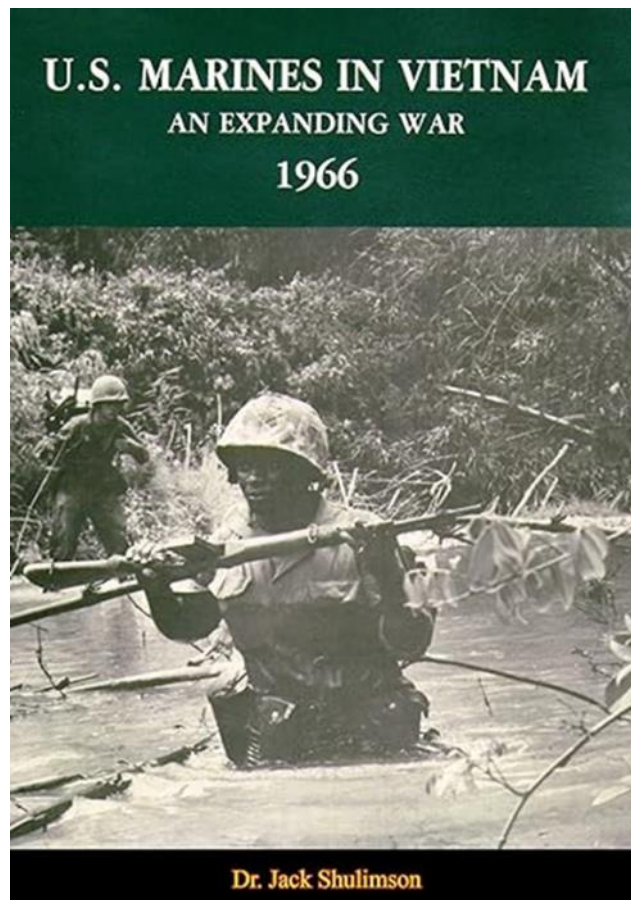


DECKHOUSE II

*Also, on the morning of 16 July, the SLF of the Seventh Fleet began Deckhouse II on the coast east of the Hastings area of operations. With clear weather, moderate seas, and minimal surf, Companies I and K of Lieutenant-Colonel Edward J. Bronars' **BLT 3/5** landed with ease at 0630 across Blue Beach, 2,500 meters above the mouth of the Cua Viet River. Simultaneously Lieutenant-Colonel James D. McGough's HMM-363, the SLF helicopter squadron, lifted **Company L** 3,500 meters inland from the landing beach. By evening, the entire BLT was ashore and had established its defensive perimeter.*

Credit: Shulimson, Dr. Jack. *U.S. Marines In Vietnam: An Expanding War*, 1966 (p. 411). Normanby Press. Kindle Edition.

Submitted by Andy Syor



NEW ORLEANS ❖ 2026 REUNION



From [Wikipedia](#)

The history of New Orleans, Louisiana traces the city's development from its founding by the [French](#) in 1718 through its period of [Spanish](#) control, then briefly back to [French](#) rule before being acquired by the United States in the [Louisiana Purchase](#) in 1803. During the [War of 1812](#), the last major battle was the [Battle of New Orleans](#) in 1815. Throughout the 19th century, [New Orleans](#) was the largest port in the [Southern United States](#), exporting most of the nation's [cotton](#) output and other farm products to Western Europe and [New England](#). As the largest city in the South at the start of the [Civil War](#) (1861–1865), it was an early target for capture by [Union](#) forces. With its rich and unique cultural and architectural heritage, New Orleans remains a major destination for live music, tourism, conventions, and sporting events and [annual Mardi Gras celebrations](#). After the significant destruction and loss of life resulting from [Hurricane Katrina](#) in 2005, the city would bounce back and rebuild in the ensuing years.

NEW ORLEANS ❖ 2026 REUNION

[LOUIS ARMSTRONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT \(MSY\)](#) is served by a variety of airlines.

Here's a list of the airlines currently operating at MSY:

Air Canada * Alaska Airlines * Allegiant Air * American Airlines * Avelo Airlines * Breeze Airways
British Airways * Delta Air Lines * Frontier Airlines * JetBlue Airways * Southwest Airlines
Spirit Airlines * Sun Country Airlines * United Airlines



[GROUND TRANSPORTATION](#)

The Airport's central location offers easy access to I-10 and is located only a short drive from Downtown New Orleans, the French Quarter, and the Central Business District. Many convenient and affordable [ground transportation options](#) are available for passengers. Explore the links on the Ground Transportation page to learn more about the various transportation options.

Please do not accept solicitations to assist with transportation or baggage from anyone that is not properly badged. Always seek out airport employees with MSY ID badges for assistance. Solicitation of ground transportation is an illegal activity. Illegal solicitors may be unlicensed and uninsured.

[TERMINAL MAP](#) It's interactive; click Terminal Map to look at it.

THE BIG EASY

New Orleanians rarely refer to the city as the "[Big Easy](#)." Locals like to say "New Or-leens," or "New Or-lee-ans." Also, if we're giving someone our current location we tend to use street names, "heading to bourbon," getting some beignets in the Quarter," or "brunch on Canal" The one thing we do not say is "Nawlins," at least not today's locals.

So how did the "Big Easy" become the city's nickname? [Here are four theories](#) that can trace the nickname's origins back to the early 20th century.

Some "easy" listening to get you in the mood!

[Sounds of New Orleans](#)
[New Orleans Swing Jazz](#)



NEW ORLEANS ❖ 2026 REUNION



LIMA 3/5 FIREBASE: ASTOR CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL



NEW ORLEANS ❖ 2026 REUNION

LIMA 3/5 FIREBASE & LZ

ASTOR CROWNE PLAZA

NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QUARTER

739 CANAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

JUNE 17 - 21, 2026

ROOM RATES (PER NIGHT - **50 ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE, BOOK EARLY!**):

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY: \$139 + TAX* \$23 + OCCUPANCY CHARGE \$2 = \$164

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: \$159 + TAX* \$27 + OCCUPANCY CHARGE \$2 = \$188

*TAX RATE IS CURRENTLY 16.75%

VALET PARKING (DISCOUNTED): \$39 PER DAY

RESERVATION FEES FOR LATE ARRIVAL OR EARLY DEPARTURE BY MORE THAN A DAY:
IF YOU ARRIVE LATE OR LEAVE EARLY, PER YOUR RESERVATION, YOU WILL BE CHARGED
ONE NIGHTS ROOM + TAXES

RESERVATIONS:

CALL: (877) 408 - 9661 (TOLL FREE)

GROUP NAME: VIETNAM VETERAN REUNION

CUT OFF DATE: MAY 18, 2026 ←←←

THE ASTOR CROWNE PLAZA IS A "SMOKE-FREE" HOTEL *THE SMOKING LAMP IS OUT!*

NOISE: UNLESS YOU ARE CONDUCTING A NIGHTTIME ASSAULT, THE HOTEL ASKS THAT YOU
KEEP THE NOISE LEVEL DOWN

TRANSPORTATION TO THE HOTEL FROM THE AIRPORT: THE HOTEL DOES **NOT** OFFER A
COURTESY SHUTTLE; FOR OPTIONS, SEE [AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION](#)

DRINKS ARE ON OUR HOSTS:
BILL & DIANE CLARK
WITH MUCHO ASSISTANCE
FROM CONNIE SHULER

WAIT A MINUTE... MAYBE WE
SHOULD BUY THEM DRINKS!
YA' THINK!



NEW ORLEANS ❖ 2026 REUNION

THINGS TO DO IN NEW ORLEANS

[The Official New Orleans Tourism Web Site](#) (Ed: a very good source of information)

[Maps & Transportation](#) [French Quarter](#) [Casinos](#)

[Best Things to do in New Orleans](#) (Written by a couple who have “been there/done that”)

What is a [Hop-on Hop-off Bus Tour](#)?

Explore New Orleans your way with a Hop-on Hop-off bus tour! Ride through iconic spots like the French Quarter, Garden District, and Jackson Square with live commentary and panoramic views. With City Sightseeing New Orleans offering... (read more by clicking on the blue link above).

[Swamp Tours](#)

The South is known for our swamp tours, and there are plenty of reasons why: a boat tour of the swamps can give you a whole new view of this state’s unique ecosystem, history, culture, and animal life. Browse by category to find a swamp tour... (read more by clicking on the blue link above).

[History and Haunts Carriage Tour in New Orleans](#)

Travel back in time to the 19th century and revisit New Orleans' dark and rich past, where carriages were the principal mode of transportation and the streets were filled with mystery. This spooky, nighttime carriage tour will take you... (read more by clicking on the blue link above).

[The National WWII Museum](#)

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. (Ed: a friend says this is a must see!)

[Paddlewheel River Boat Cruises](#)

There are three: Natchez, Creole Queen and City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS WEATHER

June is generally a very hot, muggy month. The average temperature is of 82 °F, with a minimum of 73 °F and a maximum of 90 °F.

- On the coldest nights of the month, the temperature usually drops to around 66 °F. However, it dropped to 55 °F in June 1993.
- On the **warmest days of the month, the temperature usually reaches around 95 °F.** However, it reached 100 °F in June 2009.
- Precipitation amounts to 7.7 inches, distributed over 13 days.
- The day lasts on average 14 hours and 0 minutes. There are on average 9 hours of sunshine/day. So, the sun shines 65% of the time.
- The average humidity is 74%. Hence, the air is normally humid.
- The average wind speed is 6 mph.
- The average sea temperature is 82 °F. The sea is pleasantly warm and allows for long swims.

NEW ORLEANS ❖ 2026 REUNION

ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY ❖ PICK UP AT THE REUNION

★ ★ ★ ORDER FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 6, 2026 ★ ★ ★

Shirts and hats are **POND BLUE**, with the *USMC Lima 3/5 logo* embroidered on the front left breast and the *Vietnam Service Ribbon, 2026 & New Orleans* on the left sleeve.

Polo Shirt S, M, L, XL \$28 ea. Size _____ Qty _____ \$ _____

Polo Shirt XXL \$31 / XXXL \$32 ea. Size _____ Qty _____ \$ _____

T-Shirts have silk screened USMC Lima 3/5 logo on the front left breast

T-Shirt S, M, L, XL \$19 ea. Size _____ Qty _____ \$ _____

T-Shirt XXL \$22 / XXXL \$23 ea. Size _____ Qty _____ \$ _____

Hats have the logo on the front and VSM ribbon on the back

Hats are adjustable \$18 ea. Qty _____ \$ _____

\$12 Postage for shirt/hat order if not attending the reunion \$ _____

Total Shirt & Hat Order \$ _____

Banquet Dinner \$65 Per Adult # _____ @ \$65 = \$ _____
(Children under 12 Free)

General Fund (contribution) \$ _____

Total Shirts & Hat Order \$ _____

MY TOTAL FOR 2026 NEW ORLEANS REUNION \$ _____

★ ★ ★ ORDER FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 6, 2026 ★ ★ ★

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 _____