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THE SCOOP SHEET

Information For And About Members Of The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service

Issue 56

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Photo by David Christy, 1st MAW, MAG-11
Da Nang Vietnam 1970



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President	Bernie LaPira
Vice President	Bill Walden
Secretary	Al Frater
Treasurer	Jerry Sergeant



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

Bernie LaPira

Association President

1st MAW Association Vietnam Service

My wife Claudette and I are wishing all of our sisters and brothers a blessed and healthy 2020. This past year has been full of expected and unexpected events for our organization. Let's all continue to pray for our country and for the safe return of all our warriors in harms way.

We were notified by our past president (Paco) that member Dale Ausborn passed away in December. May his family receive comfort during this time of grieving. Many of us knew Dale and he was an outstanding Marine. Now he stands guard on the streets of heaven with his fellow Marines. Semper Fi and God bless. RIP.

I would encourage all our members who are not familiar with the VA Mission Act to go to the website MissionAct.VA.gov. It is significant legislation that improves how veterans receive community care - health care provided outside the VA. It provides many options we never had before.

Looking forward to 2021 and our next reunion in Pensacola Beach FL. Frank (Paco) Arce has done a lot of work towards this and I am eternally grateful.

Be safe and God Bless. Semper Fi.

Bernie La Pira

President First MAW Association - Vietnam Service

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

DUES RENEWALS Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder to annual members, your dues are now due every January.

Please help our association save postage and mail expense by sending in your \$25.00 renewal dues now.

Mail in your check payable to: 1st MAW Vietnam Service, c/o Jerry Sergeant, 6321 Auburn Ave Bradenton, FL 34207

Any additional questions regarding membership may also be directed to the above address or emailed to: jleesarge@hotmail.com

Jerry Sergeant
Treasury and acting Membership Chairman

ELECTRONIC SCOOP

The Electronic Scoop list is growing. Any other members who desires to receive their "Scoop" electronically in order to reduce mailing and publishing costs please contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net and please cc Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com. Those members who have requested an electronic SCOOP will be removed from the mailing list as requested.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - UPDATE

Volunteers are always welcomed for Veterans day at the wall. For those who live near Quantico VA and the National Museum of the Marine Corps The Heritage Foundation is seeking tour Guides for the Museum. Training will be provided. Contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at 703-640-7965..

PX

Check out our PX page If anyone wants something let us know. Contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net for 201-906-1197 for information.

1st MAW NOW ON FACEBOOK

We are now moving to the modern age and have a Group on FACEBOOK. If you are a FACEBOOK user please join our Group. at "**First Marine Air wing Association - Vietnam Service**". If you are not a FACEBOOK member, join FACEBOOK and our Group. Information and photos will continue to be posted on our group. Please post any pictures or comments on our group.

Change Of Command Ceremony, MAG-13, MCAS Chu Lai, on or about 5 February, 1967

Submitted by Art Eggen

Special thanks to Squadron mate, Bob

Milburn for Memory assistance

On or about 5 February, 1967, Colonel Petty turned over command of MAG-13, MCAS Chu Lai, Republic Of Vietnam, to Colonel Johnson. At the time, those of us in maintenance were working 2 shifts, 06:00 to 18:00 and 18:00 to 06:00. For some reason it was decided to hold a parade along with the change of command ceremony. Those of us that had worked until 06:00 were chosen to be the lucky participants in this parade and ceremony. Staff Sergeant Pfizenmayer from the VMFA-323 Electric Shop was assigned to march the Platoon that would represent our Squadron in this event.

I remember thinking that there was a lot that could go wrong with this parade. We had all been up all night. I was pretty sure that Phitz hadn't drilled anyone in at least a year. All of the Brass were standing in a group as there was no reviewing stand. There were at least 4 Platoons representing the different Squadrons of MAG-13. The Platoons were in a Column that would March past The Brass. VMFA-323, drilled by Phitz, was the third Platoon from the front. The Column was 50 feet distance from the Brass and well spaced between Platoons. We began to march and when the Column was centered on the Brass the First Platoon Drill Sergeant called "by your left flank, March." The first Platoon then marched about half way towards the Brass and came to a halt. At that point the second Platoon Drill Sergeant called "by your left flank, march" and repeated what the first Platoon had done. I remember thinking that for a bunch of exhausted Air Wingers, who hadn't marched for at least a year, we were doing very well.

It was just at that point that Phitz called "Column left, March." In an unforgettable moment in our Squadrons history, half of us executed a by your left flank, march and the other half followed Phitz's command.. I'm pretty sure that Lt. Colonel Keller who had been our Commanding Officer for approximately six days was not very impressed with his new commands marching abilities. When I ran into Phitz, later that year, he was teaching a F-4 central air data computer course at MCAS El Toro and had been promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. I did not remind him of this event.



General Peter Pace By Al Frater

General Peter Pace retired was former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited the Teaneck NJ Library where he donated one of his uniforms to. Myself and several other Marines were able to meet with him at the dedication ceremony.. He spoke about his career and his time in Viet Nam. He also answered questions.



MAG 36

FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan --Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, the first complete Marine air Group to be transported by sea to a combat zone, launched from the USS Princeton to the shores of Vietnam, Sept. 1, 1965. Immediately, they began providing troop lifts, air strikes, medical evacuation, resupplies, and reconnaissance insertions and extractions in the southern area of operations.

"Gaining and maintaining air superiority in any theater is a priority," said Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Weidley, commanding general, 1st MAW. "The ability to insert and extract Marines [in Vietnam] kept our ground forces in the fight while also providing injured Marines the help they needed." Armed with UH-1E Gunships, CH-46 Sea Knights, and UH-34 Sea Horses, MAG-36 flew daily in support of Marines on the ground.

Meanwhile, while many U.S. and South Vietnamese forces celebrated the Tet holiday, tens of thousands of North Vietnamese soldiers, Viet Cong guerrillas and local communist militants moved under the cover of night. Their objective was to simultaneously attack more than 100 U.S. and South Vietnamese occupied cities and bases. In the early hours of Jan. 31, 1968, the Communist-led Tet Offensive was in full force. Most Tet Offensive attacks were defeated in hours or days. However, Hue City, considered the spiritual center of Vietnam and an essential strategic stronghold for American troops, was held tightly by North Vietnamese forces.

For 26 days, Marines and South Vietnamese soldiers fought house-to-house and street-to-street, emptying each individually. As fighting ensued, MAG-36 provided them with air support and inserted Marines into the fight. They also extracted the injured and fatally wounded in Hue despite the difficulty brought forth by monsoon season.

"Flying in inclement weather of any type can cause a lot of concern," said Col. James F. Harp, commanding officer, MAG-36. "The adverse conditions could cause reduced visibility resulting in [crashes], especially because these pilots were flying in a new environment." In all, three Marine battalions and 11 South Vietnamese Army battalions were committed to retaking the city. After suffering nearly four thousand casualties between the American and South Vietnamese forces, the battle for Hue City came to an end at midnight on Feb. 27, 1968.

After the battle for Hue City, MAG-36 remained in Vietnam and provided support in their area of operations for nearly two years. Eventually, it was decided by Headquarters Marine Corps to move the group out of Vietnam. On Nov. 4, 1969, they moved to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. Once on Futenma, in 1970 MAG-36 began providing composite helicopter squadrons to the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit Afloat, later renamed the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Presently, MAG-36 serves as the Okinawa-based aviation group within 1st MAW, the aviation combat element of III Marine Expeditionary Force, with detachments from its squadrons deploying every year alongside the 31st MEU to provide humanitarian assistance and train all over the Pacific region.

"Today our Marines are definitely prepared to go out anywhere in the Pacific and provide support," said Harp. "We are constantly preparing and always ready to go out and do what Marines do, which is fighting our battles and winning."

MAG 36



MAG-36 | Remembering Hue City

In Memoriam Dale Ausborn



Dale was born on March 23, 1946, in Sac City, Iowa to parents Gerhard Max Wilhelm Christian Ausborn and Marie Loretta Wiegand Ausborn. As a young man, Dale joined the Marine Corps, having served with the 1st Marine Air Wing of the III Marine Expeditionary Force. He also served aboard the USS Forrestal. Later in his military career, Dale shifted branches to the US Army and completed Warrant Officer Candidate School. Dale eventually retired from the Army with the rank of CW3. Following his military career which included active duty status during Vietnam, he went on to work and again retire from the US Dept. of Defense. Dale was a life member of the VFW, the USS Forrestal Association, and the Warrant Officer's Association and was a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Dale was predeceased by his mother, Marie Loretta Ausborn. In addition to his father, Gerhard Ausborn; survivors include his loving wife, Sarah Thompson Ausborn; daughters, Anna Ausborn Kulaski (Richard), Rebecca Dawn Brown (Ryan), and Jessica Lynn Ausborn; grandchildren Rockwell, Kohen, and Quinten Kulaski and Indira and Izzie Brown. He is also survived siblings Donna Baumann (Rich), LuAnn Irby (Doyle), Darrell Ausborn (Martha), Mary Lou Engel (Steven), Kris Ausborn (Janet), and Robert Ausborn.

VIETNAM PHOTOS



MWSG-17 Club



May 1969 Da Nang Promotions



VMGR-152 Air Freight. 1969



H&MS-17 Da Nang 1969



VMGR-152 & WERS-17

VIETNAM PHOTOS



Da Nang 1969 Dogpatch



Cpl. Wells VMGR 152. 8/22/1968



Bob Hope Show Christmas 1968 The Gold Diggers



Bob Hope Show Christmas 1968 Vietnam



Bob Hope Show Christmas 1968 Ann Margaret

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We now have available Auto window stickers. Anyone interested in purchasing them you can either contact me at 201-907-1197 or email me at teanal@optonline.net or send a check to

Al Frater
524 Sagamore Ave
Teaneck NJ 07666

For all other items contact Frank Arce



Two for \$5.00
Contact Al Frater



Coins \$10.00



All Covers atr \$15.00 they come in Black, Blue, and Green





**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
6321 Auburn Ave
Bradenton, FL 34207**

We are a fraternal organization of Marines and others who were attached to or supported First MAW units serving in the Vietnam War. The organization was founded in 1986 and incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in New York State in 1988. Our purpose is to reunite members of the First MAW either through scheduled reunions or by means of our newsletter, web site, or other various functions. The organization strives to disseminate information about our history as well as about legislation, entitlements, and welfare involving First MAW members.