



# THE SCOOP SHEET

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

Issue 35

[www.1stmaw.com](http://www.1stmaw.com)

Summer 2010



A typical strategic hamlet in I Corps had sloped earthen walls with guard towers and several gun ports reinforced with logs. Sharpened bamboo stakes along the wall's base were used like barbed wire to slow



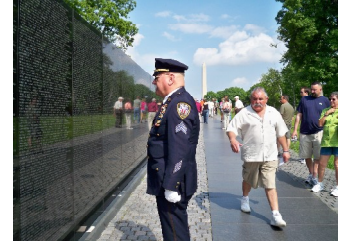
Cpl. David H. Hugel with 4 X 5 Speed Graphic camera in the field covering Marine operations in support of ARVN forces in Vietnam's I Corps Tactical Zone.



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**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...**



Semper Fi Marines !

Hope all is well with you & yours . As summer begins I wish you all a wonderful summer vacation. In May I met with a rep from The Doubletree in Wash , D C & they await our commitment for Reunion 2011. It has been suggested to me, for Veterans Day ( which falls on A Friday ) or Columbus Day. Also It has been suggested to have our banquet at The Marine Corps Museum ( Availability Permitting ) , but that would raise the price of rooms at The Doubletree. I personally prefer Veterans Day & the banquet at The Doubletree (no transportation cost). Can use suggestions & comments. I may be the elected President, but remember Marines, this is our organization. We make It live or die !!!

My condolences to all our members & family that have left us. May god bless them all.

Our command in the Bronx has been sending care packages to our troops in Iraq & Afghanistan since 2003. Anyone interested in receiving E-mail addresses let me know. You can also adopt a soldier. I think we should adopt a unit as there are many Air wingers on my mailing list. Sent to me by a retired gunny from Camp Lejeune.

SEMPER FI !!!

Frank "Paco" Arce



**Our bricks at the USMC Museum**

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

### DUES RENEWALS

Please send in your yearly dues of \$25.00. Send them to:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association—Vietnam Service  
c/o Wayne Cook—Membership  
19605 SE 23rd Street  
Sammamish, WA 98075

Any questions contact Wayne Cook 425-313-0348 or wayco@comcast.com. Subject should say Firstmaw.

### 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 Wayne Cook at wayco@comcast.net and please cc Frank Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com and Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net. THE SCOOP CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEB SITE **WWW.1stMAW.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..

### LOCATOR LIST

There is now an updated locator list. Anyone that sees someone they want to contact, then they need to email Wayne Cook at wayco@comcast.net or call him at 425-313-0348 and he will send the information to that person to contact them.

### REUNION VIDEO

We have a Reunion Video available for a \$10.00 donation to our Scholarship fund. If you would like a copy of the video please contact our President Frank "Paco" Arce at frankpaco69@aol.com (646) 752-0447 or Al Frater teanal@optonline.net 201-906-1197. If anyone has photo's of videos of the reunion please contribute it to the association.

### NEW WEB PAGE URL

Our WEB page is now accessed at **WWW.1stmaw.com**. This will make it easier to remember and it will be continually worked on to make it better.

### 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 Airwing 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. Any member may also post comments and photos.

## Marine Museum Opens Exhibits on Corps' Early History By David H. Hugel

On June 5, 2010 the National Museum of the Marine Corps opened three new galleries to the public. This expansion added exhibits depicting the years from the Marine Corps' founding in 1775 through the end of WWI in 1918. The evening before the official public opening, Assistant Commandant, General James Amos and Museum Director Ms. Lin Ezell thanked members of Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, and Founders, for their contributions toward making the museum a reality, prior to inviting them to preview the new exhibits.

The museum, located just outside the Quantico Marine Corps Base, less than an hour's drive south of Washington, DC, is already a popular destination of tourists and Marines alike, having attracted nearly two million visitors since opening less than four years ago. The new galleries join those portraying Marines in action in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as exhibits of treasured artifacts, photographs and art on display from the Marine Corps fabled 235 year history.

Taking a walk through the Corps' history, the first gallery depicts the role of Marines played beginning with the American Revolution, into the 19<sup>th</sup> century when they protected our Nation's interest at sea by defeating the Barbary pirates operating off the coast of north Africa, and storming Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City during the War with Mexico. These two victories are immortalized in the opening line of The Marines' Hymn, "From the halls of Montezuma To the shores of Tripoli." Another new gallery highlights the Marine Corps' involvement in the Civil War, various expeditions and conflicts including the Spanish American War, and the Boxer Rebellion. This gallery also includes an interactive exhibit allowing visitors to select from several well-known musical numbers by the Marine Band. The exhibit illustrates the colorful history of the band, which has played at ceremonies and social events for every president since Thomas Jefferson, earning the title, "The President's Own"

The largest of the new galleries is devoted to World War I, where a greatly expanded Marine Corps first fought as infantry brigade units, and were recognized as an invaluable component of the American Expeditionary Forces. This period is considered to be the beginning of the modern Marine Corps. The Battle of Belleau Wood, rated by many historians to be one of the Marine Corps' greatest victories, is the focus of a major exhibit in the WWI gallery. The three-week battle halted a German drive to capture Paris, and was a turning point of WWI. Here visitors will experience the tenacious Marine attack against the entrenched battle hardened German troops, from behind the German lines.

The NMMC is open every day of the year except Christmas Day from 9am to 5pm. Admission and parking are free. Directions for locating the museum and planning a visit can be found on the museum's web site: [www.usmcmuseum.com](http://www.usmcmuseum.com).



Night photo of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. (Courtesy Leatherneck magazine)



A Civil War Marine sharpshooter fires on Confederates from the gun port of a Union ship. (Photo by David Hugel)





With an impressive mural of the White House as a background the Marine Band exhibit features photographs of its performances before several presidents. A life sized figure of the Marine Band Drum Major dressed in his classic red tunic, tall bearskin hat with his distinctive mace in hand is an eye-catching feature of the exhibit. (Photo by David Hugel)



A docent describes the Marine's raid on the firehouse where abolitionist John Brown had barricade himself after his raid on the Army Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, an important military action leading up to the Civil War. The event is depicted in a detailed diorama of the scene. (Photo by David Hugel)



Prior to opening the exhibits, Assistant Commandant General James Amos addresses distinguished guests attending a gala reception. (Photo by David Hugel)



A realistic diorama of Marines fighting Mexican troops on their way to capturing Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City. (Courtesy National Museum of the Marine Corps)



A colorful colonial era American flag at the entrance of the newly opened exhibit gallery for the years from 1775 until 1865 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. (Photo by David Hugel)



Life like figures cast from modern day Marines prior to being installed in a battlefield scene depicted in the newly opened WWI gallery. (Courtesy National Museum of the Marine Corps)

## **Beyond the Wire: What was going on outside the Da Nang airbase during Operation Shufly By David H. Hugel**

In a previous article we highlighted the efforts of MABS- 16, Sub unit 2 Marines who provided the vital services that supported the Da Nang airbase and it's resident helicopter squadron. During that period Marines were not directly involved in ground combat, but provided helicopter support for missions that ranged from deploying ARVN troops into landing zones where they would pursue suspected Viet Cong insurgents, picking up those troops after the completion of such operations, evacuating the wounded, and resupplying outlying ARVN outposts.

Marines stationed in Da Nang at that time were fortunate to have had limited liberty privileges on a regular basis, except during occasional periods of heightened security such as the time leading up to and briefly following the overthrow of President Ngo Dinh Diem's government. They could go into Da Nang most nights, to China Beach on weekends, and were daily customers at the gaggle of shops and laundries just beyond the base's barbed wire perimeter affectingly known as "Dog Patch."

Unless they flew missions with one of the helicopter squadrons that rotated in and out of Da Nang, however, that was their limited exposure to Vietnam. They never had the opportunity to get out into the countryside to see the outposts, landing zones and cities of Vietnam. This article will attempt to provide a glimpse of the country beyond the barbed wire of the Shufly compound.

Saigon, South Vietnam's capital, was an exotic sounding city that everyone heard about but few would ever get to see. Located several hundred miles south of Da Nang, Shufly Marines had few opportunities to visit the city. My chance for a brief visit to Saigon came one day in September 1963 when I was given temporary orders to serve as an armed escort for the dispersing officer, who would be picking up the base payroll in Saigon. Anyone stationed in Vietnam at that time will recall that we were paid in American dollars and coins, down to the penny. It was a quick visit, but I did manage to snap a few color slides on the hectic jeep ride between Tan Son Nhut airfield and the Navy Disbursing Office. Compared with the sleepy city of Da Nang, South Vietnam's second largest city, Saigon, was a bustling center of commerce. Cars, bicycles and the ever-present pedi cabs jockeyed for the right of way on its crowded streets. The buildings were larger and statelier than those in Da Nang and colorful billboards in Vietnamese hawked products from beer to tooth paste.

Later that year I was sent up to Hue, just a few minutes by helicopter north of Da Nang on a photo assignment. It was a beautiful city that served as Vietnam's capital from the early 1800s until the country was partitioned in 1945. The heart of the feudal city was a citadel, closed to all but its emperors, surrounded by several moats. Long since drained, the moats were used during the 1960s by local farmers to grow crops. While attending a meeting in Hue I was struck by the sight of a modern cathedral arising out of rice field near the meeting site. This incongruent sight was later explained when I learned that former President Diem's brother Ngo Dinh Thuc, Archbishop of that city had built it before Diem's fall from power.

As a photographer I also flew on several missions to outposts and landing zones during my tour in Vietnam. One of the most memorable of these occurred in November 1963. On that mission helicopters from HMM-361 flew into LZ Tango, southwest of Da Nang, to deploy ARVN troops in pursuit of Viet Cong insurgents. I took many photos on that mission, several of which appeared in military publications including a full page spread in a December issue of the Pacific Edition of Stars and Stripes. Two of the photos are featured today in the Vietnam exhibit at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.





Dog Patch, a cluster of buildings just beyond the barbed wire and highway that ran along one side of the Shufly barracks compound, where many Marines took their laundry or to have a beer.



An elegant Catholic Cathedral arises from a rice field in the northern Vietnamese city of Hue.



ARVN troops begin to fan out from LZ "Tango" to secure the area and establish a base of operations for future actions in pursuit of their communist



A crowded Saigon street where cars jockeyed with bicycles and pedicabs to transport their passengers. Note the billboard advertising one of Vietnam's most popular



Helicopters from HMM-361 fly into LZ Tango, southwest of Da Nang, to deploy ARVN troops in pursuit of Viet Cong insurgents.



ARVN troops take a break from their pursuit of Viet Cong insurgents to enjoy a meal at a campsite in the field.

## VMFA 323 in Vietnam

BY Al Frater from Internet piece by Ellis Badon

On 1 July 1964, the squadron returned to MCAS Cherry Point where it had been commissioned 21 years earlier and was re-designated as Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 (VMFA-323) and received its first McDonnell Douglas F-4B Phantom II. 323 deployed to NAS Key West from 15 Dec 64 through 15 Jan 65 to stand the Cuban missile crisis fighter alert. While deployed to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico in March 1965, the Dominican Crisis erupted. VMFA-323 provided air cover during the evacuation of American citizens, and flew armed reconnaissance missions with their dual role Phantoms.

On 25 Oct 65, 323 relocated to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. VMFA-323 arrived in South Vietnam on 1 Dec 65 at Da Nang Air Base and commenced combat operations the day after their arrival and on 7 Dec the Death-rattlers suffered their first personnel losses. Maj John H. Dunn, the squadron XO and his RIO CW2 John W. Fredrick were shot down. Both were captured and Maj Dunn survived over 7 years as a POW and CW2 Fredrick died after 5 years as a POW. From 2 Dec 65 through 28 Feb 66, the squadron flew 1,567 combat sorties for a total of 2,131.6 hours. From March to June 66, 323 stood air defense alert on Taiwan. On 23 June it was relieved and returned to MCAS Iwakuni the next day. On 5 July 66, they returned to Da Nang. On 6 Oct 66 323 was reassigned to Chu Lai airbase.

In the month of January 323 flew 516 combat missions for 653.4 flight hours. On 18 April, the CO LTCol Gordon H. Keller, Jr and his RIO, Capt Hugh L. Julian on a routine mission, experienced electrical failure. Both ejected and landed in the South China Sea. LtCol Keller was soon spotted and rescued. Capt Julian, however, was not located for 9 hours. He suffered a broken arm and was picked up by a shrimp boat. The squadron flew more than 200 combat sorties in support of Khe Sanh from 30 April to 4 May 67. On 15 May, VMFA-323 departed for MCAS Iwakuni for a 3 month R&R period.

On 16 August the Death-rattlers returned to Chu Lai airbase for their 3<sup>rd</sup> tour. In September the squadron expended a record 1,343.8 tons of ordnance. On 13 Oct 67, the new CO, LtCol Edison W. Miller and his RIO First Lieutenant James H. Warner on a support mission near the DMZ were diverted to attack 2 tracked vehicles and were hit by ground fire. Both men ejected and were captured and were POWs for more than 5 years. During the same month a Phantom flown by Maj Daniel I. Carroll and Capt James J. Hare III was hit by heavy weapons fire just north of Con Thien. Both ejected over water near Da Nang and were recovered. On 22 Jan 68 during a flight led by the new CO, LtCol Harry T. Hagaman and his RIO Capt Dennis F. Brandon, their Phantom was hit by ground fire while skimming low over the tree tops. Capt Brandon ejected while LtCol Hagaman tried to stabilize the F4. This delay almost cost him his life as the Phantom started tumbling end over end barely 100 feet above the ground. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time he saw green, he pulled the alternate ejection handle between his knees. Within seconds, rescue helicopters darted in and plucked the uninjured Marines to safety.

At 0400 on 31 Jan 68 an intense rocket and mortar attack hit the Chu Lai compound which killed Capt Arthur J.J. Delahoussaye and seriously wounding First Lieutenant Richard A. Kerr who later died on board the USS Sanctuary. In April the squadron flew 575 sorties for 640.9, totals which were representative of the preceding months. The Death-rattlers provided support for the Marines at Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley and north of the DMZ. Support missions continued into the early months of 1969, but the period from 1-25 March found the squadron preparing for transfer to 3<sup>rd</sup> MAF at El Toro. The aircraft departed Chu Lai for Cubi Point in the Philippines in mid-March and from there were loaded on ships for transport to the US. This marked the end of the Death-rattlers 3<sup>rd</sup> combat tour of duty in the Pacific, spanning 2 decades and 3 wars. VMFA-323 served almost continuously from December 1965 until March 1969, flying 17,000 combat sorties from Da Nang and Chu Lai in support of I Corps ground operations and against targets in North Vietnam. During 1968, Maj Carroll Phanrtom was hit and lost hydraulics and landed on a foam runway using his tail hook. The cable broke and the plane caught fire as it continued down the runway. He got the aircraft back in the air and he and his RIO punched out over the bay.



VMFA-323 returned to MCAS El Toro, Ca in March 1969. In 1975, under the Command of LtCol Don K. Hanna, the Death Rattlers were awarded the Robert M. Hanson Award from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lewis A. Wilson. The squadron participated in a long list of deployments on land and sea. Deploying aboard the USS Coral Sea in Nov 79. While cruising near Guam on 28 Nov, 2 of its Phantoms intercepted Soviet Tu-95 Bear bombers. On 9 Dec, the Coral Sea steamed in waters near Okinawa and 1 of the squadron's F-4N's landed at Kadena, the Death-rattlers old home field of WW II. One day later, the Coral Sea dropped anchor at Pusan, where 323 had begun operations during the Korean War. In March 1980, while on station in the Gulf of Omen, 7 Soviet aircraft were intercepted and escorted by VMFA-323 Phantoms. VMFA-323 and its F-4N's stood ready for combat in the Gulf of Oman during the Iranian hostage crisis in 1980. On 14 September 1982, VMFA-323 turned in its last F-4N Phantoms. 323 had flown the F-4 Phantom for 18 years, longer than any other type of aircraft in its 39 year history, thus closing its longest chapter yet. The Death Rattlers lost 6 Killed In Action (1 died while a POW), 4 POWs, and 2 killed in Training Accidents.

**Commanding Officers from 1 Jul 1964 to 10 Sep 1982**

LtCol Norman W. Gourley	1 Jul 1964-30 Jan 1965	Maj Thomas G. Leach	1 Jun 1971-30 Apr 1972
LtCol Andrew W. O'Donnell	1 Jul 1965-20 Jul 1966	LtCol Thomas C. Leach	1 May 1972-8 Jun 1972
LtCol Aubery W. Talbert	21 Jul 1966-29 Jan 1967	LtCol Albert E. Brewster	9 Jun 1972-28 Feb 1973
LtCol Gordon H. Keller, Jr.	30 Jan 1967-15 Jul 1967	LtCol Michael P. Sullivan	1 Mar 1973-2 Jul 1974
LtCol Edison W. Miller	16 Jul 1967-13 Oct 1967	LtCol Don K. Hanna	3 Jul 1974-3 Jul 1975
LtCol Harry T. Hagaman	14 Oct 1967-16 May 1968	LtCol Michael R. McDonough	4 Jul 1975-22 Jul 1976
LtCol Don J. Slee	17 May 1968-11 Dec 1968	LtCol William W. Mackey	23 Jul 1976-26 May 1977
LtCol Ira L. Morgan, Jr.	12 Dec 1968-25 Mar 1969	LtCol Hardy A. Slone	27 May 1977-1 Aug 1978
Maj Robert L. Bainbridge	1 Apr 1969-31 Jul 1969	LtCol David V. Denton	2 Aug 1978-13 Aug 1980
Maj Karl A. Zimmerman II	1 Aug 1969-9 Mar 1970	LtCol Christian F. DeFries, Jr.	14 Aug 1980-3 Sep 1981
LtCol Keith A. Smith	10 Mar 1970-6 May 1970	LtCol Jerry R. Cadick	4 Sep 1981-10 Sep 1982
LtCol Donald L. Waldvogel	7 Mar 1970-31 May 1971		

**Prisoners Of War**

Dunn, John H.                      Miller, Edison W.  
 Frederick, John W. Jr. \*        Warner, James H.

**\*Died while a POW in 1972.**



## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS LAUNCHES VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

*Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Creates Cutting-Edge, Interactive Web Museum*

Dumfries, Va. (June 23, 2010) – The [Marine Corps Heritage Foundation](#) today launched the [National Museum of the Marine Corps Virtual Experience](#), allowing Marines and civilians from across the world to experience a cutting-edge web version of the real [National Museum of the Marine Corps](#) (NMMC) located in Quantico, Virginia. With in-depth, special educational features on exhibits, galleries and artifacts as well as Museum docents sharing their stories of Marine Corps history, the Virtual Experience brings the NMMC straight into homes and classrooms. Through a series of high-definition, 360 degree panoramic tours, audio narratives and extensive multi-media presentations, visitors to the website will experience the NMMC

- Oral history recordings
- Walking tour narratives available at the Museum
- Video interviews and personal recollections by Museum docents
- Zoomable HD photos of special exhibits
- Custom video presentations created exclusively for the Museum
- Interactive 3-D models of aircraft and other large scale artifacts

“In today’s economy and with Marines deployed around the world, Marines don’t always have the opportunity to visit *their* National Museum,” said LtGen Ron Christmas, president & CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. “The Virtual Experience provides all Americans and Marines everywhere, no matter where they live, the opportunity to be connected to the NMMC and witness their history on display.”

Unable to visit the NMMC in person, Marine Steven Wallace of Beverly Hills, California conceived the idea to create a digital version of the museum. Through funding provided by Mr. Wallace to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the Virtual Experience was created by the Virginia-based eBusiness and technology consulting firm [Dynology Corporation](#), allowing Marines, seniors and others who might not otherwise have the opportunity, to experience the unique perspective of U.S. history on display at the NMMC.

“I am very proud and extremely pleased to have been associated with the development of the Virtual Experience of the National Museum of the Marine Corps,” said Steven Wallace, a founder of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. “This experience tells the story of our Marine Corps and how important they are to the safety and security of the United States. It is truly a history of the United States through the eyes of the Marine Corps. I hope online visitors to the Museum will enjoy the experience. Semper Fi.”

A free educational tool for students and American history enthusiasts, the Virtual Experience provides an up-close look at exhibits and artifacts on display and explains their significance in Marine Corps and U.S. history. The Virtual Experience offers visitors an in-depth tutorial on artifacts, providing more information than is possible to display at the NMMC and revolutionizing what national museums can offer visitors within their homes or classrooms.

Take a tour of the NMMC Virtual Experience by visiting [www.VirtualUSMCMuseum.com](http://www.VirtualUSMCMuseum.com).

Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Marine Corps history, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization. The Foundation supports the historical programs of the Marine Corps in ways not possible through government funds, providing grants and scholarships for research and the renovation, restoration and commissioning of historical Marine Corps artifacts and landmarks. Securing the necessary funding for the complete construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Heritage Center is the Foundation’s current primary mission while continuing to provide program support for the Corps’ historical, museum, and educational activities.

For more information or to request interviews, contact Sara Neumann at 202-414-0788 or [sneumann@susandavis.com](mailto:sneumann@susandavis.com).

Here are some of the items we have at your First MAWVNS PX. Help support your association.  
[http://1stmaw.wamarinesmc.us/mawpx/index.php?main\\_page=index](http://1stmaw.wamarinesmc.us/mawpx/index.php?main_page=index)

Challenge Coin \$7



FMAW Logo hat:  
\$18



Hat Doober:



Vietnam Necklace: \$11



POW Necklace: \$11



Vietnam Ribbon:  
\$3.50  
'64-'75



Vietnam Vet: \$3.50



Vietnam Pin: \$3.50



Flag set: \$3.50



Marine Corps  
Pin: \$3.50



Semper Fi Pin: \$3.50



Marble Mountain: \$3.50



Danang Pin: \$3.50



Natural Death Hats  
\$18



1stMAWVNS pin:\$3.50



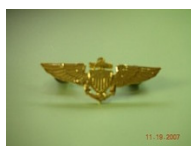
Sm Combat  
Aircrew Pin: \$4



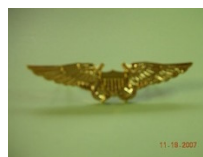
Crew Chief  
Pin: \$3.50



Pilot Pin: \$7



Navy Flight Off: \$7



U.S.M.C. Pin:  
\$3.50



Combat Action Rb:



MCorps: \$3.50



First MAW: \$18.00



FMF Corpsman:







**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –  
Vietnam Service  
567 Rivercrest Drive  
Woodstock, GA 30188**

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.