



THE SCOOP SHEET

Issue 43

*Information For And About Members Of The First
Marine Aircraft Wing Association – Vietnam Service*
www.1stmaw.com

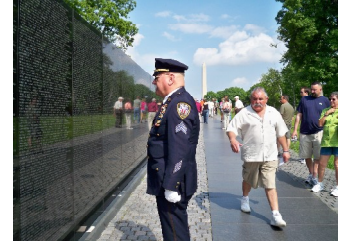
spring 2013



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



Wishing A Happy 2013 to All Our Members and Their loved ones . As I write this We are about 125 days away from Our Associations 25th Anniversary Reunion in New Orleans . A great time is planned and I expect you our members to make this a reunion to remember . The WW II Museum and Theatre will be an unforgettable experience followed by our riverboat dinner cruise and China Beach Night .

I know that some may wait until the last minute as usual, but remember if our hotel commitment is not met , we'll have to return the unused rooms back as our contract states and then You will be paying a much higher price . Our cutoff date is July 30, 2013. Also must purchase discounted tickets for The WW II theatre ' Beyond All Boundaries ' and lunch with The Victory Belles show and riverboat cruise dinner and banquet dinner and golf shirt numbers must also be done in advance of our arrival .

I have always been positive of Our Association and as our founding father, Rob Waters said back in 1988 " We're looking for A Few Good Men , Again " 10 years ago New Orleans was one of Our Best Reunion and I know this one will Be The Best !!!

SEMPER FI MARINES !
Frank Paco Arce
Association President



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.net. Subject should say First maw.

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.

PX

We have removed the PX page from this issue due to some price changes and that we were getting very few inquiries. However if you want to order any 1st MAW stuff please call Wayne Cook 425-313-0348 or email him at **wayco@comcast.net**

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 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.

The SHUFLY EM Club: Where we went to enjoy a cool beverage after work By David H. Hugel

After a hard day flying helicopter missions in the field, on the flight line, or around the base, SHUFLY Marines headed for a good meal at the mess hall, followed by a free movie at the make shift theater, then over to their club for a few relaxing drinks.

The Marine airbase in Da Nang during the early 1960s had an officers club, but to economize instead of the traditional three enlisted clubs found on many bases, there were only two, an EM Club for E-1s through E-4s, and a Staff NCO Club for E-5s and above. The biggest difference between the clubs was that the EM Club only served beer and soda while the Staff Club served liquor as well. This created an anomaly where a 30 year old corporal could only drink beer at the EM Club, while a 20 year old sergeant, and there were a couple, could drink whiskey at the Staff Club.

I remember watching local workmen put the finishing touch on the new EM Club, which was located next to the photo lab, when I arrived at the base in April 1963. The club was roughly the same size as our barracks, but in all other aspects it was totally different from any other building on the base. It had a brick wall about three feet high on all four sides, with screening up to the roof line on three sides, and a wall made of a woven grass matting on the fourth side behind the bar. A thatched roof covered the entire structure. During the monsoon season, rain occasionally blew into the club through the screened sides, but to my knowledge, the thatched roof never leaked. The club also boasted a fenced in outdoor patio - a pleasant place to enjoy a cold beer if it wasn't raining and the mosquitoes weren't yet out in force.

I never heard why the EM Club was located where it was, but since none of the barracks or offices on the base had indoor plumbing, everyone had to rely on a couple heads strategically positioned around the base, building the club only 50 feet from one of the heads was a brilliant decision.

The club was sparsely furnished with lightweight metal chairs and small tables scattered around the rectangular room that had a bar anchored against the back wall. Like our barracks, a couple old fashioned ceiling fans were suspended from the roof rafters to cool the club. They weren't very effective in Vietnam's hot humid climate, but they added a touch of nostalgia reminiscent of the bar portrayed in the WWII era movie, Casablanca.

Back in those days beer cans were made of steel and pull top cans had not yet come into vogue, so each can had to be opened by punching a "v" shaped hole to drink from in the can's top. To assist bartenders opening the many beers served each night, there was a sturdy can opener installed on the bar allowing them to place a can in a holder and pull a lever that punched a perfect hole in the can every time with minimum effort.

The selection of beer was limited, but featured popular U.S. brands like Budweiser, Schlitz, a few regional beers brewed on the west coast, and occasionally San Miguel, a light pilsner shipped in fresh from the Philippines. Coke and Shasta soda rounded out the club's beverage selections. There were peanuts, pretzels, potato sticks and other snacks all sealed in metal cans to keep them fresh until opened. Many nights cooks would lay out a spread of lunchmeat, cheese and fresh baked bread for Marines who had worked past the normal chow time.

With a concrete floor and thatched roof, the club lacked the amenities of state side clubs, but did feature some "artwork" the Marines enjoyed gawking at. Several playboy centerfolds, a photo taken by a Marine on R &R of two fornicating primates at a Japanese zoo, and a photo of the "5 P girl" bearing her ample breasts, were displayed over the bar.

Without question, next to the beverages sold there, the club's most popular feature was a classic Wurlitzer jukebox. I don't recall exactly how many 45 rpm records the brightly lit jukebox held, but based upon how often they were played each night, Lesley Gore's "It's My Party", "Reverend Mr. Black" by the Kingston Trio, and Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire" were by far the most popular hits at the time. They just blew everything else off the chart, indelibly etching themselves into the memory of everyone within earshot of the club. The introduction of nickel, dime and quarter slot machines also proved to be a popular attraction, especially on payday.

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With beer costing only 10 cents a can as I recall, and popular hits playing on the club's busy Wurlitzer jukebox, the SHUFLY EM club was a pleasant place for Marines serving far from their home to pass the evening hours. It was primitive, but for many it was as cozy as their hometown pub.



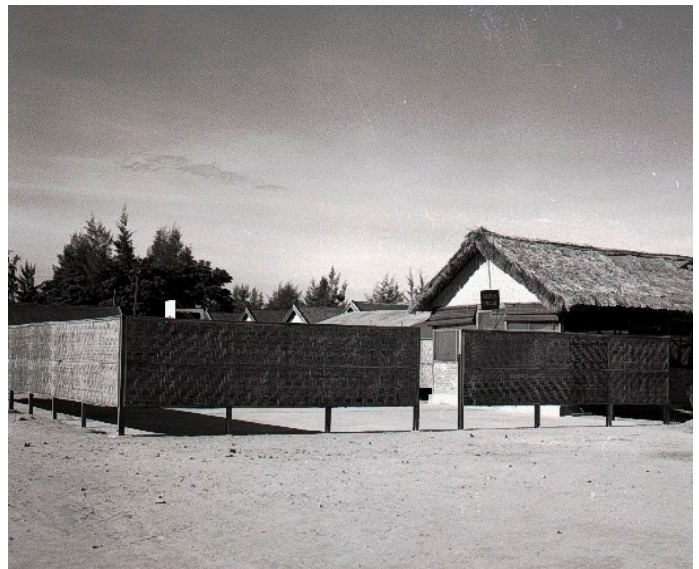
The author doing research for this story, along with a fellow SHUFLY Marine, the evening the EM Club opened in April 1963.



Several playboy centerfolds, a photo taken by a Marine on R &R of two fornicating primates at a Japanese zoo, and a photo of the "5 P girl" bearing her ample breasts constituted



Two of the club's waitresses take a break from serving customers to pose beside the popular Wurlitzer jukebox.



Exterior view of the just opened SHUFLY EM Club with its fenced in patio in the foreground.

Sea Duty Often Followed Helicopter Tours in Vietnam During the War's Early Years

By David H. Hugel

Just as HMM-362 was dispatched from the *USS Princeton* in April 1962 to become the first Marine helicopter squadron deployed to Vietnam later squadrons, that rotated in and out of Vietnam every three to four months, also pulled their share of duty afloat with the Seventh Fleet.

On October 2, 1963 HMM-361 relieved HMM-261, under the command of Lt. Col. Frank Shook, as the resident operational Marine Corps helicopter squadron-flying missions out of the Marine airbase in Da Nang Vietnam. HMM-261's new assignment was to be the Seventh Fleet's Special Landing Force on-board the *USS Iwo Jima*. HMM-361, commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Ross, would serve with distinction in Vietnam until January 31, 1964 when the squadron returned to its home unit MAG-16 headquartered at MCAF Futema, Okinawa.

In mid April 1964, HMM-361 again relieved HMM-261, this time at sea when the squadron flew from Futema to the *USS Valley Forge*, replacing 261 as Seventh Fleet's Special Landing Force. The transition went smoothly as HMM-261 flew its helicopters, pilots and crewmembers plus 35,000 pounds of equipment off the deck of the *Iwo Jima*, anchored off Okinawa's White Beach. Another 75,000 pounds of equipment was off loaded from the ship, brought to shore by landing craft and then driven the short distance to the air facility by truck.

In preparation for the transition, HMM-361 had been packing its equipment and readying its aircraft and Marines at Futema for the brief flight to the *Valley Forge*, also anchored off White Beach. Both squadrons were soon settled into their new homes and responsibilities



Aerial view of the *USS Iwo Jima* flight deck as HMM-261 Marines prepare for the brief flight to their new home, MCAF, Futema Okinawa following a 10 month deployment to Vietnam and Seventh Fleet.



Four UH-34D helicopters from HMM-261 prepare to lift off the *USS Iwo Jima* flight deck bound for MCAF, Futema.



An R4-D transport and control tower on the flightline of MCAF, Futema, home of MAG-16



HMM-261 helicopters parked on the flightline of MCAF, Futema after returning from a 10 month deployment to Vietnam and service with the Seventh Fleet.

New Orleans



WWII Museum



French Quarter



Civil War Museum

REUNION 2013
New Orleans Registration Form
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION VIETNAM SERVICE
Thursday August 22 thru Sunday August 25, 2013

MEMBER NAME _____

NICKNAME/CALL SIGN (for name tag use) _____

YEAR/UNIT (i.e. 67-68 VMFA-323) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

(For Confirmation of Receipt)

NAME OF GUESTS ATTENDING WITH MEMBER _____

GUEST NAME (s) (for name tags) _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY (Name & number) _____

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES : HOSPITALITY ROOM, PADDLEBOAT DINNER CRUISE, WWII MUSEUM & THEATER and REUNION BANQUET MEAL

NUMBER ATTENDING REUNION _____ X \$185.00 (per person) = \$ _____

NUMBER OF REUNION SHIRTS _____ X \$18.00 (each) = \$ _____ SIZE(s) ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013 (THIS IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH & FINALIZE SHIRT ORDERS, MEALS, TRIPS, FUNCTIONS, NAME TAGS etc.) After this date some functions may not be available. **LATE FEE'S WILL BE INCURRED AFTER WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013.**

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
(MAKE, CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: **FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION**)

FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ASSOCIATION
C/O TREASURER, JERRY SERGEANT
5282 OUSTERHOUT DRIVE
STERLING, MI 48659

NOTE: Room rates of \$129 + tax, and a non-valet parking rate of \$20.00 per day (for hotel guests) has been negotiated with the Embassy Suites New Orleans Convention Center.
These rates are in effect until July 23, 2013 only.

For hotel reservations Use Group Code FMA. Contact: Embassy Suites New Orleans at 800-Embassy or Web at: www.embassysuites.com

Street Address for those driving is: 315 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Reunion participation is for paid members and registered guests. Membership is available to all qualified individuals. Please check the association's website at www.1stmaw.com for membership details and application form information.

2013 Reunion Itinerary

Thursday, August 22nd

Hotel Check-in 3pm

Explore the area on your own:

Arts and Warehouse District
Riverwalk Marketplace Mall 4 blocks, 1 Poydras St. French Quarter
The Shops at Canal Place 6 blocks, 333 Canal Street
National WW II Museum (one of our event's scheduled activities) 5 blocks, 945 Magazine Street, \$\$
Louisiana's Civil War Museum at Confederate Memorial Hall 5 blocks, 929 Camp Street, \$\$
Ogden Museum of Southern Art 4 blocks, 925 Camp Street < \$\$
New Orleans Creole Queen Paddleboat 5 blocks, 1 Poydras St. French Quarter, \$\$
Steamboat Natchez Paddleboat 1 mile, (20 min walk) 1 Toulouse St. French Quarter. \$\$

Hospitality Room: 3pm to 12pm (set-up) Reunion Check-in (Command Post) Diamond Rooms, A / B on 1st floor

Managers Evening Reception: Free Drinks & snacks 5:30pm to 7:30pm,
Madeleine's Bar, in Atrium area & The Lofts Main in Lobby area

Friday, August 23rd

Scheduled Reunion Events begin:

Daily Free Cook to Order Breakfast 7am to 9am in Atrium 1st floor

Morning events:

Tentative time 10am National World War II Museum (5 block walk 15 minutes, 945 Magazine Street or taxi \$\$) &
Beyond all Boundaries, a 4-D Cinematic theater experience

Lunch The Stage Door Canteen located inside museum, then on your own to explore

Return to Hotel

Tentative (still trying to make arrangements, this could become free time) 4th MAW New Orleans static display and tour

Evening events:

Managers Evening Reception: Free Drinks & snacks 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Madeleine's Bar Atrium

Tentative time 6pm China Beach Paddle Boat/ Buffet Dinner Cruise (Cash Bar) (8 block walk (25 minute) or taxi/trolley \$\$)

Return to Hotel China Beach continues in Hospitality Room (Hotel Diamond Room A/B on 1st floor, for socializing (skill level; easy), or recon the French Quarters/Bourbon St. on your own (skill level; interesting, adventurous but a Healthy long walk 1 ½ mile) Best to take a friend for assistance might need a taxi home or trolley \$\$/walk priceless.

Hospitality room closes at Midnight Hotel contract item/State licensing rule.

Saturday, August 24th

Daily Free Cook to Order Breakfast 7am to 9am, in Atrium 1st floor

Morning events:

10am Meeting National Business Meeting and Election of Officers (Diamond Room, A/B, on 1st floor)

Ladies and guests, tentative carriage tour 10am or free time. If there is interest we will start making arrangements with Royal Carriages

Managers Evening Reception: Free Drinks & snacks 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Madeleine's Bar, in Atrium area & The Lofts Main in Lobby area

Evening events:

6pm to 7pm
7pm to 12pm

Photographer for group photo and possibly Individual pictures.
Dinner Banquet and Scholarship presentation (Bayou Jean Lafitte, Rooms 2, 3 and 4 on the 6th floor)

Sunday, August 25th

Association's Farewell Breakfast

7am to 10am Bayou Jean Lafitte Room, on 6th floor

Helpful Stuff from Jerry: Airport Shuttle \$20. one-way, \$38. Round trip, per person, Toll Free 866.596.2699 or <http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com>

Scholarship Requirements and Details

The First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service will award up to five scholarships of \$500 each during Reunion 2013.

To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

Be a First Marine Aircraft Wing Association, Vietnam Service member in good standing (i.e., dues are paid up to date), their spouse, dependent or direct descendent. Further, the member must have a minimum of one-year membership as of June 1, 2013.

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a deceased member of the First MAW Assn. VN Service

-OR

Be a spouse, dependent, or direct descendent of a Marine or member of another military service, who lost his/her life while serving in Vietnam with the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

-AND

Applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college, university, or trade school and be in good academic standing.

Applicant will be required to submit an essay of 300-350 words. The applicant can choose one of the following topics:

What the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial means to me.

What all Americans can do to solve the energy crisis.

How I plan to use my education to aid society.

Why I support our Marines in harm's way.

To compete for a scholarship, applicants must submit their essay in accordance with the following instructions:

The essay must be typed. **Do not include applicant's name on the essay page.** Attach a cover page with the applicants name, address, phone number and email address. The cover page must also include the name of the First MAW Assn. VN Service member and membership number, along with the applicant's relationship to the member (spouse, son, daughter, grandchild etc.).

Verification from a counselor or other school official confirming that the applicant is enrolled. This letter needs to be on school letterhead.

A copy of the student transcripts

The essay and required documents must be post marked no later than July 30, 2013.

Mail To:

First Marine Aircraft Wing Association-VN Service
c/o Jerry Sergeant, Treasurer
5282 Ousterhout Drive
Sterling, MI 48659



**First Marine Aircraft Wing Association –
Vietnam Service
19605 SE 23rd Street
Sammamish, WA 98075**

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.