



# 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES

## 1ST MARINE DIVISION

### VIETNAM 1965 - 1971



## 2009 Reunion, Philadelphia, PA

— October 2008 —

You have been waiting patiently, and now the reunion is less than a year away. The next 1/1 Vietnam Reunion will be headquartered at the Park Ridge Hotel & Conference Center at Valley Forge in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, an easy drive from the Philadelphia airport.

Dates are August 26, 2009 through August 29, 2009 (Wednesday-Saturday).



There will be a block of 150 rooms held for each of the four nights. Rooms are King and double Queen accommodations. The cutoff date for accepting reservations is August 3, 2009. This is a good place to talk about what *cutoff* means. We have always had a cutoff date for reservations. We have a business relationship with the hotel and must have accurate numbers of people in order to plan for the number of buses and number of meals to order. We need these numbers as early as possible. The reunions have become so large that the reunion committee cannot accommodate all the 'special requests' that seem to come at the last minute. The cutoff is the cutoff, so plan ahead.

**Register Soon!**

### Hotel Reservations

You are responsible for your own travel arrangements and your own hotel reservations.

You can call 800-325-3535 to make hotel reservations. You must tell them, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.

Or, you can make reservations on-line at  
**[www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/1stBattalion](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/1stBattalion)**

There are pictures of the hotel and accommodations at the reservation site.

### I've never been to a 1/1 Reunion

*(why should I go to this one?)*

I had always been a former Marine and Vietnam veteran, but it didn't come up much. For 29 years I had been busy with family, career and regular neighborhood guy stuff. I didn't have any PTSD or nightmares or any problems related to Vietnam. I didn't have any close friends, but got along with everyone that I met. A lot of the time I didn't understand why they thought the way they did and they sure didn't understand the way I thought about things. Basically, everything was going reasonably well for a guy slightly out of step with the world.

One Sunday morning in the summer of 1999, I woke up riding in a Mighty Mite on my way from 1/1 CP to 2/1 CP riding shotgun for my S-1 Lieutenant. I'd been on Route 4 before and didn't like it, besides, the 2/1 people did not like strangers inside their wire... It only lasted a couple of minutes, but I was living that ride at that moment in 1999. When I fully woke up, I thought that was pretty weird. From time to time in the past I would think about people left behind and what happened after I left, but nothing serious. I had had no contact with anybody for almost 30 years and here I wake up riding in a Mighty Mite.

I started researching on the internet and found the C 1/1 site. There was going to be a reunion in Detroit in a few months. That might be interesting. The closer it got, the more apprehensive I got. Would I

know anybody? Would there be crazy people there? Would I fit in? and a thousand other questions. I had tickets and a hotel reservation for myself and my wife. I told her that if it was weird or spooky in any way, we would just blow it off and have a romantic get-away weekend. I still wasn't sure that I was going until we actually got on the plane. I thought I knew what Vietnam veterans were like and I wasn't like them.

It was a life-changing event. The absolutely stunning thing was that almost everybody was a regular guy and I was like them. I'm a fairly even keel type person, never too happy or too sad. Not much emotion about anything. Meeting these guys was very emotional, the good kind. I didn't find anybody that I knew in the RVN and only one guy remembered me. That didn't really matter. Here were all these people from different backgrounds, all sharing the common bond of walking the same ground and a long time ago; we did something different than the people that we see every day. It was just all good. I've been to five reunions now. I've made great friends and found people that I served with. The only down side is that nobody looks like you remember them. Some got old.

If you are having doubts about coming, I encourage you to come. Worst case, you will have some time in a fun city. It turns out that Marines are good to hang out with. 1/1 Marines are especially good to hang out with.

~Dan King H&S 1/1 S-1



1/1 had a section to watch graduation at Parris island at 2007 reunion.

**Reunion Election Procedure**

*(deciding where the next reunion will be)*

A corporation was formed after the San Diego reunion. An executive committee was established by vote at the reunion 2003. The monies raised and spent for reunions are monies from the treasury of this corporation.

The executive committee has created a procedure for determining dates, sites and chairman for future reunions. By six months prior to the start of the next reunion anyone wanting to chair a reunion will submit to the executive committee members the following information:

1. Dates
2. Site
3. Chairperson's name
4. Committee of at least 3 people
5. Activities
6. Approximate costs

Proposals should be mailed to either, Joe Fulginiti at his address in the Redbook.

Approximately three months prior to the reunion there will be a newsletter mailed with a list of the proposals. At the reunion there will be a ballot in your packet. The only voters will be battalion members who attend the reunion. There will be no absentee or proxy ballots. There will be a ballot box in the hospitality room. Voting will cease at 8:00 PM on Friday, August 28, 2009. The votes will be counted and the winner announced at the battalion meeting on Saturday morning. The executive committee consists of Bob Lain (nonvoting), Mike Robinson, Roger O'Brien, Joe Fulginiti and Bob Black.

**Any questions?:****2009 Reunion Chairman:**

George Dougherty, Sr. C 1/1 66-67  
medina6667@hotmail.com  
(718) 351-8396

**Updates & Registration Form at:**

[www.1stBn1stMarines.org/reunion](http://www.1stBn1stMarines.org/reunion)

**The Redbook**

The Redbook is a roster of 1/1 and attached units from 1965-1971 that we have contact with. Keep your entry up to date to receive reunion updates and connect with any other 1/1er trying to find you. You can update you entry at:

**[www.1stBn1stMarines.org/dbupdate.htm](http://www.1stBn1stMarines.org/dbupdate.htm)**

No web access? Mail changes:

Dan King  
c/o 1/1 database  
8608 Vassel Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63123-3408

If you want a current RedBook emailed to you, send an email to **[redbook@1stbn1stmarines.org](mailto:redbook@1stbn1stmarines.org)**, with '1/1 Redbook' in the subject line. The only trick is you have to be in it to get one. It will come as an Adobe Acrobat attachment around 350Kb in size.

## 1/1 - First of the First

**1st Battalion 1st Marines  
Reunion Organization  
8608 Vassel Avenue  
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