

USMC Class 38th OCC/BC 3-66 Alumni Profiles



Rick Cleland

Date: April 16, 2007
Nick Name: Amazing Klee, Amazing One
Wife's Name: Trudy
Kid's Name: Andrea (37), Victoria (31), Scott (29)
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Co. & Platoon OCS: B4
Co. & Platoon TBS: E1
MOS: 6708 (Air Support Control)
Rank: Captain (Stayed Captain in Reserves)

After leaving Quantico: Casual Co, Quantico, VA; OJT at MASS-1, MACG-28, 2nd MAW, CPNC

Vietnam Tour: 1967 - 1968

Attached To: Marine Air Support Sqdn. 3; ADCON here, OPCON there, nearly every Unit in I Corps at one time or another

Jobs in Nam: Controlling and coordinating all A/C into, out of, and around southern I Corps. Helo, Jet, multi-engine of USMC, USN, USAF, RAF, NATO

Locations in Nam: Chu Lai, DaNang, Phu Bai, Dong Ha

Operations in Nam: Dewey Canyon, Pegasus, TET

Experiences to Share:

Best:

Getting Andy Anderson a meritorious promotion to Sergeant. Meeting Air Force Colonel Robin Olds when he was CO, 7th Air Force, Takli, Thailand. First Marine Officer to recognize the onset of TET. Tried to tell CG of Army 82nd and 101st his Units were going to get hit and he refused to accept my Intel sources

Worst:

Having to work for Major's John Dixon and Charles Goddard and constantly being harassed because I "played by the book". Goddard recommended HIMSELF for a Bronze Star and got turned down.

Favorite Memories:

In Service:

Field promotion to Captain, December 1967...I could do so much more for the Marines under me as a Captain. I have great memories of all the guys who supported me in OCS.

After Leaving Service:

The last reunion in SD was the best experience, by far, of my entire association with the Marine Corps. Marrying my wife in 1973

Medals Received:

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, PUC, Navy Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation; Combat Action, Civic Action

Jobs:

In Service:

Assistant S-3, 20th Staff Group, Norfolk; Assistant G-3 (Air), CGFMLANT

After Leaving Service:

Right-of-way Agent, North Carolina; Department of Transportation (1970-1981)

Other Comments:

Thanks for being so supportive of me when I really needed it.