

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

Photo Not Available

Lewis I. Dale

Date: September 12, 2010
Nick Name: Lew
Wife's Name: Elizabeth
Kid's Name: Alexander (34), Katherine Nagel (32), Sarah (29)
Address: 4 Belleview Blvd #705 (Dec-May)
Belleair, FL 33756
222 Merriweather Road (Jun-Nov)
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Phone # (s): 313-881-4945 (MI), 727-442-4943 (FL)

Email: lewdale@aol.com
Co. & Platoon OCS: C3
Co. & Platoon TBS: D1
MOS: 0302
Rank: Captain

After leaving Quantico:

Vietnam Tour: July 18, 1966 – October 31, 1967 (including 3 months TAD in Taipei, Taiwan.)
Attached To: "C" Co., 1st BN 7th MAR; 7th MAR HQ
Jobs in Nam: Infantry Platoon Commander (7/19/66 – 1/20/67); Assistant Operations Officer, 7th MAR (1/20/67-7/18/67); USMC Liaison Officer from MACV HQ, Saigon, to Taiwan Defense Command on TAD (7/18/67 – 10/18/67)
Locations in Nam: TAOR south and west of Chu Lai, plus Quang Ngai, Mo Duc, Duc Pho; Hill 55, DaNang; TAOR around DaNang
Operations in Nam: Franklin; Fresno-Golden Fleece; Rio Blanco; DeSoto-Deckhouse VI; several smaller operations, including joint operation with ARVN that set up Rio Blanco

Experiences to Share:

Best:

Steve Bowen got one of my squads on patrol out of a tight spot, by calling artillery in "fire for effect" on the first try, even though we were close to the targets and on the gun-target line. He hit both targets right on the money, to my great relief. I owe him dinner.

Working with young Americans from all parts of the country and many different backgrounds, including 18-19-20 year olds, who did their jobs in a very dedicated way in spite of what was already becoming an unpopular war.

After 7th Marines moved to Hill 55, for the next six weeks, combined action platoons were a favorite VC target, and a couple were overrun. I was tapped, as an additional duty, to inspect the CAPs and to help them improve their defenses and operations. This was a little tough, because General Walt had said that the CAPs were not to be little forts or to have a fortress mentality. Thus improvements were made in patrolling, LPs and the setting of night ambushes, as well as in apron wire, sand bagging, weapon positioning and clearing fields of fire. I like to think that these improvements made in mid-1967 were instrumental in the important roles these CAPs played in diverting NVA attention during TET in February 1968, helping DaNang to be the only major city in SVN not to be penetrated during this nation-wide battle.

Worst:

On a very dark, rainy night, in November 1966, having the lead platoon on a six-hour battalion movement, single-file, curling around flooded rice paddies, trying to get to a position several miles away to block a VC battalion thought to be trying to escape to the mountains. I can still hear my company commander yelling into the radio, "Speed up! Slow down! Speed Up" and people up and down the column usually blurting out "Slow down!" as they tried to hang onto the Marine in front of them-just like the folks at Basic School told us it would be on a night march.

Favorite Memories:

In Service:

While in Basic School, as Officer of the Day, on a Saturday evening, I could never have imagined the non-stop challenges I would experience between 6 PM and 6 AM, including helping to break-up a fight among several Marines at a movie house and becoming the unwilling arbiter of a serious domestic dispute between a sergeant and his wife, right in the middle of the road to Mainside. That old question, "what are you gonna' do now, Lieutenant?" never seemed more challenging.

After Service:

Married: Elizabeth Burke on 3/17/73 – 37 years of marriage;
For much of my career, I was a registered federal lobbyist, but I am working on redemption.

Birth of three healthy children, now grown and pursuing their own careers. Birth three years ago of our grandson Elliott Dale and a year ago, of our granddaughter Iris Nagel.

Medals Received:

The usual ones, along w/PUC and Navy Commendation w/V

Jobs:**In Service:**

- Had one additional year after VN, at HQ, USMC
- Admin Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff (Manpower), HQ, USMC Washington, DC – In this position, I mainly drafted speeches and presentations for Lt. Gen Herman Nickerson

After Service:

- Secretary, Cherokee Equity Corporation, 1969-71
- Special Assistant to Co-Chairman, Republican National Committee, 1971-72
- Staff Assistant and Deputy Special Assistant to the President of the United States (Richard Nixon) (11/72-7/74)
- MBA, Harvard Business School, 1974-76
- Special Assistant to the US Ambassador to Britain, 1976-77
- Vice President, National Coal Association, 1977-81
- Director, Federal Government Relations, Air Products & Chemicals, 1981-85
- Director, Washington Office, General Motors, 1985-89
- Executive Director, Industry-Government Relations, GM, 1989-94
- Various other positions, GM, 1994-04
- Retired, 12/04

Other Comments:

Many thanks to the members of our Basic School class who have worked so hard to bring us back together and to organize our reunions.