

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



David L. Mellon

Date: April 10, 2007
Email: dave.mellon@att.net
Nick Name: Dave
Co. & Platoon OCS: C2
Wife's Name: Valerie (Val)
Co. & Platoon TBS: D3
Kid's Name: Andrea (40), Kimberly (42)
MOS: 0302
Address: 23976 Broadhorn Dr.
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
Rank: Captain
Phone # (s): 949-489-8378; 949-244-4413 (Cell)

After leaving Quantico: 30 days leave in Nashua, NH. Traveled to San Francisco for July 4, 1966. Met classmate, Bill Singer, who was also staying at the Marine Memorial and we hung out for a couple of days before reporting to Travis AFB for transportation to RVN

Vietnam Tour: July 19, 1966 - Feb. 25, 1967 (Hospitalized returned CONUS August 6, 1967)

Attached To: Along with classmate Gatlin J. "Jerry" Howell, I was assigned to Bravo Co., 1st Bat., 9th Mar. I got 1st Platoon and Jerry was assigned to 3rd Platoon. A mustang, Mel Thompson had 2nd Platoon

Jobs in Nam: Platoon Commander-Bravo 1

Locations in Nam: Song Thu Bon Ferry Crossing – North Shore Security (later site of Liberty Bridge); Camp Schwab, Okinawa; Northern Training Area, Okinawa; Subic Bay, Philippines; Mindoro, Philippines; Thanh Phu Sector, Kien Hoa Province, IV Corps (Mekong Delta); Khe Sanh

Operations in Nam: DaNang, Mud Puppy II (Practice Amphibious Landing in Philippines), Deckhouse V, Prairie

Experiences to Share:

Best: Basic School platoon mate, Jerry Howell and having the opportunity to lead a fine group of Marine infantrymen, serving with, Bravo 1, 1/9

Worst: Having three Marines killed in combat while under my command; PFC Robert W. White January 10, 1967; S/Sgt Kendall D. Cutbirth February 25, 1967; Sgt Robert A Chapps DOW April 14, 1967 of wounds suffered on February 25, 1967. Learning of Jerry Howell's death in the Battalion CP at Con Thien on July 7, 1967

Favorite Memories:

In Service: I married Valerie L. Westfall August 19, 1967. I was OIC Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion (SERE) at Advanced Combat Training Company, 2nd ITR, Camp Pendleton for seven months. Assumed command of H&S Company, Basic Infantry Training Battalion, 2nd ITR on April 6, 1967 and served in that billet until discharge on January 31, 1969. The Commanding Officer of BITB was Lt/Col James L. Day. Jim had been the XO and then CO of 1/9 during my entire period in Vietnam as well. Jim retired as M/Gen. On January 21, 1998. President Clinton awarded him the Medal of Honor for an action that had occurred at Sugarloaf hill on Okinawa May 14, 1945. Jim was not only the finest Marine, but the finest man, I have ever known.

After Service:

Life with my wonderful wife, Val; watching my daughters grow into beautiful women and being "Baba" to my grandchildren. I am active in my Homeowners Association. I am a member of the Laguna Niguel Military Support Committee and in that capacity support 1/4, a 3rdMarDiv battalion that is assigned currently to 1st Marines. I try to work out regularly and enjoy, rollerblading, windsurfing, hiking, snow skiing and ocean wave kayaking. If

there are classmates who would like to form a snow ski club, let me know. It is so much more enjoyable skiing with friends than alone.

Medals Received:

Purple Heart w/1star, Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat "V"

Jobs:

After Service: I joined Monsanto Company in 1969 and trained as a sales representative. I served in numerous sales and marketing management capacities in industrial chemicals during my career. The last 18 months of my working career were spent with Solutia Inc., a company that was created when Monsanto Company spun off its chemical operations. Solutia declared bankruptcy in late 2003 and emerged on February 28 2008. I was offered a "golden handshake" in early 1999 and retired with 30 years of service.

Other Comments:

As a former Vice President, President and now immediate Past President of the Class, I have enjoyed working on behalf of our Class with guys, who undoubtedly are "the best men I have known". Our values were forged in the crucible of combat and they have served us well in our roles as citizens of this Great Country, in dealing with each other and advancing the stature of our Corps. I encourage everyone to get active in our Class Association.