

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



George W.T. O'Dell

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Email: iceboat6@alo.com

Nick Name: Digger

Co. & Platoon OCS: C4

Wife's Name: Dudney

Co. & Platoon TBS: D4

Kid's Name: NA

MOS: 0302 / 0202 / 9953

Address: 963 Hygeia Ave.
Leucadia, CA 92024

Rank: Lt Colonel

Phone # (s): 760-436-9348, 760-519-6552 (Cell)

After leaving Quantico: I had 20 days leave after TBS and then went to Vietnam. I remained in Vietnam until November 1968; I was released from active duty December 1968

Vietnam Tour: July 1966 – Nov. 1968

Attached To: 1st Bn 3rd Marines (6 months); 3rd Force Recon Co. (1year); Advisory Team 3 & 4 (1 year)

Jobs in Nam: Rifle platoon Commander/Force Recon platoon Commander & S-2, Advisor with South Vietnamese Army Battalion

Locations in Nam: Northern part of I Corps, from Khe Sanh on west to DMZ on north to South China Sea on east.

Operations in Nam: Hastings, Prairie, Defense of Khe Sanh combat base, Cumberland, Freemont, Kingfisher, Ardmore, Kentucky, Lancaster, Osceola, Liberty II, Kentucky V, Lancaster II, Napoleon/Saline, Scotland II, Charlton, Rice, Saline, Osceola II, Concordia Square. Operations with the South Vietnamese Army: Lam Son 10, 142, 21,22,142A, 51, 53, 59,63 and 67

Experiences to Share:

Best:

Without question, the reward of leading Marines in combat!

Worst:

Physically – two different patrols. First, with 1/3, near Khe Sanh combat base in the fall of 1966 and second, with 3rd Force, a patrol near the DMZ in the fall of 1967. Both patrols lasted about a week and it rained the entire time. We were wet, cold and miserable; sleeping in the mud and trying to keep warm. Miserable! Mentally, to see and deal with the loss of young Marines, including my brother officers.

Favorite Memories:

In Service:

In 1986 I was Commanding Officer of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. Clint Eastwood filmed much of the movie "Heartbreak Ridge" in my battalion area at Camp Pendleton...very nice man, very bad movie.

After Service:

I was released from active duty in December 1968 and returned to graduate school January 1969 to study for a Ph.D. I lost interest and in the fall I went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency in the directorate of operations. I had overseas tours in Laos and the Middle East. I resigned from the agency in October 1975 and returned to active duty.

In 1993 I was a body guard for Julia Roberts when she made the movie "I Love Trouble" with Nick Nolte...very nice lady but very bad movie.

I was the transportation security manager for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta; responsible for security of the athlete transportation system during the games.

Since May 1997 I've been a chief instructor in the Department of State Antiterrorism Assistance program, training foreign police officers.

Medals Received:

Bronze Star with "V", Navy Commendation Medal with "V", Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Vietnamese Honor Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Arm Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Combat Action Ribbon (2nd Award), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Jobs:

In Service:

HQ Bn. Commander, MCDEC, Quantico VA; Infantry battalion S-3 (operations) 2nd Bn. 4th Marines, Okinawa; Inspector Instructor 4th Force Reconnaissance Company Hawaii; Deputy J-3 (operations) Joint Special operations Command, Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Commanding Officer 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Camp Pendleton CA; Marine representative Strategy and Tactics Group, Naval Special Warfare Center, Coronado CA; Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Naval Special Warfare Command, Coronado, CA

Other Comments:

I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Agent Orange) cancer in early 2003. I am in remission. I would urge all my classmates, especially the ground MOS's, to get on the "Agent Orange Registry" which is maintained by the VA. I retired in 2006 and enjoy traveling with my lovely bride.