

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



Thomas R. Snead

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Nick Name: Tom

Wife's Name: Ann

Kid's Name: Carol Crosslin, DVM (43),
Virginia (Ginny) Lummus (39)

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Co. & Platoon OCS: A1

Co. & Platoon TBS: D4

MOS: 6704, Anti-Air Warfare Officer

Rank: Captain

After leaving Quantico: Battery B Operations Platoon Commander, 3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn., Cherry Point MCAS, NC; Army Air Defense School, Light Anti-Aircraft Missiles (HAWK), Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX; Embarkation School, Little Creek Naval Station, VA; Assistant S-4, 3rd LAAM Bn. (Combat loaded Landing Ship Dock for live fire exercise and combat off-load) at Vieques, PR in March 1967.

Vietnam Tour: October 1, 1967 – November 1, 1968

Attached To: Battery A, 2nd LAAM Bn

Jobs in Nam: Operations Platoon Commander, Battery XO, Battery CO

Locations in Nam: Chu Lai, An Hoa Island, Hill 44 across Tam Ky River from the mainland.

Operations in Nam: Defensive posture all the time. During TET Offensive we observed impacts of rockets into ammo dump at the other end of the runway. We had some attempt by people unknown to get through our perimeter but the dog patrols we had detected them and shots chased them off.

Experiences to Share:

Best:

Met with village chiefs of several villages on the island. Had a superior show during live firing exercise where our missile destroyed the target just as advertised

Worst:

Unable to revive 10 year old boy that had drowned off beach below our position. Had to guide medi-vac chopper in at night to remove LCpl. shot by US Army troop at onset of TET rocket attack at Chu Lai Airbase. He was last seen by the battery CO in a hospital ship and was projected to be a quadriplegic.

Favorite Memories:

After Service:

As a Marine brat (My father retired in 1963 as a Lt. Col. He graduated from the USNA in 1942 in the accelerated class of 1943. I was born 10 months latter.) I never got to travel beyond Quantico, Camp Lejeune, Troy, NY, and Hawaii. The travel bug got me and Ann and I have been traveling a lot with two trips a year.

Having my daughters' complete college and go on to get additional degrees as a Veterinarian and as a teacher has been really great. Watching them become young women, marrying great young men, and presenting us with two neat grandchildren has been super. And watching their mom and dad work with a 16 year old daughter (going on 25) is a refreshing experience as we had to do with them as they grew.

Jobs:

After Service:

I worked for Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in their Aeronautical Systems Division in Marietta, GA. I started in the Wind Tunnel Model Test Group which tested models of the airplanes in subsonic, trans-sonic and super-sonic wind tunnels around the country. I was an associate engineer at the time. I worked on the C-5A, C-141B, C-5B, C-130 (all models from B – J), and the Jetstar.

After being promoted to an engineer I worked in the Aerodynamics Department preparing the performance charts using computer data. The charts were included in the pilots' flight manuals to give them take-off data, cruise data, and landing data as well as emergency data.

I earned an MBA in 1972 from Georgia State University. I then went into contract work with our vendors who produced manuals to maintain and repair the components they provided for the aircraft. I was promoted to Group Engineer of the Contracts Group for Technical Manuals and finally the Department Manager of the technical Manuals, Quality Assurance Group, and the Contracts Group. For 4 years I held the position of Department Manager of the department that produced the parts manuals working with union hourly employees. I then went back to my prior department position.

Ann and I were married December 21, 1965, four days after my commissioning from OCS. Our first daughter was born in the hospital at Cherry Point 15 months later and I was off (as Ann says)

on a Caribbean Cruise (Vieques, PR) when she brought the baby home to our one bedroom quarters with her mother. I had asked the Bn. XO if I could be excused from the exercise for the delivery and his response was, "Lieutenant, you only have to be there for the laying of the keel, not the launching of the ship!"

I retired on June 30, 1999.

Other Comments:

After having been the grandson and namesake of the 44th Marine Aviator (he graduated from Flight School April 4, 1918) and a Marine brat for 22 years, being in the Marine Corps was a different experience. I believe that every person should take the opportunity to perform some military or related service for a minimum period of 3 or 4 years. This country provides a huge gift to every citizen by being the country that it is. A citizen should provide this service in gratitude.