

Reunion Information

Reunion Dates:

October 11-15, 2017

Hotel Registration Information:

El Tropicano Riverwalk
110 Lexington Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78205

Reservation Number 877-736-4311 or reservation@eltropicanohotel.com

Code: (USMC 38th OCC Basic Class 3-66)

Cost: \$115 + 16.75% tax for single or double occupancy with buffet breakfast included

Group Rate: Available 3 days before/after based on availability

Cutoff Date: Monday, September 11, 2017

Reunion Registration Information:

The Registration Form will be available in two ways:

1. As an attachment to emails promoting the Reunion:

To complete the Form that is emailed to you:

Save form to a file

Print Form

Fill out completely

Return to Terry Cox at 6205 Via Subida, RPV, CA 90275 with registration check

2. On the *Website*: www.usmc-thebasicschool-1966.com

To access and complete the Form on the website:

Click on "Reunions"

Click on "2017 Reunion Registration Form"

Print Form

Fill out completely

Return to Terry Cox at 6205 Via Subida, RPV, CA 90275 along with registration check

Registration & Optional Costs:

Registration Cost

\$90/person (includes Welcome BBQ, Hospitality and Banquet Dinner)

Optional Costs

Parking – Overnight parking **\$14 plus tax**/night with in & out access

National Museum of the Pacific War - **\$28**/person

Ladies Luncheon at Hotel Menger - **\$27**/person

Polo Shirt - **\$15/shirt**

Other Information:

Hotel:

The hotel was built in 1960. It has touches of San Antonio with flair of Mexico and the tropics in its lobby. It has an atrium with a couple of South American Toucan Birds and Tortoises. Its lobby is very spacious and open and overlooks the Riverwalk. It has a “Tiki Bar”, “Expresso Snack Bar” and “Restaurant” in the main lobby area along with a beautiful winding staircase leading to the second floor. Outside they have a beautiful pool and bar with plenty of room for lounging. Free Fitness Center for guests (age 18 & up). Business Center.

Hospitality Suite:

A very large (banquet size) hospitality suite – largest we’ve ever had, 2100 sqft w/overflow. There is plenty of room for tables and chairs to sit around in. You have a good view of the Riverwalk through their large bay windows. You can even sit out on the balcony and enjoy the river as it flows by. We plan on having the hospitality suite open much more at this reunion than in past.

Wed: 1200 – 2300

Thur: 1600 – 2300

Fri: 1130 – 2300

Sat: 1000 --1800 & Following banquet -2330.

The first night we plan on holding a good old fashion Southwest BBQ in the hospitality suite. We plan on inviting the Marines from the local I & I staff to join us. This will give us a chance to socialize with the Marines of today in a more relax setting.

Story Telling Time:

For the first time we plan on holding a group discussion regarding our time at OCS/TBS and Vietnam. We usually get together in small group and talk about our past so we thought it might be fun to open it up to everyone. I will moderate the discussion. Before our 2017 reunion, I will reach out to everyone and gather some information regarding where each of our classmates base was located in VN and what their MOS was. I will then try and locate these on large maps which we’ll have on the wall. I will also be asking if anyone wants to tell their favorite story about their time at OCS/Basic & Vietnam at our get together. Based on the information gathered, I will put together a discussion guide. It will be interesting to learn about our Classmates experiences.

Rooms:

All rooms are non-smoking, wireless Internet access, 37” flat screen TV’s with HD channels, iron/board, hair dryer, and Keurig Coffee maker. King Bed, One Queen Bed or Two Full Size Beds(will not guarantee room type but will honor upon availability on arrival). Check in 1600. Check out 1200.Can cancel 24hours with no penalties.

Transportation:

Airport – 8 miles. Use shuttle - no taxi. \$19/person or \$34 round trip.

Trolley

The trolley is a great way to get around San Antonio. It cost less than \$5 for a full days pass. The trolley can be caught at the Alamo, which is about a 15 minute walk from the hotel. It is great value if you want to see San Antonio easily.

Double Decker Tour bus:

For \$24 you can get an On/Off one day pass which will take you to even more places than the trolley. Along the way you will also get a historic narrative tour.

Riverwalk Taxi or Tour Cruise:

For \$12 you can get a one day boat taxi pass which allows you to ride up and down the waters of the Riverwalk . It stops right at our hotel and will take you to the main Riverwalk area where the Alamo & restaurants are located. This approach is somewhat less reliable than the trolley and the double-decker tour buses as they do not adhere to a strict schedule. However, if you are fortunate enough to catch one, it is an enjoyable way to see the area. If a boat has a checkered flag you can wave them down, just like any taxi. If you want to take a narrative tour it will cost you around \$10/person.

Walking:

This is the best. Walk along the Riverwalk and enjoy a nice easy pace and beautiful scenery. You will walk by all the riverfront restaurants in the downtown area and many of the hotels. It's shaded throughout most of the walk. The walk from the El Tropicano to the Downtown area is about 25-30 minutes. If you want to get to the downtown area faster, it is best to follow surface streets, rather than the Riverwalk and you will get there in about 15 minutes.

Senior Discounts:

Always ask for senior discounts – you can save a couple of bucks here and there.

Vietnam Memorial:

Only 5 minute walk from our Hotel. We will be holding our Memorial Service there on Friday morning which Dave Mellon is in the process of putting together. Guest speakers will include John Baines (Founder of this beautiful monument) and Dave Rogers (who was one of our classmates involved in the Hill Fights and the assault on Hill 881-South and whose poem is inscribed on base of the monument). Hopefully, the local I & I staff will present the Colors & perform Taps. We, of course, will be remembering the 33 we lost in Vietnam and reminding you of those that have passed on since. Following the Memorial Service we will be having our **"Group Photo"** taken.

Luncheon for the Ladies:

We are planning a special luncheon at the famous Hotel Menger for the ladies following the Memorial Service. The cost will be \$27/lady. The Hotel is next to the Alamo and was the first hotel built in San Antonio (1859). The hotel is extremely elegant and has housed such famous guest as Presidents: Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, William Howard Taft, William McKinley, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Lyndon B. Johnson, George Bush, and Bill Clinton. There have been a few military figures that have visited the hotel, including: Sam Houston and Robert E. Lee. During the Civil War they shut down the hotel in order to accommodate, feed and hospitalize the soldiers.

National Museum of the Pacific War

As you know this reunion we will have a lot more free time. The only event we planned that will require a bus ride will be our trip to the “National Museum of the Pacific War” on Thursday. This will be from 0900 – 1600. The Museum is in Fredericksburg about an hour scenic bus ride from San Antonio. If you haven’t seen this museum previously, it is a MUST!

The museum is dedicated to everyone who served in the Pacific under Admiral Nimitz. It includes more than 34,000 sqft of indoor exhibit space including:

George Bush Gallery
Admiral Nimitz Museum
Plaza of the Presidents
Veterans’ Walk of Honor
Japanese Garden of Peace,

Another 43,000 sqft expansion was added in 2010 to display our Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns, and other artifacts. We will have lunch at one of the many restaurants or delis located on the downtown Main Street in Fredericksburg. The cost will be \$28/person which includes the bus transportation but excludes lunch.

Banquet Dinner:

Andy is attempting to get a hold of General Hagee as our guest speaker. The meal will be your choice of Monterey Chicken or Churrasco Steak and of course, a vegetarian meal will also be available.

Restaurants in San Antonio

There are an abundance of restaurants around San Antonio, mainly in the Downtown area and the Riverwalk. If you want to venture out, there are plenty of restaurants in the outlying areas. I will put together a list of Restaurants in our packet.

Places to See

The nice thing about San Antonio is you will never get bored and there is plenty of shopping for the misses. Like the restaurants I will have a list of places to see in our packet. Here are a few ideas:

- Alamo
- Pearl Brewery
- San Antonio Museum of Art
- Tobin Center (next to Vietnam Monument)
- San Antonio Mexican Market Square (Largest Mexican shopping center outside of Mexico)
- King William Historic District
- Tower of the Americas
- Rivercenter Mall