

**Larrison, John Patrick (Jack), 3rd Platoon**

12 October 1945 - 10 January 1999

Bay Pines Nat'l Cemetery, St Petersburg, FL



John Patrick Larrison, “Jack,” was born 12 October 1945 and died 10 Jan 1999. A lifelong Floridian, Jack was a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, TBS 1-68. At the completion of TBS, Jack spent several weeks at HQMC waiting for the start of Language School—the Vietnamese Short course. After completing the Language School in Washington D.C, he was sent to the Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg for training in PsychOps. He arrived in Vietnam in early 1969 and served with G Company 2/7, 1<sup>st</sup> MarDiv. Jack was wounded 3 times, the last time as a result of a landmine, which forced a medevac to Okinawa for surgery on his leg. He completed his overseas commitment in Okinawa. After leaving the Marines, Jack was treated for PTSD on several occasions as he sought to deal with the after effects of his combat service. He and his wife Sharon, divorced in 1981, had three daughters, Stacey, Leslie, and Lindsay. Jack was killed as a result of a skydiving accident. He was making a jump with a team of five and filming their jump. Jack was an experienced sky diver with over 1,200 jumps to his credit, but the accident is attributed to human error. He deployed his main chute at 2,500 feet and a possible tangled steering line caused the parachute to spin. He may have focused too long on untangling the line, but did not release the main chute until he was at tree level and was too late to deploy his reserve. Jack struck high power lines and the actual cause of death was electrocution.

Some audiotape taken from “letters” home to his family in Florida during his time at TBS and Language School exist in the public domain on YouTube. The first 30 minutes of the Side A tape has Jack describing weapons training, a week’s activity day by day, company night marches, tactics, the “mad moment” and other activities.

Jack’s Tape #1 Side A <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUCMIJ6QzuU>

Jack’s Tape #1 Side B [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygH\\_rRrDsqa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygH_rRrDsqa)

**USMC Resume:**

The Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 3rd Platoon, Jun-Nov 1967

Language School—the Vietnamese Short course. Washington D.C,

Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg - PsychOps

Vietnam: G Company 2/7, 1<sup>st</sup> MarDiv

**Personal Reflections about Jack Larrison:**

**From Dick Kurth and John Cochenour:** Memories of Jack describe a man who was full of life with a boisterous humor and boundless energy. A profile of him in 1988 speaks to his red Porsche, his sailing

boats, and his entrepreneurial attitude. He could spin tales all day long –including stories about barefoot water skiing. As some have remembered: “Jack was definitely not burdened with taking things too seriously. I swear, when he walked into the room--or joined a conversation--everybody was smiling or laughing within about 15 seconds. Put him together with Joe Laslie and Jerry Lamp as the straight man--they could have done professional comedy routines.” And, “I’m not sure how he convinced me. We were just joking around, but when I left him that afternoon, I had shaved my head.”