

# THE BASIC SCHOOL

## CLASS 1-68



24 December 2014



- Number in class: 219
- KIA: 16
- Deceased: 33
- Not Found: 1
- Sitting up and taking nourishment: 170
- Not Participating: 7
- Participating: 163
- Reported In: 153

### Holiday Greetings

The news of the day is that we have now accounted for all but one of our original class. It is hard for me to exaggerate the praise appropriate for the efforts of your platoon finders (John Cochenour, John Masters, Drew Ley, Robert Newlin, Jim Sanborn plus Dave Peters) in this heroic effort

George Reilly (Marine and former NYPD Detective) who voluntarily worked many, many hours to provide us with a ton of find leads will be joining us at the reunion. Please shake his hand for making so much of this possible.

We need to muster more volunteers to make our Reunion function smoothly and be fun for all. We want to spread the load among many hands. Please contact me ([rckoury@mac.com](mailto:rckoury@mac.com)) to help. There is still so much to do and not enough hands to do it all.

## 3rd Plt Greetings

Let me shout out some of those who have already volunteered and are making a huge difference:

- Mike Williams is arranging our Basic School visit and is our senior event advisor (who could say no?)
- Pat Finneran is handling bus transport to our various events
- John Kispert is managing our on base transportation
- Ray Norton is our financial expert and Treasurer
- John Masters and Jim Sanborn are our vice presidents
- Bob Waller and Bill Tehan are organizing events for our Fredericksburg Friday
- Steve Frieher is arranging a golf outing on Friday for those who can still carry clubs with a smile.
- Mark Byrd, our resident artist, has volunteered to do a class web page for us. Wonderful.
- Paul Parker & Jim McKelligon will be herdsman, getting us organized and on time for events

- Jules Selden & Adrian Gordon are gathering biographical info on the lives, service and circumstances of death for our 16 KIA. Please advise if you can add any details
- Dick Kurth has arranged for publication of our event in various military journals
- Our remembrance services on Sunday morning are being planned by our one and only Episcopal Priest, Russ Johnson
- And the winner is: Joel Brummel whose daughter Heidi has secured 50 cases of "free beer" for us. Can there be happier words than "free beer"? Thank you!!

Joel has also agreed to manage the hospitality suite for us. This suite will be the focal point of our informal gatherings. We will have registration, drinks, snacks, presenters, discussion groups and displays every evening. Joel will need help- please contact me to lend him a hand for this task.

Reunion Contacts: **Bob Koury**  
 1st Platoon: **John Cochenour**  
 2nd Platoon: **John Masters**  
 3rd Platoon: **Drew Ley**  
 4th Platoon: **Robert Newlin**  
 5th Platoon: **Jim Sanborn**

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Which of our class:

- Flew with the Blue Angels: John Fogg
- Was involved with clearing our 11,000 + mines from the harbors and coast of Vietnam after the war flying the CH53: Jim O'Brien
- Became an Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps: Mike Williams
- Presently guides winter mountain Outward Bound expeditions for veterans: Bob O'Rourke
- Took a new last name: John Anuszewski, now John Ames
- Were awarded a Silver Star: John Banning, Joe Besler, Ike Eisenbach (I am pretty sure there were others, but not yet reported)
- Is a world class sculptor: Mark Byrd (look it up [www.markbyrd.com](http://www.markbyrd.com))
- Served as Vice President and General Manager of the McDonnell Douglas Aerospace F/A-18 program: Pat Finneran
- Recently moved to Ukraine with amorous intent: Chuck Carver
- Survived a Vietnam tour in 1st Tanks and two more with Force Recon, and died while in a LAPD helicopter which crashed: Randy Champe (his wife Sue will be with us at the reunion- wonderful)
- Was an FBI undercover agent operating an Irish bar: Bill Keefe
- Completed the Boston Marathon in 2013: Joe Renaghan
- Was the Mayor of Pensacola, FL: (John Fogg- yes, that John Fogg)
- Survived his Vietnam tour sadly to die in a mountaineering accident: Stu Jones
- Is a world class advocate for those with disabilities: John Lancaster
- Survived his Vietnam tour sadly to die in a parachute accident: Jack Larrison
- Uncle and father were both generals in the Corps at the same time, one being the commanding general at Quantico during our Basic School tour: John Masters
- Is presently living on a sailboat in NZ: Bob Packard
- Was President of Boeing Support Systems, a \$7 billion business that provides a defense services for warfighters: Pat Finneran (yes, that very same Pat Finneran)
- Became commanding officer of the Marine Forces Reserve- over 100,000 Marines at 200 sites: Tom Wilkerson
- Was second-in-command to General Tommy Franks at Central Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan: Mike Delong
- Which living classmate was wounded, but listed as KIA for 5 days in 1968: Bill Tehan
- His father was a USMC enlisted grunt in WWI (Yes.. Not WWII), and regaled the lads at Pensacola in 1968 with his stories of being a "Liberty Risk" (how cool is that) in France: Bill Friese
- Spent Christmas 1967 in the Quantico brig (ask him): Jules Selden

Whodda Thought????





## Reunion Hotel

Duly Warned: The Free Suite drawing will only include those registered in 2014. You have exactly seven (7) days left to register for this.....Get Hot!!

Of course, your participation is the critical ingredient in all this hard work. Please register at the hotel so that we can sort out how many we have to plan for in all of our events. In the words of my politically oriented friends "register early and register often". This is repeat info:

We have signed a contract with the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel

[www.fredericksburghospitalityhouse.com](http://www.fredericksburghospitalityhouse.com) to host our reunion.

They have made available a special rate of \$92 per night, plus tax, which I believe is quite attractive. Registration is now open, and I encourage you to register early.

To do so, copy then paste this link: <https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1245608&hotelID=15003> You will be asked to provide a credit card to guarantee the reservation. I am told that the credit card will not be charged until checkout.

For those of you with special

needs or accessibility issues, I urge you to call the hotel direct at 540-786-8321 to plan for your needs. It is especially important for you to register early as, like all hotels, there are limited special access facilities. If there are any issues with this, please contact me and I will get it raised to a higher level at the hotel.

To encourage early registration, the hotel has generously made available a free suite for the event which will be given to one of those who registers early by means of a drawing. The exact details of the drawing have not been determined, but if you do not register early, you are definitely out of the running.

I would appreciate it if you would send me an email confirming that you have registered for the event. That will allow me to keep an independent count.

You will note on the hotel registration site that additional days on either side of the reunion are available at our special rate. This will allow those of you who want to visit the NOVA / DC area before or after our event to do so.



**Shout Outs:** Pat Finneran for his untiring efforts to assemble a transportation plan. BZ.





You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed.  
 On your right side is a sharp drop off.  
 On your left side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you.  
 Directly in front of you is a galloping kangaroo and your horse is unable to overtake it.  
 Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the Kangaroo.  
 What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?



Get your drunk ass off the merry-go-round

## **TBS Reunion Schedule**

### **Tues 4/28:**

Early arrival with hotel discount  
 Early registration  
 Hospitality Suite open at 1600  
 On your own in Fredericksburg

### **Wed 4/29:**

1300-1500: Registration open  
 1300: Hospitality suite open  
 1530-1900: Bus to Quantico O-Club happy hour & informal dinner  
 1900-> Hospitality Suite

### **Thurs 4/30:**

0800-0900: Registration open  
 0900-1500: Basic School  
     1000-1100: Briefing on current TBS matters  
     1100-1200: Display & discussion of current weapons  
     1200-1300: Lunch with Lts  
     1300-1400: MC Marital Arts tour/brief/discussion

1400: Depart Basic School  
 1500-1600: Free Time At Hotel  
 1600-1900: BBQ Cook Out At Hotel  
 1900-> Hospitality Suite

### **Fri 5/1:**

0900-1530: Golf (Quantico), Civil war tour, On your own in Fredericksburg  
 1600-1800: Globe & Laurel  
 1900-> Pizza Night w/ beer & wine at Hospitality Suite

### **Sat 5/2:**

0900-1230: Open  
 1330-1830: Museum tour, happy hour & informal dinner  
 1900-> Hospitality suite

### **Sun 5/3:**

0700-1100: Bus to Vietnam Wall, catered breakfast on bus, prayer service & remembering our fallen  
 1200: Check out



## Your Participation Needed

### 1. Reunion Sign Up

As you can see from the list of volunteers busting their butts to make this work- there is a lot riding on attendance. Hard to believe, but we have not yet heard from 100 of our class on their reunion intentions. That is a possible 200+ folks for food, drink, transport, etc. Please, please contact your platoon finder (email on page 1) and advise your reunion intentions so we can plan this thing.

### 2. Information On Our KIAs

We are assembling biographies on the life and circumstances of death of our KIA for a remembrance. Please send any details you may know.

### 3. Purple Hearts Awarded

Please send me your Purple Heart circumstances so we can aggregate this info for the class.

### 4. Wives & Family Of Our KIA & Deceased

It is critical that we include this group in our events. But, first we have to find them. Please send any contact info you may have and then personally invite them to participate. This is important.

### 5. Your Photos

I am hoping to get two personal photos from each of you for the reunion program- yesterday and

today. Please send by email using jpg or pdf format if possible.

### 6. Financial Aid

Undoubtedly there are some for whom attending the reunion is a financial challenge. We have established a secret fund held by only our Treasurer, Ray Norton ([ray.norton@nortonfamily.org](mailto:ray.norton@nortonfamily.org)) to share our wealth. Those who need, please contact Ray privately. Those who can help, please contact Ray to send a contribution. Donated funds will be used for (a) financial assistance to help classmates attend (b) to reduce the cost to all for the reunion (c) an appropriate class gift. Thank you.

### 7. Vietnam Trip

Jack Wells (TBS 6-68) is organizing a trip to Vietnam next year. Any who may be interested let me know and I will put you in contact.

