

Ranstead, James Terrance (Terry), 4th Platoon
29 January 1943 - 22 January 1968
Fairview Cemetery, Vinita, OK



Terry Ranstead was from Miami, Oklahoma. He had one older sister, Jerry Ann Ranstead Caddell. During high school, Terry played trombone in a dance band and was the Senior Drum Major. He was also a cadet colonel in Civil Air Patrol. He attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami (pronounced Myamuh) and transferred to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where he earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1967. In college he was a drum major in the OSU band and a cadet in Army ROTC. He also worked full time at the Continental Can Company in Miami and then in the mechanical engineering lab at OSU.

Terry married his high school sweetheart, Dalma "Jean" Lanam, Sept 9, 1961. They had 2 children: son Terry Lee born July 29, 1962 and daughter Cheri Linn born June 16, 1964.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps through the PLC program and received a regular commission in May of 1967 with a date of rank of June 7. Terry's father, James Terry Ranstead, Sr. was killed in World War II. As a sole surviving son, Terry did not have to go into combat, but he volunteered. Both Terry and his father died within 15 days of their respective 25th birthdays. Terry's and Jean's grandson James Terry Ranstead was in Afghanistan at age 25, but returned safely.

At TBS Terry was in the 4th Platoon. He was known for his plain spoken "Will Rogers" style when expressing an opinion. He was serious and diligent in learning all he could and performing to his best ability.

After TBS he was sent to Viet Nam and given the command of a platoon. He arrived in Vietnam 31 December 1967 and was assigned to Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. On 22 January 1968 Terry was on a combat patrol at Quang Nam 5 kilometers south southeast of Tuy Loan Bridge when a mine was tripped killing him.

Terry was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery – Vinita, Oklahoma. Jean Ranstead now lives in Carlsbad, CA; son-Terry Ranstead in Carson City, NV; daughter-Cheri Clemmons in Panama City, FL; and sister - Jerry Ann Caddell, Kansas City, MO.

USMC Resume:

The Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 4th Platoon, Jun-Nov 1967

Vietnam: 3rd Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, G Company; January 1968

Personal Reflections about Terry Ranstead: