

CREW from MARS™

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www.ussmars.com

August 2005

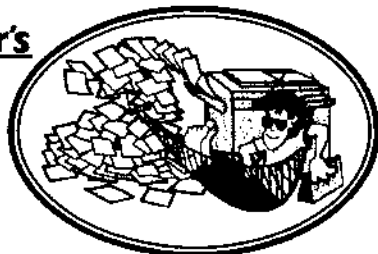
Association of former crew
members & friends of U.S.S. Mars AFS-1

Newsletter No. 19

• 1947 Gotham St. • Chula Vista, CA 91913 • Ph: (619) 421-3721 • Email: oneerj@pacbell.net •

from the editor's desk

My Fellow
Shipmates



Some new changes within our organization have taken place since the last newsletter. I will try & cover them on this page.

Welcome to the 42 crewmembers that have been located. A special thanks to Gary Travis (1963-66) for his continued effort in making phone calls from the lists of names that I have been sending him. More help is needed, so let me know if you are available to make calls to help locate Mars crewmembers. We have now located over 925 former crewmembers.

Our Mars website has had some major changes. We have purchased a new site provider & a printer/scanner that Joe Matejcek is now using. The cost for the site is \$200 a year. The printer cost was \$183. The site that was selected is 100% backed up by the provider, so we should not lose anymore information that is posted. Joe has posted all the newsletters on the site, which was a big task from his end. He will soon be working on pictures, etc. The costs have come out of our reunion fund.

Additional reunion funds have been spent on T-shirts & mouse pads. These items were requested & approved at the Seattle Reunion. All the work on this project has been done by David Reed, so I will leave the comments about this to him.

The Jacksonville Reunion registration letters have been mailed to those who have requested one. I have mailed out a total of 140 registrations, which include all who are living within

500 miles of Jacksonville. If you plan to attend this reunion & need a registration, contact me. This will be the last reunion for this area for at least six years, so don't miss this opportunity to greet old shipmates & make new friends. Check our website for all the up-dated reunion information.

I attended the launching ceremony of the USNS Lewis & Clark (T-AKE 1) this past May, along with the Chief of Naval Operations, of course we had different seats. The Navy's newest line of supply ship is large & impressive. It is possible that one of them will be in San Diego for the 2007 reunion.

Thanks to Arthur Sweetland (1963-65), we now have a line of communication with Mars, PA. We hope this will be the location of the Mars bell when her fate is determined. The USS Mars is still hanging in there. Marc Tinaz (1991-94) is now stationed in Pearl Harbor & recently was able to go aboard the ship. He said she looks to be in good shape & ready to steam, if needed. Marc sent some pictures & I will bring them to Jacksonville.

San Antonio is still the site for our 2006 reunion. Ed Biddle (1969*71) has volunteered to help coordinated this reunion. Ed knows the area well & thinks San Antonio is a great reunion location. We have at least 50 of the crew living in Texas, so we expect another good turnout. I will post the information on our web site as it becomes available.

The last newsletter was put in the mail with the help of David Reed & Bob Sizemore (1967-69). We folded, applied labels & stamped over 400 N/L in two hours. Their help was appreciated. The next newsletter will be mailed in January 2006.

E.R.J.

REUNION 2005

Jacksonville, FL



October 12-16, 2005

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
9300 Baymeadows Road
Jacksonville, FL
Reservations (904) 731 - 3555
www.embassysuitesjax.com

Reservation Code: MARS REUNION
You should make reservations now.

MARS REUNION RATES \$84.00
for a king or 2 double bed suite.



General Information for Hotel guests

- 277 two room suites consisting of a private bedroom & living room with pullout sofa.
- Complimentary Full Breakfast
- Manager's Reception for two hours (nightly) with your favorite beverages/cocktails.
- Free parking
- 24 hour health fitness room, indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi
- Free shuttle service within 7 mile radius of the hotel

This will be the last reunion information that will be mailed. All up-dated information & names of those attending will be posted on the Mars website.

It looks like a group of us will be arriving on Wednesday the 12th. Lets get together at the Hotel Manager's Reception - 1730-1930.

We will open the Mars Hospitality Room at about 0800 Thursday. Name tags & the updated schedule will be available.

Friday will be a full day for those who will be making the base/ship tour. The bus will depart from the hotel at 0930. After the base tour, we will go to the Anderson's home for a picnic on the beach. **THIS IS A SPECIAL INFORMAL EVENT.** Bring your sun screen/hat & if you want to wade into the Atlantic Ocean, swimming attire.

For those who do not want to make the base tour, but desire to attend the picnic, we should be able to arrange transportation form the hotel.
Contact me before the reunion.

We should be back at the hotel by about 1600.

ALL HANDS WELCOME RECEPTION:

1800 Our informal welcome & introductions. Everyone is welcome to attend. Registration is not needed for those living in the area. For anyone who is able to attend at the last minute, please attend. Our hospitality room is always open to any Mars crewmember & their guests. The hospitality room will be open until 2330.

If you have any questions or need more information, contact Everett.

If you are going on the base tour, I must have your reunion registration by 01 OCTOBER.

Many of you will be attending your first Mars Reunion. Looking forward to meeting you in Jacksonville.

E.R.J.

I haven't a thing to wear !

Well ! ... you can wear just about anything you want as long as its Rated G. Shorts & T-shirts are just fine, even for the main dinner. If you want to be more formal, like a sport coat, thats OK too! Those of you that still can get into that old uniform, well thats OK also.

As you can see its a tuff dress code !

Future MARS Reunions

REUNION 2006 San Antonio, TX
Host: Ed Biddle (1969-71)

REUNION 2007 San Diego, CA

This reunion will be planned around Fleet Week & the Navy's Birthday on the 13th. That looks like it will be the second weekend in October of 2007.



From the Graphic Desk



Once again the graphic guy is playing around with stuff. It seems that when I laid out the ships plaque from the picture in newsletter #2, I was a little off. Having received one of the ships plaque from Ray Gillman (1968-70), I have been making the changes on the graphic work. The point being, you just never know from one issue to the next what changes will be made. I know you really don't care, but we hope that some of you are looking forward to each issue.

Then as a matter of course, we have those nasty typos, which we make on purpose just to keep you on your toes, right? . . . RIGHT ! . . . right . . .

One of these days we will get some professional help, no, not that kind, the publishing type. Just want to thank the crew for the kind words about the newsletter, as we enjoy putting it together for you. This also being the high paying job that it is, well we just have to improve with each issue. I found eleven cents the other day, when I made a stop for a large cup of coffee.

The office rent is the right price too! My computer & I get to share it with the cat & a bed, along with other bedroom furniture. I get coffee, Diet Cokes & all the water I can drink. I even get fed every day.

As you can tell, I'm not let out very much anymore. I don't really know why?

The other day I was asked why we can do this newsletter & have the organization we have without annual dues. The answer is very simple --- the "Crew from MARS" are still as always the greatest group of people, continuously giving contributions of time, donations & most of all the e-mails & letters. (Now this part is a secret, we don't want him to get big headed) We have Everett R. Jones that keeps giving just the

right push when needed.

Your Editor & I have stated it many times that it is your support as a group or more to the point the crew, family & friends, that is, our Mars family. All organizations have those few people that give it the power that makes it go, while we have a large crew that steps up when needed in all parts of the world. Without you, we would not be the crew we are !

The word DUES, is a negtive, that turns people off. While there are always those that go alone for the free ride, we feel that donations & having faith in what we our doing & who you are makes all the difference in the world. The "CREW from MARS".

Thank you again for the Bravo Zulu's & keep the inputs coming. By the time you get this, the Bos'n will have me working on the next issue. Oh by the way, check out the ships store stuff.

D.Reed

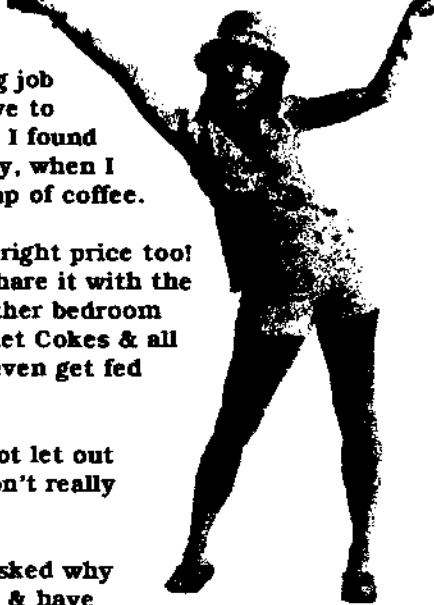
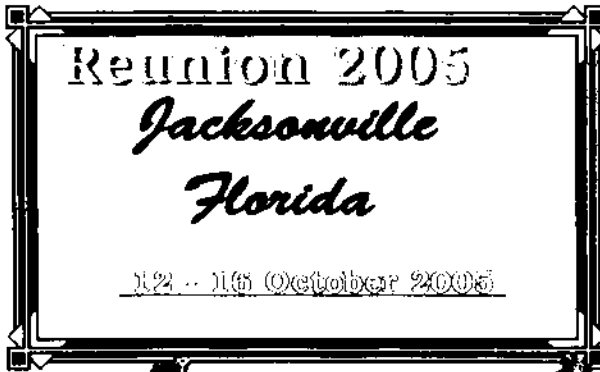
Thank You

▪ REUNION DONATIONS ▪ General Fund

James R. Glidewell \$ 60.00

▪ REUNION 2005 DONATIONS ▪ Jacksonville, Florida

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Joe Tizol	\$ 27.00
Dale Ashcraft	\$ 20.00
Mike Bachler	\$ 27.00
Joseph Rydzewski	\$ 19.00
James Sutherland	\$ 20.00





COMMENTS & MEMORIES

Fred was the 3rd crewmember to report when the Mars was started at National Steel. The duty gave us time to produce the first child born to a crewmember. We went to Yokosuka when our son was 6 weeks or so old.

You have done a fabulous job of keeping all in the "know".

Fred & Jeanne Carnathan (1963-65)

This is a multi-purpose letter. First, to provide you with a change of address. Wouldn't you know it? We moved to Arizona from Seattle just before the reunion in Seattle. Talk about bad timing.

Second, to forward a contribution to the Mars newsletter that you publish. I get some from other ships on which I have served but this is far & away the best. Keep up the good work.

Third, some Mars memories. I served on board Mars as Operations Officer from 1969 to 1971 under Captains Paul Anderson & Tom Nutt. Mars was still home ported in Yokosuka when I reported aboard & was making regular runs down the line in the South China Sea. About midway through my tour, CNO decided to move Mars back to Alameda so we went through the pangs of a major homeport shift.

Hardly getting settled in Alameda, it was time to make the regular six month deployment, so back on the line we went. Of course we had one advantage. Most of the crew was carryovers from the WESTPAC home porting so we were already well versed in the South China Sea UNREP operations. The deployment carried us through Christmas, & I remember celebrating Christmas day by providing special services to the troops stationed on the southern island of An Thoi. Providing some Christmas cheer to these isolated soldiers really brought home the meaning of Christmas away from family & friends.

As Operations Officer, it was primarily my job to schedule the UNREPS. This meant trying to keep track of the ever-changing fleet schedule which proved to be a real challenge. I used to say that the main thing was to keep the schedule in pencil & carry a big eraser. But the Mars crew was outstanding in meeting the last minute changes that inevitably occurred. We chased ships all over the place but never let a customer get away.

It was during our last line swing before the homeport shift that Chief Engineer LCDR Brick Baker had the big number "1" constructed & mounted on the stack with lights so we could ensure our customer ships knew that were in fact serviced by the "Big Number One." It was also at the urging of Captain Nutt that we had recorded the song "San Francisco" that was played over the outboard speakers after each UNREP to let the others know where we were headed.

After our return to Alameda, our Executive Officer David Carlisle suffered severe appendicitis & was hospitalized for awhile. I got to serve as acting Executive officer for nearly a month.

As it turned out it was good training since about two years latter I was ordered to USS White Plains (AFS-3) as Executive Officer. And yes, it was just in time to change home ports from Alameda to Sasebo. What goes around comes around. But that's another story.

My experiences on Mars helped set me up for eventually qualifying for command at sea (not an AFS as I had expected but a destroyer. What a change in operations!

I retired in 1981 & resided in Seattle with my family until last July.

Robert W. Bruce (1969-71)





COMMENTS & MEMORIES

Mars Memories - A lot of time has past, & we all remember things a little different. I did not change the names to protect the innocent because there are no innocents in these stories!!

1. We were in the Pre-Com crew for Mars & the navy saw fit to put us up on an old "Apple" (APL) that was tied to a dark pier at Long Beach Ship Yard. It was pretty much a Bad looking, bad smelling old tub. One night, on returning from liberty "Pinky" McMahon (EM3) woke me up to tell me he had seen a rat so big & salty that he saluted it & asked It's permission to come aboard.

2. That old APL had the troughs in the heads that had salt water flowing as the flush. It had the "Butt" slats used to make your seat. We had some fun with wads of toilet paper set afire & floated down to "warm" the thinkers & readers. You had to be pretty alert during your own time of relaxation . . . Hal!

3. Yokosuka Navy Base - One night R. W. White III (EM1) came home (He had base housing) from a beer run to the base EM club. His hands were skinned up & bleeding. He claimed a taxi had run over his hands as he crawled across the street. Actually he had the Honda motorbike overloaded with cases of beer & ran the front wheel into the groove that held the track for the pier cranes. When he tried to turn out the bike dumped him & our beer all over the street. We were sorry (sort of) about his poor hands but we had lost most of our beer (broken bottles, & some given to passing sailors!). It was near the end of the month & beer money was hard to come by.

4. Once while at sea, off Yankee station, I was sent up to the bridge to do routine maintenance on the Carbon Arc search & signal lights. I was working with a striker & we were joking as we cleaned the reflector with powered chalk & alcohol. I told the EMPN to "Carry On". A Butter Bar Ensign on watch heard my remark & came over in a huff to inform me that the term "Carry On" was a term reserved for Officers when addressing enlisted persons. And no-I do not remember the Ensign's name.

Dennis Oliver EM1 (1963-68)



21 Dec 1963, USS Mars commissioning. The XO, CDR Wellsman, tells the Navigator, LT Haynes, "Set the Watch." At that point, LT Haynes (as the CDO) turned & instructed the OOD to "Set the Watch." I don't remember who the OOD was, but I sure remember who "Set the Watch" as the first POW (Petty Officer of the Watch): AK3 Mel Major.

My name is Mel Major. As a (then) AK3, I've always thought it ironic that a surface Navy ship that didn't exactly know what to do with "Airdales" (as ship's company) would have an airdale "Set the Watch" on it's commissioning day. Some of the "Blackshoe" types used to tell me, "Well, there goes the neighborhood." Funny.

As a potential plankowner, I was assigned to the MARS while she was being built at NASSCO in San Diego. I was a young (weren't we all?) third class aviation storekeeper who had absolutely no idea what to expect from a non-aviation ship. Never heard of such a thing! That was in a world gone by & seems so long ago, that I have trouble remembering details as well as I'd like. I do remember an SK1 (who shall remain nameless) taking me under his wing, & at lunchtime, off we'd go to a lunch-shack located just off of NASSCO for a "ham sandwich." which was his code for Hamms beer. I didn't drink any during working hours of course. I also remember, like so many of you, the terrible day that President Kennedy was assassinated. That day probably wasn't as bad a day as September 11, 2001, but we were all so much more innocent & naive then, weren't we?

Anyway, I stayed in the Navy & retired in 1979 as an AKC. After that I went to work for Sikorsky Aircraft as a logistic support representative (LSR), retiring from Sikorsky in 1999. For you non-aviation types, Sikorsky makes helicopters.





COMMENTS & MEMORIES

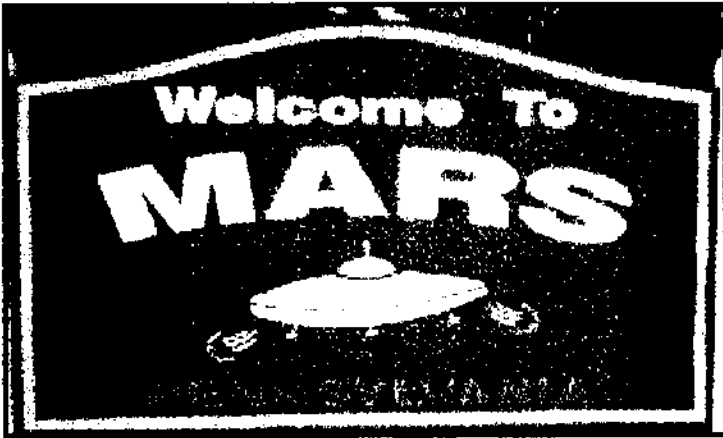
My wife is from Pensocala, Florida, so after I retired from Sikorsky, she drug me there, kicking & screaming. I hate the awful humidity here! No state income tax though.

I do correspond with one other plankowner, & I'd welcome anybody else who might care to contact me. I'm planning on attending my first MARS reunion this coming October in Jacksonville, Florida. Looking forward to seeing y'all then.

Mel Major 1963-65

AFTER 41 YEARS, A MARTIAN RETURNS TO MARS

In the summer of 1964, SKSN Arthur Sweetland, home on leave, visited Mars, PA, & presented the mayor of the town, G. Thomas Smink, a picture of the USS Mars. Arthur was 20 years old at the time.



On April 4, 2005, Arthur returned to Mars, PA to speak to the town council about obtaining the bell from the USS Mars when it becomes available. He presented a large framed picture of the ship & the ships plaque to the council. These items were donated from our reunion fund & Arthur had the 18 x 24 picture put in a nice frame. The picture will be permanently displayed in the borough council chambers.

The Chief of Police, Keven Radford, Donated a Mars, PA police patch to the crews of the Mars. We have added Cookie Wolfe, Secretary of Mars Borough, to our newsletter mailing list.

This is what I said to the people of Mars, PA on 4 April 2005 at their town meeting:

I am presenting on behalf of the Crew of the USS MARS AFS-1, an artist view of our ship the USS MARS AFS-1, our ship's plaque made by Raymond P. Gilman, a framed picture of me with one of the former Mayor's of Mars PA (Mr. Smink) taken forty one years ago on 17 July 1964, & a framed written history of the USS MARS AFS-1. I am asking you the people of Mars & it's Towns officials for help in securing the ship's bell & plaque with the names of all the ship's Plankowners (first crew) on it.

The USS MARS is dear to our hearts & to have its memorabilia anchored in the city of Mars for which she was named, is of the utmost importance to the crew. Our ship & former home for several years to more than 4000 men during its years in service to its country, is now decommissioned & is in a state of holding. Which means it is being used for spare parts & to be scrapped at some future date. It is now anchored at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii.

It was an honor for me to go to Mars, PA representing you my fellowship mates. I was received very warmly by the people of Mars & they are most willing to help us in our quest. It was





COMMENTS & MEMORIES

some forty one years since my last visit to this city, & like most things in life it has changed.

It would be nice if the city heard from each one of you by emailing them right to the town. You may do this by using this email address: marsborough@yahoo.com The township secretary will receive your email directly & her name is Cookie Wolfe.



Arthur Sweetland (1963-65)

Or you can send it US Mail Service:
Mars Township
598 Spring Avenue
P O Box 395
Mars, PA 16046

NEWS from the FLEET

Just another day in San Diego: 21 May 2005

VIETNAM UNIT MEMORIAL

USS Midway CV-41 - San Diego

The carrier has been reported as being over run with visitors. Having opened in June of 2004 with an estimate of 440,000 in the 1st year, the ship has been over run by January 2005 with 575,00. A number of visitors coming from out of town are coming back with friends.

At 1100 on 21 May 2005, dedication of the Navy, Coast Guard Monument took place at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado. Those 2,564 Navy & Coast Guard personnel who died in Vietnam being listed on 26 panels on the 66 by 8 foot gracefully curved wall.



The combined effort of volunteer labor & private funding over several years made the memorial possible. Now it is open & the effort will continue with the help of the volunteers behind the scenes to keep the flags flying.



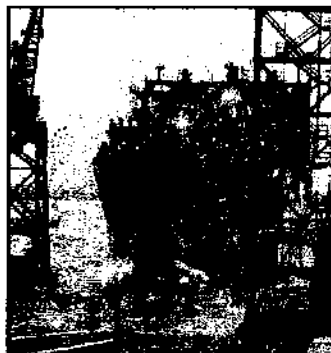
H-46 Sea Knight on the Midway flight deck, after Mother Nature held a freshwater wash down

With more working & living spaces opening & more aircraft, along with a over night program for kids, the new museum is a growing success. The whole thing has given a boost to other businesses in the

area such as the Maritime museum & harbor boat tours. Of course she still has some critics.

USNS Lewis & Clark (T-AKE-1)

As a Museum to Naval Air in the birth home of Naval Air, what better place for the USS Midway to be able to continue serving. While many former crew & other Navy Vets tour her with many getting something in their eyes that was blowing across the bay in the wind.



On 21 May 2005 at 1956, the new class, state-of-the-art combat cargo ship was launched at NASSCO in San Diego, CA. The first of eight, with the possibility of four to be added later.

The Crew from Mars knows this grand old veteran well, having given up many hours of sleep to UNREP/VERTREP her, after many sweaty hours of breakout.

At 41,000 tons, the daughter to Mars is the new super mart at sea for the Navy.

Night VERTREP in the Pacific Fleet

By CAPT George C. Watkins USN (Ret.)

It was December 1965 and I had just been given command of USS *Mars* (AFS-1), a fast combat stores ship based in Yokosuka, Japan whose task was to supply the ships and stores of the Seventh Fleet. With orders in hand I departed the Strike Warfare Division in the Pentagon and headed to San Diego. I had received the okay by BuPers to report to Ream Field for an introductory course in flying helicopters. There were only two support ships that had helos aboard, *Mars* and USS *Sacramento*, each with two H-46 helos. It made great sense to me, as an aviator, that I should be checked out in helo flying. The Navy assets of this particular model helicopter were very low and because of the Vietnam War these were all deployed to the western Pacific.

I was allotted one week at Ream Field to accomplish my helo checkout. With no Sea Knights available I flew in different models but on the last day I was able to fly an H-46 with the Marines at Santa Ana. That one flight, made with a Marine 1st LT flying in the mountains behind El Toro, was memorable indeed, not only for me but also for the two Navy captains sitting in the rear jump seat. They were probably scared to death, but I really learned how to hover and land on mountainous terrain and make emergency landings on designated spots. In other words, checking out in helos was a real winner.

I proceeded by Navy Air Transport to the Philippines where I caught a COD ride out to USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65). *Mars* was scheduled to come alongside later that day so I conned CAPT Holloway (later CNO) into letting me fly his COD into Saigon, twice, to pick up pilots and some mail. On my second trip, *Mars* was just completing its UNREP and VERTREP. The captain and I briefly discussed night vertical replenishment, and I promised him the next time we met (our two ships), we would be replenishing at night, not heretofore done.

Much to the shock and dismay of the pilot of the H-46 which was to take me from *Enterprise* to *Mars* I slipped into the pilot's seat and flew the helo onto the *Mars* flight deck. CAPT Medley, the ship's CO, met me and we proceeded to discuss the many things involved in the changing of command which took place the following morning. Shortly thereafter, we delivered CAPT Medley to another aircraft carrier, and I was now in command of *Mars*.

I immediately called a meeting of the helo pilots and aircrews, and once again, to the shock and dismay of all concerned, I announced, "Tonight we are going to begin night flying, and will continue to fly every night until the pilots tell me they are ready to commence vertical replenishment at night."

Remember, these pilots had no night flying training at all prior to this deployment. But they got used to shortly and we performed night VERTREP more and more.



We learned how to place a pallet-load on the deck of a small ship at night without having to go alongside and transfer material by high-line. This was an enormous time saver in itself.

I had neglected to inform my boss, RADM Janney (COMSERVFOR Seventh Fleet) about what we were doing. I confess I was afraid he might put thumbs down on this whole operation, but he found out soon enough and shortly *Sacramento* was forced into doing the same night VERTREP training we had done. For that matter, so did some of the ships on the East Coast.

While operating from our home port of Yokosuka, Japan we made many trips down the China coast, stopping in Tai-

wan, then Yankee Station and then Subic Bay, supplying ships. Our crew received combat pay for the entire period I was aboard from December '65 until January '67.

To show how important night VERTREP meant to re-supplying ships and stations along our North and South Vietnam routes, in April of 1966 we replenished 186 ships and stations. This also included several trips ashore in Vietnam to bring injured Marines (and the deceased) to the hospital ships and other vessels off the coastline.

It also included lifting a 6,000 pound radar and sonar box to the top of a hill in Vietnam which neither the Army, Air Force nor bulldozers were able to accomplish. This box was able to provide security for the entire entrance into Cam Ranh Bay and was operated by Navy Seals. We did this in the early hours of the morning when the outside temperature was cooler than normal which helped the helos operate at higher altitudes.

Before I retreat from this litany I want to thank BuShips for approving all 26 structural changes and alterations to the *Mars* that were accomplished during my watch, thus giving *Mars* a truly enhanced capability. To my mind, no change we submitted, was ever turned down. ■

CAPT Watkins is a 30-year veteran Naval Aviator having made more than 30,000 flights recorded in 17 log books. He was a Navy Test Pilot and the first U.S. Navy pilot to achieve 1,000 carrier landings (1,418 total in 36 different aircraft models, on 36 different aircraft carriers). He is a former world's altitude record holder, a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and a member of the Golden Eagles.

• Reprinted by permission of CAPT Watkins

Ships Store

Mars Unframed Lithograph reprints:

5 x 7	\$3.00
7 1/2 x 10	\$3.00
10 x 13 3/4	\$6.00
17 x 22	\$45.00



Mars plaque:

These plaques are reproductions made by Ray Gillman (1968-70). The wood base has been reduced from the originals that were made in the PI due to cost.



Cost per plaque \$50.00

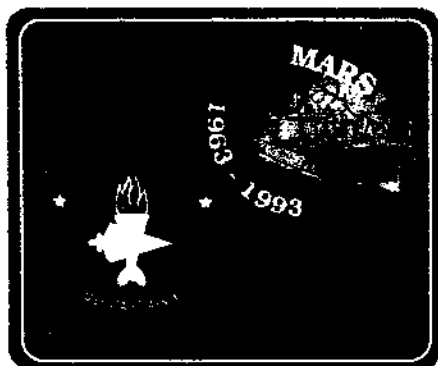
Mars Ball Caps:



The cap is black with yellow lettering & cinder gray ship silhouette. This has been a very hot item.

Made in the U.S.A. \$12.00

Mouse Pad:



The graphic guy choose Gray to remember all the fine technical naval training received from the bos'n. They are 1/4" rubber 8" x 9 1/2" at \$5.00 each.

Make your check payable to:
MARS REUNION



CREW from MARS T-shirts - updated

The new redesigned T-shirt is ready. Size small to XL for \$12.00. For XXL size the cost is \$2 more at \$14.00.

We will have most of the ship store items at the Jacksonville Reunion. The Crew from Mars T-shirt is a hot item



Bumper Stickers:

Out of the four designs placed on the internet, A & B won the vote, with only one vote between them, so we our printing both. It was also recommended that the Mars ensigna be moved from the right side to the left side as done here on style B.



A

Vote:
A: 33 B: 32 C: 18 D: 13



B

Cost per bumper sticker is \$3.00.

All ship store items, postage included in the pricing. ANY & ALL PROFITS, if any, go to the REUNION FUND!

Mail to:

Everett R. Jones
P.O. Box 212172
Chula Vista, CA 91913

Thank You

Your Support for the Newsletter
is Greatly Appreciated

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Randolph H. Elkins	\$100.00

If you wish to make a donation for the support of our newsletter, please make your check payable to the MARS REUNION.

Statement of Newsletter Account

Expenses:

Postage/stamps	\$ 423.91
Printing newsletters #18	\$ 337.80
Envelopes	\$ 72.99
Printing	\$ 7.80

Total Expenses \$ 842.50

Income:

Newsletter donations	\$1134.00
Account interest	\$ 5.17

Total Income \$1139.17

February 2005 balance	\$2302.29
July 2005 balance	\$2598.96

Statement of Reunion Account

EXPENSES:

Postage/stamps	\$ 85.04
Raffle item	\$ 21.96
Printing	\$ 56.97
Mars website	\$ 107.88
Scanner/printer	\$ 182.82
T-shirts & mouse pads	\$1663.90

Total Expenses \$ 2118.57

INCOME:

Donations	\$ 60.00
Ship stores sales	\$ 64.40
Account interest	\$ 5.18

Total Income \$ 129.58

February 2005 Balance	\$3533.74
July 2005 Balance	\$1544.75

*We thank you all
for your support!*

the Ships Crew



A Special Welcome!

1963-1965	Ard, Ronald E.	SN	-----	Thomaston, GA
1963-1967	Dusek, James F.	BM2	2nd Div	Longview, TX
1963-1967	George, Millard N.	RD3	OI Div	Columbus, GA
1963-1965	Glidewell, James R.	SN	1st Div	Newport Beach, CA
1963-1965	Johns, Clarence E.	SH3	S-3 Div	Summerfield, FL
1963-1966	King, Nelson R.	BTFN	B Div	Tuscola, IL
1963-1966	LaBoyne, Dennis R.	FN	-----	Titusville, FL
1963-1964	Manser, Robert J.	SN	-----	Land O Lakes, FL
1963-1965	McMahon, Foster R.	EM3	E Div	Moore, OK
1963-1965	Rosser, Jimmie L.	SHC	Supply	Lake Como, FL
1964-1967	Bartolome, Ricardo A.	SK1	Supply	Port Angeles, WA
1964-1966	Erickson, Paul F.	LTjg	1st Div	Aurora, CO
1965-1967	Barr, Richard C.	SK2	S-2 Div	Sierra Vista, AZ
1965-1967	Cash, Eugene V.	SK3	S-2 Div	Manteca, CA
1965-1967	Fulton, James K.	RD3	OI Div	Napa, CA
1966-1968	Campbell, Donald L.	YN2	X Div	Cypress, CA
1966-1967	Dauley, James K.	SKSN	S-2 Div	Lewisburg, KY
1966-1967	Feagan, John W.	GMG3	3rd Div	Napa, CA
1966-1967	Foard, Leonard R.	EMFN	E Div	Cypress, CA
1966-1967	Glasgow, Clinton D.	SKSN	S-2 Div	Indianapolis, IN
1966-1967	Holtshulte, John D.	SN	-----	Hamilton, OH
1966-1968	Kersey, Greogory R.	BM3	2nd Div	Clarksville, TN
1966-1967	Leggett, Freddie M.	BM3	2nd Div	Tampa, FL
1966-1967	LeRoux, Robert L.	MM3	M Div	Alma, MI
1966-1967	Morrissey, Joseph G.	SK2	S-2 Div	Clermont, FL
1966-1968	Potter, James M.	RD3	OI Div	Shelton, WA
1967-1968	Hood, Gordon P.	SK2	S-2 Div	Basalt, CO
1967-1970	Hoskins, Norman L.	QM3	Nav	Clover, SC
1967-1969	Riemer, Terrance A.	SKSN	S-2 Div	Brillion, WI
1968-1970	Music, Richard M.	SK3	S-2 Div	Ashland, KY
1969-1970	Bramley, William A.	LTjg	-----	San Diego, CA
1969-1971	Elkins, Randolph H.	LTjg	OC Div	McLean, VA
1969-1973	Waleski, Joseph A.	MR3	R Div	Reinbeck, IA
1970-1971	Leonard, Ronald O.	LTjg	-----	Eugene, OR
1971-1972	Mustopich, Phillip A.	CS3	S-3 Div	Milwaukee, WI
1971-1972	Roybal, Raymond J.	GMG3	3rd Div	Los Angeles, CA
1972-1973	Balding, Michael R.	BTFN	B Div	Bakersfield, CA
1972-1974	Michaud, Michael	SN	1st Div	Providence, RI
1972-	Neil, Robert W.	SA	-----	Port Saint Luce, FL
1975-1977	Buchert, Mark A.	HTFN	R Div	Windsor, NY
1976-1979	Fellows, Randy K.	OS3	OI Div	McMinnville, OR
1977-1980	McFarland, Tommie R.	SN	1st Div	Fernley, NV
1977-1980	Oxley, Lloyd A.	BMSN	1st Div	Papillion, NE
1979-1980	Eilers, Max L.	BM2	2nd Div	USS Camden, FPO
1979-1982	Wade, Oliver E.	ET2	OE Div	Mobile, AL
1980-1984	Pinol, John B.	BT2	B Div	Valley Springs, CA
1981-1982	Mahoney, Timothy M.	BTC	B Div	Kennesaw, GA
1983-1985	Cenizal, Carlos B.	BT1	M Div	Fairfield, CA
1984-1987	Bohmiller, Kevin D.	LT (SC)	Supply	Boxbough, MA

the Ships Crew



A Special Welcome!

1984-1987	Fucci, Charles J.	SKSN	Supply	Norwood, MA
1986-1989	Carter, Thomas N.	GMG3	3rd Div	New Baden, IL
1989-1992	Day, Darin F.	EM3	Steam	Grover, WY
1989-1992	Jumaoas, Bart R.	OS2	OI Div	USS Shoup, FPO
1990-1993	Cassidy, Kevin J.	MR3	R Div	Connersville, IN
1990-1992	Ford, Alfred	RM2	OC Div	Murrieta, CA



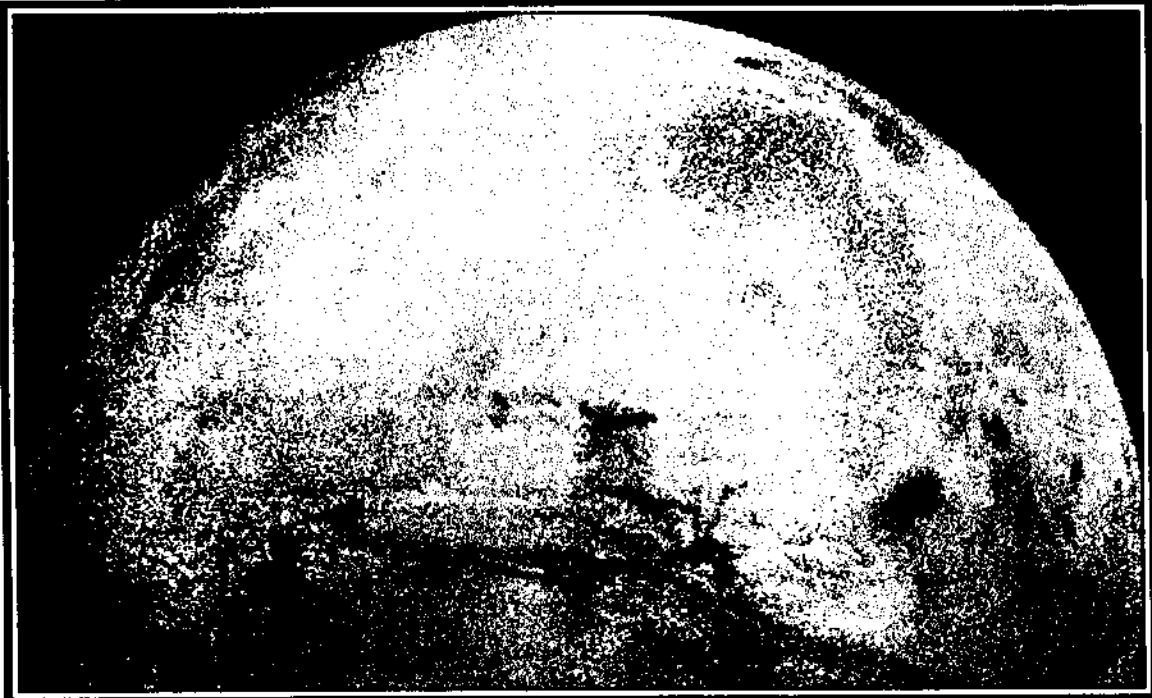
**Not sure if
your coming
or going ?**



Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10 p.m. & reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall & reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m.

Martians look to the sky !



**NO ONE
ALIVE
TODAY
WILL
EVER
SEE
THIS
AGAIN !**

The Red Planet is about to put on a **SPECTACULAR!** Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close will be around 2287.



For those who plan to attend this reunion !

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth & will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky.

Bring a framed picture of yourself in uniform from your first year in the Navy.



We Mourn the Passing
of these Shipmates



Roy A. Cooper
BM3

■ **1965 - 1967** ■

Roy passed away on
15 January 2004

Vayne A. Wheeler
SN

Plankowner

■ **1963 - 1966** ■

Vayne passed away in 1997
He was a police officer with the
Chicago Police Department

David R. Carlisle
CDR

Executive Officer

■ **1970 - 1971** ■

CDR David R. Carlisle, USN-Retired
died on September 5, 2004
in Virginia Beach, VA.

CDR Carlisle had a long & distinguished
career in the U.S. Navy. Dave graduated from
the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952. He served on
more than a half dozen ships, including the USS
Mars. After retiring from the Navy, Dave was an
active member of the Lions Club for almost 20
years. Dave was a good officer, a good man, & a
good brother. He will be missed.

Mr. Lewis Carlisle

Baron D. Coleman
OS1

■ **1990 - 1993** ■

Baron passed away from cancer
in December 2004,
shortly after retiring
from the Navy.

USS MARS HISTORY - AUGUST

40 YEARS AGO - 1965

The ship was on special assignment in con-
nection with the salvage of the USS Frank Knox
(DDR-742) grounded on Pratas Reef in the South
China Sea.

Mars was continuously on the scene & at sea
for 38 days before the Knox was refloated.

30 YEARS AGO - 1975

Mars was in her homeport of Sasebo, Japan
the first half of the month. On the 14th Mars
replenished ships off the coast of Japan.
Returning to Sasebo, she made a dependent's
cruise to Pusan, Korea with 131 dependents &
guest who spent four days of R&R in Pusan.
Mars returned to Sasebo on the 27th.

20 YEARS AGO - 1985

Mars was underway headed for Subic Bay the
first part of the month. The ship arrived in
Subic on the 19th. After loading supplies, she
set course for Muscat, Oman. During the trip,
Mars crossed the Equator & all the pollywog's
were welcomed by King Neptune Rex.

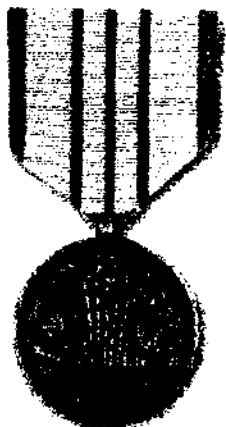
REUNION 2005

12-16 October

JACKSONVILLE, FL

USS MARS (AFS-1) AWARDS

Vietnam Service Medal



Authorized on July 19, 1965 & awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, between July 4, 1965 & March 29, 1973, served in Vietnam & the contiguous waters, & airspace, in Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or airspace in direct support of military operations in Vietnam. Personnel previously awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for services between July 1958 & July 1965 could exchange these medals for the Vietnam Service Medal. Bronze & silver stars are authorized to signify participation in any of the 17 designated campaigns during the inclusive period.

• **Counteroffensive, Phase II: July 1, 1966 - May 31, 1967** •

July 1, 1966 - July 10, 1966

July 31, 1966 - August 2, 1966

September 29, 1966 - October 1, 1966

December 1, 1966 - December 3, 1966

February 14, 1967 - February 19, 1967

July 16, 1966 - July 25, 1966

September 12, 1966 - September 22, 1966

November 19, 1966 - November 24, 1966

January 24, 1967 - February 4, 1967

April 7, 1967 - May 13, 1967

• **Counteroffensive, Phase III: June 1, 1967 - January 29, 1968** •

June 25, 1967 - July 9, 1967

September 10, 1967 - September 21, 1967

November 17, 1967 - December 7, 1967

July 16, 1967 - August 1, 1967

October 4, 1967 - October 14, 1967

• **Tet Counteroffensive: January 30, 1968 - April 1, 1968** •

Mars was not on station during this time frame.

• **Counteroffensive, Phase IV: April 2, 1968 - June 30, 1968** •

Mars was not on station during this time frame.

• **Counteroffensive, Phase V: July 1, 1968 - November 1, 1968** •

September 24, 1968 - October 9, 1968

• **Counteroffensive, Phase VI: November 2, 1968 - February 22, 1969** •

November 3, 1968 - November 18, 1968

December 30, 1968 - January 13, 1969

December 4, 1968 - December 18, 1968

• **Tet 69 Counteroffensive: February 23, 1969 - June 8, 1969** •

March 17, 1969 - March 24, 1969

April 20, 1969 - April 26, 1969

March 31, 1969 - April 16, 1969

June 2, 1969 - June 8, 1969

• **Summer-Fall 1969: June 9, 1969 - October 31, 1969** •

June 9, 1969 - June 17, 1969

August 3, 1969 - August 20, 1969

July 23, 1969 - July 30, 1969

October 14, 1969 - October 27, 1969

• **Winter-Spring 1970: November 1, 1969 - April 30, 1970** •

December 3, 1969 - December 19, 1969

February 26, 1970 - February 27, 1970

February 10, 1970 - February 21, 1970

March 4, 1970 - March 19, 1970

continued on page 15



• **Sanctuary Counteroffensive: May 1, 1970 - June 30, 1970** •

Mars was not on station during this time frame.

• **Counteroffensive, Phase VII: July 1, 1970 - June 30, 1971** •

December 17, 1970 - December 28, 1970

February 6, 1971

March 7, 1971 - March 16, 1971

April 20, 1971 - April 28, 1971

January 14, 1971 - January 21, 1971

February 12, 1971 - February 25, 1971

March 23, 1971 - April 1, 1971

May 7, 1971 - May 11, 1971

• **Consolidation I: July 1, 1971 - November 30, 1971** •

Mars was not on station during this time frame.

• **Consolidation II: December 1, 1971 - March 29, 1972** •

Mars was not on station during this time frame.

• **Cease-Fire: March 30, 1972 - January 28, 1973** •

May 11, 1972 - May 21, 1972

June 20, 1972 - July 6, 1972

August 19, 1972 - September 2, 1972

October 23, 1972 - November 3, 1972

May 31, 1972 - June 7, 1972

July 19, 1972 - August 4, 1972

September 30, 1972 - October 12, 1972

November 13, 1972 - November 22, 1972



Southwest Asia Service Medal

Awarded for service in the Southwest Asia area during the period from 02 August 1990 to 30 November, 1995.

December 21, 1990 - March 21, 1991



Humanitarian Service Medal

Authorized on January 19, 1977, this is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after April 1, 1975, distinguished themselves by meritorious direct participation in a significant military act or operation of humanitarian nature, or who have rendered a service to mankind. Operations which merit consideration for the Medal include: disaster, flood, tornado, & earthquake relief work, or rescue operations anywhere in the world.

April 29 & 30, 1975
Operation Frequent Wind

November 17, 1981
Boat people rescue.



Sea Service Deployment Ribbon

This award was approved by the Secretary Of the Navy on May 22, 1980. It recognizes the

unique & demanding nature of sea service & the arduous duty attendant with such service deployments. The award of the ribbon was made retroactive to August 15 1974. It is presented to officers & enlisted personnel of the US Navy & Marine Corps assigned to US homeported ships & overseas ships, deploying units, or Fleet Marine Force (FMF) commands, for 12 months accumulated sea duty, or duty with FMF, which includes at least one 90 consecutive day deployment. Sailors can now earn the award after completing two 80 day or longer deployments in a 12 month period. This change applies to deployments commencing on or after October 18, 1991.

Dates: dates pending ? Five awards after the start date of August 15, 1974.



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have served for a six month period in Vietnam, its surrounding waters or in air support against an armed enemy in Vietnam between March 1, 1961 & March 28, 1973. The time limit is waived if the recipient was killed, wounded or captured at any time before the limit.

January 7, 1965 - January 11, 1965
 July 20, 1965 - July 30, 1965
 September 30, 1965 - October 7, 1965
 December 2, 1965 - December 14, 1965
 February 5, 1966 - February 17, 1966
 April 17, 1966 - April 26, 1966
 June 29, 1966 - July 10, 1966
 July 31, 1966 - August 2, 1966
 September 29, 1966 - October 1, 1966
 December 1, 1966 - December 3, 1966
 February 14, 1967 - February 19, 1967
 June 25, 1967 - July 9, 1967
 September 10, 1967 - September 21, 1967
 November 17, 1967 - December 7, 1967
 November 3, 1968 - November 18, 1968
 December 30, 1968 - January 13, 1969
 March 31, 1969 - April 16, 1969
 June 2, 1969 - June 17, 1969
 August 3, 1969 - August 20, 1969
 December 3, 1969 - December 19, 1969
 February 26, 1970 - February 27, 1970
 December 17, 1970 - December 28, 1970
 February 6, 1971
 March 7, 1971 - March 16, 1971
 April 20, 1971 - April 28, 1971
 May 11, 1972 - May 21, 1972
 June 20, 1972 - July 6, 1972
 August 19, 1972 - September 2, 1972
 October 23, 1972 - November 3, 1972

July 12, 1965 - July 15, 1965
 September 1, 1965 - September 7, 1965
 October 21, 1965 - November 3, 1965
 December 22, 1965 - January 2, 1966
 February 25, 1966 - March 1, 1966
 May 4, 1966 - May 14, 1966
 July 16, 1966 - July 25, 1966
 September 12, 1966 - September 22, 1966
 November 19, 1966 - November 24, 1966
 January 24, 1967 - February 4, 1967
 April 7, 1967 - May 13, 1967
 July 16, 1967 - August 1, 1967
 October 4, 1967 - October 14, 1967
 September 24, 1968 - October 9, 1968
 December 4, 1968 - December 18, 1968
 March 17, 1969 - March 24, 1969
 April 20, 1969 - April 26, 1969
 July 23, 1969 - July 30, 1969
 October 14, 1969 - October 27, 1969
 February 10, 1970 - February 21, 1970
 March 4, 1970 - March 19, 1970
 January 14, 1971 - January 21, 1971
 February 12, 1971 - February 25, 1971
 March 23, 1971 - April 1, 1971
 May 7, 1971 - May 11, 1971
 May 31, 1972 - June 7, 1972
 July 19, 1972 - August 4, 1972
 September 30, 1972 - October 12, 1972
 November 13, 1972 - November 22, 1972



Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal

U.S. military personnel must have served for at least one day in support of operation DESERT STORM between January 17 & February 28, 1991 in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, portions of the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden or the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, & the United Arab Emirates. The recipient must have been attached to

or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground and/or shore operations, aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations, actually participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights supporting military in the areas designated above or serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days during this period. That time limitation maybe waiver for people participating in actual combat operations.

December 21, 1990 - March 21, 1991



Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

In August of 1995, the Secretary of Defense accepted an offer by the Government of Kuwait to award the Kuwait Liberation Medal to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who participated in Desert Shield/Desert Storm between August 2, 1990 & August 31, 1993. Service members must have participated in one or more of the following areas: Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, that portion of the Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude & west of 68 degrees east longitude, the Gulf of Aden, or the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar & the United Arab Emirates.

These eligibility periods & locations have been specified by the government of Kuwait & may not be waived. In addition to those requirements, Navy members must meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Been attached to or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground/shore operations, or**
- Been attached to or regularly serving for one or more days on board a naval vessel directly supporting military operations, or**
- Been actually participating as a crew member in one or more aerial flights supporting military operations in areas designated above, or**
- Been serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days during the period August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1993, in any of the three capacities listed above. This time limit can be waived for personnel participating in actual combat operations.**

December 21, 1990 - March 21, 1991

In order of precedence, the KLMK will be worn after the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Cold War Recognition Certificate

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen approved a Cold War Recognition Certificate for award to all members of the armed forces & federal government civilian employees who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War ear, September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

(Congress who gives tax dollars away all over the world was to tight to make it a Cold War Victory Medal because of the cost).



• Commemorative Medals •

Commemorative Medals to recognize & honor specify military victories, historical events & military service to our great country have been struck by the United States Government, State Governments, Veterans Organizations, Private mints & Individuals. Commemorative medals are not issued by the Government & are not authorized on official military uniforms. They can be worn on civilian & organizational clothing. They are displayed after all other military medals.

Cold War Victory Commemorative Medal



The Cold War Victory Commemorative medal was inspired by the Cold War Certificate of Recognition created by Congressional Resolution to recognizes "members of the Armed Forces who served during the Cold War. The CWVCM is for service between September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991. (pictured at left)

Combat Action USN/USMC/USCG Commemorative Medal

To honor all Sailors, Marines & Coast Guard who qualify for the Combat Action Ribbon from WWII to present

Meritorious Unit Citation Commemorative Medal

To honor all United States Forces in unit or ship that was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation from WWII to present

Vietnam Service Commemorative Medal

To honor all United States Forces who served in South Vietnam or in direct support from Thailand, Guam, Okinawa, Philippines or the waters off shore between 1960 & 1975.

Overseas Service Commemorative Medal

To honor all Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airman & Coast Guard personnel who served overseas or in expeditionary operations for 30 days or more.

Note: Commemorative Medals CAN NOT be wore by Active Duty or Reserve members, in or on uniforms. They are something that Vets can wear in civilian attire or hang on the wall. As of this writing there are 32 Commemorative Medals that can be purchased via web site: www.usmedals.com . . . THIS IS NOT A USS MARS REUNION ENDORSEMENT! Only for your information!

*** 21 July 2005 received a copy of a Dept of the Navy letter, dtd 05 Dec 1972 on the subject of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, awarded to USS Mars - will cover this in the next issue with full details & dates - D.Reed