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James Martin's time spent in the Vietnam Conflict

James Martin was born and raised in Warren Indiana, he was a small-town farm boy. He grew up with livestock and did work on his parent's fields. Out of high school, James knew he would probably be drafted because of the rising conflict in Vietnam. With that he decided to Enlist in the Marines at the young age of Eighteen in 1962. It was not until 1965 when his unit was Sent to Hawaii and then Japan eventually putting them in Vietnam. Mr. Martin's unit in the Marine Corps was an Aviation unit eventually to be based in Chu Lai. They managed Fighter Squadrons and Fighter planes to supplement Air missions in the early years of Vietnam. They were the unit that established the original air base in Chu Lai, along with being the First unit to fly A-4s to Vietnam. Chu Lai was 57 Miles south of Da Nang on the beach, it was very sparsely settled. New airbases were being established during this time to aid Operation "Rolling Thunder".

Corona Spy Satellite Program CIA Files,

www.paperlessarchives.com/vw_marine_corps_official_histo.html.

This source primarily offers in depth descriptions of the Marine Division in the Conflict overall. Its detailed recording offers more context when researching particular divisions; like any Marine Battalion, ground or Aviation. The marines made up a large amount of the soldiers sent into Vietnam. Knowing so many I think it's important to know enough about these tactical highly trained individuals.

Shulimson, Jack. *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Buildup, 1965*. History and

Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1978.

The pre-context in this book gave more information on the conditions set before Tom Meier arrived in Vietnam. The types of war he was dealing with, and the eventual need for better vehicles and overall operation of the battalion. It also carried over into the years when Mr. Meier landed in Vietnam, and his time spent as a truck/wrecker driver before his promotion.

The Marines in Vietnam: 1954-1973; an Anthology and Annotated Bibliography. History and Museum Devison Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1974.

This book in particular goes into very descriptive detail about all of the Marine Aviation units and more in Vietnam. Air raids were highly utilized in Vietnam in order to push back the North Vietnamese. Da Nang being one of the most used and important air bases, Chu Lai its close neighbor was just as necessary. The fact that Mr. Martin built most of the base himself with the rest of the MAG-12 is amazing. Chu Lai remained in use until 1970 when infantry took it over and MAG-12 returned its bases to Japan, but returning again in 1972.

Mersky, Peter B., and Jim Laurier. *US Navy and Marine Corps A-4 Skyhawk Units of the Vietnam War 1963-1973.* Osprey, 2007.

“The A-4s were the last to arrive. Space was limited at Da Nang Air Force Base, near Saigon. A new airfield dedicated to the Marines had to be built. Chu Lai, about 55 miles south of Da Nang, was selected. It would include a short airfield for tactical support (SATS) installation – basically a shore-based catapult similar to the well-known”. Eventually Chu Lai’s Air Base boasted multiple airstrips to handle larger F-4’s which were used for further distance bombing operations, thus the need for a closer ranged tactical plane was required.