

“Bad Politics”

I joined Marine corps on October 4, 1964 as soon as I turned 17. I arrived at Paris Island and began constant training, after basic training at PI and infantry training at camp Gieger. Upon completion, I was sent to the West Coast on February 19, 1965 and assigned to the D Company 1st Battalion 5th Marines as Rifleman.

Our Battalion was rotated on May 22, 1965 to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa and became the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines. While at the jungle warfare training camp, our training was cut short when choppers came and brought us back to the main base where the trucks were waiting to bring us to the transport ships in Naha. We departed for Viet Nam. We landed in Danang on July 5, 1965 with H Co 2nd Battalion 9th Marines and were deployed in the areas surrounding Danang.

We lost our first man, a machine gunner from Texas, plus three were wounded, around mid-August. I was reassigned on November 20, 1965. I remained deployed in country with E Co 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines as gunner assault sec. until June 24, 1966 then returned to the states and finished my service with 1st batt 8th Marine.

— *Tom, Schenectady*