



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2023 – Issue 15

Wednesday, November 1

Dear Commemorative Partners,



General Eric M. Smith
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps

We commend our [United States Marine Corps](#) as they usher in 248 years of faithful service on **November 10**. Happy Birthday U.S. Marine Corps, we [salute](#) you!

Defending our Nation in the air, on land and sea, the Marine Corps just recently welcomed its 39th Commandant, General [Eric M. Smith](#) (at left). Confirmed alongside the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Randy A. George, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III lauded their promotions in his [press release](#) affirming, “*They will each be incredible leaders of their Service and will work to strengthen and modernize our military for the challenges ahead.*”

During Vietnam, the Marine Corps established a formal two-week Combined Action Platoons (CAP) school in 1967 as part of their pacification efforts in I Corps. The school’s purpose was to train Marines for the cultural, military, and political complexities they would encounter in the region. Enlisted and noncommissioned officers alike were deployed as a means of gaining the trust and support of local villagers, and encouraging intelligence reporting on insurgency activities. The CAP program peaked in 1969, but the slow deactivation and eventual program close succeeded the following years in conjunction with American withdrawal. You can read more about the program, featuring background and historical debates from the [Stemming the Tide](#) section of our History and Legacy timeline. As we pay tribute to our Marines this month, we encourage you to take advantage of inspirational resources, such as our 53 [Medal of Honor citations](#) and 24 [Oral History Interviews](#). We also have a downloadable [Marine Corps Patch Poster](#) for your enjoyment.



On the Deck of San Diego’s USS Midway Museum.
(photo by Chief Petty Officer John Lill, U.S. Navy)

Finally, if you plan to be in the San Diego, California area the morning of **November 9**, join us for a special San Diego [Welcome Home](#) ceremony aboard the *USS Midway* Museum at 10 a.m. Accompanied by multiple supporting partners, we will be thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families, as well as recognizing several local Commemorative Partners for their work advancing this mission in their communities. Admission is free, but space is limited, so [register](#) right away to [reserve your spot](#). Discover more about *USS Midway* as well as the Museum in this short [introductory video](#). For more on the ceremony and to register, visit our [event page](#) and check out the week’s [schedule](#). We hope to see you there!

To our Marines, both past and present, especially our Vietnam veterans, thank you for your service!

~ *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff* ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!