



# CURTIS HORN

## U.S. MARINE CORPS

Service Dates: 1973 – 1976



*1973 party before leaving for bootcamp*

*From left: Todd Rothrock, Scott Horn, Curtis Horn, Henry Esparza, Mike Wilson, John Nichols, Johnny Burke, and Budge "Robbin" Burkhart*

We joined the Marines in September 1973. We were called the "Hollywood Marines" because we went to bootcamp in San Diego. I was trained in weapons at Camp Pendleton and became a mortar man.

In January 1974, John Nichols and I went to Camp Hansen in Okinawa, and Mike Wilson went to another base. Mike's friend at his base (Duane) became my close friend and future brother-in-law.

John and I did a three-month float on a Navy ship, the Tripoli, to various countries in Southeast Asia. We did training in the Philippines and did some weapon demonstrations for the Filipino Marines.

In the Philippines we were struck by lightning. I went out to unload a helicopter and the hill we were on took a direct lightning hit. One guy nearly died, and another had his foot burned pretty badly. All I can

remember someone giving (God) Coordinates (2 clicks left and raise the elevation). The lightning hit blew a large hazy yellow dust cloud in the air, and I could see guys falling after being electrocuted.

After Okinawa I was sent to Camp Pendleton again. Not long after arriving at Camp Pendleton, Saigon fell, and we worked setting up shelters and feeding Vietnam refugees. While there I had rifle and water survival instructor training. We did two weeks of cold weather training in Alaska's Aleutian Islands (it turned out the weather was beautiful).

In September 1976 I served my three years. In 1977 I married my friend's sister.



*Curtis and John Nichols in the Philippines before lightning struck them!*



*Training Filipino Marines*