



## John Douglas "Doug" Perry 1986

### JOHN DOUGLAS "DOUG" PERRY

Doug Perry was born near Hogslide, N.C. and raised and educated in "North" Charlotte, N.C. In 1948, about a week before his 12th birthday, he hit Myrtle Beach wearing his only pair of "Tailor-mades" (26" knees and 14" bottoms), brand new Pachuco mark, moon-sheened, duck-tailed hair and telling all the girls he was 19 years old (tourists would believe anything).

In those days, they mostly slept on the beach, a "tourist" house party or at "Slick Willie" Cato's when they could sneak in. Most of the happenings during the day occurred at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion (outside) and at night they went to Spivey's, the "Rec" Center, or up to Ocean Drive. Doug could dance fairly well, but in those days you didn't get on the floor unless you were really good . . . Harry, Nelson, "Bunny", Charlie, Lacy, Irving and some other "old people" dominated the floor. During his formative years, Doug ran around with such outstanding citizens as "Oogie" Wright, Maurice and Ronnie Treadway, "Arab" Hassan, Ben Gregory, Charlie Porter, Robert Scruggs, "Swamp Rabbit", Rick Lyman and "One-Eye" Butch Waller. When they ate, it was by hook or crook. Butch Waller could sing just like Billy Eckstine; they would find a tourist house party - Butch would sing - and Doug would ease in the house and empty the refrigerator so that all the boys could eat the following week.

In 1956, Doug joined the Marine Corps (at the insistence of his father and a local Judge), and was assigned to Cherry Point, N.C. after boot camp. At Atlantic Beach, N.C. Doug, Shad Alberty and Norfleet Jones terrorized the beach and the local natives. They would charge Club owners for frequenting their places of business . . . because where Shad, Norfleet and Doug went . . . so went to crowd. During those years, Doug, Norfleet and half of Eastern North Carolina went to the Azalea Festival each year and hung around the "O. P." and danced to the music of Huey "Piano" Smith and other live bands of the time.

In 1960, Doug was assigned to Recruiter Duty in Florence, S.C. and got to hang around "O.D." until he was transferred to Vietnam in 1964 where he was wounded in the "fanny" for his efforts. In 1966, he was assigned to the Pentagon where he was eventually commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. In 1968, he was again sent to Vietnam where he was wounded again in the head and arm.

Doug retired from the Marine Corps in 1981 as a Major after 25 years of service and settled in Hendersonville, N.C. with his wife Joy (Kennedy) of Kinston, N.C. and their 5 (yes, 5) children. He presently operates a Karate School there and occasionally functions as the Security Site Supervisor at Rockwell International.