

TIME LINE OF INTEREST CONCERNING  
WILLIAM COSDEN, JR.

note by Mark Curtis  
TCSO 3/9/94

Background:

COSDEN has long claimed, while in Washington prisons, that he killed a marine officer (Lieutenant) while in Vietnam by throwing a grenade into the latrine where the Lieutenant was at. We have sought to verify or explain the claim.

The same claim occurred 10/25/74, but then Cosden was quoted as claiming he killed a "South Vietnamese Officer". We wrote then to the USMC, but learned nothing to corroborate any crime in Vietnam.

Pre-USMC Background:

- A. "Feared his father. Mom was a good cook and cleaned house."
- B. Repeated the 8th grade, and became passive-obstructive to authority.
- C. Jealous of siblings, believing they got privileges earlier than he did.
- D. Played high school football as a guard, offensive. Liked his ex-Marine Officer coach. Pulled out of a game due to anger control. Tried to block into a referee to "get" the ref. in an important game.
- E. Quit high school early.
- F. Had been working as a farm hand. Milked cows.

- 05/18/65 - Enlisted in the Marine Reserves. #2155777.
- 07/26/65 - Discharged from the USMCR.
- 07/27/65 - Enlisted in the regular USMC. Finished boot camp March 18, 1966. Likely went home for liberty afterward.
- 05/20/66 - Arrived in Vietnam.
- 05/21/66 - Assigned to Co. L, 3rd Bn., 4th marine, 3 Marine Div. (Rein.) FMF, as Lt. Sec. Ammo Carrier.
- 05/25/66 - Served in the defense of Hue Phu Bai. Did his first combat patrol in the first week in Vietnam.

- 05/27/66 - Re-assigned to Co. A Med. Bn. Was there for five days for "heat stroke", he claimed. Diagnosed as combat fatigue. Intermittently crying, incoherent, and understood but did not reply to questions.
- 06/01/66 - Returned to active duty.
- 06/28/66 - Participated in Operation Athens Phu Bai.
- 07/03/66 - Participated in Operations Jay.
- 07/07/66 - Participated in Operation Holt.
- 07/09/66 - He claimed shrapnel wound. A medical form does indicate a wound to the right calf.
- 07/24/66 - Claimed he was wounded by grenade in a night ambush. (No physician note was found re: exam).
- 07/31/66 - Returned to active duty.
- 08/02/66 - Participated in Operation Hastings, vicinity of Quang Tri Province. Awarded the RVN Cross of Gallantry, 08/15/66.
- 08/18/66 - Cosden claimed his sea bag was stolen with clothes, pictures and \$150.00. He was very upset, but hadn't reported it. Called "all Marines animals", and said that no one would care.
- 08/19/66 - Went to a Chaplain about the theft and was referred to a medical officer. Cosden had an "uncontrollable urge to shoot some of his fellow Marines". His platoon Sergeant said Bill couldn't get along with fellow Marines and four times pointed his weapon at Marines. Bill once threatened to kill a Marine with his knife.
- 08/24/66 - Patient in Co. C, 3rd Med. Batt., during Operation Ottawa, Vinh Loo, admitted to 3rd Batt. Med. Field hospital for an anxiety reaction #3100, for insomnia and "uncontrollable urges to kill other Marines".
- 09/06/66 - Transferred to the Naval Hospital ship, Philadelphia. Had a "sorrowful facial expression, near tears, sighed deeply. Below average intelligence with very little insight".

- 10/13/66 - Cosden began to get in trouble with discipline.  
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- 11/01/66 - Two Capt. Masts were conducted and he was reduced in rank from PFC to PVT. He failed to obey lawful orders to go to bed and to get out of bed. He replied to a person, "Fuck you, I'll tear your ass up." He unlawfully choked SN A.B Church, with his hands. He also threatened to break the neck of Petty Officer R. L. Quincey for bothering Bill.
- 11/02/66 - Did hospital guard duty, but used the excuse of blistered foot to avoid duty. Recommended separation from the Marines on grounds of unsuitability. His father had insisted on rule bending to get Bill out of the hospital for an unusual weekend liberty. Bill had refused to return to active duty, and had abused another patient. He was considered:
- Thoughtless of others
  - Selfish, resentful, manipulative.
  - Occasionally tearful when frustrated.
  - Resisted acting out as passive-obstructive.
  - Stubborn, inefficient, with deep dependency needs.
  - Had a pathological resentment towards authority figures.
  - Had undependable judgment.
  - Impulsive behavior, under minor stress.