PRESIDENT’S REPORT

by Maury Edmonds

HOOAH! Many of you already know that “Hoohah!” is a sound used universally by today's troopers. It’s a brevity code at its finest and it encompasses a message of the utmost importance, as some of you have heard me say before. That message not only expresses the trooper’s agreement and support, it is - more importantly - the way that trooper says to all within hearing: “I’m with you! You can count on me! I won’t let you down! I’m your brother!” It expresses a soldier’s sacred creed.

While there was no such expression in our day, each of you lived that soldier’s creed in the way you did all you were asked to do - and more; the way you looked out for each other; and the way you continue to offer support and comfort to the 5th Bn 7th Cav troopers of today as well as to each other. Thank you for who you are and what you do. I’m proud to serve with you.

Don Quick and Charlie Baker deserve our special thanks. They have led our effort to support our 5/7th troopers in Iraq. The Sponsorship Program has been a phenomenal success. Hundreds of you have been in contact and have provided “care packages” to the trooper you sponsor. In some cases that trooper may not have responded as quickly or as frequently as you might have expected. I just ask that you be understanding if that’s the case with the trooper you sponsor. Each one has long duty hours and their access to email is limited. As you would expect, we are not the at the head of their email or snail mail list. Just remember your time in combat and how hard is was to write just to your family.

Special thanks to everyone who helped gather and mail supplies for use by Iraqi children in those schools built in the Balad area by our Battalion troops. The response was overwhelming in support of a noble effort.

Now to shift gears...The Association needs your help. There are still many of our fellow troopers from Vietnam and Cambodia whom we haven’t located. Please renew your efforts to find buddies from your unit so we can bring them into our fold. Finding them is the first step; then, we must persuade them to join the Association and show up for our reunions. It will be good for them and for us to renew those bonds of brotherhood formed so long ago.

And, I ask that each of you make a special effort to be at the Reunion in Colorado Springs next year and call a bunch of your buddies urging them to come also. It’s the fortieth anniversary of our beginning and we hope to make it a special time.

We’ll again lay a Wreath at the Wall in Washington on Veterans Day this year. Ted Swett and I are pleased to invite those of you who are there to dinner at Guapos on the evening before.

Please continue to pray for the safe return of all our deployed troops.

Start making your travel plans to Colorado Springs for the summer of 2006. We are planning a great get together for our eighth bi-annual reunion. The Colorado Springs area has so many great attractions you’re going to want to start checking them out early so you’ll know which ones are for you and your family.

We have not confirmed the final schedule of the reunion events but we are going to try and keep the first three days of the week open so participants can see as many sites as possible. Please check out the web site that is listed below the photo on this page. You can order a free copy of the official visitors guide and it will be mailed directly to your home.

If you don’t have access to the internet call the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureua at 877-PIKESPEAK or 719-635-7506, and they will be happy to mail you a free copy of the guide. It has 80 pages of information on the attractions in the area.

The Academy Hotel is the official site for this reunion and you can find the address and contact information for the hotel on the last page of this newsletter.

VISIT THE OFFICIAL COLORADO SPRINGS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU WEB SITE
http://www.experiencecoloradosprings.com/

See you in Colorado Springs in 2006!!!
Vice President’s Report

GARRY OWN ALL,

REUNION 8: We are in a count down of less than one year until reunion VIII. This means you should read the reunion page and call the hotel for reservations. CALL TODAY: 1-800-766-8524.

GETTING ACTIVITIES STARTED EARLY WILL MAKE FOR A GREAT REUNION

Reunion VIII Skydiving ---- Bealer Caudill D 66, wants to know if there are any troopers who would like to jump out of a perfectly good airplane while attending the reunion. Bealer has made contact with Skydive the Rockies, about group rates etc. You can contact Bealer at 719-265-9161 or via the following e-mail address: sarge_b6667@yahoo.com.

5/7 IN IRAQ SPONSORSHIP Your dedication to sponsorship program has made it an outstanding success. Your continued undivided support of 5th Bn 7th Cav in Iraq is still much needed. I have found the smaller the package the quicker it gets there. I use the priority box, which costs $7.70. This one seems to work well.

IRAQ SCHOOL SUPPLIES We had an outstanding response to Capt. Mark Varga’s request for school supplies. These go to the girls & boys schools near where the 5/7 stationed. There is still an ongoing need for these supplies. It seems like the there is money to build a school, but no money to buy a pencil.

NFL POSTERS A request for NFL & Sports Poster for the mess hall in Iraq: we need to get at least one from everyone. Send them to Eddie Ratcliffe and he will box them and send to Iraq. Eddie Ratcliffe’s address: 916 Champaign Street, Simons Island, GA 31522, eddieratcliffe@earthlink.net.

5/7 VETERAN HONORED The Middle School in El Paso, Texas is going to be named in honor of Rafael Hernandez, A Company 67 on August 30, 2005. Rafael was WIA 27 Oct 1967. He has been 100% disabled since 1967 and is in a wheelchair. This is the groundbreaking ceremony and the dedication will be in 2006. Please let me know if you would like to join a 5/7 Color Guard to be present at the dedication.

TARTAN NECKTIES I am working on a deal to have some of the Garry Owen Tartan (plaid) neckties made. I'm also talking about pocket squares, scarves for the ladies and a few golf caps. I am now waiting for the cloth to be woven in Scotland. If you would like a necktie, you can place a tentative order with me now. I do not have the price yet. As soon as it becomes available I’ll publish it via e-mail and include it in an upcoming newsletter.

NEW TROOPERS & ADDRESS CHANGES

We need to get our locater groups together and start searching again. June 1 starts another year for the locater of the year plaque. He who locates the most new troopers will have his name on the plaque.

Alpha Company
Ryan Sateren 68; 12597 Swallow Street NW, Coon Rapids, MN. 55448; change of address

Brago Company
Darrell Antill 67; debbie.antill@lykinscompanies.com; e-mail address change; Charlie is our liaison with the attach 5/7 in Iraq. You can check out his articles written while he visited the 5/7 Cav in Iraq. Go to our web site: www.cav57.org to locate the articles.

DUES---- DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES

We all need to send our dues to our Association Treasurer, Royce Vick. Royce’s address is 3724 Shelby Drive, Ft. Worth, TX. 76109-2733. Dues are $10/ year and we will accept as many years in advance as you would like to pay. If you don’t know much you owe send a note to me at the following e-mail address: cav571vpkk@adelphia.net.

If you would like to be on Krazy Karl’s e-mail updates list, please send him your e-mail address. Karl sends out news flashes and frequent updates. He does not forward your address. Karl’s e-mail is: Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net.
Saddle Up Gals and Guys; I’m looking forward to seeing you all at these great opportunities to gather again, for reservations call 1-800-766-8524.

After you make your reservations for Colorado Springs remind your friends (call them on the phone) that you want to see them there and that they need to make their reservations ASAP. Communications in the group is the key to having the FANTASTIC reunions that we have had and will continue to have, if we continue to communicate.

You are going to like the Academy hotel. It is an extremely nice hotel but due to its location in Colorado Spring, we expect this hotel to be filled to capacity early. There is another hotel next to the Academy hotel that has agreed to take our overflow should that be the case. This is another reason to get your reservation in early. Why stay in the no-reunion hotel when you can stay in the Academy hotel?

In recent weeks I have received a lot requests from spouses for information on PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). In a recent announcement by the VA 65% of those involved in actual combat in Vietnam have PTSD at some level. The other 35% are deceased. Many of our group have adjusted extremely well and deal with their problems personally in exceptional ways to the average. As this group is growing closer in brotherhood and gets older, it appears our spouses are asking the questions we have failed to ask or talk about. It is a fact we the men of the 5/7 may need to communicate our thoughts with our spouses occasionally so they better understand us.

**UPCOMING 5/7 CAVALRY UNIT FROM IRAQ, EARLY 2006**

We are expecting the 5/7 Cav to return to the US from Iraq sometime in early 2006 (actual date unknown at this writing). Some of the 5/7 association veterans are planning on being there when the planes arrives to give them the WELCOME HOME that we didn’t get and that they so well deserve. Stayed tuned for more information on the return of the troops. As soon as we have something definite we’ll get the word out so you can join in.

**MEMORIAL DAY 2006**

A representative group of the 5/7 will be present for the laying of the 5/7 Cav Wreath at the Wall on Memorial Day 2006. Put this date on your calendar too and plan to join us if you can.

**REUNION 8 IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2006**

The Academy Hotel, 8110 N. Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920. For reservations call 1-800-766-8524.

GARRY OWEN ----- Don Shipley

Guapos Restaurant
(301) 656-0888
(866) 350-4400
8130 Wisconsin Ave
Bethesda, MD 20814

**A VISIT TO THE WALL**

Set in the grassy park of Constitution Gardens, the Wall is neither prominent, grand, nor imposing. Rather, it is simple, thoughtful, and profound. It is a place to remember those who served during a turbulent time in American history. It is also a place for the nation to heal its wounds.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall contains the names of the 58,249 men and women who were killed and remain missing from that war. The names are etched on black granite panels that compose the Wall. The panels are arranged into two arms, extending from a central point to form a wide angle. Each arm points to either the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial in the distance to bring the Vietnam Memorial into an historical context on the National Mall. The Wall is built into the earth, below ground level. The area within the Wall’s angle has been contoured to form a gentle sloped approach towards the center of the Wall. While entering the memorial at ground level from either end of its arms, the descent to the center reveals more and more of the Wall until it towers more that ten feet above the walkway. At the center, within the protection of the arms of the memorial and surrounded by the grassy slope, is a place of quiet, calmness, and serenity.

Name after name after name appears in an almost never-ending account. The listing appears chaotic, just like war. But there is order to the chaos. The names are listed in the order in which the men and women died or were declared missing. The first name is located in the center of the memorial, at the top of the Wall, under the date “1959,” the year of the first death.” The names continue line by line down each panel, as if each was a page in a book, towards the right end of the memorial. The names resume at the left end of the memorial and continue toward the center. It is here, at the bottom of the wall, where the last death is recorded, next to the date “1975.”

Other than the names, nothing on the Wall describes who the men and women were. No name appears any more meaningful or important than any other. The names are distinguished only by how the men and women were lost. A diamond next to a name indicates a person was killed. A plus next to a name indicates a person is missing. Over 1,000 of the names on the Wall are of people who are missing.

Every day, family and friends of those on the Wall, and the general public, visit the memorial. Often, they leave flowers and mementos to remember their loved ones. They leave letters to say thank-you, good-bye, “I’m sorry,” and whatever else is in their heart. Some take pencil rubbings of the name of someone special.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall honors all who served, and in particular, those who were lost. The memorial puts a human face on what was America's longest war.


Epilogue: OUR NATION HONORS THE COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AND COUNTRY OF ITS VIETNAM VETERANS. THIS MEMORIAL WAS BUILT WITH PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. NOVEMBER 11, 1982
If the enemy was hard to see in the early days of Vietnam, they are invisible in Iraq. I got there on April Fool’s Day. Our only casualties were in Baghdad while escorting some Iraqi VIPs back to the Green Zone. What a funny name – the Green Zone. Our Area of Operations was the green zone – rich with apple orchards, wheat fields and other crops. The Tigris muddy and seething. Tigris can grow anything. The incredible network of canals and irrigation ditches are just waiting for organized agriculture.

Next to our area, the Green Zone in Baghdad is the Red Zone.

We stand as American soldiers not just for our haircuts. No one goes anywhere without his armor and weapon. Throughout April and May we patrolled the roads with dominance. Down the center of the two lane roads at 45 mph in our 37 ton Bradleys and 6 ton armored Hummvees, scattering the townfolk off the shoulders. We gathered intel from an increasing flood of informants and cooperating sheikhs. Our linking diagrams of suspected insurgents grew. Our raids netted increasing numbers of suspects with sufficient corroborating evidence to become detainees. We cordoned off villages and searched the homes. The first home I went into had an interesting tapestry hanging in the foyer – George Washington and the signers of the Declaration of Independence. We searched the homes with everyone in full body armor, helmets on, weapons at the ready. It took my funniest face to bring smiles to the little girls in a school deep in Sunni territory. I made a point of stripping down to my Vietnam Era fatigues for a photo. I made sure, and felt courageous, but one of their parents bombarded us on the way out of the area. If our troops patrolled on foot among the people, stopping to chat and win a heart or two, I did not see it. If power is what they understand in the third world, we showed them power. And we bussed some key people – such as the Tailor of Samarra who was a very big link to al Quidia. An American film maker of Iranian descent got caught in our net for a couple months. His place was a safehouse for the insurgents. Now we are apologizing about it. Better safe than sorry, I would say. (Oh, by the way, whoever wrote the story lied about the guy being in a cab. Just thought you all deserved to know. (Oh, by the way, whoever wrote the story lied about the guy being in a cab. Just thought you all deserved to know.)

We started this Iraq operation with a war that ended prematurely. We need to end our involvement with another war that crushes the Strangers. A violent war out to the northwest in which we echo the ill-fated words of a semi-famous woman journalist back in 1965 - when she said, “In the War in Vietnam there will be no privileged sanctuary.”

Then we need to get on home to the dwindling number of faithful wives and girlfriends.
SPONSOR PROGRAM
By Don Quick

The Sponsorship Program is now in its seventh month and is 99.9% complete. I have received many letters of thanks from troopers, sponsors, wives of troopers and commanders.

The troopers in the field are doing their mission and the "retired troopers" are doing a great job of supporting them.

I would like to say at this point that you have done an awesome job of support with school supplies, phone cards, candy, CAV pins, bed linens, Gatorade, chips, pillows, letters, emails, visits and letters to trooper's homes, computers, magazines, popcorn, birthday cakes, chewing gum, Kool-Aid and protein bars, just to name a few.

I know we have had a few bumps along the way, but overall, the sponsorship program has been a great success. So, keep up the great job!

GarryOwen,
Don Quick

If you have suggestions or want to be a Sponsor, please contact Don Quick at dquick@communicomm.com or call 334-863-4419

PHOTO FOM OPERATION HOMECOMING USA
BRANSON, MO JUNE 13 - 19, 2005

The Branson Trip was great fun: Helicopter rides, Shows, Food, more food and just a good time.

Participants included:
Ed & Paulette Knapp
Connie & Connie Sue Pearson
Russ Williams
Don & Karen Shipley
Jack & Sherry Spencer
Don & Lanie Phares
George Hannaford
Danny Smith
John Long with guest Ken Thebes

Frank Valadez with guests Gary Cataldo
& Sam Campero
Tommie & Dora Whittemore
Don Hoag
John & Wanda Goodpaster
Moe Goulet
Gary & Marianne Erxleben
Ed Perry
Eddie Ratcliffe
Bob Child
"Krazy" Karl & Carol Haartz
Hi All  This was sent to me in answer to my e-mail about the sponsorship program. Ray was an F O attached to D 5/7 in 68-69. Thought you all should read it.

Letter from Ray Gandy

Karl, I am not sure how to forward this (feel free if you wish) but concur with the comments below. My son is an Infantry Platoon Leader about 50 miles north of Baghdad. When they first went in they received some battle hand off training from the 5/7th but no longer share a unit border with them.

My son just finished his R & R and his story is very similar to that below (ref. lack of internet, 24/7 work load, etc.) As is true in all our wars the "line animals" are too far forward and too "busy" to get the good- nesses. We have told our son (who has a 40 minute round trip to make a phone call and no internet for the first five months they were in country) that after an 18 hour "day" at 120 degrees in over 40 pounds of body armor, K-pot, etc...that he should forget the phone call and just go to sleep.

What is very special to him and the men in his Platoon, Company, Battalion are these packages from veterans; especially we V.N. veterans. He grew up learning about how we took care of each other and he was very clear that a package from a V.N. vet who took the time to send even just a note meant something very different than a note from the wife, or Mom, or girlfriend.

We forget sometimes that we are positive role models for many of these young men and that their war is in many ways much more like ours than the ones their current chain of command has gone through (D.S./D.S., Panama, Haiti, Bosnia, etc...). They are touched and proud when they get notes from Veterans who often relate to them in ways their families never can (guess we know about this too, huh?). They also hope we of all groups can relate to them in ways their families never could.

We forget sometimes that we are positive role models for many of these young men and that their war is in many ways much more like ours than the ones their current chain of command has gone through (D.S./D.S., Panama, Haiti, Bosnia, etc...). They are touched and proud when they get notes from Veterans who often relate to them in ways their families never can (guess we know about this too, huh?). They also hope we of all groups can relate to them in ways their families never could.

This is really good to know.

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE. ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone no. of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do. Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE your cell phone NOW!

Dear Editor,

On August 4, 2005, 6 members of A Company: AJ Wise, Joe Williams, Jim Hardenburgh, Bill Purdy, Mike Walker and Jim Harmon traveled to West Point on a day that was "Vietnam hot." The West Point Museum housed galleries dedicated to the history of the Army and the evolution of small weapons. One display recognized the contribution of the 1st Cav to helicopter warfare and vertical envelopment.

Another exhibit compared the modification of the M-16 to the AK-47 over the years. The M-16, for example, has a reinforced barrel to accommodate a heavier bullet, and a larger stock housing a storage compartment for the cleaning kit. On the other hand, as the M-16 got a bit heavier, design changes in the AK-47 have made it about a pound lighter, but did not solve its "rising" problem on automatic fire. The AK-47 now fires a 5.45 mm round, much smaller than its original 7.62 mm design.

During the Revolutionary War, fortifications at West Point were established to prevent British control of the Hudson River which would have divided the colonies in half. The "A Company 6" drew upon their own experiences in critiquing the reasons for the success of the West Point tactical plan. Conclusion: Choppers would have been a plus.

The cadets were largely absent because they were away for summer training.

The last stop was at the West Point Cemetery. There, a visit was made to General Westmoreland's grave which was marked by a temporary headstone. A stone was left on the headstone as a gesture from the 5/7. Joe Williams recalled that General Westmoreland came to visit him in the hospital after Joe was wounded. The General asked each trooper in a line of hospital beds where he was from and what unit he was in. When Joe told him that he was from the 5/7, the General stopped and spoke longer to Joe, telling him that he knew what a good job the 5/7 was doing. Others in the 5/7 may wish to share any stories of their encounters with General Westmoreland in or about Vietnam.

The "6" then spread out in proper formation with Joe on point, searching for the grave of George Custer. The recon was successful as can be seen from these photographs.
TREASURER’S REPORT by Royce Vick

Acct. Balances as of 4/30/05 $23,575.79

INCOME 4/30/05 - 7/31/05
Interest earned on CD's $89.89
Interest earned on Savings $1.82
PX Sales $260.50

Contributions
Westmoreland, H B (Wes) $40.00

Dues
Anstett, Raymond L $30.00  2005
Balicki, Robert R $30.00  2005
Beaupre Jr, Michael C $30.00  2006
Bonner, James $20.00  2005
Brown, William R (Brownie) $30.00  2007
Budge, Larry D (MG Ret) $30.00  2007
Child, Robert J $20.00  2006
Collins, Larry $10.00  2005
Deboard, Jacob B (Jake) $20.00  2008
Eaton, Buddy L (Doc) $50.00  2009
Edmonds, Maurice O MG $20.00  2010
Edmonds, Neal J $10.00  2005
Fox, William K $10.00  2005
Gabbert, Barry A $10.00  2006
Gomolka, Thomas $20.00  2006
Hasson, Alain Victor Michael $20.00  2006
Howlett, Chris F $10.00  2005
Inniss Jr, Charles M $20.00  2006
King, James $100.00  2012
Kremer, Fred B $100.00  2014
Leishner, Stanley L $50.00  2011
Letts, Junior $10.00  2005
Magie, William W $50.00  2012
Marcano, Orlando $20.00  2006
McDonald Jr, Phillip E $20.00  2006
Mezich, Ernie J $30.00  2007
Moore, Bill $30.00  2008
Moore, James $10.00  2005
Mullins, Larry $20.00  2007
Neuse, Raymond $20.00  2006
Parker, Tom $30.00  2006
Sanchez, Jose M $10.00  2005
Sheumaker, Harold W $30.00  2007
Sullivan, Samuel (Sam) $50.00  2008
Sweeney, Charles P $10.00  2005
Vanbibber, Amos M $20.00  2006
Wagner, Harold W (Sonny) $30.00  2007
Zimmerman, Laurel G $30.00  2007

TOTAL INCOME 4/30/05 - 7/31/05 $1,360.50

EXPENSES
May Newsletter -$772.20
Vietnam Memorial Wreath -$209.95
TOTAL EXPENSES 4/30/05 - 7/31/05 -$982.15

Acct. Balances as of 7/31/05 $24,045.85

Garry Owen,
Royce

The Association’s funds remain in a very solvent position. I have been able to arrange for deposits that carry no service charge and continue to earn a few dollars in dividends.

I would encourage everyone to have their dues current prior to our next reunion which is now less than one year away. You can check with Allen Patrick (allenbc66@comcast.net) as to the status of your membership. Allen maintains the master database and updates dues status monthly from the information I provide.

LTC Jody Petery, CO of the 5/7 Cav in Iraq, encouraged that we send school supplies to be used by his troops. The children that attended my church’s Vacation Bible School brought items each day, i.e. socks, underwear etc. I requested that one day they bring me school supplies to be shipped to Iraq. The response was overwhelming. Some examples are over 1,200 pencils, 28 pairs of scissors, 352 ball point pens for a total of over 150 pounds. These were shipped on June 23rd. I am hopeful that they arrived safely to their destination.

Everyone I hear from is excited about the reunion. Be sure and register with the hotel as soon as possible.

Garry Owen,
Royce

Remains of 12 Vietnam War MIAs Identified

Associated Press, August 10, 2005

HANOI, Vietnam — The identification of the remains of a dozen U.S. servicemen who were listed as missing in action from the Vietnam War took years of painstaking investigation and cooperation among many people in the United States and Vietnam, officials said Wednesday.

The Defense Department on Tuesday announced that the remains of 12 servicemen missing when the war ended in 1975 have been identified.

“After more than 30 years ... sometimes the only thing that you have is the remaining teeth or very few number of bone fragments,” said Gary Flanagan, a spokesman for the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi. “It’s always a good feeling to hear that some of our work results in identification, and that’s what we are here for.”

The 11 Marines and one soldier recovered make up the largest single group of MIAs identified since the war, according to the military.

The Marines were killed during a 10-hour battle on May 9, 1968, on a football field-sized area in South Vietnam, said Larry Greer, a spokesman for the Pentagon’s missing personnel office.

He said villagers, former Vietnamese soldiers and American survivors helped investigators narrow their search to three sites in 1998 and 1999, where the remains and other personal effects of the fallen soldiers were subsequently recovered.

After their recovery, the remains were flown to Hawaii for identification, but forensic researchers required several years to make the identification.

Hanoi has been cooperating with the United States since the late 1980s to search for missing servicemen.

There are more than 1,800 U.S. servicemen still unaccounted for. An estimated 58,000 Americans and 3 million Vietnamese were killed. Some 300,000 North Vietnamese soldiers are still listed as missing in action.
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REUNION VIII --- COLORADO SPRINGS
JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2006
THE ACADEMY HOTEL
8110 N. ACADEMY BLVD.
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80920
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-766-8524
http://www.theacademyhotel.com