First, my sincerest thanks for the prayers and thoughtful expressions of those of you who were aware of my recent medical “adventure”. My full recovery with no side effects from the minor stroke is almost complete – expect to start golf again in a couple of weeks.

Now to more important matters. Congratulations and thanks to all you who participated in the record setting gathering for the Veterans Day events in Washington. 151 were there for the dinner and almost that many for the Wreath Laying Ceremony at The Wall on November 11th. Others will describe the details of the gathering.

I will only add my appreciation and thanks to Norman Lloyd for the documentary “Fallen but Not Forgotten” he produced about the fight on Tiger Mountain and the continuing battle to recover some evidence of our Delta Company missing from that fight. We honor all those who fought so bravely there, those who came back alive and those whose names are on The Wall. God bless them all.

I hope you all realize how historic it is that so many of you, veterans of the Best Combat Battalion in the Vietnam War, have come back together again to celebrate and renew the bonds of friendship formed in those dark days on the battlefield. The growing numbers of our brave 5/7 Cav veterans of the conflict in Iraq insure the continuation of our Association and bring added honor to us. There can be no doubt that we are the biggest, the most active and supportive, and the best battalion sized veterans association in existence.

In closing, I suggest the following: be proud of your service; be loyal to your comrades in arms; and appreciate the privilege of being part of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry. That is who we are; that is what we do.

Garry Owen
Maury Edmonds
Season’s Greetings from “Krazy” Karl

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Again the members of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association set another attendance record as we had 151 troopers, guests & friends at our annual dinner at Washington, DC on November 10, 2011. I was kind of in a bind as our association president could not attend due to a stroke. It was not a bad stroke but no stroke is a good stroke. Get well sir, we need you. Willie Mercer could not attend either, so I was going to sing but due to popular request I had to forego the singing. We presented 12 5/7 Cav certificates like the ones we gave out at reunion X for serving with the 5/7.

Prior to dinner Francis Whitebird and Cornell “Jack” Menard (D-5/7, 68) from the Lakota Sioux Reservation in Rosebud, SD preformed what is known as a centering ceremony in which the whole banquet room participated. At the conclusion of the ceremony they presented Mike Sprayberry & Bill Litvjak with an eagle feather attached to a special cap. This is the first feather for their war bonnet. Jack Menard was with Mike Sprayberry in the A Shau in 1968.

After a fine meal of chicken cordon blue & roast pork Norman Lloyd of the Commitment and Sacrifice Foundation presented the first screening of the foundation’s new film “Fallen, But Not Forgotten.” The film is about the D Company’s role in the A Shau Valley during late April 1968 and the ongoing search for our 3 MIAs and the 3 MIAs from the 1/9th.

Then on to the Wall on Veterans Day, we all went. Somewhere in this newsletter there is a picture of all who attended. I am truly sorry that I can’t put names on all of them, but Allen will make me try. Our wreath presenters were Rod Henning (D 66-67), Greg Holloway (A 68), and Bill Dieker (H 68 69). The weather was cold and cloudy as we sat in the nice metal chairs and listened to Joe Galloway give the best speech that I have ever heard from the podium on Veterans Day at the Wall. It is a speech that every veteran, politician, and citizen of this country should hear. Yes, it was great! After the speech we went back to the hospitality room at the hotel and told lies until midnight. “Tellamore Dew” told most of these.

Thank you all for coming and continuing the tradition of this being “The Best Damn Association from the Vietnam War.” Garry Owen

Quotes from Joe Galloway’s the speech:

“The key to ending war is education, and that means having smarter, better educated politicians with a better grasp of history”, he said receiving applause from veterans gathered at the memorial. But he was just getting started. “More of them should wear this nation’s uniform first so they better understand what it really means to serve this country and then they can serve themselves, but first the country”, he said to an even greater applause. And then came the coup de grace: “I’m sorry, they should not be allowed to vote for a war if they don’t know what one is firsthand” earning shouts of “Hooah!” and a standing ovation.

Reunion IX San Antonio

Make your reservations now! When making reservations you have to make them with the hotel and with the association. At present we have not picked the venue for our Tuesday Night gathering. They don’t have any 200 seat river boats in San Antonio. We are trying to find a cowboy venue so you feel like you’re in Texas. That’s why we are going to Texas. We will send out a reservation form shortly after our January ground team meeting at the Crown plaza in San Antonio.

Veterans Day Wreath Presenters

To all my fellow 5/7 troopers, this note was sent by Brad Rolfs’ sister, Jane Pritchett. Brad was a platoon leader D-68-69. She would want me to pass this on to all of Brad’s brothers in arms! She has a son and daughter now serving in the army, please keep them in your thoughts also.

Dear Laddie, Just a quick note to let you know that I am thinking of you today, Veterans Day. Brad is always on my mind especially on days like today and I know how proud he was to be a veteran. I thank you for all your sacrifices during and after the war.

This morning my husband and I will put our son on a plane back to Ft. Richardson and in 3 weeks his unit will be deploying to Afghanistan. Because I know too well what war does to our wonderful soldiers, I am apprehensive (as any mother would be) but I am also incredibly proud. My son is with the 4th Brigade 25th Airborne out of Ft. Richardson and if you or any of the 5/7 would keep him and all the men he is serving with in your prayers, I would greatly appreciate it.

Our oldest daughter is now with the Medical Specialty Corps at Ft. Bragg. So the Army is running strong in our household and I know Brad was a big inspiration for two of our children to serve.

Thank you again and I hope you are doing well.

Jane (j.pritchett@cox.net)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Rod Henning (D 66-67); Bill Dieker (H 68-69) and Greg Holloway A 68</td>
<td>Rod Henning (D 66-67); Bill Dieker (H 68-69) and Greg Holloway A 68</td>
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Greetings to All: It’s the time of year we all need to look at your dues and membership in your Association. I say “your” as it is a part of you and me. We earned the right to be members every one of us. Along with that are the Ladies that put up with each of us. I know not all of them understand us all the time, however they make the effort. Likewise the almighty Dollar $$$$$$ keeps the organization strong and solvent. Enough of that subject!

Happy Holidays to Everyone. Time to bring cheer and greetings to each of you from my wife & I, “May the Lord watch over each of you till we meet in Texas in July. Along with that, we need everyone to call someone else from the 5/7 chat a bit for old times’ sake.” Reminding them you have your reservations Hotel and association into Allen as they should have theirs, made also. The earlier each of us get hotel reservations in the better the room block for those procrastinators. This is something that has no mention at PTSD meetings, and this group is better at than normal procrastinating. I even mentioned that at the VA today and Counselor remarked “Poor memory is listed but almost all Vets are procrastinators.” Ladies sit down and do it for them. Remember if you do need to change the days you can always drop a day if necessary, adding a complete reservation at last minute may be expensive to do.

Greetings and our Love to All, and call a friend while it is fresh in your “mind.” Old friends and buddies are what make this reunion and association so GREAT! Old troopers don’t forget, we have an active 5/7 now at Fort Stewart, as well as the young 5/7 Veterans of Iraq that will join us in Texas.

Don Shipley
Membership “Vise” President

LETTERS

Just wanted to say what a great job you and others do coordinating Veterans Day activities. The 5/7 team provided another year of memories, a super venue and the dinner program was over the top. Maybe I (we) started to take it for granted. I know I didn’t say thank you enough or talk to enough guys. I was certainly blessed as I got to watch Norman Lloyds A Shau Valley film with my brothers. Alone it would have been even more emotional.

The Eagle Feather presentation was fantastic; the recognition of warriors in a cross cultural ceremony was a unique walk in the past. The certificates were also well received, a classy touch, Karl. Hope we got some pictures for the newsletter. Need any proof that we’re part of something very special…Year to year it seems the attendance grows and we meet very interesting people…at the Wall, Hospitality room and yes even in the smoking section. They know who they are.

Every year pals at home wait for the weekend details. It’s always the same. I tell them the weekend was the best ever and share my stories. This year was no different. I met new folks w stories (Chuck, Francis, Jack) and old friends with a past (Joe Skrlen, John, others). My guys brought their wives; we were joined by Donna and Gena Defino. We visited the graves of Frank and Lorenzo Clark.

One of my personal highlights, soon after I arrived on Thursday a bearded man (Larry Hodges, A 5/7-1968) walked up and asked, “ARE you Vince Lau-rich? Whoa!!! I last saw him 25yrs ago and he was down then, in a bad way. Incredible story. I must have hugged my guy 30X in three days. I could go on forever here. It was special.

Karl, one thing I did miss were the informal discussions of VA issues along the way. I’m sure they probably happened. You’ve covered Ischemic Heart Disease and new presumptions re chemical exposure in a past newsletter. I don’t want to get into details here. But it is timely, any and all heart issues should be filing related claims...at least pursue research and understanding. Talk to a Service Officer. It’s an opportunity too many are overlooking. Perhaps our experienced guys/service officer/VA gurus could share some info in the future. In this case more shared the better.

Last ... The DEW was flowing again in all four corners of the Hospitality room and upstairs. Hopefully RED Bolden will be coordinating the bar in San Antonio, not pouring the drinks. Many of us agree eight oz glasses should be banned especially in daylight hours. But many smiled and embraced the code “Give every man his dew”. Some used ice and still paid for it. Karl, I must admit you warned me off on day one. Did I listen?……..Noo oo.

THANKS AGAIN See you in Texas. GARRYOWEN Keep the peace Vince aka redeye

Charlie Baker, our PR Officer published the following piece on our Veterans Day Gathering for the 1st Cav’s “Saber” newsletter —

Veterans Day 2011

One hundred fifty Veterans, wives and relatives gathered in Washington, DC, for the annual laying of a wreath at The Wall. This turnout was almost double that of previous years, and Veterans Day is becoming a significant reunion event for the 5th Battalion, 7th U.S. Cavalry.

The Holiday Inn Hotel in Crystal City was the gathering place, and a banquet on the evening prior to Veterans Day kicked off the affair. Karl Haartz, our Vice President, presided in his inimitable fashion. As usual, Lt. Gen Jim Vaught, accompanied by his wonderful wife Florence, was the senior man present. It was noteworthy that Col. Jody Petery and Col. Cliff Wheeler were there, both recent commanders of 5/7th Cavalry in Iraq. Everyone else was a distinguished guest.

The high point of this mini-reunion was the premier showing of Norman Lloyd’s latest documentary film, Fallen: But Not Forgotten. This stirring documentary related the battalion’s air-assault through heavy anti-aircraft fire into the infamous A Shau Valley on 19 April 1968, and the subsequent events that led up to the award of the Medal of Honor to Michael Spraby for his incredible courage and leadership on the night of 25-26 April. Lloyd’s work masterfully captures the aftermath of war, and the impact on families and fellow soldiers who live with the irretrievable loss of sons not recovered.

Fallen: But Not Forgotten is a fifty minute DVD, and is a must see for veterans of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. With a tax deductible contribution of at least $10.00 to cover production and shipping costs, a copy, or copies, can be obtained from the Commitment and Sacrifice Foundation at PO Box 6167, Napa Valley, CA 94581.

The web site is candsfoundation.org.

Everyone met at The Wall on the morning of Veteran’s Day, starting with photographs, and ending with the ceremonies. Our wreath was carried by Rodney Henning, D Co. 66-67; Greg Holloway, A Co. 68; and William Dieker, HHC 68-69. Joe Galloway gave one of the greatest addresses to date, in which he talked about the need for political leaders to know much more about war before they wage it.

The next reunion of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Veterans will be in San Antonio, Texas in the third week of July of 2012.

Charlie Baker
**5/7 Cav PX**

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<td>1st CAV cloth shoulder patch</td>
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<td>1st CAV window sticker (no Vietnam)</td>
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<td>1st CAV Div. challenge Coin</td>
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<td>Full size CIB</td>
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<td>1st CAV Hat pin (1”)</td>
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<td>Combat Medic pin (new)</td>
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<td>M16-A-1 Hat pin (new)</td>
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<td>Combat Cavalry pin (gold wreath - new)</td>
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<td>1st CAV Div. Flag 3x5’</td>
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<td>5/7 Crossed Sabers lg. pin (new)</td>
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<td>Claymore Mine Pin (new)</td>
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<td>White Polo shirts button-up with collar Embroidered 5/7 Cav. and Garry Owen Crest all short sleeved, order by size</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/7 Cav Denim Shirts Embroidered with Garry Owen Crest. Order by size, colors are Blue, Khaki, Green, Men or Ladies, Short Sleeves or Long Sleeves</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Adult T-Shirt with large Garry Owen Crest screen print on front. M, L, XL, 2X, 3X. Colors: white &amp; ash (light gray)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Child’s T-Shirt w/silk screen 1st Cav patch on left chest &amp; “Cav Kid” lettering under patch. Sizes: 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16.</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Commitment and Sacrifice** DVD. This documentary film follows the experiences of troopers from Bravo Company of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry regiment during the Vietnam War (1970) and the Iraq War (2005), through the lens of combat cameraman Norman Lloyd.

**PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.**

**PLEASE INCLUDE $3.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & ON SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND $5.00 ON ALL SHIRT ORDERS.**

**SEND ORDERS TO: JOHN (GOODY) GOOPASTER 303 CORA DRIVE CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268 PHONE # 937-514-8247 EMAIL: jgoodpaster001@cinci.rr.com**

**CALL OR E-MAIL GOODY FOR INFO ON OTHER HATPINS AVAILABLE**

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**Reunion XI: July 22-29, 2012**

The Reunion Planning Team is heading to San Antonio on January 22/23 to finalize arrangements for Reunion XI. It’s hard to believe but it will be 20 years since our first reunion in Dearborn, MI. The Planning Team will also be investigating a special Tuesday night venue which will be held in an authentic Texas Old West environment. We’ll have more to report on that topic after the January meeting. In the meantime don’t forget to make your reservations at the hotel. Our next newsletter will include the official signup sheet for the reunion and related activities. Here’s the link to the hotel’s official 5/7 Cav reservation site:

[https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FifthBatt7CA](https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FifthBatt7CA)

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**Check Your Mail Label**

The sample mail label on the left represents the label that appears on the front of your newsletter. It indicates the company/troop and year you initially served in the 5/7 Cav. The label also gives you the status of your dues. Dues payments should be mailed to our treasurer at the following address:

**Royce Vick**
3724 Shelby Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX 76109-2733
Norman Lloyd has completed his newest film: “Fallen, But Not Forgotten”. You can view the trailer and order a copy of the DVD at the “Commitment and Sacrifice” website: http://candsfoundation.org. As noted earlier in the newsletter the film was shown after our dinner in DC for Veterans Day. It drew rave reviews from all that were there. Following is a short synopsis of the film:

In April, 1968, then-Lieutenant Mike Sprayberry of Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, United States Army led a small group of volunteers on a harrowing nighttime rescue in Vietnam’s A Shau Valley. Their mission: to save a platoon of infantrymen encircled, ambushed, and pinned down by superior North Vietnamese forces on the flank of Tiger Mountain. The rescue was successful—all of the survivors of the ambush were extracted—but the bodies of three fallen soldiers could not be recovered. A few days later, when an observation helicopter attempted to locate the three KIAs, it too was lost to heavy enemy fire, and the bodies of the three helicopter crewmen likewise could not be recovered. To this day, the bodies of all six men remain in the A Shau Valley.

In October 1969, Mike Sprayberry received the nation’s highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his heroic efforts that dark night in the A Shau. But over the four subsequent decades since the rescue, he has remained determined to find the six lost men and bring them home, returning twice to Vietnam in search of evidence compelling enough to convince the U.S. Army’s Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to initiate a formal recovery effort. The family members of the six men killed in action and their comrades in the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry and the 1st of the 9th Cavalry Regiment together share the loss and immense frustration, but also the undying hope, that one day these fallen soldiers may finally come home.

The Commitment & Sacrifice Foundation was able to complete the film with generous donations from our members. The Foundation is accepting donations of any amount, all donations will go towards the distribution of this project. All donations are fully Tax deductible. Our foundation is classified by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) Public Charities EIN 68-0664358. Receipts for donations will be sent to donors.

To Donate online, visit: http://candsfoundation.org.

To Donate by Check, please mail to:
Commitment and Sacrifice Foundation
PO Box 6167
Napa, CA 94581

Thank you for all your support and help.
Sincerely,
Norman Lloyd

Letters (cont’d)

B Co Members Have Mini Reunion : We had our second reunion Sept. 29, 30 Oct. 1, 2, in Grand Saline, Texas. Our first was in 2009 and started off as a first platoon affair. We had 14 members of the first platoon plus one from the second. This year our goal was to get more members of the second platoon to attend and we ended up with 6 guys from the second and 18 for a total. We had a great time. It was First Monday Trade Days Weekend in Canton, Texas, so a lot of the wives got to go to one of the biggest garage sales of all time. Canton gets over 300,000 visitors on Trade Day Weekends so you can imagine the size of this event. This event is held the first Monday weekend of every month and draws people from everywhere.

Friday Night we had a Fish Fry and had 40 people, Saturdays Bar-B-Que we had 36. We hope to hold this reunion again in 2013, and get more troopers to attend. Get on our mailing list if you’re interested, we supply the food and drinks all you have to do is get here. Contact Bill Little or Billy Woodrum PBL196@YAHOO.COM Thanks, Bill Little

Hello,

My name is Roger Graves, 1SG US Army (Retired). My uncle, PFC Grady Edward McElroy, was with C Co, 5/7 Cav. He was killed in action 24 Nov 1966. I would like very much to meet any who served with my uncle if they are going to be at the Veteran's Day Ceremony at DC next year.

Thank you.
Roger Graves
We send greetings to all of our fellow Cavalrymen and wish you a heartfelt “Happy Holidays” from the Troopers here in the 5th Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry.

Since our last correspondence, these past months have been filled with exciting and fast paced training. Today finds the Squadron well into our collective training regimen and we continue to perfect our skill sets within our profession of arms. As expected, the Senior Noncommissioned Officers assigned to the Squadron are setting a foundation for our success, enabling junior NCOs to develop while allowing newly assigned Troopers to be trained to standard. With the influx of personnel inbound and outbound from Fort Stewart over these past few months, this core of leadership has allowed the Squadron to maintain a high operational tempo while proactively preparing for future training events.

In addition to conducting multiple field training exercises, last month we hosted two significant events dear to the Squadron. First was a visit by three distinguished guests: Mr. Don Bosse, a Vietnam era veteran from the Squadron (A/5-7 CAV), SSG(R) Vossburg, a former Marne Soldier and veteran of OIF and honorary 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry member and Mr. Charles Chitty, a former Troop commander in the Squadron during the Vietnam War (D/5-7 CAV). Mr Bosse and SSG(R) Vossburg took a few days to see our home here at Fort Stewart and interact with today’s generation of Cavalrymen. Mr. Chitty joined us on the third day in order to present the current Dealer Troop commander with the unit guidon that he flew during the Vietnam War when it was Delta Co and is now lovingly encased within the Squadron for all to see. Overall this visit served as a reminder of our Squadron’s legacy and the bond that still exists between all Cavalrymen who have marched behind these colors.

Our second noteworthy event was the time honored Garryowen Spur Ride which we conducted earlier this month. We began the week with a spur candidate/holder motivational run followed a Spur Board in which they received clear guidance on the expectations of every “shave tail” spur candidate. The Spur Ride demanded teamwork, motivation, and proficiency across numerous fundamental Scout tasks in order to obtain the coveted Spurs. The field exercise was a 24 hour event conducted in the Fort Stewart training areas which consisted of 10 stations testing the candidates on a variety of Cavalry skills ranging from commo operations, medical skills, call for fire, land navigation, and both individual and crew served weapons proficiency. While negotiating these stations the candidates maneuvered over 16 miles of terrain, with some covering extra terrain based upon their land navigation skills. The Spur Ride culminated with the teams executing a 5 mile march in honor of the 5th Squadron and awarding of the coveted Silver Spurs.

Our next quarter looks to maintain the pace we have established and become accustomed to know. The end of November will see the Squadron entering the Bradley Operational New Equipment Training or OPNET. Our identified crews will sign for their newly assigned M3A3 Cavalry fighting vehicles and begin a four month training cycle, culminating in Table VI OPNET Gunnery. The Troopers will be put to the test both technically and tactically. Their new Cavalry Fighting Vehicles are loaded with today’s newest technologies enabling Scouts to be an even more lethal force on the modern battlefield. Crews will be challenged to implement the correct weapon systems at the precise moment it is needed in stationary positions and while on the move.

In December we will finish up the year by conducting two significant training events. First, we will be conducting a Mortar Shoot with the Troop Mortar sections working in tandem with our Scouts to establish an observation post then call and adjust indirect fires. This will be the first time since our return from Iraq that the Mortar Sections and Scouts have been able to work together in order to develop their proficiencies and build trust in each other’s capability. Our second scheduled event will be a Convoy Life Fire Exercise executed for our forward support troop and troop supply trains. We plan to then kick off the New Year in Cavalry fashion with a return to basic fundamentals and additional training on our assigned individual and crew served weapon systems.

In closing, the Troopers here are looking forward to the holidays and wrapping up this calendar year. They have trained hard and consistently produced results throughout the year. Cavalrymen are a special breed of Soldier, and our Troopers are without a doubt, a cut above the rest. We here at the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment wish you and your families a Safe and Happy Holiday Season from all the Troopers and families here at Fort Stewart.

GARRYOWEN!
Another "short" year is about to pass. I guess this means that you are having fun. At any rate a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you. It has been by pleasure to have served you this year!

We are ending up the year in a sound financial status with some $33,700 in the bank at the end of November. This time in 2010 we had deposits of $31,138, in 2009 $10,900 and in Sep. 2008 only $5,827. Who can ever forget that when we left the hotel in Jacksonville in 2008 we were $3,572 in debt with only $1,943 on deposit. Many generous members bailed us out.

Several of us will be visiting the Crowne Plaza Hotel in January to start preparing for the best reunion yet. The San Antonio area is a great place to visit. I would recommend that you use time before or after the reunion to check out historical sites in the area.

It is easier for everyone if you pay your dues current now rather than doing it during the reunion. There is a lot of activity going on and lots of financial information to track each day.

Mail your dues to Treasurer 5/7 Cav Association
3724 Shelby Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109-2733

A special welcome to all new members. I hope that you can make it to the reunion.

Garry Owen and Merry Christmas

Royce
THE ALAMO, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Click on following link to make reservations:
https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FifthBatt7CA

Reunion XI
July 22 - 29, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel
San Antonio, TX