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News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>

December, 2006; Volume 15 Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Maury Edmonds

Garry Owen to you all. Time has passed quickly since many of us were together at Reunion VIII in Colorado Springs. I trust you all and your families have had a good and safe summer.

The annual Wreath Laying at the Wall in Washington on Veterans Day, along with the dinner the night before, were well attended again this year. Though I could not be there, I'm told about 60 members and families made it and had a marvelous time. Thanks to them for representing us at that important event. LTG (ret) Mike Davison, one of our own, was one of the speakers at the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Our Battalion, now officially known at the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, has spent the year training for their next deployment to Iraq in early 2007.

Norman Lloyd, Eddie Ratcliffe, and I represented all of you at an Awards Ceremony in October to recognize those who excelled during their gunnery and final Mission Ready Exercise. By all accounts, the Squadron received very high ratings by those running the exercise. No surprise there, is there?

I was asked to talk to the Squadron about our Association, our Sponsorship Program, and other ways we might support them and their families. MSGT Perez, our Point of Contact, has been collecting names of those who want Sponsors and, by the time you read this, will have provided those names to Don Quick who has agreed to continue to run this program for us.

Other names may be added later. That means we again need your help in agreeing to be a Sponsor for one or more of these fine young men and women. *Please contact Don Quick (dquick@communicom.com) if you'd like to be a Sponsor.*

We will have other opportunities to help those troopers and their families during their deployment, just as we did during the last deployment; and, I know you are prepared to help as much as you can. Thank you in advance. We will call on you as the need arises.

Just a reminder for those of you who may need information and assistance on veterans benefits and care: We now have three Advisors in our Veterans Affairs Committee who will be glad to assist you. Their names are listed in the Battalion Directory on page 2. Don't hesitate to contact any one of them.

As we all know from our experience, it is fun and therapeutic to be able to renew our friendships and the bonds formed on the battlefield long ago. Our Association and our gatherings provide the platform for those friendships to be renewed. Please continue to reach out to those we've missed, find them, and urge them to join us. Their presence will enrich us and each of them.

A couple of final thoughts: To those of you who spend most of your free time (and more) working in behalf of our Association and our members -- Thank you. We all are more grateful than we can say. And, second, please keep our troops in your prayers as they again go in harms way.

Jane joins me in sending to each of you our sincerest wishes for your good health and happiness, and our hope that you are blessed with a joy-filled holiday season.

PARTICIPANTS IN VETERANS DAY GATHERING IN BETHESDA, MD AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Bill & Pat Jillard
- Charles & Kathryn Skipper
- Moe Goulet & Dawn
- John & Suzy Long
- Wes Westmoreland
- Joe Berry
- Karl & Carol Haartz
- Don Shipley & Karen Paine
- Ted & Cay Swett
- Bill & Patti Litvjak
- Neil & Mary Meyer
- Jack & Emilie Thomas
- Richard & Christine Bigelli
- MacGregor & Leanne Coffman
- Steve Shear
- George Hannaford
- Pat & Sue Fox
- Willie & Peggi Mercer
- Allen Patrick
- Joe Sanchez
- Bealer Caudill
- Red & Linda Boulden
- Joe Williams
- John Kruetzkamp
- Chester Millay
- Bill Boyce
- Bob Hansen
- Vince Laurich
- Don Fredenburg
- Marc Folden
- Rich Hawkby
- Frank DeFino
- Greg & Rene Holloway
- Lorenzo & Barbia Clark
- John Taylor
- Pat & Theresa Dockery
- Joe Robinson
- Robert L Gillyard
- Robert L Holland
- Bob Milder

BATTALION DIRECTORY

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VP Operations Allen Patrick	910-632-6245 editor@cav57.org
Secretary Jerry Houston	615-790-6325 JBhouston@comcast.net
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PX John Goodpaster	937-855-7475 Mrgoody@core.com

Vice President's Report



HUMBLE HOLIDAY SCRIBBLINGS ---Where did the year 2006 go! With Veterans Day and Thanksgiving behind us we can look forward to Christmas, New Years & 2007. We as an association have many concerns ahead for this coming year. The site for Reunion IX is on everyone's mind. Will we go to Savannah or Philadelphia?

I think our main concern is the revival of the sponsorship program under the careful direction of our Chaplain Don Quick. There are no definite dates as to when the 5th Squadron 7th Cavalry will deploy to Iraq and as always we want to be prepared and ready with our program.

On this subject we do extend a warm welcome to all active 5/7 troopers and families. "Welcome All." To the troopers of the active 5/7, it may seem to you that our membership people are pretty nosy in all the information they ask. The big reason these questions are asked is so that you troopers don't have a pain in the backside some time twenty years from now looking to find out what happened to "Killer" Smith. There just aren't any "Killer" Smith's listed in the phone book. I am not saying I have looked but it has come close.

If all of you at Fort Stewart would fill out a membership form we can save you many hours of searching and I do mean searching. You probably won't look for each other until the year, 2026. Would you please add your home of record at your time of enlistment to this form? The old adage that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree has helped us find many 5/7 Vietnam troopers. When we locate someone new they will know of another that maybe came from over yonder. Upon checking over yonder we have found more relatives than troopers. The relatives usually know where "Killer" Smith is residing.

I would like all of you to know that the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association is made up of all those which have served with the 5/7. The key word here is "ALL." We want everyone to feel at ease with us. There is a mutual respect between everyone from myself the lowliest private (E-1) of the 5/7 to our Generals. We are "Brothers at Arms" which comes with being under fire together.

As I mention that I was a private E-1, I didn't mean just in Basic Training. When we hit the beach in Vietnam I was working on my 1st month of 6 months of being a private E-1. Through the formation and growth of the 5/7 Association, I can now say that I have had dinner with the Chief of Staff of the Army. Only in the versatility of the 5/7 association could this happen. I want each and every one of you to feel as welcome as I did when I went to Reunion I in Detroit back in 1992.

We still continue to strive to be the "Best Damn Battalion" size unit from the Vietnam Era." With the addition of the 5th Squadron we will be the "Best Damn Unit ever. It is up to you troopers to keep it this way. It is your association.

Best wishes, hugs and mistletoe, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas &

GARRY OWEN
"Krazy" Karl





5th Squadron 7th Cavalry

SITUATION REPORT

Squadron CO's UPDATE:

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and our Command Sergeant Major. I am LTC Cliff Wheeler, and I took command of the 5th Squadron on 23 June of this year. CSM Bill Transue joined the Squadron about a month prior to my arrival. While I come from a traditional tanker background, CSM Transue is red and white to his bones! Together, we are extremely proud of this Squadron and all it has accomplished in its two-plus years of existence since reactivation in 2004, particularly in the past six months.

We've essentially packed a year's worth of training into 5-6 months in order to prepare the Troopers for deployment to Iraq in January 2007. From individual Soldier weapons qualification through crew and squad live-fire exercises, counterinsurgency focused training exercises, and culminating in a massive mission rehearsal exercise here at Ft. Stewart, GA in October, the Troops have excelled at every task. Our reputation in the 1st Brigade and indeed the entire 3d Infantry Division has grown with the confidence that comes from tough, realistic training.

Another thing we are extremely proud of is our continued partnership with this Association. We are so blessed to have the continued support of the 5-7 Cavalry Veterans at so many of our important events, and we're signing up young Troopers now for the sponsorship program. Your continued support and encouragement mean more to the leadership and rank and file than we can ever adequately express, and we know that our bonds will continue to grow in the future.

We'd like to offer a special thanks to all those veterans who attended our change of command ceremony in June, and to MG (Ret) Edmonds, Eddie Ratcliffe, and Norman Lloyd for making our recent awards ceremony so special by their attendance.

"GarryOwen Sir!"



LTC Clifford E. Wheeler
War Paint 6



CSM William Transue
War Paint 7

NTC Supported Training Readies Squadron for Anbar Mission:

5-7 Cavalry and the rest of the 1st BCT, 3rd ID battled the heat, bugs, and the National Training Center's vaunted OPFOR in the piney woods of Ft. Stewart during September in preparation for deployment to Iraq in January. Over 1200 NTC soldiers and 400 Iraqi contractors were brought in to make the training as realistic as possible.

The Squadron was responsible for a large swath of territory including two villages, where they faced both home-grown and foreign terrorists, ethnic clashes between residents, and learned to conduct negotiations and provide humanitarian assistance.

While conducting the exercise, the Squadron received official notification that they would deploy to Iraq in January 2007, adding a sense of urgency to the training.

Vets Make Award Ceremony Special

The Squadron recognized over 200 Troopers for excellence during training in a ceremony attended by several heroes from the past. MG (Ret) Maury O. Edmonds, film-maker Norman Lloyd and our old friend Eddie Ratcliffe made it an exceptional event with their presence and their words of wisdom to the young Troopers.

Mr. Lloyd, who was at Ft. Stewart promoting his exceptional documentary film "Commitment and Sacrifice," shared a few words about his time with the Battalion in Cambodia in 1970 and his subsequent tour with the Squadron in Iraq in 2005.

MG Edmonds also honored us with a few words, focusing on the common traits of soldiers, whether in Vietnam in 1970 or those fighting in Iraq today.

MG Edmonds also promoted the 5-7 Cavalry Sponsorship Program, which will once again support the Troops during the upcoming deployment. Our sincere thanks to MG Edmonds, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Ratcliffe for making this event so special.



LTG David Petraeus, commander of the Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, talks with Iraqi role-players during the mission rehearsal exercise at Ft. Stewart, GA.

Continued on Page 6

Have you changed your mailing address recently? Remember to send your change of address to: VP Operations, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, 713 Royal Bonnet Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405

MEMBERSHIP VP's REPORT

by Don Shipley

It's the holiday season; time for family and friends which in our case includes our 5/7 Cav family also. It's also time to dig out the rosters and call a couple of buddies. This past week we had an FO locate another FO he had been wondering about since Nam (35 years ago). Since locating each other they said they had the best Thanksgiving ever.

It happens all year round with this group as long as people use the resources available to us and the locating of fellow brothers continues. Many of you have a little bit of info stuck back in your minds that all by it self is not important; however, when shared with someone from your time period will help solve another puzzle and result in another man located. On top of that we never know which new person will also know of two other guys yet unlocated.

The location for the next reunion is still under work with only Branson, Mo. eliminated. There are only two hotels large enough to accommodate our group in Branson. In one the room rates are completely out of reason and they want to charge an arm and leg for our meeting room space. The other has no meeting room space and wanted us to use the cities' conference center a block away for everything connected to our reunion. On top of that they wanted a corkage charge of \$20 per bottle of beer or soda and no hard liquor was allowed.

At this writing, we still are attempting to locate a hotel in the Philadelphia area, Washington DC area, and the Savannah, Ga. area. Three hotel chains have suggested Orlando, Fl. locations that would meet our requirements and prices. It's all still in the works.

Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings to all,
Garry Owen, Don Shipley , Vice President Membership



TREASURER'S REPORT

by Royce Vick

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! This my first opportunity to wish the best for each of you.

What a busy Reunion with many dollars coming and going and now a time of quiet as the last two months have had little activity. The Association needs everyone to keep their dues current. Check your mailing label or check with Allen or Karl as to your status as they maintain the master file.

What a bunch of financially responsible individuals. During Reunion VIII all checks written to the Association were endorsed over to the Academy Hotel with the understanding that we guaranteed any returned check. Not a single check had to be covered. I thank you for your financial dependability.

There are outstanding bills for the gathering at Guapo's, the wreath for the Vietnam Memorial, additional PX supplies and the cost of the printing of this newsletter. Mr. Goody says the PX is well stocked so you can browse his inventory for some last minute Christmas shopping.

Again I wish to thank all of you that worked so hard at the Reunion. This labor of love made for a financially sound gathering. Don't forget this report is for the period ending October 31. I usually receive inquiries about transactions made after the cut-off date of the publication.

GARRY OWEN, ROYCE

Financial Report

Dues Paid

BALANCE AUGUST 31, 2006	\$ 20,346
INCOME	
Interest Income	\$ 27
PX Sales	638
Dues	440
Reunion Fees	70
Total Income	\$ 1,174
EXPENSES	
Hoover Mfg Co PX Supplies	\$ (28)
Golf Carts at Memorial Service	(100)
Marjorie Swett Hotel Expense	(346)
Miami Valley Sports PX Supplies	(1,352)
Heckley Printing Sep Newsletter	(881)
The Trophy Case - Plaque for Hotel	(87)
Karl Haartz - 72 T-shirts	(468)
Hoover Mfg Co PX Supplies	(306)
John Goodpaster - PX Postage	(95)
Total Expenses	\$ (3,663)
BALANCE OCTOBER 31, 2006	\$ 17,857

Balicki	Robert R	\$60	05--11
Bethoney	Mark	\$30	03--06
Boyce	Ronald	\$30	05--08
Dusz	Thomas A	\$20	06--08
Green	Lawrence M	\$30	06--09
Hodges	Brent	\$50	03--08
Kuhn	Darrell J	\$20	07--08
Lee	Franklin K	\$20	05--07
McKenzie	Robert L	\$60	05--11
Peltier	Edward F	\$50	06--11
Rogers	Alonzo	\$20	06--07
Sherry	Dennis P	\$20	06--07
Szweda	Eugene	\$30	06--08
Total Dues		\$440	



5/7Cav PX

Baseball Cap 5/7 embroidered	\$10.
Miniature Garry Owen Crest pin	3
1st CAV cloth shoulder patch	5
1st CAV window sticker (no Vietnam)	3
1st CAV Div. challenge Coin	10
Full size CIB	4
1st CAV Hat pin (1")	3
Combat Medic pin (new)	3
Air Medal Pin (new)	3
M16-A-1 Hat pin (new)	4
Combat Cavalry pin (gold wreath - new)	4
5/7 Guidon bumper sticker (new)	2
Garry Owen/American flag pin (new)	4
7th CAV Crossed Sabers (no 5)	3
Reg. Garry Owen Crest Pin	3
Miniature CIB pin	3
AnKhe Hat pin	3
5/7 porcelain tie bar pin	5
1st CAV Div. Flag 3x5"	15
Raised letter CAVALRY pin (new)	3
1st Cav Hat pin (5/8") (new)	3
UHI Huey pin (new)	3
Miniature Purple Heart pin	3
M60 Machinegun pin (new)	4
Huey Hat pin (black/gold)	4
5/7 Crossed Sabers lg. pin (new)	4
Claymore Mine Pin (new)	4
Garry Owen Canvas Tote Bag -- Great Xmas Gift	7.50
White Polo shirts button-up with collar Embroidered 5/7 Cav. and Garry Owen Crest all short sleeved, order by size	23
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	25
Irish Green Golf Shirt with Embroidered Garry Owen Crest. Black Cav 5/7 Lettering under Crest. Quality Jerzee Brand. M, L, XL, XXL	25
New Adult T-Shirt with large Carry Owen Crest screen print on front. M, L, XL	10
New Child's T-Shirt w/silk screen 1st Cav patch on left chest & "Cav Kid" lettering under patch. Sizes: 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16.	9
"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.	20

PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.

PLEASE INCLUDE \$2.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND \$3.00 ON ALL SHIRT AND BEAR ORDERS.

**SEND ORDERS TO:
JOHN GOODPASTER
303 CORA DRIVE
CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268
PHONE #937-855-7475
EMAIL: Mrgoodv@core.com**

LETTERS

Fellow Troopers:

Now that Renate and I are back in Germany and have recovered from the jet lag we would like to thank everyone who contributed to Reunion VIII for the superb job they did! It was a flawless operation that allowed the participants to concentrate on the therapeutic - the renewing of the bonds forged in combat that will connect us for life - and simply enjoy the company of all those present.

The amount of hours, dedication and interest that went into the week in Colorado Springs was obvious and every one of you can be justly proud of a job well done.

We look forward to seeing you again at Reunion IX.

Garry Owen!

Tom Solenberger

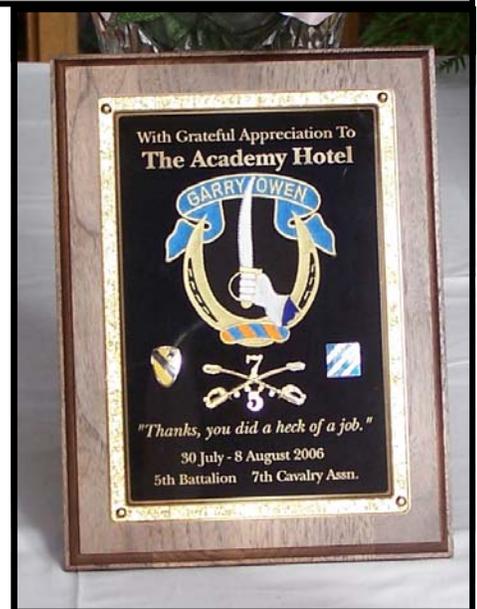


AWARD OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO THE ACADEMY HOTEL IN COLORADO SPRINGS

On November 9, the Colorado Springs Ground Team members presented an Award of Appreciation to the Academy Hotel owners: Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and their daughter Beverly for their outstanding service to our association and its members during reunion VIII.

Ground team members present included: Hugo Lopez, Bob Colgrove, Chuck Inniss, Jim Boulden and Linda Boulden.

Thanks to Jim and Linda Boulden for designing the plaque and getting it made for the presentation.



SEARCH FOR REUNION IX LOCATION

The search for the site of Reunion IX continues. As Don Shipley relates in his report we are covering all the cities voted on in Colorado Springs: Branson, Savannah, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. We've even received suggestions from hotel corporate offices to look at hotels in Orlando, FL. Our two biggest challenges are finding economical hotel rates and hotels willing to let us operate our own hospitality room.

Regarding the hotel rates we have been very lucky in the past to achieve rates that are in the \$69 to \$79 price range. With the cost of all things gradually increasing we may not be so fortunate in 2008. We will certainly do our best to negotiate the best rate possible but don't be surprised if we find ourselves in the \$89 to \$99 price range for the reunion IX.

Progress on the search for the Reunion IX venue will be reported in future newsletters.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season!

GarryOwen,
Allen Patrick



5th Squadron 7th Cavalry (cont'd)



CSM Bill Transue, MG (Ret) Maury Edmonds, Eddie Ratcliffe and Norman Lloyd at SQDN Awards Ceremony.

Feel free to contact us at any time. Our Veterans' Liaison is SFC Benjamin Perez, (912) 767-2213 or benjamin.perez@us.army.mil

SPONSOR PROGRAM

by Don Quick

Garry Owen,

In January, 2007, the 5/7 Cav. will deploy for the second time and they need your help as a Sponsor again! What is a Sponsor? Well let me try and explain what a sponsor is: A sponsor is a member of the 5/7 Cav. who has a willing heart to develop a one-on-one relationship with another brother who is on active duty with the 5/7 Cav. Many of you were sponsors during the last deployment and I THANK YOU! Now our Troops need your support again.

A sponsor gets to know his brother and serves as someone who can give moral support to him and his family. How do we support our brother on the battlefield and his family? We support him with our prayers and by sending letters, cards and e-mails on the special days of the year like birthdays, Christmas, Easter, etc. and also sends care packages. Care packages can be as small as a piece of gum in a letter or a pack of Kool-Aid. I'm sure each of you can remember MAIL CALL in Viet - Nam!

In the event a trooper is KIA or WIA and we live close enough or are willing to travel to support the family, we need to do this. In the event a trooper is WIA and we are willing to travel to where he is, not only do we need to support him, but we need to let his brothers on the battlefield or his unit know how he is doing.

This is what I will be doing: I will attempt to give you a trooper from your State and from the company that you served with if possible. I will try and do a better job this time around, but no promises. I am unable to make your trooper answer your e-mails or letters, but they will be encouraged to do so.

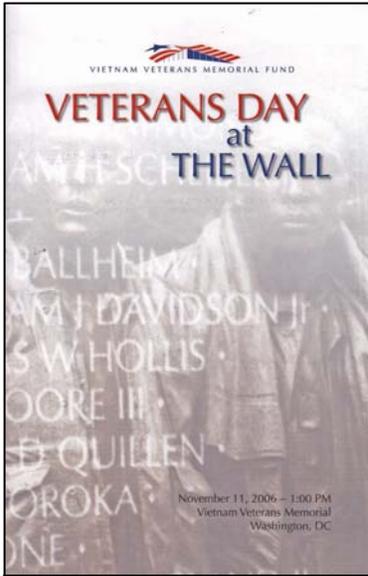
The Troops are on block leave and will be returning soon. The squadron will depart the USA in January. We have 75 troopers signed up for sponsors, but some do not have email addresses. As soon as M/SGT Perez mails me the list, I will contact each of you and give you as much information as I can, for example: name, email address, mailing address, home of record, State, rank, etc.

The sponsor program is not new but will take a little time to get off the ground and running at full speed, but I know WE can pull it off! If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to email or call me. My email address is: dquick@communicomm.com and my phone no. is: 334-863-4419.

Rough Rider 45
D. 5/7 Co. 68-69
Don Quick
God Bless our Troops!



IMAGES FROM VETERANS DAY GATHERING IN BETHESDA, MD AND WASHINGTON, D.C.



If you would like to be on Crazy Karl's e-mail updates list, please send him your e-mail address. Karl sends out news flashes and frequent updates and HE DOES NOT FORWARD ANYTHING. Karl's e-mail is: Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net.

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Wilmington, NC 28405

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5th Battalion
7th Cavalry

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5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Veterans on Veterans Day, 2006 in Washington, D.C.