



Fox 2/5 Association Vietnam

Fox Company 2nd Bn 5th
Marines

Semper Fidelis

Fall 2005

From the President:

Chris Brown

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"Brotherhood of the
Marine"

Denzel Washington @ 7
Brooks Army Hospital

Reunion 2006

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. As most of you will remember we voted at the last reunion to hold our July 2006 reunion in New Orleans. With the recent destruction of the City of New Orleans as a result of hurricane Katrina the members of the board and the reunion committee have decided we need to move the site.

The other two, middle of the country, locations that were mentioned at the reunion were Branson, MO and Little Rock, AR. The Board is now looking for feedback on which of the two sites you prefer. Some of our Fox 2/5 brothers went to a Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Branson this summer and said it was fantastic. I am sure Little Rock would be just as great. I suggest that if you have access to a computer you check out the following sites:

For Little Rock, AR go to:
www.littlerock.com/info-maps/

For Branson, MO go to:
www.bransonchamber.com/

And of course you can always talk to people who have been there for their input. I ask that you please respond to me, Tom Martin or Donna Henderson as soon as possible as we have to make a quick decision. Our contact information is shown below.

Contact information:

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Trip to Vietnam

Since the last newsletter I have returned to Vietnam with Pete Korn, John Robertson, JD Moore and Kurt Leudtke. Also with us was Pete's son Dan and Kurt's wife Janice. We left Los Angeles in the early morning hours of May 9th and returned on the afternoon of May 22nd. It was a consensus of all that made the trip that it was a very meaningful and rewarding trip. Personally I couldn't think of a greater group of people to be with. Here is the recap of the trip that I put on the website:

We went with Frontline Battlefield Tours and Bill Stillwagen was our guide. Let me endorse both as they made our trip an excellent one.

The trip started in Hanoi and although interesting did little except for the visit to the Hanoi Hilton and the John McCain memorial. We visited Marine House where we had a few beers and played some darts and pool with the Marines who stand security for the US embassy. We then went to Hue City where we toured the streets that Fox Company fought on back in 1968. All I can say as a flood of memories came back. Although the city is changing much is still the same.

Our guide was very informative on what happened in other areas such as the Citadel side. It helped us understand what went on in other areas of the battle. After a couple of days in Hue we went up north. We visited Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Cam Lo, Con Thien and Gio Linh with a quick Op across the DMZ. Then it was over to Khe Sanh with spots like Camp Carroll, Vandergrift and the Army base of Lang Vei visited along the way. Again our guide was very well versed on what went on up there.

I don't know which was worse sloshing through the rice paddies

or humping those hills up along the DMZ. After a quick trip back to Hue through the Da Krong and A Shau Valleys (another eye opener) we started our trek south towards Danang.

On the way we stopped and went up Bach Ma again. Believe me it was better driving up. JD, Kurt and I couldn't believe that we hacked our way up the side back in 68. We continued on and stopped at the Bowling Alley area. It hadn't changed much. We thought about going skinny dipping like the last time but decided against it. After a lunch in a nice resort in Lan Co we stopped in Hai Van Pass. I had never been there but JD showed us where they pushed the skivvie house off the hill. The big French bunkers were still there.

Then it was on to Danang stopping at Red Beach and Namo beaches on our way to the hotel. The next day we went to the Que Son valley and the site of the battle of Union II. We performed an American Indian memorial ceremony for the men who died in that battle while we were there. We then drove through the mountains to Non Song (The Coal Mines). Nothing much had changed here except it had grown up a little and they have a brand new bridge crossing the river. From here it was on to An Hoa. The air strip was still there and with the pictures I brought it was easy to zero in on our old Fox Co. location.

The German hospital was in ruins but still there. We drove up Liberty road and stopped at the site of the 9/11/68 ambush where 7 of our brothers were killed. We went to Liberty Bridge (no bridge at this time) but Pete and Robby pointed out the sites of Go Noi Island and others.

Cont'd on page 7

See "from the President"



Current Fox 2/5 Updates

from Chris Brown,

I have asked the current members of Fox Company to provide us with an update from time to time. Below are updates from 2nd and 3rd platoons.

2nd Platoon:

This edition was provided by Sgt. Keonekelaoha Fatiaki, who was 1st Sq. leader, 2nd Platoon during the last deployment to Iraq.

Currently Fox 2/5 is training for the green side but staying true to our desert side. (green for the jungle). As of right now we are looking at being apart of the (MEU)Marine Expeditionary Unit which is station in Okinawa and aboard ships. We would be the security around that area. Last year 3rd Marines in Hawaii went straight to Iraq after spending only about 2 months in Okinawa. We'll be that second string player waiting to go to any part of the world in a moments notice. A company is made up of 3 platoons and 1 weapons platoons which consists of Machineguns, Mortars, and Assault men.

In Iraq we divided weapons equally to make 4 platoons so that our daily burdens would be equally distributed among 4 platoons instead of just 3 platoons. This year we will be staying with the traditional set up. We've had about 40-50 new marines out of boot camp from the west coast 5-10 of them being non-commissioned officers from elsewhere like security forces, Edson Range, etc.

Compared to last year we are still a little under 50% short of new marines. The majority of our Marines are combat tested. We will be getting more Marines from the East Coast in a couple of weeks.

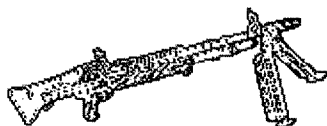
Our C.O. is Captain Brooks. He came to us from 3rd Marines. X.O. is 1st Lt. Jones who was 1st platoon's commander last year in Iraq. Company 1st Sgt. Is GySgt Tracy who was our company GySgt. last year and is awaiting promotion this year. Company GySgt is SSgt Kesl who is picking up GySgt later this year. Platoon Sgt's are 1st platoon SSGT Johnson (came from Golf Co., served in Iraq), 2nd Platoon SSGT Dolan (last year's Fox 1st platoon Guide), 3rd Platoon SSGT Roy(he was 2nd Platoon's last year, missed promotion so volunteered for our worst platoon) and finally weapons is SSGT Bartlett who is picking up GySgt this year and he also came to us from Golf Company.

3rd Platoon:

Well sir ill talk to my XO to see if we can facilitate some of this info to you. From what I am told we are going to the 13th MEU to Okinawa but how will that go I haven't got a clue. Our work up is more on MEU than going to Iraq. I hope we go back to Iraq, its better to do something than doing exercises on a MEU. I am having fun now some of my fellow Sgt in my platoon are old buddies from 1/2 back in '98, small world.

Well that's all for now, sir.

Sgt. Diaz, Fox Co.



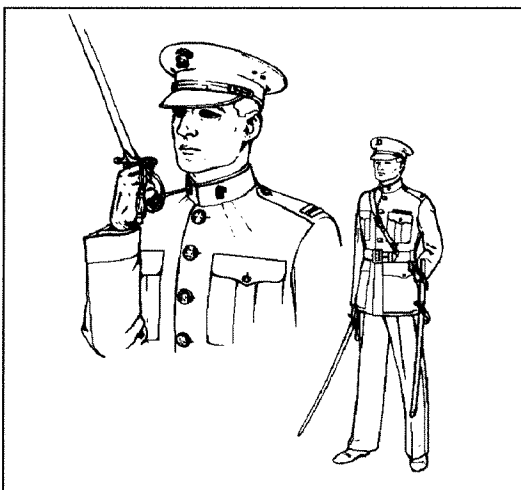


Katrina and Fox 2/5

We have heard from two of our brothers that live in New Orleans or the nearby affected areas. Jeff Brown who lived in Pearl River, LA had all his family (and he has a big one) come through it with no injuries or health problems. He lost electricity for about a week and had a bunch of pine trees blown over. Four of his children lost their houses in Slidell, LA.

James Cage and his wife also came through safely however it is reported that he lost his house and everything in it. His house was in 14 feet of water. The Cage's are currently staying in Houston. Let's all take a few minutes and say a prayer of thanks for their safety and ask God to watch over them as they begin their recovery.

If anybody else knows the status of anyone else let me know so I can get the word out.



Looking for a buddy?

Visit the Fox Co website for our KIA / Deceased list.

(see "Brotherhood of the Marines" this issue pg6)

Fox 2/5 challenge coin now available

I am sure most of you have a challenge coin of some sort in your possession.

And most of them have some sort of Marine Corps connection. You walk up to a bar with some Marine Corps buddies and you throw your challenge coin down on the bar and the others have to do likewise. If you don't have a coin, you buy a round. If everyone has a coin, then the person making the challenge buys the round. Some Marines just like to collect them.

No doubt we all agree that the Fox 2/5 logo is one of the best in the Marine Corps. Well now we have our own challenge coin with our logo on it. Here is what it looks like:

Letters are raised
metal



← Front of coin.

Color fill
center logo
Dark green, Lt green
Brick Red, white,
black

Artwork Setup By
cMilitarycoins.com
618-257-1561 Fax 618-257-0405

Contact: Jon Bailey	Size: 1.24
File Company	Finish: Antique Gold, 1 side color fill
Quantity: 100	No spray, no diamond cut

Please check the following proof for color, finish and size. If there are no corrections please
enable to ship to your e-mail. If there are no changes, send the proof to approval, please
email us with your approval. This email will confirm acceptance of the proof for correction.

Factory die



Reverse Side →

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email us with your approval. This email will confirm acceptance of the proof for correction.

To order your coin(s) send your check for \$7.00 per coin (includes shipping and handling) to: Fox 2/5 Association

c/o Donna Henderson
6201 Iroquois Trail
Stagecoach, NV 89429-9512

Fox 2/5 Association
c/o Sam Henderson
6201 Iroquois Trail
Stagecoach, Nevada 89429-9512

Phone: 775-629-0081
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Email: deh1262@aol.com

"Together Then, Together Again"

Association Registration and Dues

No doubt those who have not been affected by Katrina have already made generous donations through work and/or the Red Cross, etc. It might be a good idea to drop a check in the mail to Donna for an extra ten or twenty bucks to support those less fortunate.

Make checks payable to "Fox 2/5 Association" and mail to:

Donna Henderson
6201 Iroquois Trail
Stagecoach, Nevada 89429.
Dues are \$20.00.

Sometimes the registration form will not fit in our layout but you can get one from any of the officers or just put "Dues 200X" in the memo section of the check.

From the editor:

This edition of the newsletter is almost completely devoted to the reunion and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have quite a lot of material but it is pretty much focused on the items above.

Let's see if we can't have more variety next time. I need some input from a few more people. Just forward something in email. I can cut it, paste it and squeeze it into some space here somewhere.

We had three pages that were planned for the agenda, registration form and a letter from the organizers then Katrina changed all that. So I am filling in the best I can but this isn't my or Chris' newsletter. It is your!

How about a joke, a picture of your family. Maybe a picture of you then and now. OK I'll do that next time and that will be a reality show for you.



Thanks to all who have sent items to me. I have some that just won't work in print and need the visual of the computer.

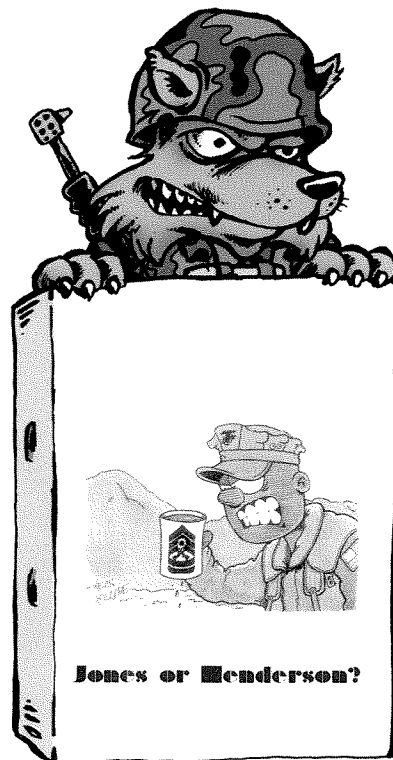
Enough nagging from me.

Semper Par

Ken Kreader

Fox 2/5 Association

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Saddle up!

"Saddle up we're movin' out." OK, so we have to switch gears and head a different direction. Been there, done that more than once, right? A valuable lesson learned courtesy of the USMC. No matter where we meet it is always a good time and it is always memorable. The location to me is secondary.

A change of venue is just a bump in the road for us. However our hearts, prayers and best wishes go out to our brothers (and their families) affected by hurricane Katrina as well as all the citizens of the Gulf coast. We all know that the human spirit will overcome the challenges thrust upon them and they will rise up and re-build their lives and homes better and stronger than before.

Maybe we can plan to return to New Orleans and enjoy the hospitality of the French Quarter, the city and the Gulf Coast at a future date.



Fox 2/5 Newsletter via email!

Paul Trenn suggests that we get with the computer age and start sending the newsletter by softcopy to those who have computers and can open and read the newsletter electronically.

I can test it out in a variety of formats but I believe .pdf is most commonly available and can be downloaded for free off the internet.

It may save publishing costs and postage. In any case once I have a listing compiled I would be happy to email a copy in addition to the snail mail one. Publishing in color is cost prohibitive and can only be done occasionally. But we can get the color version out this way.

I will start compiling a distribution listing, send it out and wait to hear who wants to subscribe electronically only or both.

Anyone who want this newsletter soft copy (electronically) send me an email.

Ken

Newsletter

Your contributions to the Fox 2/5 newsletter are welcome, encouraged even necessary. Please mail your news items to:

Ken Kreader

211 Mill Pond Rd

Sanford, NC 27330

(919) 718-5911

or email to:

kenkre1212@msn.com



Reunion Trivia

Here is the list of members who have attended reunions;

BROWN	CHRIS	8
BROWN	DAVE	8
DOWNS	MICHAEL	8
HENDERSON	SAM	8
LEE	KEN	8
SMITH	BOBBY	8
BAUMGARDT	BILL	7
BURGETT	GEORGE	7
CARPENTER	MARVIN	7
CONNELLY	LONNY	7
CONTRERAS	PABLO	7
GURGANIOUS	ROD	7
JONES	SAM	7
KORN	PETE	7
KREADER	KEN	7

Reunion Year # Attended

1st	1989	45
2nd	1992	29
3rd	1994	32
4th	1996	37
5th	1998	27
6th	2000	34
7th	2002	50
8th	2004	91

The important issue is that the ranks are growing and the numbers tell us that we gain new Marines each time. Yeah, some have been to all or almost all of the reunions but the salient point is that as we move from coast to coast we grow, we heal and we have fun.

Not for a minute in 1992 would I have imagined that I would attend 7 straight reunions. Not for a minute would I have imagined that I would meet someone new each time that I served with. Not for a minute would I have thought that I would learn something new about my time in Vietnam that I thought I dreamed. Not for a minute would I have imagined that I would have so many confirmations that those dreams were nightmares and they were true. Not for a minute would I have believed that I would be better for it and be looking forward, anxiously to the next reunion for all the reasons above. Not for a minute would I have thought that I would make so many new and lasting friends.

So if in doubt, come on out and attend the reunion in 2006. And If you have been before but not recently, come on out

Fox 2/5 on the Internet

Visit our website at:

2ndbn5thmarines.com/foxco/

See new updates and pages.



Some more trivia you don't get to see much of in the U.S. news media

Did you know that 47 countries have re-established their embassies in Iraq?

Did you know that the Iraqi current government employs 1.2 million Iraqi people?

Did you know that 3100 schools have been renovated, 364 schools are under rehabilitation, 263 schools are now under construction and 38 new schools have been built in Iraq?

Did you know that Iraq's higher educational structure consists of 20 Universities, 46 Institutes or colleges and 4 research centers, all currently operating?

Did you know that 25 Iraqi students departed for the United States in January 2005 for the re-established Fulbright program?

Did you know that the Iraqi Navy is operational? They have 5 - 100-foot patrol craft, 34 smaller vessels and a naval infantry regiment.

Did you know that Iraq's Air Force consists of three operational squadrons, which includes 9 reconnaissance and 3 US C-130 transport aircraft (under Iraqi operational control) which operate day and night, and will soon add 16 UH-1 helicopters and 4 Bell jet rangars?

Did you know that Iraq has a counter-terrorist unit and a Commando Battalion?

Did you know that the Iraqi Police Service has over 55,000 fully trained and equipped police officers?

Did you know that there are 5 Police Academies in Iraq that produce over 3500 new officers each 8 weeks?

Did you know there are more than 1100 building projects going on in Iraq? They include 364 schools, 67 public clinics, 15 hospitals, 83 railroad stations, 22 oil facilities, 93 water facilities and 69 electrical facilities.

Did you know that 96% of Iraqi children under the age of 5 have received the first 2 series of polio vaccinations?

Did you know that 4.3 million Iraqi children were enrolled in primary school by mid October?

Did you know that there are 1,192,000 cell phone subscribers in Iraq and phone use has gone up 158%?

Did you know that Iraq has an independent media that consist of 75 radio stations, 180 newspapers and 10 television stations?

Did you know that the Baghdad Stock Exchange opened in June of 2004?

Did you know that 2 candidates in the Iraqi presidential election had a recent televised debate recently?

OF COURSE WE DIDN'T KNOW! WHY DIDN'T WE KNOW? -OUR MEDIA WOULDN'T TELL US!

Instead of reflecting our love for our country, we get photos of flag burning incidents at Abu Ghraib and people throwing snowballs at presidential motorcades.

The lack of accentuating the positive in Iraq serves two purposes. It is intended to undermine the world's perception of the United States thus minimizing consequent support, and it is intended to discourage American citizens.

All of the above facts are verifiable on the Department of Defense website.

Pass it on!

"Brotherhood of the Marine!"

I'll pass along this story to you and let you determine what to do with it as far as the newsletter.

This speaks volumes of our Marine brotherhood.

There were two guys I served with in the Corps that I feel as though I was closer to than my own brothers.

One I went through every day of training with, from boot camp, to home on boot leave on the same plane, (he was from Circleville, Ohio, about 60 miles up the road), to Nam on the same plane. We were inseparable. He went to India 3/5. We were even

able to visit briefly a couple times at An Hoa when both of our companies were in the rear at the same time. He was KIA on 6/29/69, and I wondered for 35 years the circumstances of how he died.

I posted a message on the 3/5 website and within a week I was able to speak to two Marines who were with him the night he was killed. All my questions were answered and those 3/5 Marines were just phenomenal in their efforts to help me.

Nothing comes close to the brotherhood of Marines !!

Semper Fi!

Paul Trenn

"From the president"

Cont'd from page 1

We headed back to Danang with one more stop. We went to the place where the napalming occurred. With the help of a GPS guidance system we were able to go to the exact spots of many sites thanks to having the coordinates.

At Hue City, Non Song, An Hoa and the site of Union II we performed a memorial ceremony by saying a prayer and reading the names of our KIA's from those sites. It made us all feel good. From here it was back to Danang and we finished off our trip by seeing a number of other sites such as China Beach, Marble Mountain and Hoi An.

Battlelines

I would also like to mention the book "Battlelines" written by Dave Brown and his daughter Tiffany. Dave and Tiffany have gone to great lengths to compile the story of Fox 2/5 in Vietnam. I would ask that everyone buy a copy or more (they would make great gifts). It is a great way to say thanks to them for the great effort they put forth.

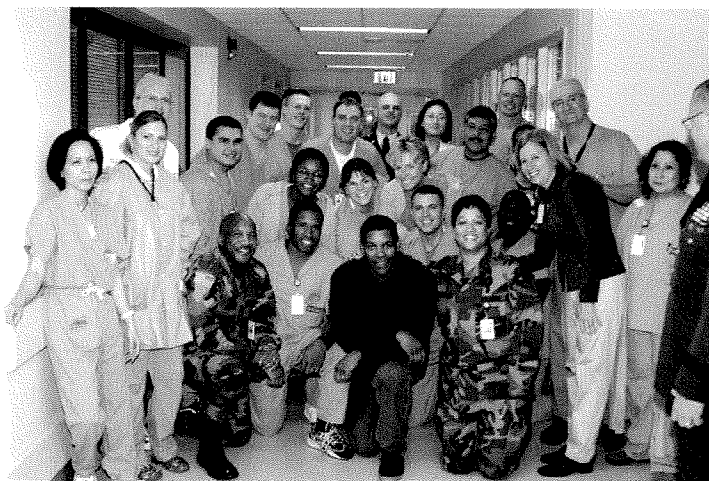
Closing thoughts

I will close by again saying thanks to two men who put forth a great effort all year long. The first is our webmaster Greg Doll. He continues to make our site one of the best sites on the web. For those of you that haven't done so already, you can log onto the site at: www.2ndbn5thmarines.com and go to the company pages and click on the Fox Company page. Spends some time looking at all the sections and I am sure you

will be impressed with Greg's work.

Finally I would like to thank Ken Kreader for the newsletter. He makes it better and better each time. You can all say thanks to both of them by contributing to their efforts. We all have something to say so let's say it on the website and in the newsletter.

Semper Fi!



Denzel Washington at Brooks Army Medical Center, San Antonio (see picture above right)

This needs as wide a distribution as we can create.

Forwarded in hopes that you all will give this info maximum dissemination.....Subject: Denzel Washington
Subject: Brooks Army Medical Center

Don't know whether you heard about this but Denzel Washington and his family visited the troops at Brook Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas (BAMC) the other day. This is where soldiers that have been evacuated from Germany come to be hospitalized in the States, especially burn victims. They have buildings there called Fisher Houses. The Fisher House is a hotel where soldiers' families can stay, for little or no charge, while their soldier is staying in the hospital. BAMC has quite a few of these houses on base but as you can imagine, they are almost completely filled most of the time.

While Denzel Washington was visiting BAMC, they gave him a tour of one of the Fisher Houses. He asked how much one of them would cost to build. He took his check book out and wrote a check for the full amount right there on the spot. The soldiers overseas were amazed to hear this story and want to get the word out to the American public, because it warmed their hearts to hear it.

The question I have is why does Alec Baldwin, Madonna, Sean Penn and other Hollywood types make front page news with their anti-everything America crap and this doesn't even make page 3 in the Metro section of any newspaper except the base newspaper in San Antonio.