



Fox 2/5 Association Vietnam

Fox Company 2nd Bn 5th
Marines

Semper Fidelis

Fall 2007

From the President:

Chris Brown

I hope this finds all of my Fox 2/5 brothers and their families doing well and all are in good health. Not a lot has been going on from a Fox 2/5 Association standpoint but the time has come to announce the details of the next reunion.

Although we have tried once again to move away from the hot summer months it seems that the higher hotel rates also go that route. So we had to choose the dates of August 6th to the 10th as the base time for our 2008 reunion. As you may remember we voted during the last reunion in Branson to go to the Quantico, Virginia area so we could visit the new Marine Corps Museum as a unit. Our Vice President, Tom Martin made a recon of the hotels in the area and ended up getting the best deal at the following hotel:

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel

480 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington D.C. 20024
800-635-5065

Fox 2/5 2008 REUNION

The rate per night is \$110 plus taxes. When calling in to make your reservation make sure you let them know that you are part of the **Fox 2/5 Reunion Group** so that you get the rate. The rate applies a few days prior and a few days after for those of you who wish to extend your stay. A Washington DC Metro stop is right under the hotel which will make it easy to get around. The L'Enfant Plaza was chosen for reasons other than price. It is convenient to the Vietnam Veterans Wall memorial and other monuments and museums. Also it gives us easy access to Marine Corps Headquarters at Eight and I, where we hope to go for a Friday evening sunset parade. From this location we are still a short bus ride from the new Marine Corps Museum at Quantico.

Speaking of buses, please note that Donna will be doing a pre-registration this time because the events and buses we need to get as close to an exact headcount as we can prior to the August date. We are all guilty of last minute planning but, the size of our reunion group we can't just show up and expect things to be all set up for us. When you receive your reunion information fill it out and return to Donna's as soon as possible.

On another note I also want to take the opportunity to let you all know that the current contingent of Fox 2/5 is back in Iraq on their 3rd deployment. I sent many of you an email but I don't have the addresses for most of our members so I am taking this opportunity to inform you that the unit is back in the "sand box" and that I have the address and the names of the key platoon members for those of you that want to send a letter or package to our brothers over there. I made a quick memo to my fellow workers and with their help we sent 17 packages of goodies to the Fox Company men. If any of you want the address and a name or two, contact me and I will send it along. It is a great way to give them the support and acknowledgement that we have not forgotten them.

Here is a response I received from the Fox Company XO Lt. Travis Martin which will give you a little feel for what our brothers are going through:

"I can't thank you enough for all the packages and the cigars. That was extremely generous and much appreciated. I have my Lt's drooling over them already.

The company embarked on a difficult mission to clear out some enemy from some very rural, overgrown terrain along the river banks of the Euphrates. The scenes of Marines stomping through 12 foot high reeds looking for enemy hold up in thatch huts reminded me of every Viet Nam Story I had ever coaxed out of my Dad.

We are over the hump for sure for the deployment and we have for all purposes kicked the enemy out of the AO. We are looking for fights in adjacent AO these days. It is a miracle we don't take heat casualties daily with the heat and all the gear an individual carries. Our company has escaped injury so far and the battalion has only had 10 WIA since we have been here. We are either fortunate or proficient or both. Cont'd page 2

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Fox 2/5 on the Internet

Visit our website at:

2ndbn5thmarines.com/foxco/

See new updates and
pages.

Looking for a buddy?

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

'From the President' Cont'd from page 1

The NCO's today in Fox Company are tasked with missions that a platoon Sgt or Platoon Commander would be tasked with in the past or even in other Units. 3/7 came on deck a little while back and when they realized that we tasked Corporal and LCPL Squad Leaders as convoy commanders they were astounded, they told us that no unit pushed from friendly lines without a Staff or Officer, that isn't developing your subordinates. I believe the Marines that we have in this company are a breed apart in so many ways. I am sure every unit has pride, but it goes way beyond that here in FOX. It has always been that way I guess.

I have tried to foster a relationship with all the Marines showing them how to treat everyone with the same respect you would like to get and you will be able to get anything done through cooperation. It makes a big difference when the Marines see the XO helping Deck Towel the common areas because the supply system can't get us mops, or help unload sandbags. I noticed I had more respect for the Officers that would really get into the Lcpls duties when I was a young enlisted Marine growing up.

Thanks a ton for all you support. I will ensure your company gets the appropriate recapitulations.

Travis R Martin
1st LT, USMC
2/5 Fox Co

**Fox 2/5 News
from Lt. Travis R Martin via Chris Brown**

Chris,

Sorry I have not gotten back to you sooner. I start to feel guilty if I spend too much time with personal e-mails. There is always something I should be working on to improve the Marines quality of life, training, futures. We have had 20 Marines reenlist already and I am pushing several more to do the same. We need as much senior leadership to stick around for the next float as usual. With the quick turn arounds we don't have the luxury of molding new leaders for a year or more, they kinda just need to step into the roles.

Al Anbar is experiencing what I would refer to as a reformation, or even a Renaissance. We have sparked government cooperation, municipalities working to rebuild and restore services, cultural rebirth with religious and cultural leaders and even a reemergence of media and artistic pursuits which is of course the hallmark of civil society. The Marines have performed better than we could have possibly imagined keeping always on the alert but attaining a personal interest and a genuine concern for the welfare of a historically dismissed community. The civilian reaction has been positive and grows stronger every day.

We are truly grateful for all the support we see from home. Thank you for the packages that we received. The Marines live for mail and care

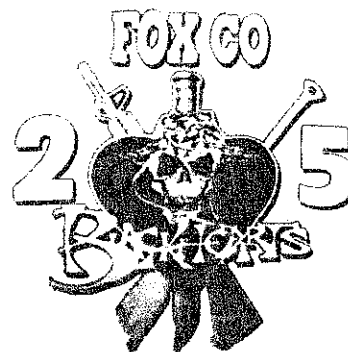
packages and they were well received and much appreciated. I have flown an American Flag over our Position and will be receiving a newly cast Blackhearts coin to enclose with the flag within the week to send to you in appreciation. We would have liked to present it to you in person but we have some time left here and the schedule will be more furious when we get back.

The battalion has suffered injuries at the hands of insurgents on a few occasions and we keep those hero's close to our black hearts. No KIA's for 2/5 knock on wood. The home stretch is always dangerous and we plan to keep our heads in the game till touchdown on US soil.

Thanks again for your support and we hope to have toast another successful 2/5 Fox Blackhearts deployment with you soon.

Travis
Mors de Contactus,

Travis R Martin
1st LT, USMC
2/5 Fox Co
760 712 5094

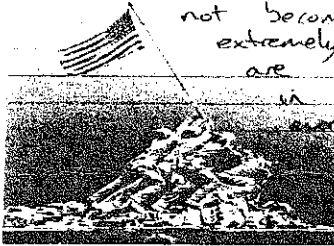


5/21/2007

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for the Fox Company coin you sent me and more importantly the letter and sentiment. Hard to believe forty years have passed since the Vietnam War, I am sure that was an incredible challenge. Things here in Ramoth are well in hand. Unlike the deployment two years ago the Marines of Fox Company have not faced daily fights. We conducted a major initial clearing operation and sure that we have assumed the role of a police force. Daily security patrols are coupled with such mundane tasks as escorting day laborers to clean and trying to secure fuel supplies for the regional generators, it is a true three block war. I am happy to report that morale in 2nd Platoon remains high, that we have not become complacent and remain extremely vigilant, and that we are seeing definitive progress here in our AO. Don't believe anything you read in the press. As to the coin, I put it to my most motivated unit, one Cpl Farris, who happens to be an



Letter from Fox 2/5 Platoon commander in Iraq.

Submitted by Rich Horner

See page 6 for page 2 of letter



Gunny says get yer collective butts to the Fox 2/5 Reunion in D.C next summer. That's 2008 for you college geniuses.

Take care of all that admin stuff, NOW Marine! then you can rest while you pick up butts in the yard.

Be There!

From Paul Trenn

Definition of a veteran

A Veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

"That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

-- Author Unknown

Medals Awarded for Union II

Doing a little more research on the web after I wrote that tribute, I found out that in addition to Captain Graham's posthumous Medal of Honor that day, there were (as far as I can ascertain now) a total of four Navy Crosses and one Silver Star awarded to Marines in F/2/5; one Silver star to a Corpman from H&S Co/2/5; two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star to Marines of D/1/5; one Silver Star to a Marine in M/3/5 and one Silver Star to a Marine in

V/3/5 for their courage in that battle on June 2, 1967. And as you well know, Marines don't just hand out medals for nothing. What a day that must have been. Uncommon valor was certainly a common deed that day in the rice paddies 40 years ago.

Submitted and researched by Dan Miller
(friend of Dennis Sheehy 2nd Platoon)



Fox 2/5 Association
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"Together Then, Together Again"

Association Registration and Dues

SOS different day. Paying your dues ahead is a good thing. Paying your dues plus the dues of a brother who is not as fortunate as some of us is even better. Many thanks to the generosity of those who manage to do just that.

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

Donna Henderson
 4312 Wetumpka Hwy
 Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2720
 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:

Here we go....the Reunion 2008 is just around the corner. Make your plans now don't wait until the last minute.

D.C. is a great place to visit. The Wall, Eighth & I, Quantico and the new Marine Corps Museum and a million other places to visit. No time for malingering there.

Looking forward to it as always and it's just six months before I retire. Oorah!

Fox 2/5 Association

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Semper Fil
Ken



MARINE CORPS QUOTE

There are only two kinds of people that understand Marines: Marines and the enemy. Everyone else has a second-hand opinion.

Gen. William Thornson, U.S. Army

Selected October Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance

28 October 1962: An 11,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade left Camp Pendleton by sea for the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis. One week earlier, the entire 189,000-man Marine Corps had been put on alert and elements of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions were sent to Guantanamo Bay to reinforce the defenders of the U.S. Naval Base. Other 2d Division units and squadrons from five Marine Aircraft Groups were deployed at Key West, Florida, or in Caribbean waters during the Cuban crisis.

19 October 1968: Operation Maui Peak, a combined regimental-sized operation which began on 6 October, ended 11 miles northwest of An Hoa, Vietnam. More than 300 enemy were killed in the 13-day operation.

Reunion 2008
Quantico, Virginia
August 6th to the 10th

- Marine Corps Heritage Museum
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean Veterans Memorial
- Sunset Parade, Marine Barracks



Memorial Day Tribute
Remembering The Marines of Fox Company, 2/5 Forty Years Ago

As U.S. military casualties continue to grow in Iraq and Afghanistan, this Memorial Day is a time to honor the servicemen and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice, others who so gallantly served, and those continuing to serve our nation.

Forty years ago this week, U.S. Marines of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division fought the most bloody, single-day battle in the company's history. On June 2, 1967, Fox Company had more of its men killed and wounded in a one-day engagement than any other American infantry company during the entire Vietnam War.

In 1967, the Que Son Valley was the most frequently used terminus to the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the northern part of South Vietnam. The Valley was a heavily populated, rich rice-growing area and viewed as one of the keys to controlling South Vietnam by the communists. In early 1967, the Que Son Valley at least two regiments of the 2nd Division of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) had infiltrated the area. The Que Son Valley was also recognized as strategically important by the U.S. military.

During Operation Union, which took place from April 21 to May 16, 1967, the 1st Marines had fought the PAVN's 21st Regiment near the Marine outpost on Loc Son Mountain for control of the southern part of the Que Son Valley with the PAVN and Vietcong losing over 1,000 dead and captured. Although the PAVN had sustained hundreds of casualties in Operation Union and had lost territory around Loc Son Mountain, it remained in control of much of the rest of the Que Son Valley and had even been reinforced during the period. There was a need for a follow-on operation.

Operation Union II was launched on May 26, 1967 as a search and destroy mission to wipe out the PAVN in the Que Son Valley.

The plan called for the 1st Battalion of the 5th Marines, with Fox Company of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines reinforcing the 1st Battalion, to establish blocking positions in the western portion of the valley while the 3rd Battalion of the 5th Marines was to make a helicopter assault into the southern part of the valley and sweep northeast. That first day of the operation, Lima and Mike Companies of the 3rd Battalion engaged the PAVN at Landing Zone Eagle, sustaining losses of 38 Marines and 82 wounded. For the next six days fighting in the Que Son Valley was sporadic.

On the morning of June 2, Delta Company, 1st Battalion of the 5th Marines and Fox Company, 2nd Battalion of the 5th Marines, moved toward Vinh Huy village. By midday, Fox Company approached a 1,000 yard "horseshoe-shaped" rice paddy, flanked by low hills covered with thick jungle undergrowth. Due to the dense jungle, the two companies had lost visible contact with each other.

As Fox Company moved across the rice paddy, the NVA opened up from dug-in positions on the tree-line on the edge of the paddy, delivering deadly fire. The Marines had walked into an ambush. Machine guns, AK-47s and 82 mm mortars raked the 2nd platoon caught in the middle of the rice paddy. Within minutes, most of the men in the 2nd platoon were hit by enemy fire from two machine gun positions, with many of the Marines mortally wounded. Fox Company alone suffered 32 men killed and 61 wounded that day.

Ordinary men did extraordinary things that day in the rice paddies to help their wounded comrades. So many courageous acts occurred simultaneously across the battlefield that most survivors of Fox Company had no clue what actions their fellow Marines were undergoing. Corporal Melvin Long, a 3rd platoon squad leader, even though already wounded, assaulted a well-entrenched enemy position, overrunning it and then led a second assault on another machine gun position. His courage and valiant fighting spirit was an inspiration to his fellow Marines and earned him a Navy Cross. Private Keith Moser, a radio operator with 1st platoon, disregarding his own safety, moved across 200 yards of exposed rice paddy under intense enemy fire to provide communications to the trapped lead squad and then, while heroically rescuing a wounded comrade, received mortal wounds himself. He would be awarded the Silver Star posthumously for his valor and devotion to his fellow Marines on the battlefield that day.

The Fox Company Commander, Captain James Graham, was everywhere on the battlefield, directing operations. With his 2nd platoon pinned down in the rice paddy, Captain Graham formed an assault unit from members of his small company headquarters. Leading a fierce assault through the 2nd platoon's position, he forced the enemy to abandon the first machine gun position, thereby relieving some of the pressure on his decimated 2nd platoon, enabling evacuation of the wounded to a more secure area.

Remaining behind with one Marine who could not be moved because of the seriousness of his wounds and, running out of ammunition, the last radio transmission from Captain Graham reported that he was being overrun by a force of 25 enemy soldiers. He died while protecting the wounded man he chose not to abandon. For his superb leadership, outstanding courage and indomitable fighting spirit in saving the second platoon from annihilation, Captain Graham was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor.

Unfortunately, many Americans no longer know the original meaning and traditions of Memorial Day as a time to pay tribute to those who have died in our nation's service. With American military forces still fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, this is no time to forget their sacrifices and those made by others before them.

A good friend of mine, Dennis Sheehy, who was one of the few survivors of the 2nd platoon caught in the withering fire on that rice paddy forty years ago, once told me that what bonds Marines together comes from knowing that they can rely on their buddy next to them. That they can count on that fellow Marine in a time of need. When the chips are down and there is no one else to turn to, a sense of quiet composure can come from knowing your buddy is there watching your back.

If nothing else, perhaps a little more respect and compassion shown to our fellow co-workers, friends and buddies is also appropriate over this long holiday weekend. You never know when you might need their help.

Daniel Miller

 The above was written and submitted by Daniel Miller. Dan can be emailed at "wildyakman@gmail.com".

Dan received a thank you email from Capt. Graham's wife see it on page 6.



Mini Reunion in Virginia

In the off year where we don't have a reunion some of us like to get together for a short visit. We have often gone to Dennis Cadigan's house on the Jersey shore but this year we went for a change of scenery and decided to go to Dave Degroat's house in Chesapeake, Va.

In attendance were JD and Marlene Moore, Dave and Grace Degroat, Terry and Bonnie Lynch, Dennis Cadigan, Bill Martell and Ken Murray. It was a great time as we share some meals, we spent the good part of day in Dave's backyard playing a game called Corn Hole (kind of like horse shoes) listening to oldies and just sharing each others company.

We also took a ride to a winery on the side. All in all it was a day of good times and many laughs.

Thank you note from Mrs. Graham re: Memorial Day Tribute from Dan Miller (see page 5)

Dear Daniel -

Just a short note to thank you for taking the time to remember the events of 2 June 67 and our brave men of Fox Company 2/5 who fought and died that day.

The accuracy of your report is not the issue - What matters to us is that you took the time to salute them and remember our Marines of that day and all others. While life continues on as we go through the years, our hearts will always have a special place - filling the hole of 40 years ago - and our goal is that Jim Graham and all others are never forgotten.

Thank you very much for helping us in this goal.

Most Sincerely,
Janice Clark
Mrs. James A. Graham

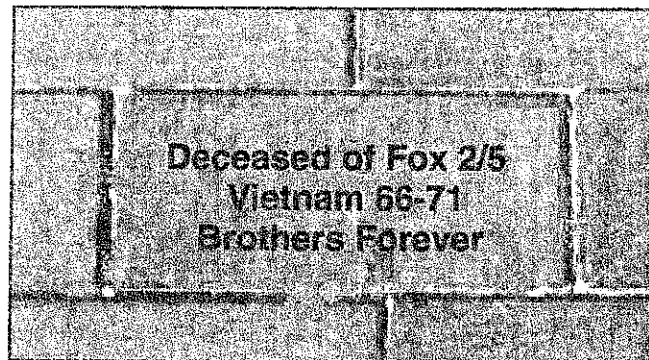
More Fox 2/5 news from Iraq

Hello Sir,

Well sorry for taking so long in getting back to you. As a sign of relief yes we are almost done here once more. Back in the rear with the gear and the good chow hall. Now it's more admin work than anything also making sure all our gear is ready to go. Knock on wood no one here has gotten hurt except one. Even though it was at the beginning he is fine and running again. Working around the army it makes me proud to be a Marine, these soldiers are not to our standards of course but they lack a lot of small unit leadership which as a lance corporal you are in charge of something. Here army ssgt are on working party and complain that our ssgt don't participate. Anyways everyone here is happy being in the rear and everyone is well. Well sir I have to get back to my paperwork take care.

Ernie Joe Diaz

SSGT / USMC /0369



Lt. Tillman Endley letter concludes from page 3

and coin collector and undoubtedly a future Sgt Maj.

I have not come across your son Randy yet, however, a M111 team just moved in to my combat outpost, COP Grant, so I will inquire with them.

Once again, thank you for your service in Vietnam, and for the letter and coin. You couldn't be more right about the Marines, they definitely look out for me, always reminding me and over watching me when I am on the street speaking with Iraqis.

Semper Ft,
Lt Tillman Endley
Fox 2, 2/5

Thanks to Bill Martel for this poem.

It was Rifles, Always Rifles

By Author Unknown

The young Marine was weary
and he sought a little rest
With his helmet on his chest
And his rifle on his chest.
He has seen the gunships fire.
He had heard the cannons roar.
He had seen the Navy's power
as he made his way ashore.
Then he thought about his rifle
And he found it rather small,
With the gunships and the cannons
It was nothing much at all.
The efforts of a rifleman
Meant little, it would seem.
Then, as he slipped to slumber,
He dreamed himself a dream.

*The man who stood beside him
Held a musket in his hand
And close around his neck he wore
A heavy leather band.
"When I was on Old Ironsides"
The apparition said
"There were cannonballs and cut-
lasses
Wherever danger led.
There were pistols too, and daggers
At every fighter's side
When the ships would come together
On the rolling, heaving, tide.
But when it came to boarding,
With the battle fury hot
It was Rifles, always Rifles
That made the telling shot."*

*The apparition faded
And standing in its place
Beneath a shallow helmet
He saw another face.
"When we were in the trenches
In the wood they called Marine
There were mortars, tanks and can-
nons,
More than I had ever seen.
But when the final charge was made
To push the Germans back
It was Rifles, always Rifles
At the point of the attack."*

*The face changed only slightly
And the helmet stayed the same
But the island that he spoke of
Had a more familiar name.
"They hit us very early
On the day the war begun.
On the wings of all their bombers
We could see the Rising Sun.
Our pilots and our gunners
Who fought and fell at Wake
Wrote a story full of glory
That time can never shake.
But when the enemy drew near
To make his final reach
It was Rifles, always Rifles
That met him on the beach."*

*There next appeared a shadow
In a swirl of stinging snow
And it breathed a fierce defiance
And its eyes were all aglow.
"In Fifty at the Chosin
When the big guns couldn't talk
And the First Marine Division
Took a fighting, freezing walk,
When all the world, except the Corps
Had counted us as gone
It was Rifles, always Rifles
That let us carry on."*

*The scene was changed to summer
And the face was hard and lean
And the tired eyes were fired
With the light that says "Marine".
"At Khe Sahn when they shelled us
We were wrapped in rolling smoke
And the thought of our survival
Was a grim and ghastly joke.
But when the waves came swarming
in
To finish the assault
It was Rifles, always Rifles
That called the final halt."*

*There next appeared a General
As solid as a tank
With three stars on his collar
to signify his rank.
His stature and demeanor
Were the military type
And in his hand he carried
A stubby little pipe.
His jaw was squarely chiseled.
His eyes were clear and keen*

*And his bearing left no question.
He was all Marine's Marine.*

*"The message they're conveying"
The burly General said
"Is that through our troubled history
The rifles always led.
We've had cannons, tank and mor-
tars.
We've had weapons by the score,
We've had Battleships and fighter
planes
To complement The Corps.
We've a most impressive arsenal.
That's obviously true,
But the final thrust for victory
Has always been with you.
It was Rifles, always Rifles
When The Corps was sorely pressed.
And the rifle that you carry
Must meet the final test.
So sling that rifle proudly,
For everything we do
With mortars, tanks and cannons
Is just an aid to you."*

*The young Marine awakened
And put the dream aside,
Though now he clutched his rifle
With a certain touch of pride.
And then he chanced to notice
That lying near his hand
Was a stubby little pipe
And a heavy leather band.*

author unknown





NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense

No. 860-07 IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2007
Media Contact: (703) 697-5131/697-5132
Public/Industry(703) 428-0711

Marine Missing In Action From Korean War Is Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Pfc. Domenico S. Di Salvo, U.S. Marine Corps, of Akron, Ohio. He will be buried July 12 in Seville, Ohio.

In late November 1950, Di Salvo was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, of the 1st Marine Division then deployed near Yudam-ni on the western side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On Nov. 27, three Communist Chinese Divisions launched an attack on the Marine positions. Over the next several days, U.S. forces staged a fighting withdrawal to the south. Di Salvo was lost on Dec. 2, 1950, as a result of enemy action near Yudam-ni. He was among several in his company buried by fellow Marines in a temporary grave near the battlefield.

During Operation Glory in 1954, the North Korean government repatriated the remains of U.S. and allied soldiers. Included in this repatriation were sets of remains associated with Di Salvo's burial. That year, U.S. officials identified five of these individuals. One repatriated individual could not be identified at that time and was buried as an unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) in Hawaii.

In November 2006, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) exhumed remains from the NMCP believed to be those of Di Salvo.

Among other forensic tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the JPAC used dental comparisons in Di Salvo's identification.

+++++

Above from Tony Marengo

FOX 2/5 REUNION 2008
The reunion will be held on August 6th through the 10th.
L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington D.C. 20024, 800- 635-5065
The rate per night is \$110 plus taxes. When calling to make your reservation make sure to tell them you are part of the Fox 2/5 Reunion Group to get the group rate.

Who remembers Alfred Lopez Trevino?

"If any one remembers Alfred Lopez Trevino who was in Viet Nam 1969, he can't remember the months. Alfred needs someone who remembers him to call him." He is trying to get VA medical, but VA needs to have proof.

Please get hold of Donna Henderson, by e-mail (deh1262@aol.com) or address (4312 Wetumpka Hwy, Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2720 Phone (334) 328-5594. I have a letter from Alfred that I will forward to anyone that knows him..

