



"Fox Tracks" **Fox2/5 Association** **Vietnam, Iraq,** **Afghanistan, All Eras** **Newsletter –April 2011**



From the President:

A lot of good scoop to pass along this time, much of it the result of decisions made at the Cody reunion, others things we continue to work on. Not surprisingly the bulk of my pitch in this newsletter will involve communications...how we do it...how we intend to do it in the future...our sometimes lack thereof!

We will be in the process of constructing a new website for the Association. Ken will be working with Gregg and taking over as the webmaster. Ken and I have been developing another means of communications tentatively called "The SitRep", which as the name implies will be used to communicate info between newsletters, or to pass on information of interest to members too long to be included in the newsletter. Look for the first one shortly.



Reunion 2012

Although our next reunion in Nashville is more than a year away it's not too soon to start planning your trip. A good central location we should enjoy a great turnout and a good time.

Nashville and the Grand 'Ole Opry have a lot to offer for the group. Weather should be somewhat more mild in September. Orah!

Marine History:

8 March 1945: First Lieutenant Jack Lummus, a New York Giants football star, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism on Iwo Jima.

28 November 1775—Samuel Nichols became the first Marine Officer when he was commissioned a Captain.

27 March 1953 The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions

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We have developed quite an extensive e-mail roster and although it does not cover all our members it is sufficient to make communicating via e-mail worthwhile. We will count on passing the word to those without e-mail via phone calls and snail mail and of course the snail mail version of the newsletter.

The newsletter, Fox Tracks, SitRep, and the website are all official publications of the Association and as such we will have rules for the inclusion of material. For the most part, Ken, as the editor (and webmaster) will make decisions of a routine nature concerning content. Matters of Association policy will require the approval of the President and/or Vice presidents. Much more on that later as those things come on line.

Bobby has some good scoop on the next





From JD Moore;

In the November 2010 newsletter it was announced that a vote was being held on bringing the younger Fox 2/5 veterans into the association.

There were three options;

- (1) Leave the association as is with no change.
- (2) Bring the younger veterans into the association as is with full rights as any other member.
- (3) Reorganize with chapters of each era veteran. i.e. Vietnam. Iraq, Afghanistan. etc.

The voting ended 12/15/2010. The turnout was extremely light, however, option (2) bring the younger veterans into the association 'as is' with full rights won by an overwhelming margin. There were no votes received after the deadline. I have sent several e-mails out to younger veterans of Fox for feedback and to pass the word. This will be a slow process. The response I have received has been very positive.

The younger era veterans are in the planning stages of a reunion in Las Vegas the weekend of June 3-5, 2011. There are several officers that may attend this reunion. This would be a great time to introduce ourselves to them.

The new web site www.foxco2ndbn5thmarines.org is now a reality. It is a standalone website. The old site under 2nd Battalion is still there but will be inactive. Ken Kreader is now the new Web Editor. Gregg Doll was the Editor for 19 years. Gregg we thank you and Barb for all the years of great service. Bravo Zulu! Cut Ken some slack as he mulls over all the duties he now faces. I am sure Gregg will be busy also during this transition. Stay safe and thank a service member next time you see one.

Semper Fi:

JD



***** Quote *****

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

Thomas Jefferson

From Bobby Smith;

I hope this finds everyone doing well and have survived the January and February snow storms. I know we didn't get hit as bad as some of you but when it gets below 60' I hate it.

A question has come up about the dates of the 2012 reunion. At all of our passed reunions there was always discussion about the cost of the rooms and I felt that cost was priority one on my list. I worked on the last part of May and was told by the sales manager that May was a busy time for business conferences and the cost would be the same as the DC and Cody reunion.

Some didn't want the summer because of the heat plus the cost of the tourist season. When I ask about the first weekend in September knowing that Labor Day would fall into this time that I wanted to check if it was okay with some and found that it didn't matter as long as we got a good rate on the rooms. I threw a rate at him and he threw a rate back and I told him that I was going to another hotel and he said that to let him talk to his boss. He called me back in fifteen minutes and said that if I signed the contract that night they would meet me in the middle of our rates. That is how we came up with the \$94.00. They were betting that the economy was going to get better.

I have been to every reunion and I have never heard that we shouldn't have a reunion around a holiday and for those of you that have a tradition of celebrating Labor Day will be able to make the reunion because most of the things don't take place until the last three days. I know the Grand Ole Opry is only on Friday, Saturday and Tuesday night so that will have to be schedule for Tuesday night. We won't know the prices for the event until about October 2011 that is when Gaylord Opryland will decide what the priced for 2012 will be.

As you know by now we have a change in our F 2/5 web site it is being run by Ken. I know when he retired he thought that he was going be only doing those honey-do jobs. Now he handles the newsletter plus the web site. Many thank s to him for stepping up to the job. If you have something that you would like to get out to the guys and can't wait for the news letter get the info to one of the staff and we will get it on the site.

Semper Fi,

Bobby



"Together then, Together Again"

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From the Editor,

Tom and I had talked about making the article, Heroes of the Vietnam Generation, a good item for the first "Sitrep".

I changed direction on that since the passing of the Senate bill for the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" a fitting companion article.

Sitrep is intended for items generally considered too large for Fox Tracks. Also those items/issues which demand quick electronic distribution. Such as updating Blackhearts news. Sitrep will definitely be function over form.

What's going on with the website? Soon as the newsletter is out the door I will focus on the website. I know I have simple items like address changes etc. I appreciate everyone's patience promise action soon.

Last item from me is the Nashville reunion. I put a little bit on page one but can't emphasize enough how excited I am about this reunion. I am already mapping the route and saving.

Semper Fi, Ken



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Note: Anyone interested in any of the above elected/appointed or otherwise defaulted positions listed above don't hesitate to contact our president/vice presidents and express your interest or ideas.

29 March 1806: John Clarke, Superintendent of the Virginia Manufactory of Arms, submitted his idea for the Mameluke Sword. The sword was based on the sword presented to Marine Lt. Presley O'Bannon by Hamet

NAME THAT LEATHERNECK

Born in New York City, I was raised in Bayonne, New Jersey. I enlisted in the Marine Corps in the late 1950s at the age of seventeen. After I left the Corps I became a boxer. I fought George Foreman, Sonny Liston and Buster Mathis. I even fought professional wrestler Andre The Giant. Before my 1975 Heavyweight Championship fight with Muhammad Ali I remarked, "If I survived the Marines, I can survive Ali." My gritty 15 round bout with Ali was the inspiration for the title character Rocky Balboa in Sylvester Stallone's Academy Award winning film Rocky. The movie alludes to my Marine Corps service by playing the Marine Corps Hymn when Rocky enters the ring.

Answer: Chuck Wepner

In Memoriam

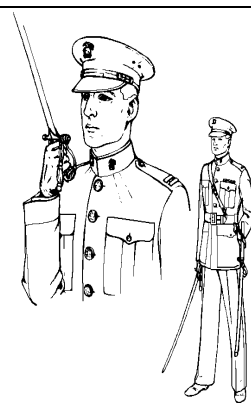
Robert Hofmann

HOFMANN, Robert J. 64, of St. Petersburg, died March 13, 2011. Survivors include wife, Patricia; son Gregory and 3 grandchildren.

Memorial Services were March 24th 2011.

Published in the St. Petersburg Times on March 16, 2011

Photo right: Pablo Contreras, Pete Korn and Robert Hofmann @ a recent Mini ReUnion.





Heroes of the Vietnam Generation

By James Webb

The rapidly disappearing cohort of Americans that endured the Great Depression and then fought World War II is receiving quite a send-off from the leading lights of the so-called 60's generation. Tom Brokaw has published two oral histories of "The Greatest Generation" that feature ordinary people doing their duty and suggest that such conduct was historically unique.

Chris Matthews of "Hardball" is fond of writing columns praising the Navy service of his father while castigating his own baby boomer generation for its alleged softness and lack of struggle. William Bennett gave a startling condescending speech at the Naval Academy a few years ago comparing the heroism of the "D-Day Generation" to the drugs-and-sex nihilism of the "Woodstock Generation." And Steven Spielberg, in promoting his film "Saving Private Ryan," was careful to justify his portrayals of soldiers in action based on the supposedly unique nature of World War II.

An irony is at work here. Lest we forget, the World War II generation now being lionized also brought us the Vietnam War, a conflict which today's most conspicuous voices by and large opposed, and in which few of them served. The "best and brightest" of the Vietnam age group once made headlines by castigating their parents for bringing about the war in which they would not fight, which has become the war they refuse to remember.

Pundits back then invented a term for this animus: the "generation gap." Long, plaintive articles and even books were written examining its manifestations. Campus leaders, who claimed precocious wisdom through the magical process of reading a few controversial books, urged fellow baby boomers not to trust anyone over 30. Their elders who had survived the Depression and fought the largest war in history were looked down upon as shallow, materialistic, and out of touch.

Those of us who grew up, on the other side of the picket line from that era's counter-culture can't help but feel a little leery of this sudden gush of appreciation for our elders from the leading lights of the old counter-culture. Then and now, the national conversation has proceeded from the dubious assumption that those who came of age during Vietnam are a unified generation in the same sense as their parents were, and thus are capable of being spoken for through these fickle elites.

In truth, the "Vietnam generation" is a misnomer. Those who came of age during that war are permanently divided by different reactions to a whole range of counter-cultural agendas, and nothing divides them more deeply than the personal ramifications of the war itself. The sizable portion of the Vietnam age group who declined to support the counter-cultural agenda, and especially the

men and women who opted to serve in the military during the Vietnam War, are quite different from their peers who for decades have claimed to speak for them. In fact, they are much like the World War II generation itself. For them, Woodstock was a side show, college protestors were spoiled brats who would have benefited from having to work a few jobs in order to pay their tuition, and Vietnam represented not an intellectual exercise in draft avoidance, or protest marches but a battlefield that was just as brutal as those their fathers faced in World War II and Korea.

Few who served during Vietnam ever complained of a generation gap. The men who fought World War II were their heroes and role models. They honored their father's service by emulating it, and largely agreed with their father's wisdom in attempting to stop Communism's reach in Southeast Asia.

The most accurate poll of their attitudes (Harris, 1980) showed that 91 percent were glad they'd served their country, 74 percent enjoyed their time in the service, and 89 percent agreed with the statement that "our troops were asked to fight in a war which our political leaders in Washington would not let them win." And most importantly, the castigation they received upon returning home was not from the World War II generation, but from the very elites in their age group who supposedly spoke for them.

Nine million men served in the military during Vietnam War, three million of whom went to the Vietnam Theater. Contrary to popular mythology, two-thirds of these were volunteers, and 73 percent of those who died were volunteers. While some attention has been paid recently to the plight of our prisoners of war, most of whom were pilots; there has been little recognition of how brutal the war was for those who fought it on the ground. Dropped onto the enemy's terrain 12,000 miles away from home, America's citizen-soldiers performed with a tenacity and quality that may never be truly understood. Those who believe the war was fought incompletely on a tactical level should consider Hanoi's recent admission that 1.4 million of its soldiers died on the battlefield, compared to 58,000 total U.S. dead.

Those who believe that it was a "dirty little war" where the bombs did all the work might contemplate that it was the **most costly war the U.S. Marine Corps has ever fought** - five times as many dead as World War I, three times as many dead as in Korea, and more total killed and wounded than in all of World War II.

Significantly, these sacrifices were being made at a time the United States was deeply divided over our effort in Vietnam. The baby-boom generation had cracked apart along class lines as America's young men were making difficult, life-or-death choices about serving. The better academic institutions became focal points for vitriolic protest against the war, with few of their graduates going into the military. Harvard College, which had lost 691 alumni



in World War II, lost a total of 12 men in Vietnam from the classes of 1962 through 1972 combined. Those classes at Princeton lost six, at MIT two. The media turned ever more hostile. And frequently the reward for a young man's having gone through the trauma of combat was to be greeted by his peers with studied indifference of outright hostility.

What is a hero? My heroes are the young men who faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country. Citizen-soldiers who interrupted their personal and professional lives at their most formative stage, in the timeless phrase of the Confederate Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, "not for fame or reward, not for place or for rank, but in simple obedience to duty, as they understood it." Who suffered loneliness, disease, and wounds with an often-contagious elan. And who deserve a far better place in history than that now offered them by the so-called spokesman of our so-called generation.

Mr. Brokaw, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Spielberg, meet my Marines. 1969 was an odd year to be in Vietnam. Second only to 1968 in terms of American casualties, it was the year made famous by Hamburger Hill, as well as the gut-wrenching Life cover story showing pictures of 242 Americans who had been killed in one average week of fighting. Back home, it was the year of Woodstock, and of numerous anti-war rallies that culminated in the Moratorium March on Washington. The My Lai massacre hit the papers and was seized upon by the anti-war movement as the emblematic moment of the war. Lyndon Johnson left Washington in utter humiliation.

Richard Nixon entered the scene, destined for an even worse fate. In the An Hoa Basin southwest of Danang, the Fifth Marine Regiment was in its third year of continuous combat operations. Combat is an unpredictable and inexact environment, but we were well led. As a rifle platoon and company commander, I served under a succession of three regimental commanders who had cut their teeth in World War II, and four different battalion commanders, three of whom had seen combat in Korea. The company commanders were typically captains on their second combat tour in Vietnam, or young first lieutenants like myself who were given companies after many months of "bush time" as platoon commanders in the Basin's tough and unforgiving environs.

The Basin was one of the most heavily contested areas in Vietnam, its torn, cratered earth offering every sort of wartime possibility. In the mountains just to the west, not far from the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the North Vietnamese Army operated an infantry division from an area called Base Area 112. In the valleys of the Basin, main-force Viet Cong battalions whose ranks were 80 percent North Vietnamese Army regulars moved against the Americans every day. Local Viet Cong units sniped and harassed. Ridgelines and paddy dikes were laced with sophisticated booby traps of every size, from a hand grenade to a 250-pound bomb. The villages sat in the rice paddies and tree lines like individual fortresses, crisscrossed with the trenches and spider

holes, their homes sporting bunkers capable of surviving direct hits from large-caliber artillery shells. The Viet Cong infrastructure was intricate and permeating. Except for the old and the very young, villagers who did not side with the Communists had either been killed or driven out to the government controlled enclaves near Danang.

In the rifle companies, we spent the endless months patrolling ridgelines and villages and mountains, far away from any notion of tents, barbed wire, hot food, or electricity. Luxuries were limited to what would fit inside one's pack, which after a few "humps" usually boiled down to letter-writing material, towel, soap, toothbrush, poncho liner, and a small transistor radio.

We moved through the boiling heat with 60 pounds of weapons and gear, causing a typical Marine to drop 20 percent of his body weight while in the bush. When we stopped we dug chest-deep fighting holes and slit trenches for toilets. We slept on the ground under makeshift poncho hootches, and when it rained we usually took our hootches down because wet ponchos shined under illumination flares, making great targets. Sleep itself was fitful, never more than an hour or two at a stretch for months at a time as we mixed daytime patrolling with night-time ambushes, listening posts, foxhole duty, and radio atches. Ringworm, hookworm, malaria, and dysentery were common, as was trench foot when the monsoons came. Respite was rotating back to the mud-filled regimental combat base at An Hoa for four or five days, where rocket and mortar attacks were frequent and our troops manned defensive bunkers at night, which makes it kind of hard to get excited about tales of Woodstock, or camping at the Vineyard during summer break.

We had been told while training that Marine officers in the rifle companies had an 85 percent probability of being killed or wounded, and the experience of "Dying Delta," as our company was known, bore that out. Of the officers in the bush when I arrived, our company commander was wounded, the weapons platoon commander wounded, the first platoon commander was killed, the second platoon commander was wounded twice, and I, commanding the third platoons fared no better. Two of my original three-squad leaders were killed, and the third shot in the stomach. My platoon sergeant was severely wounded, as was my right guide. By the time I left, my platoon I had gone through six radio operators, five of them casualties.

These figures were hardly unique; in fact, they were typical. Many other units; for instance, those who fought the hill battles around Khe Sanh, or were with the famed Walking Dead of the Ninth Marine Regiment, or were in the battle of Hue City or at Dai Do, had it far worse.

When I remember those days and the very young men who spent them with me, I am continually amazed, for these were mostly recent civilians barely out of high school, called up from the cities and the farms to do their year in hell and then return. Visions haunt me every day, not of the nightmares of war but of the steady consistency with which my Marines faced their responsibilities, and of how



danger. The salty, battle-hardened 20-year-olds teaching green 19-year-olds the intricate lessons of the hostile battle-field. The unerring skill of the young squad leaders as we moved through unfamiliar villages and weed-choked trails in the black of night. The quick certainty when a fellow Marine was wounded and needed help. Their willingness to risk their lives to save other Marines in peril. To this day it stuns me that their own countrymen have so completely missed the story of their service, lost in the bitter confusion of the war itself.

Like every military unit throughout history we had occasional laggards, cowards, and complainers. But in the aggregate, these Marines were the finest people I have ever been around. It has been my privilege to keep up with many of them over the years since we all came home. One finds in them very little bitterness about the war in which they fought. The most common regret, almost to a man, is that they were not able to do more for each other and for the people they came to help.

It would be redundant to say that I would trust my life to these men. Because I already have, in more ways than I can ever recount. I am alive today because of their quiet, unaffected heroism. Such valor epitomizes the conduct of Americans at war from the first days of our existence. That the boomer elites can canonize this sort of conduct in our fathers' generation while ignoring it in our own is more than simple oversight. It is a conscious, continuing travesty.

Former Secretary of the Navy James Webb was awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star, and Bronze Star medals for heroism as a Marine in Vietnam.

Japan - Operation Tomodachi

Below is only one example of how Marines and Sailors of the 31st MEU are supporting the Japanese during their time of natural disaster. Go to "Marines.com" under the tab 'Photos' to see more examples of their support.

Caption and picture below from Marines.com:

Vehicles drive down a once impassable road that was cleaned of debris by Marines and Sailors of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. As part of Operation Tomodachi, the 31st MEU is ready to support our Japanese partners and to provide assistance when called upon.

Date Photo Taken: 4/6/2011 10:05:00 AM

Unit: 31st MEU

Photo ByLine: Lance Cpl. Garry J. Welch



In Memoriam

Stephen A. Kostopoulos of Revere, formerly of East Boston, died on June 24, 2009.

A US Marine Corps lance corporal veteran of the Vietnam War, he was the beloved husband of Maria (Anzalone) Kostopoulos, with whom he shared 36 years of marriage; loving father of Jessica Vozella and her husband, Bill, of Reading and Nikolos Kostopoulos of Saugus; dear brother of Olga Burke of Florida, Deborah Milito of Revere and the late Antoinette Busheme; and the cherished grandfather of Giana, Daria and Anthony Vozella.

++++++

Steve was 1st platoon and company radio operator in '68 & '69

American Lake Veteran Golf Course

The Healing Power of Golf

It was a neglected old golf course that had been serving our military since the time it was built around 1955, most likely by Veterans Administration maintenance workers. After 40 years, when the U.S. Government discontinued funding for VA golf courses in 1995, the course became sun-scorched and almost unusable due to the uncooperative sprinkler system and a lack of funding for general maintenance.

Once on the brink of extinction, it's now like a phoenix rising out the ashes. The Friends of American Lake Veterans Golf Course goal is to promote the rehabilitation of our disabled veterans through the healing power of golf, in an atmosphere of camaraderie that aids in the healing transition of their physical, mental and emotional challenges.

Visit **veterangolf.org** for this a more information. An excellent video is available there as well.



2nd Battalion, 5th Marines News:

From the Battalion Buzz Newsletter March 2011 which can be found on the website, <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/5thmarregt/2-5/>. Go to this website to read the entire newsletter plus much more up to date info. On the 1st Mar Div and it's many units.

Message from the Battalion Commander

To the Families and Friends of Battalion Landing Team 2/5, Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand and Cambodia MAREX are now complete and the Marines and Sailors of BLT 2/5 have a few more exercises throughout the Pacific to round out what has been a great MEU deployment thus far. The ships are currently split up to simultaneously support multiple exercises and we reconfigured the BLT to support this. With the addition of our newest ship, the USS Harpers Ferry, we had to make some adjustments. Essentially when the Navy traded the USS Denver for the USS Harpers Ferry, the majority of Echo Company moved from the USS Denver to the USS Germantown and traded places with the majority of Fox Company. The other BLT units that were originally embarked on the USS Denver, along with their new shipmates from Fox Company are all now aboard the USS Harpers Ferry. I know that it seems a bit confusing, but rest assured that the mail addresses will remain the same.

Speaking of mail, please understand that the regularity of mail delivery is dependent upon our Replenishments At-Sea (RAS) as well as port visits, as this is the only time we can receive mail and supplies aboard our ships. As stated in the last newsletter, being embarked aboard amphibious shipping can create some challenges with regard to information and certainty. With the MEU's ever-changing schedule, RAS schedule and Mother Nature's sea states, mail has been slow, but steady, so please keep sending mail to your Marine and/or Sailor and they will get it eventually. Additionally, I know that email services have been a concern to some of the families back home as well. With the addition of the USS Harpers Ferry, the communications platoon had to create all new e-mail addresses for the Marines and Sailors embarked, so there was an interruption of services, but due to their hard work, the email is now up and running. Despite all of the challenges of MEU operations, the one thing that has been constant is that the Marines and Sailors have shown extraordinary flexibility and continue to impress everyone they come in contact with.

The Essex, Germantown, and Harpers Ferry are underway and safe at sea. The MEU may be called to pull all ships back together with the potential of assisting the Government of Japan in support of earthquake and tsunami relief if required. As the Maritime Contingency Force of the Pacific the 31st MEU stands ready to assist. Again, all Marines and Sailors of BLT 2/5 are accounted for, safe and stand by ready to assist if required.

Back home the Family Readiness network continues to grow and there are many events coming up for everyone back home. Please take an opportunity to get out and come visit one of these events. I know that you'll meet some new friends and have a great time in the process. I know I have said it before, but every Marine and Sailor, regardless of rank, is an extremely important member of the BLT and provides the foundation for a tremendous unit. That coupled with the families back home and what you bring in the way of support and sense of purpose in helping each other through deployment is what truly makes 2/5 a very special place to serve. I can't imagine another unit in the Marine Corps I would rather be with and I know that I am extremely fortunate to serve alongside with the Marines and Sailors of BLT 2/5. I owe everyone a debt of gratitude for your commitment to Corps and Country. In closing, as always, I couldn't be more proud of BLT 2/5 and I sincerely appreciate the sacrifice and support of our families and friends. God bless you and thanks for your continuing support.

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Pete Farnum
Retreat Hell!

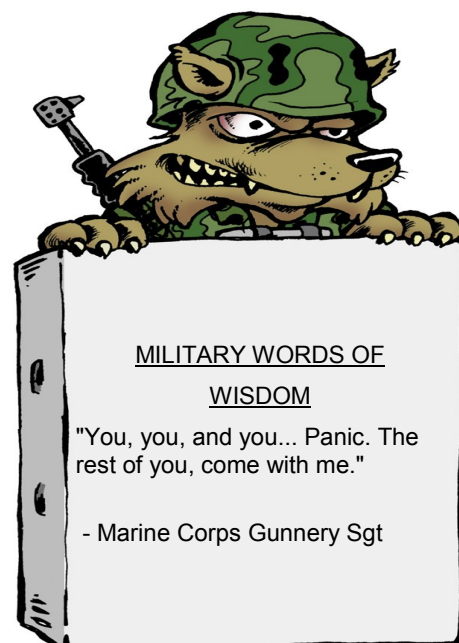
Message from Fox Company

Dear Fox Company family and friends, Amidst the challenges of a Marine Expeditionary Unit deployment that involves constant movement, complex coordination, amphibious exercises and limited communication (to name a few), I am so proud of the manner in which your Marines and Sailors have responded. During the last month, your loved one has been embarked on three different ships (Germantown, Denver and Harper's Ferry) and has successfully adjusted to shipboard living and training. As part of Cobra Gold 2011, the company executed multiple bilateral ground and amphibious training exercises with the Thailand Army and Marine Corps. The nighttime bilateral boat raid went well and participants welcomed the comfortable water temperatures near Thailand compared with the less-than-desirable temperatures around California. Following an LCAC ride and a 13-hour bus ride through Thailand, the company executed a live fire training exercise.

In late February, the three-day liberty period allowed the Marines and Sailors to safely experience the sights, sounds, food and culture of Pattaya Beach.....

1stSgt Gomes

Capt Yudt





From Chris Brown, Hey, what do you know we got a day.

Senate Declares March 30th as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”

Resolution Introduced by Senator Richard Burr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington D.C – The U.S. Senate yesterday declared March 30th as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,” agreeing unanimously to a resolution introduced by Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

On March 30, 1973, all U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. This March 30th, the Senate has encouraged Americans across the country to recognize Vietnam veterans for their sacrifice and demonstrate a warm welcome to these soldiers who returned from war to a politically divided country.

“I’m pleased that the Senate has agreed to set aside a day to give our Vietnam veterans a warm, long-overdue welcome home. I strongly encourage communities throughout North Carolina and across the country to observe this day with activities and events that honor these veterans for their service. It’s time they receive the recognition they have earned and deserve. This day also provides our nation with an important teaching moment. Never again should our men and women serving in the armed forces receive the same treatment as those returning from Vietnam,” said Senator Richard Burr.

Senator Burr introduced the resolution for the second consecutive year on February 16, 2011. For Senator Burr’s remarks on the introduction of the resolution, click [here](#).

The United States became involved in Vietnam because policy-makers believed that if South Vietnam fell to a communist government, communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia. The US Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961, and in 1965, ground combat troops were sent into Vietnam. On March 30, 1973, after many years of combat, all US troops withdrew. More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives and more than 300,000 were wounded in Vietnam.

Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Thad Cochran (R-MS), James Inhofe (R-OK), and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mike Johanns (R-NE) co-sponsored the legislation. The resolution now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.