



“THE LAST STAND OF FOX COMPANY”

COURSE FORMAT

Anticipate approximately 6 hours of work per week for 5 weeks. The format for the first 4 weeks is to read, view, and listen to the assignments then participate in a group discussion. The group discussion should be a constructive back-and-forth exchange of ideas and views, increasing understanding of the topic through a sharing of ideas and posing of questions. Grading of ones participation in the group discussions is entirely subjective. At the conclusion of week 4, the knowledge gained and familiarity with the course content will help you write a 500 – 1,000 word assessment paper during week 5.

ASSESSMENTS

Learners will be evaluated through two types of assessment activities: 20 point for quizzes, 40 points for discussion contribution and 40 points for the essay final examination which is pass or fail. There are a total of 100 points. A mastery score of 80 points for the entire course is required to pass.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

This has two overarching goals. The first goal is to help Marines to improve their decision making and warfighting capability through dedicated critical

and analytical practice derived from working through a case study. The intended outcome is for the Marine to use this improved, durable and resilient capacity to make better decisions, to help their commander make better decisions and to make them faster than the enemy. The second goal is for the Marines to gain and maintain a more in-depth sense of our history, and identity, and to reaffirm the bedrock warfighting ethos that embodies the Marine Corps.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course focuses upon the Bob Drury and Tom Clavin bestselling book; *The Last Stand of Fox Company* detailing the six-day battle surrounding Fox Hill in Korea during November and December 1950. Along with Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, and Khe Sanh, Fox Hill is one of the four touch-stone Marine Corps battles detailed in the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The course ranges from the strategic war implications associated with General MacArthur's ill- advised planning assumptions, through Major General Smith's operational-level ethical challenge to commit his division to what he thinks is a trap. The course culminates with an in-depth look at Captain Barber and Fox company as they battle against overwhelming odds, severe casualties, exhaustion, and the physiological stresses associated with combat in the extreme cold of a Korean winter.

Lesson 1, Prologue and The Hill: Lesson one explores how General MacArthur's strategic planning assumptions affected both the 1st Marine Division's operational decisions as it attacked north and Fox Company's tactical mission to guard Toktong Pass. The lesson will focus upon the potential ethical and moral dilemmas that surface when facts on the ground begin to contradict, outweigh and then overcome planning assumptions.

Lesson 2, The Attack: In this lesson, the course dives deep dive into the tactical application of warfighting and leadership principles as Fox Company deploys in combat, under extreme pressure and prepares to guard Toktong Pass against what will become overwhelming a division of Chinese Communist Forces.

Lesson 3, We Will Hold: This lesson zooms out to consider the strategic, operational and geopolitical implications that rested upon Fox Company's mission to guard Toktong Pass amidst the fast-changing military and political landscape.

Lesson 4, The Ridgerunners and Epilogue: This lesson examines 1st Marine Division's final tactical actions to relieve Fox Company and takes a look back across the entire operation to challenge the learners to cull those

specific actions that they might translate into tactics, techniques and procedures and lessons learned for their current future unit and future command. During Lesson 5, students write and submit their final written assessment.

FACULTY BIO

Roy "Trey" McGriff is a retired prior enlisted Marine LtCol who current serves as the Command and Staff Regional Chief Instructor for the Miramar Region. He holds as B.S in Finance from University of North Carolina, Wilmington, an Online Education Certificate, from the University of California, San Diego, and a M.A. of Operational Studies from the USMC School of Advanced Warfighting. His many assignments include Branch Chief; Plans Operations and Exercises, MARFORPAC and Branch Chief; North East Asia Plans USPACOM J5.

