

# TEXAS

**Amado Trevino  
Commandant**



# MARINE

**Department of TEXAS  
Marine Corps League**



# FALL

**Edition**



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**Editor/Publisher - BERNIE & JUANITA O'DELL**

515 Hall Street ~ Graham, TX 76450 ~ (940) 549-3944 ~ [juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net)

## **Commandant**

Amado Trevino  
[atrevajvt@aol.com](mailto:atrevajvt@aol.com)

## **Sr. Vice Commandant**

Charles Ynman  
[cynman7672@aol.com](mailto:cynman7672@aol.com)

## **Jr. Vice Commandant**

Dennis Bradford  
[padrebucky@yahoo.com](mailto:padrebucky@yahoo.com)

## **Judge Advocate**

Alex Azar  
[azar.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:azar.usmc@gmail.com)

## **Adjutant/Paymaster**

Polly Weidenkopf  
[pollyw247@att.net](mailto:pollyw247@att.net)

## **Sergeant-At-Arms**

Gary Matlock  
[rambo@lakegranbury.com](mailto:rambo@lakegranbury.com)

## **Chaplain**

Joe Vickery  
[vick1933@aol.com](mailto:vick1933@aol.com)

## **Jr. Past Commandant**

Robert "Bob" Ogg  
[robertogg@msn.com](mailto:robertogg@msn.com)

## **Commandant's Corner**

Amado Trevino, Department of Texas Commandant  
(361) 960-0143 (H) • [atrevajvt@aol.com](mailto:atrevajvt@aol.com)

### **I ATTENDED**

the National Convention in West Virginia in August. It was an eye opener. I have attended several conventions in the past, but not as Department Commandant. The view and



prospective was a different scene. The Commandants' Council was condensed by requiring Department Commandants to submit their reports in writing or, if not on hand to submit them, through email. This saved a lot of time by not having to hear entire reports from each Commandant.

Several subjects were brought up such as National not responding to Departments' requests and National taking too long to get administrative items on line.

National also brought up several subjects. A notable one was incorrect Transmittals submitted by Detachments and other incomplete documents. One point that was brought up was that Detachment Commandants should conduct an Annual Paymaster



Audit. No CPA is required for this audit.

I was fortunate to assist with the Credential Committee. It, also, was an eye opener. Chairperson Kay M.



Cole did an outstanding job. The challenges to this committee were numerous. A primary concern was attending members thinking that their Registration Forms had been submitted. That is one area that needs a lot of work. As an example, the Department of Texas voting strength is 1,598; however, neglect by Detachments by not sending in their forms or incorrect forms, we could only cast 546 votes. This is not acceptable. I feel that more attention should be directed in this area.

The business session where all the committees make their reports went along smoothly. At times it was hard for me to maneuver through the sessions so it was great that other Texas Department and Detachment members were present. Several awards were earned by the Department. I will pass them out during the Department Fall Staff Meeting in Granbury.

The Devil Dog session went very well. I was



not able to get too much involved with it, but Marine Gary Matlock from Comanche Peak did. He was initiated to Pedigree. New Dog Tags were issued. They are nice. Note to Department Devil Dogs

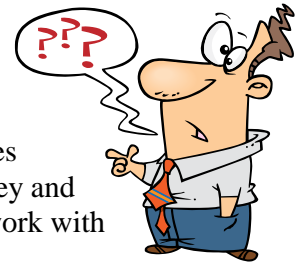
who will be advancing to Pedigree: start making plans to attend the 76th Supreme Growl at Scottsdale, Arizona, during the second week in August 2015. The new 75<sup>th</sup> MODD book is interesting reading. It will be on sale at the Quartermaster Store.

I would like to congratulate my wife Viola on being sworn in as the new Southern Division Vice President of the Auxiliary.

I attended the District 4 training class in Georgetown on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Marines Polly Weidenkopf and Randy Rigg did a great job and there were a lot of questions from the

Detachments that were present. I know that I learned something new at that meeting.

I want to thank Marines Charles Ynman, John Casey and Alex Azar for their hard work with the Fall Staff Meeting.



I was honored to make a presentation of a plaque to the mother of Medal of Honor Recipient Alfredo "Freddy" Cantu Gonzalez, Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez, in Edinburg, Texas. Marine Agustin Garcia, the Commander of the American Legion Post, was kind enough to let us use their Post for the presentation. He stated that he would like to start a Detachment there also. Marine Sal Vera will follow up with him.



*(L-R) Marine Agustin Garcia, DOT Cmdt. Amado Trevino, and Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez*

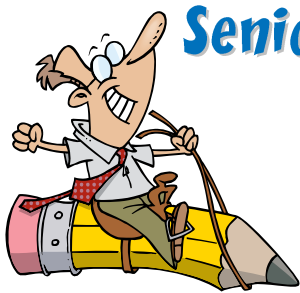


*(L-R) Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez, Mrs. Isabel Martinez (niece), & So. Div. VP Viola Trevino*

I would like to wish the Department of Texas Officers and the Detachment Officers and Members a very Happy 239<sup>th</sup> Birthday: For those Detachments holding a Birthday Ball, don't forget to send pictures to Juanita for our next newsletter.



Remember that Veterans Day is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November so thank a Veteran and thank you for your service to the Marine Corps and the League.



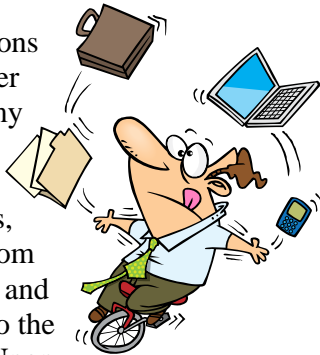
## Senior's Segment

Charles Ynman  
Department of Texas  
Sr. Vice Commandant  
(281) 496-7424 (H)  
(713) 496-7424 (C)  
cynman7672@aol.com

### AT OUR STATE

Convention, I was given your confidence to serve you as the Department of Texas Sr. Vice Commandant. While all Departments in the Marine Corps League are important, it is my sincere belief that the success of the League depends on each Detachment.

For any organization to be effective, it must possess effective and immediate communications among its members. After assuming my position, my first project was to address the League's communication channels, including information from the Department Officers and from each Detachment to the Department personnel. Upon my return from the Waco convention, I asked our Commandant for his authorization to initiate two projects. The first was to establish improved communications between the District Vices, Department Staff and the Detachments. The second was to bring the Detachments current on administrative matters such as:



- ① Valid EIN numbers,
- ② Completed 990 forms,
- ③ Correct Officer Installation Reports,
- ④ Current Life Member Audits, and
- ⑤ Submission of Activity Reports.

In the past, the position of District Vice was looked upon as a purely ceremonial position. Going forward, I would know each District Vice by their first name, and I challenged them to know each of the names of their Detachment Commandants. So far, they



have done a terrific job and we now communicate often. This has enabled the Detachment Commandant to have a direct line to the Department Staff. Is it perfect? Not yet. But, every day we are improving our lines of communication. Your District Vices have done a terrific job. The District Vices have reported that the Detachments are responding positively. Our success would not be possible without everyone's efforts.

I also requested from our Commandant that an extended District Vice Council be included on the Granbury conference agenda. The main purpose of this Council will be to evaluate the current condition of the Department of Texas. We can then establish the goals for the rest of the Department year. I would like to request your cooperation and assistance with each of your particular District Vices. They will strive to make each of you successful. Your District Vices will listen to your difficulties and communicate them back to the proper Department Officer in order to achieve resolution. The success of these initiatives depends on the commitment and participation of every member.



We look forward to hearing from you.



# Junior's Journal

Dennis Bradford  
Department of Texas  
Jr. Vice Cmdt.  
(936) 569-8789 (H)  
padrebucky@yahoo.com

## GREETINGS MARINES!

Another opportunity to better our recruitment numbers is upon me. I say "me," because the recruitment and retention of our members is my responsibility, and I feel the weight of that responsibility. As I wrote earlier, however, I cannot do it alone; we all must feel that responsibility. We are all recruiters and motivators, so you must help.



As I look through the rosters of the various Detachments, I continue to see the names of Marines who, at one time, felt the need to commit to our ranks, but now have fallen by the wayside. In some cases they are no longer committed, or even active. I say they are not, because, if they are, then the responsibility falls to the Detachment officers and members.

The question is, "Why haven't their dues been collected and forwarded along with the requisite transmittal?" I know that almost all of us, at one time or another, have allowed the ball to drop, and the required steps were not taken to ensure that our yearly members remain current. So let us examine the elements to refresh our memories:

- ◆ Firstly, the Adjutant Paymaster must be on top of renewal dates.
- ◆ Secondly, the member must be reminded to pay yearly dues.
- ◆ Thirdly, the Adjutant Paymaster continues to monitor and remind the Commandant and member to make sure that the dues are submitted.
- ◆ Fourthly, the dues are collected from the member.
- ◆ Fifthly, the requisite transmittal is



completed accurately and the checks to Department and National are attached.

- ◆ Finally, the package is placed in an envelope and mailed.

I know that all of this seems a little childish, but it is amazing how often one of the steps is omitted, and the result is that the process comes to a screeching halt. This is an



example of how all the parts of the process are tied together. Granted, my responsibility is a function of the numbers I see every quarter, but without the attention to the related administrative function, my numbers are reduced and I get



frustrated, because I think I have not done all I can. Remember, the job is not done until the paperwork is completed.

If you are having trouble recruiting, or retaining a member, call me and I will call, or visit, them. That is my job. If you are having problems administratively, call Department Adjutant Paymaster Polly Weidenkopf. I will guarantee that she will give you every bit of help and guidance possible; she is the best at what she does.

Bottom line, we all have the responsibility to make and keep the League "healthy and happy." Just as it was in the Corps, we are a team, and teamwork is what



accomplishes the task and achieves the goal. Recruit, retain, and grow! We can do this!



# Judge Advocate's Alerts

Alex Azar  
Department of Texas  
Judge Advocate  
(817) 219-9000 (C)  
azar.usmc@gmail.com

## I WANT TO

clarify the yellow card saga that some people are not happy about. Below is a letter from National Director Mike Blum about the yellow card. I hope this will answer questions that some have about giving their information out to the publishing company. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

### Michael Blum's Letter:

Board of Trustees and Department Commandants:

In June of this year the Board of Trustees, elected by their respective membership to represent them per the National Bylaws, voted on and approved the contract to engage Harris Connect to gather information and publish and sell a Marine Corps League Membership Album as we have every four years since the 1990s.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year, the contract was ratified by then National Commandant Tuohy and the National Executive Director per the National Bylaws.

Following that I briefed the Board on this project at National Convention.

Then I briefed the entire Convention when I gave my report.

Then, for those who didn't bother listening while I was giving my report, I had 500 copies on the back table for them to take home and discuss with their Detachments.

Then I wrote about it in my "Notes from the Executive Director" article in the September/ October issue of Semper Fi.

While there are several stipulations in the contract spelling out what the Marine Corps League is required to provide and what is expected of Harris Connect, perhaps the most important issue is that we



provide them with contact information for our total membership so that they can contact them, elicit additional information, brief stories and photos for the album and, yes, offer them a copy of the album at an agreed upon price (as we have each time we hired Harris Connect to publish our book). Absolutely nothing has changed... no secrets, no surprises.

Another of the "Terms and Conditions" is that we will provide the signature of the appropriate "official" to be added to the postal and/or online mailing campaign materials along with our logo. That "official" in this case is the **current** National Commandant. While Past National Commandant Tuohy executed the agreement, he is no longer in office so the current Commandant's signature is reflected on the printed material.

As I indicated, we have done this every **FOUR YEARS** or so since the 1990s. What's in it for us? The members purchased several thousand copies of the album in the past and they were very happy with their purchase. The Marine Corps League receives a small percentage of the net sales – monies that are used to support our programs and help keep the cost of membership down. Were it not for income derived from projects such as this, membership dues would have to increase.

Nothing is different this year. However, what is clear is that there seems to be some folks who had no idea that we were once again printing an album and questioned the legitimacy of the yellow card when they received it. I understand that and we have no problem answering their questions when they call or write.

If an individual chooses not to participate, they simply tell the agent at Harris Connect when they call that they want to opt out. They only need to say that they don't want their personal information published in the album. That's fine. It is and should be an individual choice.



The project will go forward because we have a legal contract. I am certain that all of our members who choose to provide brief stories and/or photos and make a purchase will be well satisfied with their decision and the Marine Corps League appreciates their support. For those who choose to opt out for personal reasons that's fine, too. No one is forcing you to take part.

Just wanted to get this out, clear the air, and hopefully provide some answers so that **everyone** in

your chain of command gets the word.



## Chaplain's Comments

Joe Vickery  
Department of Texas Chaplain  
(409) 948-0129 (H)  
vick1933@aol.com

### SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY

over, Fall is almost at an end, and winter is rapidly approaching. These next three months are my favorite time of year.

They offer the promise of cooler weather and many opportunities to celebrate, give thanks and worship. We have our Marine Corps Birthday, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Christmas and New Year's Day. These are wonderful days to share love and memories with family and friends.

But have we forgotten the purpose, the true reason for celebrating these days? Some are self evident as is our **Marine Corps Birthday** - November 10, 1775, the day our beloved Corps was formed. **Veteran's Day** - The day we give special thanks and payers to all veterans, past and present, for their service and sacrifices to preserve our freedom. **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** - The beginning of World War II and the lives lost on that day. **New Year's Day** - A time to start anew and make resolutions to improve our lives in the coming year.



But some of these days I believe we falter in our remembrance and appreciation. The fourth

Thursday in the month of November we celebrate

**Thanksgiving.** In 1621, 90 people, including Indians, were invited to a

grand feast to thank God for his favors. Many people today still do not realize we own nothing.



Everything in this world belongs to God and all we possess comes from His loving hands. As we gather this Thanksgiving let's remember to thank God for all His blessings.

**Christmas**, the most abused holiday of all. People all over the world celebrate this Christian holiday, even atheists and non-Christians. However, it has been so commercialized as to become the day that Santa Claus is coming - a day of giving and receiving personal gifts with many hoping to receive more than they give and a day for large Christmas dinners and watching sporting events. We have forgotten or



put little emphasis on the fact that this is the day to celebrate and give thanks for the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. It is the second most important day in the Christian world - Easter and Christmas. This year let's make an early new year's resolution - **Place the T.V. football games on "record" and bring the family to church.** And remember, it's Jesus' birthday so don't forget to bring his gift to church with you. Let the light of Jesus shine in you!

"There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

Walk with God and Semper Fi!



## Training Tidbits

Josemaria Lopez  
Department of Texas  
Training Chairman  
(361) 992-2730 (H)  
josemilopez@gmail.com

### GREETINGS...

Being the Training Chairman I will share my knowledge of my attempt to administer some type of training curriculum. To me it has been very educational.

In my opening statement in the August issue I implied that not necessarily knowing what a Training Chairman does, I would concentrate

primarily in answering **Where** to find instructions for various subjects and **How** it is to be done including **When** it is due. Most importantly, **Where** in the over-all scheme of things it fits.

After scanning various MCL professional books, training manuals, and instructional guides I determined that the role of the Training Chairman's task encompasses all operational aspects of the Detachment - "Nothing can be done without knowing what to do" coupled with "Doing it incorrectly is equal to doing nothing" or worse.

I explained to you that I was in the process of developing a **Lesson Plans Library**. It will include subjects encountered in the various instructional manuals available like the Professional Development Program and the Guidebook for Detachment Officers. The Lesson Plans would include subjects such as: Officer/Staff (Committees) Duties, Program Activities, Various Required Reports and Forms, Recruiting/ Retentions, and Fundamental Training formats. They will be available to you upon request. *I also stated that suggestions and feedback would be essential to the success of this task.*

After my initial research I developed a District Training Aid Booklet. It is intended primarily for the Detachments via the District Vice Commandants. Basically it provided references on where to seek and find information required for the operation of the Detachment, including Department and National web sites.

It provided you a path for instructional subjects which could be used by individuals or committees to develop a better relationship for their task.

In addition, the Lesson Plans Library would include *Turn-Over-Folder* formats and suggestions on the task at hand such as Officers, Committees, or Special Group assignments such as events, activities, and functions.

I suggested that a Training Facilitator could be assigned by each Detachment to coordinate the Detachment's training effort. The Department training resource would be available for assistance. I have



discovered that on many occasions the replacement of an officer, staff, or committee chair is met by the incoming person with "What am I to do?" - a very discouraging situation.

With this in mind, I sent a copy to you requesting feedback and suggestions on whether this effort would be of any value or not.

Here, I want to thank those individuals who provided feedback. I feel that feedback, regardless of what it is, becomes a great learning experience. Three were favorable, one stated that the project was too ambitious, one suggested that the information was already available, and yet another stated that any information to the District Vice Commandants should be directed to them. That could be a good way of disseminating educational information. No additional feedback was received.

I will continue on my original effort to make available to you information I encounter that would be of value to you in the operation of your assignment. I will also be available to assist you in your instructional effort.

In the mean time, you may provide me with any ideas, suggestions, and remarks regarding Marine Corps League subjects.

## Veteran's Voice

*Texas Veterans Newsletter is available to any MCL member or any Veteran. It pertains to the Veterans of the State of Texas and is available at [www.tvc.state.tx.us](http://www.tvc.state.tx.us).*



*Submitted by Juanita O'Dell, Editor  
(940) 549-3944 (H) • [juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net)*

**SOME OF THE** highlights since publication of the August 2014 newsletter are:



**World War II Veteran Gets Hero's Welcome**

By Lisa Ferdinando, *Army News Service*  
July 26, 2014...

**WASHINGTON** - The oldest living female World War II veteran, 108 - year - old Lucy Coffey, received a hero's welcome here yesterday.



*Lucy Coffey visiting with President Barack Obama and VP Joe Biden at the White House, July 25, 2014.*

Coffey, who served with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, flew from San Antonio to Washington for a two-day trip to see the World War II Memorial and other sites.

After arriving to the cheers of a crowd at Washington's Reagan National Airport, Coffey was taken to the White House where she was a special guest of President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

"America's sweetheart, Lucy Coffey, 108-year-old WWII veteran went from Texas to the Whitehouse!" reads the caption of a picture posted on the Honor Flight Austin's Facebook page featuring Coffey with Obama and Biden.

Before Coffey's flight arrived in Washington, airport staff announced on the public address system that she was on her way.

Greeters who gathered at the gate included uniformed members of all five services, veterans, USO and Honor Flight volunteers, children and even travelers who were beckoned by the announcement.

Coffey's plane was given a water-cannon salute.

Army Staff Sgt. Floyd James



Moss, who is stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., said this was his first honor flight, and he was happy to be on hand to welcome Coffey.

"This is extremely important to us. She's one of our own," he said, noting Coffey is a trailblazer who "paved the way through that time" when military women faced great challenges.

Army Spc. Shikina McCargo, also stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, said it was exciting to come out and honor Coffey.

"Speechless," she said, when asked about how she felt after welcoming the veteran. "I feel like it's a [once-in-a-] lifetime experience."

Joe Manning was dressed to the nines in a red, swing dance suit, complete with red and white shoes, and a red hat with a feather in it.

A few other members of the crowd were dressed in a similar style, to give Coffey a welcome that heralded to "back in the day."

Welcoming the nation's veterans is just "something that needs to be done," Manning said.

"A lot of these folks never got any recognition at all, they just came home, got off the bus, went home and went to work," he said. "They get all emotional thanking us [for greeting them at the airport] and we're trying to thank them for what they did."

His daughter, Lynn Manning, who was visiting from Texas, was able to greet Coffey and share the experience with her father.

"It's really awesome; it's really wonderful," she said.

Navy veteran Bob Beebe is a volunteer greeter with the airport's Honor Flight group, and he often welcomes former service members who visit Washington on Honor Flights.

The veterans deserve this honor, he said, noting some service members from past conflicts did not get a big welcome when they returned home.

"They never got the parades and the 'Welcome Homes' that they deserved," Beebe said.

Susan Fines, who was holding a handmade welcome sign, said she drove about two hours to be at the airport. Her sign said: "Welcome to D.C. Ms. Lucy. Thanks for your service. You are a hero."

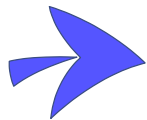
"Coffey is a hero, just like my sign says," Fines said.





Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Lori Kelly, who is stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, was alongside Fines and Beebe waiting for Coffey to arrive.

“I’m here to honor Ms. Lucy,” said Kelly, as she held a bouquet of flowers for the incoming veteran.



## VA Updates Disability Claims Application

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs  
September 24, 2014...

### *New Process Will Reduce Processing Times and Improve Quality*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it is introducing a uniformed disability claims form to better serve Veterans, families and survivors. Standardizing the process by which Veterans file claims and initiate appeals will make it easier for Veterans and their survivors to clearly state what benefits they are seeking from VA and provide information that is necessary to process their claims and appeals. The new forms eliminate applicant guesswork, which often leads to delays in decisions and ultimately delays in receiving benefits. The new regulations go into effect in **late March 2015**.



“We must do everything that we can to make it as fast and easy as possible for Veterans and their survivors to file for and receive an accurate decision on their claim,” said VA Secretary Robert McDonald. “Our Veterans and survivors will know, at the outset of the claims process, what is needed, which removes subjective interpretation from the process. We want to eliminate any barriers that make it difficult for our Veterans or survivors to receive benefits to which they are entitled.”

In the past, a Veteran or survivor did not have to use a certain form to seek compensation or other benefits from VA. Claims or appeals (Notice of Disagreement) could be submitted on any piece of



paper which caused delays due to **missing** information.

By using standard forms for all disability claims, VA can more quickly and accurately identify what the Veteran is claiming or appealing. This will allow VA to immediately move on to next steps in the evidence-gathering and decision-making process, which saves administrative processing time and speeds the delivery of earned benefits. The existing process is also inconsistent with most, if not all, other government and non-government application processes, such as applying for social security, applying for a driver’s license, applying for a job or filing for an income tax refund.

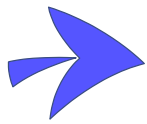
“These days, government agencies and private businesses rely on standard forms to deliver faster and more accurate customer service,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “VA’s ability to deliver better customer service requires the use of standard forms as well. That is why we worked



**Allison A. Hickey**

extensively with our partners in the Veterans community to streamline the way we process claims while preserving the effective date rules concerning informal claims through the creation of a new *intent to file a claim* process.”

The updated process also includes standardizing the traditional informal claims process by employing a new “Intent to File a Claim” process which affords the Veteran or survivor one year to compile the necessary documentation or evidence to support the claim while preserving an effective date of claim.



## ***Military Honors for Six Unclaimed Texas Veterans***

KCENTV.com  
October 8, 2014...

Six boxes sat on a table at the Central Texas State Veteran Cemetery in Killeen early Wednesday morning. Six boxes, each with a different name, a different story, were filled with the ashes of unclaimed veterans. Some had been gone since 2012, others passed away just a few months ago, but each waiting for their proper military burial.

While these men, ranging from 60 years old to 83, were left with no family to claim them... they were not alone.

“We’re a family. We’re brothers and sisters in arms. We’ve been there and we know what they’ve been through,” Mary “Marebare” said.

With short notice, Marebare, the Deputy State Captain for the Central Texas Patriot Guard Riders, gathered more than a dozen of her riders to see the veterans off. “They deserve that honor. They deserve to be remembered, to be sent off properly with dignity,” she said.

After a prayer and the playing of taps, six



riders carefully gathered the ashes and marched them to the columbarium. One by one the boxes were placed in their final resting spot and sealed tightly next to their brothers and sisters followed by a line of riders, veterans and community members giving one final salute.

“We had to do something for them, and it was an honor to come out here and perform the ceremonies for them,” Ride Captain Barry Dahlquist said. They deserve a lot more.”

The following veterans will soon have their names etched in stone at the cemetery, never to be forgotten:

- **James Earnest Brown, Jr.** (July 9, 1952 – May 19, 2013) U.S. Army, Oct. 19, 1973 – Oct. 1, 1976
- **Richard Allen McGregor** (April 8, 1944 – May 29, 2012) U.S. Air Force, A1C, May 9, 1961– Nov. 20, 1964
- **Alvin William Pinkert** (May 31, 1946 - Feb. 27, 2014) U.S. Air Force, Staff Sergeant, June 29, 1969 – June 21, 1973
- **Beecher Blaine Powell** (June 5, 1943 - March 3, 2012) U.S. Navy, June 12, 1962 – Jan. 17, 1974
- **Warren L. Reider** (Sept. 30, 1928 - Feb. 29, 2014) U.S. Air Force, June 15, 1967 – Oct. 29, 1968
- **Thomas Donald Russell** (Nov. 16, 1935 – April 6, 2014) U.S. Air Force, Master Sergeant (Retired), Aug. 30, 1954 – Aug. 31, 1974



## ***A Benefit for Rural Vets: Getting Health Care Close to Home***

By Quil Lawrence  
October 13, 2014...

Army veteran Randy Michaud had to make a 200 mile trip to the Veterans Affairs hospital in Aroostook County, Maine, near the Canadian border, every time he had a medical appointment.

Michaud, who was medically retired after a jeep accident in Germany 25 years ago, moved home to Maine in 1991. He was eligible for VA medical care, but the long drive was a problem.

He’s one of millions of veterans living in rural America who must travel hundreds of miles round trip for care.

“If I get an appointment in the winter, I’ll cancel that sucker and I’ll live with the pain until spring time,” he says.

Even in the summer, the trip for Michaud – and other vets like him – meant a day, or sometimes two, of missed work, with a night in a motel, plus

the cost of gas. The VA reimburses those costs, but this is not a rich area, and people don't always have the cash up front.

Michaud says the worst part is an empty, 100-mile strip of Interstate 95 north of Bangor.

"Especially in the winter time," he says. "That 95 is treacherous, and it's not necessarily always cleared and stuff like that. I've wrecked a couple times on that road. It's just cold, and a lot of these are older veterans; they can't make that trip down there."

To make it easier for vets to get care, the VA started a program called Access Received Closer to Home, or ARCH. A trial program began three years ago in five states.

This summer, Congress extended the program for two years, as part of a law aimed at reforming the VA. It will allow veterans to use private doctors if they live far from a VA hospital or can't get a VA appointment within 30 days.

It means Michaud can make appointments only 10 miles up the road, at the 65-bed Cary Medical Center in the town of Caribou. Kris Doody, a registered nurse, and the center's CEO, says getting care near home and family is healthier for vets, and helps them avoid that 400-mile round trip.



**Kris Doody**

"We actually keep track for the VA the number of patients who are seen every month and what their distance would have been. And the savings – and that's just savings in mileage – was \$600,000," Doody says.

The ARCH program is just one part of a plan to use private health care to reach more vets. Private care already accounts for about \$5 billion in VA health care spending a year.

Accounting for those funds has been a challenge: The VA Inspector General has issued seven reports in recent years documenting errors in payments to private health care providers – errors that wasted about \$1 billion.

The new VA reform law creates another \$10 billion private care initiative. This one will allow a veteran to walk into almost any clinic and bill the VA by using a voucher.

The voucher system will be the VA's most

complicated private care program yet, says Roscoe Butler, Deputy Director for Health Care at the American Legion, and retired director of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis.



**Roscoe Butler**

"It's going to be critical to make sure that the services they're paying for [are] actually the services provided," Butler says. "It requires that the VA pay the provider within 30 days... There are a lot of moving pieces to be coordinated back through the VA."

Vets like Jimmy Grenier, who served in Vietnam, don't much care how the VA handles the accounting. They just like getting care closer to home.

"I got PTSD, if you know what that is," Grenier says. "I got it really bad." It doesn't take much to set him off, he says, adding that for him, the ARCH program is "the best thing that... ever could have happened up here."

Grenier, 67, did three combat tours, and had a series of minor strokes three years ago. Before the new program, he had to drive 440 miles round trip to see a doctor. He'll never do that again, he says.

"Why should I have to?" says Grenier. "When they came knocking on my door and said, 'Jim, you got to go to war,' I was there. I went, no questions asked. Now it's your turn. It's your turn to take care of me."



### ***More Than \$1 Million Awarded in Highly Rural Transportation Grants***

Texas Veterans Commission  
*October 17, 2014...*

The Texas Veterans Commission has been named as one of the recipients of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Highly Rural Transportation Grant, which will provide more than \$1 million to 22 counties throughout Texas to benefit approximately 2,500 Veterans.

Through the grant, Veterans who live in highly rural areas can receive transportation benefits for Veteran-related health care concerns. Many

Veterans who live in those areas, defined as having less than seven persons per square mile, may not have VA medical facilities or non-VA appointed facilities nearby and require transportation assistance to and from appointments.

“The award of these grants provides us the opportunity to continue our mission to ensure our Veterans are receiving the care they deserve,” said Thomas Palladino, Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission. “Without adequate transportation to necessary health care appointments, these Veterans could end up missing appointments and these funds will help support our growing Veteran population in rural Texas.”



*Thomas Palladino*

The Texas Veterans Commission will provide the grant money to the 22 counties which will then use the funds to purchase a vehicle up to \$50,000 and be responsible for staffing and transportation plans that will assist Veterans.

The counties that will receive grant funds are:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Briscoe       | Kent        |
| Cochran       | Knox        |
| Coke          | Lipscomb    |
| Collingsworth | McMullen    |
| Crockett      | Motley      |
| Dallam        | Oldham      |
| Dickens       | Presidio    |
| Fisher        | Roberts     |
| Hansford      | Shackelford |
| Hartley       | Sutton      |
| Jim Hogg      | Wheeler     |

# Division/District/ Detachment Digest

**DISTRICT 3 | DEANE HAWKINS  
DETACHMENT  
EL PASO**

Submitted by Robert Way  
District Vice Cmdt. & Det. Commandant  
(915) 593-9370 (H) • [rway@elp.rr.com](mailto:rway@elp.rr.com)

## THE DEANE HAWKINS

Detachment continued to be very active this past quarter.

The combined Honor Unit of the Deane Hawkins Detachment and the 19<sup>th</sup> Rifle Company participated in several funeral and ceremonial details. Presently they are the only Veterans’ organization that the Fort Bliss National Cemetery allows to do funeral details. They did a special dedication ceremony for Tigua Indians Veterans Memorial.



*Tigua Indians Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony*

The Detachment also participated in the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Over 130 homeless veterans from the El Paso and Las Cruces area were screened, fed and provided clothing. Additionally, the Detachment helps to support the Veterans Live in Transition home.

The Detachment also hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual “Non Skills Field Meet” at Socorro High School NJROTC. Over 200 high school JROTC cadets participated as well as the new Marine Poolies.

The Detachment still continues to provide snacks once a month at the VA clinic.

The El Paso Young Marines had a wet and windy overnight camp at Tom May's Park in early August. They had a great time. A couple of tents blew down and a few things got wet, but none of the Young Marines complained - all smiles.



*Young Marine Campout*

In the middle of August the Young Marines started moving to another building on Ft. Bliss. The one they were in (Bldg #50) is slated for demolition. The new location is a little smaller but will still serve their needs. They will also be sharing the building with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots. So this will again be beneficial to both the Young Marines and Marine Corps Reserves.

The Detachment is presently working toward the Marine Corps Ball. Additionally, Ft. Bliss will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala Celebration for Army Units and Veterans organizations. Each organization will nominate one of their members for special recognition. It is also helping to organize the Annual Veterans Parade that will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup>.



*Young Marine Family Day tug of war*



*Commandant Bob Way presented Distinguished Citizenship Certificates to (L-R) Bob Aguliar, Chon and Connie Pena, Tom Smith, Pete Gomez and Gabby Garibay.*

**DISTRICT 6**

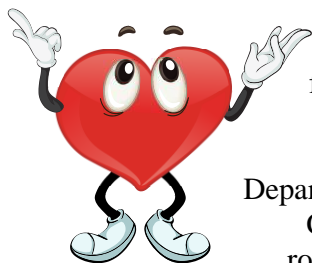
Submitted by Sal Vera  
District Vice Commandant  
(361) 960-1649 (H)  
salvera43@yahoo.com



**SINCE ASSUMING** the position of District Six Vice Commandant, I have achieved a tremendous amount of knowledge. The past four months have been awesome in accomplishing the duties and learning the bylaws as I go. Even though I have been a member of the Marine Corps League for over 35 years holding positions as the

Detachment Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Chaplain and Sergeant-At-Arms, I am still learning.

I sincerely believe that the Adjutant/ Paymaster position is the heart of the Board of Trustees positions. The reason I believe this is because from the initial application of an individual to the transmittal to National via Department and into the Marine Corps League membership roll, is the introduction of a member who will eventually be an elected officer, staff appointed member, or committee chairperson (not to mention the numerous reports and forms to the Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service as well as interaction of the membership). This is one of the reasons I maintain that the Board of Trustees and the membership learn from their counterparts as well as from each other; therefore, preparing an individual to assume an active and productive position within their Detachment, Department, and eventually at National.



During this period I have:

- Met with officers and staff of the Coastal Bend Detachment in Corpus Christi,
- Been in contact with Richard Cantu, Loosemore Detachment Commandant in Refugio,
- Visited with Rafael Ramos, Laredo Detachment Commandant in Laredo,
- Also been in contact with Commandant Gilbert Ramos, Commandant of Jack Ringel Detachment in Victoria,
- Also conferred with VFW Commander Gus Garcia, USMC-Vet, concerning the formation of a Detachment in Edinburg. He will be assisted by prospective member Leo Garza.

My contacts with District Six Detachments through email, phone and visits covered subjects such as completion of various forms, audits, activities, recruitment, participation, and duties of officers and staff.

I encourage them to get involved in the activities of the District, to communicate with each other and to attend Department functions. I keep in contact with the Detachments and follow-up on items of interest to their progress.

## DISTRICT 7

Submitted by Con Shuck  
District Vice Commandant  
(972) 880-1611 (H)  
conshuck@gmail.com



## BY THE TIME

the Texas Marine is published the Fall Staff Meeting will be history and everyone will be looking forward to the next Department of Texas Convention in San Antonio.

Here in Granbury the Comanche Peak Detachment would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Fall Staff Meeting a success.

Thanks go to the 105 merchants, Detachments, and individuals who placed ads in the program, to those who hit the streets to sell those ads, and to Juanita and Bernie O'Dell who give so generously of their time to make the program book as good as it can be. A special thanks goes out to the Detachments that donated money for the Hospitality Room and those who collected and donated items for the raffle. The meeting cannot be the success it is without the support of all in the Marine Corps League family.

The Comfort Inn and Suites in Granbury was a little reluctant to allow us 35 rooms. I personally don't think they thought we would use them all. As of October 12<sup>th</sup> we had 43 rooms reserved - an awesome show of support of the membership. A special thank you to George Simpson as he was able to secure the beer for the Hospitality Room. Good job George!

Most of all, a big thank you to those who came to Granbury to attend the meeting to learn just a little more about the League and the things that are done behind the scenes beyond the monthly Detachment meeting.

District 7 seems to be coming right along. The Detachments are all looking at new ways to find members to join their ranks, reinforcing the age old tradition of "Once a Marine Always a Marine."

Sometimes I find it difficult to understand why these recently discharged Marines are reluctant to

Thanks



join the League. I have made it a point during my visits to the Detachments in District 7 that we as an organization have to do things for the good of the Corps and community so the new members can join in and participate, giving them a reason to be a member in good standing and do their part in support of the League.

I frequently use Comanche Peak Detachment as an example with our support of the MCJROTC Unit at the Granbury High School. We support them 100% and by doing so they support us when asked. SMI Scott Casey has done a great job along with the 1st Sergeant in training these young men and women and teaching the core values of the Marine Corps. Their rifle team continues to win awards statewide. Of course not every Detachment has a MCJROTC Unit in their area so you have to search out another venue to help along their way.

A good friend told me when we chartered Detachment #1297 that a Detachment that had an abundance of money in the bank probably was not doing a good job in the community. Looking back those were good words of wisdom. Comanche Peak has several charitable causes we support and are always looking for another one that needs our assistance. Don't forget Toys for Tots is right around the corner. With that I will close by saying helping a Marine in need is not charity... it is our duty.



Detachment #1297 that a Detachment that had an abundance of money in the bank probably was not doing a good job in the community. Looking back those were good words of wisdom.

I was attending the 2014 Women Marines Association National Convention in Kansas City, MO, July 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. At the opening banquet, the Commandant of the Marine Corps was our guest speaker. The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was in attendance as well. I had the honor and pleasure of personally meeting Commandant James Amos and Sergeant Major Michael Barrett.



*Melody with the Commandant*



*Melody with the Sgt. Major*

**BIG D DETACHMENT  
DALLAS**

Submitted by Melody Bronson, *Commandant*  
**(972) 216-7879 (H)**  
*mbronson@stevenstransport.com*

**HELLO FROM**

the Big "D" Detachment!



*Commandant of Big D,  
Devil Dog with Pound 268 and  
VP of the DFW area Women  
Marines Association (immediate  
Past President of TX-1 Lone Star  
Chapter) submitted the following.*

**BRAZOS VALLEY DETACHMENT  
BRYAN**

Submitted by Teresa Carpenter, *Commandant*  
*jarheadlady@aol.com*  
and  
Ed Holcomb, *Detachment Web Master*  
**(979) 218-3827 (H) • Ed\_Holcomb@Dell.com**

**BRAZOS VALLEY**

has had some great speakers during the third quarter of 2014. The July meeting hosted Dr. Gene Howard, who provided a great impersonation of John Wayne. The August meeting hosted Bob Cohen, Texas State President of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), who provided a synopsis of the role Texas played in the American Revolution and



*Dr. Gene Howard with Teresa*

how people who can trace their family history to Texas during the period of the Revolution are likely to be eligible for membership in SAR or DAR.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> members of the Detachment held a picnic at the Burnside Ranch located between College Station and Navasota.



*Bob Cohen*



**COMANCHE PEAK DETACHMENT  
GRANBURY**

Submitted by Con Shuck, *Chaplain*  
**(817) 326-6132 (H) • conshuck@gmail.com**

**FUN DAY FOR HOSPITALIZED  
VETERANS**

*Hood County News • October 11, 2014...*

*Numerous organizations were involved in hosting more than 150 hospitalized veterans for a day out at Squaw Creek Park last month. Fishing, games, music, food, prizes and camaraderie were all part of the beautiful day. Area American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Blue Star Mothers, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #1513, Pecan Valley Center for Veterans Services and Comanche Peak Detachment #1297 of the Marine Corps League made the day possible for the veterans. Many area merchants donated gift bags for participants.*



This is a twice a year event that brings in-patient veterans from the Dallas VA Hospital to Granbury for a day out for fun, food and recreation.



*The buses arrive led by the American Legion and VFW riders.*



It is so neat to watch these smiling faces come off the bus, fishing pole in hand, looking for the bait.

We had about nine members from Comanche Peak participate along with a donation from our treasury of \$1,000 to help make this day a big success.



(L-R) Con Shuck, Chaplain, Gary Matlock, Sgt-at-Arms DOT, Rich Thompson, Associate Member Vince Osborne, & Howard Smith.

Not pictured but also present were Associate Member Jack Sides and Commandant Ray Beard.

### HEART OF TEXAS DETACHMENT WACO

Submitted by George Simpson, *Commandant*  
(254) 666-4081 (H) • [georsimps2@aol.com](mailto:georsimps2@aol.com)

### FROM THE HEART OF TEXAS



We are having a great time in Waco working on our 13<sup>th</sup> Leatherneck 5K Run set for November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have our Marine Birthday Ball also on the 1<sup>st</sup> and will have 200 reservists attending. Also, our Young Marine Unit is going great in spite of the rumor that it is having problems.

### LCPL. JACOB R. LUGO DETACHMENT DENTON

Submitted by Mark Roy, *Commandant*  
(940) 395-0236 (H) • [mark.roy@frx.com](mailto:mark.roy@frx.com)

### OUR DETACHMENT

has been out and about in our community promoting the League in the following ways:

➡ On **September 1<sup>st</sup>** our Detachment handed out five \$500 scholarships.

➡ On **September 4<sup>th</sup>** Leaguer and Wounded Warrior Chandler Walker celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> Alive Day.

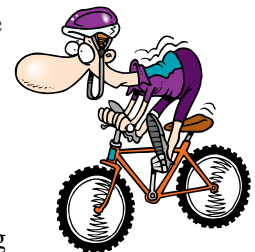
➡ On **September 12<sup>th</sup>** our Detachment participated in Denton's Art, Antique, and Car Show, which was a lot of fun. During the event, we sold raffle tickets for a Springfield MIA with the winning ticket being drawn by Judge David Garcia (Criminal Court #3/Veterans Court) of Denton.

➡ Our next big event was **September 19<sup>th</sup>** when we celebrated Leaguer and Wounded Warrior Jacob Schick's 10<sup>th</sup> Alive Day. His wife threw him a surprise party for the event, and Jacob's father drove in from out of town for the event.

➡ On **September 20<sup>th</sup>** the Detachment participated in the annual Bike Run at the VFW in Lewisville.

➡ On **September 25<sup>th</sup>** Associate Member and Corporate Sponsor Kathy King hosted her open house for her company, King Financial, in Lewisville. She graciously invited the entire Detachment to enjoy free food, drinks and live music.

➡ On **September 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>** our Detachment participated in Lewisville Western Days.





*(L-R) Detachment Associate Member Lonnie Roy, Cmdt. Mark Roy, and Member David Bemiss at Lewisville Western Days.*



## Auxiliary Announcements

Viola Trevino  
 Department of Texas MCL  
 Auxiliary President  
 (361) 960-0142 (H)  
 vtat47@yahoo.com

### AUGUST WAS A BUSY month

➡ On **October 4<sup>th</sup>** we set up at Eagle Gun Range in Lewisville for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary.

➡ **October 10<sup>th</sup>** we honored the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LCpl. Jacob R. Lugo's passing at Marcus High School, where Jacob played in the band. We met several teachers who had Jacob as a student.



*(L-R) Detachment members Bob Wands, Sr. Vice Nathan Hanson, and Cmdt. Mark Roy presenting two plaques to the Principal of Marcus High School in honor of LCpl. Jacob R. Lugo.*

➡ On **October 12<sup>th</sup>** we were invited back to a Veteran talk radio show, Kilroy's Conversation, to promote the League and our up and coming Birthday Ball to be held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Gateway on UNT's campus.



Our main focus will continue to be to reach out to the local Marines and FMF Corpsmen in transition and assist them in any way we can.

starting with attending the National Convention in Charleston, WV. We had a very eventful and busy week. As Assistant Southern Division Vice and Department of Texas President I felt honored to be present at all the Board of Trustee meetings and MCLA daily business sessions. I felt honored to sit in for our Southern Division Vice Karren Ogg who was unable to attend the convention. What an experience this was for me. We covered and voted on the Bylaw proposals, had elections and all other National proceedings.

I participated in the Final Roll Call Memorial Service on Convention Friday which was a sad event because during the last year we lost eight of our members:

- Marie Williams and Joann Thornton from Williamson County/Cen-Tex Unit,
- Aster Mae Pacheco and Jeannette Reininger from Alamo Unit,
- Maryann McKnight, Heart of Texas Unit,
- Anita B. Garza and Wilmerine Howard, Coastal Bend Unit, and
- Fern Temecloff, Red River Marine Unit.

Our condolences and prayers go out to their families and friends. I also attended the Chapel of Four Chaplains Ceremonies.

On Convention Friday I attended the National banquet and Installation of Officers where I was installed as Southern Division Vice President. Once again I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to work at National level. Congratulations to Brenda Tomonelli who was installed as Assistant Southern Division Vice President.

I am so proud of the Department of Texas Marine Corps League Auxiliary. I want to congratulate Dorcas Simpson for her recognition in

recruiting five or more members for her unit (Heart of Texas), and receiving second place for VAVS participation, in which Dorcas also works hard with those Veterans. Congratulations and thank you Brenda Tomonelli for your hard work with the Department Memory Book that got us first place. Thank you ladies for sending in your pictures and information. Yeah! Keep up the good work. Department of Texas also received a ribbon for our new banner.



*Dorcas receiving recruiting certificate*

Department of Texas members attending the National Convention were: Viola Trevino, Toni Hurtado, and Yolanda Cantu (Coastal Bend Unit), Dorcas Simpson (Heart of Texas Unit), Brenda Tomonelli and Ann Danford (Big D Unit) and Beverly Hill (Williamson County/Cen-Tex Unit). Great turn out.



*(L-R) Toni Hurtado, Dorcas Simpson, Brenda Tomonelli, Viola Trevino, & Ann Danford at National Meetings*

Our National Flea Scratch was the best looking and fun filled barnyard setting. Thank you Ron and Brenda Tomonelli for hauling that beautiful barn from Texas to West Virginia.



*(L-R) Toni, Yolanda, Ann, Brenda, & Viola at the National Flea Scratch*

On August 30<sup>th</sup> I attended a District 4 League training class in Georgetown given by Randy Rigg and Polly



*(L-R) Beverly Hill (DOT Trustee), Viola Trevino (SD Vice & DOT President), & Linda Rigg (Past Assistant SD Vice, Dept. of Arkansas)*

Weidenkopf. I was there to help Beverly Hill and Linda Rigg set up lunch for the Marines. Beverly did an outstanding job making all the

burgers and potato salad and breakfast.

On October 11<sup>th</sup> I traveled with the Department Commandant to the American Legion Post in Edinburg, Texas. He was there to make a presentation of a plaque to Dolia Gonzalez, mother of Medal of Honor Recipient Alfredo “Freddy” Cantu Gonzalez. Also present from Coastal Bend Unit was Esmeralda Vera and her Marine Sal Vera and other Marines Harry Alfeo, Josemaria Lopez, Gilbert Sandoval, Tony Infante and Bill Bogard.

Ladies, thank you for all your support and help. Dorcas, Brenda, Johnnie, Toni, Ann, Beverly, Connie, Barbara, Yolanda, Luella, Janet, and Karren – great Department Officers.

I would like to invite everyone to our 2015 **Southern Division Conference** in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. This conference is being hosted by the River Valley Detachment #1248 on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the River Valley Inn and Suites, 5103 Towson Avenue, Ft. Smith, AR 72901. For reservations call 479-646-2931. Room rates are \$55.25 + tax per night, available Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Congratulations to the Claude Rogers River Valley Unit in Arkansas for receiving second place on total hours completed in



*River Valley Inn & Suites*

Americanism and third place on total hours child welfare and to Linda Blair for her accomplishment in recruiting five or more members this past year. It's always nice to hear that Southern Division is

doing great things at National level.

## Flea Fiddlings

Brenda Tomonelli  
DOT MODDF Hide  
Scratchy Flea  
(903) 786-8243 (H)  
besteptom@yahoo.com  
and



Dorcas Simpson • DOT MODDF Hide Big Flea  
(254) 666-4081 (H) • georsimps2@aol.com

### THE M.O.D.D. FLEAS

of Texas were well represented at the 2014 National Convention in Charleston, WV, in August. Attending the Scratch were Dorcas Simpson, Viola Trevino, Toni Hurtado, Brenda Tomonelli, Beverly Hill, Yolanda Cantu and Ann Danford. Fleas Dorcas and Brenda assisted in decorating the Flea Room with the Big Flea's theme of Boots,

Bandanas, and Barnyards including the Red Barn façade that Brenda and Ron built and transported. There were 17 initiates from all different states including Yolanda and Ann. They participated in the Initiation process by marching,

singing, dancing, selling pins/patches, and creating funny farm animal masks. Congrats to our two newly hatched Fleas!!!

Current Madame Big Flea, Colleen English, presided over the Scratch, as Big Flea Glenda Travis was absent. All the Fleas dressed in boots, hats, and overalls proceeded to "pester and bite" several Platoons of Dogs as they paraded through the "Barnyard."



Texas' own Dorcas Simpson was installed as National "Waggy" Flea during the Officer Installation. Big Flea, Colleen English, announced her theme for the 2015 Scratch in Scottsdale, AZ, as "Elvis-Beach Party."

Texas Fleas named the Leatherneck Foundation twice as our target for donations and were super proud to donate \$500.

The Texas Hide will have hosted our Fall Staff "Boo Bash Scratch" by the time this is published. As the Fall Staff Meeting was scheduled so close to Halloween, Big Flea Dorcas Simpson chose the theme to coincide with the celebration of ghosts, witches, etc.



We are looking forward to a "howling, spooky, Dog Booging" good time in Granbury and the innovative costumes that will be presented in the costume contest. We are also very happy to have our National Big Flea, Colleen English, at the "Boo Bash" and show her that the Texas Hide is all about Freedom and fun!!

We would, again, like to remind and invite all the eligible Auxiliary members to come join our Fun, Partying, Dog-Pestering Hide of M.O.D.D. Fleas. We are itchin' to share our good times and charitable goals with as many members as possible.

**M.O.D.D.F.  
HIDE OF TEXAS  
Current Flea Officers - 2014-2015**

Madam Big Flea .....	Dorcas Simpson
Medium Flea .....	Karren Ogg
Little Flea .....	Toni Hurtado
Smart Flea .....	Viola Trevino
Scrappy/Shopper Flea .....	Beverly Hill
Holy Flea .....	Johnnie Lopez
Police Flea .....	Luella Goley
Studious Flea .....	Ann Danford
Waggy Flea .....	Barbara Hixson
No Name Flea .....	Connie Chambers
Trusty Flea 1 .....	Shirley Otto
Trusty Flea 2 .....	Marsha Ynman
Trusty Flea 3 .....	Janet Walton
Scratchy Flea .....	Brenda Tomonelli

**National  
News**

*Commandant  
John Kovalcik  
Communications*

*JKovalcik@MCLeague.org*



**NATIONAL COMMANDANT BIO**

Marine John W. Kovalick was born in 1937 and enlisted in the U. S. Navy Reserve on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1954. In October 1956, John transferred from the Naval Reserve and joined the Marine Corps. He served on the USS Leyete, serving with the Flag Command, Carrier Division 18. After 19 months of foreign service duty, he reported to Camp Lejeune where he joined Support Company "A" as a Prison Chaser and served on Brig Duty.

Marine Kovalcik has been a member of the Marine Corps League since 1991 when he joined the Lakeland New Jersey Detachment. After

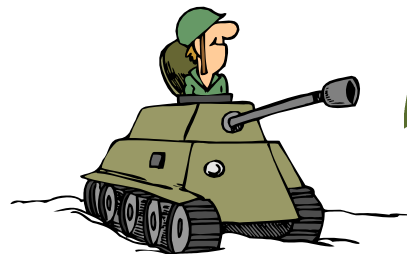


moving to South Carolina, he joined the Grand Strand Detachment where he served as Trustee and later as Detachment Commandant. He went on to serve as Aide-De-Camp for the Department of South

Carolina, Department Sr. Vice Commandant for three years, and the National Division Vice Commandant for the Southeast Division for three years. In August 2008, John was elected National Judge Advocate. In 2010, he was elected National Jr. Vice Commandant and in 2012 he was elected National Sr. Vice Commandant. Marine Kovalcik was elected National Commandant of the Marine Corps League in 2014.

In recognition of his many years of service to his community and to the Marine Corps League, John was selected as National Marine of the Year in 2008. He has also received the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

Marine Kovalcik taught Vocational Education for 10 years and retired from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He holds a Commercial Pilots License, Instrument Rated and has a Ground Instructors Rating (inactive). He and his wife Judy have been married for 51 years and have a son and a daughter, and five grandchildren. They reside in Myrtle Beach, SC.



**From the  
Front**

By Patricia Kime, *Marine Corps Times*  
October 15, 2014...

## U.S. Ebola Force Continues to Build in West Africa



*U.S. Marines and Liberian troops set up a landing zone at the construction site of an Ebola treatment center on October 11<sup>th</sup> in Tubmanburg, Liberia. (John Moore/Getty Images)*



*A U.S. Marine checks the temperature of Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams before boarding an MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft in Tubmanburg, Liberia. The general visited the site of the first of 17 Ebola treatment centers being constructed by Liberian forces under American supervision as part of Operation United Assistance to combat the Ebola epidemic. (John Moore/Getty Images)*

### **BEFORE ENTERING** the U.S.

Embassy in Monrovia to brief soldiers and reporters on the U.S. military response to the Ebola epidemic, Army Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams washed his hands in chlorine bleach and had his temperature taken.



*Army Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams*

In addition to these basic precautions, he adheres to the “ABCs” of medical care — but instead of following the typical combat care fundamentals of “Airway check, Breathing and Check for wounds,” he uses the ABCs for West Africa: “Avoid Body Contact.”

“We are monitoring ourselves every single day ... and we keep our distance [from others]. Transmission of this disease is about coming into contact with other people’s bodily fluids. I don’t expect to be doing that, I don’t expect any soldiers will be doing that,” Williams said.

In a Skype interview with attendees at the Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Williams said U.S. troops — some of whom have been in West Africa now a month — have finished building a hospital for infected health workers in Monrovia, are nearing completion of the first couple of 17 area Ebola treatment centers and are manning at least five mobile laboratories for testing specimens.

Williams said the “lion’s share” of the work on the 17 treatment centers will be completed by late November or early December, providing 1,700 beds throughout the region for Ebola patients.

According to Williams, roughly 540 troops and Pentagon civilians of a planned 3,200 have arrived in the region, including Navy Seabees, a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response team with four MV-22 Osprey aircraft, airmen with the 62nd Airlift Wing, soldiers and Coast Guardsmen.

Troops from the 101st Airborne Division and Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, who is slated to assume command of the operation, are expected to arrive in the coming days.

The service members will provide command and control, logistics and engineering support to the local



*Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky*

governments, nongovernmental organizations and health workers battling the Ebola epidemic.

According to Williams, the main priorities are constructing the Ebola treatment centers and establishing an intermediate staging base in Senegal to move equipment and supplies.

“The [Ebola treatment centers are] critical to breaking the chain of transmission — getting people out of their homes and into care,” Williams said.

As of October 10, more than 8,400 cases of Ebola have been diagnosed in West Africa and across the globe and 4,033 have died.

In the United States, two health care workers have tested positive for Ebola after treating a man who traveled from Liberia to Dallas in September. That man, Thomas Duncan — the first human ever to have been diagnosed with the deadly hemorrhagic disease in the United States — died October 8.

Williams reiterated that troops deploying to West Africa will not be caring for Ebola patients and will be at low risk for contracting the disease, which has a mortality rate of between 50 and 70%.

Personnel deploying to the region are being trained in taking precautionary measures, practicing good hygiene and wearing personal protection equipment and will be closely monitored once they have arrived in the region.

According to Williams, commanders will have the authority to decide whether any of their troops will need to be quarantined for up to 21 days if they are suspected of having been exposed.

Gen. David Rodriguez, the U.S. Africa commander, said last week any personnel who test positive for Ebola will be flown back to the U.S. for treatment in an aircraft specially equipped to handle highly infectious patients.

On Wednesday, President Obama canceled a campaign trip to Connecticut and New Jersey to meet with his Cabinet members on Ebola.

He said Tuesday that the “world as a whole is not doing enough” to halt the epidemic.

Without naming names, the president said there are “a number of countries that have capacity that have not yet stepped up.”

“Those who have stepped up, all of us are going to have to do more — because unless we contain this at the source, this is going to continue to pose a threat to individual countries at a time when there’s no place that’s more than a couple of air flights away,” Obama said.



*Jason Cone*

Jason Cone, communications director for Médecins Sans Frontières in the U.S., couldn’t agree more. Speaking on the Diane Rehm Show on NPR on Wednesday, Cone blasted the White House and other governments for failing to do more.

“Many of the issues we were discussing in early August remain present. The U.S. government response has been a significant mobilization in terms of military personnel ... [but] many governments are going in, setting up centers and delegating the responsibility to manage the centers to the private sector. The U.S. government hasn’t deployed any of the medical personnel we know are attached to their military branches. That raises a lot of questions for us as to this delegation of responsibility to volunteers.”

But U.S. troops — including the medical personnel traveling with them — will remain focused on their mission, which does not include contact with sick patients, Williams said.

He sought to quell any fears among service members and their families regarding their risk of contracting the deadly virus.

“This is about discipline and chain of command. This is what soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coasties do. As long as the protocols are in place, we feel very comfortable operating in these environments. We are proud of our mission here and we feel like we’re making the difference,” Williams said.



*Gen. David Rodriguez*

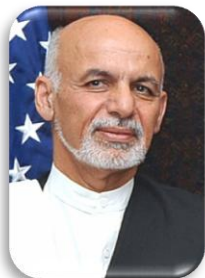
## Britain Ends Combat Role in Afghanistan, Last U.S. Marines Hand Over Base

By Kay Johnson, Reuters and  
Erin Lyall, CBS News  
October 26, 2014...

**CAMP LEATHERNECK**, Afghanistan - British troops ended their combat operations in Afghanistan on Sunday as they and U.S. Marines handed over two huge adjacent bases to the Afghan military, 13 years after a U.S.-led invasion launched the long and costly war against the Taliban.



Their coming departure leaves Afghanistan and its newly installed president, Ashraf Ghani, to deal almost unaided with an emboldened Taliban insurgency after the last foreign combat troops withdraw by year-end.



*President  
Ashraf Ghani*

In a ceremony Sunday morning in dusty desert sunlight, U.S. Marines and British combat troops officially marked the end of the operations in

Afghanistan, transferring Camps Leatherneck and Bastion to Afghan control. As national anthems from the three countries played, service members from all three countries stood at attention. The Marine flags were ceremoniously furled and cased, in recognition of the end of mission.



*ISAF Commander John Campbell arrives to attend a handover ceremony in Helmand October 26, 2014.*



*U.S. Marines lower their flag during a handover ceremony in Helmand October 26, 2014.*

The timing of their withdrawal has not been announced for security reasons.

Camp Leatherneck, the largest U.S. base to be handed over to Afghan control, and Camp Bastion together formed the international coalition's regional headquarters for the southwest of Afghanistan, housing up to 40,000 military personnel and civilian contractors.

Today, Camp Leatherneck is a near ghost town, littered with crates and boxes. Young infantrymen pack rucksacks in between their duties. Their tasks have changed over the last three



years: no more foot patrols, no more fighting. These days there's barely any movement outside the wire. Sitting around eating an MRE after a game of football, one young Marine explained that while their mission has changed, he's not bored. "We guard the perimeter everyday and monitor the locals," he said. "Sure, it's not that exciting, but we had enough close calls earlier on. Now it's just nice to have a routine."

The troops from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Regiment out of Camp Lejeune have the unique distinction of being the last Marines in Afghanistan, and they take pride in that. Their tours were to end in February; they'll be home well in advance of that.



“We’re always prepared,” says Capt. Ryan Steenburch. “It shows we’re expeditionary in, expeditionary out, and we’re ready to go whenever we’re told to leave.”

The American drawdown here has been ongoing since 2011. The Marines used to run 143 forward operating bases in the province -- in the last three years they’ve transferred control of 91 to Afghan troops and shuttered the other 52. And they’ve been tackling the gargantuan task of shutting down Camp Leatherneck for the last three deployments.

In all, 2,210 American soldiers and 453 British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001, when the U.S.-led coalition toppled the Taliban government for harboring al Qaeda after the militant group carried out the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The coalition has been led by NATO since 2003, and includes forces from Germany, Italy, Jordan and Turkey. After Sunday’s ceremony, the Afghan National Army’s 215th Corps will be headquartered at the 28 sq. km (11 sq. mile) base, leaving almost no foreign military presence in Helmand.



What equipment wasn’t shipped back to the U.S. (or destroyed), has been given to the Afghan military -- \$230 million worth of buildings and real

**\$230,000,000**

estate, (including a new 64,000 square foot state-of-the-art headquarters, built over three years at a cost of \$34 million and never used by the Americans) as well as roads and a major airstrip at the base.

“We gave them the maps to the place. We gave them the keys,” said Col. Doug Patterson, a Marine brigade commander in charge of logistics.

For the last two years the Marines have been working as trainers and advisors, helping the Afghans develop bomb detection and medical skills, modernizing their capabilities. In this year’s summer fighting season, no coalition ground troops were involved. The Marines provided attack helicopter support as the Afghans fought the Taliban, but never fired a shot. It was simply a show of force.

Speaking on BBC television, British Defense Minister Michael Fallon



**British Defense Minister  
Michael Fallon**

Minister Michael Fallon said British armed forces had helped to strengthen the Afghan security forces, who were now taking on “full responsibilities.”

“It is with pride that we announce the end of UK combat operations in Helmand, having given

Afghanistan the best possible chance of a stable future,” he said.

Helmand province, which produces 80-90% of the opium that helps finance the Taliban’s insurgency, has seen fierce fighting this year, with Taliban and allied forces seeking to seize the district of Sangin from the Afghan army and police.

The battles have raised concerns about whether Afghan forces are truly able to hold off the Taliban without intelligence and air support from the United States and its allies.

Officials with the U.S.-led coalition say the Afghan forces, which have been losing hundreds of soldiers and policemen each month in battles, assassinations and suicide attacks by insurgents, did not lose any significant ground in the recent summer fighting season.

“I’m cautiously optimistic they will be able to sustain themselves,” said Brig. Gen. Daniel Yoo, the commander of Regional Command (Southwest).



**Brig. Gen.  
Daniel Yoo**

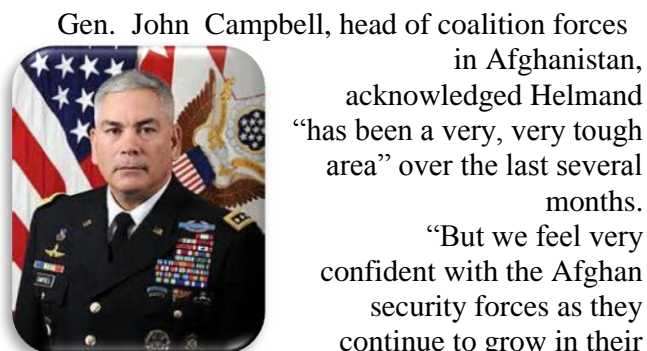
He said the success of the Afghan security forces depended on leadership, continued development of logistics and confidence.

“They’ve got to want it more than we do,” he said.

International forces in Afghanistan boosted their numbers to about 140,000 in 2010 troops with the aim of wresting control of Helmand back from the Taliban. By January 1, that number will be about 12,500, comprising mostly trainers and advisers.

Of those, 9,800 will be American, with the rest

from other NATO members. The British will keep a small contingent at an officer training school in Kabul.



**Gen. John Campbell**

Gen. John Campbell, head of coalition forces in Afghanistan, acknowledged Helmand “has been a very, very tough area” over the last several months. “But we feel very confident with the Afghan security forces as they continue to grow in their capacity,” he said.

He said that the smaller international force that will remain next year will still provide some intelligence and air support, two areas where Afghan forces are weak.

Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, chief of staff of the Afghan National Army, also said the insurgency “will keep us busy for a while.”

“We have to do more until we are fully successful and satisfied with the situations,” he said.



**Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi**

“We have to do more until we are fully successful and satisfied with the situations,” he said. Civilian casualties in Afghanistan may reach an all-time high this year, with the United Nations reporting nearly 5,000 killed or wounded in the first half of 2014, most of them by the insurgency.

Several Afghans at Sunday’s ceremony expressed pride at taking over the base, mixed with sadness that the international forces with whom they have worked with for years are leaving for good.

“We are going to miss our friends,” said Afghan Brig. Gen. Nasim Sangin. “But we will still be in touch by email.”

## **Last International Forces Airlifted from Key Base in Afghanistan**

*By Kay Johnson, Reuters  
October 27, 2014...*

**KANDAHAR AIR FIELD**, Afghanistan –

A fleet of planes and helicopters airlifted the last U.S. and British forces from a key base in southern Afghanistan on Monday, a day after the international coalition closed the massive facility and handed it over to the Afghan military.



*U.S. Marines prepare to depart upon the end of operations for Marines and British combat troops in Helmand October 27, 2014.*

The troops’ withdrawal and base closure in the province of Helmand is one of the largest operations in the winding down of the international combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the toppling of the radical, Islamist Taliban regime.

Monday’s withdrawal operation passed off peacefully as part of a planned drawdown, though there was a sense of déjà vu among some soldiers.

“It was surreal,” said Marine communications officer Capt. Anthony Nguyen, 33, of Houston, TX.

“We’re not refugees or anything, but it kind of reminded me of scenes of Vietnam, of people running to the helicopters... just this mad dash to the aircraft,” added Nguyen, who is Vietnamese-American.

The NATO-led international force is now shifting to a reduced role of support as Afghanistan’s newly trained army and police take over the fight against a resurgent Taliban.

Casualties among both civilians and Afghan security forces are near all-time highs this year, with hundreds killed and wounded each month in

the conflict.

The withdrawal of the remaining U.S. and British troops from the combined base of Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion was carried out over 24 hours of near-continuous flights back and forth between Helmand and Kandahar Air Field, the aviation hub for southern Afghanistan.



*Marines and sailors with Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Afghanistan, load onto a KC-130 aircraft on the Camp Bastion flight line, Monday, October 27, 2014.*

For the Marines' HMH 366 Hammerheads helicopter squadron, which flew on the final wave of the airlift Monday, there was a sense of pride in that the same unit also participated in the 2011 withdrawal from Iraq.

"It's definitely a sense of history," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Hoover, of Vicksburg, MS.

For the U.S. Marines and British forces leaving Helmand, the airlift was the first stop on the way home – all of them will be flown out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, and some within days.

"It's been a long time away – I'm looking forward to getting back to normal life... kiss the wife and kiss the kids," said Maj. Raymond Mitchell, a Marine from Rocky Mountain, NC, who deployed to Afghanistan in January.

The Marine Expeditionary Force-Afghanistan is the last Marines unit in the country, while the British forces at Helmand were the Britain's final combat troops.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Oswood, of Romney, WV, is one of the few members of the squadron who participated in both the Iraq withdrawal and Monday's Helmand airlift.

"It's a lot different this time.... Closing out Iraq, when we got there, we were told there hadn't

been a shot fired in anger at us in years. And then you come here and they are still shooting at us," Oswood said.

"It's almost like it's not over here, and we're just kind of handing it over to someone else to fight."



## Marine Corps History

MARINE CORPS  
WOMENS RESERVE

**SINCE 1918 WOMEN** have answered the call to serve proudly in the United States Marines and the role of women in the Marines has evolved and expanded.

In 1918, the Secretary of Navy allowed women to enroll for

clerical duty in the Marine Corps.

Officially, Opha Mae Johnson is credited as



the first woman Marine. Johnson enrolled for service on August 13, 1918; during that year some 300 women first entered the Marine Corps to take over stateside clerical duties from battle-ready Marines who were needed overseas.



The Marine Corps was strictly male until World War II except for 305 Marine Female Reservists, popularly termed "Marinettes," who served during World War I. By 1942, unprecedented manpower demands of the two-front war led to personnel shortages. Although Corps

Commandant General Thomas Holcomb opposed recruiting women, he followed the example of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard and began a drive to “replace men by women in all possible positions.”

The public anticipated a catchy nickname for the women and bombarded headquarters with suggestions such as Femarines, Glamarines, and even, Sub-Marines, but General Holcomb ruled out the cute titles. In a March 1944 issue of *Life* magazine, he announced, “They are Marines. They don’t have a nickname and they don’t need one. They get their basic training in a Marine atmosphere at a Marine post. They inherit the traditions of Marines. They are Marines.” In practice, they were usually called Women Reservists, shortened to WRs.

Ruth Cheney Streeter became their first director. Wife of a prominent businessman, mother of four – including three sons in the service – and a leader for 20 years in New Jersey health and welfare work, Major Streeter had never before held a paying job. Her matronly, dignified demeanor allayed the fears of parents who “were not going to let their little darlings go in among all these wolves unless they thought that someone was keeping a motherly eye on them.”

In the beginning, some of the volunteers may have longed for home. Training for the WRs consolidated at Camp Lejeune, NC, but the change from civilians to Marines began long before their arrival. Recruits traveled to Wilmington, NC, on troop trains of about 500. At the depot, they were lined up, issued paper armbands identifying them as boots (trainees), and ordered to pick up luggage – anybody’s luggage – and marched aboard another train. At the other end, shouting NCOs herded them to austere barracks with large, open squad bays, group shower rooms, male urinals, and toilet stalls without doors. No time was allowed for adjustment. A few wondered what they had done and why they had done it.



*Congresswoman  
(later, Senator)  
Margaret Chase Smith  
visits Marine training  
at Camp Lejeune, NC*



*Women Reservists  
arrive in the territory  
of Hawaii - then  
considered an overseas  
post.*

Nonetheless, WRs were protected according to the customs of the day.

The Marine Corps, renowned for excellent discipline and morale, had no history to help them bridge the gender gap. Women Marines were not pliant teenagers, but rather, adults at least 20 years old; most with work experience, some married; some had children; and a few had grandchildren.

Since women were expected to adhere to near-Victorian standards, military leaders assumed a paternalistic attitude and the inevitable occurred – grown women were often treated like school girls. To prevent loneliness and avoid unfavorable comments, no fewer than two WRs were assigned to a station; enlisted women were not assigned to a post unless there was a woman officer in the vicinity; and it was customary to assign women officers to units of 25 or more WRs. Women aboard a base, unlike men of equal rank, could not have an automobile!

Yet the Marine Corps desperately needed their skills and gradually found out how far traditional job limits could be stretched. Five hundred WRs arrived at boot camp every two weeks and matching them to job openings was challenging. In 1943, Marine recruiting brochures promised women openings in 34 job assignments; but final statistics at the end of the war recorded WRs in over 225 different specialties (radio operator, photographer, parachute rigger, driver, aerial gunnery instructor, cook, baker, quartermaster, control tower operator, motion picture operator, auto mechanic, telegraph operator, cryptographer, laundry operator, post exchange manager, stenographer, and agriculturist), filling 85% of the enlisted jobs at Headquarters Marine Corps and comprising one-half to two-thirds of the permanent personnel at major Marine Corps posts.

Among all the beautifully worded accolades bestowed on Women Marines of World War II, is a

simple statement from General Holcomb: “Like most Marines, when the matter first came up, I didn’t believe women could serve any useful purpose in the Marine Corps... since then, I’ve changed my mind.”

The Marine Corps Women’s Reserve was established in February 1943. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1948, Congress passed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act and made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps.

By the height of the Vietnam War, there were about 2,700 women Marines serving both stateside and overseas. By 1975, the Corps approved the assignment of women to all occupational fields except infantry, artillery, armor and pilot/air crew. Over 1,000 women Marines were deployed in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991.

According to the 2012 demographic report women make up 7.11% of the Marine Corps. They are integrated into nearly all Military Occupational Specialties with the exception of offensive combat. They serve globally and proudly carry on the traditions of those first trailblazers as they continue to open doors for future Marines to follow.



*Recruiting Poster  
1942*

**MARINES DELAY  
FEMALE FITNESS PLAN  
AFTER HALF FAIL**

Associated Press - January 2, 2014...

**WASHINGTON** - More than half of female Marines in boot camp can’t do three pullups, the minimum standard that was supposed to take

effect with the new year, prompting the Marine Corps to delay the requirement, part of the process of equalizing physical standards to integrate women into combat jobs.

The delay rekindled sharp debate in the military on the question of whether women have the physical strength for some military jobs, as service branches move toward opening thousands of combat roles to them in 2016.

Although no new timetable has been set on the delayed physical requirement, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos wants training officials to “continue to gather data and ensure that female Marines are provided with the best opportunity to succeed,” Capt. Maureen Krebs, a Marine spokeswoman, said.

Starting with the new year, all female Marines were supposed to be able to do at least three pullups on their annual physical fitness test and eight for a perfect score. The requirement was tested in 2013 on female recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC, but only 45% of women met the minimum, Krebs said.

The Marines had hoped to institute the pullups on the belief that pullups require the muscular strength necessary to perform common military tasks such as scaling a wall, climbing up a rope or lifting and carrying heavy munitions.

Officials felt there wasn’t a medical risk to putting the new standard into effect as planned across the service, but that the risk of losing recruits and hurting retention of women already in the service was unacceptably high, she said.

Because the change is being put off, women will be able to choose which test of upper-body strength they will be graded on in their annual physical fitness test. Their choices:

- Pullups, with three the minimum. Three is also the minimum for male Marines, but they need 20 for a perfect rating.
- A flexed-arm hang. The minimum is for 15 seconds; women get a perfect score if they last for 70 seconds. Men don’t do the hang in their test.



Officials said training for pullups can change a person's strength, while training for the flex-arm hang does little to adapt muscular strength needed for military tasks.



The delay on the standard could be another wrinkle in the plan to begin allowing women to serve in jobs previously closed to them such as infantry, armor and artillery units.

The military services are working to figure out how to move women into newly opened jobs and have been devising updated physical standards, training, education and other programs for thousands of jobs they must open January 1, 2016,

# January 1, 2016

said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Christensen, a Defense Department spokesman. They must open as many jobs to women as possible; if they decide to keep some closed, they must explain why.

Military brass has said repeatedly that physical standards won't be lowered to accommodate female applicants. Success for women in training for the upcoming openings has come in fits and starts.

In fall 2012, only two female Marines volunteered for the 13-week infantry officers training course at Quantico, VA, and both failed to complete it.

But the following fall, three Marines became the first women to graduate from the Corps' enlisted infantry training school in North Carolina. They completed the same test standards as the men in the course, which included a 12-mile march with an 80-pound pack and various combat fitness trials such as timed ammunition container lifts and tests that simulate running under combat fire.

Officials had added specific training for female recruits when the pullup requirement was announced in December 2012, and they came up with a workout program for women already serving.

Military testing for physical skill and stamina has changed over the decades with needs of the

armed forces. Officials say the first recorded history of Marine Corps physical fitness tests, for example, was 1908 when



*President Theodore Roosevelt*

President Theodore Roosevelt ordered that staff officers must ride horseback 90 miles and line officers walk 50 miles over a three-day period to pass. A test started in 1956 included chinups, pushups, broad jump, 50-yard duck

waddle and running.

The first test for women was started in 1969: A 120-yard shuttle run, vertical jump, knee pushups, 600-yard run/walk and sit.

## Coming Attractions



### Marine West Expo

Marine Corps Base • Camp Pendleton, CA  
**January 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



### National Mid-Winter Conference

Fairview Park Marriott  
311 Fairview Park Dr. • Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 849-9400 • **February 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
(Deadline for reservations: 1/12/2015)



**Southern Division Conference**

River Valley Inn & Suites  
5103 Towson Ave. • Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
(479) 646-2931 • **March 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**



**Marine South Expo**

Marine Corps Base • Camp Lejeune, NC  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**



**Department of Texas State Convention**

San Antonio, TX  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
*Details To Be Announced*



**National Convention**

Scottsdale Plaza Resort  
7200 N. Scottsdale Rd. • Scottsdale, AZ 85253  
**(SOLD OUT)**  
**August 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
*(National working on alternate hotel)*



**Modern Day Marine**

Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA  
**September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



**Department Fall Staff Meeting**

Crowley / Ft. Worth  
**October 2015**  
*Details To Be Determined*



**Announcing  
for Re-Election**

During the Fall Staff Meeting the following Department of Texas Officers stated their intention to run for office again at the Department State Convention in June, 2015...

- Amado Trevino ..... Commandant
- Charles Ynman ..... Sr. Vice Commandant
- Dennis Bradford ..... Jr. Vice Commandant
- Alex Azar ..... Judge Advocate  
*(depending on health)*
- Polly Weidenkopf ..... Adjutant/Paymaster  
*(depending on health)*
- Joe Vickery ..... Chaplain



**DEADLINE**  
**for Texas Marine**  
**WINTER Edition**  
**will be**  
**January 15, 2015**

Please submit articles/photos to  
**Bernie & Juanita O'Dell**  
**@ 515 Hall St.,**  
**Graham, TX 76450 or**  
**juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net**



# U.S. Marine Corps News

## Dunford Replaces Amos as New Marine Corps Commandant

By Kris Osborn, *MilitaryNews.com*  
October 17, 2014...



*Gen. James F. Amos, the 35<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, passes the colors to Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., during the change of command and subsequent retirement ceremony October 17, 2014, at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.*

### MARINE GENERAL

Joseph Dunford

took over as the 36th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps Friday in a ceremony at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., taking command from Gen. James Amos.



*Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford*

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus were in attendance as the first ever pilot to lead the Marine Corps stepped down and accepted his retirement orders before Dunford, who recently led U.S. forces in Afghanistan, took over the leadership post.

“A change of command is always a bitter sweet event, mixing the achievement of what has been with the promise of what is to come. Today we say God speed to one great Commandant while we welcome a new Commandant,” Mabus said.

As a former naval aviator who commanded the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing during OIF, Amos spent time flying the F-4 Phantom and F/A-18 Hornet

where he served on board the USS Roosevelt aircraft carrier.



Amos was the first pilot to become Marine Corps Commandant.

Hagel presented Amos with the Distinguished Service Medal. The medal citation credited

Amos for exceptional service regarding efforts to shepherd the Marines through the challenges of sequestration and wind down of ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, his command was not without controversy. Amos was investigated and cleared of wrong doing after he was accused of unlawfully influencing an investigation into the video released in 2012 of three Marines urinating on Taliban corpses.



During Amos’ tenure as Commandant, the Corps began to work on transitioning from a largely land-based force fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan back to a more expeditionary Corps interested in returning to its maritime roots. Part of this includes the

Pentagon’s Pacific rebalance which, among other things, rotates Marine units through Darwin, Australia.

“Under Jim’s (Amos) leadership the Marines established an innovative rotation in Australia. Gen. Amos has also helped the Marines revitalize their amphibious and expeditionary roles,” Hagel said.

Amos oversaw efforts to further integrate women into the Corps and implement

the end of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy regarding gays in the military, he added.





Dunford takes over as Commandant at a time when budgets are increasingly pressured while global threats and demand for Marines appear on the rise.

Dunford recently served as the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force, United States Forces – Afghanistan and also spent time as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. First commissioned in 1977, his military career includes numerous leadership positions in the Corps such as time leading combat units during the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Dunford praised Amos' service and credited Marines now in Afghanistan and those responding to the Ebola crisis.

"We're providing relevant capabilities to combatant commanders," he said.

Dunford also published a letter to Marines upon assuming command:

*Marines, I am truly honored and humbled to serve as your Commandant. I'd like to begin my tenure by thanking General and Mrs. Amos for their four decades of extraordinary service and commitment. They transition to the next phase of their lives with the admiration, appreciation, and affection of all Marines and their families.*

*The Marine Corps is in great shape. We are recruiting and retaining high quality Marines who are fit, tough, and smart. Our Marines are well led, well trained, and well equipped. The infrastructure at our posts and stations – our barracks, family housing and training facilities – has been significantly enhanced over the past decade.*

*We remain forward deployed and forward engaged in the Pacific, South America, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Just in the last year, we have responded to crisis in the Philippines, South Sudan, Libya, and Iraq. In Afghanistan, we have remained engaged in combat operations. We have clearly demonstrated our flexibility, versatility, and adaptability. Marines are relevant and in high demand.*

*We have answered the call and we have delivered! Throughout the last decade, Marines have enhanced their reputation as the Nation's premier force in readiness. Today's Marines, like their predecessors, can be very proud to claim the title United States Marine.*

*Despite these accomplishments, much work remains to be done. As Marines, we maintain the highest standards and we constantly seek to improve. We will continue to attack by:*

*Maintaining a first-rate, well-trained total force of Marines in a high state of readiness.*

*Prioritizing the support of those Marines in harm's way.*

*Developing and fielding MAGTF capabilities that will ensure that the Marine Corps remains an innovative, relevant, naval, expeditionary force-in-readiness.*

*Building upon our success in leader development, professional military education, wounded warrior care, and family readiness.*

*Our Corps is informed by your input. I will continue to engage with Marines of all grades to solicit feedback. Your ideas will help us improve our war fighting and crisis response capabilities and provide the foundation for detailed Commandant's Planning Guidance in the New Year.*

*Know that I'm extraordinarily proud to stand in your ranks. Thanks for who you are and what you do. Continue to march...*

The new Commandant also spent time as the Director of the Operations Division of the Plans, Policies and Operations staff, Headquarters Marine Corps, and also functioned as the Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 2008, he became Vice Director for Operations, Joint Staff.

He concluded his remarks by emphasizing humility and pledging to take care of Marines and their families.

"My focus in the coming years will be to take care of our Marines and their families," Dunford said.

## USMC Commandant's Birthday Message



### IN HIS BIRTHDAY GREETING

70 years ago, General Alexander Vandegrift, our 18<sup>th</sup> Commandant, noted that “A birthday is a fitting time to peer backward – and forward.” That year, Marines reflected on an extraordinary year in combat during their amphibious drive across the Pacific. Despite the challenges and the horrific conditions, Marines prevailed at Guam, Saipan, and Peleliu. On 10 November 1944, Marines looked back with pride on their accomplishments – confident in their ability to meet future challenges.

In 2004, 20,000 Marines deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq – many Marines celebrated the birthday in places like Fallujah, Ramadi, and Al Qaim while decisively engaged in combat. That year, Marines also responded to crisis in the Pacific following a tsunami which claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people. On 10 November 2004, Marines looked back with pride on their accomplishments – confident in their ability to meet future challenges.

As we celebrate our 239<sup>th</sup> birthday, Marines are in combat in Afghanistan. Since we last gathered to celebrate our Corps’ birthday, we also responded to crises in the Philippines, South Sudan, Libya, and Iraq.

Some things change. This year found us in different climes and places than our predecessors in 1944 and 2004. We have adapted our organization, training, and equipment to the ever-changing operating environment. Some things remain the same. Marines attacked this year’s challenges with the same courage, commitment, loyalty, self-sacrifice, and adaptability as their predecessors in Peleliu and Fallujah. For that reason, on 10 November 2014, we Marines can

look back with pride on our accomplishments – confident in our ability to meet future challenges.

Thanks for who you are and what you do.  
Happy Birthday Marines.

*Joe F. Dunford, Jr., General  
Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps*

## MCL National Commandant's Birthday Message



**MARINES SAILORS AND** Friends  
of the Marine Corps:

I wish to extend a Happy Birthday to all our Corps. It was just 239 years ago that we became the U.S. Marine Corps.

Through those years we have fought many conflicts. The Corps has always stood out as a leader against enemies of our country. It is a day like today for all those who wore the Eagle, Globe and Anchor to be proud of our history. I trust all will be taking part in some merriment to celebrate this grand day! I wish you all well, continue your efforts and make our League and our Corps something to be proud of forever.

Happy Birthday Marines!!

*John Kovalcik  
National Commandant, Marine Corps League*

**LONGVIEW DETACHMENT  
LONGVIEW**

Submitted by Jerry Crutcher, *Commandant*  
(337) 501-2766 (H) • [jcrutch363@aol.com](mailto:jcrutch363@aol.com)

**WE LAID OUR OLDEST** member,  
Vernon Rose, age 92, to rest with honors.

*Memorial services for Vernon A. Rose of Gladewater were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, at the Marine Corps League, 1512 Alpine Road, in Longview, TX. Mr. Rose was born February 5, 1922, in Peoria, TX, and died August 7, 2014, at the Veterans Home in Bossier City, LA.*

*Vernon enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on May 26, 1941, in Dallas, TX, for a four-year hitch. He received several promotions and was a technical sergeant when he was honorably discharged in 1945 due to a medical disability. His special military qualification was aviation metal smith.*

*From March 8, 1942 to September 29, 1944, Vernon's service included Pearl Harbor, Efate, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, and Midway Island. He also participated in the defense of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. Vernon was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on July 8, 1943.*

*Vernon was married to Wanda Mae Rose, and they had lived in Fullerton, CA.*

*Survivors include his nephew, James Watts of Vida, OR.*

*Vernon was a life member of the Marine Corps League Detachment #959 in Longview.*

Interment was in Peoria, TX, on October 24<sup>th</sup>.



## Other Highlights



*(L-R) District Vice Con Shuck presents Distinguished Citizens Gold to E.C. Green at Tarrant County Detachment for his work with survivors of Hurricane Katrina.*



*(L-R) PNC Jim Laskey & our own Alex Azar meet up at the National Convention in August.*



*Alex Azar (R), DOT Judge Advocate, presents Chapel of Four Chaplains pin to Con Shuck at Fall Staff Meeting.*



*DOT Adjutant/Paymaster Polly Weidenkopf presents guest speaker TX Senator Brian Birdwell (survivor of 911 Pentagon crash) with special shadow box at Fall Staff Meeting. Looking on is Alex Azar, MC for the evening.*