

TEXAS

**Charles Ynman
Commandant**



MARINE

**Department of TEXAS
Marine Corps League**

WINTER

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Commandant's Corner

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WE ARE NOW WELL INTO

a new year in the life of our Department of Texas and it is time for us to assess our directions and accomplishments of the previous year. Membership and Retention are always on the top of our mission items and I compliment our Detachments on a job well done. The Department of Texas has added two new Detachments and overall exhibited a positive growth. This is not a simple accomplishment because we must realize that any organization or business loses 20% of their members or clients every year. Before we can show a positive number, we must first replace the members we lose from death or non-renewal. I congratulate our Board and Detachment Officers in making this important accomplishment possible.



On January 21, 2017, we presented a Charter to our most recently formed Detachment. We now welcome our newest members to the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League. We wish them well and hope to see them at our future conferences and conventions. We are also working to establish three additional Detachments, which means we will continue our growth.



Our intention is not to micro-manage the Detachments, but the Board is interested in assisting you in fulfilling our obligation concerning 990s, PLM and Officer Installation Reports. I am proud to say that out of 46



Detachments only one Detachment did not file their 990. We hope to help them file, even if they are late. Five Detachments did not turn in their PLM reports. This is disappointing because it means that National will not be sending them a check

representing the Detachment's Life Members. Our goal is 100%, but we are doing better than ever before. I also encourage all the Detachments to elect and install their officers according to their bylaws and ask that all Detachments notify the Department Commandant to request the installation of their officers. If I cannot perform the installation, we will arrange an available Department Officer to install the officers. Officers should not install themselves.

The primary goal of your Department of Texas Officers is to serve each of our members. We will continue to offer transparent communications and hope to always exceed your expectations. Please contact us if we can assist you in any way.

The Southern Division Conference is scheduled for March 24-25, in Tyler, Texas. The Division is made up of the Departments of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The Rose City Detachment is hosting the conference. It is customary for a Texas Detachment to host the Division Conference every three years, making 2017 a great opportunity for our Texas members to meet Marines from the other States and share ideas and accomplishments. The registration form and hotel information is available



on our website: texasmcl.org.

My term as Department of Texas Commandant will be completed in June. I am a candidate for the position of Southern Division National Vice Commandant, and I would like to encourage every member possible to attend. I ask for your support and vote.



I thank each of you for making the Department of Texas sound and on budget, and for increasing our membership.

Senior's Segment

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FIRST OFF I PRAY THAT

everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

So as we put 2016 behind us, we have to plan / look forward to what goals we will be striving for in 2017.



One of the goals I would like to see the Department work toward is getting rid of some of the apathy (*lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern; indifference, unresponsive, impassivity*) within some of our Detachments and members.

Apathy is a cancer that can destroy an organization and its membership and render it ineffective. To get rid of it will take everyone working together to motivate and encourage those who have become apathetic. Positive leadership is the key to getting rid of apathy. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Get involved. We have a lot of good Marines in the Department. Share your knowledge and motivation.



This is one of the areas I'll be discussing at the

Commandants Council at the Department Convention in June. See you there!

I'll be running for Department Commandant at this year's convention.

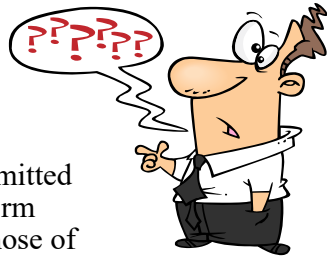


Judge Advocate Alerts

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DURING THIS QUARTER

I have continued to respond to various questions and issues submitted by the Detachment Commandants and Judge Advocates. There have also been several bylaws amendments submitted by Detachments to conform their current bylaws to those of the Department of Texas and MCL National Bylaws. There were also issues regarding the proper wearing and use of the MCL dress attire; i.e., cover, red jacket, etc. which were addressed in coordination with the Department Commandant. Overall, the Detachment Commandants and Judge Advocates are resolving their local issues at their level without need for formal elevation to the Department. However, I am always available for informal consultation whenever needed.



Adjutant/Paymaster Postings



Polly Weidenkopf
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AS I AM SURE YOU HAVE

all been made aware, **National is no longer sending out**

renewal dues notices and all dues will be due by 1 August 2017. It will now be the responsibility of the Detachment Paymaster to notify their membership when they need to pay their dues.



Members with expiration dates between January through June will pay National dues of \$10 and their dues will be due on 31 August 2017. Once a member is paid up through 31 August 2017, you can submit their annual dues any time prior to 31 August 2018. The same will then be applicable for all years; you can have the member pay anytime you wish and the dues are extended one additional year to 31 August. Only the current fiscal year will be affected by the \$20 or \$10 National Dues depending on the date of their renewal; all other years will be the amount of the annual dues and they are due on 31 August.

Remember, all cards will show 1 September as the date (the database cannot recognize 31 August as the renewal date; it defaults to 1 September).

*My suggestion going forward is to break your membership down to certain months and submit transmittals monthly; once the members' transmittal is received, they will be assigned the new expiration date of August 31, 2018 (again card will be dated 1 September). **Please break it down a few every month. Do not send me renewals for everyone in your Detachment in August!!***

For New Joins, the dates are as follows:

1 September – End of February: Cost will be the full annual National Dues plus the National New Join Fee. (Current cost is \$20 + \$5 = \$25.) (The renewal dues will be due by 31 August and the card dated 1 September.)

1 March – End of July: Cost is half of the annual National Dues plus the National New Join Fee. (Current cost is \$10 + \$5 = \$15.) The renewal dues will be due by 31 August and the card dated 1 September.

New Joins during the month of August will pay the full annual National Dues plus the National New Join Fee (current cost \$20 + \$5 = \$25) and the card expiration will be 31 August of the following year with a date of 1 September on the card – they will get 13 months of membership for the cost of 12 months.

As always, if you have any questions please email me at pollyw@att.net.





Chaplain's Comments

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Department of Texas Chaplain
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Looking forward to a wonderful 2017!! I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year celebration.

Looking forward to our upcoming Southern Division Conference in March and our State Convention in June... and this is a good time to remind **all Detachment Commandants** to be on the lookout for nominating your Detachment Chaplains for their outstanding work... *going over and beyond their regular "call of duty."*

We awarded the first "Joe Vickery Chaplain's Award" for the Outstanding Detachment Chaplain at the 2016 State Convention in Dallas. I will be looking forward to handing out this new award again this year!! **So Commandants...** I need your nominations please!!!

Here is the information I need:

- ☛ Chaplain's Name,
- ☛ Detachment's Name,
- ☛ How long he/she has been your Chaplain,
- ☛ Why you are nominating your Chaplain...

list any extra duties he/she may do that goes over and beyond the normal responsibilities of a Detachment Chaplain (Does your Chaplain make hospital visits? Attend funerals? Veteran functions? Volunteer work?).

I will need these nominations by **May 31st**. Please email your Chaplain nomination to: **meadolarc@aol.com**, or snail mail them to: Melody Bronson, 704 Rancho Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149.

Please continue to send me your Notices of Death. If this member is also a member of the MODD, a second Death Notice needs to be completed for MODD (I am the MODD Chaplain as well) so I can process both of the Death Notices for the MCL and MODD. In addition to National sending out condolences and a certificate to the families, I will also send out condolences and sympathy cards to the families on behalf of the Department of Texas. Please keep me informed on your members who have their "last call of duty" and are sent to

guard the gates of Heaven.

Also, please notify me when you have a member in the hospital or who is ill and keep me posted on their status. I pray for all our members, but will give an extra prayer for our sick and distressed members; I also like to send our ill members a Get Well card.

Wishing everyone a blessed and Happy New Year - my prayers to you and your families. Until next time, Godspeed and Semper Fidelis!



Webmaster Writings

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TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN

Quick and up-to-date communication is a must for an organization to have success. In the League it's all about the membership and making sure that the information is disseminated to all the red hats.

There is no better way than communicating real time; the problem with the effort is that not everyone is available when you need to send out information real time. If you have Facebook, you can build your audience of your members in a group so that when you post information, they get a notification that there is a message online that needs to be looked at. The challenge is that every member must have a Facebook account. Not every member will be thrilled to have a Facebook account.



On your iPhone or iPad you can have access to an application called iCloud. You must first install it to your PC. Then you can build your contact groups and sync them with iCloud. Your groups will then appear on your phone as a group by the name of the group you selected. You can then send out voice or text messages from your phone to your selected group. If and when



you have time and you're a Commandant, Sr. Vice or Jr. Vice, look into Icloud for windows. It's a wonderful tool.

Our Newsletter:

<http://texasmcl.org/texas-marine>

Our Website:

<http://www.texasmcl.org/>

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/departmentoftexasmc/>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/Texas_Marines

Veteran's Voice

Submitted by Juanita O'Dell,
Editor
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Veteran Says Equine Therapy Saved Her Life

Laura Garcia
December 21, 2016 ...



Marine Corps veteran Victoria Ortiz

A FEW MILES NORTH OF town, just past a red gate, is a barn that has become a saving grace for female veterans and military wives.

In August, the Crossroads Area Veterans Center invested in a new equine therapy program at Grace Ranch.

In the past several months, the program has helped area women get through challenges in their lives, including transitioning to civilian life.

And even on a cold, rainy day the lesson goes on.

In the barn, U.S. Army veteran Trecia Rodgers prepares for the class to start.

The 49-year-old Victoria woman credits this kind of therapy with helping her turn her life around after she returned home two years ago from Afghanistan.

"Equine therapy saved my life," she said. "That's how I got into it."

At the time, she was dealing with emotional and physical injuries and said she was extremely angry.

She had nightmares, which made her lose a lot of sleep.

"I began wondering day to day whether it was worth living," she said. "I really went down a dark hole."

Rodgers couldn't remember her grandchildren's names or walk without holding on to somebody.

"A friend of mine invited me out to work with her horses because all of the normal, traditional therapies were not working," she said.

"Within a couple of months, I was already back to doing most of my normal daily activities, which was incredible for me," she said.

Rodgers found that with the help of her horse, Monte, she could open up and start the healing process.

Rodgers had grown up around horses and decided to become a certified instructor and try to help others.



She said when a person comes to a lesson angry, a horse will pick up on those feelings.

"They have to learn how to curb that anger or deal with that anger in order to communicate with that horse properly and be able to enjoy that ride," she said.

After some time, they learn how to communicate with their family, co-workers or in social situations.

"They learn how to just kind of let go of that anger and enjoy the moment," she said.

This past summer, Rodgers approached Grace Ranch owner Sandy Sciba to see whether they could start a veterans' equine therapy program.

Sciba was just about to slow down operations in the barn and focus on family.

The ranch started about 20 years ago with 10 horses, and it now has 55.

They talked the idea over for weeks, before making the commitment.

"It was something I hadn't done," Sciba said.

But equine therapy was something she could support. She had seen for years the benefits of working with horses, and her husband is also a military veteran.

"I thought it was a great idea, but we both had to figure out how to do that and still be grandmothers," she said.

Sciba said since the program began, she's noticed that not all of the participants were ready for therapy.

"You have to dig deep to get along with the horse and see that it's not all fun and games," she said.

Learning to ride is not as romantic as one might think.

"It takes work, and you've got to invest," she said.

But those who stayed in the program have grown.

"I think a horse will help anybody, but we've got to want to be helped," she said. "You've got to make yourself vulnerable."

Marine Corps veteran Victoria Ortiz said the class has been a good place for her to de-stress.

She finished her military service in June and started the class in October.

"It gave me people to lean on," she said. "People that had been there done that."

For Nicki Lowry, starting equine therapy meant being able to focus on herself.

The Victoria mother of four had long put her own needs aside as she balanced home life with being a caregiver to her husband.

Her husband, Nick Lowry, retired from the U.S. Navy in 2007 with a traumatic brain injury.

She was tasked with keeping everything together.

The couple started the Christian Warriors Retreat and a ministry for veterans, which pulled her further away from taking care of herself.

"I lost who I was," Nicki Lowry said. "He got healed and then it was like, 'Who am I?'"

This year has been especially challenging as her father underwent two heart surgeries.

For several weeks, she would drive from the hospital in Houston to Grace Ranch for her lesson and then back to the hospital.

She said her horse, Charlie, helped her get through her dad's surgeries.

That trust and connection was built over time.

"Charlie has humbled me," she said in a YouTube testimonial. "It really has changed my

outlook on things. It's saved my life."

Lowry said she took her children out to the barn to see Charlie and now they want to take classes.

But she worries what will happen if funding for the program runs out.

One of the biggest challenges is that it costs a lot of money to run a barn.

"We are not going to skimp on the care of our horses," Sciba said. An initial \$5,000 grant from the Texas Veterans Commission helped get the program started.

Lowry's nonprofit started fundraising and the ranch donated rides when the funds ran out in November.

More grant funds have since been approved for the program and the local veterans' center is working to continue the therapeutic services for female veterans and military wives.

The program costs about \$200 a month per rider.

There are about seven women participating in the Veterans Unleashed and Warrior Wives Program.

Lowry says she wants to raise awareness about how the program is helping women in the community.

"I leave here just feeling refreshed and free and whole," she said.

Division/District/ Detachment Digest

SOUTHERN DIVISION



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Southern Division Nat'l
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MARINES!!!

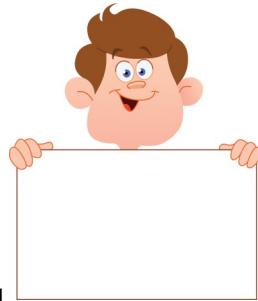
I hope everyone had a safe holiday season and that you are all ready for a prosperous 2017 in the Southern Division. While a lot of areas in the Marine Corps League have been losing members and Detachments we have been holding our mem-

bership pretty constant and in some areas have grown since I took office as your NVC. There is no reason that trend will not continue as I prepare to leave office because of the strong foundation we have developed within our Departments and our Detachments.



I look forward to seeing many of you this coming March in Tyler, TX, for the 2017 Southern Division Conference and I will assure you that we will have a great time that weekend. This

year, in place of the training classes on Saturday morning, we have made arrangements for each Department to make a presentation on a specific program they are involved with in their Department. Arkansas will be making a presentation on the Wounded Warrior Hunt that the Texarkana Detachment is involved with each year, Oklahoma will make a presentation on the Medal of Honor Day activities that the Albert E. Schwab Detachment hosts each year, and Texas will be making a presentation on the Chapel of the Four Chaplains which is supported very heavily by Marine Corps League Detachments nationwide.



On December 1st, I made the announcement that I plan to seek the office of National Marine Corps League Judge Advocate and I hope that I can count on the support of all you in the Southern Division. I have set up a Facebook page that I plan to use during my campaign for issues and opportunities not only within the Division but so that I can reach out to those outside the Southern Division.

Submitted by Bernie O'Dell, *Chairman*
Southern Division Marine of the Year Society
 (940) 549-3944 (H) • bernieodell@sbcglobal.net



**NOMINATIONS
 NEEDED!**

Your nomination(s) for **Southern Division Marine of the Year** is due **March 1st, 2017**.

MARCH 1

I know there are Marines out there in our Division worthy of this award.

Please send the nominations to me via email (shown above) or mail to 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450. **The nomination procedure is shown below.**

*This award shall be presented to a regular member of the Southern Division who has rendered service that distinguishes themselves above and beyond the duties and obligations normally expected to membership in the Marine Corps League. **Any member of the Southern Division may originate the nomination of a candidate for this award.** The nomination of a candidate shall be made in letter form, either typed or legibly hand written, and shall be signed by at least four members in good standing. The nomination letter must indicate the nominee's Detachment name and all signers of the nomination letter must indicate the name of their Detachment. The letter of nomination should clearly describe the candidate's achievements and contributions that have served to bring acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League or United States Marine Corps and/or have enhanced or furthered the concepts of duty as a citizen of the United States of America. The letter of nomination should stress and emphasize the nominee's achievements and contributions for the most recent year but may also include supplemental information about the nominee's merits beyond that period. The letter may be augmented by attached endorsements or affidavits, such as newspaper accounts of a deed or deeds, but such endorsements are not required. Nominations may be submitted to any member of the Marine of the Year Society but must be received by a member of the society no later than **February 1** of the current year. **(Due to the later date of the Southern Division Conference this year, the date was changed to **March 1.**)***

**The Southern Division
 Marine of the Year Society**

Marines who have been formerly honored as Southern Division Marine of the Year shall assume the privilege of membership in the Southern Division Marine of the Year Society. The Society is charged with receiving and reviewing recurrent

nominations for the Marine of the Year award and selects a spokesperson from among their membership to name their selection for the Southern Division Marine of the Year at the Southern Division Conference.

**The Past Southern Division
Marines of the Year:**

Tom Miller, Helen Hicks, Clif Williams, Ken Henry, Ken Watterson, Polly Weidenkopf, Johnny Gothard, Bernie O'Dell, Randy Rigg, Marty McKnight, John Henry Mashunkashey, Alex Azar, and Dwight Witcher.

** Harry Bruce*

**Procedure for Handling Nominations
Southern Division Marine of the Year**

Nominations shall be sent to the Chairman of the Society and shall be opened and copied or scanned and sent to the members of the Society for review.

Voting and selection of the Southern Division Marine of the Year shall be accomplished at the Southern Division Conference. The time and place of the Society meeting shall be published to the members of the Society prior to the Conference by the Chairman of the Society.

A Certificate and Medallion shall be presented to the selected Southern Division Marine of the Year.

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

Submitted by Robert Way, Jr. Past Commandant
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THE DEANE HAWKINS

Detachment continued to be very active this past couple of months.

During this period we helped a Marine in need financially as well as helping to repair the fire damage to his home.



Pete Gomez and Chon Pena helping a Marine in need repair fire damage in his home.

Additionally, members of the Honor Unit participated in over 25 firing details during this period.



One of many firing details conducted this quarter.

Members attended various Marine Corps Birthday celebrations in the El Paso area.



Delta Battery 14th Marines Birthday Ball

Members of the Detachment helped to put up and take down the Avenue of Flags at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.



Taking the Avenue of Flags down at Ft. Bliss

Detachment members also held a Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony at the SSgt Guillen Nursing Home on November 10th, and then participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th, 2016.



Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony at SSgt Guillen Texas State Veterans Nursing Home.

On November 17th, at the Ft. Bliss Veterans Gala, Wally Gonzalez was awarded a distinguished Veterans Certificate (posthumously), for his many years of service to the veterans' community. The Deane Hawkins Detachment will miss him.



Bob Way, the MC at the Ft. Bliss Veterans Gala, presented a Flag to the Ft. Bliss Garrison Commander and Sergeant Major, for the Garrison support of the Traveling Vietnam Wall.

Other activities the Detachment participated in included the Department of Texas Fall Staff Conference, the El Paso Veterans Day Parade, and Toys for Tots.



Chon and Connie Pena at Fall Conference Banquet

El Paso Young Marines carrying pictures of El Paso WWII veterans during Veterans Day Parade



Pete Gomez helping with Toys for Tots

BIG D DETACHMENT DALLAS



Submitted by Melody Bronson
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HELLO FROM BIG D!!

Well, those busy holidays are behind us now and it's off to a new year... Happy 2017 everyone! Like so many Detachments, we were very busy in December with Toys for Tots. Our Toys for Tots Coordinator, member Linda Shook, did a fantastic job as always getting our site organized and everything else she does with this program. Our site in Mesquite, TX, was number ONE in money and toys! Great job Linda!



Left: Linda Shook with Marines during Toys for Tots Campaign; Right: Bicycles for the Toys for Tots Campaign

We ended our year with our Officer Installation. After three years of being our Commandant, it was time to turn over the reins to some new leadership. Our new Commandant is Linda Shook. She is very active in our Detachment and is also a Past Commandant. We look forward to her command and leadership with Big D. I have taken on the position as the Detachment's Adjutant/Paymaster... so lots of luck to me! I will certainly need it!

The Big D Detachment sponsors a Young Marines Unit (the Big D Young Marines) which is commanded by member DiAna Johnson. I had the pleasure of attending their Marine Corps Ball in December. It was a great and interesting event, as always. We had the traditional cake cutting

ceremony and I was honored as being the "Oldest Marine!"



Melody participating in the Young Marines Birthday Ball.



We have participated in numerous Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. We again participated in the Dallas Veterans' Day Parade and for the second year in a row, we won a trophy for our category. This year we took 3rd Place.

I am looking forward to attending and seeing everyone at the Southern Division Conference coming up in March in Tyler and the State Convention this June in Beaumont.

Until next time – Semper Fidelis and Happy New Year!

HEART OF TEXAS DETACHMENT WACO

Submitted by Luis Lopez, *Commandant*
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JUST A FEW WORDS from the Heart of Texas Detachment. Hope the new year has come in great for you and your families.

Here at the HOT #975 Detachment, we had a great year in 2016. We are still looking for ways on how to get new members. I guess all the Detachments are looking on how to get membership up.

We had a great Leatherneck Run turnout. We had about 150 runners even though we had bad weather. It was a success in every way.

Will be glad to see you all



at Southern Division in Tyler. Hope you all have a great 2017.

**SGT. JAY M. HOSKINS
DETACHMENT
PARIS**

Submitted by Richard Smith, *Commandant*
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Sgt. Jay M. Hoskins Detachment #1364 celebrated the 241st Marine Corps Birthday at the Paris, Texas, Country Club with Department Commandant Charles Ynman, Department Adjutant/Paymaster Polly Wiedenkopf and Guest Speaker Monsuor Sergeant on November 12th, 2016.



**LCPL JACOB D. HAYES
DETACHMENT
MCKINNEY**

Submitted by Nathan Hanson, *Commandant*
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**THE LCPL JACOB D.
HAYES**

Detachment wrapped up its first full year in Collin County with a big celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball and a successful Toys for Tots season.

On November 5th the Detachment celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday with a traditional Birthday Ball in style at the Marriot in Plano. We had the privilege of having the Commanding General

of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Brigadier Bradley S. James, as our Guest of Honor. We also had Marines from MAG 41 conduct a great ceremony for the Ball.



Members of the Detachment with the Guest of Honor

We had 247 Marines and guests in attendance. The Marine Corps Birthday Ball enabled us to promote our new Detachment in the community and raise awareness for the Marine Corps League's mission. The event also allowed us to connect with local businesses and community organizations, plus raise funds for the Detachment. Many of the businesses have already committed to supporting the coming year's Ball and pledged to do more to support our mission.

Our Marine Corps Birthday Ball also kicked off our Toys for Tots season. We asked attendees to bring a toy to support Toys for Tots. Our efforts were focused mainly on organizing and running two Media Weekend events under the DFW Toys for Tots umbrella. The Detachment was able to raise approximately \$40,000, plus collect over 14,000 toys and over 400 bikes this year.



Members of the Detachment at Toys for Tots event in Allen

We are looking forward to exciting things in the New Year, such as growing the Detachment, making more connections in the community so we can better support Marines, FMF Corpsmen and their families, plus the launch of new initiatives like a scholarship fund.

**LONGHORN DETACHMENT
CROWLEY**



Submitted by Jack Mattson
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THE LONGHORN DETACHMENT was proud to hold its 4th Annual Charity

Golf Tournament in support of the Wheelchairs 4 Kids organization and was able to donate \$4,632.64 to this worthy cause.



During the remaining two months of the year the Detachment was able to donate \$1,500 to three veterans support organizations – The Liberty House, The Brothers Keepers, and



the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

The Longhorn Detachment is proud to serve our fellow Marines and disabled children.



**LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS
DETACHMENT
BASTROP**

Submitted by Chad Cohn, PR Information Officer
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GREETINGS AND HAPPY New Year Marines...

This is the 4th Quarter Report closing out a great 2016 for the Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384.

To start this final quarter of 2016 LPL began the wrapping up and final preparations for our 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament

(www.lpl1384.org/Golf.html). The golf tournament was held on October 15th and was a huge success. The Detachment sold many, many raffle tickets and had some incredible prizes that were given away.



*Color Guard for 3rd Annual
Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament
Opening Ceremonies*

Our Detachment members who also participate as Guardians for Honor Flight Austin were busy this month with three separate flights. Two of those flights were Women Veterans.

Along with all of the activities we still managed to hold our monthly Detachment meeting and select Officer Nominations for 2017. We also had members attend Veterans interviews at Cedar Creek High School by freshman class social studies.

Moving into November we were just as busy. We were honored to present service flags for all of the Military to the Silver Pines Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, the only VA affiliated home in Bastrop County.



*Presenting Service Flags to Silver Pines
Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*

During the time of our beloved Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day our members were also honored as guests at various commemorations. These events included Marine Corps Birthday celebrations at Bastrop High School with the NJROTC and St. Edwards University in Austin. For Veterans Day members were honored by the following :

- Bastrop Senior Center
- Bastrop Emile Elementary School
- Bastrop Lost Pines Elementary School
- Smithville VFW

Other events that LPL participated in were the Red, White & Blue Veterans of Bastrop County Banquet and Turkey Fry at Kerrville Veterans Hospital with Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans (TAVV). Our Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard (BCVHG) members rendered military honors for three veteran funerals during November.



Our Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard (BCVHG)

Closing out 2016, December is a month of giving for LPL. We are fortunate enough that we have the opportunity to give back and in doing so we can help bring some joy for the holidays. Our members on behalf of LPL were able to give gifts to:

- Austin VA OPC for third annual Christmas for Veterans Program
- Annual CASA Christmas for children (4 families of 12 children)
- Veterans at VA affiliated Silver Pines Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Veterans at Lost Pines Nursing Center in Bastrop



CASA Christmas for children

The Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard (BCVHG) rendered military honors for two veterans this month.

Some fun was had by our members as well; members participated in Kerrville VA Hospital BINGO for the Veterans. As of December we also have members on the committee for the "Operation Home for a Hero" Golf Tournament to be held for MOH recipient SSgt Ty Carter. Information for this is at texassentinels.org and [facebook.com/TexasSentinelsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/TexasSentinelsFoundation).



Kerrville VA Hospital BINGO

By the time this goes to print there will have been some changes to the Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384. With the officer nominations for 2017 most notable is that we will have a new Commandant in place. Commandant Ken Steffek is being replaced by Commandant-Elect Tony Poletti. Our new officers include Jr. Vice Commandant Lupe Moncebaiz, Adjutant Patti Fenter, Paymaster Robin Fannin and Webmaster Mike Keppler Jr.

Happy New Year Marines; Carry On!



Devil Dog Doings

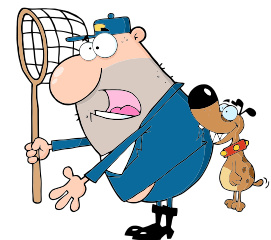
Taylor Rice
Pack Leader, Pack of Texas
(817) 466-2295 (C)
trice366@aol.com

WOOF WOOF TO ALL DOGS

of the Texas pack...

With the new year here let's get those dog catchers off the porch and find some good pups to join the MODD. Pound Dog Robbers, stay on top of the bone count.

There will be a Growl at the Southern Division Conference in Tyler this March.





Auxiliary Announcements

Johnnie Lopez, MCL Auxiliary President
(254) 405-9404 (H) • luizjohnnie@yahoo.com

GREETINGS EVERYONE!!!

We all had a good time at the October Fall Staff Conference in Granbury. The meetings were very productive and hopefully will start us on the road to achieving our goals. I would like to commend Comanche Peak Detachment on making the conference a memorable one.



Past Presidents Dorcas Simpson and Viola Trevino present current President Johnnie Lopez with President's Pin



President Johnnie Lopez presented Appreciation Certificate to Linda Rigg for her continued help with Department raffles. MCL Southern Division Vice Cmdt. Randy Rigg observes.

One of my goals is to grow our membership. The Auxiliary will be working closely with the League to accomplish this goal. We are going to explore some other ways in the months to come to make this happen.



I hope to see all of you at Southern Division in Tyler. I and the Auxiliary will always be available to discuss the Auxiliary with any of the Detachments.

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Flea Fiddlings

Viola Trevino
DOT MODDF Hide Big Flea
(361) 960-0142 (H)
vtat47@yahoo.com
Brenda Tomonelli
DOT MODDF Hide
Scratchy Flea
(903) 786-8243 (H)
besteptom@yahoo.com



THE MODDF HELD A successful and fun filled Scratch at the Fall Staff Meeting in historic Granbury hosted by the MCL Comanche Peak Detachment. The Flea room was decked out in all things "Hollywood-Movie" related; and the Fleas were treated to "movie snack-bar" refreshments.



Flea Scratch Hollywood Movie Marquee

Texas Hide Big Flea, Viola Trevino, directed the Scratch and welcomed four guests whom we hope will join our "Scratchin' Dog pesterin' antics" in the future.

The Flea group initiated and harassed three new Pups up for elevation to Dog.



MODD Fleas pesterin' Pups

The dressed-up Fleas then held a very competitive costume contest.



(L-R) Brenda Tomonelli, Karren Ogg, Toni Hurtado, Dorcas Simpson, & Viola Trevino

1st Place was awarded to Dorcas Simpson (as Cleopatra), 2nd Place to Brenda Tomonelli (as "Rizzo" from Grease), and 3rd Place to Viola Trevino (as "Movie Director").

1st Place Dorcas Simpson
 2nd Place ... Brenda Tomonelli
 3rd Place Viola Trevino

The Fleas collected and donated Dog Bones and Flea fines to the Department MCLA Operation Little Angel fund. The MODDF also held a raffle for a collectible "Barbie Movie Star."



The Hide is now in preparation for the Southern Division Scratch in Tyler in March. The Texas Fleas are looking forward to seeing our Arkansas Sister Crawlers and partying with them to the theme: "Spring Cleaning Fling." Join us to dust-bust the Dogs' mangy winter coats and start them off sparkling fresh. A Flea-dippin', Spring-spritzin' may be necessary on some Pups.

The Texas Hide invites all Auxiliary members and any Marine-related ladies to join our partying and attend the Scratch with all intents of having lots of Dog pesterin' fun!!!

We understand we may be able to welcome some more Crawlers from Arkansas to the Hide!

Hope to see you in Tyler.

Viola Trevino
 Marine Corps League Auxiliary
 Southern Division Vice Pres.
 (361) 960-0142 (H)
 vtat47@yahoo.com



GREETINGS LADIES!!

I'm hoping all MCLA and MCL members are enjoying a productive, fresh start to the new year. I am, again, honored to be serving the Southern Division for another successful year.

I am preparing to represent the Southern Division at the National Mid-Winter Conference in VA. I look forward to reporting on our past achievements and sharing our plans for the upcoming year. I always get new ideas from the many other Divisions represented at the Mid-Winter Conference and will report back to the Division members at our conference in Tyler on March 24th-25th.

I would like to take this opportunity to request that all Auxiliary Unit Presidents share the Division Conference information with all their members. It would be so exciting if we could have *all* our Units with *numerous* attendees. Maybe plan a group carpool and enjoy the lovely East Texas scenery on the way.



The Conferences are so beneficial in sharing our mutual interests and goals for the Auxiliary. We also enjoy meeting new members and seeing old friends. It is very rewarding, not to mention fun, to share information regarding the many endeavors we as a Division are involved in. We are all dedicated to serving our Marines, Veterans, children, and communities; and should be available to support the League and Auxiliary to the best of our ability.

Registration, hotel, and schedule information is available on the National website-mclnational.org and the Department of Texas website-texasmcl.org.

Please plan to join us in the "Rose Capital," Tyler, for an informative and fun conference.

Announcing for Department Office



The following Department of Texas members have stated their intention to run for office at the Department State Convention in June, 2017...

- Commandant Robert Way
- Sr. Vice Commandant Charles "Chuck" Bones
- Jr. Vice Commandant John Brewer and John Grafflin
- Adjutant/Paymaster Polly Weidenkopf
- Chaplain Melody Bronson
- Sergeant-At-Arms Chris Borel

I will be running for the office of Department of Texas Jr. Vice Commandant at the State Convention in June of 2017.



I would appreciate your vote.

John Grafflin

DOT District 2 Vice Commandant - 2015 – 2017

Announcing for Southern Division Office

The following Marine Corps League members will be running for the office of **Southern Division National Vice Commandant** at the Southern Division Conference in March 2017...

Charles Ynman Department of Texas
(currently DOT Commandant)

Johnny Gothard Department of Arkansas
(currently Southern Division National Vice Commandant Assistant)

DEADLINES FOR STATE CONVENTION AWARDS

★ AMERICANISM SCRAPBOOKS



Juanita O'Dell, *Americanism Chairman*
(940) 549-3944 (H)
juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net

Detachment Americanism scrapbooks should be turned in at the MCL Registration Desk

NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD

at the Convention.

Books should include all activities (*from June 1st through May 31st ONLY*) that the Detachment participated in or supported to further patriotism in their local, state, or national communities.

The "Americanism Questionnaire Criteria" form (**that must be in the front of the scrapbook and signed by the Detachment Commandant AND Detachment Americanism Chairman**), the "Coversheets" (**that must appear in front of each**

section), as well as the instruction sheet can be downloaded from the Department web site.

Any questions can be directed to me via phone or e-mail.

CAM POSEY SCHOLARSHIPS

Helen F. Hicks, *Chairman*
Cam Posey Scholarship Committee
(972) 272-6384 (H)
corpsma@aol.com



MAY 1ST

is the **DEADLINE** for applications for the Cam Posey Scholarships to **be in the hands of the committee chairman.**

Applications are available on the Department website. They must be filled out completely and must be accompanied with all relevant documentation.

Please mail the applications to Helen at 600 Freeman Dr., Garland, TX 75040-7759.

DETACHMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

Charles Ynman, *Chairman*
Awards & Activities Committee
(361) 852-3900 (H)
cynman7672@aol.com



APRIL 30TH

is the **DEADLINE** for submission of your Activity Reports. Mail those to me at 12442 Briar Forest Dr., Houston, Tx 77077 or e-mail them to me at cynman7672@aol.com.

MARINE OF THE YEAR

Bernie O'Dell, *Chairman*
Marine of the Year Society
(940) 549-3944 (H)
bernieodell@sbcglobal.net



Texas MCL members are reminded that nominations for Department Marine of the Year **must be received no later than**

MAY 1ST

There are many Marines within the Department who should be nominated for the award, and it is an honor to every individual nominated that they are so well regarded. Although only one nominee will be selected for the MOY award, all those who are nominated will be recognized at the awards ceremony.

Letters of nomination may be submitted to any member of the Society or sent directly to the Marine of the Year Chairman, Bernie O'Dell, 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450.

PACK DOG OF THE YEAR

Taylor Rice, *Pack Leader*
(817) 466-2295 (C)
trice366@aol.com



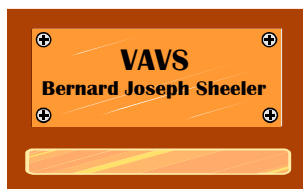
Nominations for Pack Dog of the Year should be sent to Taylor Rice by

MAY 1ST



VAVS BERNARD JOSEPH SHEELER AWARD

George Simpson,
Chairman
VAVS Committee
(254) 666-4081 (H)
georsimp2@aol.com



The Bernard Joseph Sheeler Award was created in the year 2000 to recognize our members for their devotion to our veterans. The deadline for nominations **in the form of a letter** need to be sent in no later than

APRIL 30TH

to George Simpson, VAVS Committee Chairman, to 11474 Chapel Rd., Lorena, TX 76655.

National News



Commandant
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
(774) 239-6067

January 13, 2017...

MARINES!!!

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a "Happy New Year" and wishing all a lot of success and happiness in 2017. Let's make this the year that we bring the Marine Corps League into the 21st century and keep it there with continued technical upgrading and BEST operating practices for each and every Detachment, Department, and League member on our rolls. All Detachments should be looking at our Members at Large and encouraging them to join their Detachment in the areas where they live so they can help contribute to the Detachment's success.

We no longer reside at our old location in



Fairfax, VA. As of October 1, 2016, we have moved to 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ste. 115, Stafford VA 22554 (phone # (703) 207-9588). **All paperwork of any type should be sent to this address from this time on.**

This location is approximately three miles south of the Main Gate at Quantico, and the entrance to the Museum of the Corps. Please stop in and visit and see the new location and meet the HQ staff. It is your HQ and you are always welcome. (You will be very surprised.)

If you receive "Leatherneck" magazine from the MCA you may have seen the article published about the League in the last issue. We have worked with the staff of the MCA and will be publishing an article or ad in our magazine about them in a future edition. This is an agreed-upon event between our two organizations to start and continue working as a team to facilitate joint memberships and calibrations on some of our endeavors. We as Marines should be working as a T.E.A.M. and we are now working in that direction together. We are also trying to work out a relationship with the "Museum" so when people visit they will know we are just down the street; come and visit or join. I still believe a great many Marines have never heard of our existence.



Remember to make your reservations for the Midwinter Conference to be held March 2nd to March 4th at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Once again we have many classes to offer on the new paperwork changes and how to use the changes to make your work easier when submitting it to National.

Also be sure and purchase your Tour Raffle tickets to possibly win yourself a chance of a lifetime trip with "Military Historical Tours," which will be drawn at the banquet on Saturday night. The chances are \$5 each or five for \$20. The tickets are in the Fall 2016 edition of the "Semper Fi" magazine. You can't win unless you take a chance!!!

Pretty soon you will be receiving your latest edition of "Semper Fi," published by our new publisher. It would be refreshing for you to respond to



HQ, myself or the Executive Director with your comments. Please let us know what you would like to see and any other comments you may have. If anyone would like to advertise in the magazine be sure to call the publisher and they will give you the sure rate and get you on board.

If you have any questions pertaining to the functioning of the League, be sure to utilize your chain of command/responsibility. They can give you the answers you need. HQ staff is extremely busy working for all the membership. Operational questions should be directed to the proper personnel from your chain of command /responsibility. If you have exhausted your resources and still have not found a resolution / answer send a short email to me and I will get you a response if necessary.

See you all soon. Semper Fi.



From the Front

U.S. Marines Headed Back to Taliban Hotspot 2 Years After Pull-Out

CBS/AP,
January 9, 2017...

KABUL, Afghanistan -- The United States will send some 300 Marines back into Afghanistan's southern Helmand province for the first time since the end of America's combat mission in 2014.

CBS Radio News correspondent Cami McCormick reports the Marines' mission will be to train and advise Afghan national security forces, who have struggled to drive Taliban insurgents out of the opium-rich region.

The Marines' Commander, Brigadier General Roger Turner, admitted to CBS News, however, that it is a high-risk mission and the American troops will encounter the full spectrum threat from the Taliban insurgency.



Brig. Gen. Roger Turner

The 300 Marines are currently in training for the mission at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and will deploy this Spring.

McCormick says about half of the Marines on this mission have been deployed to Helmand in the past. They will be located in different areas of Helmand, but some will stay at Camp Leatherneck, which was handed over to the Afghans in 2014.

The U.S. Army has had soldiers at Leatherneck since the handover, again, advising and training, because the Taliban has made some significant advances. There have also been American Special Operations Forces for the duration, but McCormick reports the renewed presence of U.S. Marines will signal a new level of commitment.

Some of them are "senior" troops, having served in Helmand on multiple previous tours. They know the Afghans there, according to their Commander, who was in Helmand in October ahead of the deployment, and the level of training they'll provide is more sophisticated because of that past experience.

U.S. Navy Capt. Bill Salvin, a spokesman for the U.S. mission in Afghanistan, said the Marines will remain in the province for nine months, where they will work with the Afghan army and militarized national police.

"The Marine Corps has a long operational history in Afghanistan, particularly in Helmand Province. Advising and assisting Afghan defense and security forces will assist in preserving gains made together with the Afghans," he said.

The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, but thousands of troops remain in the country, where they train and assist Afghan forces and carry out counterterrorism operations.

The Taliban are battling Afghan forces on a number of fronts, and the fighting has been particularly intense in Helmand, where the insurgents have repeatedly assaulted the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah, in recent months.



Helmand Poppy Fields

Helmand is the main source of poppies for Afghanistan's thriving opium trade, which is worth an estimated \$4 billion a year, much of which funds the insurgency.

Provincial officials estimate the Taliban controls 85% of the province, up from just 20% a year ago.

Marine Corps News

Marine Corps Boot Camp Job Titles to be Gender Neutral by April

By Gina Harkins, *Marine Corps Times*
January 6, 2016...

The Marine Corps has been ordered to come up with a plan to make its enlisted entry-level training coed, and to make its job titles more gender-neutral following the recent move to open all military combat roles to women.

In a January 1 memo to Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus requested a “detailed plan” on how the service will fully integrate its boot camp and Officer Candidate School. The plan is due January 15 and will be implemented by April 1, the memo states.



Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

“The Department of the Navy’s implementation plan must include gender integration of Marine Corps enlisted recruit training and officer candidate school,” Mabus wrote. “In this submission, identify where, if anywhere, this training is already integrated, where it is separate, and specific steps that you will take to fully integrate these trainings.”



Female Marine recruits are disciplined with some unscheduled physical training in the sand pit outside their barracks during boot camp at MCRD Parris Island, SC.

Photo credit: Scott/Olson/Getty Images

In a second memo from Mabus to Neller on the same day, the SecNav directed the Marine Corps to conduct a full review of its military occupational specialty titles in an effort to ensure that they are gender neutral.

As we achieve full integration of the force... this is an opportunity to update the position titles and descriptions themselves to demonstrate through this

language that women are included in these MOSs,” Mabus wrote. “Please review the position titles throughout the Marine Corps and ensure that they are gender-integrated as well, removing ‘man’ from the titles and provide a report to me as soon as is practicable and no later than April 1, 2016.”

A Navy official said that the service received a similar memo pertaining to its MOS titles and descriptions. Mabus doesn’t intend to require iconic titles like “infantryman,” “riflesman” or “midshipman” to be changed, however, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

“The idea is not to go in there and change the name when ‘man’ is incorporated as part of the term,” the official said. “But when the word ‘man’ appears as a separate word... they want that name to be changed.”

Examples of some of those titles in the Marine Corps include reconnaissance man, fire support man and field artillery sensor support man. In those cases, the official said it’s possible the ‘man’ could just be dropped from the names. Marine officials have confirmed receipt of both letters.

Lt. Col. Eric Dent, Neller’s spokesman, said the Marine Corps is “working diligently to meet the intent of the Secretary of Defense’s policy.” The Marine Corps delivered its implementation plan to Mabus and Defense Secretary Ash Carter last month, Dent added, and it’s now being reviewed by a Defense Department working group.

Each of the military services was required to present that plan by January 1. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps’ plans were to include “timelines for integrating newly opened occupations and positions using their existing recruiting, accession, training, and assignment procedures,” according to a Defense Department memo.

Since Mabus’ memo on integrating boot camp wasn’t sent until after that deadline, a Marine official said the Corps’ plan didn’t include details on changing its entry-level training. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity called Mabus’ 15-day deadline to come up with a plan to integrate Marine boot camp “an aggressive timeframe.”

“It requires a look at... how much personnel to bring, how many drill instructors to bring, the leadership and support cadre that comes along with that,” the Marine said. “The barracks in San Diego are H-shaped, for example, so you can see everything that’s going on. If women are living in them, do you black out the windows or make an entire building that’s theirs? Do you do a floor for men and a floor for women?”

Marines Weigh Stripping the Word “Man” from Job Titles

By Gina Harkins, *Marine Corps Times*
May 19, 2016...

One of the most time-honored phrases in the Marine Corps - “every Marine a rifleman” - could get an update as the service’s top leaders consider new gender-neutral job titles for all positions.

The Marine Corps is conducting a sweeping review of its military occupational specialty titles, Capt. Philip Kulczewski, a Marine spokesman at the Pentagon, told *Marine Corps Times*. The move follows a January directive from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus that Navy and Marine leaders ensure all job titles are gender neutral as ground combat jobs opened to women.

Mabus specifically wanted the word “man” dropped from all titles. That could mean that female Marines - or even men - heading to ground-combat jobs may not pick up traditional titles like rifleman or artilleryman.

Kulczewski declined to answer questions about how many titles could change, when the review would be complete or what the new job names could be, since the review is still ongoing.

Navy Capt. Patrick McNally, a spokesman for Mabus, also declined to comment on the status of the sea services’ reviews.

“[The Navy secretary] has met with leadership from both services on the issue and we will have an announcement on a way ahead at the appropriate time,” he said.

Initially, a Navy official told *Marine Corps Times* that Mabus didn’t intend to change iconic titles like infantryman, rifleman or midshipman.

Instead, the official said, he only wanted to change the titles if “man” stood alone as a separate word, as in reconnaissance man or field artillery sensor support man. But a Marine official with knowledge of the review said “every single” title, billet and job description is being looked at.



Pfc. Christina Fuentes Montenegro was one of the first three women to graduate from the Marine Corps’ Infantry Training Battalion in October 2013. As women take on new roles in the military, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus ordered the Navy and Marine Corps to review all job titles that include the word “man.”

Photo Credit: Sgt. Tyler Main/Marine Corps

The Corps’ most senior leaders - including the commandant and assistant commandant - along with members of Training and Education Command, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Plans, Policies and Operations, and Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, are involved in the assessment, the official said.

Mabus ordered the Marine Corps to conduct the review the same day he instructed Commandant Gen. Robert Neller to develop a plan to make the service’s entry-level training coed. Within days, it was determined that men and women would continue training separately at Marine boot camp. But the job title review forged ahead.

The Navy took its review one step further. In addition to finding gender-neutral job title options, its leaders are also on the hunt for rating titles that better match what sailors do. Navy yeomen, for example, could end up with a title like administrative specialist.

“I was talking to a corpsman the other day and guess what they used to be called? Pharmacist’s mate,” Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens told *Navy Times* in January. “... Maybe there [are] rating titles out there that just don’t make sense anymore.”

Stevens, the Navy’s top senior enlisted leader, kicked off a canvassing of the fleet earlier this year in order to get sailors’ thoughts and recommendations on the new titles.



“This has to come from the fleet,” he said. “It needs to work its way up through enlisted leadership... They are the voice of their people.”

Three Women Make History as the Marines’ First Female Infantrymen

Thirty-one other women are scheduled to join them soon.

By Andy Campbell, *The Huffington Post*

January 5, 2017...



A Marine with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment engages a target during a fire and maneuver range at Camp Lejeune, NC, on Nov. 29, 2016. Three women are scheduled to join the unit as the Marines’ first female infantrymen on Thursday.

Photo by MSgt Dan Dipietro

Three women have made strides to become the first female members of a Marine Corps infantry unit, and along the way have changed the military branch from the inside out.

The women - whose names and ranks aren’t being released - will join the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines in NC, Corps spokesman Capt. Philip Kulczewski told *The Huffington Post*. They’ll be reporting for duty as a rifleman, machine gunner and mortar Marine.

They spent years participating in an experiment for the Corps, which had been conducting studies and physical tests to determine if gender integration was feasible in ground combat units. The Pentagon announced in late 2015 that it would lift gender restrictions on all military service.

And now these women are pioneers in the most male-dominated of all military services.

“This serves as a testimony to the Marine Corps’ goal of leveraging every opportunity to optimize individual performance, talent and skills to maximize our warfighting capabilities,” Kulczewski said. “As we continue to move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensure that the men and women who earn the title “Marine” will be ready, and will provide America with an elite crisis-

response force that is ready to fight and win.”

And the number of women in infantry is set to increase, as a crew of new female recruits is preparing to take positions that previously wouldn’t have been available to them. Thirty-one Marines have signed enlistment contracts for newly accessible combat occupational specialties, *Military.com* reports.

Preparing new standards and changing training procedures to account for women joining the infantry ranks makes the Marine Corps better overall, Kulczewski said.

The milestone was met with some pushback from top brass. Months before the Pentagon made its integration announcement, the Marine Corps released a study indicating that one test had shown gender-integrated infantry units to shoot less accurately and perform more slowly than all-male units, *Military.com* reported at the time.

Critics lashed out at the study’s methodology, which often paired up men and women who had different training backgrounds and therefore lacked the cohesion that any unit can expect to develop over time.

Women are blasting stereotypes and assuming ground combat roles all over the Armed Forces. In April, U.S. Army Capt. Kristen Griest became the branch’s first female infantry officer, after becoming the first female to complete Army Ranger school.



Capt. Kristen Griest

While male and female Marine officer candidates have trained together for years, the service remains the only military branch to segregate its enlisted trainees. Female recruits only attend Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, where they live and train separately from their male counterparts there.

Marine officials have long touted the benefits to this model as it allows for intense mentoring between female drill instructors and the women in their charge. But critics say it can backfire with female recruits not being held to the same physical standards as their male counterparts.

It’s not immediately clear whether the Marine Corps’ West Coast recruit depot could also open to women in coming months, but Mabus wrote that simply having Marines training on the same grounds won’t cut it.

“Co-location does not meet the requirement for gender integrated training,” he wrote.



Marine Corps History

NCO CREED

(Excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

The Marine NCO, the Marine Non-Commissioned Officer - Tales of their combat exploits have become the stuff of legend. NCOs are the Corporals and Sergeants responsible for the lives of their men in combat. They must be leaders of men, but also much more. They carry with them the unbroken traditions of duty and dedication to their assigned mission. Their creed need not be lengthy. It is short, succinct, and to the point:



I am an NCO dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old. I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire him to the highest standards possible. I will strive to be patient, understanding, just, and firm. I will commend the deserving and encourage the wayward.

I will never forget that I am responsible to my Commanding Officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my men. Their performance will reflect an image of me.

STAFF NCO CREED



We all need roadmaps for life. We all need goals. Those unfortunate souls who don't know what is expected of them can rarely accomplish anything of significance, and they can never be a team player.

In the Marine Corps each Marine – regardless of rank, in war or in time of peace -- has goals and responsibilities. Goals change from time to time and from situation

to situation. But, the elementary and constant responsibility of each Staff NCO is outlined in the Staff NCO Creed:

I am a Staff Noncommissioned Officer in the United States Marine Corps. As such, I am a member of the most unique group of professional military practitioners in the world. I am bound by duty to God, Country, and my fellow Marines to execute the demands of my position to and beyond what I believe to be the limits of my capabilities.

I realize I am the mainstay of Marine Corps discipline, and I carry myself with military grace, unbowed by the weight of command, unflinching in the execution of lawful orders, and unswerving in my dedication to the most complete success of my assigned mission.

Both my professional and personal demeanor shall be such that I may take pride if my juniors emulate me, and knowing perfection to lie beyond the grasp of any mortal hand, I shall yet strive to attain perfection that I may ever be aware of my needs and capabilities to improve myself. I shall be fair in my personal relations, just in the enforcement of discipline, true to myself and my fellow Marines, and equitable in my dealing with every man.

THE MARINE'S PRAYER

Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

Contact with the Deity is serious business. It is also an excellent idea for Warriors who are expected to put their lives on the line against an assortment of foes. For U.S. Marines of any faith who may desire guidance when contacting their Maker, the Marine Corps has a ready aid, The Marine's Prayer:



Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me.

Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.



Upcoming Events



Marine Military Expo - Marine West
Marine Corps Base • Camp Pendleton, CA
February 1st – 2nd, 2017



National Mid-Winter Conference
Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center
2801 Plank Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 786-8321
March 2nd – 4th, 2017



Southern Division Conference
Holiday Inn S. Broadway
5701 S. Broadway • Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 561-5800 (Use code Z93)
March 24th – 25th, 2017



Marine Military Expo
Marine South
Marine Corps Base • Camp Lejeune, NC
April 12th - 13th, 2017



Department of Texas State Convention
MCM Hotel Elegante
2355 IH-10 • Beaumont, TX 77705
(977) 842-3606
June 22nd – 25th, 2017



MCL National Convention
 Sheraton Overland Park Hotel **(full)**
 Overland Park, KS
 August 13th – 18th, 2017

Overflow Hotel:
 Chase Suites Hotel (Group Code MARCOR)
 (913) 491-3333



Overflow Hotel:
 Courtyard Convention Ctr • (800) 321-2211



Overflow Hotel:
 Hilton Garden Inn • (844) 317-5096



Marine Military Expo
Modern Day Marine
 Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA
 September 19th – 21st, 2017



DEADLINE



for the
Texas Marine
SPRING Edition
 will be April 15th

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



SOUTHERN DIVISION CONFERENCE

TYLER, TEXAS • MARCH 24TH & 25TH, 2017

HOTEL: Holiday Inn South Broadway, 5701 South Broadway
(903) 561-5800 - Use group code Z93 for reservations
\$104 plus tax/night (double or king)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: March 9, 2017



REGISTRATION FEES: MCL/MCLA Members, Spouse - \$5/person

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL: Activity to be announced - \$5/person (for food)

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: \$35/person (Beef {London Broil}
or Chicken {Lemon Pepper Chicken w/Chardonnay Cream})



DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, SOCIAL & BANQUET: March 17, 2017

Make checks payable to "Rose City Detachment #1354"

*Mail to: Southern Division Conference Committee,
PO Box 132401, Tyler, TX 75713-2401*



ADS FOR PROGRAM:

Inside Front & Back Cover (COLOR)	\$150
Full Page	100
Half Page	50
Quarter Page	25
Business Card	15
Name/Single Line	10



DEADLINE FOR ADS: FEBRUARY 20th, 2017

Make checks payable to "Rose City Detachment #1354"

*Mail to: Southern Division Conference Committee, PO Box 132401, Tyler, TX 75713-2401
Camera ready artwork or ad may be emailed to: bearclaw0311@outlook.com*

**CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS: Randy Rigg - randyrigg@suddenlink.net
Cell: (419) 345-8342**



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS STATE CONVENTION



Hosting Detachment: 1st Sgt. Joyce Venable

BEAUMONT, TEXAS • JUNE 22-25, 2017

HOTEL: MCM Elegante Hotel & Conference Center, 2355 I-10 South, Beaumont, TX (GPS: 1355 Executive Blvd.) (877) 842-3606 • mcmelegantebeaumont \$95 plus tax/night • Includes hot breakfast buffet
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: June 8, 2017



REGISTRATION FEES: MCL/MCLA Members, Spouse - \$5/person

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL: Cajun Meet & Greet Event - \$15/person

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: \$35/person (Cajun Style Buffet)



DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, SOCIAL & BANQUET: June 24, 2017

Make checks payable to "1st Sgt. Joyce Venable Detachment"

Mail to: PO Box 1679, Grove, TX 77619



ADS FOR PROGRAM:

Back Cover (only 1 available)	\$175
Inside Front & Back Cover (COLOR)	150
Full Page (COLOR)	100
Half Page (COLOR)	50
Quarter Page (COLOR)	25
Business Card	15



DEADLINE FOR ADS: must be postmarked by midnight on May 1st, 2017

Make checks payable to "1st Sgt. Joyce Venable Detachment"

Mail to: PO Box 1679, Grove, TX 77619

Camera ready artwork (jpeg, png, pdf files) and/or ad may be emailed to Joe at: sailboat200962@yahoo.com