

TEXAS

**Charles Ynman
Commandant**



MARINE

**Department of TEXAS
Marine Corps League**

SPRING

Edition



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Commandant's Corner

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THE PRIVILEGE OF serving my Texas fellow members as Department of Texas Commandant is about to come to an end. We have accomplished many of our goals and still regret we could not have done more. I have enjoyed having the opportunity of working with a talented and dedicated Board of Trustees and staff. Our goal was to exceed your expectations.

One of our additional goals was to put the Department of Texas on budget and sound financial basis. I am proud to say we have accomplished that goal. My personal mission was membership and retention of our Marine members. With the help of the entire Department, we presented three new Charters: LCpl. Jacob D. Haynes Detachment, McKinney, Houston County Detachment, Crockett, and Bee County



Detachment, Beeville. We have also presented two new applications for Charter for the cities of Ennis and Henderson. We must keep in mind, like any business, we lose 20% of our membership every year. This is due to the passing of members and lack of interest of our membership. This means that before we can show a positive growth, we must first replace this 20%. I am proud to say that with the new Detachments and recruitment, the Department of Texas is showing a positive trend. This increase in membership has enabled us to create another District and appoint an additional District Vice.

It has also been my honor to have the opportunity to visit with a good portion of the Detachments of the Department. Marcia and I have received gracious hospitality from the Detachments we visited. We thank you for all your good will. The visits enabled us to get a chance to know many members on a personal basis.



With the help of several of our staff, we designed our new

Department logo and produced new tribute coins. The Department is now on its second order of coins. The Texas Pack came forward and donated the 14-inch mahogany podium seal, which will serve the Department for years to come.

The Department has also been fortunate to have several methods of communications with our members. Bernie and Juanita O'Dell continue to produce a first rate and award winning quarterly newsletter. Under the supervision of Felix Salmeron, our website is complete and provides most of the information our members require, including job descriptions in an easy to understand format. We have also installed the Department Facebook page under the supervision of Kris Shewell. It provides an opportunity for Detachments and the Department to post pictures and current news. The above initiatives have enabled the Department to keep our members fully informed members of the 21st Century.



Our Sergeant-at-Arms, Chris Borel, did a fantastic job managing the project of replacing our Department of Texas Flag. Our old Flag was tattered and was replaced with a Marine specification Flag. He also made available to our members replacement Flags at a lower cost and I believe

better quality.

I would also like to encourage everyone to make every attempt to attend the Department of Texas Convention, June 22-24 in Beaumont, Texas. Detachment delegates will vote for your



next Department Commandant and Officers. Your votes will dictate the direction of your Department in the future. The hosting 1st Sgt Joyce Venable

Detachment has plans for a fun filled and constructive convention. The convention information is available on our Department website.

The progress and attainment of goals was accomplished by the work of an outstanding staff and I am forever indebted to each of them.

The two years as your Commandant have been rewarding and I have been honored to serve you. It is my pleasure to also announce that at the Southern Division Conference I was elected to serve each of you as the National Southern Division Vice-Commandant. Thank you for your support. I will continue to work hard to exceed your expectations.

Senior's Segment

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AS THE DEPARTMENT



convention draws near and I look back on the past two years, I want to thank all the Department of Texas members for giving me the privilege of serving as your Sr. Vice Commandant. I appreciate all the support and assistance you have provided. I can

honestly say that it has been an educational

experience. Plus, when you throw in a little bit of humor and fun, it has made it a very rewarding time for me. Again, thank you for your confidence in me.

At the end of the Department's 2016 Convention, I was asked if I would run for the Department of Texas Commandant in 2017. I answered "Yes" that I would. I am now asking for your continued support to elect me as your 2017 - 2018 Department of Texas Commandant.

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aererni
(Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever)



Junior's Journal

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HELLO MARINES...

I hope everyone was able to spend time with their families on Easter. Let us remember our Brothers and Sisters who couldn't.

I enjoyed seeing those who could be at the Southern Division Conference in Tyler. A big UUURRAAA! to Rose City Detachment for hosting an awesome Conference.

The Department of Texas is doing great; we have added some new Detachments. Henderson and Ennis will be receiving their charters soon.

You might have heard that I am running for Department Commandant. It's true; several members have asked me to. I did not care to ever hold an office above the Detachment level. I just wanted to be a good "red hat" and enjoy the company of Marines.

A few years ago Bill Hamby asked me to run for District 8 Vice because he was retiring. (Gee Thanks Brother lol). My only goal was to look out for the membership (the "red hats") and boy howdy, let me tell y'all something, I stuck both feet in... Good, bad or indifferent the only thing on my mind was and is you, the members of the Department of Texas.



I have no agenda other than **K.I.S.S.** (keep it simple stupid, my motto), protecting you, our League, and its good name. I believe you need to know what's going on, lay everything out on the table and get your input. If it works stick with it; no need to reinvent the wheel, just improve on it.

We have seen some big changes in our League. You have voted for change and it shows. Remember, a member in good standing can run for any position. It's good to see more than one member running for a position. I think it's healthy for our League. If I'm not elected I will support and defend who the membership votes for.

If you choose to elect me I will work to find a way to have Commandants and District Vice Councils at our conferences done on Saturday and open to all members in good standing. Several members have told me they can't afford to be at a conference two days in a row but could be there on a Saturday. We are Marines and supporters of Marines; lets take care of each other.

Honor, Courage and Commitment to our membership is the only thing that drives me. I put you, the Detachment, first. You are the life blood of the League. Without you, there is none.

For those who don't know me, I am a proud life member of the Marine Corps League. I am a Charter Member of the Jacksonville Detachment in District 8. We started in 2011 and have been very active in our community and our League.

I look forward to seeing y'all at the State Convention.

What are the Marine Corps Values?

Human Resources and Organizational Management –
Headquarters Marine Corps

HONOR

This is the bedrock of our character. It is the quality that empowers Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior: to never lie, cheat, or steal; to abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; to respect human dignity; and to have respect and concern for each other. It represents the maturity, dedication, trust, and dependability that commit Marines to act responsibly, be accountable for their actions, fulfill their obligations, and hold others accountable for their actions.

Judge Advocate Alerts

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DURING THIS QUARTER

there have been several Bylaws Amendments and Administrative Procedure changes submitted by members for consideration at the Department Convention this year. I have received, reviewed, and approved several Detachment Bylaws Amendments. I have consulted with several District Vice Commandants on issues in their Districts which were able to be resolved without further involvement by the Department. I am available for input to Detachment Commandants informally on local issues.

Adjutant/Paymaster Postings



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UNPAID MEMBERS...

I received the Department of Texas rosters from National today. In reviewing them, I was amazed at the number of unpaid members there are in some Detachments. There are some Detachments that have more unpaid than paid members. This must be addressed immediately.

As I said in my last article, National **IS NOT** sending out renewal notices anymore. It is the responsibility of the Detachment Paymaster to advise the Detachment membership when they must pay their dues and all members **MUST** be current on their dues by **31 August**.



NO TAX DUE REPORT...



All Detachments are now required to file a **NO TAX DUE FRANCHISE TAX** report. The reports are due to the State Comptroller by **15 May 2017** and must be submitted

electronically. You can read <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/franchise/forms/2016-franchise.php> for more information. **Please email me a copy of your completed form.**

TRANSMITTALS...

Many of the Detachment Paymasters send me their transmittals in a large envelope. This costs you more and is not necessary unless you are sending more than one transmittal.

Please make sure you send me the original and two copies of all transmittals.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any admin questions you may have.

Chaplain's Comments

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HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!

I had a wonderful time at the Southern Division Conference in March! I saw lots of familiar faces. Thank you Rose City Detachment for your outstanding job! The Memorial Service went very well as we honored our fallen fellow Marines. I am looking forward to our State Convention in June... and this is a good time to remind **all of the 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.

We will be honoring all fallen League members who have passed on since our last State Convention in June 2016. So please ensure your Detachment has sent me your Death Notices.

Wishing everyone a blessed Springtime. See you in June! My prayers to you and your families. Until next time, Godspeed and Semper Fidelis!



Sergeant-At-Arms Summary

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FOR ALL DETACHMENTS

holding raffles, a little word to the wise:

Please retain your tickets for two or three months past your drawing date. Keeping the tickets for this reasonable time should

help fend off any stupid attacks. This suggestion was given to me from the Department Judge Advocate. It is in case someone who purchases a ticket and after the draw date wants to attest the drawing by stating, "My ticket was not even in the container to be drawn." Having the tickets on hand can keep from having a big court battle even knowing that their complaint is after the drawing date.

At all of our Conferences and Conventions there is always a registration fee and an "at the door" entrance fee with a possible 50/50 fee. The registration fee normally is for the hosting Detachment to help pay for the costs they incur. The main meeting entrance fee is for the State or National entity having the Conference or Convention. The 50/50 at the main meeting entrance is an **optional** 50/50 drawing. Whoever wins the pot receives 50% of whatever money is collected. The other 50% goes to the entity having the Conference or Convention.

When entering for the business meeting it is required to:

1) Have your Marine Corps League Membership Card. It is required for the Sergeant-At-Arms to insure all who enter (as per the Bylaws) for the main meeting are eligible to be admitted.

2) Be in minimum uniform which is your Marine Corps League Cover. All exceptions are directed to the ruling authority of the Conference/Convention.

The Sergeant-At-Arms does not make the rules; he/she only enforces them.





Webmaster Writings

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Webmaster
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DETACHMENT OFFICER ORIENTATION

We have made some strides in getting information out to all Detachments with our powerful newsletter, “The Texas Marine,” (thanks to Juanita O’Dell) to our Facebook Page, and our website.

We have just recently added the “Officer Orientation” on the web and now the new up and coming officers as well as some that are already in place can take a look at what some of the duties are. This pilot program will have changes for the next 90 days and then they will be in place ongoing. If you have any contribution to the programs, make Felix aware at mar463@aol.com.
Location: <http://texasmcl.org/officer-orientation>

Our Newsletter:

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

Our Website:

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

Our Facebook page:

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

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/Texas_Marines



What are the Marine Corps Values?

Human Resources and Organizational Management –
Headquarters Marine Corps

COURAGE

The heart of our Core Values, courage is the mental, moral, and physical strength ingrained in Marines that sees them through the challenges of combat and the mastery of fear, **and to do what is right, to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct, to lead by example**, and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure. It is the inner strength that enables a Marine to take that extra step.

Veteran's Voice

Texas Veterans Newsletter is available to **any** MCL member or Veteran. It pertains to the Veterans of the State of Texas and is available at www.tvc.state.tx.us



Submitted by Juanita O’Dell, *Editor*
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SOME OF THE highlights since publication of the February 2017 newsletter are:



Senate Confirms David Shulkin as New VA Secretary

Leo Shane III, *Military Times*
February 13, 2017...

WASHINGTON – **THE SENATE** easily



Dr. David Shulkin
New VA Secretary

confirmed Dr. David Shulkin as the new Veterans Affairs Secretary on February 13th, making him the first non-veteran ever to serve in the post. Shulkin, who currently serves as the head of VA health programs, was approved by a vote of 100-0. He is expected

to be sworn into the Cabinet post on February 14th.

The 57-year-old physician was praised by lawmakers from both parties and veterans advocates as a leader with inside knowledge of the veterans bureaucracy and critical perspective of ways to reform those offerings from his time as a healthcare executive.

“The solutions to VA’s problems should be based on common sense rather than partisanship or an extreme agenda, and I think Dr. Shulkin recognizes that,” said Senator Jon Tester, D-MT, and ranking member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

“He is committed to our nation’s veterans



above all. Through the conversations I've had with him over the last year and a half, I think he understands the challenges that are ahead of us in the VA... Dr. Shulkin is on top of it."

Committee Chairman Senator Johnny Isakson, R-GA, called Shulkin



Senator Johnny Isakson

"the right man for the veterans administration" and hailed the vote as a rare moment of bipartisanship in the increasingly divided chamber.

Shulkin is the only member of President Donald Trump's Cabinet to be held over from former President Barack Obama's administration. He's also the first non-veteran to

oversee the department or any of its predecessor agencies. Over the last 94 years, each of the 26 other men to serve in the job boasted military experience.

Shulkin's parents both served in the Army, and he was born on a military base in Illinois. In his confirmation hearing earlier this month, Shulkin said the military and veterans care has played a persistent role in his life.

"As a young doctor, I trained in several VA hospitals," he said. "I view my service at VA as a duty to give back to the men and women who secured the uniquely American freedoms and opportunities we all enjoy, because of sacrifices they made."



He also repeatedly promised not to "privatize" VA services, and told lawmakers he would not have accepted Trump's nomination if it came with such a requirement.

"What I told him is that I am a strong advocate for the VA, that the services that are available in VA are not available in the private sector," Shulkin told senators. "My view of where VA needs to go is an integrated system of care, taking the best of VA and the best in the community, and that's what I would work towards."

In a statement, Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander Brian Duffy praised the Senate vote as an important step ahead for the community.

"Veterans are very fortunate to have Dr. Shulkin voluntarily stay in what has evolved into the most scrutinized and criticized position in the

"What he brings to the job is a love for veterans, for doing what's right, and for knowing what needs to be done to fix what's broken, to hold employees accountable, and to restore the faith of veterans in their VA. The VFW looks forward to working with him and his staff."

Paul Rieckhoff, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, in a statement said his membership supported Shulkin's confirmation "but now the hard work for Shulkin and the President begins."

"Big promises from the campaign must be followed by big outcomes," he said. "Dr. Shulkin knows the VA and should not require time to learn. We expect and deserve to see results right away."

Trump made VA reform a pillar of his presidential campaign, including releasing a 10-point plan which called for more mental health care professionals in the department, a private White House hotline devoted to fielding complaints from veterans, and a commission to "investigate all the fraud, cover-ups, and wrongdoing that has taken place in the VA" in recent years.

Much of that work has been stalled waiting for a new permanent head for the department. Decisions on who will serve as Shulkin's chief of staff, top health official and other key deputies are expected to be announced in coming days.

Shulkin is the ninth permanent secretary confirmed by the Senate since the Department of Veterans Affairs was reorganized in 1989. Each of the other eight were also approved without opposition, either through unanimous or voice votes.



Exclusive: New VA Chief on Public Scrutiny: Bring It

Donovan Slack, USA Today
4/12/2017...



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has a new message on public scrutiny: Bring it on.

President Trump's pick to lead the agency, VA Secretary David Shulkin, is unveiling a new web site that reveals for the first time exactly how care at VA hospitals compares with nearby private-sector hospitals and national averages. The site has data for roughly 20 hospitals but more will be added soon, the VA says.

The site that went live Wednesday, access-to-care.va.gov, also shows if veterans are satisfied with wait times at every hospital and clinic across the country and how long they are actually waiting on average.

Shulkin, the only holdover from the Obama administration in Trump's Cabinet, told *USA TODAY* that he believes transparency is a critical step toward fixing the beleaguered VA, something he said he conveyed to Trump.

"He doesn't understand why people are waiting this long, and he wants to fix it. My answer to him is, the way that you fix this is not by internally motivating people to fix it — you actually need the external environment, people looking, saying I don't understand why it's 45 days," he said.

"In my experience in health care — but it's like every other industry — industries don't change from within, they change from outside competition, and they change from outside forces, and that's very much my philosophy."

That's a marked shift from his predecessor, former Procter & Gamble CEO Bob McDonald, who as secretary focused heavily on trying to spur internal cultural change, assailed critical media coverage and said that revealing internal quality ratings of VA hospitals would cause veterans "unwarranted distress" and possibly dissuade them from getting care.

Shulkin himself had worried veterans might be scared away, but he says now that he's in charge — he was previously undersecretary for health — he decided transparency is the best option. He provided a demonstration of the new web site to *USA TODAY* on Monday that showed wide variations in wait times.

In the greater Los Angeles area, for example, the average wait for new patients seeking mental health appointments ranged from eight days in Long Beach, CA, to 87 days at a clinic in Santa Fe

Springs, CA.

In New York and New Jersey, average waits range from three days at a clinic on Staten Island to 58 days at a VA clinic in Morristown, NJ.

Shulkin said the information will empower the public to ask questions — including members of Congress and others outside the VA who can hold it accountable. And it helps veterans and their family members make more informed decisions about where to seek care.

"It starts giving people now some choice on essentially what they want to do," Shulkin said.



VA Secretary David Shulkin speaks with USA TODAY in the first interview in his new office as secretary on April 10, 2017.

(Photo: Donovan Slack, USA TODAY)

At the Phoenix VA, which made headlines in 2014 after schedulers kept secret wait lists and veterans died waiting to be seen, the average wait is now 18 days for new primary care appointments and eight days for new mental health patients, according to the new site.

But on satisfaction, only 69% of veterans surveyed say they usually got an appointment when they needed one in Phoenix. The national average on that question is 85%, Shulkin said.

He noted that all of the roughly 150 VA hospitals now provide same-day services for veterans needing urgent or immediate appointments, a goal he had set when he started at the agency in 2015.

The site also shows how 19 VA hospitals compare to nearby private-sector facilities on more than a dozen quality measures, including complication rates after hip or knee surgery. It also displays national averages, allowing the public to see where VA care is lagging or better in average quality.

Shulkin is a practicing physician who still sees VA patients via video link in his top-floor office at VA headquarters in Washington. He is quickly ramping up plans to deliver on Trump's campaign promises, including setting up a White House hotline for VA complaints that Shulkin says should be up and running by **June 1**. He is also putting together a task force to investigate fraud and abuse

at the agency.

His philosophy about transparency stems to his early career days in the 1990s, he said, when he was chief medical officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. The state of Pennsylvania released death rates for cardiac surgery programs and Penn's was the highest.

"And everyone until then had thought, well Penn was the best. Now all of a sudden we have data, it's the worst," Shulkin said. "Well, I learned — not easily — that was a gift to me to drive internal change, and I could never have stood up as a young kid and said, 'Guys we have a problem here.' But when the reporters and the newspaper



articles were saying you have an outcomes problem here, mortality's three times as high as other hospitals in Pennsylvania, that allowed me to drive internal change."

Shulkin hopes releasing the internal data on the sprawling VA system, which encompasses more than 1,200 medical clinics in addition to hospitals, will help him do the same.

"I really think that this is going to be, when we look back, a turning point for VA because the leaders who aren't focused on what they're doing have no place now to hide and so they're going to have to truly be accountable for their results," he said.

Division/District/ Detachment Digest

SOUTHERN DIVISION



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MARINES

I hope everyone had a great time in Tyler, Texas, when they attended the Southern Division

Conference in March. I know that the Rose City Detachment #1354 was happy with the number of members who turned out for the conference and were happy to have everyone visit Tyler.

I want to congratulate the following Detachments for their work in meeting the goals of the Southern Division and being named Detachment of the Year 2016 in their membership category:

Under 50 Members - North Texas Detachment #862 with an average of 1% unpaid membership;

51 to 90 Members - Captain John Yancey #631 with an average of 8% unpaid membership;

Over 91 Members - Jacksonville Detachment #1381 with an average of 5% unpaid membership.

CONGRATULATIONS!

I also want to congratulate Ron Tomonelli on his selection as Southern Division Marine of the Year. I have known Ron for a long time and it is an honor that is long overdue him.

MOY

For those of you who missed the announcement, our new Southern Division website went online in late February. I want to thank my Assistant NVC Johnny Gothard for heading up this assignment and our Web Sergeant Nick Wedenkopf for the fine job he has done on the website. If you have not had the chance to visit the "Three Amigos" site it is located at

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

This will be my last article as your Southern Division Vice Commandant as my term will end and Charles Ynman will be sworn in at the Marine Corps League National Convention as my replacement in August. Your new Assistant Vice Commandant for the Southern Division will be Steve Maxson from Oklahoma. I wish them both successes during their term of office, and I know the Division will continue on the path we have set for a successful organization. I know that the Department of Texas will be in fine hands with Robert Way stepping up from Sr. Vice Commandant to run for the position of Commandant.

The League is going to be going through changes in the near future with a new membership database that will give the individual member more control over their own personal data, and should allow for renewal of your dues online which is something that a lot of you have indicated that you want from the organization. This new database will also require that your Paymaster pay more attention

to your membership records if you are not set up to manage your own records.

In addition, we are in the process of reviewing the entire Marine Corps League By-Laws in an attempt to simplify this document and transfer a number of items into the Administrative Procedures where changes can be made without the need of waiting for National Convention for a By-Laws change.

I look forward to seeing you all in Overland Park, Kansas, and hope that I can count on the Detachments from the Department of Texas to support me for the office of National Judge Advocate of the Marine Corps League. Make sure that if you are coming to Overland Park that you register all of your delegates.

DISTRICT 2

Submitted by John Grafflin
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WE EXPERIENCED A larger-than-usual Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, this past month, followed by a somewhat mediocre turnout from all but East Texas at the Southern Division Conference in Tyler. Next up is the State Convention in Beaumont this June and the National at Overland Park, KS, in August. I encourage all District 2 Detachments to register your Delegates and to have at least one Delegate attend both the State and National Conventions. Your votes do matter, but you don't get them if you do not have at least one Delegate at the Conventions to cast your entitled votes.

You must have a Delegate registered for each block of ten (10) regular and dues-current members as of June 30, but only one of those delegates needs to be at the Conventions to cast all your votes. For example, if you have 41 members on your roster at the end of June that are current on their dues, you must register five (5) delegates in order to cast all 41 votes. If you have just three registered delegates, you will only be allowed thirty (30) votes, provided you have at least one registered delegate at the Convention.



In the news, Texoma Detachment #929 received the National Vice Commandant's Award for maintaining their average unpaid membership at or below 15%. Good job Marines.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, I'd like to share a few tidbits from history...

April 2, 1917 – President Woodrow Wilson asking Congress to declare war against Germany:

"It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."



July 4, 1917 – General John J. Pershing, commander of the newly arrived American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, made a special pilgrimage to a small cemetery on the outskirts of Paris. There, he and his staff stopped beside a simple grave.

"It is with loving pride we drape the colors in tribute of respect to this citizen of your great republic. And here and now in the presence of the illustrious dead we pledge our hearts and our honor in carrying this war to a successful issue. Lafayette, we are here!"

June 6, 1918 – Nearly 1,100 Marines were killed or wounded on the first day of the Battle of Belleau Wood. The Corps' tenacity led the French to rename the wood Bois de la Brigade de Marine, or "Wood of the Marine Brigade."

I urge each of you to join with your fellow Veteran Service Organizations in remembrance of all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice from the time of our very beginning through the present.

Semper Fi, and see you at the State and National Conventions.

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



I would appreciate your vote.

John Grafflin

DOT District 2 Vice Commandant - 2015 – 2017

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

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THE DEANE HAWKINS

Detachment continues to be very active in community, youth and veterans' activities. With the Air Force and Navy no longer providing firing details for Retirees, it has more than doubled the number of funerals we provide Honors for. But all the members of the Honor Detail agree that it is the right thing to do and the least we can do for a deceased veteran.

Members of the Detachment continue to provide coffee and snacks at the VA clinic as well as provide assistance to any veterans requesting help.

Members of the Detachment also participated in commemorations for the Vietnam anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into WWI.



*Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony at
Fort Bliss National Cemetery*



*Color Guard for WWI Commemoration Ceremony
at Fort Bliss National Cemetery*

The Detachment members have been very involved with the El Paso Young Marines. We have been able to set up an air rifle range in the building they share with the Marine Corps Reserve Unit, and have taught fire arms safety classes and marksmanship. This is one class the Young Marines like.



*El Paso Young Marines marksmanship
training*

The Young Marines have also participated in Adopt a Highway as well as the El Paso "Trash Off Day" as well as the MOWW annual "Massing of the Colors" ceremony. They are now preparing to go on a camping trip shortly after Easter.

Detachment members also presented several Eagle Scout certificates during this period.



*Pete Gomez and Bob Way presenting Eagle Scout
Certificates to new Eagle Scouts Jorge Gutierrez,
Gilead Wright and Carlos Ruiz*

Members hosted the “6th Annual Youth Physical Fitness” meet at Fort Bliss. This event was for JROTC units in the Texas and New Mexico area. The Young Marines also entered a team. Four of their five members were among the top sixteen individual high scorers. They are hoping to compete next year.

The winning teams were:

Male Teams	Female Teams
1st Place Coronado MCJROTC, El Paso	1st Place Mt. View AJROTC, El Paso
2nd Place Chapin AJROTC, El Paso	2nd Place O’Nate NJROTC, Las Cruces, NM
3rd Place Santa Teresa NJROTC, Santa Teresa, NM	3rd Place Coronado MCJROTC, El Paso



*1st place male team, Coronado H.S.
MCJROTC, El Paso*



*1st place female team, Mt. View H.S.
AJROTC, El Paso*

The Deane Hawkins Detachment is now preparing for the Marine Rose program, Memorial Day events and the Department Convention.

DISTRICT 6

Submitted by Amado Trevino, *District Vice Cmdt.*
(361) 960-0143 (H) • *atvt49@yahoo.com*

I HAVE BEEN PRETTY BUSY

traveling. I’ve gone to Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, and Southern Division Conference in Tyler, TX. With the help of District 5 Vice Richard Torrez and Commandant Charles Ynman we installed the officers for our new Detachment in District 6 - Bee County Detachment. I also had some help from Marine Josemaria Lopez in getting that Detachment going.



*Cmdt. Ynman
installing new officers
@ Bee County
Detachment*

I have installed the Coastal Bend Detachment Officers and with the help again from Marine Lopez he installed the Laredo Detachment Officers while I was at Mid-Winter. Marine Robert Hurtado also installed the Jack Ringel Detachment Officers.

We have three Detachments planning to have a Marine Corps Ball this year:

Bee County will be having theirs on November 8, 2017; Coastal Bend will hold theirs on November 10, 2017; and Laredo’s will be on November 18, 2017.

Most Detachment Commandants are planning on attending our Department Convention in Beaumont. I have told them that at this Convention we will be voting on By-Law changes and of course election of new Officers.

Photos below documenting Coastal Bend Detachment #430 and Auxiliary “Iwo Jima Day Ceremony” in Corpus Christi and Iwo Jima flag raising performed by the Young Marines.



San Antonio. More than 20% of Fiesta-goers travel from across the state, the nation, and even the world! With music, food and carnival rides the Battle of Flowers® and Fiesta Flambeau® parades are very popular.



Fiesta Flambeau Parade

Another aspect of Fiesta are all the medals one can collect. Each organization creates custom medals that are sold to help raise funds for their organization. Marine Corps Ambassadors made up of local Marine recruiters or Marine Reservists that travel the cities many events that take place over a two-week span give medals out to dignitaries and civic leaders during Fiesta.

The all impressive and highly sought out Marine Corps Fiesta Medal is one of the favorites and most cherished. Due to budget cuts many years ago, the Marine Corps has had to rely on local non-profit Marine organizations to help raise enough money to provide some 1,500 medals that are given out each year. This has been done by the efforts of Marine Corps League Member and President of the Marine Corps Coordinating Council Richard Jones. Richard was diagnosed recently with a serious illness and is now passing the torch to the Alamo Detachment. Fundraising efforts are being discussed to continue this honorable tradition that has been done for many years by Marines like Richard Jones and Werner “Ronnie” W. Reininger.

In the meantime, Alamo Detachment would like to thank Richard for all his tireless efforts and work for all those many years. Richard exemplifies the Marine Corps slogan “Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful.”

If you would like to purchase a 2017 Marine Corps Fiesta Medal email fcondejr02@gmail.com or mail a check to: Alamo Detachment, P.O. Box 831641, San Antonio, TX 78283, Attention: Fiesta Medal (while supplies last).



ALAMO DETACHMENT SAN ANTONIO

Submitted by Orlando Garza
Past Commandant
(210) 551-8855 (C)
alamodet315mcl@gmail.com

GETTING READY TO PARTY!

Fiesta San Antonio started in 1891 as a one-parade event as a way to honor the memory of the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto. Fiesta is the Party with a Purpose - the funds raised by official Fiesta events provide services to San Antonio citizens throughout the year. Fiesta has grown into a celebration of San Antonio’s rich and diverse cultures.

Fiesta San Antonio attracts visitors regionally, nationally, and internationally, and the festival has become one of our nation’s more popular attractions. Some 3.5 million party-goers enjoy Fiesta

BIG D DETACHMENT DALLAS

Submitted by Linda Shook, *Commandant*
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HELLO FROM BIG D!!!

This is my first article since I became Commandant of the Big D Detachment. FYI I'm not a writer but here goes.

It has been 10 years since I was Commandant of Big D and a lot has changed so I'm busy trying to catch up and get in step. With the support of my staff and Detachment I'm looking forward to a great year.

In January we had our meeting, and as a fundraiser the Detachment cooks steaks on the 4th Friday of the month at the Elks Lodge in Mesquite. This year we added a local DJ that we hope will bring his followers in for a good steak. February and March was kind of quiet for the Detachment. We did a few Scout presentations, our steak nights and we had seven members attend the Southern Division Conference in Tyler, TX.

The end of April and May we will be busy with MCJROTC presentations and Memorial Day events. Hope to get better at this and have pictures with my next article.



HEART OF TEXAS DETACHMENT WACO

Submitted by Luis Lopez, *Commandant*
(254) 405-1306 (H)
luislopez0650@live.com

IT IS THAT TIME of year again for all the Detachments to meet up at the State Convention. I am looking forward to seeing all of you! I know that some of us are having a hard time with getting new members, but we have to keep trying! Anyway, you all have a safe trip to Beaumont and I will see you there.



LONGHORN DETACHMENT CROWLEY

Submitted by Jack Mattson
Commandant
(817) 988-8342 (H)
(619) 733-2142 (C)
mattjlwl@gmail.com



THE LONGHORN Detachment

continues its support of the Battered Women of Tarrant County Banquet sponsored by the Southwest Baptist Seminary, and the VAVS program in support of the Veterans at the Covenant Place Assisted Care Facility in Burleson.

Our most recent addition to our Benevolence program is funding support to Veterans enrolled at the Liberty House, Ft. Worth. Our Rose Program and charity drives are alive and flourishing, which enabled us to support the Liberty House with needed clothing for a Veteran, and give a donation of \$2,500 to the Brother's Keepers charity to enable a Gold Star family to attend a special event in their honor.



(Liberty House – A 30-bed transitional housing program for homeless male veterans with substance abuse and co-occurring mental health problems. Offers veterans the opportunity to live and work in a safe and drug free environment while practicing their recovery skills. <http://www.mhmrtarrant.org/Services/Mental-Health-Services/Homeless>)

(Brothers Keepers – is committed to honoring and empowering veterans, first responders, their families and others called to serve. <http://brothers-keepers.org>)

Our support to the Wheelchairs 4 Kids charity is ongoing after our Charity Golf Tournament donation last year of over \$4,800 to support 25 children in the great state of Texas.



(Wheelchairs 4 Kids is a non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of children with physical disabilities. <http://wheelchairs4kids.org>)

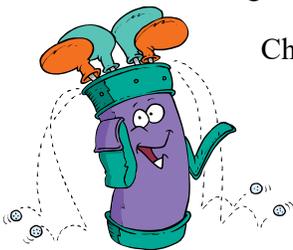
The Detachment represented the Marine Corps League at the Iwo Jima Survivor Presentation Dinner in Ft. Worth, and the Viet Nam Veterans Portable Wall in Benbrook, TX.

It was bittersweet for the Detachment to lose our Past Commandant Bill Carter as he fledged up to the worthy position of District 7 Vice Commandant. Bill is up to the task and he has our full support and encouragement. Bill was also recognized as this year's Detachment "Marine of the Year," and we were proud to recognize Glenda Bailey as our Detachment "Associate of the Year" as well.

Our Chaplain and Sr. Vice Commandant gave needed support to the families of two of our fallen Marines this quarter, Dennis Cartwright and Carlis Scroggins.

Our compliments to the organizers of the Southern Division Conference in Tyler, TX. It was a great event.

We are inviting all Marines and their friends to participate in our 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Southern Oaks Golf Club in Burleson, scheduled for June 10th, shotgun start at 7:00 A.M. All proceeds will go to the two great charities.



For questions email

brett.norris@mcllonghorn.org.

Lastly, the Longhorn Detachment was honored to give away a motorized wheelchair to a Veteran who served two tours in Viet Nam and is suffering from the effects of Agent Orange syndrome. Talk about a happy Veteran – here is a grateful Veteran, Allan Karl, USAF:



LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS DETACHMENT BASTROP

Submitted by Chad Cohn, *PR Information Officer*
(512) 581-1178 (C) • cahdwcohn@yahoo.com

GOOD DAY MARINES...

During these first few months of 2017 the Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384 has been busy within our community and the Detachment itself. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, we had some new officers elected. Most notable was the election of our new Commandant Tony Poletti. Other new officers once again are Jr. Vice Commandant Lupe Moncebaiz, Adjutant Patti Fenter, Paymaster Robin Fannin and Webmaster Mike Keppler, Jr.



During the month of January our Detachment held its monthly meeting and annual Officer Installation Ceremony for 2017

Commandant Tony Poletti receiving the gavel from Department of Texas Commandant Charles Ynman



At this time we want to thank Past Commandant Ken Steffek for his leadership and dedication to the Detachment.



Past Commandant Ken Steffek presiding over his last LPL meeting as Commandant

Aside from our elections transitions January and February were rather quiet months for LPL Detachment.

As has become a tradition the Detachment Golf Committee has begun planning our Annual Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament. Date is to be announced. Start practicing your swing and prepare to come support our Veterans while having a great time on a great course at the ColoVista Golf Club in beautiful Bastrop. You also have a chance to win some great prizes.

In February our Detachment was honored to hold the "Operation Home Fore a Hero" Golf Tournament and Gala. This event alone raised \$40,000 towards the home project for local hero and Medal of Honor recipient US Army Staff Sgt Ty M. Carter.



During the month of March the Detachment was quite active. Our members in the Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard rendered Military Honors for a Bastrop County Veteran. Other members of our Detachment continued our pledge to help all veterans by providing assistance to several local Veterans as well.

Over March 23-25 in Tyler, TX, several of our members attended the Marine Corps League Southern Division meetings. During these meetings Past Commandant Ken Steffek was appointed as District 4 Vice Commandant. Congratulations Ken!!!!



Auxiliary Announcements

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

GREETINGS EVERYONE!!!

It was good to see everyone at the Southern Division Conference. It is always wonderful to see old friends and meet new ones. This conference was very productive and our raffle was a great success.

Our State Convention is approaching very quickly and by the time this newsletter is published your Activity Reports should be in the hands of the Chairmen. Also, elections will take place and I will be sending out forms for that.

Our number one priority should be to bring in new members for the Auxiliary to help us grow. The work we do is so important for our veterans and communities. We need to become more motivated in order to help our potential members become motivated.

I hope many of you plan to attend the State Convention in Beaumont. It will be a busy time for League and Auxiliary. I am always available if anyone needs my assistance.

See you there.



Auxiliary members @ Colors @ Southern Division (L-R): Linda Blair, Marcia Ynman, Karren Ogg, Brenda Tomonelli, Dorcas Simpson.



Auxiliary Officers (L-R): So. Div. Asst. Vice Linda Blair, So. Div. Vice Viola Tevino, DOT President Johnnie Lopez, DOT Treasurer Dorcas Simpson.

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 costumed Fleas paraded for the judges, who then awarded the “Best Spring Cleanin’ Outfit” prizes to Dorcas Simpson, 1st Place, Diana Figueroa, 2nd Place, and Viola Trevino, 3rd Place.



Contest Winners:
 Viola Trevino,
 Diana Figueroa,
 Dorcas Simpson

THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Flea Hide (including our Arkansas sisters) hopped down to Tyler for the Southern Division Conference in April. The Flea Scratch theme was “Spring Cleaning Fling.” The Fleas were greeted with a room all fully equipped to “clean-up” in preparation for Spring.

Hide Big Flea Viola Trevino installed new Crawler Melissa Cloud (Oklahoma resident, Arkansas Unit). They also cleaned and pestered one Pup in his desire to be a Dog. The Fleas, all uniformed in cleaning attire, trooped into the DD Growl and plied the Dogs with candy for their bone donations. The MODDF donated all fines and bones to the Texas Operation Little Angel Fund.



Big Flea Viola
 installing Melissa
 Cloud as
 MODDF Crawler

Big Flea Viola invited all MODDF Fleas to attend the Department of Texas Grand Scratch in Beaumont in June where we will install new Flea Officers. She also announced that the Scratch theme will be “Tropical-Coastal Beach.” All Fleas should venture to Beaumont with tropical attire in mind - flowers, grass skirts, sunglasses, leis, coconuts, palm trees, etc. More Flea fun to be had!!



The Fleas also issue invites to Marine Corps League spouses/ladies to visit and share in our Flea fun and see what the Auxiliary and the Fleas are all about. We would all welcome new members to join us in our very strong commitment to our Marines, Veterans, children, and communities. See you in Beaumont!!

Reminder: Visit websites texasmcl.org and nationalmcla.org and nationalmoddfleas.org for more information.



Group of Clean up Fleas (L-R): Judy Beard,
 Linda Blair, Toni Hurtado, Viola Trevino,
 Dorcas Simpson, Diana Figueroa,
 Brenda Tomonelli



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

GREETINGS LADIES...

I had a busy month in March starting with Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, followed by Southern Division Conference in Tyler, TX. I had a very pleasant trip to both



conferences with great weather. Our Division was represented at Mid-Winter by Dorcas Simpson, Marcia Ynman, myself, and Linda Rigg. My thanks to the Rose City Detachment for being

such great hosts of our Southern Division Conference and a *Special Thanks* to Randy and Linda Rigg for all their help.

I am so proud of the Southern Division Units for keeping up with their 990N and corporate filing. I know we don't have many units but it's good to know that the ones we have are responsible and committed.

A very special thanks to Assistant Southern Division Vice President Linda Blair for all her help at the Conference and throughout the year.

I am proud to report the accomplishments of our Division's units...

Certificates of Appreciation presented by National...

Americanism –

River Valley/Claude Rogers Unit
3rd Place

Girl Scout Participation –

River Valley/Claude Rogers Unit

VAVS Total Hours –

Dorcas Simpson from HOT Unit

VAVS 100% Volunteering for 2015 - 2016

Dorcas Simpson

Americanism – Department of Texas

Participation – Department of Texas

National Vice President Southern Division –

Viola Trevino

Certificates from Southern Division Vice President Viola Trevino...

Participation –

Assistant Southern Division Vice President
Linda Blair

Mileage 1st Place – Coastal Bend Unit

Mileage 2nd Place – Heart of Texas Unit

Mileage 3rd Place – Alamo Unit

Thank you ladies for all you do. I am looking forward to seeing the Ladies at our Department of Texas Convention in Beaumont, TX, in June.



Devil Dog Doings

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

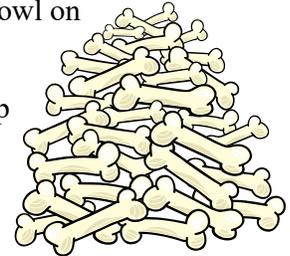
WOOF WOOF TEXAS PACK!!

The Texas Pack had the honor to run the Growl at the Southern Division Conference in Tyler, TX, March 24th – 25th. Devil Dogs from Oklahoma and Arkansas were in attendance. Many bones were collected and a good time was had by all Dogs.

I attended Pound 268 Growl on April 1st and am planning to attend Pound 199 Growl.

Pound Dog Robbers keep up the good work and get your bones in.

Those Devil Dogs who want to advance to PDD at the National Convention need to get their forms to Dog Robber ASAP.



Submitted by PDD Ron Tomonelli
Southern Division Vice Chief Devil Dog
(903) 786-8243 (H) • rttexoma@yahoo.com

WOOF!! WOOF!!

This ole Dog is resting up after traveling to the "Rose Capital," Tyler, TX, for our annual Southern Division Growl. The MODD Pack of Texas hosted a large bunch of dogs from across Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The Growl proved very successful and bones were flying, along with at least one Pup initiated into the Dogs. We were "howlin'" over seeing some long-time Dogs who made the trek and contributed to a very successful Growl.

Thanks to the Pack of Texas and the Rose City Detachment for hosting and providing a very entertaining and grand-ole time!

We are looking forward to the Department of Texas Convention and Grand Growl in June in Beaumont.



Reminder to all Texas Pounds: submit your candidate for **Dog of the Year**. Now is your chance to acknowledge those tireless, worthy Dogs and their achievements in promoting the Order's fun and charitable activities.

Paw-salute to all the hard-barking Dogs and let's get ready to Growl big-time in Beaumont!



Dogs getting pestered by MODD Fleas



Pedigrees enjoying Southern Division Growl



"Wine-O-Dog"



Ron Tomonelli receiving the Southern Division Marine of the Year at the Convention Banquet.



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

National News

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

*Spring 2017
Semper Fi Magazine*

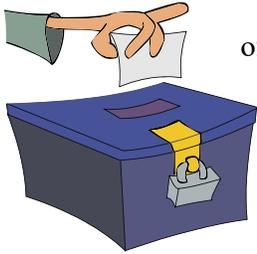


MARINES GETTING READY FOR TRANSITION

Since we have held our Mid-Winter Conference before this was written for this issue of *Semper Fi*, I would like to talk about a few of the events that will be coming up in the next few months that everyone has to become aware of.

By the time we all meet again at our next Convention in Overland Park, KS, a lot of attention should be paid to the upcoming elections to be held at the Convention. A lot of hard work, effort and thought has been applied to bring us to the position

we are in in just a two-year span of time. Your Marine Corps League is not just a club for Marines; it is a business and needs to be thought of in just that manner. The future depends on who you, the membership, decide to put into the



offices that make up the “Board of Trustees,” who make the important decisions on your behalf. It is a job which requires maximum participation and effort at all

times, with seriousness and resolution being tantamount in due diligence. Use extreme vetting when you cast your vote during caucus at the Convention.

I also want to urge members to begin engaging more at the Conventions so the information that is being passed around gets out to everyone, instead of a few who do come. During the last three Conventions we have noticed a remarkable upswing in attendance, and I mean a large increase. We had 500 persons at our banquet in Tulsa, OK, to welcome Commandant Neller, and believe me, he knew you were there. He stated to me that he felt welcome and really had no idea we were that large a group. I also want to point out this Mid-Winter, when once again we had probably the largest turnout in years with over 300 in attendance. The whole primary hotel was sold out, and a large number of members were at the overflow.



Keep up all your good work on our behalf. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in the next few months.



**Executive Director
Thomas W. Hazlett**

*Spring 2017
Semper Fi Magazine*

MARINES...

By the time you read this article, Mid-Winter Conference for 2017 will have come and gone. I hope those of you in attendance took back the

information and passed it on to your Departments and Detachments. Since this article was written several days before the Mid-Winter Conference kicked off, I am not sure how many of our membership were in attendance, but at writing, it appears that we will have a very large conference, and I hope you all enjoyed your stay in Fredericksburg.



To all Detachments, Departments and Divisions: We need to police up after ourselves; we have got to start acting responsibly when it comes to the use of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor in fundraisers. It is time to stop using the Marine Corps League as the recipient of funds if the Detachment is benefiting from the money made during the fundraiser. Stating that the Marine Corps League is the benefactor indicates that National MCL



Headquarters is receiving the funds. I am meeting soon with attorneys from Headquarters Marine Corps to discuss if we can keep the EGA on our uniforms as well as on shirts and other types of garments. Creating a name for a fund and stating that it is a Marine Corps League Fund is both wrong and possibly damaging to us. If you are running a raffle or fundraiser, use your Detachment name and do not use verbiage that might indicate the raffle or fundraiser is approved by or is benefiting the National MCL Headquarters.

Recently I’ve had several complaints about rogue Toys for Tots programs being conducted using the name “Toys for Tots,” using the Toys for Tots logo, wearing Toys for Tots shirts, hats, etc. and then collecting both toys and money and not turning it over to Toys for Tots. This is a serious problem and can result in serious punishment. In order to run any Toys for Tots program you must have the official approval of the Marine Corps National Toys for Tots. Please do not set up unauthorized programs that use the Toys for Tots name but do not follow the Toys for Tots program requirements. Collecting either toys or money under false pretense is a crime, and it must be stopped. If you are issued a cease and desist letter from National Toys for Tots, there will be no second warning if you fail to do just that, cease and desist.



I would like to close by thanking all of the members who go the extra mile and support your Detachments, Departments, and Divisions. You do great work for our fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, and you spend countless hours doing so. Please keep up the great work!

Remember our deployed Marines, especially those in harm's way. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers and may they soon be reunited with their families and loved ones.



From the Front

Afghan Official: Massive U.S. Bomb Death Toll Rises to 94

By Rahim Faiez, *The Associated Press*
April 15, 2017...

KABUL, Afghanistan - The number of militants killed in an attack by the largest non-nuclear weapon ever used in combat by the U.S. military has risen to 94, an Afghan official said Saturday.



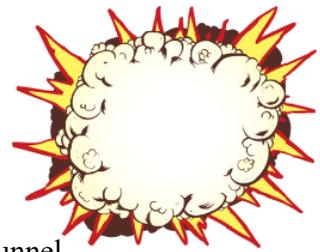
U.S. forces and Afghan commandos are seen in Asad Khil near the site of a U.S. bombing in the Achin district of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, April 17, 2017.

Ataullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor in Nangarhar, said the number of Islamic State group dead was up from the 36 reported a day earlier. A Ministry of Defense official had said Friday the number of dead could rise as officials assessed the bomb site in Achin district.

"Fortunately there is no report of civilians being killed in the attack," Khogyani said.

The increased death toll in Nangarhar was

announced as officials in southern Helmand province reported at least 11 civilians were killed and one wounded in two roadside bomb blasts overnight.



The U.S. attack on a tunnel complex in remote eastern Nangarhar province near the Pakistan border killed at least four IS group leaders, Khogyani said. He said a clearance operation to assess the site of the attack was continuing.

The strike using the Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, or MOAB, was carried out Thursday against an Islamic State group tunnel complex carved into the mountains that Afghan forces had tried to assault repeatedly in recent weeks in fierce fighting in Nangarhar province.



U.S. forces stand guard in Asad Khil near the site of a U.S. bombing in the Achin district of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, April 17, 2017.

Photo Credit: Rahmat Gul/AP

Former Afghan president Hamid Karzai on Saturday criticized both the Afghan and U.S. governments for the attack in Nangarhar. Addressing a gathering in capital Kabul, Karzai said that allowing the U.S. to carry out the bombing was "treason" and an insult to Afghanistan.

Current President Ashraf Ghani's office said Friday there was "close coordination" between the U.S. military and the Afghan government on the operation, and they were careful to prevent any civilian casualties.

The U.S. estimates 600-800 IS fighters are in Afghanistan, mostly in Nangarhar. The U.S. has concentrated on fighting them while also supporting Afghan forces against the Taliban. The U.S. has more than 8,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, training local forces and conducting counterterrorism operations.

In Helmand province, at least 11 civilians were killed and one wounded in two roadside bomb blasts late Friday evening, said Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

“All victims of the attack were innocent civilians including women and children,” said Zwak. The 11 died in a blast in Nawa district when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. Another person was wounded when a second bomb exploded in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand, he said.

Also on Saturday, Khogyani said a district leader and three others were wounded when their vehicle was targeted by a bomb. One of the wounded was Ghalib Mujahid, Bati Kot district chief, he said.

“The district chief and others are out of danger and are not in life-threatening condition,” he said.

Last November, Mujahid was attacked by a sticky bomb attached to the vehicle; he was wounded and his driver was killed.



Marine Corps History

GENERAL ORDERS FOR SENTRIES

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

The eleven General Orders for sentries never change. They constitute the unyielding bedrock upon which Marines enforce military security in the United States and throughout the world. General Orders dictate the conduct of all Marines on guard duty. These orders apply to all Marines at all bases and outposts in time of peace and in time of war.

Marine recruits in boot camp must memorize these General Orders. Woe be unto the unfortunate recruit who cannot shout out, verbatim and without hesitation, all eleven of them.

Such a recruit will incur a firestorm of wrath from his Drill Instructor. There is sound logic for this rigid training.



The eleven General Orders will guide each Marine throughout his years in the Corps:

1. To take charge of this post and all government property in view.
2. To walk my post in a military manner, keeping always on alert and observing everything that takes place within sight or hearing.
3. To report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce.
4. To repeat all calls from posts more distant from the guardhouse than my own.
5. To quit my post only when properly relieved.
6. To receive, obey, and pass on to the sentry who relieves me, all orders from the commanding officer, officer of the day, and officers and noncommissioned officers of the guard only.
7. To talk to no one except in line of duty.
8. To give the alarm in case of fire or disorder.
9. To call the corporal of the guard in any case not covered by instructions.
10. To salute all officers and all colors and standards not cased.
11. To be especially watchful at night and, during the time for challenging, to challenge all persons on or near my post and to allow no one to pass without proper authority.



What are the Marine Corps Values?

Human Resources and Organizational Management – Headquarters Marine Corps

COMMITMENT

This is the spirit of determination and dedication within members of a force of arms that leads to professionalism and mastery of the art of war. It promotes the highest order of discipline for unit and self and is the ingredient that instills dedication to Corps and country 24 hours a day, pride, concern for others, and an unrelenting determination to achieve a standard of excellence in every endeavor. **Commitment is the value that establishes the Marine as the warrior and citizen others strive to emulate.**

Upcoming Events



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



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



Marine Military Expo
Modern Day Marine
Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA
September 19th – 21st, 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:
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DEADLINE
for the Texas Marine SUMMER Edition will be July 15th



Please submit articles/photos to
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Graham, TX 76450
OR
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VA Now Providing Online Daily Burial Schedules for Its National Cemeteries

*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
March 23, 2017...*



WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today a new online Daily Burial Schedule (DBS) for all VA national cemeteries, which will allow families and loved ones to retrieve

time and location information for those being interred, via its National Cemetery Administration (NCA) website.

“We pride ourselves on continuously improving customer satisfaction and meeting the wishes of Veterans and their loved ones,” said interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald E. Walters.

“We want manageable information for anyone wishing to pay their respects.” The new feature is available to anyone with a smartphone, tablet or computer. Families may also opt out of using this service. Schedules of interments are posted online and updated hourly at: www.cem.va.gov/dailyburialschedule.

The public can search by national cemetery or last name. DBS will give the scheduled committal service date and time, location of the cemetery and funeral home providing services. The location of the committal shelter will be provided at the cemetery. In addition, users may also navigate to the specific VA national cemetery website for directions and further information.

VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers’ lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA’s national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 105 Veterans’ cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service.



Ronald E. Walters

At the current time there are two schools of thought in the Department of Texas regarding election of officers.

One group seems to think that if jumping chairs is not covered in the Bylaws as being illegal, then anything goes. If an officer (*or others persuading him/her to run*) wants to hurry the process because he/she has heard that (*in this case*) the Sr. Vice cannot do the job (***which, by the way is totally unfounded and untrue***), then he/she can put their bid in before going through the chairs and learning the duties of those positions leading up to Commandant.

This occurred this past March at the Southern Division Conference. Some members (*most of whom have never attended a Southern Division Conference or a State Conference or Convention*) showed up just in time to cast their vote because they were told that the Assistant Vice Commandant could not do the job (***again, totally unfounded and totally untrue***). The thing was that the Assistant had been doing the job and learning the duties for two years and accomplished every goal set by the National Vice Commandant with excellent results! So, for doing an excellent job he is not allowed to advance to the job he deserved and had been working toward.

The second group thinks that elections should be held honorably. The Marine Corps considers ***honor*** the bedrock of a Marine’s character. It’s not too much to expect Veteran Marines to continue that practice.

There are members of the Department of Texas who have served proudly in various positions for years because they knew they were involved with a Marine organization that conducted business the honorable and right way. Now they are wanting to know when we stopped conducting the business of the League with integrity and dignity and started acting like our politicians (*who for the most part we hold in such high esteem! NOT!*). And, with jumping chairs on the horizon for a second time at the State Convention, they are wondering what other honorable organization they could migrate to who would appreciate their talent, time, dedication, and experience.

It appears that some Marines in the DOT left their honor somewhere alongside the road after they took off that Marine Corps uniform.

So, before you believe everything you are told, do your own research and find out what the real truth is, taking into consideration that the DOT Marine Corps League is not a political party, but (for the most part) a group of men and women who want to do the honorable thing.

Editor



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS STATE CONVENTION



Hosting Detachment: 1st Sgt. Joyce Venable

BEAUMONT, TEXAS • JUNE 22-25, 2017

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\$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"

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DEADLINE FOR ADS: must be postmarked by midnight on May 15th, 2017

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